



**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 significance of the place.

#### **PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)**

- 7.7.3 Going to war
- 8.7 Honouring achievement
- 8.8 Remembering the fallen
- 8.9 Commemorating significant events and people

#### **HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)**

- 501 World wars and other wars
- 603 Local heroes and battlers

#### **11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE**

*Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* is an excellent and rare example of Interwar Free Classical Architecture and its architecture is unique in the locality. (Criterion 1.1)

*Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* provides a pleasing combination of monumental design, artistic achievement and time-keeping function. (Criterion 1.2)

*Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial's* is a landmark by virtue of its size and monumental design, emphasised by its prominent position on the corner of Rokeby and Hamersley Roads. It marks a major entrance statement for the adjacent Rankin Gardens and, together with the Norfolk Pines (*Araucaria heterophylla*) located in the gardens, contributes to the civic precinct in which it is located. (Criterion 1.3)

The delicate Westminster chime of the clock enhances the aesthetic surroundings by providing a pleasing sound for those in the precinct. (Criterion 1.3)

#### **11.2 HISTORIC VALUE**

*Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* was erected in 1923 to honour the 193 residents of Subiaco who died in World War I, and is an indication of the

significant impact this war had on local communities within Western Australia.  
(Criterion 2.2)

*Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* was built in the Interwar Free Classical style to an award-winning design by Perth architect E.H. Hamilton, and the clock was made by distinguished London clock making company J.W. Bensons. The place is an example of their artistic and technical achievement during that period.  
(Criteria 2.3 & 2.4)

### 11.3 SCIENTIFIC VALUE

The Westminster Quarter Chiming clock used at *Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* is an example of the innovative 'Graham's dead beat escapement', invented by George Graham in 1721 to improve the pendulum's accuracy to one second a day. (Criterion 3.3)

### 11.4 SOCIAL VALUE

*Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* is an important social icon for the various community groups, including the Returned Services League (RSL) and the WA Scouts, who are involved in maintaining the place, and is a significant gathering place for annual services such as Anzac Day and Remembrance Day. (Criterion 4.1)

*Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* is highly valued by the Subiaco community as a site of remembrance for those lives lost in the World War I, World War II and subsequent conflicts, and since its construction has been a designated public space that has functioned as a community meeting point. (Criterion 4.2)

*Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* is a landmark denoting Subiaco's civic precinct, providing a focal point for the community. (Criterion 4.2)

## 12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

### 12.1 RARITY

*Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* is rare in Australia as one of a few war memorials with a clock. It is unique in Western Australia as the only war memorial with chiming bells. (Criterion 5.1)

The clock is rare in Western Australia as a surviving example of a Westminster Quarter Chiming Turret Clock manufactured in London by J.W. Benson Ltd. (Criterion 5.1)

### 12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

*Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* is a good example of the Interwar Free Classical architectural style adopted in Western Australia at the time of construction. (Criterion 6.1)

*Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* is a representative example of a functional memorial, as it both keeps time and is used as a place for commemorating people and events, and is an excellent example of a monument erected to commemorate the achievements of the locals who lost their lives in war. (Criteria 6.1 & 6.2)

### 12.3 CONDITION

The physical fabric of the red brick, Donnybrook stone facing, Meckering granite base, and copper clad roof are in good condition, but showing signs of age. Damage from rain is evident where drainage occurs from the roof down the external walls. The metal numerals of the clock face have rust from the rain draining down the walls.

The interior hardwood staircase in *Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* is in good condition. The woodwork provides the base on which the clock sits and the weights fall. The clock is wound regularly by a council employee, and is serviced professionally every month.

#### **12. 4 INTEGRITY**

*Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* continues to function as a memorial to the residents of Subiaco who lost their lives in World War I and subsequent conflicts, thereby retaining a high degree of integrity. *Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* is still used for memorial services. The clock still keeps time accurately.

#### **12. 5 AUTHENTICITY**

*Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* has a high degree of authenticity. Since its construction in 1923, the only obvious changes in its appearance have been the addition of World War II honour rolls, plaques commemorating subsequent wars involving Australian service personnel and an interpretative plaque as part of the Subiaco heritage trail.

### 13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary and physical evidence has been compiled by the students of Heritage Studies 511 and HS411, Cultural Heritage Management, Cultural Heritage Program, Department of Architecture/ Interior Architecture, Faculty of Built Environment, Art and Design (BEAD), Curtin University of Technology.

#### 13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

*Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* is a chiming memorial clock tower in the Interwar Free Classical style, built in red brick with Donnybrook stone facings on a Meckering granite base with a copper clad roof, set against a backdrop of mature trees.

*Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* is located in the south east corner of the City of Subiaco's Civic and Cultural Precinct on Crown Reserve No. 5964, Lot No. 897. This precinct includes the City of Subiaco's administration offices, the Subiaco Primary School, the Outback Centre, the Subiaco Theatre Centre (former Civic Centre), as well as public gardens and public spaces with a collection of mature trees, some dating from early settlement'.<sup>1</sup>

In the late 1890s, controversy existed about the civic centre of the developing district of Subiaco, with initial housing and business development being near the railway station at the northern end of Rokeby Road.<sup>2</sup> The establishment in 1897 of the Subiaco Primary School and the Post Office on the southwest corner of the intersection of Bagot and Rokeby Roads, and then in 1899 the Council Chambers on the western side of Rokeby Road, confirmed the civic centre of Subiaco as being bounded by Bagot, Rokeby and Hamersley Roads.<sup>3</sup>

The Rankin Gardens were initially opened as the Municipal Gardens of Subiaco by the Premier of Western Australia, Sir John Forrest, on 3 November 1900. They were later renamed Rankin Gardens after Alexander Rankin, who had organized the garden plantings south of the council building in 1899. The gardens have a high community profile and to 2004 have continued to be used regularly for recreation and leisure pursuits.<sup>4</sup>

The establishment of the Municipality of Subiaco in 1897 generated a strong community spirit focused on the creation of a European-styled township.<sup>5</sup> This community spirit, which was expressed in various patriotic activities during World War I, led to the establishment of a committee to fundraise for a memorial to the fallen soldiers of Subiaco.<sup>6</sup>

*Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* was built at a time of transition in Subiaco's history. Financial difficulties and local unemployment changed the development of Subiaco from that of buoyed progress to one of economic hardship. Dissent about what was best for Subiaco at the time created a rift between the Council and the community, causing the local government to become more officious in its style of government.<sup>7</sup>

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1 City of Subiaco, *Civic and Cultural Precinct Policy*, 1999.

2 Spillman, K. (1985), 'From canvas to council' in *Identity Prized: A History of Subiaco* University of Western Australia Press, Nedlands, pp. 76-91.

3 Ibid., pp. 76-91.

4 Ibid, 'Image and development', pp. 133-40.

5 Ibid, 'Conflict and the complexion of peace', pp. 203-17

6 Ibid, pp. 203-17.

7 Ibid, pp. 203-17.

The first war memorial in Western Australia was the South African War Memorial (1901-02) in Kings Park, which commemorates the Boer War,<sup>8</sup> and the tradition of constructing war memorials has continued since this time. The most intense period of memorial construction was during the Interwar years, when almost all communities erected a memorial of some type to remember World War I. Communities felt it was important to have a tangible expression of their remembrance of those who had served in the War, and in particular those who had died, as a symbolic honouring of significance world events and personal sacrifices. World War I memorials are also a strong expression of national pride and allegiance to the British Empire. Australian World War I memorials are somewhat unique in that they commemorate volunteers rather than professional or conscripted soldiers, provide a memorial on home soil for those who died and were buried in distant foreign countries, and were often prominent built features in communities that were relatively undeveloped at the time of their construction. Small communities and rural areas tended to be the first to establish these memorials, with some being erected before the conclusion of the War. Larger centres, and in particular Perth and Fremantle, often did not unveil memorials until the late 1920s.<sup>9</sup>

The Returned Services League (RSL) Subiaco sub-branch was formed in May of 1918 and would have a significant and on-going association with *Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial*. It held its first fund raising event for *Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* in April of 1922.<sup>10</sup> Fundraising for the full cost of *Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* after the War proved difficult because of unemployment, the residual hardships resulting from the War, which included the loss of family members, and the effects of an epidemic of pneumonic influenza in 1919. Funds raised were sufficient to pay for the foundation stone, which was laid on 17 December 1922.<sup>11</sup> The Council then assisted by contributing more than £1400 towards the cost of construction, purchase of the clock, and upgrading the area surrounding *Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial*. The memorial was to be sited at a prominent location in Rankin Gardens, where it would define the entry to the civic precinct from the south.<sup>12</sup>

