



# 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\*

The timber school building has aesthetic value due to its simple materials and pleasing visual character and architectural massing. (Criterion 1.1)

The remnant native bushland and adjacent paddock with large mature trees form a pleasing setting for *Carmel Primary School (fmr)*. The landscape setting and the simplicity of the exterior of the original timber school building makes a positive contribution of the Carmel streetscape. (Criterion 1.4)

### 11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

*Carmel Primary School (fmr)* reflects the educational policies that were in operation during the early part of the twentieth century, where the Government provided educational facilities for small communities. (Criterion 2.1)

*Carmel Primary School (fmr)* is the oldest school building in its original location in the Shire of Kalamunda and is the oldest public building in the Carmel district. (Criterion 2.)

The establishment of *Carmel Primary School (fmr)* in 1904 reflects the settlement and expansion of the Carmel district as a residential area in the early years of the twentieth century. (Criterion 2.1)

*Carmel Primary School (fmr)* was used as a school for local children from its construction in 1904 to its closure in 1990. (Criterion 2.1)

### 11.3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

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\* 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.

#### 11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

*Carmel Primary School (fmr)* was the focal point for the children and residents of the Carmel district from 1904 to 1990. Since 1990, when the school was closed, the place has continued to be an important meeting place and social venue for the local community. (Criterion 4.1)

As one of the earliest buildings constructed in the Carmel district, *Carmel Primary School (fmr)* contributes to the local community's sense of place for its historic and educational associations. (Criterion 4.2)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **12.1. RARITY**

*Carmel Primary School (fmr)* is a rare example of a single roomed timber school building, located on its original site and in its original bushland setting, in the Perth metropolitan area. Once common in the metropolitan area, there are no other examples which remain in their bushland setting and are as remarkably intact as *Carmel Primary School (fmr)*. (Criteria 5.1 & 5.2)

### **12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

*Carmel Primary School (fmr)* is representative of a number of timber-framed, weatherboard, one teacher school buildings that were constructed in both metropolitan and rural Western Australia during the early decades of the twentieth century. (Criterion 6.1)

*Carmel Primary School (fmr)* is representative of the educational policies that were in operation during the early part of the twentieth century, where the Government provided educational facilities for small communities. (Criterion 6.2)

### **12.3 CONDITION**

The school building is generally in sound condition; however, the interior requires repainting and the window sills are warped. Termite damage is evident in some places and water penetration has discoloured ceilings.

The shelter shed is in fair to good condition. Gutters are missing from the shed and some floorboards are either damaged or missing. Downpipes are not connected and the seat is in poor condition.

Other elements on the site are in good condition.

An ongoing program of maintenance is in place for the school building and grounds.

### **12.4 INTEGRITY**

The place has a moderate degree of integrity. Although no longer used as a school, the place continues to be used by the local community for recreational and educational purposes.

### **12.5 AUTHENTICITY**

Although alterations and additions have been made to the original structures, including the removal of the interior partition to the school room and enclosed verandah, and outbuildings have been added to the site, the place retains its original form and much original exterior fabric. Internally, fittings and fixtures have been introduced and some alterations made. Other elements of the site, including Teachers Quarters (1905; 1916), tennis courts and cricket pitch (1919) and demountable classrooms are no longer evident.

As such, *Carmel Primary School (fmr)* has a moderate degree of authenticity.

### **13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE**

Attached are key sections of the supporting evidence prepared by Kelly Aris and Helen Burgess, 'Conservation Plan Carmel Primary School (fmr)', prepared for the Department of Contract and Management Services, August 1998.

#### **13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE**

For a discussion of the documentary evidence refer to Kelly Aris and Helen Burgess, 'Conservation Plan Carmel Primary School (fmr)', (prepared for the Department of Contract and Management Services, August 1998).

#### **13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE**

For a discussion of the physical evidence refer to Kelly Aris and Helen Burgess, 'Conservation Plan Carmel Primary School (fmr)', (prepared for the Department of Contract and Management Services, August 1998).

#### **13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION**

For a discussion of comparative places refer to Kelly Aris and Helen Burgess, 'Conservation Plan Carmel Primary School (fmr)', (prepared for the Department of Contract and Management Services, August 1998).

*Carmel Primary School (fmr)* is one of sixteen timber schools located in the Perth metropolitan region. Three of these are of a similar type: *Carmel Primary School (fmr)*, Mundaring Youth Hostel (1898) and Old Parkerville School and Headmaster's House (1911).

All three schools remain in their original, natural bushland setting. However, Mundaring Youth Hostel also comprises of a single classroom with separate cloakrooms for boys and girls and Old Parkerville School and Headmaster's House comprises two classrooms. In contrast, *Carmel Primary School (fmr)* comprises a single classroom building.

Separate staff quarters were provided at Mundaring Youth Hostel and Old Parkerville School and Headmaster's House. This is in contrast to the situation at *Carmel Primary School (fmr)* where staff quarters were originally provided in the classroom building.

In conclusion, *Carmel Primary School (fmr)* is a rare example of a single roomed timber school building in the Perth metropolitan area, located on its original site.

#### **13.4 REFERENCES**

Kelly Aris and Helen Burgess, 'Conservation Plan Carmel Primary School (fmr)', (prepared for the Department of Contract and Management Services, August 1998).

#### **13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH**

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