



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*

Geraldton Residency has aesthetic value for the Geraldton community as a well-composed Old Colonial Georgian building set in a large walled garden on rising ground above Marine Terrace. (Criterion 1.1)

Though the original sweeping ocean vista from *Geraldton Residency* has been partly obscured, the position of the place on rising ground, and its contrast with the surrounding higher density housing stock and light industrial buildings, gives it a landmark quality. (Criterion 1.3)

Geraldton Residency is one of the most important components of a late 19th and early 20th century precinct of predominantly residential building stock south of Cathedral Avenue which has withstood recent modernisation of the city centre. (Criterion 1.4)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

As one of a small group of surviving buildings from the mid-19th century in the town, *Geraldton Residency* illustrates the early development of the Champion Bay settlement which later became Geraldton, and more specifically, the workings of the government infrastructure in colonial Geraldton and the Victoria District. (Criterion 2.1)

Geraldton Residency demonstrates the social position and way of life of an important official in the colonial government of Western Australia. (Criterion 2.2)

Through its role between 1861 and 1904 as the seat of local government in the Victoria District and home of the Resident Magistrate, *Geraldton Residency* helped to secure, and now provides tangible evidence of, the growing importance of the early Geraldton settlement as a regional centre and port. (Criterion 2.2)

* 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.

As the first and only maternity hospital in the district which was funded, organised and run by the community, predominantly by women, *Geraldton Residency* is closely associated with the development of the region's health care between 1925 and 1962 and with the rise of the women's movement throughout the State. (Criterion 2.2)

Geraldton Residency is associated with the Royal Engineers and is part of the design and drafting work produced under the leadership of Henderson and Manning for the colonial government and the convict establishment in Western Australia. (Criterion 2.3)

Geraldton Residency is associated with a sequence of Resident Magistrates, all of whom were influential in the development of the district and the State and held several posts of importance in the colonial government, and some of whom had explored land previously unoccupied by Europeans. (Criterion 2.3)

Geraldton Residency is associated with several prominent local people who lobbied for and established the place as a district maternity home. (Criterion 2.3)

Geraldton Residency is associated with the Geraldton Cultural Trust, a local organisation with a long history of fostering art and cultural activities in Geraldton. (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

As the administrative focus of Geraldton and the Victoria District for many years, *Geraldton Residency* is valued locally for its social and cultural associations. (Criterion 4.1)

As a central health facility for the region, *Geraldton Residency* has social value for generations of local people who were born at the place, and is also valued by the community who lobbied for the hospital, funded its conversion and ran it until it was taken over by the Department of Health. (Criterion 4.1)

Geraldton Residency is valued by the community for its current contribution to the recreational, educational and social life of Geraldton and for its associations with the Geraldton Cultural Trust, an organisation originally established as the Geraldton Working Men's Society (later the Geraldton Mechanics' Institute) in 1868. (Criterion 4.1)

Geraldton Residency demonstrates a sense of place by being prominent in location and is a memory trigger for generations of residents who have had associations with it. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Geraldton Residency is was one of the first substantial government buildings to be constructed at the Champion Bay settlement and is one of the few mid-19th century buildings to remain from this period. (Criterion 5.1)

Geraldton Residency is one of only a handful of residency buildings in Western Australia surviving from the colonial period when resident magistrates were responsible for local government as well as the judicial concerns of the district. (Criterion 5.2)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Although there was no standard plan for the construction of residencies in Western Australia, *Geraldton Residency* has similarities with other buildings designed by the Royal Engineers, particularly the Albany Superintendent's Residence (later the Albany Residency). (Criterion 6.1)

12. 3 CONDITION

The condition of the elements of the *Geraldton Residency* ranges from very poor to good.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

No longer used for its original purpose, *Geraldton Residency* has a low degree of integrity.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

The removal of some original fabric from *Geraldton Residency* has compromised the authenticity of the place. Nevertheless, much of the original fabric has survived, apart from roof cladding, demolished chimneys, an altered verandah line and the removal of some internal fittings. As such, the place demonstrates a moderate to high degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Attached are key sections of the supporting evidence prepared by Considine and Griffiths, Architects, with Dorothy Erickson: 'The Residency Geraldton: Heritage Assessment' (prepared for the Department of Contract and Management Services, January 1997).

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the documentary evidence refer to Considine and Griffiths, Architects, with Dorothy Erickson: 'The Residency Geraldton: Heritage Assessment' (prepared for the Department of Contract and Management Services, January 1997).

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the physical evidence refer to Considine and Griffiths, Architects, with Dorothy Erickson: 'The Residency Geraldton: Heritage Assessment' (prepared for the Department of Contract and Management Services, January 1997).

13.3 REFERENCES

Considine and Griffiths, Architects, with Dorothy Erickson: 'The Residency Geraldton: Heritage Assessment' (prepared for the Department of Contract and Management Services, January 1997).

13.4 FURTHER RESEARCH
