



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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 “Four Buildings Broomehill Conservation Plan” prepared by Lynne Farrow with Erickson & Taylor in October 2003, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 7.6.1 Developing local government authorities
- 8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements
- 8.1 Organising recreation

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 203 Road transport
- 402 Government and politics
- 404 Community services and utilities
- 405 Sport, recreation and entertainment

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Broomehill Shire Hall & Road Board Offices (fmr) is unusual as an iron and timber Federation vernacular building with a substantial brick extension in Inter-War Anglo-Dutch style. (Criterion 1.1)

Broomehill Shire Hall & Road Board Offices (fmr) is a landmark building, prominent due to its distinctive dominant frontage of three parapeted Inter-

* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, R., Irving, R., Reynolds, P. *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture. Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus and Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

For consistency, all references to garden and landscape types and styles are taken from Ramsay, J. *Parks, Gardens and Special Trees: A Classification and Assessment Method for the Register of the National Estate*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

War Anglo-Dutch gables, zero setback, and location in Jasper Street, the main thoroughfare to Perth and Albany. (Criterion 1.3)

Broomehill Shire Hall & Road Board Offices (fmr) is an important visual element in the central historical precinct of Broomehill. (Criterion 1.3)

11. 2. HISTORIC VALUE

Broomehill Broomehill Shire Hall & Road Board Offices (fmr) has significant historical associations with the development of the Great Southern Railway; the Holland Track, an overland route to the Eastern goldfields developed during the Western Australian gold boom; and, with the development of Broomehill in the early twentieth century. (Criterion 2.1)

Broomehill Broomehill Shire Hall & Road Board Offices (fmr) has been used for recreational purposes from 1910 until the present (2005) and has functioned as a theatre, reception centre, sporting venue, dance hall, cinema, scout hall, and market place. (Criterion 2.2)

Broomehill Broomehill Shire Hall & Road Board Offices (fmr) was the centre of administration for the Shire of Broomehill as the town's road board offices from 1917 until 1965, when a purpose-built Shire Offices was constructed nearby. (Criterion 2.2)

Broomehill Broomehill Shire Hall & Road Board Offices (fmr) was built and owned by Kathleen Sheridan, a prominent businesswoman of the district, who became the licensee and lessee of the Imperial Hotel in Broomehill from 1905 until 1912. (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Broomehill Broomehill Shire Hall & Road Board Offices (fmr) is highly valued by the community, as demonstrated by its inclusion in the Shire of Broomehill Municipal Heritage Inventory, as it provided an important meeting place for the local community from 1910 until present (2003). (Criterion 4.1)

Broomehill Broomehill Shire Hall & Road Board Offices (fmr) contributes to the community's sense of place as a landmark in Broomehill's town centre, which has been used for civic purposes from 1910 until 1986. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Broomehill Shire Hall & Road Board Offices (fmr) is rare in Western Australia as a community hall with an addition constructed in Inter-War Anglo-Dutch style for use as a roads board building. (Criterion 5.1)

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Broomehill Shire Hall & Road Board Offices (fmr) is a substantial and intact Western Australian example of an early twentieth century community hall incorporating a later road board office. (Criterion 6.1)

The 1910 section of *Broomehill Shire Hall & Road Board Offices (fmr)* is representative of the use of corrugated iron during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century for buildings in rural centres in Western Australia. (Criterion 6.1)

12.3 CONDITION

Broomehill Shire Hall & Road Board Offices (fmr) is in fair condition, although very little maintenance has been carried out on the building for a number of years. Recently a large proportion of the stumps were replaced.

12.4 INTEGRITY

Broomehill Shire Hall & Road Board Offices (fmr) displays a high degree of integrity. The intent of the building is still clearly identifiable. The hall is still used for its original intention of social events and the brick Road Board section, while no longer used for municipal office accommodation, currently (2005) has a compatible use.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

The form and fabric of *Broomehill Shire Hall & Road Board Offices (fmr)* retains a high degree of authenticity. Important elements that have been altered include the verandah awning to the front of the building and the original pressed tin ceiling. Toilets were added to the north side of the 1928 frontage in 1965.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Supporting evidence has been taken from “Four Buildings Broomehill Conservation Plan” prepared by Lynne Farrow with Erickson & Taylor in October 2003.

Key sections used are: 3.0 Documentary Evidence, 4.0 Physical Evidence.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the documentary evidence, refer to “Four Buildings Broomehill Conservation Plan” prepared by Lynne Farrow with Erickson & Taylor in October 2003, pp. 30-94.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the physical evidence, refer to “Four Buildings Broomehill Conservation Plan” prepared by Lynne Farrow with Erickson & Taylor in October 2003, pp. 97-144.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

For a comparative analysis, refer to “Four Buildings Broomehill Conservation Plan” prepared by Lynne Farrow with Erickson & Taylor in October 2003.

The HCWA database lists 16 other places in Anglo-Dutch style. Four of these places are on the State Register, being:

- β P1303 *Semaphore Chambers*, Kalgoorlie, constructed 1899;
- β P1811 *Mardoc Building*, Narrogin, 1908;
- β P2024 *Commercial Building*, Perth, 1899; and,
- β St Brigid’s College, Lesmurdie, 1913-1921, (part of P16819 *Lesmurdie Group*)

All four are considerably more elaborately detailed compared with *Broomehill Shire Hall & Road Board Offices (fmr)*.¹

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

“Four Buildings Broomehill Conservation Plan” prepared by Lynne Farrow with Erickson & Taylor in October 2003.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

¹ HCWA Database 9 August 2005