



# 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.

### 11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE\*

*Dongara Post Office and Quarters (fmr)* is a fine example of a well designed and executed public building in the domestically influenced Arts and Crafts style. It is a good example of a public building constructed on a domestic scale by the Public Works Department. (Criterion 1.1)

*Dongara Post Office and Quarters (fmr)* has landmark value due to its prominent location on rising ground and its domestic scale in a generous setting. (Criterion 1.3)

*Dongara Post Office and Quarters (fmr)* is an important part of the historic town precinct of Dongara. Its aesthetic character, together with the other buildings in the historic precinct, collectively for a significant streetscape. Other buildings include: *Dongara Police Station (fmr)* (1870); *St John the Baptist Anglican Church* (1884); *Anglican Rectory (fmr)* (1888); *West Australian Bank (fmr)* (1894); and, *Dongara School* (1906). (Criterion 1.4)

### 11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

*Dongara Post Office and Quarters (fmr)* reflects the prosperity of Dongara at the end of the nineteenth century and is evidence of the early development and consolidation of this coastal town. (Criterion 2.1)

*Dongara Post Office and Quarters (fmr)* was the centre of communication for the district from 1894 to 1989 and reflects the development of postal services in the Shire of Irwin. (Criterion 2.2)

*Dongara Post Office and Quarters (fmr)* has associations with Chief Architect of the Public Works Department George Temple Poole and with local builder and prominent businessman W. H. Linthorne. (Criterion 2.3)

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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.

*Dongara Post Office and Quarters (fmr)* is associated with the Post Masters, and families, and various other postal staff who have worked at the Post Office from 1894 to 1989. (Criterion 2.3)

### 11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

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### 11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

*Dongara Post Office and Quarters (fmr)* is highly valued by the Dongara community for its social and civic associations and for being a part of the historic town precinct, as a result contributing to this community's sense of place. (Criteria 4.1 & 4.2)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

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

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### **12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

*Dongara Post Office and Quarters (fmr)* is characteristic of country post offices built at the end of the nineteenth century in terms of its simple and functional style and with its provision of attached quarters. (Criterion 6.1)

*Dongara Post Office and Quarters (fmr)* demonstrates a way of life in small country towns where the Post Master, and his family, lived in attached quarters to the Post Office. (Criterion 6.2)

### **12. 3 CONDITION**

As a result of a program of works carried out in 1997 the overall building appears to be in sound condition. There is no apparent structural cracking but the building should be monitored regularly because it is possible that telltale cracks may have been filled as part of these recent works.

It is assumed that the tie rods inserted in the *Dongara Post Office and Quarters (fmr)* in 1950 were put there to overcome problems connected with the stability of the north wall. As there are now no signs of movement in this area it appears that remedial work was successful.

### **12. 4 INTEGRITY**

While this building no longer serves its original use as a post office, it maintains a moderate degree of integrity because it still serves an important community function as the town's library. The building's current use as a library is to be considered appropriate as it continues to fulfill a similar civic role and required only minimal adaptation and change to the original fabric of the place.

### **12. 5 AUTHENTICITY**

The place has a very high degree of authenticity. Despite alterations which were carried out in the 1950s, much of the building's authenticity has been retained. (The enclosure of the front verandah intrudes on the presentation of the front building.) The rear extensions are of lightweight construction making them easily distinguishable from the original fabric and also making them reasonably easy to demolish should the opportunity present itself.

### **13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE**

Attached are key sections of the supporting evidence prepared by Naomi Lawrance, 'Conservation Plan for Dongara Post Office and Quarters', prepared for the Shire of Irwin, March 1999.

#### **13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE**

For a discussion of the Documentary Evidence refer to Naomi Lawrance, 'Conservation Plan for Dongara Post Office and Quarters', prepared for the Shire of Irwin, March 1999.

#### **13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE**

For a discussion of the Physical Evidence refer to Naomi Lawrance, 'Conservation Plan for Dongara Post Office and Quarters', prepared for the Shire of Irwin, March 1999.

#### **13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION**

For a discussion of the Physical Evidence refer to Naomi Lawrance, 'Conservation Plan for Dongara Post Office and Quarters', prepared for the Shire of Irwin, March 1999.

#### **13.4 REFERENCES**

Naomi Lawrance, 'Conservation Plan for Dongara Post Office and Quarters', prepared for the Shire of Irwin, March 1999.

#### **13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH**

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