



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*

Taken as a group, the trees in *Stirling Square* make an aesthetic contribution to the landscape of Guildford town. (Criterion 1.1)

Stirling Square has long occupied a central position in the Guildford townsite and has landmark status as a dominant open space and landscape element in the town. (Criterion 1.3)

The relationship with *St Matthew's Church* has been a major factor in the use and physical organization of the square and the location of its features. (Criterion 1.4)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Stirling Square has existed as a town square since the beginning of European settlement in the area. (Criterion 1.3)

Stirling Square contains three memorials - the Soldiers' Memorial, Stirling Centenary Gates and the Memory Gates – which are historically significant at a local and State level and which underscore the function of the square as a community shrine. (Criterion 2.2)

While not one of his major works, the Soldiers' Memorial obelisk in *Stirling Square* was designed by Pietro Porcelli, a noted sculptor of the early twentieth century whose work is well represented in Western Australia. (Criterion 2.3)

11.3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11.4. SOCIAL VALUE

Stirling Square has been the main civic open space and an important focus of the sporting, social and cultural activities of the Guildford community

* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, R., Irving, R., and Reynolds, P. *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture. Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus and Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

throughout the period of European Habitation. It is the symbolic centre of the town. (Criterion 4.1)

Stirling Square is a recognized meeting place for Aboriginal people, currently those from communities of the Guildford area and Aboriginal visitors to the Swan Valley. It is also associated with the beginnings of the Swan Valley Fringe Dwellers movement and is a registered Aboriginal site. (Criterion 4.1)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

The place, modeled on an English village green with the parish church at its centre, is one of the first three town squares planned in Western Australia, the other two being Perth and Fremantle. (Criterion 5.1)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Historically, the horticultural and landscape features of *Stirling Square* were typical of public parks in the Perth metropolitan area. (Criterion 6.1)

Taken as a group, the mature trees of introduced species in *Stirling Square* are reflective of the various stages of tree planting in Guildford since the 1870's. (Criterion 6.1)

12. 3 CONDITION

Stirling Square has suffered in recent years from vandalism and a lack of maintenance, and some of the elements have been lost.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

The integrity of this place is moderate, and the horticultural and landscape elements which marked the high point of the park's history in the 1930's are amenable to restoration work.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

The place has a moderate level of authenticity, though some of the gardens, ponds, pathways, gates and fencing have been lost or replaced.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

This document is based on 'Conservation Study: Stirling Square, Guildford, Western Australia' prepared by Oline Richards, Landscape Architect for the Shire of Swan and the State Planning Commission, March 1989.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the documentary evidence refer to 'Conservation Study: Stirling Square, Guildford, Western Australia' prepared by Oline Richards, Landscape Architect for the Shire of Swan and the State Planning Commission, March 1989.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the physical evidence refer to 'Conservation Study: Stirling Square, Guildford, Western Australia' prepared by Oline Richards, Landscape Architect for the Shire of Swan and the State Planning Commission, March 1989.

13.3 REFERENCES

Oline Richards, Landscape Architect: 'Conservation Study: Stirling Square, Guildford, Western Australia' (prepared for the Shire of Swan and the State Planning Commission, March 1989).

13.4 FURTHER RESEARCH
