



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

Mechanics' Institute, Katanning has aesthetic value as a physical representation of a complex history, in built form, and consists of a number of successive building campaigns, each adopting the aesthetic mode of the day. Subsequent changes over the last 20 or so years have diminished the impact on Austral Terrace. (Criterion 1.1)

The stages of development, up to the completion of the last single storey campaign, have aesthetic importance for their design quality. (Criterion 1.2)

Mechanics' Institute, Katanning, in conjunction with the adjoining town hall building, of which it now forms an integral part, collectively contributes significantly to the Austral Terrace streetscape. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Mechanics' Institute, Katanning is a significant historic marker that represents a stage of development of the town of Katanning, demonstrating the importance of the initial agricultural base of the community and the later tension between the changes wrought by the development of Katanning into a thriving town, with the concerns of townsfolk beginning to emerge as a dominant influence. (Criterion 2.1)

Mechanics' Institute, Katanning is associated with people of standing in the history of Katanning and in the wider context of the state, such as Frederick and Charles Piesse, prominent land owners and politicians, and J. Herbert Eales, the architect. (Criterion 2.3)

11.3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11.4. SOCIAL VALUE

Mechanics' Institute, Katanning has social value for its role in contributing to the education of working people in Katanning and, later, to the wider community as it fulfilled the role of the town's lending library. It continues to

fulfil the latter role as the Shire's library, and is still in use as a Mechanics' Institute in 1997. (Criterion 4.1)

Mechanics' Institute, Katanning has social value in conjunction with the whole complex of buildings on the site, as it is one of the places that contributes to the community's sense of place. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1. RARITY

Mechanics' Institute, Katanning, in particular, has rarity value for its completeness, authenticity and fitting out that remains from the earliest campaigns. (Criterion 5.1)

Mechanics' Institute, Katanning, more than any other part of the complex, represents a way of life that is now comparatively rare, as mechanics' institutes, in general, have been replaced by the public library system and their social function has all but disappeared, along with, in many cases, the buildings. (Criterion 5.2)

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Mechanics' Institute, Katanning, in particular, demonstrates part of the ethos that was concerned with the further education of working men. (Criterion 6.2)

12.3 CONDITION

Overall, *Mechanics' Institute, Katanning* is in fair condition.

12.4 INTEGRITY

The current use of *Mechanics' Institute, Katanning* as the Shire library is compatible with the original intention of the building and the Mechanics' Institute still meets in the premises, giving the place a high degree of integrity.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

Mechanics' Institute, Katanning has a moderate degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Attached are key sections of the supporting evidence prepared by Considine and Griffiths Architects: 'Mechanics' Institute Katanning Conservation Plan' (prepared for Katanning Mechanics' Institute Inc, August 1995).

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the documentary evidence refer to Considine and Griffiths Architects: 'Mechanics' Institute Katanning Conservation Plan' (prepared for Katanning Mechanics' Institute Inc, August 1995).

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the physical evidence refer to Considine and Griffiths Architects: 'Mechanics' Institute Katanning Conservation Plan' (prepared for Katanning Mechanics' Institute Inc, August 1995).

13.3 REFERENCES

Considine and Griffiths Architects: 'Mechanics' Institute Katanning Conservation Plan' (prepared for Katanning Mechanics' Institute Inc, August 1995).