



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)

- 2.6.1 Resisting the advent of Europeans and their animals
- 3.1 Inspecting the coastline
- 3.7.1 Shipping to and from Australian ports
- 3.10.1 Regulating waterways
- 5.1 Working in harsh conditions

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 106 Workers (including Aboriginal, convict)
- 201 River and sea transport
- 209 Technology and technological change
- 507 Water, power. Major transport routes

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Bathurst Lighthouse & Quarters, comprising the limestone lighthouse (1900) with its automatic light, limestone and fibro quarters (1900), form an elegantly resolved pair of buildings in the Federation Free Classical and Federation Bungalow styles respectively. (Criterion 1.1)

The design of each of the buildings is well conceived and executed and is representative of its type and style. (Criterion 1.2)

Rottnest Island is a Western Australian cultural icon and its lighthouses are prominent features in the landscape. *Bathurst Lighthouse & Quarters* is such a widely recognised feature in the landscape that it is used for the Island's logo and promotional material. (Criterion 1.3)

The lighthouse and adjacent quarters make up a minor, but important lightstation precinct in the context of Rottnest Island. (Criterion 1.4)

11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

The construction of the third lightstation on Rottnest Island at Bathurst Point indicates a reaffirmation of the importance Rottnest Island, its pilot service and its navigational aids to the operations of the port at Fremantle in the period leading to the construction to the Inner Harbour. (Criterion 2.1)

* 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.

Bathurst Lighthouse & Quarters was constructed on the site of the pilot station (est. 1866) in response to criticisms levelled at the colonial government regarding navigation passages into the port at Fremantle. (Criterion 2.2)

Since its construction in 1900, the lightstation has provided a navigational aid to shipping and as such, has contributed to the safety of sea transport from that time. (Criterion 2.2)

Bathurst Lighthouse & Quarters was designed by Public Works Chief Architects John H. Grainger and Hillson Beasley. (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

Bathurst Lighthouse & Quarters is considered to have the potential of being archaeologically sensitive. This is based on the number of previously recorded prehistoric and historic Aboriginal sites on the western half of the island, and the presence of historically documented structures (i.e. the former pilot's look-out, known to have existed in the area of *Bathurst Lighthouse & Quarters*, as indicated on a 1894 plan) which may be associated with cultural deposits. (Criterion 3.2)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Bathurst Lighthouse & Quarters, together with its natural setting, is highly regarded by the community for its aesthetic values. (Criterion 4.1)

Rottneest Island is a Western Australian cultural icon, and *Bathurst Lighthouse & Quarters* is an integral part of its imagery and importance, contributing to a sense of place for Western Australians. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Bathurst Lighthouse & Quarters provides substantial evidence of the life and operations of a manned lightstation at the time of Federation until its automation in 1920, and is evidence of a past practice. (Criterion 5.2)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Bathurst Lighthouse & Quarters is representative of lightstation architecture in the Federation period. (Criterion 6.1)

With its complexity of functioning elements, *Bathurst Lighthouse & Quarters* is representative of lightstation living and working conditions at a manned lightstation in the Federation period. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

The lighthouse is adequately maintained and is in fair to good condition. The keeper's quarters is in fair condition. The landscape setting around the lighthouse is in poor condition.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

The original intention of all components of *Bathurst Lighthouse & Quarters* is legible. However, in their present state, the quarters require interpretation as they are somewhat obscured as a building type due to their verandahs having been filled in, which shrouds the fine proportions and material

detailing of the original structure. The buildings are used for their intended purpose. The lighthouse is readily capable of further conservation and the quarters are also capable of effective conservation. The integrity of the site as a whole is high.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

With the exception of minor alterations to the lighthouse and automation of the light, the material of the lighthouse is in its original state. The adjacent quarters have been subject to change, but the quarters are basically authentic underneath these changes. Overall, the place retains a very high degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Attached are key sections of the Supporting Evidence prepared by Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd, 'Bathurst Point, Rottnest Island, Western Australia: Lighthouse Conservation Assessment', for the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, May 2000.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the Documentary Evidence refer to Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd, 'Bathurst Point, Rottnest Island, Western Australia: Lighthouse Conservation Assessment', prepared for the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, May 2000.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the Physical Evidence refer to Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd, 'Bathurst Point, Rottnest Island, Western Australia: Lighthouse Conservation Assessment', prepared for the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, May 2000.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

For a discussion of the Comparative Evidence refer to Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd, 'Bathurst Point, Rottnest Island, Western Australia: Lighthouse Conservation Assessment', prepared for the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, May 2000.

13.4 REFERENCES

Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd, 'Bathurst Point, Rottnest Island, Western Australia: Lighthouse Conservation Assessment', prepared for the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, May 2000.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

The potential for cultural material associated with the construction and operation of the lighthouse and pilot's look-out beneath the current ground surface and bitumen hard-top exists in the immediate area surrounding the lighthouse. This also applies to the general area of *Bathurst Lighthouse & Quarters*. Should any change in land-use or development take place in or around the subject land, some form of archaeological investigation and assessment should be undertaken and an appropriate management plan developed.

This is also important in the context of Rottnest Island having been identified as a place of significance to Aboriginal people. Rottnest Island, on which *Bathurst Lighthouse & Quarters* is situated, as a whole has social significance to Aboriginal people and is imbued with a high degree of significance to the Aboriginal community throughout Western Australia as a consequence of its use of a penal establishment. In addition, it has heightened significance to members of the Perth Aboriginal community owing to its mythological associations. Consequently, should any change in land-use or development be proposed within or immediately adjacent to the subject land, it will be necessary to undertake detailed Aboriginal heritage investigations and extensive community consultation. Further work on the Island, including conservation works, should include consultation with Aboriginal people as part of the process.