



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.

The wording of this document has been adapted from Kulin Memorial Hall Conservation Plan with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 4.5 Making settlements to serve rural Australia.
- 8.5.4 Pursuing common leisure interests
- 8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 107 Settlements
- 404 Community services and utilities
- 405 Sport, recreation and entertainment
- 407 Cultural activities

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Kulin Memorial Hall is a fine example of a building designed in the Inter-War Free Classical Style with decorative detailing to the entrance portico and interior hall ceiling. (Criterion 1.1)

Kulin Memorial Hall is a landmark in the town of Kulin, as an aesthetically prominent building with a distinctive civic presence, and makes a significant contribution to the main street streetscape, townscape and character of the town. (Criteria 1.1 & 1.3)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Kulin Memorial Hall was built as the town hall and offices for the 'Kulin Road Board' in 1928, representing a significant phase in the development of the Kulin townsite and district. At the time of *Kulin Memorial Hall's* construction, Kulin was the administrative centre of a roads board which encompassed Kulin and the surrounding districts of Wickpin and Kondinin. (Criterion 2.2)

Kulin Memorial Hall has functioned as the town's war memorial, and venue for dances and balls, movies and concerts, family and social events, services and

* 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.

ceremonies, sports, Catholic mass, and for the provision of medical and dental services continuously or occasionally since 1928. Some of these functions transferred to the Recreation Centre, established in 1978. The civic administration centre of the community operated from *Kulin Memorial Hall* between 1928 and 1968, when new Shire offices were constructed. (Criterion 2.2)

Kulin Memorial Hall stands as a testimony to the Road Board members at the time who went against local pressure and established a road board office, thus creating a civic presence in Kulin. (Criterion 2.3)

Kulin Memorial Hall was designed by the respected architectural firm, Eales and Cohen, and represents one of their finer regional examples of rural civic design for the period. (Criterion 2.3, 2.4)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Kulin Memorial Hall has social and cultural significance for a number of organisations that have been involved at the place over the years, including Country Women's Association, Volunteer Defence Corps, Returned Soldiers League, Farmers Federation, Kulin Seniors and Kulin School. It has also provided the community's health care facilities, and currently serves the community as a World War One memorial, museum, Landcare office, Health Department, and senior citizens centre. (Criterion 4.1)

The social value of *Kulin Memorial Hall* is indicated by the efforts of the community to retain the place, notably the Museum committee, who fought to retain the hall in 1981 after its condemnation. They arranged a petition and the facilitation of two grants to enable the necessary repairs and restoration. (Criteria 4.1)

Kulin Memorial Hall is highly valued by the community of Kulin and districts, for the sense of place and memories of civic and social events that have taken place in Kulin since 1928. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Kulin Memorial Hall is a representative example of a public building incorporating both the Road Board Office and the town hall in the interwar period. (Criterion 6.1)

Kulin Memorial Hall is an example of a civic building built as a war memorial in rural Western Australia in the Inter War period. (Criterion 6.1 & 6.2)

Kulin Memorial Hall represents characteristics of a country town hall and road board office, and the civic, social and cultural activities associated with these facilities. (Criterion 6.2)

12.3 CONDITION

Regular maintenance has taken place over a period of many years. The cumulative effects of weathering are particularly evident on the external timber elements on the rear wall, and to the ceilings in the back rooms, which show signs of extensive moisture ingress. Overall the place is in a fair to good condition.

12.4 INTEGRITY

The original design and functional intention of the place is clear. No additions have taken place, and the only alterations seem to be the removal of a wall to enlarge the kitchen, and a doorway between the former board room and entry foyer. The place has retained a high degree of integrity.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

The original fabric has been retained mostly intact and the place has a high degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Supporting evidence has been taken from 'Kulin Memorial Hall Conservation Plan', prepared by Laura Gray, for Kulin Memorial Hall Management Committee in May 2000.

Key sections used: 3.0 Documentary Evidence (p5-27), 4.0 Physical Evidence (p28-45), 5.0 Analysis of Evidence (p46).

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the Documentary Evidence refer to 'Kulin Memorial Hall Conservation Plan', prepared by Laura Gray, for Kulin Memorial Hall Management Committee in May 2000.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the Physical Evidence refer to 'Kulin Memorial Hall Conservation Plan', prepared by Laura Gray, for Kulin Memorial Hall Management Committee in May 2000.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

For a comparative analysis refer to 'Kulin Memorial Hall Conservation Plan', prepared by Laura Gray, for Kulin Memorial Hall Management Committee in May 2000.

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

'Kulin Memorial Hall Conservation Plan', prepared by Laura Gray, for Kulin Memorial Hall Management Committee in May 2000.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH
