

Place No. 50 Roebourne Primary School & Quarters (fmr)



Yaandina Family Centre (former Roebourne Primary School), 2013

LOCATION	
Name of Place	Roebourne Primary School & Quarters (fmr)
Other Name (1)	Yaandina Family Centre / Yaandina Babies and Children's Centre
Other Name (2)	Old Roebourne School
Location/Address	
Street Number	60
Street Name	Hampton Street
Suburb/Town	Roebourne
Other Locational descriptor (text)	514900 mE, 7702610 mN (MGA94 Zone 50) Longitude: 117.1432 Latitude: -20.7762

OWNERSHIP & LAND DESCRIPTION				
Owner	Address	Phone/fax	Status	Item No.
Yaandina Family Centre Inc	PO Box 228 Roebourne	9182 1172		
Reserve No.	Lot/Location No.	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	Item No.
	Lot 54	223688	2655/3	

LISTING AND ASSESSMENT	
HCWA Reference Number	2341
State Register of Heritage Places:(Y/N)	Yes
Classified by the National Trust (Y/N)	Yes
Register of the National Estate (Y/N)	Yes
Local Town Planning Scheme (Y/N)	Yes
Management Category	A
DESCRIPTION	
Construction Date (1)	1891
Construction Date (2)	1953
Site Type (Place Type)	Individual Building or Group
Use(s) of Place	

<i>Original</i>	EDUCATIONAL: Housing or Quarters Combined School
<i>Present</i>	EDUCATIONAL: Pre-Primary Centre
<i>Other</i>	RESIDENTIAL: Institutional Housing
Construction Materials:	
<i>Walls</i>	9. STONE 904 Local Stone
<i>Roof</i>	6. METAL 606 Corrugated Iron
<i>Other</i>	
Condition	Good
Integrity (how much of the original fabric is intact?):	Largely intact
Physical Description	
<p>The Roebourne Primary School & Quarters (fmr) is constructed in the Victorian Georgian style. It comprises two tuckpointed random-rubble Karratha stone buildings with concrete block quoining to walls and reveals and corrugated iron hipped roofs. The schoolrooms extend over the verandah on all sides of the building. The school had quarters for the schoolmaster at the rear.</p>	
History	
<p>Roebourne's first school opened in a private house in 1874. The first purpose built school building was constructed in 1878 and was destroyed by a cyclone four years later, in 1882. A new school costing £400 was opened in 1884 and was then replaced by the current Roebourne Primary School & Quarters (fmr), constructed on the same site and opened in 1891.</p> <p>The building was designed by the Public Works Department and featured cross flow ventilation by the use of one long room with many windows and a ventilation tower (since removed). This was an important feature, as it displayed an attempt to provide education in a building purposely designed for the climate.</p> <p>The building was used as a school until 1961, when it became a baby and children's centre and was also used for Aboriginal community support.</p>	
Archaeology	
<p>The Roebourne Primary School & Quarters (fmr) has remained relatively unchanged for over 100 years and is the oldest extant school building in northern Western Australia. The site therefore has significant archaeological potential relating to early education in the region. The extant building is also of a unique design and can provide insights into how early settlers dealt with the harsh climate, by purposely designing facilities to deal with it.</p>	
SIGNIFICANCE	
Historic theme (s)	<p>1. DEMOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENT 7 MOBILITY 107 Settlements</p> <p>3. OCCUPATIONS 301 Grazing, pastoralism & dairying 303 Mining (incl. mineral processing)</p> <p>4. SOCIAL & CIVIC ACTIVITIES 402 Education & Science 404 Community services & utilities</p> <p>6. PEOPLE 601 Aboriginal people 603 Early settlers</p>
Statement of Significance:	From HCWA
Roebourne Primary School & Quarters (fmr) is of cultural heritage significance for the following	

reasons:

- it contains the earliest extant school buildings in the north-west of Western Australia and is a rare example of extant stone school and quarters in the State;
- the place makes an important visual contribution to the Hampton Street streetscape and to the precinct of buildings which are part of the original Roebourne townsite;
- the place makes a significant contribution to an understanding of the history of the settlement of the north west of Western Australia generally and the town of Roebourne in particular;
- the primary school building illustrates early attempts to provide a structure suitable for the climate, with one long room cross ventilated by numerous windows, and a natural airflow tower (no longer extant);
- it represents the architectural style and philosophy of substantial and formal stone structures which was applied to government buildings in the region in the late nineteenth century;
- the place represents the dominant trend of providing for the European community without consideration of the needs of the indigenous inhabitants of the area;
- in its recent history the use of the place for Aboriginal community support purposes is an important reflection of the changing character of and changing demographic of services in Roebourne.

ASSOCIATIONS

Architect/Designer (1)	George Temple-Poole
Other Associated Person(s)	

OTHER

References

'Register of Heritage Places – Assessment Documentation Roebourne Primary School & Quarters (fmr)', Permanent Entry on the State Register of Heritage Places, Heritage Council of Western Australia, 30 August 2002.

MHI 1996	Site assessed and Place Name Record created
MHI Review 2012	Entry updated



Students at Roebourne State School May 1931, from Bishop Frewer's Photograph Collection
Courtesy Shire of Roebourne Local History Office, 2003.4



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