



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*

The aesthetic value of *Fremantle Grammar School (fmr)* lies in all the exterior aspects of the building. This is most notable perhaps in the elevation facing High Street, with its steeply pitched roof and other Gothic Revival elements, including the arched window in the front elevation and the Fremantle coat of arms. The volumetric quality of the internal spaces and the original fixtures and fittings, which have been retained, also contribute to the aesthetic qualities of the place. (Criterion 1.1)

Fremantle Grammar School (fmr) is a significant landmark within the historic town of Fremantle due to its location at the top of one of the earliest surveyed streets in Fremantle and its elevated position on a rise over the town, opposite Monument Hill on a main road into the town centre. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

Fremantle Grammar School (fmr) represents a period in the development of education in Fremantle and Western Australia, based on the English public school system. Architecturally, the place was constructed in the Gothic Revival style, considered appropriate for educational institutions. (Criterion 2.1)

The place was established as a public school by the Anglican Church to provide a sound education for middle and upper class children, based on the doctrines of the Anglican Church. (Criterion 2.1)

The place served as a meeting venue for the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints from 1945 to 1988. (Criterion 2.1)

The place is significant for its associations with Henry Briggs, who founded the Fremantle Grammar School and was its Headmaster until 1897. He was subsequently knighted for his work as President of the Legislative Council. (Criterion 2.3)

The place is an example of the work of prominent Melbourne architect, Charles Inksep. (Criterion 2.3)

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

The place is significant for its associations with prominent Fremantle citizen, Oscar Stack, pastor of the Church of the Latter Day Saints from 1945 to the late 1960s, and Fremantle City Councillor from 1968 to 1978. (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

The style of the building is a reflection of nineteenth century attitudes towards school buildings, designed in a way considered appropriate for places built for ecumenical, liturgical and educational activity. As such it has both social and educational value for those interested in the development of Fremantle's history of white settlement and growth. (Criterion 3.1)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Fremantle Grammar School (fmr) is important to the community for its social and educational associations. It is also significant to the Mormon community for its 43-year association (1945-1988) with their organisation as a place of worship. (Criterion 4.1)

Being a distinctive building located on an elevated site, *Fremantle Grammar School (fmr)* contributes to the community's sense of place. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Fremantle Grammar School (fmr) is the only intact example of an educational institution in Gothic Revival style in Fremantle and is one of only two in Perth, the other being Perth Boys' School. (Criterion 5.2)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Fremantle Grammar School (fmr) is a representative example of a tuck-pointed stone Gothic Revival building purpose-built for education of an immigrant population and represents a stage in the educational development of Western Australia. Old Perth Boys' School (1854) is the only other example of this type. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

The place is in good condition, particularly in light of its position exposed to salt laden sea breezes, and its location on a busy road which carries a large volume of traffic with attendant vibration and pollution. The stonework is sound.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

Having had a variety of uses, the place has a moderate degree of integrity.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

Fremantle Grammar School (fmr) is remarkably intact. It has sustained some changes to accommodate changes in use, but these have been largely confined to the interior and rear of the building. The volumetric quality of the internal spaces has been retained and the fixtures and fittings are largely intact. The contextual setting has been diminished by the loss of site area, particularly regarding its relationship to ancillary structures such as the separate toilet building, which is now on a separate block.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Attached are key sections of the supporting evidence prepared by Priya Metcalfe, 'Conservation Plan for 200 High Street Fremantle', May 1996.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the documentary evidence, refer to Priya Metcalfe, 'Conservation Plan for 200 High Street Fremantle', May 1996.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the physical evidence, refer to Priya Metcalfe, 'Conservation Plan for 200 High Street Fremantle', May 1996.

13.3 REFERENCES

Priya Metcalfe, 'Conservation Plan for 200 High Street Fremantle', May 1996.

13.4 FURTHER RESEARCH
