



**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)

- 3.16.1 Dealing with hazards and disasters
- 4.2 Supplying urban services
- 8.5.3 Associating for mutual aid

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 111 Depression & boom
- 404 Community services & utilities

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Albany Fire Station & Fire Officer's House demonstrates principle characteristics of Inter-War Functionalist style, including asymmetrical massing, parallel line motifs and rounded corners, applied to simple domestic scaled building. (Criterion 1.1)

Albany Fire Station & Fire Officer's House is a well-designed pair of buildings that exhibit a consistent and high level of architectural detailing and composition for utilitarian buildings. (Criterion 1.2)

Albany Fire Station & Fire Officer's House contributes to the aesthetic quality of the local environment as a landmark at the corner of Collie and Vancouver Streets in Albany. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

Albany Fire Station & Fire Officer's House was built following the State's recovery from the Depression, as part of an intense building campaign undertaken by the Western Australian Fire Brigade Board between 1934 and 1938, which resulted in 18 new fire stations being constructed across the State. (Criterion 2.1)

Albany Fire Station & Fire Officer's House, constructed in 1938 and enlarged in 1971 and 2005-06, is indicative of the growth of Albany through the twentieth century and the increased level of fire protection provided to the local community. (Criterion 2.2)

* 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Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.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 Original Fire Station and Fire Officer's House was designed by architect K.C. Duncan, who, in 1932, developed a standardised plan for fire station building in Western Australia, and was responsible for the design of the majority of fire stations built in the State between 1930 and 1960. Duncan was also a volunteer fire fighter; he served on the Executive Committee of the Volunteer Fire Brigades' Association from 1924 to 1942 and became a life member of Volunteer Fire Brigades' Association in 1937. (Criterion 2.3)

11.3 SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11.4 SOCIAL VALUE

Albany Fire Station & Fire Officer's House is highly valued by past and present members of the Albany Fire Brigade. (Criterion 4.1)

Albany Fire Station & Fire Officer's House is valued by the community of Albany, for its continuous provision of fire protection since 1938, as evidenced by its inclusion in the Municipal Heritage Inventory. (Criterion 4.1)

Albany Fire Station & Fire Officer's House contributes to the community's sense of place as a local landmark building at the corner of Collie and Vancouver Streets. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1 RARITY

Albany Fire Station & Fire Officer's House is rare for the Original Fire Station and Fire Officer's House being an unusual variation of K.C. Duncan's 'single bay station flanked by accommodation/office wing' fire station design type, as it incorporates a double appliance bay, detached residence, and its distinctive execution in the Inter-War Functionalist style (Criterion 5.1)

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Albany Fire Station & Fire Officer's House is a well-designed and fine representative example of a pair of Inter-War Functionalist style public buildings. (Criterion 6.1)

12.3 CONDITION

Both the Original Fire Station and Fire Officer's House were constructed utilising good quality materials and workmanship and most of the fabric is in good condition.

The Fire Station has generally been well maintained. The main item of concern is the crack at the start of the curve on the entablature of the north-east verandah.

The Fire Officer's House, has not been occupied for some time, but is still in good condition, despite receiving little maintenance. Some cosmetic maintenance is required however, particularly to the paint on the external render which has deteriorated on the south and west facades.

12.4 INTEGRITY

Albany Fire Station & Fire Officer's House generally has a high level of Integrity.

The Fire Station continues to operate for its original and intended purpose, and although the Fire Officer's House has not been occupied for some time, it retains all its residential amenities and could easily be occupied again.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

Albany Fire Station & Fire Officer's House has a high level of authenticity. Although the Fire Station was extensively extended in 1970 and 2006, much of the original fabric, room layout and volumes of the original fire station remain.

The Fire Officer's House has a high level of authenticity. Most of the original fabric remains, although there has been a small extension at the rear and the kitchen and bathroom have been modified.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentation was compiled in 2006 by Irene Sauman, Historian and Kelsall Binet Architects.

The documentary evidence and comparative information have been updated by the State Heritage Office in 2012.

The physical evidence has been updated by Lynne Farrow Architects in 2012.

Amendments and/or additions have been carried out by the Register Committee.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Albany Fire Station & Fire Officer's House, comprises the single-storey Original Fire Station (1938) and Fire Officer's House (1938) both constructed in the Inter-War Functionalist style with rendered brick walls and hipped Marseilles tiled roofs, and the 1971 & 2005-06 extensions to the Fire Station in the same style.

