



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.

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE *

Kellerberrin Fire Station, built almost entirely of local materials, makes a valuable contribution to the Ripper Street streetscape with its visually bold facade with simple detail. The warm colours and textures of the stonework and strongly contrasting render of the detail creates visual interest. (Criterion 1.3)

The fire station, in the Federation Free architectural style, is aesthetically linked to Kellerberrin Post Office (1914), an imposing two-storey, red brick building also designed in the Federation Free style. Together with the heritage registered Kellerberrin Post Office, *Kellerberrin Fire Station* contributes to the aesthetic qualities of the townscape. (Criterion 1.4)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Up until 1997, *Kellerberrin Fire Station* was the oldest purpose-built fire station still operating as a fire station in Western Australia. It is the second oldest fire station building controlled by the Fire and Rescue Service of Western Australia. (Criterion 2.1)

The construction of *Kellerberrin Fire Station* in 1914 was part of a development boom in Kellerberrin and surrounding agricultural districts, the result of the economic prosperity associated with rising wool and wheat prices. (Criterion 2.2)

Kellerberrin Fire Station has always been operated by local volunteers and, in 1979, the Kellerberrin Volunteer Fire Brigade supported the admission of Annette Tiller, the first woman volunteer fire fighter in Western Australia, setting a precedent for a further fifty-five women volunteers joining the W.A. Fire Brigade by the late 1980s. (Criteria 2.2 & 2.3)

11.3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

* 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.

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Kellerberrin Fire Station is highly valued by the local community as a focal point in the past for many social gatherings, including dances, balls, fund raising events, fire fighting training, parades and numerous fire fighter social occasions, and for its role in the protection of people and property. (Criterion 4.1)

Kellerberrin Fire Station remains as an icon for the protection of the people and property of Kellerberrin and districts, having provided local fire fighting services for a period of more than eighty years since 1914. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Kellerberrin Fire Station is one of only two extant, masonry, purpose-built fire stations opened by the Western Australian Fire Brigades Board during the decade 1910-1919, a period when many modest stations were built to meet the demand for a state-wide fire service. (Criterion 5.1)

Kellerberrin Fire Station has rarity value as it is believed to be the last remaining fire station in Western Australia in the Federation Free style of public architecture. (Criterion 5.2)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Kellerberrin Fire Station is a representative example of subdued Federation Free style of public architecture. (Criterion 6.1)

With regard to the development of the Western Australian Fire Brigades Board, *Kellerberrin Fire Station* provides important physical evidence of the nature of the fire stations erected by the Western Australian Fire Brigades Board as part of the establishment and consolidation of its services during its first decade of operation under the District Fire Brigades Act, 1909. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

As of April 1997, the fire station appears generally sound with the exception of the rear of the building where large cracks are in the walls and possibly extend into the foundations. Cracks of this nature appear to be common to buildings in Kellerberrin where differential movement, which occurs because of water ponding and swelling during winter (due to poorly drained clay soil) and drying in summer, places stress on building fabric. It appears that the foundations of the fire station have moved due to the movement of the clay soil. The cracks were monitored following the structural condition report undertaken in October 1994.

According to the report, settlement has taken place towards the north-east corner of the building and cracks are concentrated in areas where there is maximum structural distortion and structural weak points, such as at doors and windows. Cracks have been measured up to 15mm in width. The additions to the rear are believed to have altered the ground water condition, the rain water downpipe arrangement having discharged onto the ground causing shrinkage and heave of the underlying clay soil. This arrangement has been rectified and the downpipe now connects to an underground drain.

The outbuildings are in good condition, and the Hose Tower appears in sound condition.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

Kellerberrin Fire Station retains a high degree of integrity. Although additions and alterations have been carried out to the fire station, the work is

compatible with the original function and layout of the place. Much of the original form and fabric is discernible and its original function remains.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

Kellerberrin Fire Station has a high degree of authenticity. There have been moderate alterations carried out to the interior of the fire station essentially to maintain the condition of the place. Additions have been built to the rear of the fire station which, although not identical to the original building in height, are sympathetic in respect of proportion, massing and materials and do not replicate or diminish the original structure. Structures added to the rear of the site are clearly evident as new buildings which do not diminish the original building.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Attached are key sections of the supporting evidence prepared by Kelly Aris: 'Kellerberrin Fire Station Conservation Plan', (prepared for Department of Contract and Management Services on behalf of Fire and Rescue Service of Western Australia August 1997).

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the documentary evidence refer to Kelly Aris: 'Kellerberrin Fire Station Conservation Plan', (prepared for Department of Contract and Management Services on behalf of Fire and Rescue Service of Western Australia August 1997).

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the physical evidence refer to Kelly Aris: 'Kellerberrin Fire Station Conservation Plan', (prepared for Department of Contract and Management Services on behalf of Fire and Rescue Service of Western Australia August 1997).

13.3 REFERENCES

Kelly Aris: 'Kellerberrin Fire Station Conservation Plan', (prepared for Department of Contract and Management Services on behalf of Fire and Rescue Service of Western Australia August 1997).

13.4 FURTHER RESEARCH

13.5 OTHER INFORMATION

Kellerberrin Fire Station is included on the Shire of Kellerberrin Municipal Inventory, which was adopted on 19 May 1998.

BSD Consultants - Town Planners, Project Managers and Consulting Engineers have prepared three reports concerning the Kellerberrin Fire Station:

1. 'Structural Appraisal of the Kellerberrin Fire Station', August 1994.
2. 'Social and Historical Significance of the Kellerberrin Fire Station', Sept 1994.
3. 'The Old Fire Station, Kellerberrin', October 1994.