



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

*Newmarracarra*¹, a Federation Queen Anne style building, is well resolved in the design of the facades and particularly the presentation of the grand south elevation. The homestead has been deliberately designed to be impressive as the approach vista from the south unfolds when one approaches the place, and it achieves this object. (Criterion 1.2)

11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

Newmarracarra (with surrounding outbuildings) illustrates a fine example of a large early twentieth century working farming property. (Criterion 2.1)

Newmarracarra was a significantly large construction for 1910 and would have required a large skilled workforce. (Criterion 2.2)

The loss of *Newmarracarra* to the Union Bank by the Grant family in the 1930s reflects the catastrophic combined economic effects of both drought and the depression on rural properties. (Criterion 2.2)

Newmarracarra has significance in its use by the armed forces during World War Two. (Criterion 2.2)

Newmarracarra has been held by three prominent families in the Geraldton (initially 'Champion Bay') district. The Browns, Grants and Clunes have all made significant and prominent contributions to local affairs and developments. (Criterion 2.3)

Newmarracarra is a fine example of the architect Jack Learmonth Ochiltree's work. Ochiltree was a man of some prominence in Western Australian architecture and was responsible for the design of important residences and other buildings. (Criterion 2.3)

The construction of *Newmarracarra* in 1910 was an achievement in that it was possibly the largest and certainly one of the finest rural homesteads built in Western Australia at that time. (Criterion 2.4)

¹ 'Newmarracarra' was recorded as the name of the property in 1852. It is thought to have been the traditional Aboriginal name of the place.

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Newmarracarra was associated with (and the Clune family's contribution valued by) the Catholic Church schools in Geraldton in the 1970s as a 'camp' location for students of Stella Maris and St Patrick's schools. (Criterion 4.1)

Newmarracarra is symbolic in the minds of residents of the midwest region of Western Australia of an exciting and prosperous developmental time in the district, particularly after the railways had pushed east to the Murchison Goldfields in the mid 1890s. It contributes to the community's sense of place. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

The large scale of *Newmarracarra* is uncommon. The viewing platform is a very uncommon feature of the homestead and it is a particularly rare example of a large rural homestead in that the 1910 form has not been 'modernised'. (Criterion 5.1)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Newmarracarra is a fine and characteristic example of a large Federation Queen Anne style homestead - with a strong regional influence shown in the stone walls. (Criterion 6.1)

12. 3 CONDITION

The fabric remaining at *Newmarracarra* is in a reasonable condition given the long period during which the place has been unoccupied. Apart from the verandahs, it is structurally sound. Simple conservation works, albeit on a relatively large scale due to the large scale of the homestead, could return the place to a very sound condition. It is certainly 'recoverable'.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

Newmarracarra has a high degree of integrity.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

The fabric at *Newmarracarra* has a moderate level of authenticity. Some vital elements have been lost; i.e. the viewing platform, the lantern, a large portion of the asbestos cement shingles and terracotta ridge capping, the balustrading to the verandah, internal furnishings, and possibly timber panelling in the dining room). These missing elements could be restored and reconstructed with the assistance of the documentary and physical evidence available. The intrusive elements within the fabric (showers and sanitary facilities developed in the 1970s for the 'camp' use) can be removed.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Attached are key sections of the supporting evidence prepared by John Taylor Architect with Tanya Suba Historical Research Consultant: 'Conservation Plan for the Newmarracarra Homestead, Kojarena, Western Australia' (for Mr B.P. Clune, April 1996).

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a detailed discussion of the documentary evidence of the place refer to the report by John Taylor Architect with Tanya Suba Historical Research Consultant: 'Conservation Plan for the Newmarracarra Homestead, Kojarena, Western Australia' (for Mr B.P. Clune, April 1996).

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a detailed discussion of the physical evidence of the place refer to the report by John Taylor Architect with Tanya Suba Historical Research Consultant: 'Conservation Plan for the Newmarracarra Homestead, Kojarena, Western Australia' (for Mr B.P. Clune, April 1996).

13.3 REFERENCES

John Taylor Architect with Tanya Suba Historical Research Consultant: 'Conservation Plan for the Newmarracarra Homestead, Kojarena, Western Australia' (for Mr B.P. Clune, April 1996).