Albany was the earliest established settlement in Western Australia and the major port for the State in the nineteenth century, being the designated port of call for mail steamers. Development of the town and region increased following the completion of the Great Southern Railway line in 1889 and during the 1890s gold boom, when large numbers disembarked on their way to the goldfields.¹

Eleven years after the establishment of Western Australia's Fire Brigade Board (WAFBB) under the *Fire Brigade Act 1898*, compulsory registration of all brigades was introduced in 1909 under the *District Fire Brigade Act, 1909*.² In 1909-10, the WAFBB assumed control of 33 existing fire brigades, including Albany Volunteer Fire Brigade, which had been formed in 1909.³

Albany Volunteer Fire Brigade, like many other brigades established during this period, did not construct a purpose-built fire station, but operated from a basic,

¹ More detailed history of Albany in State Register Assessment Documentation for P15554 *Kooka's Restaurant Building* (2003).

² Palassis Architects, *Fire and Emergency Services and Authority Heritage Inventory Review*, prepared for Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia (2011), Volume 2, p.12, 23.

³ Ibid. p.24. Palassis Architects, *Fire and Emergency Services and Authority Heritage Inventory Review*, (2011), Volume 3, p.1., and Wood, Kenneth A. *Ready, Aye Ready: A History of the Volunteer Fire Brigade Movement in WA* (The WA Volunteer Fire Brigades' Association, (Inc) and the League of Champion Firemen: Perth: 1989), p. 40.

leased property.⁴ Albany's first fire station operated from a building adjacent to the Town Hall in York Street.⁵

Alterations and additions were made to the station building in 1914, and new stables were built in 1916,⁶ indicating that horsepower continued to be used at that time. In 1918, the Brigade acquired a motor fire engine and concrete tracks were laid into the timber-floored station for the fire engine. The stables were then used as a brigade workshop.⁷

Following the end of World War One, the town of Albany entered a period of stagnation. Its tourist trade failed to return to pre-war prosperity levels, the port declined due to Fremantle becoming the mail port and employment opportunities were low.⁸ Albany remained stagnant through the 1920s and the early 1930s, and was further hindered by the world-wide economic Depression, which crippled much of Australia in the late 1920s and early 1930s.⁹

Fire station construction was also affected by the Depression, resulting in no new stations being built in Western Australia between 1929 and 1933. However, as the State recovered from the Depression, the WAFBB embarked on an intense building campaign, which resulted in 18 new stations being constructed between 1934 and 1938.¹⁰ Prior to the 1930s, fire stations were constructed without a standard design, and were often designed by the WAFBB in collaboration with a professional architect, resulting in few similarities between buildings.¹¹ In 1932, the architect K.C. Duncan developed a standardised plan for fire station buildings in Western Australia,¹² which was adopted by the WAFBB and implemented during the 1934-1938 phase of fire station construction.

In addition to his architectural work, Duncan was a volunteer fire fighter and held various positions in the Volunteer Fire Brigades' Association, including secretary from 1937 to 1941. He served on the Executive Committee from 1924 to 1942, and became a life member of the Volunteer Fire Brigades' Association in 1937.¹³ In 1923, Duncan had written to the WAFBB indicating his willingness to work for the Board,¹⁴ and by the end of the 1920s had been responsible for a number of fire station designs, including *North Perth Fire Station* (1926).

In Albany, the lease on the York Street fire station building was due to expire in 1938 and a site for new premises for the brigade was sought. Albany Municipal Council provided a site free of charge on the corner of Council (later Collie) and Vancouver streets. The land was a right-angled piece with frontages to both the

