



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.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 7.5.1 Developing local government authorities
- 6.2 Establishing schools
- 3.4 Developing sheep and cattle industries

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 404 Community services and utilities
- 402 Education and science
- 301 Grazing, pastoralism and dairying
- 602 Early settlers

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Upper Gascoyne Road Board Office (fmr) is a simply expressed building in the Federation Bungalow style and is one of the more aesthetically important buildings in the sparsely developed town of Gascoyne Junction. (Criterion 1.1)

Upper Gascoyne Road Board Office (fmr) is a standard kit construction building. While its design is not exceptional, its proportions and arrangement of elements are visually pleasing. The replacement of detail, repairs to verandah, and the general condition of some of the elements detract from its simple beauty. (Criterion 1.2)

Upper Gascoyne Road Board Office (fmr) contributes to the civic precinct of Gascoyne Junction. The precinct is a comparatively small number of buildings, which provide a pleasant visual focus in the small town. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

Upper Gascoyne Road Board Office (fmr) was the first Road Board Office constructed in the Upper Gascoyne district, and served in this use for more than forty years. As the area was reliant solely on road transport, the establishment of a Road Board in the district was very important. Subject to annual flooding, roads required heavy maintenance to maintain links between remote pastoral properties. (Criterion 2.1)

Upper Gascoyne Road Board Office (fmr) demonstrates the phases of development of district, initially as the Road Board Office and later as a

meeting place for local associations, including the Upper Gascoyne Branch of the Pastoralists' Association. It subsequently became the first school in Gascoyne Junction (1960-1965) and since the late 1990s, has been the home of the town's first museum. (Criterion 2.2)

Upper Gascoyne Road Board Office (fmr) illustrates the type of small timber ready-to-erect buildings available from the largest Western Australian timber company, Millars Timber and Trading company Limited, in the pre-World War One period. (Criterion 2.4)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

Upper Gascoyne Road Board Office (fmr) has the potential to contribute to an understanding of the design and construction of simple timber ready-to-erect buildings manufactured in Western Australia in the pre-World War One period. (Criterion 3.3)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Upper Gascoyne Road Board Office (fmr) is highly valued by the local community as the first Road Board Office in the district, its use as the first Government school in the district and for its most recent use as the local museum. (Criterion 4.1)

As the oldest extant public building in the town of Gascoyne Junction, *Upper Gascoyne Road Board Office (fmr)* contributes to the community's sense of place and is valued by the community.

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Upper Gascoyne Road Board Office (fmr) demonstrates a form of simple timber building, which was readily available in the pre World War I period. Extant examples of this type of construction are uncommon. (Criterion 5.1)

The ready-to-erect design of *Upper Gascoyne Road Board Office (fmr)* is no longer practiced. (Criterion 5.2)

12. 2. REPRESENTATIVENESS

Upper Gascoyne Road Board Office (fmr) demonstrates the principal characteristics of a simple timber prefabricated building of the pre-World War One period using elements of the Federation Bungalow style. (Criterion 6.1)

12. 3. CONDITION

The timber framing and cladding have been damaged by termite infestation and the roof is deteriorating, although it still has a serviceable life. Post bottoms to the verandahs are in poor repair and some of the posts have been replaced. Repair strategies have not always matched the original methods and materials, resulting in some inappropriate work.

The gardens in front of the building are well maintained and the vacant land to the rear of the building is open ground.

12. 4. INTEGRITY

Upper Gascoyne Road Board Office (fmr) has a moderate to high degree of integrity. The place ceased to be used for its intended purpose c. 1960 and

there is some physical evidence of its adaptation for its subsequent school purposes. Very minor adaptations have been made for its current use as a museum. There are opportunities to conserve the existing fabric and to reconstruct missing elements, so that conservation of the remaining significant fabric is possible.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

Upper Gascoyne Road Board Office (fmr) has been altered from time to time and subject to repairs and minor alterations. The changes have been modest, with the exception of the concreting of the verandah, which has had a major impact on the external appearance of the place.

Changes to the elevations have been minor and include such items as the replacement of architraves, the addition of a flyscreen door, and the introduction of screens to the western verandah. There is repair material in the verandah construction and the cladding.

The interior has some replacement floor boarding, a masonite dado, and some replacement architraves. Overall, the authenticity of the place is moderate to high.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Attached are key sections of the supporting evidence prepared by Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd and Robin Chinnery Historian, 'Old Upper Gascoyne Road Board Office Conservation Plan', prepared for the Upper Gascoyne Health and Recreation Group Inc., March 2000.

13. 1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the Documentary Evidence refer to Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd and Robin Chinnery Historian, 'Old Upper Gascoyne Road Board Office Conservation Plan', prepared for the Upper Gascoyne Health and Recreation Group Inc., March 2000.

13. 2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the Physical Evidence refer to Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd and Robin Chinnery Historian, 'Old Upper Gascoyne Road Board Office Conservation Plan', prepared for the Upper Gascoyne Health and Recreation Group Inc., March 2000.

13. 3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

For a discussion of the Comparative Information refer to Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd and Robin Chinnery Historian, 'Old Upper Gascoyne Road Board Office Conservation Plan', prepared for the Upper Gascoyne Health and Recreation Group Inc., March 2000.

13. 4 REFERENCES

Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd and Robin Chinnery Historian, 'Old Upper Gascoyne Road Board Office Conservation Plan', prepared for the Upper Gascoyne Health and Recreation Group Inc., March 2000.

13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH
