



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

The aesthetic appeal of *Warribanno Smelter Complex Ruins* stems primarily from the visual impact of the flues against the lightly wooded hillside rising towards the chimney, which itself has a pleasing brick and stone construction. The base of the chimney (at the summit of the hill) also provides a good vantage point for a striking panorama of the surrounding agricultural and bush land. (Criterion 1.1)

Warribanno Smelter Complex and, in particular, the chimney has aesthetic significance as the oldest European landmark feature in the mid-west region. The six metre tall chimney base, situated atop the sandstone hill, is visible for some distance from many parts of the district, and must have been even more striking when the chimney was its full height of twelve metres. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Warribanno Smelter Complex is exceptionally significant in several areas. It is part of a complex of sites associated with the Geraldine Mine, the first operational mine in Western Australia and, in many respects, the origin of the modern mineral industry in the State. *Warribanno Smelter Complex* is the earliest identified site of smelter or metal processing in Western Australia. It is also one of the earliest smelters in Australia. (Criteria 2.1, 2.2)

The camps and other works associated with the Geraldine Mine are also significant as evidence of the first European settlement in the mid-west of Western Australia. (Criterion 2.1)

Warribanno Smelter Complex, together with the Geraldine Mine, has associations with a number of key people in the initial European settlement of the mid-west, in particular Henry Gregory, Augustus Gregory and Francis Watson Pearse. (Criterion 2.3)

The stone cairns on the perimeter of the site are evidence of the first survey of the place circa 1849. (Criterion 2.1)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

Warribanno Smelter Complex has considerable scientific significance for its demonstration of the technology and nature of a mid-nineteenth century lead smelting operation. Of particular scientific interest is the above ground flue and draft shaft which is believed to be the only one in Western Australia. (Criteria 3.1, 3.2)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Warribanno Smelter Complex is perceived as a monument to the early mining industry and communities of the area, and is held in high regard as such. (Criterion 4.1)

The chimney base, the most visible part of *Warribanno Smelter Complex*, is a well known and highly esteemed landmark for people in the mid-west region of Western Australia and contributes to the community's sense of place. (Criteria 4.1, 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Warribanno Smelter Complex is unique as the ruins of the oldest surviving smelter and metal processing plant in Western Australia. Together with the Geraldine Mine, it comprises the oldest complex of mining sites in Western Australia. In the Australian context, it is one of the oldest smelter sites in the country. (Criterion 5.2)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Although sharing at least some of the general characteristics common to other mid-nineteenth century lead smelters, *Warribanno Smelter Complex* is unique in the context of Western Australia. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

The condition of *Warribanno Smelter Complex* is stable.

Detailed considerations of condition may be found in the Conservation Plan by Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd: 'Warribanno Lead Smelter Complex, Conservation and Management Plan' (prepared for the Northampton Historical Society Inc. Property Management Committee, October 1995).

This plan has been received by the Shire of Northampton and is currently being used as the basis for implementation of conservation works to the place.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

Warribanno Smelter Complex has integrity as the ruins of a mid-nineteenth century smelter complex.

Integrity is addressed in detail in the Conservation Plan by Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd: 'Warribanno Lead Smelter Complex, Conservation and Management Plan' (prepared for the Northampton Historical Society Inc. Property Management Committee, October 1995).

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

Warribanno Smelter Complex has a high degree of authenticity as the ruins of a smelter complex.

For more detail refer to the Conservation Plan by Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd: 'Warribanno Lead Smelter Complex, Conservation and Management Plan' (prepared for the Northampton Historical Society Inc. Property Management Committee, October 1995).

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Attached are key sections of the supporting evidence prepared by Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd: 'Warribanno Lead Smelter Complex, Conservation and Management Plan' (prepared for the Northampton Historical Society Inc. Property Management Committee, October 1995).

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a detailed discussion of the documentary evidence, refer to the Conservation Plan by Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd: 'Warribanno Lead Smelter Complex, Conservation and Management Plan' (prepared for the Northampton Historical Society Inc. Property Management Committee, October 1995).

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a detailed discussion of the physical evidence, refer to the Conservation Plan by Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd: 'Warribanno Lead Smelter Complex, Conservation and Management Plan' (prepared for the Northampton Historical Society Inc. Property Management Committee, October 1995).

13.3 REFERENCES

Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd: 'Warribanno Lead Smelter Complex, Conservation and Management Plan' (prepared for the Northampton Historical Society Inc. Property Management Committee, October 1995).