

NORTH PERTH PRIMARY SCHOOL, NORTH PERTH



PLACE INFORMATION	
Place name	North Perth Primary School
Other names	North Perth Infants School Toorak/Woodville Primary School
Place type	Individual building or group
HERITAGE LISTING	
inHerit ID:	16789
State Heritage Register:	22 Nov 2005
Other Listing:	Aboriginal Heritage Sites Register Recorded Municipal Inventory Adopted 13 Nov 1995
SITE LOCATION	
Street address	3 - 7 Albert St
Locality	NORTH PERTH
Survey	LOT: 9622 D/P: 182496
Vol/folio	LR3047/1634
Reserve	RES: 20840

SIGNIFICANCE	
Level of significance	Exceptional Rare or outstanding example: essential to the heritage of the City of Vincent.
Management category	Category 1 The place should be retained and conserved. Any alterations or extensions should reinforce the significance of the place and be in accordance with a Conservation Plan if one is in place.
Statement of significance	<p>The North Perth Primary School is rare as a school containing definitive, largely intact, examples of two uncommon types of substantial school buildings: the Primary School building, a Federation Central Hall School building completed in the Interwar period, and The School for Instrumental Music, an early InterWar Period Infant School.</p> <p>The place contributes to a significant precinct of early twentieth century municipal buildings, with its two substantial, largely intact, school buildings set within an essentially unchanged open landscape of playgrounds near the commercial and former administrative centre of North Perth.</p> <p>The Primary School Building is a well designed and competently constructed Federation Central Hall type school building displaying the characteristics of the Federation Free Style, and the School for Instrumental Music (former Infants School) is a well designed, appropriately scaled and competently built school building exhibiting elements of the earlier Federation Arts and Craft style.</p> <p>The place was the first civic building established in the North Perth area.</p>

SIGNIFICANCE	
Statement of significance	The place provides evidence of the rapid expansion of population north of Perth from the gold boom years into the twentieth century.
	Since World War Two, the place been characterized by a culturally diverse school population, illustrating the changing demographics of the area, and of Western Australia, in the post war period.
	The changes made progressively to the fabric of the place since its construction, and in particular the construction of the Infants School in 1921 to a design influenced by the Montessori teaching method, reflect changes in philosophies of education through the twentieth century.
PLACE USE	
Original use	Educational: Primary School
Current use	Educational: Primary School
Other use	

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction date	1899; 1922
Walls	
Roof	
Architectural Style	Federation Free Style Inter War Arts and Crafts
Physical description	The main building is red face brick with rendered bands at sill and head height. The windows are evenly spaced in groups along each of the long walls.
	The Infants' School was designed in 1921 in an Interwar Contemporary style of red brick dado, render above and tiled roofs, with paired double hung window sashes wider than Federation period sashes. The rest of the building comprises single storey buildings including a brick pavilion with small weatherboard building attached, and a timber framed pavilion. All the buildings have gable roofs.
	The walls are predominantly dado weatherboard with a asbestos above, with full weatherboard walls on the gable ends and lean to enclosures. The weatherboard are painted. The windows are evenly spaced along the sides of the building. All the windows are double hung sashes.
	Paved and landscaped courtyards are located between the buildings. There has been considerable incremental adaptation to the original building, however the character of the original buildings has been respected.
	Goonderup forms an extension of the school grounds, which provides a centrally located open space for the local community. Setback from street space, it is grassed and planted in garden beds.

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

Condition	Good
Integrity	High
Authenticity	High

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

North Perth Primary School was opened on 30 January 1899 as Woodville School, with 131 students and 3 staff. The original building comprised two main classrooms, divided by an iron shutter. One room was 35ft x 22 ft and the other 26ft x 22 ft. The school was renamed North Perth School by 1904.

The rapidly developing area meant that the school needed to be enlarged on a number of occasions in the early years of its existence, including in 1902, 1904, 1909, 1913 and 1924. The North Perth Town Lesser Hall was used for overflow classes. In 1921, there were 861 pupils and 18 staff. The following year, the Infants' School opened in a set of pavilion rooms, with an enrolment of 226 pupils and 4 staff. The Infants' School catered for Grades 1-3, and was later known as North Perth Junior Primary. The girl pupils at North Perth Primary walked to Leederville School for home science classes and the boys walked to Highgate School for manual arts lessons.

Two blocks on Albert street were set aside as an extra school site and, in 1943, this ground was levelled and planted with grass to create a sports oval. The area was named Goonderup, an Aboriginal word for 'meeting place', and trees were planted around the perimeter, each dedicated to the memory of a pioneer of the State, including Stirling, Clifton, Lockyer, Fairbridge, Salvado, Weld, O'Connor, Dampier, Forrest, Roe, Monger and Grey. Children were chosen as guardians of a particular tree and a Goonderup Day ceremony was held each year until 1956.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

In 1971, there were 450-480 students in Grades 4-7. In 1975, because of its high enrolment of students from migrant families, the school was classified as 'disadvantaged'. Two ESL (English as a second language) teachers were appointed and special programmes developed. The School was renovated in the second half of the 1970s, with a new administration area, library and staff room, and refurbishment of all classrooms. Goonderup was enlarged, requiring the removal of some houses, and Olive Street was closed to through traffic.

Pre-primary classes opened in 1978, in a partitioned-off section of the Junior Primary library. A transportable building was later provided as a pre-primary centre.

In 1990, as enrolment numbers declined, the Junior Primary school was incorporated into the main school, and the Junior Primary (former Infants) building was modified to house the School of Instrumental Music (SIM), the Education Department's section for music teachers. The Junior Primary library was taken over for the pre-primary centre.

The School of Instrumental Music subsequently relocated to Maylands and the school buildings are now used for the mainstream school purposes.

Historic theme	Social Services: Education Peopling WA: Demographic Development	
Associations	Public Works Department	Architect
Sources	P16789 North Perth Primary School Assessment Documentation City of Vincent Local Heritage Survey 1995	

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS

