



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

Residency Museum and surrounding buildings have remained relatively unaltered and as such have high aesthetic value collectively. (Criterion 1.4)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Residency Museum has historic value for its early associations with the convict establishment in Albany. (Criterion 2.1)

For eighty years, from 1873 to 1953, *Residency Museum* was the home of Albany's Resident Magistrates and, as such, one of the focal points of the town's social life. (Criterion 2.3)

11.3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11.4. SOCIAL VALUE

Residency Museum is highly valued by the local community. (Criterion 4.1)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1. RARITY

Resident Magistrates were generally assigned to only one centre within each magisterial district, so residencys of this age are comparatively rare in Western Australia. As such, *Residency Museum* demonstrates an uncommon aspect of the cultural heritage of Western Australia.

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

In the nineteenth century, the position of magistrate in WA was one of social eminence. *Residency Museum* was built to reflect the status of the magistrate and as such demonstrates a way of life and philosophy of the culture which produced both the position and the building itself.

12.3 CONDITION

Residency Museum is cracking badly in a number of places, has rising damp externally and leaks internally. The conversion to a museum has resulted in the fitting of modern lighting and the bricking in of fireplaces. The general condition is fair.

12.4 INTEGRITY

Residency Museum has moderate integrity. Although it is now a museum, its original use as a residence remains evident.

The enclosure of the verandahs has compromised the original design intention.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

The authenticity of *Residency Museum* is fair. The basic structure is unaltered, although verandahs have been enclosed.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Sarah Stephenson BA. The physical evidence has been compiled by John Loreck, Architect.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Residency was established in 1854.¹ It was situated in Port Road, on Lot B41, Reserve 4156.² (Subsequent redesign has changed the street address to Residency Road.)

On 25 December 1826, Major Edmund Lockyer and 24 convicts arrived at King Georges Sound, in the brig *Amity*. Lockyer was under instruction from Governor Darling, of New South Wales, to establish a military settlement.³ This settlement was named Frederickstown, after Frederick, Duke of York.⁴

In 1831, following the establishment of the Swan River Colony, the settlement was placed under the control of Governor Stirling, and re-named Albany. Free settlement of the area was granted and a Government Resident appointed.⁵

In March 1852, a convict depot was erected on Lot 41. This was the site of Major Lockyer's first landing.⁶ Between 1854 and 1856, the depot comprised of convict cells, barracks, commissariat store, administration block and superintendent's residence.⁷

In 1872, the convict depot was closed. The buildings were transferred to the Western Australian Government.⁸ The barracks and store were converted, at a cost of £332, into a home for Albany's Resident Magistrates.⁹

Between 1873 and 1953 *Residency* was the home of Government Residents and Resident Magistrates. It was the centre for many social functions, hosting of balls, weddings, tennis and tea parties.¹⁰

In 1953 *Residency* was closed.¹¹ Between the years 1953 and 1970, it was a school hostel, a naval depot and training facility. A sea scout headquarters operated under the name TS Vancouver.¹²

In 1970, Lot 41 was developed as Major Lockyer Park.¹³

In 1975, after renovations, *Residency Museum* was opened as the first branch of the Western Australian Museum outside the metropolitan area.¹⁴

1 Albany Residency Museum Information Sheets, 1995.

2 *Your Museum*, (Western Australian Museum, Perth, September, 1985).

3 Notes on the History of Albany, PR851, Battye.

4 *Ibid.*

5 *Albany Advertiser*, 19 May 1953.

6 *Your Museum*, (Western Australian Museum, Perth, September, 1985).

7 *The Farmer's Weekly*, 4 November, 1987, p. 15.

8 *The Countryman*, 8 April 1965.

9 *The Farmer's Weekly*, 4 November, 1987, p. 15.

10 Garden D, *Albany, A Panorama of the Sound*, (Thomas Nelson Ltd. Melbourne, 1977) p. 277

11 *The Farmer's Weekly*, 4 November 1987, p. 15.

12 Albany Residency Museum Information Sheets, 1995.

13 Major Lockyer Memorial Map, (Major Lockyer Committee Report, August, 1971).

Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth visited *Residency Museum* in 1977.¹⁵ In 1979, *Residency Museum* acquired the Mills Collection of Chinese Porcelain.¹⁶ Major Lockyer Park was the starting point for the baton relay to Brisbane in the 1982 Commonwealth Games.¹⁷

On 29 September 1985, *Residency Museum* celebrated its tenth anniversary.¹⁸ During the centennial celebrations *Residency Museum* was restored. The asbestos roof was replaced with shingles.¹⁹ A proposal was also considered to erect a new building to house the Old Eclipse Lighthouse Optic.²⁰

On 28 January 1989, Building Management Authority architect, Don Saunders, won an award for designing the building which holds the optic lens from Eclipse Island.²¹

Residency Museum still operates as a branch of the Western Australian Museum.²²

13. 2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Residency Museum is a single storied masonry building with a timber framed, timber shingled roof . It is located on the west side of Residency Road, south of the railway line. To the west is the old Police Quarters, to the north-west is the Eclipse Building (circa 1989), and across the railway line to the north is the Convict Hiring Depot (1872-73) and Lockup (1852-54). Immediately to the south of *Residency Museum*, near the approximate original shoreline, is the Edmund Lockyer Memorial.

Residency Museum is an L shaped building, with the entrance located at the north of the building and near the internal corner of the 'L'. One wing is approximately parallel to Residency Road and the other wing is parallel to Princess Royal Drive, with the open arms of the 'L' addressing the Eclipse Building and the Old Police Quarters beyond. *Residency Museum* , the Eclipse Building and the Old Police Quarters are approached by most of the general public by means of a bitumen access road leading off Residency Road. This leads to a bitumen carpark located close to all three buildings.

Residency Museum is built in a Victorian Georgian style, with brick walls which are rendered externally and plastered internally. The verandahs to the internal part of the 'L' are now enclosed and an entry vestibule added. This entry vestibule was once in a Colonial Gothic Picturesque style, with a crenellated parapet to three sides. The parapet is now lower and the crenellations removed.

Residency Museum was originally built as a one room building, probably as the store for the Convict Hiring Depot. This room is now used as an office.

14 *The Farmer's Weekly*, 4 November, 1987, p. 15.

15 *Your Museum*, (Western Australian Museum, Perth, September, 1985).

16 *Ibid.*

17 *Ibid.*

18 *Ibid.*

19 *Ibid.*

20 *Ibid.*

21 *Perspective*, (Building Management Authority of Western Australia, Vol 5, No 2, March 1989) p.2.

22 Albany Residency Museum Information Sheets, 1995.

Evidence that this room was built first is as follows: the ceiling is raked at the perimeter of the room, indicating that perhaps it had a verandah to all four sides; the sub-floor ventilation grille in the east wall is of a different design to the adjoining three rooms; and the western wall has a single fireplace even though there is a room adjacent to it. Normally fireplaces were built back to back, as has been done in other places in *Residency Museum*.

Within a few years, an additional room was built to the west of the original room, and a few years after that, it appears, judging by a slight change in floor level, that two more rooms were added. All four rooms have a common hipped roof.

In 1873, additions and conversions took place and the building became a residence for Magistrates. The additions consisted of an 'L' shaped extension of seven rooms, with the long arm of the 'L' immediately to the south and west of the early group of four rooms. Essentially, the internal layout has not changed, but the perimeter verandah has been enclosed to the inside arms of the 'L', judging by the low raking ceilings which conform to the verandah roof plane. The verandah enclosure had occurred by 1901, according to a photograph of that date which is displayed in the museum. This photograph also shows a crenellated entry vestibule and corrugated iron roof cladding.

To the northern end of the north-south arm of the 'L' are toilets which appear to have been added in the 1960's. A toilet was added to the west elevation also, probably at this time.

The internal layout of *Residency Museum* is as follows. Upon proceeding through the entry vestibule, the visitor's attention is drawn to the reception counter immediately to the right. The reception counter is located in a room that serves as the museum bookshop but was probably originally a formal sitting area, judging by the French doors beyond which allow views to Princess Royal Harbour. To the west of this room is another display room, which was possibly used as a dining room, being close to the early four roomed building which possibly could have been used as servant's quarters. To the east of the book shop is a similarly proportioned and orientated room, which leads via what appears to be an original double opening to a corner room. This corner room and the three rooms to the north of it are similar in size. The corner room may have been an auxiliary reception room and the three rooms to the north were probably bedrooms. With the exception of the bookshop room, all rooms are now used for museum display purposes.

Residency Museum is cracking badly in a number of places, has rising damp externally and leaks internally. The conversion to a museum has resulted in the fitting of modern lighting and the bricking in of fireplaces.

13.3 REFERENCES