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- 4 Palassis Architects, *Fire and Emergency Services and Authority Heritage Inventory Review*, (2011), Volume 2, p.17.
5 Palassis Architects, *Fire and Emergency Services and Authority Heritage Inventory Review*, (2011), Volume 3, p.1.
6 *ibid.*
7 *ibid.*
8 Garden, Donald. S., *Albany: A Panorama of the Sound from 1827* (1977), p. 295.
9 Garden, Donald. S., *Albany: A Panorama of the Sound from 1827* (1977), p. 317.
10 Palassis Architects, *Fire and Emergency Services and Authority Heritage Inventory Review*, (2011), Volume 2, p. 37.
11 *Ibid.*, p. 25., and, *No. 1 Fire Station, 25 Murray Street, Perth, Conservation Plan*, prepared by Palassis Architects for Spotless Facilities Management on behalf of FESA (2006), p.52..
12 Palassis Architects, *Fire and Emergency Services and Authority Heritage Inventory Review*, (2011), Volume 2, p. 37.
13 Wood, *Ready, Aye, Ready* (1989) p. 109-12.
14 WAFBB Minute Book, 19/8/1921 to 16/11/1923 cited in Palassis Architects, *Fire and Emergency Services and Authority Heritage Inventory Review*, (2011), Volume 2, p. 25,

streets.¹⁵ The WAFBB made £3,000 available for construction of *Albany Fire Station & Fire Officer's House*.

Albany Fire Station & Fire Officer's House was constructed in 1938, on a right-angled site, and was a variation of K.C. Duncan's standard design type known as 'Single Bay Station Flanked by Accommodation/Office Wing'.¹⁶ Due to the shape of the Albany site, the Fire Officer's House was designed as a detached residence fronting Vancouver Street while the Fire Station, with office and accommodation, fronted Collie Street. This was an unusual deviation from the standard, as normally the fire station and residence were not detached from one another.

Albany Fire Station & Fire Officer's House further deviated from the standard design as it incorporated a double appliance bay, and as it was executed in the Inter-War Functionalist style. While it was not unusual for fire stations of this period to incorporate characteristics of the Inter-War Functional style, at *Albany Fire Station & Fire Officer's House*, the building's asymmetrical massing, parallel line motifs and rounded corners are a much more distinctive execution of this style than other examples of fire stations in this style from the same period.

The decision to design such a large and architecturally distinctive fire station at Albany reflects the anticipated growth of the town in terms of size and population,¹⁷ for the double bay station was able to provide adequate fire brigade facilities for the future, and the stylistic choices presented the town as modern and stylish.

Tenders were called for construction in 1938 and a contract awarded to Burgess & Grant of Albany, at a cost of £3,471 15s 1d. *Albany Fire Station & Fire Officer's House* was officially opened on 19 November 1938 by the Mayor and Mayoress of Albany, Dr and Mrs H.J.C. Hanrahan. Many members of the WAFBB visited Albany for the opening, including Chief Officer F.W. Gerhard and Deputy President Mr. Curlewis. Other official guests included L.L. Hill, MLA, H.V. Piesse, MLA, representing the Minister for Fire Brigades, and Albany Councillors.

The new Fire Station provides accommodation for two firemen to sleep permanently on the premises. Conveniences, including a kitchen, with sink and gas stove, bathroom with bath and hot showers, are installed for the use of the volunteers.

Opening onto Council [Collie] Street with a cement ramp, the garage in which the fire engine is housed, is equipped with collapsible doors, which closing into the wall, facilitate a speedy get-away in time of emergency.

A fine recreation room, big enough to hold a small dance, is provided for the volunteers to spend their leisure hours. Table tennis and other amusements are contemplated.

The permanent officer's residence faces south in Vancouver Street, and his back yard runs into that of the new station. A footpath is provided between the two buildings.

A feature of the residence is the breakfast nook, placed in an unobstructive place in the kitchen. Two stoves, gas and wood, backed by white tiles are another feature of the building. A panoramic view of the harbour can be seen through the windows of the

¹⁵ Certificate of Title, Vol. 1059 Fol. 230, 28 March 1938.

¹⁶ Palassis Architects, *Fire and Emergency Services and Authority Heritage Inventory Review*, (2011), recognises that during the Inter-War period, Fire Stations were constructed to one of four standard designs which had been created by K.C. Duncan. See 13.3 Comparative Information for a further discussion.

¹⁷ 'Fire Station Site', *Albany Advertiser*, 17 June 1937, p. 2.

front room, while the station can be kept under observation from the verandah on the eastern corner of the residence.¹⁸

Among the equipment installed at the Fire Station, of particular interest was the alarm switchboard, which was similar to a telephone switchboard. When an alarm rang it provided a visual indication of the location of the fire. The alarm could also be sounded in the Fire Officer's House if the Fire Station was unattended.¹⁹

When vacated by the Fire Brigade, the old fire station on York Street was taken over by St John Ambulance Association under an agreement with the Council that it would renovate and maintain the old buildings.²⁰

During the 1940s the Albany Fire Brigade comprised one permanent staff member, the Station Officer, and twenty one volunteer firemen.²¹ The Brigade attended fires at shops and properties in the municipality, as well as harbour jobs, such as trawler fires, and bush fires.²²

In 1950, 1952 and 1954 the Fire District was enlarged to include additional area within the Albany Road Board.²³ As a result of this increase, together with the general growth and population increase fuelled by the post-WWII agricultural and mining boom, the Albany Fire Brigade required more equipment and upgraded accommodation. Action to acquire another site was instigated in 1969, and the adjoining corner site was obtained.²⁴

In 1971, the Fire Station was considerably enlarged on the south side on the Collie Street frontage, on the newly acquired Lot 2. A two-bay four-door appliance room (Appliance Bay 2), accessible from front and rear, and additional accommodation comprising a dormitory for two firemen and quarters for a relief station officer, were added. The 1938 section, with one-bedroom quarters and single-bay appliance room (Appliance Bay 1), then housed the Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service, while the 1971 section accommodated the permanently staffed Fire Brigade.²⁵

There were a number of long-serving firemen at Albany, among them C.R. (Bo) Harvey, who began his career with the Volunteer Fire Brigade in 1928 and served for 12 years before leaving Albany. In 1952-54 he returned to the town as Station Officer to the permanent Albany Fire Brigade. He was also a Town Councillor, and in 1956 was appointed to the Country Fire Department, where he rose to the

18 *Albany Advertiser*, 24 November 1938, p. 7.

19 *ibid.*

20 *Albany Advertiser*, 21 November 1938, p. 6. This building has been demolished.

21 'History of the development of the Albany Volunteer Fire Brigade', compiled in 1968 by Richard Gordon Hardie, Ex-Captain and life member of Albany Volunteer Fire Brigade, in Albany Historical Society Inc. *Members' Magazine* (August 1999), p.11.

22 'History of the development of the Albany Volunteer Fire Brigade', , compiled in 1968 by Richard Gordon Hardie, Ex-Captain and life member of Albany Volunteer Fire Brigade, in Albany Historical Society Inc. *Members' Magazine* (August 1999), p.11., and 'Scrub Fire', *Albany Advertiser*, 14 February 1949, p. 1., and 'Grass Fires Brigade Called Out' *Albany Advertiser*, 9 December 1940, p. 8.

23 *Fire and Rescue Service of Western Australia Heritage Inventory* (1997), alphabetical entry for Albany.

24 Certificates of Title, Vol. 2215 Fol 391; *Fire and Rescue Service of Western Australia Heritage Inventory* (1997), alphabetical entry for Albany.

25 Information provided by Kevin Parsons, Albany Fire Brigade. The date that the Albany Brigade became a permanent brigade has not been established.

position of Assistant Chief Officer. He retired in July 1972 and was awarded the Queen's Fire Service Medal.²⁶

Albany Fire Station & Fire Officer's House was classified by the National Trust in 1999 and in 2001 it was entered on the City of Albany Municipal Heritage Inventory.²⁷ The place is also entered on the Art Deco Significant Building Survey and the State Government *Fire and Rescue Service of Western Australia Heritage Inventory*.²⁸

In 2001, the land holding of *Albany Fire Station & Fire Officer's House*, being Lot 1 (the right-angled 1938 site) and Lot 2 (the 1971 corner site), was re-subdivided to create separate lots for the Fire Officer's House (Lot 150) and the Fire Station (Lot 151).²⁹

The accommodation section added to the Fire Station in 1971 was upgraded and extended in 2005-06. As part of this upgrading, the Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service was relocated to its own premises in Merrifield Street, leaving *Albany Fire Station & Fire Officer's House* wholly for the use of the permanently staffed Fire Brigade. In 2006, there were 20 permanent (career) firemen stationed at Albany, manning the Fire Station 24 hours a day on a 4-shift rotation. The Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service, which assists the Fire Brigade as required, as well as attending incidents in its own right when the Fire Brigade is engaged elsewhere, had 43 members.³⁰

In 2012, Albany Fire Station continues to be fully utilised by the Albany Fire Brigade, however the Fire Officer's House has not been occupied for some time. Permanent staffing, the provision of suitable accommodation within the Fire Station, and changing work practices negated the need for the Fire Officer to reside in close proximity to the Station.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Albany Fire Station & Fire Officer's House, comprises the single-storey Original Fire Station (1938) and Fire Officer's House (1938) both constructed in the Inter-War Functionalist style with rendered brick walls and hipped Marseilles tiled roofs, and the 1971 & 2005-06 extensions to the Fire Station in the same style.

