



REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Permanent Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 03558
2. **NAME** *Eucla Telegraph Station (Ruin)* (1898; 1923)
3. **LOCATION** Eucla
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
Lots 231, 232, 233, 234, 235 and 236 on Deposited Plan 222414 being the whole of the land contained in Crown Land Titles Volume: 3130 Folio: 555, Volume: 3130 Folio: 556, Volume: 3130 Folio: 557, Volume: 3130 Folio: 558, Volume: 3130 Folio: 559 and Volume: 3130 Folio: 560 as is described in HCWA survey drawing No 3558 as prepared by Warren King & Company & Midland Survey Services.
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Dundas
6. **OWNER** State of Western Australia
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**
 - Register of Heritage Places: Interim Entry 05/09/2003
Permanent Entry 26/08/2003
 - National Trust Classification: -----
 - Town Planning Scheme: -----
 - Municipal Inventory: -----
 - Register of the National Estate: Registered 21/03/1978

8. CONSERVATION ORDER

9. HERITAGE AGREEMENT

10. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Eucla Telegraph Station (Ruin), a single-storey limestone ruin of the 1898 Western Australian Telegraph Master's residence and remnants of several associated stone buildings of the Eucla Telegraph Station complex, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place was an integral part of a network of telegraph stations that operated between 1877 and 1927, linking Western Australia with the eastern states and overseas through Adelaide;

although it is now a ruin, the place was the largest station on the 1877 East-West Telegraph line, and acted as a transfer point of telegraphic messages between South Australia and Western Australia from 1896 to

1905, when the operations were amalgamated under the WA Post and Telegraph Department;

the place was built in 1898 to replace the original 1877 timber telegraph station, at a time when the gold finds in the State had resulted in greatly increased telegraph traffic, requiring more staff and larger station buildings;

the place is valued for the use of local limestone, and for its picturesque harmony with the sand dune landscape, the movements of which covers and uncovers various parts of the structure;

the place is associated with the telegraph men and their families, who worked and lived on the line between 1898 and 1927, and is indicative of the isolation and hardship they experienced;

the place was designed as a simple interpretation of Federation Free style under the direction of Public Works Department Chief Architect George Temple Poole, who was responsible for many fine public buildings in the State during a period of growth from 1885 to 1896;

the place was an isolated government outpost in a very remote district, which served the needs of both the Government and the scattered population, with the Telegraph Master at Eyre filling a number of roles, including Resident Magistrate, Customs Officer, Meteorological Observer and Landing Waiter; and,

the East-West Telegraph line, of which the place was a vital element, is valued by the Institution of Engineers Australia, WA Division, who have declared the line an engineering landmark, and by Australia Post who have assisted in the establishment of museums of local telegraph history at Eyre and Eucla.