



# 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

*Mt Barker Railway Station (fmr)* is important to the local community as a prominent and unusual example of a Federation Queen Anne railway station with extensive refreshment room and kitchen facilities. (Criterion 1.1)

*Mt Barker Railway Station (fmr)* is important as an anachronistic example of the architecture, and for the artistic quality of its design (late, unusually restrained). The most interesting aspects of design reside in its differences from the style keys of the Federation Queen Anne style, a likely by-product of its late and simplified representation of the style, and a deliberate attempt by the architect to strike a balance between cost and grandeur, rather than any evolution of the architectural style. (Criterion 1.2)

*Mt Barker Railway Station (fmr)* has important landmark qualities because of its isolated setting in a large, open reserve between the two principal road through the township (Albany Highway and Lowood Road). It makes a significant contribution to the cultural environs and natural landscape of the township in which it is located. (Criterion 1.3)

### 11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

*Mt Barker Railway Station (fmr)* is on the site of the original railway through the area, which was the focus of the European occupation of the region and the *raison d'etre* and catalyst for the development of the Mt. Barker townsite. (Criteria 2.1, 2.2)

The size and grandeur of the railway station, and the fact that it was constructed in brick, illustrate the importance of Mt. Barker as a centre of rail development in the state and the region. (Criterion 2.1)

### 11.3 SCIENTIFIC VALUE

*Mt Barker Railway Station (fmr)* has additional value for its contribution to the understanding of the development of transportation (road and rail)

in Western Australia and the role that the associated facilities played in the cultural activities and evolution of the area. (Criterion 3.2)

#### **11.4 SOCIAL VALUE**

*Mt Barker Railway Station (fmr)* has an important place in the community of the township, and the wider district for its social context as well as for its former role as a transport interchange for the economic produce of the district. As with many railway stations, it contributes to the local community's sense of place - providing both a psychological and a physical focus for the township, and a gateway for the district. (Criterion 4.2)

### **12. DEGREE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

#### **12.1 RARITY**

*Mt Barker Railway Station (fmr)* is an uncommon example of a large, brick Federation Queen Anne style rural railway station. It is the only known railway station of its style and size in the region. (Criterion 5.1)

#### **12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

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#### **12.3 CONDITION**

*Mt Barker Railway Station (fmr)* is in a reasonable condition. The roof requires straightening and weather proofing; some joinery will need replacing, and windows and doors need to be reglazed. The place has been the subject of a Conservation Plan by Pinder Architects: 'Conservation Plan for the Former Mt. Barker Railway Station, Mount Barker, Western Australia'. (for the Heritage Council of Western Australia, March 1994).

#### **12.4 INTEGRITY**

*Mt Barker Railway Station (fmr)* is no longer used as a railway station and is currently unused for any other purpose. The place is capable of the being conserved and the cultural heritage values retained.

#### **12.5 AUTHENTICITY**

*Mt Barker Railway Station (fmr)* has a high degree of authenticity. The fabric of the place is substantially original. Refer to the Conservation Plan by Pinder Architects: 'Conservation Plan for the Former Mt. Barker Railway Station, Mount Barker, Western Australia'. (for the Heritage Council of Western Australia, March 1994)

### **13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE**

Supporting evidence for the above assessment is found in the following conservation plan. Pinder Architects: 'Conservation Plan for the Former Mt. Barker Railway Station, Mount Barker, Western

Australia'. (for the Heritage Council of Western Australia, March 1994)