Setting

Albany Fire Station is located on Lot 151, of 1551 sq. metres, on the corner of Collie and Vancouver Streets, with the front façade facing Collie Street, a street of mainly commercial and institutional buildings. Fire Officer's House is located to the west, on the adjacent Lot 150 of 753 sq. metres, facing onto Vancouver Street, a mainly residential street.

Located in the historic centre of Albany, both streets contain a number of buildings of heritage significance.

Albany Fire Station is set back about 3 metres from Collie Street and is located down the eastern half of the Lot. The western side of the Lot is paved with

²⁶ Wood, *Ready, Aye Ready* (1989) p.103-04.

²⁷ Heritage Today, *City of Albany Municipal Inventory* (2001).

²⁸ Geneve, Yvonne, *Significant Buildings of the 1930s in Western Australia*, National Trust, Perth (1994).

²⁹ Certificates of Title, Vol. 2513 Fols. 825 & 826; Deposited Plan 24425.

³⁰ Information provided by FESA, Albany office.

concrete and is used for access and as a forecourt for cleaning and maintaining the fire appliances. There is a flat roofed car port in the north-west corner of the Lot. Lot 150 has a gentle slope of about 1 in 12, with the south-east corner of the site retained behind a low brick wall.

Planting on the site of Albany Fire Station consists of a small area of shrubs in front of the north-east verandah and similar planting around the south-east corner.

Fire Officer's House is set back about 5.5 metres from the front boundary, about one metre from the east side boundary and about 2.7 metres from the west boundary. There is a driveway up the west boundary. Lot 151 has a moderate slope of about 1 in 7. The back of the house is at ground level, and the front of the house is built up about 1.5 metres above natural ground level and accessed by a flight of 10 steps set in the centre of the front facade.

A rendered brick wall about 900 mm high runs across the front boundary and the front garden is mostly lawned with a central concrete path. There is a large bottlebrush (*callistemon*) a row of hibiscus shrubs in front of the house.

At the rear of the house is a flat concrete paved area about 8 metres deep, with a large Colorbonded steel shed on its north side. The rear third of the Lot, retained behind the shed, is a sloping grassed area.

General style and materials

The original 1938 section of *Albany Fire Station & Fire Officer's House* were designed and constructed at the same time, in the Inter-War Functionalist style. Detailing, materials and finishes are identical or similar. Both are rendered brick buildings with hipped tiled roofs. The distinctive feature of both buildings is the curved parapetted entablatures to the corner verandahs, with their indented horizontal banding. Located on the north corner of the Albany Fire Station and the west corner of Fire Officer's House, they act as bookends to the composition of the facades of the group.

The tile colour is autumn blend, but the original tiles are likely to have been terracotta.

The original copper gutters, copper rainwater heads and round copper downpipes are extant on both buildings.

Internal finishes throughout the original 1938 section of *Albany Fire Station & Fire Officer's House* are also identical and most of the original fabric remains. Floors are timber, walls are plastered brick. Ceilings are high and are constructed of plaster, as are the cornices. Joinery is varnished jarrah and comprises deep varnished timber skirtings with a deep splay, high waisted doors with two upper panels and three tall lower panels, double hung timber sash windows, arranged either in pairs or triple, with each sash divided in two by a horizontal bar, architraves are splayed. Original brass door hardware has been retained.

The front façade of Albany Fire Station is composed of five bays and its three construction periods can be clearly discerned. The two northern bays were constructed in 1938 and comprise a verandah with offices behind on the north-west corner, with a two door appliance bay adjacent to the south.

The third and fourth bays were constructed in 1970, and comprise an additional two door appliance bay next to the original one, with a kitchen/office projecting

forward on its south side. The fifth bay is well set back and comprises a small section of living room which was part of the 1970 construction, with dorms that were added in 2006.