The design of *Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* was the subject of an architectural competition, which attracted thirty-one entries. The winner of the competition was Ernest Hugh Hamilton, who had been a draftsman with the Public Works Department and an employee of the architectural firm Poole and Mouritzen.<sup>13</sup> Hamilton designed St Mary's Church in Leederville in 1923,<sup>14</sup> and the Capitol Theatre in 1928.<sup>15</sup> The latter has since been demolished. Hamilton's career ended when he died suddenly in 1928, aged 57, after falling and drowning in the Swan River.<sup>16</sup>

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8 Richards, Oline, 'War Memorials in Western Australia' (Perth: O. Richards, 1996), p. 91

9 Richards, O. 'The Empty Tomb: Memorials to World War Two in Western Australia', in J. Gregory (ed.) *On the Homefront: Western Australia and World War Two*, University of Western Australia Press, Nedlands WA, 1996, pp.272-80.

10 Listening Post, April 1922.

11 Spillman, K. (1985), 'Conflict and the complexion of peace', pp. 203-17.

12 Ibid, 'Adjustments', pp. 203-81.

13 *St Mary's Parish, Leederville, Western Australia*, [www.aranmore.wa.edu.au/stmarys/st\\_marys.html](http://www.aranmore.wa.edu.au/stmarys/st_marys.html) [Accessed Online 18 March 2004]

14 Heritage Council of Western Australia Permanent Listing document, 1999.

15 Honniball, J., *Cinemas 1896-1985*, [Online] [www.mcc.murdoch.edu.au/ReadingRoom](http://www.mcc.murdoch.edu.au/ReadingRoom) [Accessed 28 May 2004]

16 *St Mary's Parish, Leederville, Western Australia*, [Online]

*Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* is a chiming memorial clock built in Inter-War Free Classical style.<sup>17</sup> It is constructed as a four-walled tower using red Midland brick facing and Donnybrook quoin-bricks and stands on a Meckering granite base. Donnybrook stone was a popular facing material for office and public buildings during the Interwar period.<sup>18</sup>

*Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* has a four-faced Westminster Quarter Chiming Turret Clock supplied by distinguished London clock making company J.W. Bensons (est. 1749). James William Benson was a clockmaker in London from 1857 to 1887, and his company produced prominent clocks for clients around the world, including St James Cathedral Toronto and Westminster's 'Big Ben'. J.W. Benson is now a subsidiary of Mappin and Web of London.<sup>19</sup>

The clock was made using the best materials available at the time. Its initial quote was for £642, a second quote provided was for the reduced sum of £604/10/6, and the final quote settled at £559/10/0. The changes in the clock's price are attributed to a fall in the price of some of the materials used.<sup>20</sup> The Westminster Quarter Chiming Turret Clock was originally made to keep accurate time for eight days before it needed winding. It contains five bells, one large and four small, made from copper and Mount Biscoff tin. The large bell chimes on the hour the four smaller bells every quarter of an hour. Soon after the clock for *Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* was constructed, Benson's London factory was destroyed by fire and all plans lost.

Local resident A.R.N. Wright, who was part of the original Subiaco Fallen Soldiers Committee that approached the Subiaco Council requesting funds, handled much of the correspondence with the clockmakers J.W. Benson.<sup>21</sup> Alfred Robert L. Wright Esq., President of the Western Australian Institution of Architects, from 1919-22, 1923-24 and 1926-27, handled all other correspondence with J.W. Benson.<sup>22</sup> J.W. Benson provided the local builder, F.E. Sedgely, with detailed specifications for the housing of the clock. The specifications included recommendations for the thickness of the walls, depending on building materials used, to ensure the clock and its bells would fit and be secure within the tower.<sup>23</sup>

