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)

- 3.3 Exploiting natural resources
- 3.7.2 Making economic use of inland waterways
- 3.10.1 Regulating waterways
- 3.13.1 Building to suit Australian conditions
- 4.2 Supplying urban services (water)
- 5.1 Working in harsh conditions
- 8.7 Honouring achievement

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 106 Workers
- 110 Resource exploitation and depletion
- 309 Technology and technological change
- 405 Sport, recreation and entertainment
- 507 Water, power, major transport routes

11. 1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

No. 1 Pumping Station Museum has aesthetic significance as an industrial building of considerable architectural refinement, reflecting the style of architect George Temple Poole, and the cultural importance of public engineering works at the time of its construction. (Criterion 1.2)

No. 1 Pumping Station Museum is a functional building which displays some lively, for an industrial building, unusual and playful features, such as the canopy, Romanesque arch doorway, bulls-eye and long Georgian windows with their unusual sills. These features, together with the addition of the attractive brick chimney in 1911, can be seen as statements about the social and political importance of the project. (Criterion 1.2)

No. 1 Pumping Station Museum is intrinsic to the present landscape and the supply of water. Set in attractive natural bush surroundings, the Mundaring Weir site and the museum have been a favourite place for recreational purposes. (Criterion 1.3)

* 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. 2. HISTORIC VALUE

No. 1 Pumping Station Museum is an historically important building, being constructed as part of the Goldfields Water Supply, and reflects a time of vital importance for Western Australia's development when gold was discovered in the Eastern Goldfields and the Goldfields Water Supply was constructed. (Criterion 2.2)

No. 1 Pumping Station Museum has historic value as the interpretive gateway for the Golden Pipeline Project, a National Trust initiative to conserve heritage elements of the Goldfields Water Supply pipeline and infrastructure. (Criterion 2.2)

No. 1 Pumping Station Museum symbolises the bold initiative undertaken by Charles Yelverton O'Connor and the Public Works Department in addressing the critical issue of water supply to the Eastern Goldfields. (Criterion 2.3)

No. 1 Pumping Station Museum is significant as a testament to nineteenth century technical design and innovation as the beginning of one of the largest overland pumping schemes attempted. (Criterion 2.4)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

No. 1 Pumping Station Museum displays potential as a cultural museum, which exhibits the history of technology, and of Australian innovation. It also has potential to provide a better understanding of the importance of water and resource management. (Criterion 3.1)

No. 1 Pumping Station Museum is directly associated with the highly original Australian technological innovations which made Goldfields Water Supply Scheme possible, and so represents a triumph of applied science. (Criterion 3.3)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

No. 1 Pumping Station Museum has great social significance as the focus and centre of employment and community life in its immediate vicinity, which shaped local patterns of land use, transport and residence. The supply of water to the Goldfields and the Wheatbelt regions dramatically changed lifestyles and patterns of social, demographic and economic development in Western Australia. (Criterion 4.1)

No. 1 Pumping Station Museum, together with the employees' houses, demonstrates a way of life that no longer exists, and which had been important to people who kept the station operating twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, such as engineers, engine drivers, stokers and greasers. (Criterion 4.1)

No. 1 Pumping Station Museum is socially significant as the first regional museum in Western Australia whose design has been used as a prototype for similar local museums throughout the State. The museum, together with the Weir, is important as a tourist destination for local, interstate and overseas visitors. (Criterion 4.1)

No. 1 Pumping Station Museum, as part of Mundaring Weir, must be considered as socially significant to the people of Mundaring and to the development of the town of Mundaring, considering that prior to the construction of the Weir, the townsite of Mundaring did not exist. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

No. 1 Pumping Station Museum, as an integral part of CY O'Connor's pumping scheme, is a rare structure as part of a rare project. (Criterion 5.1)

No. 1 Pumping Station Museum is one of only two pumping stations, which had added an attractive brick chimney. The only other pumping station to receive a brick chimney was No. 3 at Cunderdin. (Criterion 5.1)

