



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 *

Community Health Services is a good example of a building in the Inter-War Stripped Classical style with elements of Art Deco style in the entrance porch and detailing. (Criterion 1.1)

Community Health Services is of aesthetic significance for its design and construction using reinforced concrete for the footings, suspended floor and walls of the building. The design represents an innovative approach to the problems of extreme climatic conditions experienced in the north of Western Australia and its construction was a significant achievement in Broome in the 1930s. (Criterion 1.2)

The building represents a landmark within the Broome Hospital complex, significantly different from the other early timber framed buildings, and from the later concrete block buildings in the immediate vicinity. The landscaped setting of the former laboratory and associated buildings provides an important green space within the hospital site. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Community Health Services is of historic significance for the various different uses associated with the building from 1938. The use of the place for laboratory purposes, for nurse's quarters and for community health services all illustrate the evolution of health services in the region. The historic significance of the place illustrating the development of medical services in Broome is increased because of the substantial and enduring fabric of the building as compared to other early hospital buildings which have either been demolished or are of low authenticity and in poor condition. (Criterion 2.1)

Community Health Services is associated with the endeavours of the 1920s and 1930s to secure skilled medical practitioners in the north of Western Australia. The place is important for its role in the campaign to control and reduce the incidence of leprosy in the region and for the fight against malaria and has

* 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.

direct associations with the outbreak of malignant Tertian Malaria in the Fitzroy Valley. (Criterion 2.2)

The place represents a time when the Commonwealth Government was active in the provision of health services in regional Australia. (Criterion 2.2)

Community Health Services is an example of technical and design excellence in the use of reinforced concrete construction in Broome in the 1930s. (Criterion 2.4)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

Community Health Services is of scientific significance for its original use as a diagnostic and research laboratory. As such it played a role in the control of tropical diseases in the north of Western Australia from 1938 to circa 1950. (Criterion 3.2)

The place demonstrates a high level of technical achievement as a reinforced concrete structure constructed in-situ, in Broome in the 1930s. (Criterion 3.3)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Community Health Services is of social significance to the Broome community for associations with the control of tropical diseases which affected the inhabitants of the region throughout its history. (Criterion 4.1)

The place has been associated with community health services in the town since the 1970s and is of particular significance to the Aboriginal community in Broome who comprise a high proportion of the service's clients in areas of preventative medicine and child health care. The place is of social significance because it is adjacent to, but not part of the Broome Hospital and therefore has less institutional ambience than the main hospital. (Criterion 4.1)

The landmark quality of *Community Health Services* in the context of the Broome townsite contributes to the community's sense of place. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Community Health Services is a rare example of a reinforced concrete structure constructed in the 1930s in the north of Western Australia. It is a rare structure in the Broome context, being one of only four extant concrete structures in Broome dating from the pre World War Two period. The other buildings are the *Customs House* (Broome Historical Museum), *Broome Bowling Club* (former Coastal Radio Station) and a section of Streeter's stores in Short Street. (Criterion 5.1)

The place provides evidence of the policy of the State and Commonwealth governments concerning tropical diseases, which were prevalent in the north of Western Australia in the early and mid twentieth century. The control of these diseases, in particular leprosy and malaria in the late twentieth century, has meant that a health laboratory of this type is no longer relevant to health care in the area. (Criterion 5.2)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Community Health Services is representative of two almost identical health laboratories built at Darwin and Broome in the 1930s. The Broome building is the only extant structure. It is a representative example of an inter-war reinforced concrete structure. (Criterion 6.1)

Community Health Services is representative of different aspects of health care, including scientific research, nurse's accommodation and community services, in the north of Western Australia since the 1930s. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

The main building is in good condition and has been well maintained over its life. There is no evidence of cracking to the walls, although there is some minor cracking to the north-western steps of the verandah. The asbestos cement roof sheeting is in poor to fair condition. The verandah balustrade shows evidence of rust.

The former Animal House appears to be in fair to good condition. There is evidence of deterioration to the render on the external walls. There is evidence of deterioration and rust to the roof sheeting.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

Community Health Services has a high level of integrity and retains a role in the provision of health services in Broome. Changes to the fabric have all been in response to changes in user requirements; however, the building is capable of restoration close to original detail.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

Community Health Services retains a high proportion of original fabric and therefore a high level of authenticity. The existence of the toilet block, former animal house, grassed area to the north of the main building and boundary fencing contribute to the authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Attached are key sections of the supporting evidence prepared by Heritage and Conservation Professionals, 'Former Commonwealth Health Laboratory Broome (Broome Community Health Services) Conservation Plan' (prepared for the Department of Contract and Management Services on behalf of the Health Department of Western Australia, January 1998).

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the documentary evidence refer to Heritage and Conservation Professionals, 'Former Commonwealth Health Laboratory Broome (Broome Community Health Services) Conservation Plan' (prepared for the Department of Contract and Management Services on behalf of the Health Department of Western Australia, January 1998).

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the physical evidence refer to Heritage and Conservation Professionals, 'Former Commonwealth Health Laboratory Broome (Broome Community Health Services) Conservation Plan' (prepared for the Department of Contract and Management Services on behalf of the Health Department of Western Australia, January 1998).

13.3 REFERENCES

Heritage and Conservation Professionals, 'Former Commonwealth Health Laboratory Broome (Broome Community Health Services) Conservation Plan' (prepared for the Department of Contract and Management Services on behalf of the Health Department of Western Australia, January 1998).

13.4 FURTHER RESEARCH
