



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*

Unified by their colour and hipped tile roofs, the three 1926 masonry buildings which comprise *Old Cable Station* have aesthetic value. The Cable Station building dominates the group of 1926 buildings with its imposing and arcaded facade and its heavily rusticated basement. (Criterion 1.1)

The *Old Cable Station* is a landmark feature in the coastal landscape. It is located in a sand dune and limestone landscape adjacent to the beach in Cottesloe. The Cable Station building dominates the group and is a focal point in the vista from Marine Parade, Cottesloe. (Criterion 1.3)

The *Old Cable Station* marks the southern boundary of the Town of Cottesloe. (Criterion 1.3)

The original group of three buildings and the later additions form a group which, because of its setting, represent a visual whole. (Criterion 1.4)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

The place is associated with the submarine cable system of communication which played an important role in improving communications between Australia and the rest of the world. (Criteria 2.1 & 2.2)

The *Old Cable Station* is historically associated with the cable which runs under the road and coastal reserve immediately in front of the centre, and which also runs to the air-raid shelter on this portion of the coastal road. (Criterion 2.2)

The mound covering the remains of the air-raid shelter serves as a reminder of the precautions that were taken during World War Two to protect the cable station service if the place ever came under attack. (Criterion 2.2)

The *Old Cable Station* is associated with the people who worked at the place during its function as a communications base. (Criterion 2.3)

* 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.

The *Old Cable Station* is associated with the children, parents and families who attended or lived at the site when it functioned under the auspices of the Child Welfare Department. (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

The *Old Cable Station* has the potential through archaeological excavation to yield information about early submarine communications technology, through the remnant cables in the basement of the main building, beneath the adjacent road and beach, running into the ocean. (Criterion 3.1)

The *Old Cable Station* has the potential through archaeological excavation to yield information about the function of the air-raid shelter and its connection to the former Cable Station. (Criterion 3.1)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

The *Old Cable Station* is valued by the children, parents and teachers who were connected to the place when it functioned under the auspices of the Child Welfare Department. (Criterion 4.1)

The *Old Cable Station* is valued for its historic and aesthetic significance, and contributes to the Cottesloe community's sense of place. (Criteria 4.1, 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

The original group of three buildings represent a way of life and function which is no longer practised. The *Old Cable Station* was only one of two purpose built cable stations in Western Australia, and of a limited number in Australia. (Criterion 5.2)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

The original group of three buildings represent the way of life and function of purpose built cable stations, in both Western Australia and Australia. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

The buildings are in a sound condition. However, the hostile environment, together with inadequate or perished rainwater disposal, has allowed saltwater to penetrated the fabric of the buildings and metal fixings show evidence of corrosion. Maintenance of the buildings has been sustained.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

Old Cable Station has a low degree of integrity. The place no longer functions as a cable station and in their altered condition, buildings do not readily demonstrate their original function.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

Old Cable Station has a moderate degree of authenticity. In the process of conversion to a community centre, the 1926 buildings were altered to accommodate new use, resulting in the loss of original fabric. Little of the original fittings and equipment remain.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Attached are key sections of the supporting evidence prepared by R.Mck. Campbell and I.H. van Bremen, 'McCall Centre, Cottesloe, Conservation Plan' (prepared for the Department of Contract and Management Services on behalf of the Department of Family and Children's Services, 1997).

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the documentary evidence refer to R.Mck. Campbell and I.H. van Bremen, 'McCall Centre, Cottesloe, Conservation Plan' (prepared for the Department of Contract and Management Services on behalf of the Department of Family and Children's Services, 1997).

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the physical evidence refer to R.Mck. Campbell and I.H. van Bremen, 'McCall Centre, Cottesloe, Conservation Plan' (prepared for the Department of Contract and Management Services on behalf of the Department of Family and Children's Services, 1997).

13.3 REFERENCES

R.Mck. Campbell and I.H. van Bremen, 'McCall Centre, Cottesloe, Conservation Plan' (prepared for the Department of Contract and Management Services on behalf of the Department of Family and Children's Services, 1997).

13.4 FURTHER RESEARCH

The use of the place as a school and boarding institution for children warrants further investigation.

The underground cable and air-raid shelter also warrant further archaeological investigation.