No. 1 Pumping Station Museum has some unique features, such as its relation to the Weir itself when, in an arrangement unique to *No. 1 Pumping Station Museum*, water was pumped from the Helena Reservoir underneath the pumping house. Further, when viewed in relation to the remnants of the zigzag line and the engineers' houses, it also demonstrates a distinctive way of life no longer practised in Western Australia. (Criterion 5.2)

In view of the fact that the pumping stations of Goldfields Water Supply Scheme were built as minor variations of a standard plan, *No. 1 Pumping Station Museum* is not rare in terms of architectural form. However in the local context it is rare, as it is the only example of the type close to the Perth metropolitan area, where it is accessible to residents and visitors. (Criterion 5.2)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

No. 1 Pumping Station Museum is representative of the ambitious engineering and infrastructure schemes of the late nineteenth century and in particular of Australia's boldest project to that date. {Criterion 6.2)

No. 1 Pumping Station Museum is one of eight original steam pumping stations of the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme, and represents an easily accessible example of this type of station used to pump water for the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme. According to the findings of R. Mck. Campbell, who prepared a conservation plan for the No. 8 station at Dedari, *No. 1 Pumping Station Museum* is one of only three pumping stations to be found sufficiently intact to provide information about the type of place and its original design and function. The other stations are Cunderin (No 3) and Dedari (No. 8) (Criterion 6.1)

No. 1 Pumping Station Museum, with its boiler rooms and one remaining Worthington type pumping engine intact, must then be considered to be a good representative example of its building type that is easily accessible to the public, given its proximity to Perth. (Criterion 6.1)

12. 3 CONDITION

No. 1 Pumping Station Museum is in generally good condition. Ongoing maintenance has rendered the building in relatively good repair. Apart from some salt activity in the boiler brickwork, some corrosion and deterioration to the subfloor level and the poor condition of the brick tunnel flue between the chimney and the building, the fabric of the building has not been severely compromised. However, as some of the above problems have been identified

as being quite serious, conservation work is urgently needed to prevent deterioration or danger to users.[1]

12. 4 INTEGRITY

No. 1 Pumping Station Museum has maintained its integrity through having had only two (and those closely related) uses in its life, with such alterations as have been made to the fabric reflecting its history of use without significantly altering or compromising the original design concept. Conservation and continued sympathetic use can preserve its integrity.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

As alterations to *No. 1 Pumping Station Museum* have been minimal, the authenticity of the building has remained intact. Two of the original pumping engines were removed to make room for a museum display. However, most of the building remains relatively unchanged from its original design and function.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Attached are key sections of the Supporting Evidence, prepared by Research Institute for Cultural Heritage (Curtin University), 'Conservation and Interpretation Plan, for No. 1 Pumping Station, Mundaring', 1997.

13. 1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the Documentary Evidence refer to Research Institute for Cultural Heritage (Curtin University), 'Conservation and Interpretation Plan, for No. 1 Pumping Station, Mundaring', 1997.

13. 2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the Physical Evidence refer to Research Institute for Cultural Heritage (Curtin University), 'Conservation and Interpretation Plan, for No. 1 Pumping Station, Mundaring', 1997.

13. 3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

For a discussion of the Comparative Evidence refer to Research Institute for Cultural Heritage (Curtin University), 'Conservation and Interpretation Plan, for No. 1 Pumping Station, Mundaring', 1997.

13. 4 KEY REFERENCES

Research Institute for Cultural Heritage (Curtin University), 'Conservation and Interpretation Plan, for No. 1 Pumping Station, Mundaring', 1997.

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[1] Note: This 1997 condition report remains valid in November 2000 according to Phil Bennett of the National Trust who has a good working knowledge of the building as an integral part of the Golden Pipeline Project.

13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH

No. 1 Pumping Station Museum cannot be isolated from Mundaring Weir operations. The building has direct relationships with areas, such as the weir wall, valve houses and supply conduit, zig zag railway, reservoirs and various associated structures that have existed over the life of the building. It is important that a survey of curtilage be made to ascertain the location, extent and present condition of these places and their relationship to the pumping station and its operation.

An appropriate researcher working with relevant Aboriginal communities could undertake further research into the Aboriginal cultural significance of the place.