



**HERITAGE  
COUNCIL**  
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

### Removed Entry

*The interim registration of this place was not made permanent and therefore lapsed on 30 April 1993. Notice of this decision under the Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990 appeared in the Government Gazette on 9 November 1993.*

1. **DATA BASE No.** 0580
2. **NAME** *House and Trees (former Water Supply Office) 1897*
3. **LOCATION** 80 Taylor Street, Coolgardie
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**  
Lot 2043 on Diagram 44104 being the whole of the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume: 1634 Folio: 376.
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Shire of Coolgardie
6. **OWNER** Doreen Alice Oliver and Thomas Oliver
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**
  - Register of Heritage Places: Interim Entry 30/04/1992
  - National Trust Classification: Classified 27/10/1976
  - Town Planning Scheme: --- 15/04/2003
  - Municipal Inventory: Adopted Category 1 27/07/1995
  - Register of the National Estate: Permanent 21/03/1978
8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**  
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9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**  
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10. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**  
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11. **ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**  
The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in September, 1991 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.
  - 11.1 **AESTHETIC VALUE**  
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  - 11.2 **HISTORIC VALUE**  
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  - 11.2 **SCIENTIFIC VALUE**  
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### **11.3 SOCIAL VALUE**

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## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

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### **12.1 RARITY**

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### **12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

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### **12.3 CONDITION**

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### **12.4 INTEGRITY**

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### **12.5 AUTHENTICITY**

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## **13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE**

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### **13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE**

The discovery of gold in the 1880s in the areas around Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie brought a great need for water for the thousands of miners in the area. By the mid-1890s C. Y. O'Connor was in the planning stages of the proposed Goldfields Water Supply Scheme. This required many new public offices and houses to meet the needs of the Public Works, Engineering, Architectural and Water Supply staff working on the project. Many public buildings were erected in 1897 in Coolgardie, such as the Officer's Quarters for the Mines Department, and the Engineer's Residence. The Water Supply Office concerning us was built in 1897-98, completed in January.

In the Parliamentary papers of 1896, the Chief Engineer C. Y. O'Connor reported that the land in which the pipes would go through was barren, and therefore "*in designing such houses and sheds, the comfort of the employees would be the chief consideration, rather than the protection of the machinery.*"<sup>1</sup> He also added that stone was to be found along the route, and could be used for the public buildings in the form of rubble masonry.

The likely architect for the Water Supply Office is John Harry Grainer, who was appointed the Chief Architect of the Department of Public Works in March 1897.<sup>2</sup> Construction of the building began in 1897, and was completed by the beginning of 1898, under the direction of the Goldfields Water Supply Branch of Engineering Division. The building was described in the Report of the Public Works Department of 1898 to be "*engineers and clerks offices (6), waiting lobby, contractor's room and drafting room;*

*detached store, blacksmith's shop, carpenter's shop and large stable (12 stalls) with harness room, large chaff store etc."* (See plan in file)

The building was owned by the State Government until 1983, when it was sold to the present owners, F. and D. Oliver.

### **13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE**

*House and Trees (former Water Supply Office) Coolgardie*, comprising a large single storeyed building, domestic in character, built in 1897 to house the needs of the resident water supply staff; stone walls with brick quoins and stuccoed parapets, corrugated iron roof and wide verandahs around most walls of the building.

### **13.3 REFERENCES**

1. Parliamentary Papers 1896, Vol. 1, Coolgardie Goldfields report on Proposed Water Supply no. 10, p.21
2. Morison, Margaret Pitt, Immigrant Architects in W.A., PR 13589, p. 6
3. Parliamentary Papers 1898, Vol. 2, Report of the Public Works Department 1898, no. 42, p.10