



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

Northam Police Station and Courthouse is significant for the high level of building craftsmanship and decorative elements displayed in the Federation Free Style of the Courthouse and Federation Classical / Bungalow Style of the Police Station, and more modest vernacular style of the Cell Block and Police Quarters No.3. (Criterion 1.1, 1.2)

The similar use of scale and materials creates coherence within a range of Federation building styles, that reinforces the character of Wellington Street and contributes to the traditional townscape of Northam. (Criterion 1.3, 1.4)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Northam Police Station and Courthouse has historic value for its early and ongoing role in the operation of law and order in Northam, and as the region's centre of policing and judicial activity for over a century. (Criterion 2.1)

Northam Police Station and Courthouse provides continuous evidence of the building stock considered appropriate for policing and judicial functions between 1896 and 1910, and reflects the optimism and available wealth of the Gold Boom period in Western Australia during the 1890s, and the change in economic climate towards the end of the first decade. (Criterion 2.2)

Northam Police Station and Courthouse has close association with prominent Australian architects George Temple Pool, Robert J Haddon and Hillson Beasley, respective architects for the Courthouse, Police Station, and Cell Block and Police Quarters. (Criterion 2.3)

11.3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11.4. SOCIAL VALUE

Northam Police Station and Courthouse, is highly valued by the community, both of the township and the wider region, for its continuous function as the region's centre of policing and judicial activity for over a century.
(Criterion 4.2)

Northam Police Station and Courthouse, a well known reference point in the township since the 1890s, offers the community a sense of place and time.
(Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Northam Police Station and Courthouse is representative of Federation Free Style architecture, where the influences of the gold boom in Western Australia produced an eclectic mix of stylistic decoration, and a more modest, vernacular form of Federation architecture that reflects the change in economic climate towards the end of the first decade. (Criterion 6.1)

Northam Police Station and Courthouse is representative of the building stock considered appropriate for policing and judicial functions between 1896 and 1910. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

The condition of *Northam Police Station and Courthouse* is generally good, with the exception of the Cell Block where spalling brickwork in the rear wall is of concern.

Detailed considerations of condition may be found in the Conservation Plan by Hocking Planning and Architecture: 'Northam Police Station and Courthouse, Wellington Street, Northam' (prepared for the Building Management Authority on behalf of the Police Department and Ministry for Justice, December 1995.)

12. 4 INTEGRITY

Despite external and internal modifications, mostly necessitated by changing technology, *Northam Police Station and Courthouse* has retained its intended policing and judicial functions, and retains a moderate level of integrity.

For a discussion of the integrity of the place, refer to Hocking Planning and Architecture: 'Northam Police Station and Courthouse, Wellington Street, Northam' (prepared for the Building Management Authority on behalf of the Police Department and Ministry for Justice, December 1995.)

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

Internally, *Northam Police Station and Courthouse* has low authenticity with significant alterations having taken place to accommodate change in technology. The external fabric remains intact and has a high authenticity.

For a discussion of the authenticity of the place, refer to Hocking Planning and Architecture: 'Northam Police Station and Courthouse, Wellington Street, Northam' (prepared for the Building Management Authority on behalf of the Police Department and Ministry for Justice, December 1995.)

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Attached are key section of the supporting evidence prepared by Hocking Planning and Architecture: 'Northam Police Station and Courthouse, Wellington Street, Northam' (prepared for the Building Management Authority on behalf of the Police Department and Ministry for Justice, December 1995.)

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a detailed discussion of the documentary evidence, refer to Hocking Planning and Architecture: 'Northam Police Station and Courthouse, Wellington Street, Northam' (prepared for the Building Management Authority on behalf of the Police Department and Ministry for Justice, December 1995.)

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a detailed discussion of the physical evidence, refer to Hocking Planning and Architecture: 'Northam Police Station and Courthouse, Wellington Street, Northam' (prepared for the Building Management Authority on behalf of the Police Department and Ministry for Justice, December 1995.)

13.3 REFERENCES

Hocking Planning and Architecture: 'Northam Police Station and Courthouse, Wellington Street, Northam' (prepared for the Building Management Authority on behalf of the Police Department and Ministry for Justice, December 1995.)