HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES - ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in November 1996 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 3.17 Inventing devices
- 4.2 Supplying urban services (water)

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 404 Community services and utilities
- 506 Tourism
- 507 Water, power, major transport routes
- 604 Innovators
- 605 Famous and infamous people

11. 1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Located at the end of Hannan Street, Mount Charlotte is a prominent feature in a central location and is one of the few wooded sites in the area. It provides a notable landmark and vista vantage point. (Criterion 1.3)

The presence of the tank, related constructions and trees, visibly situated in an arid landscape, contributes to an understanding of the importance of the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme to the Kalgoorlie-Boulder area. (Criteria 1.2 & 1.3)

11. 2. HISTORIC VALUE

Since 23 January 1903, when Sir John Forrest turned the valve to the supply tank at Mount Charlotte Reservoir, marking the arrival of water from Mundaring at Kalgoorlie and the opening of the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme, until the present, the place has provided the main water supply to the eastern goldfields. (Criterion 2.1)

The place was constructed in 1903 to provide the main storage reservoir for the water pumped from Mundaring to the eastern goldfields and as such was an essential component of the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme. (Criterion 2.2)

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* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, Richard; Irving, Robert and Reynolds, Peter *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present* , Angus & Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

As the site of the original opening and subsequent commemorative celebrations, Mount Charlotte Reservoir is associated with the acknowledgment of the need for sufficient water to develop towns and industry in arid areas. (Criterion 2.2)

The place has historic value as the reported site of the first gold discovery in the area by Paddy Hannan, which led to the development of Kalgoorlie-Boulder. (Criterion 2.2)

The place is closely associated with the work of C.Y. O'Connor, Engineer-in-Chief of the Public Works Department (PWD). His work in the state includes the Fremantle Harbour as well as responsibility for the initial plans and development of the innovative piped water supply system which brought water from the coast to the Kalgoorlie area. (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

As the end point of the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme pipeline and as an example of c. 1900 technology, the place has the potential to contribute to an understanding of the history of technology related to the storage and delivery of water in Australia. (Criterion 3.3)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

The place is valued by the community of Kalgoorlie-Boulder as the source of their water supply from 1903 to the present, which has facilitated the development of the town and region. (Criterion 4.1)

The place contributes to the Kalgoorlie-Boulder community's sense of place through its focus as a prominent lookout. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

The place, as the end and final receptacle for the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme, is part of a total scheme which was a unique engineering achievement in Australia in its time. (Criterion 5.1)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

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12. 3 CONDITION

Overall the place is in poor condition. The reservoir is still in use and functional. The meter house is in disrepair. The valve pit and some of the pathways are overgrown. The site has not been well maintained except for major access pathways. Communication towers have been added to the site.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

The integrity of the reservoir itself is high, but that of the place as a whole has been compromised. The reservoir continues to fulfil its primary function as a holding tank for pipeline water. There are no indications that it needs replacing. The regulating equipment has been removed. The cottage for the caretaker has also been removed.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

The reservoir itself has a high degree of authenticity as it is the original reservoir. A roof has been added. The benches and commemorative plaques are also the originals.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Attached are key sections of the supporting evidence prepared by Research Institute for Cultural Heritage, Curtin University, 'Conservation Plan for Mount Charlotte Reservoir (Goldfields Water Supply Scheme – Place O)', prepared for The National Trust of Australia (W.A.), 2000.

13. 1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the Documentary Evidence refer to Research Institute for Cultural Heritage, Curtin University, 'Conservation Plan for Mount Charlotte Reservoir (Goldfields Water Supply Scheme – Place O)', prepared for The National Trust of Australia (W.A.), 2000.

13. 2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the Physical Evidence refer to Research Institute for Cultural Heritage, Curtin University, 'Conservation Plan for Mount Charlotte Reservoir (Goldfields Water Supply Scheme – Place O)', prepared for The National Trust of Australia (W.A.), 2000.

13. 3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

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13. 4 REFERENCES

Research Institute for Cultural Heritage, Curtin University, 'Conservation Plan for Mount Charlotte Reservoir (Goldfields Water Supply Scheme – Place O)', prepared for The National Trust of Australia (W.A.), 2000.

13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH

Additional research into the use of reinforced concrete at this time and identification of other reservoirs constructed in Western Australia would add to the understanding of the place.