



**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)

- 7.8 Establishing regional and local identity
- 8.1 Organising recreation
- 8.5 Forming associations

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 111 Depression and boom
- 308 Commercial services and industries
- 311 Hospitality industry and tourism
- 404 Community services and utilities
- 405 Sport, recreation and entertainment

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

The Kalgoorlie Club is a fine example of the Federation Bungalow style, constructed with simple elegant form, wide roofline and verandahs, and excellent brickwork and joinery detailing. This is particularly evident in the Snooker Room, which retains a high level of original detail, decoration, fittings and furniture. (Criterion 1.1)

The Kalgoorlie Club makes a significant contribution to the townscape and character of the city of Kalgoorlie, being an important element in the Egan Street streetscape and complementing the broad streets typical of the Kalgoorlie town centre. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

The Kalgoorlie Club building was constructed in 1903 as one of a number of private men's clubs established in Kalgoorlie in the late 1800s and early 1900s, and played an important role in the business, commercial and social activities of

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

For consistency, all references to garden and landscape types and styles are taken from Ramsay, J. *Parks, Gardens and Special Trees: A Classification and Assessment Method for the Register of the National Estate*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

the Kalgoorlie community, catering for both resident and visiting professional men. (Criterion 2.1)

The Kalgoorlie Club was built at a time when women took a subordinate role in public life, and reflects an era when it was considered appropriate that a social club for leaders in business was exclusive to men, having been constructed as a gentlemen's club and operating as such until membership was opened to women in 1985/86. (Criterion 2.2)

The Kalgoorlie Club was constructed as an elite club to cater for businessmen who preferred not to socialise with the large worker population of the Kalgoorlie area, and is reflective of the class divisions that existed on the goldfields and in the towns supporting them during the gold rushes and in subsequent years. (Criterion 2.2)

The establishment of the Club in 1899 and subsequent construction of *The Kalgoorlie Club* in 1903 was achieved by a small group of influential businessmen, including journalist Sir J W Kirwan, doctor A Richardson, merchants R D McKenzie and J W Fimister, agent Staniforth Smith and engineer T F Brimage, all of whom were or went on to become involved in local, state and/or federal politics. (Criterion 2.3)

The Kalgoorlie Club as a whole is fine example of the design work of Kalgoorlie architectural firm Hawkins and Sprigg and in particular the internal fabric and fittings of the Snooker Room retain a high level of original detail, decoration, fittings and furniture that reflect its original use. (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

The Kalgoorlie Club is valued by the community for its ongoing social associations, its connection with Kalgoorlie's gold boom past, and its considerable aesthetic appeal. The place is highly valued particularly by its members. (Criterion 4.1)

Established in 1899, *The Kalgoorlie Club* is one of the oldest continuing community groups in Kalgoorlie and *The Kalgoorlie Club* is valued for its contribution to the community's sense of place. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

The Kalgoorlie Club is one of a small number of gentlemen's clubs established in the late 1800s that is still in operation. (Criterion 5.1)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

The Kalgoorlie Club is representative of the widespread movement to establish gentlemen's clubs in major Western Australian centres in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. (Criterion 6.1)

The Kalgoorlie Club was constructed in 1903 after the establishment of Kalgoorlie as a significant mining centre, and demonstrates the resulting confidence of professional men in the town. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

The Kalgoorlie Club is in fair condition as a result of continued maintenance and care over the period of its history. The building is well cared for but is suffering from failure of the roof drainage system, which is causing leakage through the box gutter along the spine of the building. There is also evidence of serious rising damp along the south western side of the building.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

The Kalgoorlie Club was originally designed as a gentlemen's club. The changes that have taken place at various times have facilitated the continued function of the place. It continues to operate as a community club, and for the organisation for which it was constructed.

The Kalgoorlie Club has very high integrity.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

The Kalgoorlie Club has a high level of authenticity. This is particularly evident in the Snooker Room, which retains a high level of original detail, decoration, fittings and furniture. Loss of the original dormer window reduces to some degree the aesthetic quality of the building as originally constructed.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The wording of this document has been adapted from “Kalgoorlie Club 108 Egan St Kalgoorlie Conservation Plan”, prepared by Heritage and Conservation Professionals for Kalgoorlie Club with part funding provided by the Heritage Council of Western Australia in September 2004, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

Key sections used: Documentary Evidence pp.9-21; Physical Evidence pp. 25-34; Comparative Information pp. 43-45.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the documentary evidence, refer to “Kalgoorlie Club 108 Egan St Kalgoorlie Conservation Plan”, prepared by Heritage and Conservation Professionals for Kalgoorlie Club with part funding provided by the Heritage Council of Western Australia in September 2004.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the physical evidence, refer to “Kalgoorlie Club 108 Egan St Kalgoorlie Conservation Plan”, prepared by Heritage and Conservation Professionals for Kalgoorlie Club with part funding provided by the Heritage Council of Western Australia in September 2004.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

For a discussion of the comparative information, refer to “Kalgoorlie Club 108 Egan St Kalgoorlie Conservation Plan”, prepared by Heritage and Conservation Professionals for Kalgoorlie Club with part funding provided by the Heritage Council of Western Australia in September 2004.

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

Supporting evidence has been taken from “Kalgoorlie Club 108 Egan St Kalgoorlie Conservation Plan”, prepared by Heritage and Conservation Professionals for Kalgoorlie Club with part funding provided by the Heritage Council of Western Australia in September 2004.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH
