



**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
- 8.5.4 Pursuing common leisure interests

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 307 Intellectual activities, arts and crafts
- 402 Education and science
- 404 Community services and utilities

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Mount Magnet Primary School and Teacher's Quarters (fmr) is significant for its original Victorian Georgian style adobe building (1896), stone classroom (1898) and other structures constructed at various stages from 1910, in a way which is characteristic of the Federation Free style. (Criterion 1.1)

Mount Magnet Primary School and Teacher's Quarters (fmr) is an integral part of the Mount Magnet town centre. The 1896 building is prominent on Naughton Street, and the whole is a significant cultural landmark that contributes positively to the streetscape. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

Mount Magnet Primary School and Teacher's Quarters (fmr) demonstrates the development of Mount Magnet and the surrounding region during the late 19th century as a result of the increase in population and prosperity generated by the gold boom. The expansion of the school in the 1910s and 1960s reflects the

* 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 and Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

For consistency, all references to garden and landscape types and styles are taken from Ramsay, J. *Parks, Gardens and Special Trees: A Classification and Assessment Method for the Register of the National Estate*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

continued importance of the gold and pastoral industries to Mount Magnet and surrounding region. (Criterion 2.1)

Mount Magnet Primary School and Teacher's Quarters (fmr) demonstrates the role of education in the development of rural and remote areas in Western Australia from the late 19th century. (Criterion 2.1)

As a school for 95 years, *Mount Magnet Primary School and Teacher's Quarters (fmr)* played an important role in the education of children from Mount Magnet and the surrounding region. (Criterion 2.2)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Mount Magnet Primary School and Teacher's Quarters (fmr) has social significance for the residents of Mount Magnet and the region, for the provision of educational facilities to local children for nearly a century. The premises continued to be of value to the community in the 1980s through their use by the Cottage Craft Cultural Group, and by their present use by the Mount Magnet Rural Transaction Centre for community activities. (Criteria 4.1 & 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Mount Magnet Primary School and Teacher's Quarters (fmr) is rare in Western Australia as a surviving education building of adobe construction. (Criterion 5.1)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Mount Magnet Primary School and Teacher's Quarters (fmr) is representative of rural primary schools and quarters, first established in the late 19th century that developed in response to the needs of the local population. (Criterion 6.1)

12. 3 CONDITION

Mount Magnet Primary School and Teacher's Quarters (fmr) is in good condition. The continued use of the place, by the Cottage Crafts Cultural Group and the Mount Magnet Rural Transaction Centre, has ensured a programme of maintenance and repair. The original adobe sections of the Teacher's Quarters have some problems associated with rising damp.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

Mount Magnet Primary School and Teacher's Quarters (fmr) no longer provides the educational facilities for which it was constructed. However, in recent times it has housed both the Cottage Crafts Cultural Group and the continuing use of place for community purposes through the Mount Magnet Rural Transaction Centre means the place has a moderate degree of integrity.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

Mount Magnet Primary School and Teacher's Quarters (fmr) has a high degree of authenticity. Most of the original fabric of the place, as constructed during the various stages of development, remains intact. Only minor modifications have been made with no significant loss of original fabric, especially to the adobe sections.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The wording of this document has been adapted from 'Mount Magnet Primary School and Teacher's Quarters (fmr) Conservation Plan' prepared by Rosemary Rosario and Philip McAllister, Heritage Architects, with Kris Bizzaca, Historian, for the Shire of Mount Magnet in June 2005, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of documentary evidence see 'Mt Magnet Primary School and Teacher's Quarters (fmr) Conservation Plan', pp. 13-33

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of physical evidence see 'Mt Magnet Primary School and Teacher's Quarters (fmr) Conservation Plan', pp. 35-67

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

For a discussion of comparative information see 'Mt Magnet Primary School and Teacher's Quarters (fmr) Conservation Plan', pp. 69-70.

There are 115 school buildings on the HCWA database constructed before 1900. Of these, 27 are on the Register. None of these 115 pre-1900 schools are known to use adobe as a construction material.

There are five school buildings in the Midwest Region on the HCWA database constructed before 1900. Of these, two are on the Register.

00644 *Government School, Cue* (1896): A single-storey painted-stone, brick and corrugated galvanised steel roof building in the Federation Free style with timber-framed construction, with minor additions. It is an integral part of a collection of significant, predominantly stone-construction buildings in the historic town of Cue, and has been the centre of schooling in the Cue area since 1896.

01164 *St Joseph's School (fmr), Greenough* (1890): Built in Victorian Georgian style, the building has a steeply pitched corrugated iron gable roof. The front (east) facade of the building has a separate corrugated iron roofed verandah, which is supported on chamfered timber posts. An extension to the rear has a low-pitched lean-to roof. The symmetrical front facade has double hung timber sash windows with small panes.

There are 24 places on the Register that are constructed wholly or in part of adobe, none of which include educational buildings. Of these 24 places, 3 are located in the Midwest Region including 01698 *Booldy Homestead Group, Murchison* (1875), and 12245 *Irwin House Group, Milo* (1850).

There are 2 places on the HCWA database that were originally used as schools, and are constructed wholly or in part of adobe;

00709 – *St Peter's Anglican Church, Balingup* (1895), previously known as the First Balingup School, until its closure in 1904. The church comprises a single building, originally of mud brick construction and later cement rendered with a corrugated iron roof.

03855 *The White House, Albany* (1836), originally a primary school, this single storey residence is constructed in part of adobe, but the original building is obscured by many recent additions.

Although adobe was not rare as a construction material in Western Australia prior to 1900, the majority of the 171 places on the HCWA database constructed before 1900 that are of adobe construction comprise residential dwellings and homesteads. Therefore, *Mount Magnet Primary School and Teacher's Quarters (fmr)* is rare in Western Australia for containing a pre-1900 school of adobe construction, when other schools of the same era in the region were mainly constructed of brick or local stone. It is also rare as a surviving combined classroom and teacher's quarters.

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

'Mount Magnet Primary School and Teacher's Quarters (fmr) Conservation Plan' prepared by Rosemary Rosario and Philip McAllister, Heritage Architects, with Kris Bizzaca, Historian, for the Shire of Mount Magnet in June 2005

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH
