



REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES - ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in September, 1991 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE

The three buildings demonstrate the changes in aesthetic values considered to be appropriate for civic buildings during the Inter-War period. (Criterion 1.1)

Narembeen Civic Precinct is important for the high level of building craftsmanship demonstrated in the Roads Board Building and the Public Hall. (Criterion 1.2)

The resolution of the three buildings on an irregular site, in particular the alignment of the entry of the Public Hall to address the street corner, demonstrates creative design. (Criterion 1.2)

The unrestricted view of *Narembeen Civic Precinct*, when approaching the town from the south, ensures the place has a landmark quality. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Narembeen Civic Precinct demonstrates the sequential development of the civic and social life of a rural community in the eastern wheatbelt of Western Australia. (Criterion 2.1)

The three buildings in *Narembeen Civic Precinct* provides evidence of different periods of economic prosperity and growth in the region. (Criterion 2.2)

Narembeen Civic Precinct has close association with Charles Latham, district settler, long serving MLA (twenty two years) and Federal Senator; Paddy Connolly, leading WA hotelier; Henry Hale, local land owner and prominent WA lawyer (Northmore, Hale and Davy); and Tom Savage, district settler; Paddy Baker, WA's "picture show man"; the Country Women's Association; and with 'Australia at War'. (Criterion 2.3)

Many country towns built community halls in the later half of the 1930s. In varying degrees the styles of these buildings tentatively incorporated contemporary aesthetic values, reflecting a community desire to be seen as modern and progressive. The entrance section of Narembeen Public Hall, by way of contrast, is a fine, unequivocal, example of Inter-War Functionalist design. (Criterion 2.4)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

Narembeen Civic Precinct contributes to an understanding of the development of civic and social life in small rural communities in the eastern wheatbelt during the Inter-War period.

The authenticity of the place offers the potential for the interpretation of the history and evolution of the place and the town in which it is located. (Criterion 3.2)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Narembeen Civic Precinct is of great value to the local community as a social centre for community and family celebrations, for its role in civic functions, and for its early role as a place of worship. (Criterion 4.1)

Narembeen Civic Precinct is a landmark in the township, and provides the community with a sense of place and time. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

The Public Hall, within *Narembeen Civic Precinct*, is a rare example of a town hall in the Inter-War Functionalist style constructed in a Western Australian country town. (Criterion 5.1)

The place demonstrates a civic ethic spanning many decades in the evolution of a town. (Criterion 5.2)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Narembeen Civic Precinct is a representative demonstration of the sequential development of the civic and social life of a rural community in the eastern wheatbelt region of Western Australia during the first half of the twentieth century. (Criterion 6.1)

The place demonstrates the civic and community ethic of a wheatbelt town established in the 1920's. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

The condition of *Narembeen Civic Precinct* is generally good.

The Lesser Hall has some damage to the sheet cladding and there is some subsidence in the floor. Rising damp is causing damage to the brickwork of the Roads Board Building. The condition of the Public Hall is very good.

Detailed considerations of condition may be found in the Conservation Plans by Laura Grey: 'Narembeen Lesser Hall, The Shire of Narembeen', November 1995 (commissioned by the Shire of Narembeen), 'Narembeen Roads Board Building, The Shire of Narembeen', November 1995 (commissioned by the Shire of Narembeen) and 'Public Hall, The Shire of Narembeen', November 1995 (commissioned by the Shire of Narembeen)

12. 4 INTEGRITY

The integrity of the place is high. The Lesser Hall remains in community use despite the later construction of the Public Hall. The Roads Board Building no longer serves its original function, and is used as a museum and centre for publication of the local newspaper, "The Fencepost". The Public Hall is exceptionally intact and continues to be used by the community for public and social gatherings.

Detailed considerations of integrity are discussed in the Conservation Plans by Laura Grey: 'Narembeen Lesser Hall, The Shire of Narembeen', November 1995 (commissioned by the Shire of Narembeen), 'Narembeen Roads Board Building, The Shire of Narembeen', November 1995 (commissioned by the Shire of Narembeen) and 'Public Hall, The Shire of Narembeen', November 1995 (commissioned by the Shire of Narembeen).

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

Despite replacement of the weatherboard cladding of the Lesser Hall *Narembeen Civic Precinct* displays a high level of authenticity, especially in regard to the Roads Board Building and the Public Hall.

Detailed considerations of authenticity are discussed in the Conservation Plans by Laura Grey: 'Narembeen Lesser Hall, The Shire of Narembeen', November 1995 (commissioned by the Shire of Narembeen), 'Narembeen Roads Board Building, The Shire of Narembeen', November 1995 (commissioned by the Shire of Narembeen) and 'Public Hall, The Shire of Narembeen', November 1995 (commissioned by the Shire of Narembeen).

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For detailed discussion of the documentary evidence, refer to the Conservation Plans by Laura Grey: 'Narembeen Lesser Hall, The Shire of Narembeen', November 1995 (commissioned by the Shire of Narembeen), 'Narembeen Roads Board Building, The Shire of Narembeen', November 1995 (commissioned by the Shire of Narembeen) and 'Public Hall, The Shire of Narembeen', November 1995 (commissioned by the Shire of Narembeen).

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For detailed discussion of the physical evidence, refer to the Conservation Plans by Laura Grey: 'Narembeen Lesser Hall, The Shire of Narembeen', November 1995 (commissioned by the Shire of Narembeen), 'Narembeen Roads Board Building, The Shire of Narembeen', November 1995 (commissioned by the Shire of Narembeen) and 'Public Hall, The Shire of Narembeen', November 1995 (commissioned by the Shire of Narembeen).

13.3 REFERENCES

Conservation Plans by Laura Grey: 'Narembeen Lesser Hall, The Shire of Narembeen', November 1995 (commissioned by the Shire of Narembeen), 'Narembeen Roads Board Building, The Shire of Narembeen', November 1995 (commissioned by the Shire of Narembeen) and 'Public Hall, The Shire of Narembeen', November 1995 (commissioned by the Shire of Narembeen).