WILCANNIA, NSW
COMMUNITY BASED HERITAGE SURVEY

2017

McDougall & Vines, Conservation and Heritage Consultants
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75 Reid Street, Cottage
77 Reid Street, Attached Cottages
81 - 33 Reid Street, Sandstone Houses
97 - 99 Reid Street, Sandstone Houses

OTHER STREETS

BARRIER HIGHWAY
Wilcannia Bridge
Wilcannia Wharf

BYRNES STREET
2 - 4 Byrnes Street, House
26 - 30 Byrnes Street, House

CLEATON STREET
26 Cleaton Street

HOOD STREET
19 – 21 Hood Street, House, Hillside
93 Hood Street, Wilcannia Central School

MENINDEE ROAD
Wilcannia Cemetery

MYERS STREET
18 Myers St, Supermarket
24 – 26 Myers Street, stone houses

ROSS STREET
1 – 7 Ross Street, Wilcannia Hospital
6 – 8 Ross Street, Steam engines and water tower
19 – 23 Ross Street, House, former Brewery Residence
29 – 31 Golf Club, former Brewery

WARRALI AVENUE
St Theresa’s Mission School

WOORE STREET
48 – 50 Woore Street, Former Convent
80 – 82 Woore Street, St James Anglican Church

OUTSIDE TOWNSHIP
Big Ampi Windmill, Big Ampi Station, 50 km’s East of Menindee on the Ivanhoe-Menindee Road
S32 28.09 E142 53.79, Lot 4742 DP 762609

5.0 SOURCES OF INFORMATION
Acknowledgements

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- Chris Elliot, who was engaged as a sub consultant to undertake historical research to add to the existing information about the histories of buildings and places in the town.
- Michael Boyd – Central Darling Shire
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- Anthony Hanna, Senior Heritage Information Officer, Heritage Databases, Heritage Division, Office of Environment and Heritage

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Photographs

All photographs were taken by Elizabeth Vines, unless otherwise indicated. All historic photos have been sourced.

Current View of Reid Street looking east, near intersection with Myers Street (March 2017)

Front Cover:
Top: Wilcannia Post Office and Residence
Centre: LHS - sandstone residences, 77 Reid Street  RHS – Baker Park War Memorial
Bottom: former Court House Hotel, Reid Street
1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Wilcannia is a small town located within the Central Darling Shire in north western New South Wales. It was the third largest inland port in the country during the late 19th century, at the time of the inland river boat trade on the Murray-Darling river system. At the 2011 census, Wilcannia had a population of 604.

This report has been prepared at the request of the Central Darling Shire Council to provide an updated heritage assessment of the built heritage of the township of Wilcannia in the Central Darling Shire. A previous heritage study had been undertaken in 1996-98 by Godden Mackay Pty Ltd, Central Darling Shire Cultural Resource and Tourism Study 1996, and this current Heritage Survey has referred to the findings of this earlier study. Additional primary research has been undertaken to add to the information on individual places.

All aspects of cultural heritage – indigenous and non-indigenous – are significant to the community. However, this report does not cover indigenous heritage in Wilcannia as this is currently being assessed as a separate study.

The report follows the NSW Government Office of Environment and Heritage - Heritage Information Series – “Community Based Heritage Studies – A Guide ” (2013) which states:

- **A major premise of the community-based approach is that it provides an affordable means for communities to make a valuable contribution to the heritage study, with appropriate guidance from a heritage consultant.**
- **Members of the community work alongside the consultant for the duration of the project. They undertake research, nominate items and consider recommendations for managing and promoting their local heritage items in the future.**
- **Unlike other heritage study methodologies, ongoing community involvement gives an opportunity for the community to understand heritage management and council processes and to take substantial ownership of the study and its findings. This can reduce the likelihood of community conflict when the study recommends its list of heritage items to for the council to include in its local environmental plan (LEP).**

**Funding for this project has been provided by the NSW Heritage Grants program and the Central Darling Shire.**

1.2 Existing Heritage Initiatives in Wilcannia

The Central Darling Shire established a Heritage Advisory Service in 2007 and this service provides free architectural advice for property owners within the Shire area. The focus of this service has been on the upgrade of buildings within the centre of Wilcannia, and advice has also been provided in Menindee and White Cliffs. Since the introduction of this service, the town has seen progressive improvements of buildings, with new owners purchasing property. In addition, the service provided the impetus for Council to apply for Federal Government Economic Stimulus Package funding, with successful applications receiving funding for conservation works for two major buildings in the town centre: the former Post Office and the Wilcannia Council Chambers.

Associated with the Heritage Advisory Service is a Local Heritage Fund. Currently the Council contributes $2 : $1 funding ($15,000 Council contribution, with $7,500 contribution from the New South Wales Heritage Grants program), to stimulate conservation works within the Shire area. To date this has been focused on undertaking stone conservation and verandah repairs to buildings within the centre of Wilcannia.

Local community members (and the Wilcannia Community Tourism Association Incorporated) are actively involved with encouraging building upgrades and general community projects which retain the town’s unique heritage. A current project being pursued is the reconstruction of the old wharf remains on the Darling River Banks.
1.3 The Study Process

The aims of the study were:

- To locate, research, evaluate and record Wilcannia’s heritage places
- To visit and review all existing known items and review their listings on the LEP
- To provide the council and owners of heritage properties with directions for the management of heritage and to encourage its place in the future of Wilcannia
- Consider ways in which this history and the accessible heritage places can play a part in cultural tourism of the town

A public meeting was held in October 2016 in Wilcannia at the local Golf Club to present the aims of the study to interested parties from the local community.

In addition, the Heritage Survey outcomes have been greatly assisted by the input of local historian Chris Elliot, as a sub consultant for this project.

1.4 The State Heritage Inventory (SHI) data format

The NSW State Heritage Inventory (SHI) software package and existing SHI listings for the Central Darling Shire (and therefore items in Wilcannia) have been accessed as part of this report. Updated data entry into the SHI is proposed once the Shire has accepted the final report, and will be managed by Elizabeth Vines from McDougall and Vines.

In order to make the information on Wilcannia’s heritage items accessible to the local community, individual building data sheets have been prepared as part of this report. As noted above, the information from these sheets will be uploaded onto the SHI.

1.5 Previous Heritage Reports and Sources of Information

Previous reports have been referred to including the Godden Mackay Pty Ltd, Central Darling Shire Cultural Resource and Tourism Study 1996, Redfern 1998 and the Wilcannia, NSW, Main Street and Town Centre Interpretation Report, November 2010. In addition, there have now been several conservation plans prepared for individual buildings in Wilcannia and the Wilcannia Conservation Guidelines May 2008. These are included in Section 6 – Sources of Information.

1.6 Three Year Heritage Strategy

The Central Darling Shire has a “Three Year Heritage Strategy 2014 – 2017” which outlines the objectives for heritage management in the Shire. The preparation of this report and undertaking a Community Based Heritage Survey is in line with Objective 2.0 of the Heritage Strategy – which outlines the need to Identify, List and Legally Protect Heritage Items in the Local Government Area.
View down Reid Street, March 2017

Map showing location of Wilcannia in New South Wales
(source: www.web)
MAP OF THE TOWN CENTRE

AERIAL PHOTO OF WILCANNIA AND DARLING RIVER
2.0 THEMATIC HISTORY OF WILCANNIA

2.1 Brief Background History

The Wilcannia area was first settled by pastoralists in the 1840s. The township of Wilcannia (the name reputedly meant ‘a gap in the bank where the flood waters escape’ in the language of the local Barkindji Aborigines) was proclaimed in June 1866 and it was incorporated as a municipality in February 1883.

River steamers reached Mount Murchison, the pastoral station which is now the site of Wilcannia in 1859. By 1868 the population was 150 and a number of buildings had been erected (probably in timber). These included a Commercial Bank, a court house and lock-up, three public houses, three or four stores, a brewery, bakery, two butchers, two blacksmiths, a wool scour and a cordial factory. With the expansion of the township, new stone buildings appeared, built of local stone obtained from quarries nearby. Necessary supplies were brought in by paddle steamer (river heights permitting), bullock dray or camel trains. As the town grew, services were expanded, and Wilcannia was an important regional centre. By 1870 there was one doctor residing in the town and ‘The Wilcannia Times’ newspaper commenced publication in 1873.

From the 1870s to the 1890s, Wilcannia became Australia’s third largest inland port and the leading port on the Darling River. It was also especially important as a crossing point for stock moving south to the Melbourne market. A punt for carrying livestock operated at the end of Cleaton Street and it was not unusual for several thousand sheep to cross in a day. In 1879 the Red Lion brewery (no longer standing) was built at the northern end of Reid Street. Its great claim to fame was that it was the first brewery which the famous beer baron Edmund Resch built in Australia. In 1887 alone, 26,550 tonnes of wool and other goods were loaded onto 222 steamers at the Wilcannia wharf. Known as ‘Queen City of the West’ in the 1880s, it boasted 13 hotels and the population quickly grew as Wilcannia became a service centre for prospectors exploiting the region’s gold, copper, silver and opal resources. The town became a transport hub with several mail coach companies providing links to Melbourne, Adelaide and Sydney via intermediate towns such as Booligal, Hay, Silverton, Burra and Cobar. Wilcannia was an essential link in the movement of livestock from the north to the southern markets. Several Stock and Station Agents operated, including that of E L B Dickens and his brother Alfred, sons of Charles Dickens. Edmund Dickens went on to represent the region in the NSW Parliament during the years 1889-94.

Wilcannia’s peak was in the 1880-90s when the pastoral industry was booming and with the discovery of gold near Milparinka. When the opal fields of White Cliffs were discovered in the 1890s, trade increased again as Wilcannia became the central supply depot for the opal miners and the major recipient of their revenue. In 1896, a lift bridge was constructed that extended Myers Street (also known as the Barrier Highway) over the Darling River.

The prosperity of this time soon declined with a number of dry years from 1900 and depression hit the pastoral industry. The river level dropped considerably, thereby reducing access to the wharf and the river boat trade fell away. With the expansion of railway networks across the state, the town was bypassed by rail services between Bourke and Broken Hill despite Dickens’ efforts in Parliament, and Wilcannia lost its status as a regional commercial centre. Road and rail replaced river as reliable transportation methods. The town continued to decline in the early twentieth century, although it did retain some regional government administrative functions. Wilcannia today reflects a vanished way of life on the western rivers of New South Wales.

[Note: further detailed history is included in the assessment of individual heritage places in Section 5 below.]
2.2 Historic Themes

2.2.1 Background to Historic Themes
The relationship between a building or a place and its historical context underlies the assessment of its heritage significance. Historical themes, or story lines, provide a context within which a place or item can be better understood and appreciated. Historical themes for NSW have been prepared by the Heritage Council of NSW, based on the Australian Historic Themes prepared by the previous Australian Heritage Commission. Local themes may also be extrapolated within the appropriate State theme. This reflects the three levels of recognition of heritage significance: local, state and national.

The main historic themes relating to the settlement and growth of Wilcannia evolve out of the spread of remote rural pastoral and mining activities in NSW during the 1860s-1890s, leading to the rise of the river steamer transportation system as an essential part of the economic growth of the region and the creation of a government administration centre as the population of the region increased.

The specific NSW historic themes which relate to Wilcannia, and to the region more broadly, are:

**Theme 3. – Developing local and regional economies:** the growth of river and other transport in Wilcannia and the region, based on the expansion of pastoralism and mining

**Theme 4. – Building settlements, towns and cities:** Building the township of Wilcannia – public and commercial buildings, housing and accommodation

**Theme 7. – Governing:** Law and order, state and local government administration in Wilcannia with associated buildings and complexes

**Theme 8. – Developing cultural life:** Developing Wilcannia’s cultural life, leisure and social institutions for the local community and notable residents

Note: Relevant themes have been applied to each proposed heritage place in the assessments in Section 5 below.
2.2.2 Theme 3. – Developing local and regional economies

Pastoralism
Pastoral stations were established along the Darling River from the 1840s, after exploration and the influx of squatters taking up land. The success of pastoralism in the region depended on favourable climatic conditions, and overstocking and lack of reliable labour in such remote areas made success problematic. The series of droughts and the financial depression of 1890s - 1900 were devastating for pastoralists.

Small settlements were soon established along the rivers, particularly along the Darling and Murray, to supply the teams which were overlanding stock through the region. Initially, Wilcannia was important as a crossing point for stock associated with the pastoral industry, particularly for stock moving south to the Melbourne market. The original crossing point for the punt/ferry was at the low bank at the bottom of Cleaton Street.

Transport - Water
The water transportation system began with the construction of steam driven paddle steamers on the Murray in the mid-1850s. The river trade was beneficial for supplying both the goldfields and pastoralists and moving products such as wool to markets. River steamers were reaching as far up the Darling as Mount Murchison (later the site of the Wilcannia) by 1859, to supply the outback country opened up on either side of the Darling. Regular trade was affected by river levels, but Wilcannia was navigable for longer than other more northern ports, such as Bourke.

The Wilcannia wharf was built by around 1870 and from the 1870s to the 1890s, Wilcannia became Australia’s third largest inland port and the leading port on the Darling River. In 1887 alone, 26,550 tonnes of wool and other goods were loaded onto 222 steamers and barges at the Wilcannia wharf. From 1870 onwards, there was the additional cargo of copper from Cobar and other mining activity in the region. White Cliffs opal mining began in the early 1890s – and miners were supplied from Wilcannia.

The success of the river trade was of course dependent on high rivers and good rainfall – drought years were disastrous in all ways. Wilcannia’s importance as an inland trading port and its prosperity came to an end with a succession of dry years from the 1890s - 1900 causing depression hit the pastoral industry. The river level dropped considerably and access to the wharf was reduced: the river boat trade fell away.

In 1896, a lift bridge was constructed that extended Myers Street (also known as the Barrier Highway) over the Darling River. Previously the ferry had been at the river crossing at the end of Cleaton Street.

Transport - Roads
Overland transport was also important to Wilcannia with horse, mule and bullock wagons providing transportation services from the river port. During the 1870s and 1880s Wilcannia became a coaching centre for prospectors exploiting the region’s gold, copper silver and opal resources.

Camel trains were also an important method of moving goods from the river port of Wilcannia to the more inhospitable areas further inland.

The town had established road links with Broken Hill and Silverton to the west - through mining and other commercial activities – including Edmund and Emil Resch’s brewing enterprises and Alfred and Edward Dickens’ stock and station agency. And a road followed the river to Bourke.

As road traffic increased with motorised transportation, the river trade became less and less important, and had ceased by 1935.
Transport - Railway

As the railway networks across the state expanded, despite local member Edward Dickens’ efforts in Parliament, Wilcannia was bypassed by rail services. In 1919 the line between Bourke and Broken Hill was opened and the link to Sydney completed in 1927, and Wilcannia lost its status as a regional commercial centre. Road and rail replaced river as reliable transportation methods from the 1930s.

Places which demonstrate Theme 3 include the wharf remains, the lifting bridge, as well as the road pattern in and out of Wilcannia.

Paddle Steamers at Wilcannia - “Princess Royal” moored to river bank (rhs)
(Source: National Library of Australia, Record No. 24475115)

Wilcannia centre-lift bridge (built in 1896) & a paddle steamer on darling river, 1935
(Source: National Library of Australia, Record No. 3506822)

Afghan cameleers loading camels in Wilcannia, 1904
(Source: National Library of Australia nla.pic-vn3357480-v)
2.2.3 Theme 4. – Building settlements, towns and cities

The township of Wilcannia (the name reputedly meant 'a gap in the bank where the flood waters escape' in the language of the local Barkindji Aborigines) was proclaimed in June 1866, and the first land sales in Wilcannia were scheduled for August and September, 1866. The basic town plan for Wilcannia is a grid with streets either parallel to or at right angles to the Darling River. The town was laid out on the high northern bank of the river, above the flood line.

In common with other towns along the Darling, Wilcannia was a service centre for the country being opened up as pastoral land on either side of the river during the 1860s. Mining activities in the region, such as gold near Milparinka and copper at Cobar, also boosted the growth of Wilcannia.

Public and commercial buildings

Two years after proclamation, in 1868 the population of Wilcannia was 150 and a number of buildings had been erected. Early buildings served the settlements immediate needs - including a Commercial Bank, a court house and lock-up, three public houses, three or four stores, a brewery, a bakery, two butchers, two blacksmiths, a wool scour and a cordial factory. Supplies were brought in by paddle steamer, bullock dray or camel trains. It is assumed that most of these early buildings were in timber and have disappeared over time. Stone for later, more substantial, structures was obtained from quarries nearby. Brick kilns also operated, although the major brick structures, the pumping station and its tall brick chimney stack have gone.

As the town grew, services were expanded, and Wilcannia was an important regional centre. By 1870 there was one doctor residing in the town and 'The Wilcannia Times' newspaper commenced publication in 1873. In 1879 the Red Lion brewery (no longer standing) was built at the northern end of Reid Street.

Wilcannia was incorporated as a municipality in 1883, and services and activities developed to serve the more sophisticated needs of the bigger township. Known as 'Queen City of the West' in the 1880s, it boasted 13 hotels and the population quickly grew. By the early 1880s there were three large wholesale and bonded warehouses, three grain and produce stores, six or more smaller retail stores, four blacksmiths, three saddlers, two newspapers, two lawyers, two doctors, four banks and two breweries in Wilcannia. When the opal fields of White Cliffs were discovered in the 1890s, trade increased as Wilcannia became the central supply depot for the opal miners and the major recipient of their revenue.

Many of these early buildings have been demolished, and those that remain, mainly in Reid Street, are integral to Wilcannia's history. The Rich and Company Bond Store at 71 Reid Street, Wilcannia is the only known surviving riverside warehouse associated with the former Darling River paddle steamer trade in Central Darling. The substantial size of the building reflects the volume of wool and other goods handled on the Wilcannia wharf. Some small retail stores still stand, and the three (former) hotels are all that remain of the thirteen that once traded in Wilcannia.

The Athenaeum building is the most significant of the non-secular non-government community buildings which is still standing in Wilcannia. Church and associated buildings and the school also reflect the provision of other community services which were essential to the development of the township.
Housing and accommodation
Any community requires shelter, and Wilcannia retains a number of discernible housing types from the nineteenth century. These are constructed from stone, brick or timber framed clad in corrugated iron. There may have been early timber board houses but none have been identified. The early housing types have been analysed in more detail in Section 2.4 following.

Government attempts to provide permanent housing for the Aboriginal population of Wilcannia has left some remnant examples (particularly in the area known as the Mallee), but none of these housing programs were successful in the long run.

2.2.4 Theme 7. – Governing

Law and order
With the wide spread settlement of the western region of NSW, a need quickly developed for Government involvement in the area. Apparently lawlessness was a constant issue and one of the first government buildings in any of the settlements was court house, with an associated police station and lock-up.

State Government
As Wilcannia became established as the regional centre for the Central Darling/Western Rivers district, a series of Government services were housed in more substantial institutional buildings. The buildings were designed in Sydney by Government Architect James Burnett and the stone for these structures was quarried close by. The Wilcannia Courts, Police Station and Gaol complex was complete by the end of 1881. The Post Office and attached residence was located at the corner of Reid and Myers Streets, and also housed the telegraph link with Menindee (first functioning in 1877). These buildings remain and are an essential indicator of Wilcannia’s former significance as a centre of State government administration during the late nineteenth century. They also demonstrate the state government’s intention to maintain control of the remote areas of NSW.

In 1888, Wilcannia was the centre of a newly established electoral district [550,000 sq km in extent, covering pastoral stations and mining settlements] for the Legislative Assembly of NSW parliament. Edward Dickens was elected by a two-to-one majority as the first parliamentarian for this electorate and went on to represent the region during the years 1889-94.

A customs house was established in Wilcannia – next to the Post Office residence in Reid Street - as duties were payable on goods trading between states prior to Federation. - It burned down in 1972.

Local Government
Wilcannia Town Council was proclaimed in 1866, and after it was incorporated as a municipality in 1883, held its meetings in the Athenaeum building. The Wilcannia Council moved to its current location in the former bank in 1972. Interestingly, no dedicated council chambers were constructed in Wilcannia.

Wilcannia has been the administrative centre for the Central Darling Shire 1959.
2.2.5 Theme 8. – Developing cultural life:

The main period of growth of Wilcannia was during the late 19th century – from 1870 to 1900. It was during this time that organisations and institutions, such as the Wilcannia Progress Association, were established and flourished.

Some buildings remain which reflect the existence of these important social services and networks within the established settlement and beyond. The Athenaeum building served a number of functions – as a social centre (which was not a pub!), a library, a newspaper office and council meeting place. The Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches have structures which indicate their presence in the township. The school building is evidence of government provision of education facilities. Other institutions include the Masonic and other Lodges, and sporting clubs such as the Jockey Club and Rowing Club. Wilcannia was the meeting point for members of these groups. Some of these have continued, despite Wilcannia’s decline in importance and population. The main social focus today is the Golf Club, which was established on the site of the former brewery.
2.3 Building Time Line

The following provides a summary chronology of main remaining historic buildings and places in Wilcannia [for easy referral and reference]:

1860s
1866c – Former Bank, 25 Reid Street
1866+ - Queens Head Hotel, 64 Reid Street

1870s
1870c - Rich & Company Bond Store, 71 Reid Street
1874 - Wilcannia Central School, 93 Hood Street
1875-6 - Former Court House Hotel, 65 - 67 Reid St
1875 - St James Anglican Church' 80 – 82 Woore Street,
1879 - Wilcannia Club Hotel 46 Reid Street, cnr Myers Street,
1879 - Wilcannia Hospital, 1 – 7 Ross Street
1879 - Golf Club, former Brewery, Ross Street
   House, ‘Riverview’, behind 73 Reid Street,
   Sandstone Houses, 97 - 99 Reid Street
   Wilcannia Wharf
   Former Garage (rear), 29 Reid Street,
   House, former Brewery Residence, 19 – 23 Ross Street

1870s-1880s
Sandstone Shops 30 Reid Street,
Shop, 48 Reid Street,
Old Fuel Store, 73 Reid Street
Sandstone Houses, 81 - 33 Reid Street
House, 24 Byrnes Street
House, 26 - 30 Byrnes Street
Stone houses, 24 – 26 Myers Street

1880s
1880 - Wilcannia Court House, 66 - 68 Reid Street
1880 - Wilcannia Post Office & Residence, 45 Reid Street, cnr Myers
1881 - Wilcannia Police Station and Gaol, 70 - 72 Reid Street
1881 - Police Residence (adjacent to Police Station), 74 – 76 Reid Street
1883 - Wilcannia Athenaeum, Reid Street,
1887 - Wilcannia Council Chambers, 21 Reid Street,
   House, ‘Hillside’, 19 – 21 Hood Street,

1890s
1894 - Wilcannia Bridge
1894 - Former Convent, 48 – 50 Woore Street,
1899 - Knox & Downs Store, 44 Reid Street, cnr Myers St

   Row of Shops, 40 Reid Street
   Cottage, 75 Reid Street
   Attached Cottages, 77 Reid Street,
   Cottage, 26 Cleaton Street
1900s
1901 - Steam Engine, 43 Reid Street,
1914+ - War Memorial and Baker Park

House, 38 Reid Street
Butcher Shop, 50 Reid Street
Shop, 52A Reid Street
Shop & House, 54 Reid Street

1940s-50s
39 Reid Street, Wilcannia CDEP Building (fmr West Darling Transport)
56 Reid Street, Shop
60 Reid Street, Wilcannia Auto Repairs
St Theresa’s Mission School

Others (dates to be determined)
6 – 8 Ross Street, Steam engines and water tower
Wilcannia Cemetery (1860s+?)
2.4 Housing Types in Wilcannia

2.4.1 Approach
As is typical of the growth of rural townships, economic conditions and availability of materials and labour determine the built environment. A visual analysis of the remaining early housing stock in Wilcannia has identified groups which are based on building materials. Leases for stone quarrying and brickmaking were current through the 1880s and may have been issued earlier. Much material for building, such as corrugated iron, was brought by river or bullock wagon. Timber structures have been particularly vulnerable to termite attack over time so few remain. Earlier reports mentions timber cottages but none have been identified in this survey. Interestingly, the customs house, which was destroyed by fire in 1972, appears to have been a pre-fabricated timber and corrugated iron structure.

2.4.2 Housing Types

STONE HOUSES WITH SIMPLE VERANDAHs
Examples of this type of house date from the early settlement of Wilcannia from the 1860s onwards. It is the most significant house type in the township. The built form is as either single or multiple dwellings.
Reid Street – police residence

Reid Street

Byrnes Street (verandah altered)
Byrnes Street

Hood Street

Myers Street

Reid Street (rear section of former hotel – originally residential)
3.0 HERITAGE SURVEY FINDINGS

3.1 Assessing Significance

Heritage items are:

- A place or places of outstanding value on either a local, State or national level that may have one or a range of values including, historical, architectural, aesthetic, scientific or social values and that may also be rare or representatives of a type; or
- A place that demonstrates the development of Wilcannia and relates to the State historic themes:
- An element or elements of a place that warrant retention even though the remainder of a place does not have particular heritage value, including archaeological elements or landscape items

Where items are identified as heritage items, it is not always their architectural value which is important. Places, buildings, structures and other works can be identified as having heritage significance as they are:

- Associated with people, events or phases of history of great importance;
- Rare;
- Constructed with unusual technical skill; or
- Excellent examples of a valuable group of items.

Identified items of environmental heritage must be retained in a manner where their heritage significance is preserved and the public can interpret that significance without confusion as to its actual age or function.

Heritage items in Wilcannia are listed in Part 1 the Central Darling Local Environmental Plan (2004 as amended). These items have been individually identified as having cultural heritage significance.

The following processes are recommended for the Central Darling Shire in managing heritage items and heritage Conservation Areas:

- Development will be assessed having regard to the principles contained in the Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (the Burra Charter).
- Applications for demolition of a heritage item or an item in a heritage conservation area will be required to provide details on the replacement development, documentation of the existing item and include Heritage Impact Statement for the building to be removed and for new development.

3.2 Local Environment Plan Heritage Provisions

Town planning in NSW is guided by the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Under this Act, both State and Local Government have roles and responsibilities to ensure that our built and natural environments are developed in appropriate and sustainable ways. The Central Darling Shire Local Environmental Plan (2004 as amended) controls land use and development within the Local Government Area. An LEP (as amended) allows Council and the community to guide development according to local values and characteristics in conjunction with State Policies and Regional Plans. The current planning and heritage provisions for Wilcannia are outlined in the Central Darling Shire Local Environment Plan (2004 as amended). These provisions provide the local authority with powers and obligations to protect the cultural heritage of Wilcannia.

This report outlines recommendations which to be enacted will require revisions to the LEP. This should be undertaken in the future once the report has been subject to public consultation and adoption by the Shire. (see also 3.14 below)
3.3 State Heritage Significance Recommendations

State Heritage Items

Listing on the State Heritage Register indicates that the heritage item:

- Is of particular importance to the people of NSW and enriches our understanding of our history and identity;
- Is legally protected as a heritage item under the NSW Heritage Act; and
- Requires approval from the Heritage Council of NSW for major changes.

The State Heritage Register is a list of places and objects of particular importance to the people of NSW. The register lists a diverse range of over 1,500 items in both private and public ownership. To be listed, an item must be significant for the whole of NSW. State heritage items are assessed both by local Council and the NSW Heritage Office. The current Local Environmental Plan (LEP) identifies all state listed heritage items in the Central Darling Local Government Area (LGA).

There are no currently buildings in Wilcannia on the State Heritage Register, and this report recommends the following are added to the NSW State Heritage Register. These are considered to be of state wide significance and satisfy the criteria for listing on the State Heritage Register.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Place</th>
<th>Recommended to be Listed as a State Heritage Place on the New South Wales State Heritage Register</th>
<th>Also Scheduled on Central Darling Shire Local Environment Plan (2004) as Item of Local Significance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Post Office and Residence 45 Reid Street</td>
<td>Recommended to be added</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courthouse 66-68 Reid Street</td>
<td>Recommended to be added</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum Security Prison and Police Station 70-72 Reid Street</td>
<td>Recommended to be added</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rich &amp; Co Bond Store 71 Reid Street</td>
<td>Recommended to be added</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Implications of State Listing

There are advantages and disadvantages for an item being on the State Heritage Register. The listing provides recognition of significance, and provides a status to the place and certainty of retention. Listing can also make a place eligible for state heritage funding when these grants are available.

However the approvals process is more involved, as development requires input from the NSW State Heritage Branch and can delay the process. Conservation standards are also higher with more scrutiny given to works proposed – and sometimes proposals are rejected and not approved if they are considered by the State Heritage Branch to not confirm to appropriate conservation standards.
3.4 Local Heritage Significance Recommendations

Local Heritage Items

Local heritage items are those items of heritage significance to the Central Darling Shire. Heritage significance includes items of historical, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural or aesthetic value. These items contribute to the individuality, streetscape, townscape, landscape or natural character of an area and are irreplaceable parts of its environmental heritage. Local heritage items are assessed by the Local Council. The current Local Environmental Plan (LEP) identifies all listed heritage items in the Central Darling Shire Local Environment Plan (2004 as amended).

The following buildings are currently on the Darling Shire Local Environment Plan (2004 as amended) as items of Local Significance;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Place</th>
<th>Scheduled on Central Darling Shire Local Environment Plan (2004 as amended) as item of Local Significance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Lift Bridge over the Darling River, Barrier Highway</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Wharf and Winch, Barrier Highway, Adjacent to Bridge</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilcannia Central School, 93 Hood Street</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandstone Houses, 8 – 10 Myers Street - note this numbering is incorrect and should be 24 – 26 Myers Street, The LEP needs to be corrected</td>
<td>Listed (but with wrong numbers, should be 24 – 26 Myers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilcannia Council Chambers, 21 Reid Street</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old sandstone shop, 30 Reid Street</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Museum/Wilcannia Athenaeum, 37 Reid Street</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Former) Knox &amp; Downs Store, 44 Reid Street</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Office and Residence, 45 Reid Street</td>
<td>Listed (also recommended for State Heritage Listing, see above)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Club Hotel, 46 Reid Street</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shops, 48 Reid Street</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baker Park, Memorial World War One, Reid Street</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butcher Shop, 50 Reid Street</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Old) Queens Head Hotel, 64 Reid Street</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courthouse, 66-68 Reid Street</td>
<td>Listed (also recommended for State Heritage Listing, see above)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum Security Prison and Police Station, 70-72 Reid Street</td>
<td>Listed (also recommended for State Heritage Listing, see above)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of Place</td>
<td>Scheduled on Central Darling Shire Local Environment Plan (2004 as amended) as item of Local Significance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rich &amp; Co Bond Store 71 Reid Street</td>
<td>Listed (also recommended for State Heritage Listing, see above)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police Residence 74-76 Reid Street</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital, 1-7 Ross Street</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Tower, 6-8 Ross Street</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf Club, 25 – 29 Ross St</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former Roman Catholic Convent, 52 – 54 Woore Street</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St James Anglican Church, 80 – 82 Woore Street</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following places are **recommended for addition** to the Darling Shire Local Environment Plan (2004 as amended) as items of Local Heritage Significance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Former Commercial Bank, 25 Reid Street</td>
<td>Recommended to be Scheduled on the LEP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilcannia CDEP Building (fmr West Darling Transport), 39 Reid Street</td>
<td>Recommended to be Scheduled on the LEP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row of Shops, 40 Reid Street</td>
<td>Recommended to be Scheduled on the LEP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portable Steam Engine, 41 – 43 Reid St</td>
<td>Recommended to be Scheduled on the LEP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shop and House, 54 Reid St</td>
<td>Recommended to be Scheduled on the LEP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilcannia Auto Repairs, 60 Reid Street</td>
<td>Recommended to be Scheduled on the LEP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former Court House Hotel, 65 – 67 Reid Street, cnr Cleaton Street</td>
<td>Recommended to be Scheduled on the LEP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House, Riverview, behind 73 Reid Street</td>
<td>Recommended to be Scheduled on the LEP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandstone Houses, 81 – 83 Reid Street Reid Street</td>
<td>Recommended to be Scheduled on the LEP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cottages 97-99 Reid Street</td>
<td>Recommended to be Scheduled on the LEP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House, 26 – 30 Byres Street</td>
<td>Recommended to be Scheduled on the LEP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House, 19 – 21 Hood Street</td>
<td>Recommended to be Scheduled on the LEP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilcannia Cemetery, Menindee Road</td>
<td>Recommended to be Scheduled on the LEP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steam Engines, 6 – 8 Ross Street (add to existing Water Tower Listing)</td>
<td>Recommended to be Scheduled on the LEP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House, former Brewery Residence, 19 – 23 Ross Street</td>
<td>Recommended to be Scheduled on the LEP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Big Ampi Windmill**

Note that a special request has been made by one of the owners of Big Ampi Station, Captain James Boland, for the following to be included in the LEP as a local heritage item – outside of the Wilcannia Township. The authors of this report support this request and consider that it has considerable local heritage significance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Big Ampi Windmill, Big Ampi Station</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50 km's East of Menindee on the Ivanhoe-Menindee Road S32 28.09 E142 53.79 Lot 4742 DP 762609</td>
<td>Recommended to be Scheduled on the LEP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Implications of Local Listing
There are advantages and disadvantages for an item being the Schedule of Heritage Items on the LEP. The listing provides recognition of local heritage significance. The primary intention of the listing is to protect the item from demolition and retain its streetscape contribution.

Listing can also make a place eligible for local heritage funding when these grants are available: the current Heritage Near Me program has provided funding for two places in Wilcannia included on this schedule in the 2016-17 period.

3.5 Conservation Area Recommendation

Heritage Conservation Areas
Heritage Conservation Areas (HCAs) are significant for their streetscape character and are of value due to the collective nature of buildings and elements in that area.

A HCA is more than a collection of individual heritage items – Heritage Conservation Areas have a specific significant sense of place. This is because the character reflects not just the buildings in them, but also the reasons for the buildings, the changing social and economic conditions over time, and the physical responses to those changes. Keeping heritage places enables the community to experience again and again the pleasures and interest they offer. Once lost, they are gone forever. No record or photograph can ever substitute for an actual place.

The collective existence of buildings, individual heritage items, trees, open spaces, views and landmarks, and smaller details such as sandstone kerbing and gutters, all contribute to our appreciation of an area’s historic value. Ongoing care and maintenance of all elements of any HCA is considered to be an essential part of achieving their conservation. The whole community has a role to play to ensure that individual buildings, their settings and public areas are maintained, and not left to decay.

Recommended Heritage Conservation Area in Wilcannia
This study recommends the designation of a Reid Street Conservation Area in the Central Darling Shire LEP, with boundaries as per the map below. This includes the bridge over the Darling River, the old wharf area, and sections of Myers Street and Reid Street from the Council Chambers to the south western end of Reid Street. This grouping includes the fine collection of nineteenth century sandstone buildings, (several being the work of NSW Government Architect James Barnett) – being the Post Office and Court House Group.
The following buildings have been identified as significant buildings in this Reid Street Conservation Area which should be retained:(note refer individual building data sheets in Section 5 of this report):

21 Reid Street, Wilcannia Council Chambers
25 Reid Street, Former Shop
30 Reid Street, Old Sandstone Shop
37 Reid Street, Wilcannia Athenaeum
39 Reid Street, Wilcannia CDEP Building (fmr West Darling Transport)
40 Reid Street, Row of Shops
41 - 43 Reid Street, Steam Engine
44 Reid Street, cnr Myers St(Former) Knox & Downs Store – note however that condition may make retention problematic
45 Reid Street, cnr Myers, Wilcannia Post Office & Residence
46 Reid Street, cnr Myers Street, Wilcannia Club Hotel
48 Reid Street, Shop
49 - 63 Reid Street, Baker Park and War Memorial,
50 Reid Street, Butcher Shop
54 Reid Street, Shop & House
60 Reid Street, Wilcannia Auto Repairs
64 Reid Street, cnr Cleaton Street, Queens Head Hotel,
65 - 67 Reid St, Former Court House Hotel, cnr Cleaton Street
66 - 68 Reid Street, Wilcannia Court House, cnr Cleaton Street
70 - 72 Reid Street, Wilcannia Police Station and Gaol
71 Reid Street, Rich & Company Bond Store
73 Reid Street, Old Fuel Store
Behind 73 Reid Street, House, Riverview
74 – 76 Reid Street, Police Residence (adjacent to Police Station)
77 Reid Street, Attached Cottages
81 - 33 Reid Street, Sandstone Houses
97 - 99 Reid Street, Sandstone Houses
Wilcannia Bridge and Wilcannia Wharf
93 Hood Street, Wilcannia Central School
24 – 26 Myers Street, stone houses
80 – 82 Woore Street, St James Anglican Church

3.6 Heritage Advisory Service, Ongoing Building Improvements and Heritage Funding Incentives

A key recommendation for Wilcannia is to retain the early heritage buildings which contribute to its historic character and ensure that any new development or alterations to existing buildings reinforce this traditional character. The existing Heritage Advisory Service, established in 2007 is key to the ongoing building improvements in Wilcannia.

In addition, the use of modest grants available through the Heritage Fund (and where successful State and Federal Government funding) have seen a marked improvement in the appearance of the town, with both private and public sector involvement in building upgrades over the past few years.

It is most important that any building improvements undertaken within the town (including the erection of fences) take into consideration the age of the building in question and any significant detailing which may pertain to its date of construction. The Heritage Adviser has previously prepared Conservation Guidelines (May 2008), available at the Central Darling Shire office in Wilcannia. These guidelines emphasise the importance of carefully conserving and managing the heritage buildings in Wilcannia. These guidelines are made available to building owners and occupiers on request.
Central Darling Council should continue to apply for relevant heritage funding through the NSW Heritage Branch for the ongoing provision of the Heritage Fund and the position of the Heritage Advisor. In addition, other funding sources should continue to be pursued for the ongoing conservation of buildings in Wilcannia.

EXAMPLES OF HERITAGE UPGRADES IN WILCANNIA

Before - Typical altered verandah on residence at 24 – 26 Myers Street, Wilcannia

After - stone and verandah conservation on residence at 24 – 26 Myers Street, Wilcannia

Before – Former Court House Hotel, Reid Street

After - reconstruction of early verandah at Former Court House Hotel, Reid Street
3.7 New Development

The construction of any new building in Wilcannia should take into consideration the historic character of the town. Any new development should be sympathetic with the existing character, and modern architectural forms and materials which are completely different from original materials used in the town would not be appropriate. The heritage provisions of the LEP can be used to ensure that new development is appropriate to the town’s character. In addition, the proposed Conservation Area in the centre of the town will ensure that any new development fits in with the historic character.

3.8 Street Trees, Landscaping and Fences

Council minutes record that street trees were planted in Wilcannia in the late 1880s and early photos show these street trees and picket fences. As these are mostly gone, reinstatement of trees and suitable fences is strongly recommended. Some community involvement has resulted in some planting of pepper trees in Reid Street, near the Queens Head Hotel. Fences are an important part of the character of the town, particularly on residential buildings.

The reinstatement of picket fences to both public and private buildings is to be encouraged. These were once common in Wilcannia and would assist in re-establishing the historic character of the town centre.

Street trees should also be planted in Reid and Myers Street to recapture the previous planted character of Wilcannia and to provide well needed shade and protection from the harsh summer temperatures.
View of Myers Street, showing the early street trees

View of Reid Street, showing the early street trees
(Source: State Library of NSW bcp_06767r, bcp_06764r & PRG280_1_10_81 respectively)

Picket fence in front of the Wilcannia Athenaeum
(Source: State Library of New South Wales 06744h)
3.9 Wilcannia Post Office

Ongoing Conservation
Wilcannia for many years has suffered from a poor reputation, and this is now gradually changing. In the past visitors have avoided stopping in Wilcannia due to the poor condition of buildings, and lack of any focus for tourist activities. However, the last 3 years have seen several of the buildings conserved and upgraded, in particular the Council Chambers, the Post Office and some shops, with more work being undertaken by private building owners.

Potential Visitor Information Centre
What the town currently lacks is a Visitor Information Centre. The logical and ideal location for this would be in the upgraded Post Office room and with more information provided in the adjacent residential part of the Post Office. This needs to be pursued both by the Council and the community.

The development of a Visitor Information Centre at the former Post Office should be investigated. This should form part of the current staged program of conservation works for this building.

Council should actively pursue more funding to complete the works at the Post Office. A visitor interpretation centre would provide a focal point for tourists when they enter town and could also provide information on the surrounding sites of interests such as the National Parks.

3.10 Heritage Interpretation, Town Identity and Promotion

For country towns to encourage visitors, attractive visitor information and interpretation programs need to be provided. The town currently has interesting tourist information signs, and these were replaced in 2014 with new metal panels. Entry signs have also been provided for the town in 2013.

Council should pursue sources of heritage and tourism funding to undertake further interpretive programs. For example, telling the story of Edward Dickens association with Wilcannia (he was the youngest son of English author Charles Dickens) could be an interesting local social historical story. The involvement of the local school to encourage local community input and establish ownership of the town interpretation is considered a key element of its potential success.
3.11 Deteriorating Buildings in the Town Centre

There are currently many buildings in a deteriorating condition the town. Contact should be made with property owners of run down buildings. A major challenge is the Knox and Downs site (refer 3.12 below).

Council should continue, through the Heritage Advisory Service, to actively encourage the upgrading of buildings which are currently empty and deteriorating. This should be facilitated and assisted by the heritage advisor.

Photos of the deteriorated buildings in Reid Street requiring upgrading

3.12 Knox and Downs Site, Reid Street, cnr Myers Street

The Knox and Downs site is currently a major negative element in the centre of Wilcannia. Previous assessments have been undertaken of the condition of the remnant building which is found to be beyond repair or reuse. A new building should be constructed on the site which would contribute to the character of Wilcannia. This building should be of suitable materials and an appropriate building form which reflects other character buildings in Wilcannia.

Council should actively encourage rebuilding on the Knox and Downs site which is derelict and beyond repair. Incorporation of some elements of the existing building may be possible. An appropriate community use should be explored for the site.
3.13 Archival Records

There are many historical records in a variety of locations. Some are in private hands, some records are held at the Council, but storage is not secure or to ideal conditions. Also records have not been scanned or systematically recorded. The local History Society could assist if there was a suitable scanner and should be involved in determining the best way forward for effective management of archives. In addition, collaboration with Broken Hill City Council could be pursued as they are currently undertaking an archival storage upgrade program. The Shire should also apply for any available funding to assist with the management, recording and storage of archives.

3.14 Public Consultation

This report should be made to the public and once public feedback has been obtained, the Shire determine a way forward via revisions to the LEP to incorporate the report recommendations.
4.0 INDIVIDUAL BUILDING ASSESSMENTS IN REID STREET

REID STREET

21 Reid Street, Wilcannia Council Chambers
25 Reid Street, Former Shop
29 Reid Street, Former Garage
30 Reid Street, Old Sandstone Shop
37 Reid Street, Wilcannia Athenaeum
39 Reid Street, Wilcannia CDEP Building (fmr West Darling Transport
40 Reid Street, Row of Shops
41 - 43 Reid Street, Steam Engine
44 Reid Street, cnr Myers St(Former) Knox & Downs Store
45 Reid Street, cnr Myers, Wilcannia Post Office & Residence
46 Reid Street, cnr Myers Street, Wilcannia Club Hotel
48 Reid Street, Shop
49 - 63 Reid Street, Baker Park and War Memorial,
50 Reid Street, Butcher Shop
54 Reid Street, Shop & House
56 Reid Street, Shop
58 Reid Street, Building Wall
60 Reid Street, Wilcannia Auto Repairs
64 Reid Street, cnr Cleaton Street, Queens Head Hotel,
65 - 67 Reid St, Former Court House Hotel, cnr Cleaton Street
66 - 68 Reid Street, Wilcannia Court House, cnr Cleaton Street
70 - 72 Reid Street, Wilcannia Police Station and Gaol
71 Reid Street, Rich & Company Bond Store
73 Reid Street, Old Fuel Store
Behind 73 Reid Street, House, Riverview
74 – 76 Reid Street, Police Residence (adjacent to Police Station)
75 Reid Street, Cottage
77 Reid Street, Attached Cottages
81 - 33 Reid Street, Sandstone Houses
97 - 99 Reid Street, Sandstone Houses

OTHER STREETS

BARRIER HIGHWAY
   Wilcannia Bridge
   Wilcannia Wharf

BYRNES STREET
   24 Byrnes Street, House
   26 - 30 Byrnes Street, House

CLEATON STREET
   26 Cleaton Street

HOOD STREET
   19 – 21 Hood Street, House, Hillside
   93 Hood Street, Wilcannia Central School

MENINDIE ROAD
   Wilcannia Cemetery

MYERS STREET
   18 Myers St, Supermarket
24 – 26 Myers Street, stone houses

ROSS STREET
1 – 7 Ross Street, Wilcannia Hospital
6 – 8 Ross Street, Steam engines and water tower
19 – 23 Ross Street, House, former Brewery Residence
29 – 31 Golf Club, former Brewery

WARRALI AVENUE
St Theresa’s Mission School

WOORE STREET
48 – 50 Woore Street, Former Convent
80 – 82 Woore Street, St James Anglican Church

OUTSIDE TOWNSHIP
Big Ampi Windmill, Big Ampi Station, 50 km’s East of Menindee on the Ivanhoe-Menindee Road
S32 28.09 E142 53.79, Lot 4742 DP 762609
HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: The Wilcannia Council Chambers is a two storey late Victorian public building, symmetrically fronted and built of local face sandstone with a two storeyed return verandah facing both street frontages. This building was erected in 1887 for the London Chartered Bank of Australia. The tender to build the new bank had been won by T Burnett of Goodwood, South Australia and announced in Adelaide’s *Express and Daily Telegraph* on 23rd September 1886. (Burnett appears to have received a number of significant contracts in South Australia including the Baptist Church at Goodwood.) The former bank building was purchased by the Central Darling Shire in 1972 for use as the Wilcannia Council Chambers, and the Shire minutes show that $8,000 was paid for the building and a budget of $3000 was set for furnishing the new chambers.

The key feature of the building is the verandah. It has detailed cast iron work and timber decorative elements, including the balustrade, frieze, brackets and capital moulds to the paired chamfered verandah posts. The iron lacework features an acorn and leaf motif. The front façade facing Reid Street has four double hung timber sash windows with stone sills and sliding timber shutters, two on each level and either side of the central door (on both floors). There are also four windows to the Byrne Street elevation, two on either floor. The central front entrance door is surmounted with a transom light and the timber door’s joinery is well detailed. The sandstone work is randomly-coursed and in good condition. The building has a hipped roof and is clad with early short-lapped corrugated iron sheeting, which has been painted red. The verandah roof is incorporated in the main roof of the building which has wide eaves. There are three projecting chimneys with a rendered finish. A later toilet block has been built at the rear of the property.

A *Conservation Management Plan* for the Council Chambers was completed in November 2008 and was used as a basis for a funding application for conservation to this building. This was successful and funding was obtained from the Federal Government Economic Stimulus Package in 2009.

Extensive conservation work was undertaken on this building commencing March 2009 and completed April 2010, with the overall contractor for the works being Heritage Stone Restorations from Adelaide. The works have included the rebuilding of the verandah (installation of a new timber floor, restructuring of posts, repairs to cast iron work, etc), repairs to the stonework, chimney repairs, and internal and external painting.
STATEMENT OF SIGNICANCE:
This c1887 bank building is a rare surviving building in the Central Darling shire which makes extensive use of decorative cast iron components. It has strong associations with the historic spread of banking facilities within the region, and more recently with the administration of the shire. The building makes an important contribution to the streetscape.

HISTORIC THEMES
3. – Developing local and regional economies: Commerce
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia
7. – Governing: Government and Administration

RECOMMENDATIONS: This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. Continue to progressively implement the recommendations of the Conservation Management Plan. Continue to regularly maintain the building, particularly repainting at regular intervals and maintaining the new timber floor boarding to the first floor verandah.

Early photo of council chambers

SOURCES:
Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item No 082
Wilcannia Council Chambers, 21 Reid Street, Wilcannia, Conservation Management Plan, November 2008, McDougall & Vines Conservation and Heritage Consultants
Former Commercial Bank, 25 Reid Street

HERITAGE LISTING – NIL

**HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION:** This is an early sandstone building, reputedly one of the earliest in Wilcannia. First owner of the property, in 1869, was William Crisp Pechey M.D. - possibly Wilcannia’s first doctor. It is believed that the building was erected by Messrs Brayley and Co, in c1870. Title to the property passed to Pechey’s widow Charlotte on his death around 1878 – subsequent owners were C. Vaughan, Charles Houghton, Butcher, then William Green. [See NSW Land Title Office Vol. 86 Folio 104, and Vol 622 Folio 243.]

The Commercial Banking Co of Sydney Ltd occupied the building from 1875 to 22\textsuperscript{nd} April 1942, although title to the property was not passed to the bank until 27 June, 1883.

The stonework survives in good condition, with face stone still remaining on the east elevation. There is some evidence of cracking to the stonework on the front elevation, where the stone has unfortunately been painted. A later metal framed verandah has been installed to the building, with a flat roof which detracts from the appearance of the building. Original ogee profile guttering remains, although this appears to be leaking and causing some stone deterioration on the east elevation.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:** This small simple former bank building is a rare surviving early structure in the Central Darling Shire. It has strong associations with the historic spread of banking facilities within the region.

**HISTORIC THEMES**
3. – Developing local and regional economies: Commerce
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. This building should be added to the Central Darling Shire LEP Schedule of Heritage Items. Continue to regularly maintain the building, particularly repainting at regular intervals.

**SOURCES:**
Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Nil
Barrass Bob “Wilcannia and District During the 1950’s – A Bank Managers Overview”, Wilcannia History, Volume 2
VIEW OF REID STREET

– note building arrowed is this building

(Source: Central Darling Shire Council, Ref: PA002323)
Former Garage, 29 Reid Street

HERITAGE LISTING – NIL

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: a basic commercial building in Reid Street. The original building would appear to date from possibly c1870. In 1938, the Municipality of Wilcannia granted a building permit for the erection of a motor garage to E. S. Swift. The front parapet appears to date from c1940-50, replacing the earlier shop front, parapet and verandah visible in the early photograph, below. The building has the potential to contribute to the character of the streetscape.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: One of a number of early commercial buildings in Reid Street, retaining evidence of original form and materials despite later alterations.

HISTORIC THEMES
3. – Developing local and regional economies: Commerce
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia

RECOMMENDATIONS: This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area.

Continue to regularly maintain the building, particularly repainting at regular intervals. The construction of a traditional post supported verandah is recommended

SOURCES:
Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Nil

VIEW OF REID STREET
– note building arrowed is this building
(Source: Central Darling Shire Council, Ref:PA002323)
Old Sandstone Shops, 30 Reid Street

HERITAGE LISTING – CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: A row of four small stone shops built in 1879-80 for Aime Louise Garot, jeweller. Garot was declared bankrupt in 1887 still owing money to James John Paskins, a builder, from Hurstville, NSW. Another jeweller, Charles A Wyssenback, then leased the building from the Commercial Bank until his death in 1895. Mark Tully, Stock Inspector, purchased the building in 1908 and used it as his residence. After his death, it became government accommodation for teachers until 1924, then reverted to private ownership.

This building retains important original elements including face stone, original parapet detailing, a pitched corrugated iron roof, and unpainted sandstone to side walls. The building was upgraded in 2009 including the reinstatement of the ogee profile verandah roof and also provision of steps and ramp to the entry doors. The building is now tenanted and is a good example of reuse of a sound building within the streetscape. Repointing to the stone has been undertaken in inappropriate cement render which is damaging the stone.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: This row of small shops reflects the provision of commercial services in Wilcannia during the 1870s and 1880s. Its distinctive form and style make an important contribution to the streetscape.

HISTORIC THEMES
3. – Developing local and regional economies: Commerce
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia

RECOMMENDATIONS: This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. Continue to regularly maintain the building, particularly repainting at regular intervals. Conservation of stonework is recommended, including the removal of later cement pointing to the base of the building and re-pointing of stonework with lime mortar.

SOURCES:
Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 083
NSW Land Titles Office
2009 photo before front entry ramps erected
HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: The Wilcannia Athenaeum, constructed in 1883, by Mr. De Baun on a parcel of land originally granted as the site for the “Wilcannia Mechanics Institute” in 1879. It was officially opened on 10 January 1884 and was a grand occasion, accompanied by pomp and ceremony. A procession through the town of the Orders of the Oddfellows and Druids in full regalia, headed by a brass band, formed part of this occasion. Edward Dickens, the son of Charles Dickens the celebrated English author, was a founding member and office bearer of the Masons Lodge at Moorabin, and possibly participated in this ceremony. He later represented Wilcannia as a Town Alderman and State Member of Parliament. The cost of the building is not known however a prospectus for £2,000 was issued in 1881 asking for investors to contribute towards an Athenaeum store. In 1915 the building and fittings were valued at £1,000. Electric lights, to replace gas lights, were installed in 1935.

The Athenaeum offered a Subscription Library and Reading Rooms, and later a Free Public Library service. The Municipality of Wilcannia used part of the building for their offices and chambers from 1884 to 1896 and then from 1899 to 1972. The Municipality was appointed as trustees of the building after the demise of the Athenaeum committee in 1937.

The early 20th century photograph shows the building with a picket fence which was added in 1902 at a cost of around £25. The fence was removed in 1933. The building was taken over by the Council and part used as Council Chambers for Wilcannia, and then after 1959 for the Central Darling Shire, until the Shire offices were moved to 21 Reid Street in the early 1970s. It is now a museum, and continues to make an important contribution to the Wilcannia streetscape.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: the Wilcannia Athenaeum is a significant and rare community institution, dating from 1883, which provided educational facilities and activities for the local population. It demonstrates the aspirations of the residents of Wilcannia at the time, and is also associated with the local newspaper, the Wilcannia Times, and the Municipal Council.

HISTORIC THEMES
3. – Developing the local and regional economies: Commerce
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia
6. – Educating: Education facilities for the Wilcannia community
7. – Governing: Local Government and Administration
8. – Developing Wilcannia’s cultural life: Social institutions
RECOMMENDATIONS: This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. Continue to regularly maintain the building, particularly repainting at regular intervals. Reinstatement of the original picket fence would add to the buildings appearance.

C1912 VIEW OF THE WILCANNIA ATHENÆUM
(Source: State Library of New South Wales 06744h)

SOURCES:
Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item No 085
NSW Land Titles Office
Wilcannia Athenæum Minutes, 1897 to 1937
**Wilcannia CDEP Building (fmr West Darling Transport), 39 Reid Street**

**HERITAGE LISTING – NIL**

**HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION:** A substantial former garage building constructed c1940, in the Art Deco style for West Darling Transport. This company was established by Harry Ding, the legendary Birdsville mailman who moved to Wilcannia in 1944. In the 1990s it served as the premises of Wilcannia Rural Supplies and is currently used as the Wilcannia CDEP Headquarters.

Despite changes, the building is an important component within the streetscape. It retains major Art Deco components including large rounded parapet elements. The original shop fronts and entrance doors have been removed, and a new cantilevered bullnose verandah has been added.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:** This building is one of a small number of Inter War buildings deriving its detailing from Art Deco/Moderne design, and reflects the growth of Wilcannia at that time.

**HISTORIC THEMES**
3. – Developing the local and regional economies: Commerce, Agriculture, Transport
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. This building should be added to the Central Darling Shire LEP Schedule of Heritage Items.
Continue to regularly maintain the building, particularly repainting at regular intervals.

**SOURCES:**
Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 086
Ding, H. 1988 “Thirty Years With Men” p49
2010 View of former West Darling Transport - note awning detailing

Former West Darling Transport building, c1950
(Source: John Evans)
Row of Shops, 40 Reid Street

HERITAGE LISTING – NIL

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: This row of six attached timber and masonry shops reflects the character of early Wilcannia in the late 19th century. Two of the shops were upgraded in 2009 and are now tenanted. The remaining central section requires upgrading. There are issues regarding the ownership of the central three shops and urgent works are required to the interior of this section of the building where the walls are structurally dangerous. (The central three shops have recently been part of a major land fraud case which has resulted in the Central Darling Shire being unable to ensure safety of the building structure.)

STATEMENT OF SIGNICANCE: this row of six attached small shops is associated with the growth of Wilcannia township in the late 19th century.

HISTORIC THEMES
3. – Developing the local and regional economies: Commerce
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia

RECOMMENDATIONS: This row of shops forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. This row of shops should be added to the Central Darling Shire LEP Schedule of Heritage Items. Continue to regularly maintain the row, particularly repainting at regular intervals and maintaining the verandah. It will be necessary to resolve the ownership issues of the central section of the building to allow for the building to be fully upgraded. Continue the colour scheme of the western end throughout the frontage to make this consistent.
1910 PHOTO OF SIMILAR SHOP IN WILCANNIA, WITH CAMELEERS IN FRONT
(Source: State Library of New South Wales 06760h)

SOURCES:
Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 084
Portable Steam Engine, 41 – 43 Reid St (cnr Barrier Hwy)

HERITAGE LISTING – Nil

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: This is a relatively intact lightweight portable steam engine, with single cylinder and single fly wheel, similar to many imported into Australia from the 1850s. This steam engine was built by Barrows & Co, Banbury, Oxfordshire, England. This engine, with a serial number 2514 would have been produced between 1901 (number 2506 “Waltzing Matilda”) and 1903 (number 2665). These portable steam engines were horse drawn and provided motive power for threshing machines, chaff cutters, sheep shearing sheds, saw benches and pumps. The main agent in NSW for these engines was Burgon & Ball Ltd, Sydney, who also manufactured sheep shearing equipment. Portable steam engines were superceded from the 1920s by internal combustion engine tractors and by electricity, but some remained in use until the 1950s.

STATEMENT OF SIGNICANCE: This example of a portable steam engine reflects the significance of these machines in the development of agriculture and extended settlement in the Western Rivers region.

HISTORIC THEMES
3. – Developing the local and regional economies: Agriculture, Pastoralism, Technology

RECOMMENDATIONS: This item forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. This item should be added to the Central Darling Shire LEP Schedule of Heritage Items. Continue to regularly maintain the cast iron elements of the steam engine.

SOURCES:
Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 088
HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: The original building on this site was constructed by Donaldson, Coburn and Knox Limited after they took over the older firms of Stone & Corey and E. Rich & Co Limited store in 1899. It replaced the store known as “The Federal Store” that formerly occupied the prominent corner block. After several partners left and then returned the company was reformed as Knox and Downs in 1912. Advertising of the period shows that the name “Federal Store” was retained for some years.

The building was completely gutted by a fire in September 2002, and now only part of the facades facing Reid and Myers Street remain and are in very poor condition. The walls were constructed of sandstone, with painted brick quoins and brick surrounds to openings – and sections only survive. The original front elevation, when in good condition, incorporated double bay windows and a bull-nosed verandah runs along both principal street elevations with a splayed corner. Cast iron columns, manufactured by Stewart & Harley of Adelaide, are used as the posts along this verandah. The building was originally roofed by three separate gable roofs, partly visible behind the parapet. The parapet was pushed over due to the lack of safety in 2006 and now forms part of the rubble on the site.

The building was originally an important example of a substantial corner store in Wilcannia, and served the West Darling district as a major retail supplier of ‘everything’. It reflected the development of Wilcannia and the region in the early 20th century and the importance of Wilcannia in the Murray-darling River trade.

Currently there are proposals being investigated for rebuilding on this site. An engineer’s report prepared in May 2010 confirmed that the cellar and ground floor walls had lost their ability to take any load. Therefore it is likely that a new building is the only outcome for this site, and this should follow the principles for new development outlined elsewhere in this report.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: The Knox and Downs building was originally an important example of a substantial corner store in Wilcannia, and served the West Darling district as a major retail supplier of ‘everything’ from 1899. It reflected the development of Wilcannia and the region in the early 20th century and the importance of Wilcannia in the Murray-darling River trade. The current very poor condition of the building makes retention and any reconstruction very problematic.

HISTORIC THEMES
3. – Developing the local and regional economies: Commerce, Transport
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia
RECOMMENDATIONS: This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. Given the poor condition of the existing remains of the building, construction of a sympathetic new building (preferably for community purposes) is supported. Any new building should incorporate a post supported verandah and reinforce the historic character of Reid and Myers Street.

SOURCES:
Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 089
Knox & Downs Store, 44 Reid Street, Wilcannia, Conservation Management Plan, June 2007, McDougall & Vines Conservation and Heritage Consultants
**DESCRIPTION:** A substantial post office for Wilcannia was first proposed in 1876. The Wilcannia Post Office and Post Master's Residence was constructed in 1880 and designed by the office of Colonial Architect, James Barnet, who forwarded the plans to Wilcannia in 1878. The contract for construction was awarded to builder D. Baillie in November, 1878. Baillie had been a successful Government tender applicant for many years.

The Post Office is a small, single storey neo-classical Victorian building with a three bay arcaded loggia to the front. The loggia arches openings are echoed by arch headed windows, and a door with an arch headed fanlight. The building has a chimney, a hipped roofed with a bracketed eave line and a raised semi-circular pediment bearing its name and date of construction. There is a timber verandah to the side which is enclosed at the rear. The walls are coursed sparrow pecked sandstone.

The attached Residence, not a usual feature of Barnet’s post office designs, is a fine two storey Victorian Italianate structure. It is also composed of coursed sparrow pecked sandstone walls with a hipped corrugated iron clad roof and two prominent chimneys. Windows at the rear are double hung and french windows open at the front. The building's main feature is a richly detailed verandah to both floors on the front elevation. This two level verandah, with cast iron columns and verandah brackets, was added in 1890 by builder R B Spiers. There are also stone outbuildings associated with telegraph usage in the rear yard, constructed as stables and battery room.

A Conservation Management Plan was prepared for this building in February 2006, and outlines a progressive approach to conservation for this building. The building would make an ideal visitor information centre, due to its location in the centre of town.

**Stage One conservation works** were undertaken to the residence verandah in 2008 with financial support from the NSW Heritage Grants program.

**Stage Two conservation works** were undertaken to the Post Office section of the building, with the reinstatement of the open side verandah and extensive sandstone conservation works. Sydney Gosford stone was used for the stone thresholds of the verandah, which was a major component of the works. This was made possible by the Federal Government Economic Stimulus funding.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. This building should be added to the NSW State Heritage Register.

A Conservation Management Plan was prepared for this building in February 2006 (and updated in 2016), and outlines a progressive approach to conservation for this building. Continue to implement progressive conservation works to this building in accordance with the Conservation Management Plan including the following:
• Repairs/ rebuilding of the unsafe verandah to the residential section
• Construction of the picket fence and installation of a community garden with suitable arid species is recommended.
• Use of this building, (in particular the former post office room and ground floor residence section as a Visitor Information Centre may be appropriate given its location at the centre of town, at the main intersection.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: This is a significant group of regional government buildings designed by Colonial Architect James Barnet in 1978 and completed by 1880. It displays the exemplary Victorian neo-classical aesthetic for which Barnett is renowned, and is an important structure in Wilcannia and the region. The complex is also associated with the extension of post and telegraph communication systems in the Western rivers region.

CRITERIA
The Wilcannia Post Office and Post Master’s Residence is recognised for its high level of significance by its listing on the Register of the National Estate and its listing in the heritage schedule of the Central Darling Shire Local Environment Plan. It was nominated for listing in the NSW State Heritage Register in December 2005. It is considered to satisfy the following criteria under Part 3A of the Heritage Act (as amended in 1998):

Criterion (a) An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW’s cultural or natural history

Wilcannia Post Office and Post Master’s Residence is part of the growth of postal services in New South Wales. Colonial investment in postal infrastructure began during the 1850s and major rural centres began to have a postmaster of its own. Built in 1880, the Post Office and Residence is part of an official precinct comprising a courthouse, jail and police residence, typical of many towns across New South Wales.

Criterion (b) An item has strong association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW’s cultural or natural history

The Post Office and Post Master’s Residence was designed by the office of Colonial Architect, James Barnet. As Colonial Architect between 1862 and 1890, Barnet was responsible for many of the most significant buildings in Sydney, along with hundreds of public buildings in rural NSW. He believed in designing buildings which properly reflected the authority of the state, and was responsible for the Australian Museum (1864), the GPO in Martin Place (1866-90) and the Garden Palace in the Royal Botanic Gardens (1879).

Criterion (c) An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW.

Wilcannia Post Office and Post Master’s Residence, completed in 1880, is an attractive complex which forms part of an important group of older institutional and civic buildings on Reid Street. Located in the centre of town within an official precinct comprising a courthouse and other late nineteenth century buildings, the Post Office and Residence are a major element and contribute to the historic streetscape qualities of central Wilcannia.

The Post Office and attached Residence are excellent examples of neo-classical Victorian buildings. The single storey Post Office is of a simple, formal design with a three bay arcaded loggia to the front with a raised central semi-circular entablature bearing its name and date of construction. The building has a hipped roofed with a bracketed eave line.

The attached Residence is a fine two storey Victorian Italianate structure with cast iron columns and verandah brackets, a hipped corrugated iron clad roof and two prominent chimneys. The building's main feature is a richly detailed verandah to both floors on the front elevation.

Criterion (g) An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW’s cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments.
From the 1850s, each major rural centre had a postmaster of its own as the post office became a symbol of the presence of civilisation in many prosperous outback towns. Dating from 1880, the Post Office and Residence helps to show Wilcannia’s development and increasing prosperity during the late 19th century as the town evolved into a major river port in the region.

HISTORIC THEMES
3. – Developing the local and regional economies: Communications
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia
7. – Governing: Administration
8. – Developing Wilcannia and the regions cultural life: creative endeavor
SOURCES:

Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 090
Wilcannia Post Office History, Commonwealth Archives Office, Post Office Section, copy held by
Wilcannia Historical Society
NSW Government Gazettes

(and updated 2016), McDougall & Vines Conservation and Heritage Consultants
Wilcannia Club Hotel, 46 Reid Street, cnr of Meyers Street

HERITAGE LISTING – CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: The Club Hotel occupies the site of the first hotel built in Wilcannia by Jemima McGeorge in 1864. The stone building was erected in 1879 after fire destroyed the original wooden building. Originally called “The Five Alls” then the “Wilcannia Hotel”, it traded under a variety of names, often reflecting the name of the licensee of the time, though the “Club Hotel” became the commonly used name. It was owned by Edmund Resch from 1871 until Resch was bought out by Tooth Brewing in 1929. The property was then subdivided both portions sold in 1931. The Hotel was leased to various publicans during this 50 year period.

Wilcannia’s first court sessions were held in this building, as were dental clinics and innumerable community meetings.

This significant two storey corner section of the hotel has been altered over time with the change of the verandah structure to cement blocks and infilling of the verandah. A single storey section remains to the main road.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: The location of this two storey corner hotel is indicative of its importance in the development of Wilcannia township, despite the later alterations to its appearance.

HISTORIC THEMES
3. – Developing the local and regional economies: Commerce and hotel facilities
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia, recreation
7. – Governing: Administration: Law and Order

RECOMMENDATIONS: This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. Continue to regularly maintain the building, particularly repainting at regular intervals. Long term reinstatement of the original open verandah detailing could be considered for this building. It is likely that the verandah structure is hidden under the later structure, and it could be possible to reinstate this. Conservation of this building is recommended as it is an important two storey element at the key major road intersection within the town.
Current view of Club Hotel from Reid Street

Early photograph of Hotel, licensee Flannery, 1898-1914
(Source: John Evans)

**SOURCES:**
Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 076
NSW Land Title Office
Government Gazettes (for dates of licences)
Wilcannia newspaper advertisements
**HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION:** A previously handsome and well detailed c1880-90 building retaining similar elements to the Knox and Downs Store.

The building is on a parcel of land originally part of the Wilcannia Club Hotel. The land was subdivided and this building was purchased by Reuben Swift, who owned Cobrilla Station in the 1920’s. Albert Ossola, occupation restaurant proprietor, was listed as the title holder in 1945, when it was known as Ossola’s Café.

Generally, this building is in poor condition. The verandah roof has been lifted off by wind damage and verandah posts are now propped up. There are only three original cast iron verandah posts, with remaining four posts replaced in galvanized pipe. The original posts are similar to the Knox and Downs Store posts, from Stewart and Harley Iron Founders, Adelaide. The shopfront retains slate to the base and elegant timber shopfront elements. Despite its condition, it provides an important element in the streetscape.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. Continue to progressively implement the recommendations of the Main Street Report. Upgrade this building as follows:

- Reconstruction of a post supported verandah (reusing the remaining posts) and conservation of remaining original elements is recommended.
- Retention of original timber shopfront profile should form part of this restoration.
- The owner should consult with the Wilcannia Heritage Advisor who is able to provide free architectural advice and guide the upgrade of this building.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:** This originally finely detailed shop premises is indicative of the quality of construction in Wilcannia township during the 1880s and 1890s. It reflects the period of economic growth and development of that time.

**HISTORIC THEMES**
3. – Developing the local and regional economies: Commerce
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia
SOURCES:

Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 091
NSW Land Title Office
Baker Park and War Memorial, 49 - 63 Reid Street

HERITAGE LISTING – CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN (War Memorial)

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: This War Memorial was erected in memory of local residents who died in World War One on the footpath in front of the Post Office. The memorial cost £600 and was made by W. Larcombe & Sons, Sydney and Dubbo. It was erected by Verman Larcombe and unveiled on Sunday, 3 August, 1924 by Senator Major General Cox. The memorial which cost £600 was made by W. Larcombe & Sons of Sydney and Dubbo, and erected by Verman Larcombe. The funds came from the Darling Empire League. After a number of complaints that it was used by lay-abouts the Memorial was moved to this location Baker Park in 1933-4. Additional names were added to the memorial after World War Two. A plaque in honour of local men who served in Korea was added in 2012. It forms the focal point of the park, the planting of which is comprised of both native and exotic species of trees. Along the park’s riverside edge a walkway has been established.

Baker Park was initially part of the first Wharf Reserve, a parcel of Crown Land that ran down river from Myers Street to Cleaton Street where the punt was located, along Cleaton Street to Reid Street, from Reid Street back to Myers Street, then down to the river, an area of 7 acres. A portion of this area was later excised for the construction of the Post Office complex. In 1925 this reserve was named Garden Park, and then renamed Baker Park following the death of the mayor, William Ernest Baker in 1926. The area continued as a flower garden, and the public could purchase the flowers. The prices in 1927 were 2 shillings for a large bunch, 1 shilling for a small bunch (no roses) - the price of roses was set by the Town Clerk.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: The War Memorial and Baker Park are important community sites which represent the commemoration the war service of Wilcannia district’s population.
HISTORIC THEMES
4. – Building the township of Wilcannia: memorials, parkland creation
8. – Developing Wilcannia’s cultural life: Social institutions

RECOMMENDATIONS: This monument forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. Continue to regularly conserve and maintain the site. Upgrading of the War Memorial is recommended given its deteriorated appearance.

Base of the War Memorial

WAR MEMORIAL IN ITS ORIGINAL LOCATION - (early photo, Anthony Pease)
In Baker Park, 1948
(early photos, Anthony Pease)

SOURCES:
Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 098
Wilcannia Municipal Council and Central Darling Shire Minutes
Australian Town and Country Journal (Sydney, NSW : 1870 - 1907), Saturday 24 November 1888, p15
Western Grasier, Saturday 9th August 1924
Butcher Shop, 50 Reid Street

HERITAGE LISTING – CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: A c1900 single storey shop retaining original shop front configuration and timber awning above. The building is in poor condition and is currently vacant. The front verandah has recent steel posts inserted at a set back line. However, the verandah roof structure appears early, but is in poor condition.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: This small shop is one of a number constructed in timber and corrugated iron, probably c1900. It reflects the more modest premises of many shopkeepers at this time – in contrast to the more substantial stone structures elsewhere in the Wilcannia township.

HISTORIC THEMES
3. – Developing the local and regional economies: Commerce
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia

RECOMMENDATIONS: This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. Continue to progressively implement the recommendations of the Main Street Report and upgrade the building as follows:
• Rebuild parapet.
• Rebuild verandah
• The owner should consult with the Wilcannia Heritage Advisor who is able to provide free architectural advice and guide the upgrade of this building.

SOURCES:

Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 093
Shop & House, 54 Reid Street

HERITAGE LISTING – NIL

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: A corrugated iron cottage, originally with shop element attached to the front which has been removed as part of the re-presentation and conservation of the building in 2010.

The small shop front was used as a haberdashery shop, probably after 1934, and was closed by the late 1950’s. The house was lived in by sisters May and Nellie Barratt until their deaths (1990 & 1976) and was thus known as “Miss Barratts”. The current appearance of the building is that of the original house before the shop addition. The Municipal minutes of 5th August 1918 show that J J Barratt (May and Nellies father) approved the building of a cottage in Reid Street. The current building is next door to the business of J. J. Barratt (died 1936 after becoming bankrupt in 1934) (photo available) which appears to have been on 56 Reid Street. Haberdashery remnants were found during the 2010 renovations.

The cottage retains most of its original detailing, and a new verandah now returns around the re-exposed cottage section. A new picket fence has been constructed to the front.

STATEMENT OF SIGNICANCE: This small shop is one of a number constructed in timber and corrugated iron, probably in 1918. It reflects the more modest premises of many shopkeepers at this time – in contrast to the more substantial stone structures elsewhere in the Wilcannia township.

HISTORIC THEMES
3. – Developing the local and regional economies: Commerce
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia

RECOMMENDATIONS: This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. This building should be added to the Central Darling Shire LEP Schedule of Heritage Items. Continue to regularly maintain the building, particularly repainting at regular intervals.
SOURCES:

Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 095
Wilcannia Cemetery records
Wilcannia Historical Society archives
Shop, 56 Reid Street

HERITAGE LISTING – NIL

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: This simple building has been constructed in stages and the rear of the structure displays its early stone and brick walls. The front elevation, metal parapet and cantilevered awning appear to have been added in 1954, when the previous building, a clothing store known as “Rasheeds” was destroyed by fire.

The building was upgraded externally and internally in 2009, and currently serves as an employment agency.

STATEMENT OF SIGNICANCE: One of a number of early commercial buildings in Reid Street, retaining evidence of original form and materials despite later alterations.

HISTORIC THEMES
3. – Developing local and regional economies: Commerce
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia

RECOMMENDATIONS: This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. Continue to regularly maintain the building, particularly repainting at regular intervals.

SOURCES:

Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Nil
Newspaper reports of November 1954 and personal communication
Building Wall, 58 Reid Street

HERITAGE LISTING – NIL

DESCRIPTION: The front wall remains only of a previous building which has now been demolished. The wall is considered of minimal historic significance although it indicates an earlier building in this location. The wall was recently cleaned by sand blasting, and also re-pointed, unfortunately in cement mortar which is too hard for this stone.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: This wall has minimal significance.

HISTORIC THEMES
3. – Developing local and regional economies: Commerce
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia

RECOMMENDATIONS: This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area.
- Continue to maintain - incorporate into new building if possible in the future.
- The owner should consult with the Wilcannia Heritage Advisor who is able to provide free architectural advice and guide the upgrade of this facade.

SOURCES:
Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Nil
Wilcannia Auto Repairs, 60 Reid Street

HERITAGE LISTING – NIL

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: This building has a brick front elevation, constructed in Art Deco design with curved stepped parapet. The brickwork has now been painted, but the overall impression is retained of an original Art Deco garage frontage. Date of construction is probably pre-1940. The building was recently used as a mechanics workshop for a time - an appropriate use, given its original use as a garage.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: This building is one of a small number of inter War buildings deriving its detailing from Art Deco/Moderne design, and reflects the growth of Wilcannia at that time.

HISTORIC THEMES
3. – Developing the local and regional economies: Commerce, Transport
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia

RECOMMENDATIONS: This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. This building should be added to the Central Darling Shire LEP Schedule of Heritage Items. This building is an important streetscape element providing a strong Art Deco element.

SOURCES:
Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 092
Queens Head Hotel, 64 Reid Street, cnr Cleaton Street

HERITAGE LISTING – CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: An important single storey hotel, begun in c1876, and built in stages, the Queen’s Head hotel is one of the oldest surviving buildings in Wilcannia.

The site was first bought from the Crown by a puntman called Charles Smith in 1870. Alfred Andrews bought it in 1875, and records show the first hotel licensee was Harry Moon in 1877. Moon was also licensed to operate a Billiard Room. The original hotel was almost completely destroyed by fire in 1880 when the owner was John Penrose. The current building appears to date from 1881.

In 1889 Andrews leased the Queens Head to Resch who eventually purchased it from Andrews' widow Lucinda in 1914. Edmund Resch had built the Red Lion Brewery at the Northern end of Reid Street in 1879. Resch, and then the Tooth Brewing Company held the hotel until 1930, and Monty Andrews leased it in 1936 (title). The hotel continued licensed operation until 1989 and was delicensed in 1991.

This photo shows Alfred Andrews out the front in about 1939 (2nd from right, no hat).
The hotel retains much original form, materials and detailing including window openings, overall configuration and general profile perimeter verandah. This verandah has recently been upgraded by the current owner. The building has been converted into a local gallery planned for official opening in August 2017 with conservation works funded by the NSW Heritage Near Me program.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNICANCE:** The Queen’s Head is one of a number of hotels in the township which began to trade in the early years as Wilcannia developed into a River Port. It reflects the importance of the town at that time and the provision of facilities for residents and visitors to Wilcannia.

**HISTORIC THEMES**
3. – Developing the local and regional economies: Commerce, Transport
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia
8. – Developing Cultural Life: Leisure

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. Ongoing general maintenance and conservation is recommended for this important corner building, maintaining the excellent recent upgrade work of the current owner.

**SOURCES:**
Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 096
Conservation Management Plan, by Andrew Stacey, owner of the building, 2015 and updated 2017
Copy of Original Title documents – held by Andrew Stacey
List of licensees of local hotels [untitled, hand-typed] provided to Andrew Stacey by Mary Wilson, Broken Hill.
NSW Government Gazettes
Former Court House Hotel, 65 – 67 Reid Street, cnr Cleaton Street

HERITAGE LISTING – NIL

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: This site was initially occupied by the Punt Hotel, as the punt across the Darling operated from the end of Cleaton Street. The first hotel on the site was a timber building which burnt down in July 1876. Mrs Elizabeth Peter was the licensee. The brick portion, on the corner was built first followed by stone section later in 1879. (This may be the section now used as the residence.)

The premises was first recorded as the Court House Hotel in the 1900 list of Publicans, due to its proximity to the Wilcannia Court House (completed in 1880). This building complex comprises two buildings constructed in stone. The corner building on Cleaton Street has been rendered over. The buildings were changed with the removal of the verandah and installation of a later parapet. However conservation works (undertaken 2012 – 2016) have included the installation of front verandahs, at the original verandah line and to original configuration. Removal of paintwork to the stone has exposed the original stone. The premises has been successfully adapted to use as a café over the period 2010 – 2015 by the owner who purchased the property in 2010 when it was nearly derelict. The verandahs have been reconstructed, and sensitive conservation has been undertaken.

STATEMENT OF SIGNICANCE: The former Court House Hotel is one of a number of hotels in the township which first traded in the 1860s as Wilcannia developed as a River Port. It reflects the importance of the town at that time and the provision of facilities for residents and visitors to Wilcannia.

HISTORIC THEMES
3. – Developing the local and regional economies: Commerce, Transport
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia
8. – Developing Cultural Life: Leisure

RECOMMENDATIONS: This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. This building should be added to the Central Darling Shire LEP Schedule of Heritage Items.
View of building after verandahs reinstated

Sept 2010 views of building with verandahs being reinstated

2009 Views of Former Hotel prior to reinstatement of verandah

SOURCES:
Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 097
Wilcannia Court House, 66-68 Reid Street, cnr Cleaton Street

HERITAGE LISTING – CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: A Court House in Wilcannia was first proposed in 1875. The Wilcannia Court House was erected by builder D Baillie in 1880, to the design of New South Wales Colonial Architect James Barnet, and has been in continuous use since then. (Prior to the building of this formal court house, trials were held in the hotel on the corner of Reid and Myers Streets) Its design follows the typical New South Wales Government two storey Court House building of the late 19th century, symmetrical in form and detailing, and it survives in generally excellent condition.

The building underwent some conservation works in c1976, managed by the NSW Public Works department, and some of the changes to the original detailing may date from then. Original gutter profiles have been changed to quad rather than ogee, and a later access ramp has been added in concrete which sits against the adjacent sandstone and will cause rising damp, damaging the stone walls behind. Other issues include swallows nests under the eaves. The Gallery was added in 1884.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: The Wilcannia Court House is one of a significant collection of major Government buildings in Reid Street. It represents the extension of Government services to the Western Rivers region during the 1870s and 1880s, and the provision of law and order in this remote location. It is also significant for its competent design and high quality construction.

CRITERIA
The Wilcannia Court House is recognised for its high level of significance by its previous listing on the Register of the National Estate and its listing in the heritage schedule of the Central Darling Shire Local Environment Plan. It was nominated for listing in the NSW State Heritage Register in December 2005. It is considered to satisfy the following criteria under Part 3A of the Heritage Act (as amended in 1998):

Criterion (a) An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history

The Wilcannia Court House is part of the extension of law and order to remote areas of New South Wales. Built in 1880, the Court House is part of an official precinct comprising the courthouse, jail and police residence, typical of many towns across New South Wales.

Criterion (b) An item has strong association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history
The Court House was designed by the office of Colonial Architect, James Barnet. As Colonial Architect between 1862 and 1890, Barnet was responsible for many of the most significant buildings in Sydney, along with hundreds of public buildings in rural NSW. He believed in designing buildings which properly reflected the authority of the state, and was responsible for the Australian Museum (1864), the GPO in Martin Place (1866-90) and the Garden Palace in the Royal Botanic Gardens (1879).

**Criterion (c)** *An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW.*

Wilcannia Court House, completed in 1880, is an attractive building which forms part of an important group of older institutional and civic buildings on Reid Street. Located in the centre of town within an official precinct comprising a post office and other late nineteenth century buildings, the Court House is a major element and contributes to the historic streetscape qualities of central Wilcannia.

The Court House is an excellent example of neo-classical Victorian buildings. The two storey Court House is of a simple, symmetrical design with a two storey gable ended central section and flanking recessed single storey bays. The building has a simple verandah to the ground floor level.

**Criterion (g)** *An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments.*

From the 1860s, each major rural centre had a court house of its own which reflected the upholding of law and order in remote areas. Dating from 1880, the Court House helps to show Wilcannia’s development and increasing prosperity during the late 19th century as the town evolved into a major river port in the region.

**HISTORIC THEMES**

4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia
7. – Governing: Law and Order

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. This building should be added to the NSW State Heritage Register.

It is recommended that the concrete access ramp be removed and replace with a timber ramp. This would allow the base of the building to breathe, and prevent damage from moisture penetration and rising damp. Advice can be provided by the Heritage Advisor.

**SOURCES:**

Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 099
HERITAGE LISTING – CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: The Wilcannia Police Station and Gaol were completed to the design of New South Wales Colonial Architect James Barnett by 1881, soon after the Court House adjacent. The heavy two level front verandah is apparently a later addition as in 1901 tenders were called for additions and alterations. The winning tender was from M. K. Power, Wilcannia, who also built the Cathedral in Broken Hill and post offices in Milparinka and Tibooburra. This verandah somewhat obscures the fine original design of the front elevation. To the rear are a cell block and two walled yards with a guard tower.

This building is in good condition, although there are downpipes which have no bases to take the water away from the base of the building which will cause deterioration. In addition a recent entry ramp has been constructed in cement against the building, which will cause deterioration of the stonework in due course.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: The Wilcannia Police Station and Gaol is one of a significant collection of major Government buildings in Reid Street. It represents the extension of Government services to the Western Rivers region during the 1870s and 1880s, and the provision of law and order in this remote location. It is also significant for its competent design and high quality construction.

CRITERIA
The Wilcannia Police Station and Gaol is recognised for its high level of significance by its previous listing on the Register of the National Estate and its listing in the heritage schedule of the Central Darling Shire Local Environment Plan. It was nominated for listing in the NSW State Heritage Register in December 2005. It is considered to satisfy the following criteria under Part 3A of the Heritage Act (as amended in 1998):

Criterion (a) An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW’s cultural or natural history

The Wilcannia Police Station and Gaol is part of the law and order in New South Wales. Built in 1881, the Police Station and Gaol is part of an official precinct comprising a courthouse, gaol and police station and residence, typical of many significant towns across New South Wales.
Criterion (b)  An item has strong association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW’s cultural or natural history

The Police Station and Gaol was designed by the office of Colonial Architect, James Barnet. As Colonial Architect between 1862 and 1890, Barnet was responsible for many of the most significant buildings in Sydney, along with hundreds of public buildings in rural NSW. He believed in designing buildings which properly reflected the authority of the state, and was responsible for the Australian Museum (1864), the GPO in Martin Place (1866-90) and the Garden Palace in the Royal Botanic Gardens (1879).

Criterion (c)  An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW.

Wilcannia Police Station and Gaol, completed in 1880, is an attractive complex which forms part of an important group of older institutional and civic buildings on Reid Street. Located in the centre of town within an official precinct comprising a courthouse and other late nineteenth century buildings, the Police Station is a major element and contributes to the historic streetscape qualities of central Wilcannia.

The Police Station and Gaol are excellent examples of neo-classical Victorian buildings. The two storey Police Station is of a simple, formal design with a simple pedimented front. The heavy two level front verandah is apparently a later addition.

Criterion (g)  An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW’s cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments.

From the 1850s, each major rural centre had a police presence and the police station, along with the court house, became a symbol of the presence of civilisation in many prosperous outback towns. Dating from 1880, the Police Station and Gaol helps to show Wilcannia’s development and increasing prosperity during the late 19th century as the town evolved into a major river port in the region.

HISTORIC THEMES
4. -- Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia
7. -- Governing: Law and Order

RECOMMENDATIONS:  This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. This building should be added to the NSW State Heritage Register. It would be sensible to remove the concrete access ram and replace this with a timber ramp. This would allow the base of the building to breathe, and prevent damage from moisture penetration and rising damp. In addition, bases to the downpipes should be installed to ensure that water is taken away from base of the building.

SOURCES:
Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 102
NSW Government Gazettes April and June 1901
Current Views of Police Station and Gaol at the rear
HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: This building is a two storey warehouse with full size cellar, built in the 1870s from local sandstone. It was used for storage and sales connected with the river-boat transport on the Darling River. In 1875 it was described as ‘the extensive premises of Mr. Kirkpatrick, wine and spirit merchant, receiving, forwarding and commissioning agent, who in conjunction with Mr. Frew carries out the business of stock and station agent’. Early photographs show the original verandah configuration and sign writing on the parapet as 'Frew, Wright & Co.' and then later as 'E Rich & Co.' all with ‘wine, spirits and general merchants’ below. From the 1870s to the 1890s Wilcannia was Australia’s third largest inland port, supporting the mining and pastoral industries, but river transport rapidly declined after the turn of the century due to a series of droughts and increasing rail services to other towns in the region.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE - The former Rich & Company Bond Store was erected c1870 and is the only known surviving riverside warehouse associated with the former Darling River paddle steamer trade in the Central Darling Shire. The substantial size of the building reflects the volume of wool and other goods handled on the Wilcannia wharfs.

CRITERIA
This report recommends that the building be nominated for listing in the NSW State Heritage Register. The building is considered to satisfy the following criteria under Part 3A of the New South Wales Heritage Act (as amended in 1998):

Criterion a) an item is important in the course or pattern of New South Wales cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Erected in circa 1870, the Rich & Company Bond Store is the only know surviving riverside warehouse associated with the former Darling River Paddle Steamer trade in the Central Darling area. The building has historical importance for its association with the early prosperous period of Wilcannia, which at the time was the leading Port on the Middle Darling. The building is set within a group of significant Government buildings and is associated with the early development of commercial businesses in Wilcannia. The substantial nature and large size of the building, located within a remote part of western
New South Wales, reflects the early economic and social buoyancy of Wilcannia at this time.

**Criterion c)**  *an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in New South Wales (or the local area).*

The Rich & Company Bond Store is important visually within the Wilcannia streetscape and is architecturally important for its two storey Victorian classically influenced building features. The building is of significance due to its simple post and beam structure, and the fine workmanship displayed in the sandstone detailing to all four elevations, in particular the front (Reid Street) elevation. The level of refinement displayed in the stone masonry shows a high level of technical achievement. The building survives as Wilcannia’s finest riverside commercial building, and complements the complex of early substantially intact Government buildings opposite, and contributes to the nineteenth century character of central Wilcannia.

**Criterion d)**  *an item has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in New South Wales (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.*

The Rich & Company Bond Store has strong associations with the early development of community activities along the River Darling. Wilcannia became Australia’s third largest inland port and was an important crossing point for stock moving south to the Melbourne markets. The building demonstrates the scale of river trade operations, the community involvement within this buoyant economic activity, and the engagement of local individuals within this river trade.

**HISTORIC THEMES**

3. - Developing a local and regional economy: Commerce, Transport
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia
7. – Governing: Administration

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. This building should be added to the NSW State Heritage Register.

A Conservation Management Plan was prepared for this building in 2007 which outlines works required to be undertaken. The current owners have undertaken careful conservation work of this significant building, including stone repointing, roofing repairs, upgraded cellar access and internal structural repairs to trusses.
Early Photo of the Bond Store, Frew, Wright & Co Warehouse in Wilcannia, c1890s
(Source: Image Library of State Library of New South Wales)

E Rich & Co Wine, Spirit and General Merchants Warehouse
(Source: Image Library of State Library of New South Wales)

SOURCES:
Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 101

Rich and Company Bond Store, 71 Reid Street, Wilcannia, Conservation Management Plan 2007
McDougall & Vines Conservation and Heritage Consultants (with input from Anthony Pease)
Old Fuel Store, 73 Reid Street

HERITAGE LISTING – CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION:  This single storey stone warehouse building was associated with the main retail store in Wilcannia of Knox and Downs, and was built sometime before 1890. It is believed to have been used for oil or flammable liquids storage, and its simple, solid utilitarian form would reinforce this use.

The building is now used as a residence and being well maintained. Stone conservation works were undertaken to this building in 2009 as part of the Local Heritage Fund program. The work has been done using traditional lime mortar, with cracks having been repaired. This will assist with the longevity of this building. A new verandah was constructed in 2016.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: This building is associated with the commercial activities of the Knox and Downs retail company, an important part of the economic development of Wilcannia and the Western NSW region during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

HISTORIC THEMES
3. - Developing a local and regional economy: Commerce, Transport
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia
**RECOMMENDATIONS:** This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. Continue to regularly maintain the building, particularly repainting at regular intervals and monitoring the condition of the stone walls.

**SOURCES:**

Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 103
**House, Riverview, behind 73 Reid Street**

**HERITAGE LISTING – NIL**

**HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION:** This single storey rendered rubble masonry house sits between the bank of the Darling River and Reid Street. Further research is required to determine the original owner and date of construction. It would appear to date from the 1870s.

Stone conservation works were undertaken to this building in 2009 as part of the Local Heritage Fund program. Stone re-pointing work using traditional lime mortar, with cracks having been repaired, has been completed. This will assist with the longevity of this building. Ongoing conservation work is being undertaken by the owner, including repairs to the perimeter verandah.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNICANCE:** An important early residence in Wilcannia, built of local stone. It also has landmark qualities being visible from the other side of the river. It reflects early living conditions and lifestyle on the river.

**HISTORIC THEMES**
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia - accommodation; landscapes and lifestyles

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. This building should be added to the Central Darling Shire LEP Schedule of Heritage Items. Continue to regularly maintain the building, particularly repainting at regular intervals and Conservation of stonework is recommended, including the removal of later cement pointing to the base of the building and re-pointing of stonework with lime mortar.
Side view of residence with reconstructed verandah framing – and stone conservation in progress

**SOURCES:**

Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 080
Police Residence, 74-76 Reid Street (adjacent to Police Station)

HERITAGE LISTING – CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN

DESCRIPTION: The Police Station and Gaol and this Police Residence were completed to the design of New South Wales Colonial Architect James Barnet by 1881, a year later than the Court House. The building is a well detailed sandstone residence, constructed by the NSW Public Works Department.

At the rear were remains of the timber stables, which were unfortunately in poor condition due to termite infestation. These were demolished in 2012.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: The Wilcannia Police Residence is one of a significant collection of major Government buildings in Reid Street. It represents the extension of Government services to the Western Rivers region during the 1870s and 1880s, and the provision of law and order in this remote location.

HISTORIC THEMES
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia – public buildings
7. – Governing: Law and Order

RECOMMENDATIONS: This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. Continue to regularly maintain the building, particularly repainting of joinery at regular intervals. Conservation of stonework is recommended, and re-pointing of stonework with lime not cement mortar.

SOURCES:
Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 104
2010 views of remnant walls of the timber stables, which became white ant infested and unstable – this was demolished in 2012.
Cottage, 75 Reid Street

HERITAGE LISTING – NIL

DESCRIPTION: A modest corrugated iron cottage of one room depth only, which forms part of a group of timber framed houses constructed at this end of Reid Street during the late 19th century. The building contributes to the streetscape character.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: This small residence is indicative of the type of accommodation in Wilcannia constructed by/for working men and women of lower socio-economic status.

HISTORIC THEMES
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia - accommodation

RECOMMENDATIONS: This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. Continue to regularly maintain the building, particularly repainting at regular intervals. Retention of this modest structure is recommended.

SOURCES:
Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – NIL
Attached Cottages, 77 Reid Street

HERITAGE LISTING – NIL

DESCRIPTION: A former pair of attached small cottages, now one dwelling, with visible pitched corrugated iron roof and corrugated iron walls. This pair forms part of a group of timber framed houses constructed at this end of Reid Street during the late 19th century. The building appears to be in good condition.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: This small residence is indicative of the type of accommodation constructed in Wilcannia in the late 19th century by/for working men and women of lower socio-economic status.

HISTORIC THEMES
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia - accommodation

RECOMMENDATIONS: This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. Continue to regularly maintain the building, particularly repainting at regular intervals as it is an important part of the streetscape.

SOURCES:
Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Nil
HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: A substantial, single storey pair of sandstone houses, one section of which has undergone significant recent restoration work, to reinstate the verandah structure and timber floor. It is assumed that this pair was constructed in c1880-90.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: An important pair of early stone residences in Wilcannia, built of local materials, which reflects early living conditions and lifestyle on the river. The houses are an important streetscape element in Reid Street.

HISTORIC THEMES
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia - accommodation; landscapes and lifestyles

RECOMMENDATIONS: This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. This building should be added to the Central Darling Shire LEP Schedule of Heritage Items. It would be appropriate for the second house to be restored to match the work already completed – this would reinstate the paired character of the residences.

SOURCES: Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – 105
2009 photo of houses prior to removal or verandah elements on the right hand side of the pair

View of western house prior to verandah removal

View of Houses during conservation works undertaken in 2010
Attached Cottages, 97-99 Reid Street

HERITAGE LISTING – NIL

DESCRIPTION: A single storey brick building with unusual window configuration to the front elevation. It may have been an attached pair or possibly three very small dwellings, but is now one residence. It retains its low pitched corrugated iron roof. This building was licensed as the Cricketers Arms Hotel and in 1885 the licensee was Patrick McGrath. In 1893 the building was the scene of a murder when McGrath’s son shot a travelling musician because his music annoyed him. (He was declared insane.) By 1898 the building was no longer licensed. In 1901 it was called the Bushman’s Arms in a report in the Western Grazier, when the Patriotic League met there. It is possible that the building may have been used to house members of the Bushmans’ Corp returning from the Boer War in South Africa, and the change of name was a result, although there is no firm evidence for this. In 1954 when Dalgety’s sold the building it was still known as the Bushmans’ Home.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: This small residence is indicative of the type of accommodation constructed in Wilcannia in the 1870s and 1880s by/for working men and women of lower socio-economic status, and essential to understanding the history of the township’s development.

HISTORIC THEMES
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia - accommodation

RECOMMENDATIONS: This building should be added to the Central Darling Shire LEP Schedule of Heritage Items.

SOURCES:
Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 107
NSW Government Gazettes: Publicans List (Craig Rusheen)
Various newspapers of the time including Western Grazier
BUILDING ASSESSMENTS IN OTHER STREETS

Barrier Highway
   Wilcannia Bridge
   Wilcannia Wharf

Byrnes Street
   2 - 4 Byrnes Street, House
   26 - 30 Byrnes Street, House

Cleaton Street
   26 Cleaton Street

Hood Street
   19 – 21 Hood Street, House, Hillside
   93 Hood Street, House

Menindee Road
   Wilcannia Cemetery

Myers Street
   18 Myers St, Supermarket
   24 – 26 Myers Street, stone houses

Ross Street
   1 – 7 Ross Street, Hospital
   6 – 8 Ross Street, Steam engines and water tower
   19 – 23 Ross Street, House, former Brewery Residence
   29 – 31 Golf Club, former Brewery

Warrali Avenue
   St Theresa’s Mission School

Woore Street
   48 – 50 Woore Street, Former Convent
   80 – 82 Woore Street, St James Anglican Church

Big Ampi Windmill, Big Ampi Station, 50 km’s East of Menindee on Ivanhoe-Menindee Road
HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: This important bridge carries the Barrier Highway across the Darling River, linking Sydney with Broken Hill. Its design, with a central vertical lifting span, echoes that of many bridges on rivers where paddle steamers were active. Although £12,000 was set aside in the 1888 Appropriation Bill for the bridge and tenders were originally called in 1889, actual construction of the bridge did not begin until 1894, only to be delayed by a high river. The bridge opened to road traffic on the 10th January 1896 when the temperature reached 112 F. (44.5 C) There were two contractors involved in the construction. The contractor for the erection was Mr. William Rowe, of Sydney, whilst the iron and steel were supplied by Messrs Morison Stewart and Co., Sydney. The total cost of the structure slightly exceeded £20,000. ($2.774 million in 2016 dollars). The lift span was operated under strict regulations which were published in December 1895 in time for the opening. They included the distance from the bridge that vessels were required to wait, a minimum of half an hour’s notice of the arrival of the steamer, in NSW time, and the banning of fires or camps in the vicinity of the bridge.

The bridge ended the use of the Government punt (ferry) which crossed the river at the end of Cleaton Street, so the punt was sent upstream to Louth. There were a number of these lifting bridges constructed in NSW during the 1880s and 1890s, in the height of the river trade, including at Bourke, Wentworth and Brewarrina. The rise of road transport from the 1920s meant the decline in the importance of river trade. A similar but later bridge, with still functional lift span, is on the Murray at Renmark (Paringa) in South Australia.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: The 1894 vertical lift span bridge at Wilcannia has strong associations with the river trade and paddle steamers which plied the Darling River from the 1860s. It is indicative of the importance of the river trade to the economic prosperity of Wilcannia.

HISTORIC THEMES
3. – Developing local and regional economy: Transport
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia – public structures

RECOMMENDATIONS: This bridge forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. Continue to regularly maintain the bridge structure, particularly repainting at regular intervals to prevent corrosion of the metal structure. Council should maintain close ties with relevant NSW Government departments responsible for the maintenance of the bridge and its approaches.
Technical details

- Five spans
- Length of 310 feet,
- The centre span lifted a distance of 21 feet, leaving a passage 52 feet 4 inches in the clear, with a headway above the highest flood level recorded of 20 feet.
- Each corner of the lift span is supported by four steel wire ropes, and counter balanced by weights hung outside the tower. [The accuracy with which the weight is balanced will be understood, when it is stated that one man only is needed to lift the span which weighs 36 tons, to the full height of 21 feet in about three or four minutes.]
- The iron portion of the bridge consists of two ordinary lattice girder spans each 90 feet, and two 35 foot timber beam spans.
- The total weight of iron and steel used in the entire structure amounts to no less than 285 tons.
- The total concrete used in all river cylinders and land piers amounts to 720 tons.
- The total length of approaches to the bridge is 300 feet.
- The width of the carriage way is 18 feet 4 inches in the clear.

Source: NSW Govt Gazette June 1889 (No.317)
Wilcannia Wharf, Barrier Highway

HERITAGE LISTING – CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: Wilcannia was the third largest inland port in the peak of the river trade on the Murray-Darling system and a major wharf structure was essential for the moving of agricultural products, wool and people. It is believed that the timber wharf and jib crane were in place by 1875 and were the property of the merchants Stone and Corey (later Knoxs and Downs) whose warehouse was between the river and Reid Street. In later years a small tramway ran from the wharf into the receive store. It was one a several wharves owned and operated by merchants with river frontage. In 1887, 218 steamers and their barges unloaded over 36,000 tons of stores and loaded 26,500 tons of wool and other produce. However, little remains now of the Wilcannia wharf. The stone landing bay is intact, and some remnant timbers are partly submerged, and will continue to decompose. Proposals for reconstruction have been drawn up.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: The Wilcannia wharf epitomizes the association of the township with the river trade, and reflects the fact that this way of life has now vanished. The relics of the wharf are fragile and highly significant.

The former Wilcannia Wharf, erected circa 1870, is significant for its association with the early period of development of Wilcannia and the paddle steamer trade in the Central Darling. It is the only remaining wharf structure within the Central Darling area. The Wharf when erected displayed a technical competence with the use of local timber. Its current collapsed condition results in the only option for conservation being reconstruction.

HISTORIC THEMES
3 - Developing local and regional economy: Transport, development of the river trade and commerce 4 - Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia – public structures, river landscapes

RECOMMENDATIONS: The proposal to rebuild the wharf, drawn up by Wilcannia resident Mr Bill Elliot, is strongly supported and should be assessed and implemented. Note that this report is included in the 2012 Conservation Management Plan

SOURCES:
Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 069
Australian Town and Country Journal
Wharf Reconstruction drawings prepared by Barry Spratt for the Central Darling Shire, 2009
Early photo of Wilcannia wharf, low river, note chute to barge

1960 view of the Wilcannia wharf
(Source: National Library of Australia)

Photo: Barry Spratt
House, 2-4 Byrnes Street

HERITAGE LISTING – NIL

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: This house was erected in 1952/3 by the Leggett brothers. It is constructed of hand-made concrete bricks and the interior, designed by the brothers has a traditional 2 bedroom layout. The house was initially occupied by the 2 bachelors. There has been little change to the building since construction, other than the closing in of portion of the verandah diagonally opposite this view for use as a third bedroom by a later owner. The block of land was part of a larger parcel which included the current shire chambers.

Source: John Leggett, nephew and Anne Hard (nee Leggett), niece, whose job it was to hose the concrete bricks down every afternoon after school so they would dry slowly. Interview with Chris Elliot.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: This is one of a number of houses in Wilcannia of typical traditional form, dating from the 1950s which reflect the growth of the town’s economy at that time.

HISTORIC THEMES
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia - accommodation

RECOMMENDATIONS: This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. Continue to maintain and upgrade.

SOURCES:
Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Nil
HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: The NSW Government Gazette of March 1878 detailed the area of land to be set aside for the use of the Roman Catholic Church and appointed The Right Reverend Matthew Quinn, D.D., The Reverend Lawrence Bolger, Messrs. Thomas O'Donnell, Arthur Horace Peek, and Richard Bunworth as Trustees. The parcel included the site of this building.

This simple but substantial sandstone house was constructed in 1883 as the Presbytery for the Roman Catholic priest appointed to the Diocese of Wilcannia. The building also served as the Church. The priest lived in two rooms on the left hand side, while the right side was a large room used for early church services. This continued into the 1890’s. The building also served as part of the school until 1924 when Father Walch advised the Council that the Presbytery was no longer being used as a school. He had applied for a building permit for a school the previous year.

It is noted that apparently when Dr. Dunne, came to take possession of his Cathedral City he found himself reluctantly obliged to abandon for a time the notion of making it his permanent residence. There was no church, no Catholic School — the only Catholic building being an unfinished presbytery considerably in debt, which was used as a church, while the resident priest had his quarters in the kitchen. The church was not constructed until the mid 1890s.

There is evidence of rising damp in the base of the walls, due to the concrete paving laid up against the walls.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: This is one of a number of similar substantial stone houses in Wilcannia, dating from the c1880s and reflecting the growth of the town’s economy at that time. It is associated with the Catholic Church and provision of church education facilities.

HISTORIC THEMES
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia - accommodation

RECOMMENDATIONS: This building should be added to the Central Darling Shire LEP Schedule of Heritage Items. Continue to maintain, and investigate the best method of eradicating rising damp – probably by removing hard concrete paving and mortar. Install damp proof course if required. Continue to upgrade roof and other elements of the house

SOURCES:
Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – item no 070
NSW Government Gazette March 1878
Freemans Journal “Catholic Church at Wilcannia” Sat 16th December 1871 Page7
The Age, Melbourne “Country News” Thursday 21 August 1884 Page 7
Pictorial Australian “The Australian Handbook WILCANNIA, N.S.W. “(Gordon and Gotch) Friday 1 July 1892, page 103
Western Grazer (Wilcannia, NSW : 1896 - 1951), Friday 27 October 1944, page 3
Municipality of Wilcannia Minutes 1923 and 1924
House, 26 Cleaton Street

HERITAGE LISTING – NIL

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: This small timber framed cottage is one of a number erected in Wilcannia c1890-1900 to serve as housing for workers in the township. It retains its simple form and scale, and has a face red brick chimney to one end of the gable roof.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: This small residence is indicative of the type of accommodation in Wilcannia constructed by/for working men and women of lower socio-economic status.

HISTORIC THEMES
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia - accommodation

RECOMMENDATIONS: Maintain the original form and materials of this early cottage.

SOURCES:
Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Nil
HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: This large single storey sandstone house was constructed c1880 and was owned at one point by Robert Knox, one of the proprietors of the major retail enterprise in Wilcannia, Knox and Downs. It has deteriorated considerably in the past 20 years, and its notable encircling verandah has collapsed.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: This is one of a number of similar substantial stone houses in Wilcannia, dating from the c1880s and reflecting the growth of the town’s economy at that time.

HISTORIC THEMES
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia - accommodation

RECOMMENDATIONS: This building should be added to the Central Darling Shire LEP Schedule of Heritage Items. However the existing deteriorated condition may make retention problematic and listing impractical.

SOURCES:
Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 073
Wilcannia Central School, 93 Hood Street

HERITAGE LISTING – CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: This single storey gable ended stone building with scalloped timber barge boards was constructed in 1885-7 as the third public school building in Wilcannia. The first building was a timber structure from 1868 which was destroyed by fire and the second, though mainly stone was also destroyed by fire in 1898. The present building was erected by Mr R. H. Macdonald in 1885-6 for the sum of £2350 ($325,985 in 2016 $). The building was originally used as a classroom, however now houses the principals and administration offices. The roof was partially destroyed by fire in 2012 when a roof mounted air conditioner malfunctioned.

The school had 50 -60 students when this building was constructed, and had 176 pupils by 1967. The current classrooms and assembly hall were constructed in 1985-6.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: This 1875 school building reflects the provision of public education in Wilcannia and the early spread of education facilities in the region.

HISTORIC THEMES
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia – public buildings
6. – Educating: school building
7. – Governing: public services
8. – Developing Wilcannia’s cultural life: educational institutions

RECOMMENDATIONS: Continue to maintain this earliest remaining school building in Wilcannia. Monitor condition of stone and other building materials regularly.

SOURCES:
Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 071
History of Wilcannia Central School 1869-1940, Compiled by Helen Gibson, Research Officer, New South Wales Department of Education, March 1969 (from records held in the Mitchell Library & Government Archives).
Wilcannia Cemetery, Menindee Road

HERITAGE LISTING – NIL

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: The Wilcannia cemetery is located several kilometres outside the township, close to the river. It retains a large number of notable gravestones and monuments from the earliest days of settlement in the 1860s to the present day.

The site of the cemetery was used for burials since the township was established in 1864 and although gazetted followed in 1866, it was not until 1881 that Trustees for the cemetery were appointed, according to denomination.


Presbyterian section: area 2 acres, 10 perches, Alexander Laidlaw, George Hooley and Osmond Campbell McDougall.

Roman Catholic section: comprising an acre and 2 roods, Right Rev. Matthew Quinn, Rev. Lawrence Bolger, Thomas O'Donnell and John Ryan.


Burials had commenced at the cemetery before the trustees were appointed but few records were kept before 1881. One early recorded burial occurred in November 1866 when a man by the name of Michael Perry was found dead in the bush, three miles out of town. His remains were interred at Wilcannia. One of the earliest known graves is that of Henry Waters, Woolscourer from Momba Station who died on the 5th January 1874. There were other burials before this date however there are no details available. Author of “Notes on Wilcannia” J. Busby noted in May 1875 that as the cemetery gates were not locked drovers were using the cemetery to overnight their horses to stop them wandering and make them easier to find in the morning.

The cemetery remained under the control of the various religious trustees and became unkempt. In 1927 the Council tried to dissolve the Cemetery Trusts and assume control, however the clergy resisted. Council finally achieved control of the cemetery in 1972.

The Cemetery Gates were installed as part of the Australian Bicentennial celebrations in 1988 and officially opened by the Governor General William (Bill) Hayden on the 16th November 1989. Funding for the material came through the Bicentennial Grants and students at TAFE carried out the work as a project. The approximate cost was $1,000. The project was overseen by the Wilcannia Cemetery Local Committee.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: As the main public cemetery in the Central Darling Shire, the Wilcannia cemetery is significant as the location of burials from the earliest days of settlement – both of Europeans and aboriginal people.
HISTORIC THEMES
9. – Marking the phases of life: birth and death in the Wilcannia district

RECOMMENDATIONS: This cemetery should be added to the Central Darling Shire LEP Schedule of Heritage Items. Maintain all early monuments and grave sites – refer to Cemetery Conservation Guidelines available from a variety of sources (various government heritage agencies) to retain the significance of the whole site.

SOURCES:
Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 114
New South Wales Government Gazette, 18 January 1881 (No.23), p312
Ovens and Murray Advertiser (Beechworth, Vic. : 1855 - 1918), Thursday 29 November 1866, p3
Minutes of the Municipality of Wilcannia and Central Darling Shire Council
**24 - 26 Myers Street, Houses**

**HERITAGE LISTING – CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN (but for wrong street numbers 8 – 10 Myers Street)**

**HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION:** This single storey sandstone residence was originally constructed as an attached pair of dwellings and is similar the pair at the end of Reid Street. The house is believed to have been built in c1880 and used as accommodation for Catholic nuns until the Sisters of Mercy convent in Woore Street was completed in 1894.

The house has been recently converted to a single residence and careful conservation work undertaken. Most notably is the reinstatement of verandah posts to replace the later masonry balustrade.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:** This is one of a number of similar substantial stone houses in Wilcannia, dating from the c1880s and reflecting the growth of the town's economy at that time.

**HISTORIC THEMES**
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia - accommodation

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** This building has been incorrectly listed as 8-10 Myers Street in the Central Darling Shire LEP schedule of heritage items. This numbering should be corrected to 24-26 Myers Street. Continue to maintain and upgrade the residence.

**SOURCES:**
Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 79
HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: The foundation stone for the Wilcannia Hospital was laid by Mrs. Alfred Kirkpatrick on the 4th June 1879. The Wilcannia Hospital was built in 1879, although there had been a doctor in Wilcannia since 1869. The design of the building was by Sydney architect Edmund Blacket, who won the competition for the hospital design. Other contemporary buildings designed by Blacket included St Andrew’s Cathedral and Sydney University.

The building was funded by local donations, including £200 donated when the stone was laid and Government support. In 1879 the Government Appropriation Bill allowed for £500 towards the building costs. Local support was essential to maintain the hospital in the early years. In 1898 of the total revenue of £1,436 only £610 came from the Government and the balance £826 from subscribers and fundraising activities such as fetes, dances and balls. By 1917, with the effect of drought and war the Hospital was threatened with closure: however the community once more increased their contributions and established a unique medical benefits scheme to fund the hospitals operations. The Hospital remained self-supporting through this scheme until after World War 2. In 1923 an operating theatre in memory of Henry and William Parker, formerly Mena Murree Station was built. In 1943 an X Ray machine was installed. In 1950 the Government invested £50,000 in improvements which included the construction of the Nurses Home opposite the hospital.

Over time, there have been notable changes to the exterior of the single storey sandstone building. Dormer windows have been removed from the roof and the decorative timber bargeboards to the roof gables have been lost – probably when the building was re-roofed. More positively, the 1950 front addition which obscured the original building form has been recently removed, and the verandah retains its paired posts.

Of the two mature Moreton Bay figs which flanked the building, one has died and only the stump remains.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: The 1879 Wilcannia Hospital is a rare surviving 19th hospital building in the region. It was designed by notable Sydney architect Edmund Blacket – the result of a competition – and demonstrates the provision of Government medical services to the more remote regions of NSW during the mid-to-late 19th century.

HISTORIC THEMES
3. – Developing Wilcannia and the region’s economies: health care and well being
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia – public buildings
8. – Developing Wilcannia’s cultural life: creative endeavor, architectural design
RECOMMENDATIONS: Continue to monitor and maintain the sound condition of the structure.

SOURCES:
Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 108
Note early photograph in this earlier study and also on interpretation sign
NSW Government Gazettes
Western Grazier Newspaper reports on Hospital Board meetings
6 - 8 Ross Street, Steam Engines and Water Tower

HERITAGE LISTING – CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN (currently only the Water Tower is listed)

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: The municipal water cistern – a riveted iron plate water tank and cast iron support tower – supplied the township of Wilcannia with water from 1884. It was one of the first projects of the Municipal Council which was formed in 1883. The total cost was £10,000 ($1.387 million in 2016 $) which was raised through a loan with the London Standard Chartered Bank. Following changes to government procedures the Council became eligible for a government loan. They requested £8,000 and received £7,999/19/10 in October 1888. By then they had the loan down to £8,900. Lightning rods were installed in 1889 at a cost of £6/10/. The water was pumped by steam engine into the receiving tank from a pumping station close to the river bank. The tank is 72 foot off the ground and has a capacity of 40,000 gallons. During summer the engines worked 20 hours a day. In 1931, 363 hours of pumping consumed 48 tonne of wood which cost £2,541/0/0 ($225,948 in 2016 $). This was after newer engines had been installed in 1929. The plant was converted to electricity in 1934. The pumping station was closed down in 1977. (This was located behind the hospital) The water tower remains and displays Victorian era structural engineering competence combined with decorative detailing.

The portable steam engines were moved to this location from the riverbank where they had been abandoned. They have been stripped of removable parts, but are still clearly good examples of this type of machine, which was of enormous importance in the provision of motive power in the early days of settlement in the region. A more intact example of a portable steam engine is located in the centre of Wilcannia, close to the Barrier Highway bridge.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: The Wilcannia water tower is a notable piece of industrial engineering from 1870-80, reflecting the technology of the time, and demonstrating the provision of essential utilities to the growing township. The examples of portable steam engines reflect the significance of these machines in the development of agriculture and extended settlement in the Western Rivers region. Together, these items provide an indication of early technology applied to the requirements of regional settlement.

HISTORIC THEMES
3. – Developing Wilcannia and the region's economies: technology, transport, agriculture, pastoralism
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia – public utilities

RECOMMENDATIONS: It is recommended that the steam engines be added to the Water Tower LEP schedule. Carefully monitor the condition of the iron elements of the water tower to prevent deterioration and an unsafe environment.

SOURCES:
Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – 109,110
Note: J P Wylie was listed in the Government Gazette of June 1901 as clerk in the NSW Water Supply and Sewerage Construction Department on £350 per year, the same as 2nd class engineers and the 3rd highest paid clerk.
Minutes Municipality of Wilcannia
HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: This substantial single storey brick house was constructed, probably between 1875 and 1880, as the manager’s residence for the adjacent Lion Brewery. It was owned by Edmund Resch and successors until 1929 when it was sold to Robert Knox. It has a substantial basement floor which could be used as a living area during the hottest days of a Wilcannia summer. It would appear to be a rare example of brick construction in Wilcannia, and retains its face brick walls and chimneys. It is slowly being conserved and restored.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: This is one of the more significant houses in Wilcannia due to its size, form and brick construction, and reflects the type of dwelling constructed by the entrepreneurial settler in Wilcannia in the 1880s.

HISTORIC THEMES
3. – Developing Wilcannia and the region’s economies: industry
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia – accommodation
9. – Marking the phases of life: notable local persons

RECOMMENDATIONS: This building should be added to the Central Darling Shire LEP Schedule of Heritage Items. Continue to maintain and conserve the historic qualities of the dwelling.

SOURCES:
Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 111
HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: The original building on this site, in 1879, was Edmund Resch’s Lion Brewery. Edmund arrived in Wilcannia in 1877 and purchased an aerated water factory. The brewery was built from the plans of master brewer Mr. Henry Morton who also superintended the construction. The brewery covered 2,680 square feet and was divided into two sections, one for aerated water and the other for brewing. Water came from a well 70 feet deep, pumped into an 800 gallon reservoir by a five horse power steam engine.

The first brew of Resch’s beer was tasted on the 25th August 1879 and the Wilcannia Times editor said “The beer is very palatable, and although a little new, will commend itself to the beer drinking community as a nice light ale suitable for this climate. The whole arrangements of the brewery are under direction of Mr. Henry Morton and reflect credit upon that gentleman”.

It appears from newspaper reports that the cellar was added after the brewery became established.

In 1880, Wilcannia was one of 34 country towns that had its own brewery. Resch left Wilcannia in 1895, after establishing other breweries in nearby towns – and the Wilcannia brewery, under a manager, continued as part of Resch’s brewing empire. Resch himself died in 1923. Tooth and Co purchased Resch’s Ltd in 1929. Brewing ceased here in 1927 and the contents including malt and hops sold at auction on the 7th January 1928.

A malting tower was demolished in 1975 to make way for the Golf Club and the only remains of the brewery are the random stone walls and small section of stone building incorporated into the 1970s structure.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: The Wilcannia Lion Brewery, established in 1879, was the first brewery in the notable state-wide company Resch’s Ltd, and was established by significant local settler Edmund Resch.

HISTORIC THEMES
3. – Developing Wilcannia and the region’s economies: industry, technology, science
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia – public buildings

RECOMMENDATIONS: Retain and conserve all original elements of the Lion Brewery, and maintain in any new development of the Golf Club premises.

SOURCES:
Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – 108
Wilcannia Times 1879
Western Grazier 17th December 1927
HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: St Theresa’s Mission School sits within part of the original Aboriginal reserve on the Darling River. It is protected from floods by a perimeter levee bank. The Roman Catholic church brought the Sacred Heart Mission from Menindee in 1954 and re-established it here as a Mission School. The Mission comprised a school room and a house for two teaching nuns, and the school room was used as a church on Sundays. The school has continued and new teaching buildings and Principal’s house have been built.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: This Mission School reflects the involvement of the Roman Catholic church in the conversion and education of Aboriginals throughout the region, specifically through the creation of missions.

HISTORIC THEMES
2. – Peopling the region: Aboriginal interaction with other cultures
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia – accommodation, religious facilities

RECOMMENDATIONS: Continue to interpret the history of the Mission buildings, and retain any original structures identified.

SOURCES:
Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 113
48 – 50 Woore Street, Former Convent

HERITAGE LISTING – CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: The Roman Catholic Sisters of Mercy convent is one of the major non-Government buildings in Wilcannia, but it unfortunately in a precarious condition. It is a two storey dressed sandstone L-shaped structure with a gable roof and typical gothic detailing. Constructed in 1894, it was important in the maintenance of Roman Catholic worship in Wilcannia as its chapel also served as the local church at various times.

The building was designed by architect Mr. Knox, of Broken Hill. The building contractor was Mr. Power who contracted a price of £2000. It appears that the building was not completed as per the plans as one of the wings and the front balcony were not included in the contract. The ground floor provided for a kitchen, reception room, chapel, community room, two school rooms and a music room. The upstairs level consisted of an infirmary, twelve cells, two large dormitories for boarders and a small novitiate.

The convent building is now privately owned, and has been the subject of a Conservation Management Plan. Funding assistance was provided for the building to arrest deterioration in 2010 but the building is not used and the condition continues to decline.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: This former convent is a significant religious building within Wilcannia, reflecting the involvement of the Roman Catholic church in the development of the township.

HISTORIC THEMES
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia – accommodation, religious facilities
8. – Developing Wilcannia’s cultural life: religion, social institutions

RECOMMENDATIONS: Continue to implement the recommended actions of the Conservation Management Plan.

SOURCES:
Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – 77
Former Convent, 52-54 Woore Street, Wilcannia, Site Inspection Report, June 2007, McDougall & Vines Conservation and Heritage Consultants
Former Convent, 52-54 Woore Street, Wilcannia, Summary Report and Photographs, November 2010, McDougall & Vines Conservation and Heritage Consultants
Freeman's Journal “Jottings from Wilcannia” Saturday 17 March 1894, p19
1910 photo

(Source State Library of New South Wales (top 06745h)
80 – 82 Woore Street, St James Anglican Church

HERITAGE LISTING – CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: The foundation stone for St James church was laid in 1875, and the building finally consecrated in 1883 by the bishop of Bathurst, although the interior and stained glass windows were not yet complete. The building cost £3,000 and was built by contractors Campsie, Bowden and Woodfall. The stone mason was Mr. Greene who used the stone from his quarry lease on Kalyanka Station, 3 miles upstream. The consecration of the Church was overlooked and did not occur until 1943.

The church is of a simple rectangular plan and there is also a freestanding iron-framed memorial bell tower, in memory of Private R A Lachie, erected by his family, after WW1. Interior features include the altar rails, installed after World War 1 with a plaque reading: "These Communion Rails were erected as a thanks offering for peace and as a perpetual memorial of the following who gave their lives to win it in the 'great war 1914-1918: J. Clark, C. W. Jones, R. A. Leckie T. Marriott, W. Parker, T. Taylor, J. Tomlins.' The Bishops Chair also bears a brass plate inscribed: "To the Glory of God and in memory of Mabel Francis Thomas, beloved daughter of J. M. and Mary Byrnes of Surbiton. Presented by her parents and sister". The funds for these were raised by the congregation, led by the late Rev. Hugh Linton.

In the 1920s and 1930s the church was the parish of the Bush Church Aid missionary, Rev L Daniels, who pioneered the use of aeroplanes for church work in the region.

Following the extensive damage to parts of St Paul’s Cathedral in London during the World War 2 bombing blitz, a world wide appeal for restoration funds was established. The Wilcannia parish of St, James forwarded a donation and received a small piece of the damaged cathedral in return. This is mounted inside the front door.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: St James Anglican Church is a significant religious building within Wilcannia, reflecting the involvement of the Anglican church in the development of the township and religious activity in the region.

HISTORIC THEMES
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia – religious facilities
8. – Developing Wilcannia’s cultural life: religion, social institutions
RECOMMENDATIONS: Continue to monitor the condition of the building materials and stained glass windows of the church and the bell tower, and maintain as required.

SOURCES:
Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 078
Western Grazier newspaper
Transcription of commemorative plaques
Big Ampi Windmill, Big Ampi Station, 50 km’s East of Menindee on Ivanhoe-Menindee Road [S32 28.09 E142 53.79 Lot 4742 DP 762609]

HERITAGE LISTING – Nil

**HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION:** The Big Ampi windmill is located on Big Ampi Station on the Menindee-Ivanhoe road. Like most of the Western Division rangelands the station has its carrying capacity dependent on the reticulation of bore water. Prior to mains power being established this huge 30 foot Comet windmill (which sits atop a 60 foot tower) was the backbone of the station’s water reticulation system, lifting water from a 30 metre bore and pushing it to water points as far as 18 kilometres away.

The owner of Big Ampi station has provided the following historical information about the windmill:

“This windmill was built in the Sydney Williams factory in Sydney in 1932. The fourth of only 25 Comet 30 foot D pattern windmills ever built. Originally it went to Alpha, Queensland, but at some later stage was relocated to Big Ampi Station, Menindee, NSW. The windmill has a 14 inch stroke and has its speed self-regulated by tail position to approximately 19 revolutions per minute. The torque generated in a stiff breeze by such a large fan at that RPM is incredible. Comet production of this size windmill stopped in 1956, but has recently re-commenced. The current Comet catalogue lists the mighty flagship 30 foot windmill as available, once again.

For quite some time the windmill has not been an integral part of the modernized Big Ampi water system. Despite this, the windmill has been regularly serviced by Paul Morgan of Jamestown, SA. In 2015 the windmill suffered a failure of its bearing turntables (these turntables were...
subsequently found to have been non original copies). This significant failure required the windmill to be secured and put the entire structure at risk.

The Big Ampi owners recognized the rarity of the windmill and its historical importance. When so much of our pastoral heritage is being bulldozed into a hole when no longer essential to operations, the Big Ampi owners made a philanthropic commitment to not only protect the windmill, but to restore it to original working order and integrate it into an otherwise modern water reticulation system.

David Catchpole, the new owner of Comet Windmills was very supportive and facilitated the manufacture of all the required parts, to original specifications. The head of the windmill is estimated to weigh 3.5 tonnes. Attard’s crane hire of Broken Hill provided a crane that had the reach and lifting power for the task at hand. Paul Morgan and a team of 3 men completed the required work over 2 days.

The windmill is now fully operational, performing just as well as it did in 1932 and contributing to the water infrastructure on Big Ampi. The Big Ampi owners feel the windmill serves a poignant reminder of the development and watering of vast tracts of pastoral country, Australia’s engineering history and the importance of protecting our rural heritage for generations to come.”

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:** Located on the Menindee-Ivanhoe road this windmill is a reminder of the pastoral history in semi-arid rangelands and Australia’s engineering past. The structure has considerable engineering significance and rarity value. It also is a remarkable landmark along this outback road.

**HISTORIC THEMES**
3. – Developing local and regional economies: Pastoralism and associated activities, Technology

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** This windmill structure should be added to the Central Darling Shire LEP Schedule of Heritage Items.

**SOURCES:**
All Information provided by Capt James Boland, owner of the Big Ampi Station who is requesting the listing on the LEP of this structure by the Central Darling Shire
Note: information from the Comet Windmill catalogue is also available.
5.0 SOURCES OF INFORMATION

General Reports and Publications


Lazarus, Mary, *A Tale of Two Brothers: Charles Dickens’s Sons in Australia*, Sydney, 1973

Reports prepared by Central Darling Shire Heritage Advisor, Elizabeth Vines, McDougall & Vines Conservation and Heritage Consultants:

*Former Convent, 52-54 Woore Street, Wilcannia, Site Inspection Report, June 2007*, McDougall & Vines Conservation and Heritage Consultants

*Former Convent, 52-54 Woore Street, Wilcannia, Summary Report and Photographs, November 2010*, McDougall & Vines Conservation and Heritage Consultants

*Knox & Downs Store, 44 Reid Street, Wilcannia, Conservation Management Plan, June 2007*, McDougall & Vines Conservation and Heritage Consultants


*Wilcannia Council Chambers, 21 Reid Street, Wilcannia, Conservation Management Plan, November 2008*, McDougall & Vines Conservation and Heritage Consultants

*Wilcannia, NSW., Main Street and Town Centre Interpretation Report, November 2010*, McDougall & Vines Conservation and Heritage Consultants


Web Based sources


Note - Individual sources for each place (such as referenced Government Gazettes) are included on the individual building data sheets.