The copper clad roof on *Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* was made by Lawrence Arcus, of Arcus Ltd.<sup>24</sup> Arcus Ltd was established in Perth on 4 July 1923 by the brothers Lawrence and Walter Arcus, and Lawrence's son John (Jack) Arcus.<sup>25</sup> Lawrence Arcus, a copper sheeting specialist, and his brother Walter Arcus had been sent to Perth from Sydney in c.1895 by Wunderlich to undertake pressed metal ceiling work at His Majesty's Theatre.<sup>26</sup> They also completed pressed metal work at the Palace Hotel and folded metal work around the shop front of London Court.<sup>27</sup> Contrary to a City of Subiaco heritage plaque,

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17 Apperly, R. Irving, R. & Reynolds, P. (1989), *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture. Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus and Robertson, Sydney

18 Hocking, I. (1987), *Perth: the building challenge*, Master Builders' Association, Perth, p. 27.

19 Letter, J.W. Benson Ltd. to A.R.N Wright, 23 June 1922. Clock's factory number is 768/6.

20 *ibid.*

21 Minutes Subiaco Council, 10th July 1923.

22 Royal Institute of Architects, [Online] [www.architecture.com.au](http://www.architecture.com.au) [Accessed 20 April 2004]

23 Letter, from J.W. Benson Ltd. addressed A. R. N Wright, 23 June 1922.

24 Don Arcus, grandson of Lawrence, *Pers. Comm.* with Gina Pickering 18 April 2004. Don recalls that when a young boy, his grandfather told him he made the copper roof.

25 Minutes of Arcus Limited 1923.

26 Ray Arcus, *Personal Communication* with Gina Pickering, 16 April 2004.

27 *Ibid.*

which was added to *Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* in 2003, Arcus Metal Products was not responsible for the copper roof. However, Arcus Metal Products has direct family connections with the original Arcus Ltd.<sup>28</sup>

Governor Newdegate unveiled the completed *Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* on 25 November 1923.<sup>29</sup> *Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* was originally dedicated to the memory of the 193 residents of Subiaco who died in military service during World War I.

The Scouts Association was present at the unveiling ceremony of *Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* on 25 November 1923 and has continued to have a long connection with *Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial*.<sup>30</sup> The Scouts have traditionally used *Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* as a landmark from which to begin their own events. In 1924, four Rovers set off from *Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* to Bunbury and in 1931, hundreds of Scouts and former Scouts paraded from *Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* and along Rokeby Road to celebrate the opening of the new Subiaco Scout Hall.<sup>31</sup> As part of the fund raising efforts for the Red Cross during World War II, the Subiaco Scouts initiated 'a mile of pennies' from *Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* to their Scout Hall.<sup>32</sup>

After World War II, additional marble tablets were added to commemorate those who lost their lives. Concrete slab paving was used along Hamersley Road and a low brick wall built to delineate the *Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* site from Rankin Gardens. A flagpole was erected in front of the brick wall on the eastern edge of Rankin Gardens.

Between 1947 and 1960, *Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* featured in the logo for the *Subiaco Weekly Gazette*.<sup>33</sup>

In 1981, the heritage significance of *Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* was formally recognised by the National Trust. In the following year it was placed on the Register of the National Estate.

On Anzac Day Eve in 1984, *Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* was defaced with anti-war graffiti. The slogans equated war with rape and were spray-painted on the back of the memorial.<sup>34</sup> Since this time, the Subiaco Scouts and Scarborough Cubs have held a vigil at the place on the night before Anzac Day. In 2001 the Mirrabooka Scouts have joined them in a roster system to perform this duty.

In 1994, the RSL commissioned a plaque for *Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* commemorating the fallen soldiers from wars in Borneo, Korea, Malaya and Vietnam. The RSL play a key role in Anzac Day and Remembrance Day ceremonies each year, and with the financial support of the Subiaco Council, continue to be responsible for the ongoing maintenance and repair of *Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial*.<sup>35</sup> In May 2003, the memorial was restored and painted.

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28 Terry Arcus, MD of Arcus Metal Products, *Pers Comm* with Gina Pickering, 16 April 2004.

29 Spilman, K., (1985), 'Conflict and the complexion of peace', pp. 203-17.

30 *Daily Mail*, 25 November 1923.

31 Joyce Page, "Lady Cubmaster" with Subiaco Cub Pack 1937-77, *Pers Comm* with Gina Pickering, 11 March 2004.

32 Joyce Page, *Personal Communication*. with Gina Pickering, 11 March 2004.

33 *Subiaco Weekly Gazette*, vol. 1. no.1. 28 August 1947 to vol.7. no.2234. 2 June 1960.

34 *Subiaco Post*, 1 May 1984, Volume 8, no 15, p.1.

35 Subiaco RSL Sub Branch Minutes, 1993, General Business: Letter to be sent to Subiaco City Council, 30 June 1993, Re: maintenance of Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial.



Attendance by the general public at Anzac day and Remembrance Day commemorations has been growing over recent years.<sup>36</sup> The Scouts are responsible for raising and lowering the flag in the grounds of *Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial*. Two scouts remain on guard at either side of the honour roll while the traditional Anzac Day March takes place. The Scouts are involved in a short march from the Subiaco Post Office to *Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial*. Approximately 40 scouts took part in the Anzac Day preparations, service and parade on 25 April 2004.<sup>37</sup>

In 2004, the place continues to be used as a memorial site.

### 13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

*Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* is a chiming memorial clock tower in Inter-War Free Classical style, built in red brick with Donnybrook stone facings on a Meckering granite base with a copper clad roof, set against a backdrop of mature trees. It was completed in 1923 to commemorate the town's 193 fallen soldiers from the First World War. It is designed in a square formation on a three-stepped base featuring a four-faced chiming clock contained in an octagonal entablature. This is surmounted by a copper-clad roof decorated with sculptural motifs.

*Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* is situated on the eastern intersection of Rokeby and Hamersley Roads. It prominently marks an entrance to the heart of Subiaco's civic precinct and municipal park, Rankin Gardens, and is set against a backdrop of mature trees within the gardens. This includes in particular three large Norfolk Island Pines (*Araucaria heterophylla*). The other corner sites contain circa 1980 commercial buildings.

Designed in the Inter-War Free Classical style<sup>38</sup>, *Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* is approximately 17.5 metres high and stands on a square base of three steps made from smooth-faced blocks of Meckering granite. Four further courses of these granite blocks have been used to form a square plinth for the tower. On each side, with the exception of the northwestern wall facing Rankin Gardens, a section of rusticated Meckering granite blocks projects out from the centre of the main stone plinth. The tower's corner edges, between the upper edge of the plinth and the architrave of the clock casement, have been emphasised with quoin-bricks made from Donnybrook sandstone. The lowest quoins of each tower edge feature mouldings in ornamental relief. *Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial's* four walls are constructed with red face brickwork in Flemish bond. Together they form a slightly tapered square tower whose four sides are differentiated by their decorative elements.

The southeastern wall of *Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* faces the intersection of Rokeby and Hamersley Roads. On this side, situated directly above the rusticated section of the plinth, are three marble tablets which have been mounted in a classical-style aedicule constructed from cement with a plaster finish. Inscribed on the frieze are the words SUBIACO FALLEN SOLDIERS MEMORIAL. The names of 57 fallen soldiers from the First World War have been listed on the tablets. Above this aedicule has been placed an additional marble tablet inscribed

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36 Allan Long, *Personal Communication* with Gina Pickering, 19 March, 2004.

37 Witnessed by Gina Pickering and Tory Woodhouse, Anzac Day Service, 25 April 2004.

38 Apperly, R., Irving, R., & Reynolds, P., (1989) *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus & Robertson, North Ryde, pp.158-61.

with the names of 72 fallen soldiers from the Second World War.<sup>39</sup> A large bronze wreath has been mounted on the face brickwork above this tablet.

Incorporated in the plinth below, on the second course of rusticated blocks, is a single smooth-faced foundation stone. Engraved on this block and highlighted in gold paint is the following inscription:

THE STONE WAS LAID BY HIS EXCELLENCE THE GOVERNOR SIR FRANCIS ALEXANDER  
NEWDEGATE K.C.M.G. 17TH DECEMBER 1922.

Aligned and to the right of the foundation stone, mounted on the recessed smooth surfaced section of the plinth, is a bronze plaque. This is undated, bears the emblem of the Returned and Services League of Australia and reads:

IN MEMORY OF THE FALLEN FROM BORNEO-KOREA-MALAYA-VIETNAM.  
DUTY NOBLY DONE.

A commemorative plaque from the City of Subiaco has been mounted in a corresponding position to the left of the foundation stone and reads:

*Fallen Soldiers Memorial – 1923*

*Built to commemorate the residents of Subiaco who lost their lives in the First World War, the Memorial also acknowledges lives lost in subsequent conflicts. Designed by E.H.Hamilton, the building of the tower was aided by public subscription. The Subiaco Municipal Council provided the clock, made by Bensons of London at a cost of 600 pounds. The copper cone was built by Arcus Metal Products of Subiaco.*

Both the northeastern and southwestern walls of *Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* feature three marble tablets mounted in an aedicule whose style corresponds to that of the southeastern wall. Each set of tablets feature a further 57 names of fallen Subiaco soldiers from the First World War, making a total of 193 seven killed in World War One. Inscribed on the frieze on the north eastern entablature are the words THE GREAT WAR 1914-1919, and the entablature on the south western wall reads THEIR NAMES LIVETH FOR EVERMORE.

The northwestern wall of the *Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* faces Rankin Gardens. The smooth granite plinth on this side incorporates three steps leading up to a central doorcase flanked by cement pilasters and architrave made from heavy cement with a plastered finish. On the uppermost course of the plinth, the words E H HAMILTON ARCHITECT are engraved on the smooth-faced granite block closest to the left hand side architrave. Engraved in the corresponding position, on the right hand side of the architrave, are the words P F SEDGLEY BUILDER. The metal door is painted green and features a cast knocker, grate and three hinges. It provides access to the clock mechanism within the tower. On both sides of the tower door, and above the plinth, a marble tablet has been mounted bearing eleven names of fallen World War One soldiers from Subiaco.

Situated above the commemorative tablets, on each side of the tower there is a narrow, deep-set window surrounded by a casement of Donnybrook sandstone. The architrave of each window is decorated with sculptured sandstone in a scroll motif. Higher again, above the red face brickwork and on each side of the tower, are the faces of a Turret Westminster Quarter Chiming Clock. Each face is set in a classical style cartouche sculpted in Donnybrook sandstone and is made of 21

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39 Richards, O. (1996), War Memorials in Western Australia, Como, Oline Richards.

ounce opal glass designed to be illuminated at night.<sup>40</sup> Black-painted cast iron has been used in the design of the minute and hour hands and numerals, and three gilded, decorative circles have been fitted to each of the faces. A series of five rectangular vents have been constructed in sandstone on each corner of the clock entablature.

The copper-clad roof of *Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* is approximately two metres in height. Mounted midway up each of its four flattened edges is a laurel motif sculpted in copper. The roof is surmounted by a finial depicting a sculpted copper forearm and hand clutching a larger laurel.

The internal walls of the *Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* are rendered with cement and it has a timber mezzanine floor. The ceiling, constructed from steel beams and timber lining, supports five chiming bells, which are made of copper and Mt Biscoff tin. A timber ladder leads to the clock, which is positioned on a timber mezzanine floor.

The Westminster chiming clock is designed to strike the hours on the largest bell and chime the Westminster quarters on the four smaller bells. The total weight of the bells is 622.23kg.<sup>41</sup> All major mechanical components of the Westminster chiming clock contain one or more of the following materials: gunmetal, cast iron, silver, steel, Bessemer steel, brass, and zinc.<sup>42</sup> The escapement used within the clock mechanism is a Graham's 'dead-beat'. The escapement is the section of the clock that transmits a periodic impulse from the spring or weight to the pendulum using a mechanism that alternately checks and releases the train by a fixed amount. The Graham's dead beat escapement was invented in 1721 by George Graham improving the pendulum clock's accuracy to 1 second a day by compensating for changes in the pendulum's length due to temperature variations.<sup>43</sup>

*Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* is in good condition with only minor evidence of graffiti to its external fabric. The stone surfaces are relatively clean with the exception of some staining of the Donnybrook stone due to weathering. Some weathering has occurred to the ornamental Donnybrook stone mouldings situated on the four corners of *Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* above the granite plinth. There is some evidence of water damage to the Donnybrook stone and rusting has occurred on the cast iron frames of the clock face. The marble tablets appear in to be good condition, with only minor damage to the plaster frames.

The internal fabric is in fair condition. Several supporting panels show signs of water damage. General maintenance has recently been undertaken on the clock and its mechanisms are tended to on a weekly basis, ensuring accuracy. The clocks were accurate at the time of inspection.

### 13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

*Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* is a chiming memorial clock tower in the Inter-War Free Classical style, designed in 1923 by Ernest Hugh Hamilton. Ernest Hugh Hamilton also designed *St Mary's Catholic Church* in Leederville (P02196),

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40 Letter, J. W. Benson addressed to Alfred Robert L Wright, Esq. L.R.I.B.A .President West Australian Institute of Architects, June, 1922.

41 Letter, J.W. Benson addressed to the Town Clerk, Subiaco Municipality, Subiaco Western Australian. 11 September, 1923.

42 Letter, J. W. Benson addressed to Alfred Robert L Wright, Esq., 22 June, 1922.

43 Ibid.

which was given permanent heritage listing in 1999, and the now demolished Capitol Theatre.

Other examples of J.W. Benson's (non-chiming) clocks that were made for Western Australia, prior to 1923, can be found in Northam, York, and Geraldton, as well as clocks for *Perth Railway Station*, *Old Perth Boys Schools* and *Perth Girls School (fmr)*.<sup>44</sup>

*Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* is one of seven clocks in the Heritage Council's database. Only one has been entered into the Register of Heritage Places: *Edith Dircksey Cowan Memorial* (constructed 1934), located on Kings Park Road, West Perth (P02232). The others are the Pioneer Memorial Clock (P11030), located on the Cnr Padbury & Dandaragan Sts, Moora; Merredin Clock Tower Memorial (P13478), on Barrack St., Merredin; Scarborough Clock Tower (P16764), on the intersection of The Esplanade & Scarborough Beach Road, Scarborough (currently being assessed for possible entry in the Register); and Town Clock (P07090), on the corner of Austral Tce & Clive St., Katanning. *Midland Junction Town Hall* (P02509) features a clock tower added above its dome in 1923 as a World War I memorial.

One other memorial clock featured in the Assessment Backlog: the Balingup War Memorial Clock (P03700), located on the South West Highway, Balingup. The memorial consists of a "red brick obelisk mounted on a brick plinth in a park setting"<sup>45</sup>; affixed to the sides of the obelisk are bronze name plates. The clock is inserted at the top of the brickwork. The Balingup War Memorial Clock features a plaque inscribed with the words "To Those Who Served"; on the right side is a bronze plate commemorating those who died in the First World War, on the left a plaque for those who perished in the Second World War. There are a total of 48 names recorded – 34 and 14, respectively.<sup>46</sup> In May 2004, the Register Committee determined that Balingup War Memorial Clock does not warrant further assessment for consideration for entry in to the Register. Unlike *Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial*, Balingup War Memorial Clock does not chime.<sup>47</sup>

According to a 1991 survey, the occurrence of a clock memorial post World War One is very rare in Australian and New Zealand. Clock memorials constitute only 2.4% of all World War One memorial types.<sup>48</sup>

*Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial* is rare in Australia as one of a few war memorials with a clock, and unique in Western Australia as the only war memorial with chiming bells. The clock itself is one of only a few surviving examples of a Westminster Quarter Chiming Turret Clock manufactured in London by J.W. Benson Ltd.

## 13.4 KEY REFERENCES

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## 13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

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44 Letter, J.W. Benson to Alfred Robert L Wright, Esq., 1921.

45 'Balingup War Memorial', [Online] [www.anzac.dpc.wa.gov.au](http://www.anzac.dpc.wa.gov.au), [Accessed 13 May 2004]

46 'Balingup War Memorial', [Online] [www.warmemorials.net](http://www.warmemorials.net), [Accessed 9 April 2004]

47 George Spooner, local war memorial historian, *Pers Comm* with Leo Toh, 13 April, 2004.

48 Inglis, K.S., & Phillips, J, 'War Memorials in Australia and New Zealand' in Rickard, J. & Spearitt, P. (eds.) (1991), *Packaging the Past? Public Histories*, Melbourne, Melbourne University Press, pp. 186-87.

