HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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)

- 6.2 Establishing schools
- 6.5 Educating people in remote places

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 402 Education and science
- 404 Community services and utilities
- 602 Early settlers

11. 1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Dongara School Master's House is a good example of a well designed and executed building whose aesthetic characteristics demonstrates the growing prosperity of the town at the time. (Criterion 1.1)

Dongara School Master's House is a good example of a late Victorian Georgian style building. (Criterion 1.2)

Dongara School Master's House has notable landmark qualities. The scale and proximity to the road contribute to its landmark quality. (Criterion 1.3)

Dongara School Master's House is an important part of the historic precinct of Dongara. Its aesthetic character, together with those of the other buildings within the precinct, collectively forms a significant streetscape. (Criterion 1.4)

11. 2. HISTORIC VALUE

Dongara School Master's House reflects the prosperity of the town at the end of the nineteenth century. It is evidence of the development and consolidation of the coastal town. (Criterion 2.1)

Dongara School Master's House is important for its associations with educational activities within the district. (Criterion 2.2)

Dongara School Master's House is associated with Mr Francis Kelly, a well known local businessman, and the original owner of the place. (Criterion 2.3)

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* 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.

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

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11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Dongara School Master's House is highly valued by the local community as part of both an historic and educational precinct. (Criterion 4.1)

Dongara School Master's House contributes to the sense of place of the Dongara community. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Dongara School Master's House has rarity value as an uncommon two storey stone residence located in a small mid west town utilized as a school master's house. (Criterion 5.1)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Dongara School Master's House and the other heritage buildings in the precinct combine to represent the range of buildings needed to provide for the civic, social, communications, educational and religious needs of a typical small country town. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

The place is generally in a good condition, with some exceptions. These include: sections of the floor to the lounge, some minor cracking to the ground floor hall walls, a small section of floorboards to the south west corner of the first floor stairwell and some of the internal and external joinery where alterations and patching has occurred.

The building has experienced an ongoing problem with white ants and rising damp. Ongoing repairs and remedial work has been carried out.

As a result of the programme of works carried out in 1989/90, with the assistance of a National Estate Program for $6,500 and the Shire of Irwin, the work undertaken followed the recommendations in the 1979 Feilman and Associates Architects report on the building and included repair of internal and external masonry, re-plastering, repair of timber and guttering, insertion of dampcourse, painting and electrical work.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

The building has a high degree of integrity. It continues to function to its original purpose as a residence although it was originally built as a private residence. The uses of the rooms in the original building and subsequent additions have not changed, and it is suited for continued use as a residential building.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

The place is of moderate authenticity. Much of the original form and fabric remains, although alterations and restoration campaigns have introduced some new finishes and materials.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Supporting Evidence for the above assessment is found in the following conservation plan: Naomi Lawrance: 'Dongara School Master's House Conservation Plan', prepared for the Shire of Irwin in 1999 / 2000.

Key sections used: 3.0 Documentary Evidence (p16-46), 4.0 Physical Evidence (p47-89), 5.0 Analysis of Documentary and Physical Evidence (p90-93)

13. 1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the Documentary Evidence refer to Naomi Lawrance: 'Dongara School Master's House Conservation Plan', prepared for the Shire of Irwin in 1999 / 2000. (pp 16 – 31)

13. 2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the Physical Evidence refer to Naomi Lawrance: 'Dongara School Master's House Conservation Plan', prepared for the Shire of Irwin in 1999 / 2000. (pp 47,48, 53 – 56, 90, 91)

13. 3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

For a Comparative Analysis refer to Naomi Lawrance: 'Dongara School Master's House Conservation Plan', prepared for the Shire of Irwin in 1999 / 2000.

13. 4 KEY REFERENCES

Naomi Lawrance: 'Dongara School Master's House Conservation Plan', prepared for the Shire of Irwin in 1999 / 2000.

13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH
