



# **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**

The Federation Queen Anne style of the original house is uncommon in the City of Canning and is valued by the community for its aesthetic characteristics. (Criterion 1.1)

The overall landscape character of the site retains a mature tree canopy, many specimens of which are of very high visual integrity and environmental quality. (Criteria 1.1 & 1.3)

### **11.2. HISTORIC VALUE**

The site is one of the earlier settlements in the Canning district and the homestead 'Niana' is representative of the growing wealth of the district at the turn of the century. (Criterion 2.1)

It is significant for its development and use as a residential school for intellectually handicapped boys at a time of great debate about appropriate treatment of the intellectually handicapped and mentally ill. (Criterion 2.1)

The place is an important marker in the development of Catholic education in Western Australia. (Criterion 2.2)

'Niana' is important for its close association with local identities such as the Flemings and Meares. (Criterion 2.3)

### **11.3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE**

The place has importance as being technically innovative. As a purpose built institution for the treatment and training of intellectually handicapped children, it was in many ways ahead of its time in Western Australia. The design was influenced by the state psychologist, Ethel Stoneham, and the supervisor of the project, Father McMahon, whose travels in Europe and the United States led to the incorporation of the best features of similar institutions abroad. (Criterion 3.3)

### **11.4. SOCIAL VALUE**

The site is significant for its continued use and adaptation as a school for underprivileged boys, including English migrant children. (Criterion 4.1)

It is important for the social history of the work and recreation of the Christian Brothers and the boys and lay people who generously contributed to the school since its initiation. (Criterion 4.1)

It is important for its role in the Canning community, being valued for its miniature railway and the site's general amenity. It is of particular significance to those members of the community that grew up there. (Criterion 4.1)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **12. 1. RARITY**

It is the only known school developed according to the new ideals for treatment of the intellectually handicapped in the late 1920s in Western Australia. (Criterion 5.1)

### **12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

The 'Cottage Homes', which were purpose designed for the school in 1928-29 demonstrate the new approach to the housing and care of intellectually handicapped children in the late 1920s and form an integral component of the development of *Castledare Boys' Home (fmr)*. (Criterion 6.2)

### **12. 3 CONDITION**

Overall, the significant buildings of *Castledare Boys' Home (fmr)* are generally in sound condition. The homestead is reasonably intact and in good condition for its age although the roof is in need of repair, as are windows, doors and skylights. The brickwork and timber window frames on the south and west of the cottages are generally in a poor condition. The dormitory wings of the cottages are in reasonable condition for their age and use. The dining room is in poor condition. The older portion of the hall is in fair condition for its age and is structurally sound.

### **12. 4 INTEGRITY**

The place has a moderate degree of integrity. *Castledare Boys' Home (fmr)* closed down in 1984, but the original intention of 'Niana' homestead as a residence, and the later development of the place into a children's home remains clear.

### **12. 5 AUTHENTICITY**

*Castledare Boys' Home (fmr)* has a moderate level of authenticity. 'Niana' homestead exhibits original layout, detailing and decoration. The children's home developed on the site because the house and land presented the Church with the ideal location for their school. The adaptation of the house to provide the chapel, kitchen, administration and attic workshop for the school illustrates the robustness of the design. Later additions have tended to detract from the appearance of the house, but it has retained its prominence on the site. Changes to the cottages and their dormitory wings reflect the changing roles of the place from a residential school for the intellectually handicapped to a preparatory school and home for migrant children to a remedial school. The classroom and dining room have undergone only minor alterations. The hall has a two-storey addition at the front.

### **13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE**

Attached are key sections of the supporting evidence prepared by Allom Lovell Hocking Conservation Consultants: 'Conservation Plan; Former Castledare Boys Home, Wilson' (prepared for Catholic Homes Incorporated June 1996).

The curtilage conforms with the study area as outlined at page 4 of the Conservation Plan.

#### **13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE**

For a discussion of the documentary evidence refer to Allom Lovell Hocking Conservation Consultants: 'Conservation Plan; Former Castledare Boys Home, Wilson' (prepared for Catholic Homes Incorporated June 1996).

#### **13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE**

For a discussion of the physical evidence refer to Allom Lovell Hocking Conservation Consultants: 'Conservation Plan; Former Castledare Boys Home, Wilson' (prepared for Catholic Homes Incorporated June 1996).

#### **13.3 REFERENCES**

Allom Lovell Hocking Conservation Consultants: 'Conservation Plan; Former Castledare Boys Home, Wilson' (prepared for Catholic Homes Incorporated June 1996).