



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)

- 3.8.5 Moving goods and people on land
- 3.8.7 Building and maintaining roads
- 3.14.2 Using Australian materials in construction

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 203 Road transport
- 302 Rural industry and market gardening
- 308 Commercial services and industries

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Marwick's Shed is one of the York's more unusual, rustic and visually satisfying buildings. The building's form and details are essentially vernacular, and over many years it has acquired irregularities and patination that provide interest to the building and make it work harmoniously with the landscape. (Criterion 1.1)

Marwick's Shed is a visually prominent and memorable building on Newcastle Street, and is considered to be a local landmark. (Criterion 1.3)

Marwick's Shed is part of a collection of late 19th century buildings on Newcastle Street, and a number of the surrounding houses are historically associated with the Marwick and Prunster families. As such, the place has value for its contribution to the greater cultural environment in which it is located. (Criterion 1.4)

11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

Marwick's Shed was the depot for William Marwick's York-based transport and trading enterprise. It was the point of departure to the goldfields or other destinations, and contained the necessary facilities for stabling, storage and vehicle maintenance. Fodder produced on Marwick's land was milled and stored on the premises, meeting the needs of the business and also supplying other outlets. (Criteria 2.2 & 2.3)

* 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.

York, perhaps more than any other town, benefited greatly from the business generated by travellers to the goldfields. When the Eastern Goldfields railway line was constructed, around 1900, travellers by-passed York, and the focus of Marwick's business consequently changed. (Criteria 2.2 & 2.3)

Marwick's Shed is a memorial to the lives of William Marwick (snr) and his descendants who have occupied a leading role in the civic and business affairs of York for over 125 years. During the 20th century *Marwick's Shed* functioned mainly as a central point of the family's farming activities up to the 1960s. *Marwick's Shed* is still owned by a great grandson of William Marwick (snr). (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

Marwick's Shed has scientific value as an example of local 19th century vernacular construction techniques, particularly the employment of a timber structure to create a large volume without internal load-bearing walls. (Criterion 3.1)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Marwick's Shed is highly valued by members of the Marwick family and wider York community because of the important part that the building has played in the history of the family and its business concerns. (Criterion 4.1)

The building has also been used by numerous wedding groups as a background for photographs, and has been favoured by many artists as a subject for drawings and paintings. (Criterion 4.1)

Marwick's Shed is among a number of significant buildings in York which provide the town with a sense of history and permanence. (Criterion 4.2)

Marwick's Shed forms an integral part of York, which as a whole has been proclaimed an Historic Town by the National Trust of Australia (WA). (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Marwick's Shed is an unusual building in the context of Western Australia, being one of very few 19th century sheds or barns of such size which has its roof supported by the outside walls and slender timber columns on the inside. (Criterion 5.1)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

While unusual in structure, *Marwick's Shed* is not unique. Deriving from its function as an early form of depot for a road haulage business which were similar to those required in the operation of a medium to large scale farm at the time, certain elements of the place's design are similar to those found in contemporary barns and stables buildings. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

Marwick's Shed is in poor condition. Unstable foundation conditions and wet rot have caused some of the columns to subside and the masonry walls to lean outwards. Differential settlement of the walls has also occurred,

exacerbated by the Meckering earthquake (1968), with the result that some walls display substantial cracks. Rising damp has been noted as affecting some sections of wall, and would in part be due to unsympathetic use of cement-rich mortar and render in past repair work. Half of the building also has a concrete floor slab.

12.4 INTEGRITY

Marwick's Shed has fallen into disuse, and as such its integrity has been impaired. It is unlikely that the place could ever return to a use like that for which it was built.

The place has a moderate degree of integrity.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

Marwick's Shed has survived with few alterations, and most of the extant fabric is in its original state. As such, the place is considered to have a high degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Attached are key sections of the Supporting Evidence prepared by Palassis Architects, 'The Shed, 19-21 Newcastle Street, York, W.A.: Conservation Plan', for Mr. Gordon Marwick, November 1999.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the Documentary Evidence refer to Palassis Architects, 'The Shed, 19-21 Newcastle Street, York, W.A.: Conservation Plan', prepared for Mr Gordon Marwick, November 1999.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the Physical Evidence refer to Palassis Architects, 'The Shed, 19-21 Newcastle Street, York, W.A.: Conservation Plan', prepared for Mr Gordon Marwick, November 1999.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

For a discussion of the Comparative Evidence refer to Palassis Architects, 'The Shed, 19-21 Newcastle Street, York, W.A.: Conservation Plan', prepared for Mr Gordon Marwick, November 1999.

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

Palassis Architects, 'The Shed, 19-21 Newcastle Street, York, W.A.: Conservation Plan', prepared for Mr Gordon Marwick, November 1999.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

It is possible that future research may provide further insight into the area of detailed information and specific dates relating to the physical development of the site, particularly if early photographs of the place can be located. Besides family photographs, aerial photographs or panoramic views from Mt Brown may be of assistance.

Some uncertainty also exists in relation to the different business pursuits of William Marwick (snr) and his sons, particularly details such as when the

haulage business ceased and the length of time that the family remained actively involved in the production and sale of fodder, using *Marwick's Shed* for this work.