



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

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 402 Education and science

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Drakesbrook School (fmr) is significant as it exhibits aesthetic characteristics such as a high pitched roof, weatherboards and verandahs, which are valued by the community. (Criterion 1.1)

The place has some landmark quality as the only major structure located in a principal open space at the southern entry to Waroona. (Criterion 1.3)

By providing a focus around which the park was established and contributing to a palette of design features used for new structures, *Drakesbrook School (fmr)* contributes to the aesthetic qualities of the Centennial Park. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Drakesbrook School (fmr) contributes to an understanding of the occupation and development of the Shire of Waroona and the resultant need for educational facilities. (Criterion 2.1)

The place was built in 1898, is the oldest public building still in its original location in the Shire of Waroona. (Criterion 2.2)

Drakesbrook School (fmr) was the second school to be established in the district and is the longest operating school in the Shire of Waroona. (Criterion 2.2)

Drakesbrook School (fmr) is a one-roomed, timber framed weatherboard and corrugated iron building designed by the Public Works Department in 1898. As one of only three pre-1900 single-roomed weatherboard school buildings remaining in Western Australia still in their original location, the place's fabric contributes to an understanding of the development of educational facilities in the State. (Criterion 2.4)

* 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. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Drakesbrook School (fmr) was a focal point for the children and residents of Waroona from 1898 until the 1940s when other buildings were either constructed on, or relocated to, the site. It continued to be used for school purposes until 1988, functioning as a classroom for 90 years. Since its closure in 1988, it has been incorporated into the Drakesbrook Centennial Park and, as such, remains in public use as a social and recreational venue. (Criterion 4.1)

Drakesbrook School (fmr) contributes to the local community's sense of place being the oldest remaining public building and school in the Shire of Waroona in its original location. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Drakesbrook School (fmr) is one of only three remaining pre-1900 one-room weatherboard school buildings still in its original location in the State and the only building of its particular design. The other two are Mundijong (1896; formerly Manjedal) and Gooseberry Hill (1898; later part of Kalamunda State School). The place is also the oldest surviving public building in Waroona. (Criterion 5.1)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

As a result of the gold boom of the 1890s, the increased population and wealth of the State increased the demand for educational facilities. Many schools were opened throughout metropolitan and regional areas in the following two decades, the majority of these being one room, one teacher schools often constructed in weatherboard and corrugated iron. Standard designs for these schools were developed over time and variations to the standard design are demonstrated in extant buildings of the period. *Drakesbrook School (fmr)* is representative of the development of standard school design to 1898. (Criterion 6.1)

Drakesbrook School (fmr) represents the educational policies in operation in the late 1890s and demonstrates the provision of educational facilities by the government of the time. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

Externally, *Drakesbrook School (fmr)* is in good condition as a result of extensive renovation carried out to the structure in 1994-95 and ongoing maintenance. In general, work carried out to the exterior of the building has ensured the cultural heritage value of the place was not entirely lost due to its general state of decay at the inception of the works. Areas such as the verandah floor and roof still require replacement of adequate repair.

Internally, the place is in good condition as a result of almost complete replacement of the internal fabric in 1995. The fireplace has been roughly stripped of plaster and is of poor to average condition.

12.4 INTEGRITY

Externally, the original intention of *Drakesbrook School (fmr)* is intact. Where works have not already been undertaken the remainder could be easily achieved in the short to medium term. Internally; however, the works have been such that the outcome does not necessarily invoke an understanding of the previous use or the previous quality of the space. The modern materials and method of workmanship used provide a very crisp and machined aesthetic not entirely appropriate to a building constructed in 1898. The renovated space does; however, provide a functional public meeting space for use by community organisations within the town. Public use of the building is appropriate and should continue.

The place has a moderate degree of integrity.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

The place has a moderate to low degree of authenticity due to the general state of decay in which it was allowed to fall prior to conservation works being carried out in 1994-95. Original fabric had also been replaced during the life of the building as a classroom. Much of the interior and exterior fabric has been replaced or substantially repaired during the life of the building, this being part of the ongoing process of keeping a timber building servicable.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Attached are key sections of the supporting evidence prepared by Alice Steadman Architect and Helen Burgess Historian, 'Drakesbrook School (fmr), Waroona, Conservation Plan' prepared for the Shire of Waroona in May 1999.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the Documentary Evidence refer to Alice Steadman Architect and Helen Burgess Historian, 'Drakesbrook School (fmr), Waroona, Conservation Plan' prepared for the Shire of Waroona in May 1999.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the Physical Evidence refer to Alice Steadman Architect and Helen Burgess Historian, 'Drakesbrook School (fmr), Waroona, Conservation Plan' prepared for the Shire of Waroona in May 1999.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

For Comparative Information refer to Alice Steadman Architect and Helen Burgess Historian, 'Drakesbrook School (fmr), Waroona, Conservation Plan' prepared for the Shire of Waroona in May 1999.

13.4 REFERENCES

Alice Steadman Architect and Helen Burgess Historian, 'Drakesbrook School (fmr), Waroona, Conservation Plan' prepared for the Shire of Waroona in May 1999.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH
