



REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES - ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in September, 1991 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE

Toodyay Public Library is significant in making a positive contribution to a distinctive streetscape. Together with the cottages either side and opposite, it forms a cohesive group containing the street space at this bend in the road. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Having functioned as library, meeting room, town hall, theatre, council chamber and social centre over the years, *Toodyay Public Library* has been closely associated with the development of Toodyay. (Criterion 2.1)

Toodyay Public Library is one of the first substantial public buildings erected in Toodyay. (Criterion 2.2)

Toodyay Public Library has been closely associated with key figures involved in cultural and administrative roles throughout the history of the town. (Criterion 2.3)

11.3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

The nature of the design provides an accessible reference site for examination of the materials and construction techniques of the 1870s. Roof structure and brickwork can be easily seen and studied. (Criterion 3.1)

Toodyay Public Library has potential as an educational and research resource for historians, architects, and students. (Criterion 3.2)

11.4. SOCIAL VALUE

Toodyay Public Library is highly valued by the local community for its contribution to the historic townscape and for its long role as a key public place in the cultural and administrative life of the town. (Criterion 4.1)

In descriptions of the town throughout history, the building has featured as one of its important public buildings, a continuity that contributes to the community's sense of place. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

The eclectic style of *Toodyay Public Library* is unique, falling outside the parameters of any known architectural style of the period.

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

12. 3 CONDITION

Toodyay Public Library is in fair to good condition.

For a discussion on the condition of the place refer to the report by R. McK. Campbell and I.H. van Bremen: 'Toodyay Library Building Conservation Report' (for the Toodyay Shire Council, February 1995).

12. 4 INTEGRITY

Toodyay Public Library has a moderate degree of integrity, its use as a library being compatible with its original purpose as a Mechanics' Institute which is known to have housed the Library of the Young Men's Reading Club from its earliest days.

For details on the integrity of the place refer to the report by R. McK. Campbell and I.H. van Bremen: 'Toodyay Library Building Conservation Report' (for the Toodyay Shire Council, February 1995).

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

Toodyay Public Library has a moderate degree of authenticity.

The brickwork, roof structure and principal interior spaces remain intact and close to their original state. The evidence of 1870s design and construction is still visible and some impression of a nineteenth century Mechanics' Institute remains.

For details on the authenticity of the place refer to the report by R. McK. Campbell and I.H. van Bremen: 'Toodyay Library Building Conservation Report' (for the Toodyay Shire Council, February 1995).

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Attached are key sections of the supporting evidence prepared by R. McK. Campbell and I.H. van Bremen: 'Toodyay Library Building Conservation Report' (for the Toodyay Shire Council, February 1995).

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a detailed discussion on the documentary evidence of the place refer to the report by R. McK. Campbell and I.H. van Bremen: 'Toodyay Library Building Conservation Report' (for the Toodyay Shire Council, February 1995).

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a detailed discussion on the physical evidence of the place refer to the report by R. McK. Campbell and I.H. van Bremen: 'Toodyay Library Building Conservation Report' (for the Toodyay Shire Council, February 1995).

13.3 REFERENCES

R. McK. Campbell and I.H. van Bremen: 'Toodyay Library Building Conservation Report' (for the Toodyay Shire Council, February 1995).