



## 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.

#### 11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE\*

*Cheynes Beach Whaling Station* is significant as an industrial complex. It comprises a number of buildings, of similar fabric and scale, which collectively form the cultural environment. (Criterion 1.4).

#### 11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

*Cheynes Beach Whaling Station* is important in the history of the local and international whaling industry, focussed on Albany. (Criterion 2.2)

The present *Cheynes Beach Whaling Station* is important for its association with Norwegian whalers involved in the early development of the station, and with the whale chasing vessels of the 1950s. (Criterion 2.3)

Although the buildings are of relatively recent construction, *Cheynes Beach Whaling Station* is important for its associations with Albany and with whaling, a traditional pursuit that extends back to the early 19th century. The place is also important as part of the global whaling industry, focussed on the specific natural characteristics of Albany. (Criterion 2.3)

#### 11.3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

*Cheynes Beach Whaling Station* has potential to contribute to an understanding of the whaling industry and the processing of whales in Western Australia. (Criterion 3.1)

The place has the potential to demonstrate appropriate conservation practice for an industrial complex in an exposed and corrosive environment. (Criterion 3.1)

*Cheynes Beach Whaling Station* is important for its demonstration of the ingenuity of the builders who brought in plant and equipment from industries elsewhere and adapted them for use in processing whales. (Criterion 3.3)

#### 11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

*Cheyne Beach Whaling Station* has social significance for Norwegian whalers who visited the station in the early 1950s to assist with its development, and for the other whalers, workers and administrative staff at the station and their families, some of whom are still part of the Albany community. (Criterion 4.1)

*Cheyne Beach Whaling Station* is important for its educational value as a site adapted for the interpretation and display of processes and artifacts associated with the whaling industry in Western Australia. (Criterion 4.1)

*Cheyne Beach Whaling Station* contributes to Albany's sense of place and to its potential to exploit eco-tourism in the context of the region's lengthy traditional relationship with whales and whaling. (Criterion 4.2)

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\* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, R., Irving, R., Reynolds, P., *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present* Angus & Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **12.1. RARITY**

*Cheynes Beach Whaling Station* is the most intact whaling station in Australia, and survives to demonstrate an industrial complex developed in the mid-20th century for the processing of whales. (Criterion 5.1)

The whale chaser *Cheynes IV* is reported to be the sole surviving vessel of this class. (Criterion 5.1)

The place demonstrates a defunct Australian industrial activity which is no longer acceptable to the majority in the international community. (Criterion 5.2)

### **12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

*Cheynes Beach Whaling Station* is important in demonstrating the characteristics of whaling, the industrial processes for the treatment of whale carcasses and the extraction of the substances for which whales were formerly harvested. (Criterion 6.2)

The vessel *Cheynes IV* is a representative whale chaser of the type used internationally in whaling. (Criterion 6.2)

### **12.3 CONDITION**

*Cheynes Beach Whaling Station* is in reasonably sound condition. However, due to exposure to a corrosive environment and the former industrial processes practiced at the Station, deterioration in some building elements is evident.

The plant and equipment are in a generally deteriorated condition. Lack of adequate maintenance since the closure of the station has contributed significantly to this deterioration.

### **12.4 INTEGRITY**

The integrity of the station has been eroded due to lack of regular maintenance and the removal of some of the significant elements of plant and equipment. The place retains a moderate degree of integrity.

### **12.5 AUTHENTICITY**

The surviving buildings, plant and equipment retain a high degree of authenticity. The most relevant changes have been the loss of some plant and equipment and general deterioration due to corrosive exposure.

### **13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE**

Attached are key sections of the supporting evidence prepared by Duncan Stephen and Mercer, Architects: 'Cheynes Beach Whaling Station Conservation Plan', (prepared for Albany Maritime Heritage, April 1996).

#### **13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE**

For a discussion of the documentary evidence refer to Duncan Stephen and Mercer, Architects: 'Cheynes Beach Whaling Station Conservation Plan', (prepared for Albany Maritime Heritage, April 1996).

#### **13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE**

For a discussion of the physical evidence refer to Duncan Stephen and Mercer, Architects: 'Cheynes Beach Whaling Station Conservation Plan', (prepared for Albany Maritime Heritage, April 1996).

#### **13.3 REFERENCES**

Duncan Stephen and Mercer, Architects: 'Cheynes Beach Whaling Station Conservation Plan', (prepared for Albany Maritime Heritage, April 1996).

#### **13.4 FURTHER RESEARCH**

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