



## REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES- ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

### 11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in November 1996 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

The wording of this document has been adapted from 'Morawa Shire Office and Morawa Town Hall Conservation Plan', prepared by Laura Gray, Heritage and Conservation Architect, for the Shire of Morawa, in 2000, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

It is recommended that the curtilage of the place not incorporate the c.1945 Road Board Secretary's House (fmr) on Dreghorn Street, noted as being of some significance in the conservation plan.

#### PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 7.6 Administering Australia
- 4.5 Making towns to serve rural Australia

#### HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 401 Government and politics
- 404 Community services and utilities

#### 11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE\*

*Morawa Shire Office and Town Hall* includes fine representative examples of Inter War Free Classical and Inter War Functionalist style, respectively. (Criterion 1.1)

*Morawa Shire Office and Town Hall* is a dominant element in Morawa's main streetscape and contributes to the visual character of the town. (Criterion 1.3)

*Morawa Shire Office and Town Hall* forms a significant civic cultural environment and, together with St David's Church and the old police station, creates a cultural environment demonstrating four styles of 1930s development in Morawa. (Criterion 1.4)

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\* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, Richard; Irving, Robert and Reynolds, Peter *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus & Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

## **11. 2. HISTORIC VALUE**

*Morawa Shire Office & Town Hall* demonstrates the development of Morawa and the surrounding region during the 1930s, initiated by the agricultural boom in Western Australia during the 1920s. (Criterion 2.1)

The Town Hall was designed by prominent architectural firm Eales Cohen and Fitzhardinge and the Shire Office is a good representative example of the work of architect Percy Harrison, who designed many rural civic buildings in Western Australia. (Criteria 2.3 & 2.4)

## **11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE**

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## **11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE**

*Morawa Shire Office and Town Hall* has been highly valued by the community as the civic administrative center and social venue for the municipality of Morawa from its construction in the 1930s to the present (2005), as evidenced by community support for its retention in 2003. (Criterion 4.1)

*Morawa Shire Office and Town Hall* contributes to the community's sense of place as a group of distinctive buildings located on a prominent street corner in Morawa. (Criterion 4.2)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **12. 1. RARITY**

The Town Hall is a rare example of a town, shire or district hall built in the 1930s in Western Australia in the Interwar Functionalist style. (Criteria 5.1)

### **12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

*Morawa Shire Office & Town Hall* is representative example of halls and road board offices built in the Inter-war period. (Criterion 6.1)

### **12. 3 CONDITION**

*Morawa Shire Office & Town Hall* has received regular maintenance over the years to facilitate the continuous uses of the places. Both buildings are in good condition.

### **12. 4 INTEGRITY**

The original design and functional intention of both buildings is very clear. The Shire Office had extensions to develop the place and facilitate the ongoing civic administrative function. Similarly, the Town Hall had some extensions to facilitate the ongoing functional use of that place. The place has a high degree of integrity.

## **12.5 AUTHENTICITY**

Although there have been alterations and extensions to both buildings, the original fabric has remained mostly intact. Neither place has retained the original roof cladding although the forms are as per original. Two Shire Office windows have been replaced but evidence of the originals remains. The hall ceilings have been relined, but there is evidence that the original fabric remains insitu. *Morawa Shire Office & Town Hall* has retained a moderate degree of authenticity.

### 13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Supporting evidence has been taken from 'Morawa Shire Office and Morawa Town Hall Conservation Plan', prepared by Laura Gray, Heritage and Conservation Architect, for the Shire of Morawa, in 2000.

Key Sections used: Documentary Evidence (pp.5-30), Physical Evidence (pp.37-61), Analysis of Documentary and Physical Evidence (p.65).

#### 13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the documentary evidence, refer to 'Morawa Shire Office and Morawa Town Hall Conservation Plan', prepared by Laura Gray, Heritage and Conservation Architect, for the Shire of Morawa, in 2000 (pp.5-30).

In 2003, the Shire of Morawa placed an article in the local newspaper outlining options for the future development of shire offices in Morawa, and requesting community feedback as to how to proceed. One option presented was to demolish *Morawa Shire Office & Town Hall* and construct a new facility in the main street. Another option was to retain and restore the existing buildings. Of the approximately thirty responses received, about two thirds supported the latter option, and the Shire subsequently resolved to proceed with plans for the retention and restoration of the existing buildings.<sup>1</sup>

#### 13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the physical evidence, refer to 'Morawa Shire Office and Morawa Town Hall Conservation Plan', prepared by Laura Gray, Heritage and Conservation Architect, for the Shire of Morawa, in 2000 (pp.37-61).

There have been no major works to the place since the completion of the Morawa Shire Office and Morawa Town Hall Conservation Plan in 2000.<sup>2</sup>

#### 13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

For a discussion of the comparative information, refer to 'Morawa Shire Office and Morawa Town Hall Conservation Plan', prepared by Laura Gray, Heritage and Conservation Architect, for the Shire of Morawa, in 2000 (p.65).

On the HCWA database, there are 23 places which include a town hall and road board office. These include places which have one building used for both purposes, and places that have separate buildings for each function.<sup>3</sup>

There are 106 town or district halls on the HCWA database. Twelve of these were built in the 1930s. In addition to *Morawa Shire Office & Town Hall*, five of these are on the Register, being: P0154 *Beverley Town Hall*, P0249 *Bridgetown Civic and Community Centre*, P0484 *Claremont Council Offices & Surrounds*, P1543 *Applecross District Hall* and P2460 *Guildford Town Hall & Library*, are on the Register. *Guildford Town Hall & Library*, comprising a rendered brick and tile 1937 Town Hall in the Inter-War Art Deco style, and a

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<sup>1</sup> Jim Cooke, President, Shire of Morawa, phone conversation with Clare Schulz, 3 November 2004.

<sup>2</sup> Phone call with Graham Merrick, Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Morawa 18 May 2004

<sup>3</sup> HCWA Database 3/6/2004

1900 Council Offices remodeled in the same year to match it, is very similar to *Morawa Shire Office & Town Hall*.<sup>4</sup>

The HCWA database lists four other town or district halls built in the Inter-War Functionalist style, of which *Beverley Town Hall* is the only one constructed in the 1930s. The four are:

- P3832 *Memorial Hall, Mosman Park*, constructed from 1921, is a two storey brick hall with adjacent walled picture outdoor cinema (Camelot Picture Theatre).
- *Dumbleyung Town Hall* is a brick and iron hall constructed in 1929.
- *Beverley Town Hall* was constructed in 1938 in the Inter-War Functionalist style and comprises offices, main hall, lesser hall and former picture garden & double storey bio box. The Hall is a single-storey brick, render and corrugated iron building. The place is noted as being an exemplary design achievement for a rural Town Hall in the Inter-War Functionalist style which contributes to the character and identity of the town of Beverley, complementing and enhancing the predominantly Art Deco streetscape.<sup>5</sup>
- *Narembeen Civic Precinct*, comprising a fibrous cement and iron Lesser hall (1923), a brick and tile Federation Free Road Board Building (1927), a brick and tile Inter-War Functionalist Public Hall (1940), is on the State Register.<sup>6</sup>

A further eight town or district halls are noted as being of Inter-War Art Deco style. In addition to *Claremont Council Offices & Surrounds*, *Applecross District Hall* and *Guildford Town Hall & Library* (mentioned above), this includes *Perenjori Hall and Shire Offices*, a single storey, rendered brick building constructed in 1929 with elements of the Inter War Art Deco Style. It was deemed below threshold for the State Register in April 2004. It is noted as being in fair to good condition and as having a moderate to high level of authenticity and integrity.<sup>7</sup> A further three of these Art Deco style halls, in Bunbury (P3642), Quairading (P4896) and Tammin (P12211) are part of the Heritage Council's current assessment program.

The Town Hall of *Morawa Shire Office & Town Hall* is a rare and representative example of a town, shire or district hall built in the 1930s in Western Australia in the Inter-War Functionalist style.

#### 13. 4 KEY REFERENCES

No key references.

#### 13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> HCWA Register documentation for P154, *Beverley Town Hall*, 15/8/2003

<sup>6</sup> HCWA Register documentation for P3629, *Narembeen Civic Precinct*, 7/4/1998

<sup>7</sup> HCWA Assessment documentation for P1939, *Perenjori Hall and Shire Offices*, 16/4/2004