



**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)

- 3.4.3 Mining
- 3.12.5 Retailing food and beverages
- 3.22 Lodging people
- 4.5 Making settlements to serve rural Australia

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 303 Mining (including mineral processing)
- 311 Hospitality industry and tourism

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Edna May Tavern, Westonia is a landmark in Westonia, indicative of the origins of the town and associated with the Miner's Hall on the diagonal corner. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Edna May Tavern, Westonia was relocated from the townsite of Bonnievale and reconstructed in Westonia in response to the development of the Edna May Gold Mine in the early 1910s, one of three such establishments to service the gold industry in Westonia at the time. (Criteria 2.1 & 2.2)

Edna May Tavern, Westonia demonstrates the continued development and relevance of a hotel in Westonia that has experience and survived the boom and bust of mining at various times since 1915. (Criteria 2.1 & 2.2)

11.3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

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

For consistency, references to garden and landscape types and styles are taken from Ramsay, J. *Parks, Gardens and Special Trees: A Classification and Assessment Method for the Register of the National Estate*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1991; and, Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Edna May Tavern, Westonia has significant social value to the local community as the only remaining hotel in Westonia, and as a social venue and gathering place that makes a significant contribution to a sense of place for residents and visitors to the district since 1915. (Criteria 4.1 & 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Edna May Tavern, Westonia is the only remaining single-storey timber-framed hotel in the Wheatbelt. (Criterion 5.1)

Edna May Tavern, Westonia is unique in Western Australia as a relocated timber and corrugated iron hotel still in operation. (Criterion 5.1)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Edna May Tavern, Westonia is representative of the historic phase of relocation and reuse of buildings. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

Edna May Tavern, Westonia attests to ongoing use and maintenance. However, the roof and roof drainage, timber detailing, and external weathered walls are in poor condition. The front office and corridor ceilings show evidence of moisture ingress and subsequent damage. Overall, *Edna May Tavern, Westonia* is in fair condition.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

Edna May Tavern, Westonia has operated continuously as a hotel since 1915, although the accommodation service ceased in 1976 when it was reclassified as a tavern. It retains a high degree of integrity.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

Edna May Tavern, Westonia shows interventions since 1915: changes to doors and verandah floors in the southern section, and the removal of a wall for construction of the cool room in the bar area. Despite these changes, the 1915 fabric is remarkably intact. *Edna May Tavern, Westonia*, has a high degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

This document has been based on 'Edna May Tavern, Westonia: Conservation Management Plan (Draft)', by Laura Gray with Irene Sauman, prepared for Rose Dean in April 2007, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For Documentary Evidence see 'Edna May Tavern, Westonia: Conservation Management Plan (Draft)', pp. 5-14

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For Physical Evidence see 'Edna May Tavern, Westonia: Conservation Management Plan (Draft)', pp. 18-21

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

Although there are no other extant single-storey, timber-framed, corrugated iron (and/or weatherboard) hotels within the Wheatbelt region, a number of such hotels do operate throughout the State. The Pilbara and Goldfields regions are most obviously comparable to Westonia, as they were also associated with gold rushes and their accompanying support services.

The most comparable hotel is the operational Broad Arrow Tavern, Broad Arrow (1900), a timber-framed single-storey building, clad horizontally and roofed with corrugated galvanised iron. The roof, with projecting gables, is broken back to extend over an encircling verandah.

Comparable hotels on the State Register include:

Roebuck Bay Hotel, Broome (1904): a single-storey hotel building and modern two-storey motel development. The hotel is timber framed and clad with custom orb Colorbond. A front verandah runs along the street frontage, part of which has been built up with mini orb. The place has been subject to extensive reconstruction, including aluminium-framed windows.

Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar (1892): a group of single-storey structures predominantly in the North West Vernacular style, including the timber framed and corrugated iron clad main hotel building, the managers dwelling, transportable accommodation units, motel units, an ablution block and a shed. The structures form an open group around a covered central area.

Other comparable hotels include:

Whim Creek Pub, Whim Creek (1890): a collection of pink painted buildings with steel and timber frames clad in corrugated iron. Includes the hotel, motel units, a house, fuel station, dongas, an outdoor stage, and campground.

Gibson Soak Hotel (fmr), Gibson (1896): timber and galvanised iron hotel. One of the early wayside inns en route to the Goldfields.

Conglomerate Pub, Nullagine (1900): originally clad with corrugated iron but later replaced with Colorbond.

Junction Hotel, Gascoyne (1909): a substantial timber-framed building, clad with horizontal corrugated iron. The hipped corrugated iron roof extends to cover partly surrounding verandahs. The original timber verandah floor has been replaced with concrete. Internally, removal of walls has allowed for larger spaces, including the dining room.

A search of the HCWA database and Municipal Inventories reveals no other relocated timber-framed hotels in Western Australia. It is probable that *Edna May Tavern, Westonia* is unique in this respect.

13. 4 KEY REFERENCES

'Edna May Tavern, Westonia: Conservation Management Plan (Draft)', by Laura Gray with Irene Sauman, prepared for Rose Dean in April 2007

13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH

The date of construction of the Hotel, prior to relocation, is unknown.