



HERITAGE  
COUNCIL  
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# 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.

### PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 7.5.1 Developing Local Government Authorities

### HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 401 Government and Politics

#### 11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE\*

*Mount Magnet Shire Office*, a public building in the Federation Free Classical style, is a distinctive building with a well proportioned symmetrical facade featuring extensive stucco decoration. The features of the place include engaged columns, arched entrance porch with iron gates and with keystone and entablature above, as well as its general configuration, form and proportions. (Criterion 1.1)

*Mount Magnet Shire Office* is a striking landmark at the intersection of Hepburn and Naughton Streets in the centre of the Mount Magnet town site. (Criterion 1.3)

*Mount Magnet Shire Office* contributes to the historic civic centre of Mount Magnet, which also includes the former school and schoolmaster's house and the former post office, all located adjacent on Naughton Street. (Criterion 1.4)

#### 11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

*Mount Magnet Shire Office* illustrates the growth and development of a goldfields town from the 1890s to the present. The continued use of, and recent additions to, the building indicate the continued survival of the town and community and renewed economic prosperity as a result of a revival in gold mining and other industries from the 1980s. (Criterion 2.1)

*Mount Magnet Shire Office* is of historic significance for its association with the development of local government in regional Western Australia throughout the twentieth century. (Criterion 2.2)

*Mount Magnet Shire Office* is significant for its associations with the many Mount Magnet citizens who have been members of the Council and Roads Board. (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.

### **11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE**

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#### **11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE**

*Mount Magnet Shire Office* is of social significance to residents of the locality and in particular to past and present members of the Council. The place has been a community focus throughout its history through its continued use as a Council Chambers and centre for local government since its construction in 1898. (Criterion 4.1)

*Mount Magnet Shire Office* contributes to the Mount Magnet community's sense of place through its continued, prominent presence on Hepburn Street for over one hundred years and its place in the history of the town, including its use as the local government's meeting place and chambers. (Criterion 4.2)

### **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

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#### **12. 1. RARITY**

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#### **12. 2. REPRESENTATIVENESS**

*Mount Magnet Shire Office* is a representative example of a Federation Free Classical style public building dating from the late nineteenth century which has been extended and adapted over time to meet the increasing needs of the local community. (Criterion 6.1)

*Mount Magnet Shire Office* represents the role of the Municipal Council in the history of the development of the Mount Magnet community since its inception. (Criterion 6.2)

#### **12. 3. CONDITION**

*Mount Magnet Shire Office* is generally in fair condition with some evidence of cracking, rising damp and deterioration to the external walls, particularly to the western facade of the original structure.

#### **12. 4 INTEGRITY**

*Mount Magnet Shire Office* continues to be used by the community as a meeting place and chambers for local government. The additions to the building have been in response to increased needs for space as the Council's role has changed and expanded over the years, but the original building is clearly distinguishable. Due to continuity of use the place has high integrity.

#### **12. 5 AUTHENTICITY**

*Mount Magnet Shire Office* has a moderate degree of authenticity. The original structure remains intact and recent additions are clearly identifiable.

### **13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE**

Attached are key sections of the supporting evidence prepared by Heritage and Conservation Professionals, 'Mount Magnet Shire Office, Conservation Plan', prepared for the Shire of Mount Magnet, May 2000.

### **13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE**

For a discussion of the documentary evidence refer to Heritage and Conservation Professionals, 'Mount Magnet Shire Office, Conservation Plan', prepared for the Shire of Mount Magnet, May 2000.

### **13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE**

For a discussion of the physical evidence refer to Heritage and Conservation Professionals, 'Mount Magnet Shire Office, Conservation Plan', prepared for the Shire of Mount Magnet, May 2000.

### **13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION**

For a discussion of comparative places refer to Heritage and Conservation Professionals, 'Mount Magnet Shire Office, Conservation Plan', prepared for the Shire of Mount Magnet, May 2000.

### **13.4 REFERENCES**

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Heritage and Conservation Professionals, 'Mount Magnet Shire Office, Conservation Plan', prepared for the Shire of Mount Magnet, May 2000.

### **13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH**