



# REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES - ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

## 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

The original stone arch war memorial from World War One has a matching stone panel behind it and is of an aesthetically pleasing design. (Criterion 1.1)

The place is symmetrically designed with a war memorial being set back from a flagpole and a path from this to the memorial flanked from either side by flower beds. To the right and left side and north of the memorial are crosses containing roses. An irregular stud lock formation is to the north. (Criterion 1.2)

The white painted stone memorial is striking in its appearance to all drivers coming from the south of the Metropolitan area towards the city, and provides a landmark on both Albany Highway and Manning Road. (Criterion 1.3)

### 11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

*Canning War Memorial* has significance for its association with the key events of World Wars One and Two and for the way in which Australian society chose to commemorate those events and the deaths of individuals involved in them. (Criterion 2.2)

*Canning War Memorial* is associated with local endeavour both through its initial construction and subsequent relocation. (Criterion 2.2)

The designer of this memorial is unknown, but the stonemason was H.A Hicks. (Criterion 2.3)

### 11.3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

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### 11.4. SOCIAL VALUE

*Canning War Memorial* has social significance as a symbol of national mourning for those members of the armed services who died overseas whilst fighting in or towards World War One and Two. (Criterion 4.1)

To some it is a symbol of victory. To others it is a symbol of recognition of those who have died to fight for freedom, independence and country.  
(Criterion 4.1)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **12.1. RARITY**

*Canning War Memorial* demonstrates the common cultural heritage of Western Australian communities at the end of World War One and World War Two by the building of individually designed war memorials. (Criterion 5.1)

The memorial is individual in its design. (Criterion 5.2)

### **12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

*Canning War Memorial* is significant in demonstrating to those who went to war that they will not be forgotten. It is part of a national recognition. (Criterion 6.1)

The principle characteristics of the memorials are that they are partly monument and partly a surface on which a list of names is inscribed. (Criterion 6.2)

### **12.3 CONDITION**

*Canning War Memorial* is in good condition.

It is maintained on a regular basis by Canning City Council.

The finish of the arch stone surface is painted. It is understood that originally it was not white, but unpainted.

Masonry generally is in good condition, but there are some letters missing from the marble tablets that are in the grassed areas.

The gardens are generally in good condition.

### **12.4 INTEGRITY**

The *Canning War Memorial* retains a high degree of integrity as a memorial.

### **12.5 AUTHENTICITY**

*Canning War Memorial* retains and displays a high degree of authenticity.

It is in a different setting from its original position when constructed in 1921 having been re-erected on the present site in 1956. The original setting included lawns surrounded by a post and chain fence and hedge. Two machine guns allocated to the district as war trophies were mounted on top of the arch, as well the names of those killed in action.

When the Canning Town Hall was extended in 1926, and later converted for use as the local picture theatre, the setting around the memorial was lost. There was a feeling in the community that the site lost its form of dignity and moves to relocate the memorial were initiated in 1948. The move was completed in 1956.

### 13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Lise Summers, Historian. The physical evidence has been compiled by J C Keen, Architect.

#### 13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

*Canning War Memorial* (1956) comprises a stone arch in a formal garden setting, on a reserve near the intersection of Manning Road and Albany Highway.

Western Australians have a long history of answering the call to arms given by the British Empire. Throughout colonial history, Western Australian settlers maintained an active civilian militia and were present in several of the wars of the 19th Century, most notably the Boer War. When, in 1914, Britain became embroiled in the events which led to World War One, Western Australians again rode to battle.

In 1921, in line with similar moves by local government and community associations throughout Australia, it was decided to commemorate the sacrifice of the men who had died at war by the erection of a permanent memorial. The site for the memorial was to be outside the then Canning Town Hall. The names of the dead were inscribed on two marble plaques, one on each side of the arch<sup>1</sup>. Two guns, obtained by the State as trophies of war and allocated to the various local government authorities for commemorative purposes, were given to the district and mounted on top of the arch.

The Town Hall was extended for use as a venue for movies in 1926. The changing use of the place led to dissatisfaction with the site as an appropriate venue for the memorial. In 1948, after World War Two, it was felt that a more appropriate site should be found.<sup>2</sup>

The memorial arch was disassembled by local volunteers in 1956 and transferred to its present location. The move and reconstruction was overseen by local stonemason, A.H Hicks.<sup>3</sup>

In 1993, a plaque commemorating the 75th anniversary of Remembrance Day, 11 November, was added to the arch.<sup>4</sup>

*Canning War Memorial* is the site of local Anzac Day and Armistice Day celebrations, and the ashes of some servicemen have been buried on the site.<sup>5</sup>

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1 Heritage and Conservation Professionals - *Municipal Inventory, City of Canning.*

2 *ibid.*

3 *ibid.*

4 *ibid.*

5 *ibid.*

### **13. 2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE**

*Canning War Memorial* is located on a grassed area on the corner of Manning Road and Albany Highway, Cannington.

The memorial, in the form of a stone arch, is mounted in the garden setting located in a prominent position at the intersection of these two roads.

The memorial is laid out in a symmetrical arrangement with the arch and flagpole aligned at either end of a central access with garden beds on either side.

Lawn areas with crossed garden beds of roses are symmetrically placed, together with informal plantings of trees.

The names of men killed in action during World War One are inscribed on two marble tablets mounted on either side of the arch. In addition to the original arch, the memorial includes a matching stone panel bearing the names of the men killed in World War Two and a plaque commemorating the 75th Anniversary of Remembrance Day, 11 November 1993.

### **13. 3 REFERENCES**

Refer to Municipal Inventory.