HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

PERMANENT ENTRY

1. DATA BASE No. 00250

2. NAME *Bridgetown Trainmen's Barracks (fmr)* (1950; office addition and female ablutions block, 1997)

OTHER NAMES Sometimes known as Single-men's Quarters, 1960-79, as Bridgetown Railway Barracks (fmr) post 1980; and currently (2009) named Bridgetown Valley Lodge

3. LOCATION 43 Spencer Street, Bridgetown

4. DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY

Lot 2 on Diagram 93078 being the whole of the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume 2141 Folio 794.

5. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes

6. OWNER Jeffrey Edmond Sheahan

7. HERITAGE LISTINGS

• Register of Heritage Places:	Interim Entry	14/10/2011
	Permanent Entry	17/01/2012
• National Trust Classification:		----------
• Town Planning Scheme:		----------
• Municipal Inventory:		29/08/1996
• Register of the National Estate:		----------

8. CONSERVATION ORDER

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9. HERITAGE AGREEMENT

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10. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bridgetown Trainmen's Barracks (fmr), comprising a communal facilities block and male ablutions block of brick construction and three accommodation blocks of timber and fibro construction, all with hipped clay tile roofs, linked by tile roofed covered ways, constructed in a simple bungalow style to a functional design, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place was the most up to date purpose built accommodation for trainmen in Australia at its completion in 1950, and so far as can be ascertained is a rare surviving example of such post-World War II trainmen's barracks in the state of Western Australia;

the place was the first new trainmen's barracks designed and built for Western Australian Government Railways (WAGR) when it began a barracks construction programme post-World War II, and its provision of accommodation superior in standard and design to earlier cabin style barracks was to be a model for future trainmen's barracks in this State;

the place demonstrates the significant improvement in the standard of trainmen's accommodation post-World War II, and illustrates provision of barracks style accommodation for three men crews of trainmen between shifts on country rail routes, which was necessary to enable operation of Western Australia's extensive rail system, a function no longer practised; and,

the place was built in 1949-50, when Bridgetown was an important rail centre in the South West and demonstrates the continuing importance of rail transport to regional areas in the post-World War II period before the ascendance of road transport, the importance of the trainmen operating the trains and the infrastructure required for the safe fulfilment of their duties, and the input of the Railway Union to ensure provision of satisfactory facilities.

A brick office and female ablutions block designed by architect Alan Ross and constructed to the north (in front) of the communal facilities block in 1997 is assessed as having little significance.