



**HERITAGE  
COUNCIL**  
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## **REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES – Permanent Entry**

1. **DATA BASE No.** 01883
2. **NAME** *Northam Senior High School (1921, 1930, 1945-1990s)*
3. **LOCATION** Kennedy Street (main frontage) & Inkpen Street, Northam
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**

That portion of Lot 463 on Deposited Plan 194446 being part of Reserve 32092 and being part of the land contained in Crown Land Title Volume 3115 Folio 443 as is defined in Heritage Council of Western Australia Survey Drawing No. 1883 prepared by Midland Survey Services
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Town of Northam
6. **OWNER** State of Western Australia  
(Responsible Agency: Education Department of Western Australia)
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**

• Register of Heritage Places:	Permanent Entry	18/12/2007
• National Trust Classification:		-----
• Town Planning Scheme:		-----
• Municipal Inventory:	Adopted	25-02-1998
• Register of the National Estate:		-----
8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**  
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9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**  
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10. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

*Northam Senior High School*, a complex of predominantly brick and tile buildings with the Main School Building constructed in 1921, and later buildings (1945-95) in keeping with the original, is a late example of the Inter-War Arts and Crafts style and has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place was the first purpose built secondary education facility in the agricultural regions of Western Australia, demonstrating the development of the rural areas of the State following World War I and the importance of Northam as a regional centre;

the place is rare as a late example of the Inter-War Arts and Crafts style in a substantial government building, in a regional WA town;

the place is a fine representative example of a regional High School of the 1920s and makes a significant contribution to the historic townscape and character of Northam;

the development of the place documents changing needs and approaches in secondary education from the one-style classroom of the pre-war period to the individual purpose built post-war buildings; the use of the Caretaker's Quarters since 2001 as a specialist education facility for Indigenous students marks a recognition of their particular need within the State's education system and the will to address it; and,

the place was designed under the direct of Public Works Department Chief Architect W.B. Hardwick, and is associated with prominent Australians who were former students, including Olympian Shirley Strickland, cricketer John Rutherford, zoologist Barbara York Main, conservationist Harry Butler, Rhodes Scholar Jerry Ellis and medical researcher and educator Dr John Colebatch.

Outbuildings and sheds are of little significance. Although they contribute to the history of the place's development and the social significance of the place, more recent buildings are of lesser significance, including Pre-Vocational Centre, Thomas Lee Hall, new Science Block and the prefabricated classroom adjacent to Library. The original Hall is of significance, but it has been relocated a number of times and its current location is not of significance. The only plantings of significance are the pencil pines within the central quadrangle of the Main Building.