



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)

- 2.4 Migrating
- 7.6.2 Controlling entry of persons and disease
- 8.3 Going on holiday

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 101 Immigration, emigration and refugees
- 103 Racial contact and interaction
- 405 Sport, recreation and entertainment
- 501 World wars and other wars
- 602 Early settlers

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Quaranup Complex is valued for the aesthetic characteristics of the buildings, largely designed in the Victorian Georgian and Federation Bungalow style, with later buildings designed to blend with and complement the earlier structures. The natural surroundings of the site are of exceptional aesthetic value. The structures are in a bushland setting with views out to the ocean and also over Princess Royal Harbour and the town of Albany. (Criterion 1.1)

The scale of *Quaranup Complex* and its situation on a prominent ridge above Princess Royal Harbour, opposite the town of Albany makes it a significant landscape feature of the town. (Criterion 1.3)

The structures, in the Federation Bungalow style, contribute positively to the landscape. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Quaranup Complex is historically significant for its association with early attempts to control the introduction of contagious infections and diseases into Western Australia.

* 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.

The site has historical significance as the first disembarkation point for many overseas visitors and new migrants landing at the Port of Albany. Its location and growth are directly related to Albany's status as the premier port in Western Australia and the growth of the port facilities during the Goldrush period.

The site contains a Bunya Pine (*Araucaria bidwillii*) and a bay tree which are likely to be the sole survivors of the land work carried out by prison labour in 1898. (Criterion 2.1)

The site has historical significance as a quarantine point for Australian troops returning from the Boer War, First World War and Second World War. (Criterion 2.2)

Buildings erected 1896-98 appear primarily under the signature of Hillson Beasley, who was assistant Chief Architect during this time. (Criterion 2.3)

The site is historically significant as a collection of Government Architect designed buildings ranging from the mid-1870s through to the first decade of the 20th century. (Criterion 2.4)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

The site was a purpose-built quarantine station to service the port of Albany and as such, its location, design and layout embodies various medical beliefs and principles of the period between the mid-1870s and the turn of the century. For example, the station's position on a high and windy ridge reflects the continuing validity of the concept of 'miasma' or disease carrying vapours that prevailed. (Criterion 3.1)

The site includes archeological deposits that have potential to provide information on the diet and life of persons detained at the site, as well as recreational users. (Criterion 3.2)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Quaranup Complex is significant for migrants and visitors arriving in Western Australia as the first point on Australian soil.

The site holds important social value for past and present use as a recreational venue for a broad cross section of the Western Australian community, in particular, school children, youth groups, church groups and community groups. (Criterion 4.1)

The site contributes to the Albany community's sense of place, given its prominent location in Princess Royal Harbour and its associations with the early history of the city of Albany. ((Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Quaranup Complex is the earliest surviving quarantine station in Western Australia. (Criterion 5.1)

The site is a rare indicator of quarantine procedures of the late 19th and early 20th century. (Criterion 5.2)

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Quaranup Complex is representative of quarantine and disease control practices during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. (Criterion 6.1)

The place demonstrates the often rigid separation of social classes in this instance ranked in their class of travel. (Criterion 6.2)

12.3 CONDITION

The buildings of the main quarantine complex appear to have received regular maintenance until at least the late 1940s. This appears to have been followed by a period of neglect, possibly related to the transfer of the site back to State control and its increased use as a recreational camp. In general, the buildings of the quarantine station have survived in fair condition, given their age, although many of the minor structures such as earth closets and two of the major buildings of the lower area (the waiting room and bathing block) have been demolished. It appears that these latter two buildings were becoming derelict, and were finally demolished to allow for the salvage of materials. Many of the tongued and grooved boards used for fencing throughout the site probably originated from the interior lining of one of both of these structures.

Since the occupation of the site in 1992 by the current lessees who operate the facility as a campsite, several areas of the site have been subject to restoration and upgrades.

Between 1992 and 1994 extensive conservation works were undertaken, with the old hospital's roof repaired and verandah posts replaced, and interior painted. The nurses' quarters were painted throughout, as was the old isolation hospital and stone walls were repaired at the inhalation block. Restoration of the nurses' quarters was not completed until 1997, the same time a circa 1960's wooden 'post and rail' fence enclosing the gravesite was replaced with one of granite.

The isolation hospital underwent conservation works in 1999 by a work-for-the-dole project. Timber stumps and weatherboards were replaced or repaired and the exterior painted, as well as minor aesthetic improvements such as construction of flower beds from railway sleepers and the extension of an existing retaining wall. Further works to the isolation hospital included replacement of plumbing and faulty electrics, and internal repairs and painting to the kitchen, servant's quarters and store room. Painting and minor repairs were also made to the old hospital.

12.4 INTEGRITY

While the site is not used for its original purpose as a quarantine station, *Quaranup Complex* retains a high degree of integrity given that has functioned as a recreational/holiday campsite since the 1930s and is likely to continue with this present use.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

In general, the site has retained a fair degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Attached are key sections of the Supporting Evidence prepared by Palassis Architects, 'Quaranup Complex (Former Quarantine Station) Conservation

Plan' prepared for Department of Contract and Management Services in September 1996.

Key sections used: 2.0 Documentary and Oral Evidence (p7-36), 4.0 Analysis of Documentary and Physical Evidence (p65-70).

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the Documentary Evidence refer to Palassis Architects, 'Quaranup Complex (Former Quarantine Station) Conservation Plan' prepared for Department of Contract and Management Services in September 1996.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the Physical Evidence refer to Palassis Architects, 'Quaranup Complex (Former Quarantine Station) Conservation Plan' prepared for Department of Contract and Management Services in September 1996.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

For a Comparative Analysis refer to Palassis Architects, 'Quaranup Complex (Former Quarantine Station) Conservation Plan' prepared for Department of Contract and Management Services in September 1996.

13.4 REFERENCES

Palassis Architects, 'Quaranup Complex (Former Quarantine Station) Conservation Plan' prepared for Department of Contract and Management Services in September 1996.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

A greater understanding of the site would benefit from comparative investigation of other quarantine stations in Western Australia and elsewhere in Australia. Such an investigation would help determine the commonalities and differences in the nature and function of the place.

Further research into the architecture of the buildings within the precinct may also highlight particular rarities in the design that have not been previously identified.

An archaeological investigation within the precinct or adjacent areas has the potential to provide significant information on the lifeways of the occupants.