The dominating feature of the front façade of Albany Fire Station is the curved parapetted entablature of the front verandah, which is located on the north-east corner of the building. The entablature is supported on pilasters at the corners of the verandah with a pier in the centre of the span, where the curve commences. The pilasters and piers have horizontally banded and corbelled capitals and the entablature has three horizontal indented bands around the curve.

The verandah is about 2.4 metres deep, with a red painted concrete floor and lined soffit. The balustrade is solid rendered brickwork with a trough on the top edge. The front door is located centrally in the wall at the back of the verandah and is flanked by pairs of windows.

The original two door appliance bay to the south projects forward by about 100 mm from the verandah, and is divided into two large flat arched openings supported on three pilasters with capitals that match those of the adjacent verandah. Each of the openings is now lined with a Colorbonded roller door.

The entablature frieze over the arches is plain apart from three short indented horizontal bars at each corner, directly over the two side pilasters. Individual red letters forming the title "FIRE STATION" are mounted in the centre of the entablature.

The two-door appliance bay of the 1970 extension, is adjacent to, but slightly set back from, the original two door bay. This bay is lower than the original bay. The pitching height of the roof and gutter continues on at the same height as the original roof, and the roof is supported at the south side by a perpendicular projecting pier. The two large doors and sign are a close match to those of the original bay adjacent.

The office and kitchen bay to the south of the 1970s appliance bay has a much lower roof than the appliance bays, and has aluminium sliding windows.

The southernmost bay of the façade is set well back from the office/kitchen bay and comprises the western part of the 1970s living room, with additional dormitory rooms constructed in 2006. The roof continues around at the same lower pitching height as the adjacent kitchen/office area and windows are also aluminium sliding. This bay is set behind a Colorbond fence. The south wall of Albany Fire Station is part of this 2006 construction. The wall finish is face brick, mainly red in colour but with a few other colours interspersed.

The rear (west) façade of Albany Fire Station has the original 1938 section at the north, with rendered brick walls and a pyramid shape to the hipped roof. A small section of lower roof forms the rear exit of the original appliance bay.

The bay to the south with two large doors is the appliance bay of 1970, constructed of face brickwork almost to the head of the large openings, with render over.

The southern part of this façade is the face brick extension of dorms and bathrooms of the 1970 and 2006 extensions, with red face brickwork, aluminium windows and a lower roof.

Internally, the layout of the original 1938 Fire Station is clearly legible and is made up of two distinct parts: the officer facilities behind the parapetted verandah and the original appliance bay to the south.

The front door opens from the centre of the north-east verandah into the training room. A door at the south end of the west wall of the training room leads through to a narrow corridor. There is a study to the north of the corridor and a large gym to the west. Beyond the gym are a separate entrance, store and toilet in the north-west corner of the building. Two other rooms – a workroom and service area, on the west side of the gym are accessed externally from the service yard.

The training room has been formed from two separate rooms and is now about 3 x 6 metres, with the central entrance door and flanking windows on the east wall. Other features of the room are face brick wainscoting on the east and south walls, a picture rail around the room, and a paneled ceiling. The study is a slightly smaller room with plastered walls, a built in cupboard at the north end of the east wall and a serving hatch to the adjacent gym. The gym is a large space, 7 by 10 metres, with brick wainscoting around the walls and a high ceiling that rakes at the north and south to a flat portion in the centre. The original ceiling fabric has been overlaid or replaced with panels between aluminium strips. There is a fireplace in the south-west corner and two pairs of windows on each of the north and south walls.

The original appliance bay is a large room, about 7.6 metres wide and 9 metres deep, with a ceiling height of approximately 4 metres to accommodate fire engines and equipment. The floor level is approximately 650mm lower than the adjoining officer facilities area. A set of pine steps and a landing have been introduced to the north-west corner of the appliance bay to gain access to the higher officer facilities area, and a sliding door introduced to the south wall of the corridor. A large opening on the west wall allows small vehicles to drive through the building to the service yard.

The lower part of the walls, to about 2.6 metres high, is constructed of red face brickwork, with a wide decorated panel of brick and render along the top. Above this the walls are plastered.

The ceiling is flat and decorated with paneling and moulding. A large rectangular section in the centre is edged with moulding and surrounded by squares of plaster board separated by thin strips. A double coved cornice surrounds the room.

The adjacent appliance bay of 1970 is a larger area than the original appliance bay. This area has a concrete floor, yellow face brick walls and a plain ceiling with a coved cornice.

Four areas open up from the south wall of the second appliance bay. At the west side is a toilet for disabled, with a tunic storage room adjacent. There is a short corridor next to the tunic store and an office at the east side. The corridor continues past the office and there is a kitchen to the east. The corridor turns west at the kitchen past a dormitory on the south that was formerly a living room. The corridor then turns to the south with two dorms and three bathrooms to the west and two dorms to the east, part of the 2006 works.

The internal finishes of these areas are similar, with concrete floors covered with vinyl, carpet or tiles as appropriate, plastered and painted walls, and plasterboard

ceilings with coved cornices. Doors are flush panel with steel architraves and windows are aluminium.

Fire Officer's House

The front façade of Fire Officer's House is composed of two bays, a projecting hip roofed wing with a central triple timber sash window on the east side, and a verandah with a curved and banded parapet entablature on the west side, that matches that of Albany Fire Station, although the capitals of the pilasters are plain, unlike the banded capitals of Albany Fire Station. The front door is located at the east end of the north wall of the verandah and there is a triple sash window adjacent.

The east side wall has one double sash window and a sliding aluminium window.

The west side wall has a wide projecting chimneybreast above which is a chimney with three indented bands at the top. There is also a double sash window to the kitchen. The fibre cement enclosed verandah to the rear is set back about 100 mm from the main wall line.

The rear (north) wall has an aluminium sliding window in a fibre cement wall on the eastside, a timber sash window (to the bathroom) in the centre and on the west side is a former verandah that has been enclosed and extended in fibre cement sheeting. An additional chimney from the kitchen range is also visible from this side and matches the chimney on the west wall.

The internal layout of Fire Officer's House comprises a central entrance hall, which reduces in width to continue as a passage. Along the east side of the house are three bedrooms, with the main bedroom at the front of the house opening off the entrance hall.

Along the west side of the house the lounge room is at the front of the house, opening off the entrance hall, with the kitchen behind and a dining room on the north-west corner of the building. The central corridor leads through to the bathroom and a vestibule opens off the west end of the corridor, which leads though to the kitchen. The laundry and toilet are located in the centre of the rear of the house.

A particularly noticeable interior decorative feature is the geometrically decorated cornices and rectangular ceiling roses in the lounge, main bedroom and entrance hall. The lounge and main bedroom also have lengths of picture rail projecting to within 300 mm of each of the corners of the rooms.

The entrance hall is about 1.9 metres square, with a set of glazed French doors with horizontal glazing bars at the entrance on the south wall and into the lounge on the west wall. In the north-west corner of the entrance hall is a built in cupboard with varnished doors, which reduces the entrance hall to a corridor. A slatted timber valance at the head of the corridor opening provides a decorative feature.

The lounge is a moderate size, nearly 5 metres wide and 3.6 deep, with a triple timber sash window on the front (south) wall, a wide face brick fireplace with a timber mantle shelf on the west wall (the chimney is flush), a set of timber French entrance doors on the east wall and a single timber door at the east end of the north wall leading into the vestibule.

The main bedroom is slightly smaller than the lounge, and has a triple sash window on the south (front) wall. The second bedroom is 3 metres by 3.6, with a pair of windows on the east wall. The third bedroom is a former sleepout and has a slight step down at the threshold. The walls are plasterboard on timber framing and there is a wide aluminum window on each of the external (east and north) walls.

The bathroom at the end of the corridor has small mosaic tiled floor, an inbuilt bath and a small vanity bench and basin and appears to have been updated in the 1950s.

The kitchen is a narrow room, about 3.2 meters long and 2.6 metres wide. The particular feature of this room is the wide chimney recess in the north-east corner where the gas stove is located. There is a double sash window in the center of the west wall. A single bowl stainless steel sink flanked by draining boards is located below the window, with narrow (450 mm wide) bench cupboards on either side and returning along the south wall.

The kitchen leads through to the present dining room, 3.1 x 2.6 metres, located on the north-west corner of the house and formed within the original rear verandah with a small extension of about a metre. There is a sliding aluminium window on the north (rear) wall and a door at the south end of the east wall which leads through to the laundry. The laundry and adjacent toilet have also been formed in the former verandah, and a small lobby added as part of the same extension as the dining room.

Condition

Both the original 1938 section of *Albany Fire Station & Fire Officer's House* were constructed utilising good quality materials and workmanship and most of the fabric is in good condition.

Albany Fire Station has generally been well maintained. The main item of concern is the crack at the start of the curve on the entablature of the north-east verandah.

Fire Officer's House, has not been occupied for some time, but is still in good condition, despite receiving little maintenance. Some cosmetic maintenance is required however, particularly the to the paint on the external render which has deteriorated on the south and west facades.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

Inter-War Fire Stations

Albany Fire Station & Fire Officer's House was constructed following the end of the Depression, when the Western Australian Fire Brigade Board (WAFBB) embarked on an intensive building campaign, which resulted in eighteen new stations being constructed between 1934 and 1938. Fire stations from this period are already well represented on the State Register of Heritage Places. Included on the State Register and Assessment Program are:

- P129 Bassendean Fire Station (1934) – Added to the Assessment Program in 2009.
- P8806 Guildford Fire Station & House (1934)
- P7508 Kalgoorlie North Fire Station (1935)

- P1567 *Merredin Fire Station* (1935)
- P2549 *Tammin Fire Station* (1935) – Added to the Assessment Program in 2004.
- P403 *Busselton Fire Station (No 2 fmr)* (1936) – Added to the Assessment Program in 2004.
- P1340 *Coolgardie Fire Station* (1938)
- P2568 *Toodyay Fire Station* (1938)

Inter-War Fire Stations: Standard Design Types

Fire Stations of the Inter-War period were largely constructed to a standard plan by K.C. Duncan. Of the eighteen Fire Stations (including *Albany Fire Station & Fire Officer's House*) constructed between 1933 and 1938, sixteen have been identified as having been constructed to one of K.C. Duncan's standard design types.

These fire stations can be grouped into four styles:³¹

- 'Single Bay/Corrugated Iron Station' (5 Fire Stations) – A simple corrugated iron building with a medium-pitched roof. Fire Stations in this style includes:
 - P1340 *Coolgardie Fire Station (former #2)* (1938)
- 'Single Bay/Stepped Parapet Station (Part Rendered Brick/Part Face Brick)' (4 Fire Stations) – Identifiable aesthetic characteristics include a brick façade with a central rendered brick stepped parapet, which often incorporates details of the Inter-War Art Deco, Functionalist and Stripped Classical styles. Fire Stations in this style includes:
 - P8806 *Guildford Fire Station & House* (1934)
 - P7508 *North Kalgoorlie Fire Station* (1935)
- 'Single Bay/Stepped Parapet Station (Fully Rendered Façade)' (2 Fire Stations) – Fully rendered variation of the 'Single Bay/Stepped Parapet (Part Rendered Brick/part Face Brick)' model.
 - P2568 *Toodyay Fire Station (former #2)* (1938)
- 'Single Bay Station Flanked By Accommodation/Office Wing' (4 stations) – Characteristics include an accommodation or office wing (attached or detached) flanking the appliance room, across the front of the site.
 - P1567 *Merredin Fire Station* (1935)
 - P129 *Bassendean Fire Station* (1934)

According to the *FESA Heritage Inventory Review* (2011), *Albany Fire Station & Fire Officer's House* is one of a number of stations constructed with a flanking accommodation/office wing, however the fire station at Albany differs from the others as it was originally a double bay station and it does not incorporate a central rendered brick stepped parapet.

³¹ Palassis Architects, *Fire and Emergency Services and Authority Heritage Inventory Review*, (2011), Volume 1, p.25-35, and Volume 2, p.37-42.

Albany Fire Station & Fire Officer's House: Architectural style

Albany Fire Station & Fire Officer's House varies from its contemporaries, for although a number of fire stations have been identified as also being designed in the Inter-War Functionalist style, the Albany Station is an unusual execution of this style in the context of a fire station.

The State Heritage Office database records three other fire stations as being either constructed in the Inter-War Functionalist style, or with elements of the Inter-War Functionalist style. These are:

- P8806 *Guildford Fire Station & House* (1934)
- P7508 *Kalgoorlie North Fire Station* (1935)
- P403 Busselton Fire Station (No 2 fmr) (1936) – Added to the Assessment Program in 2004.

The Inter-War Functionalist details employed at the above fire stations are restricted to the front façade and incorporates simple rendered pilasters and recessive bands. At *Albany Fire Station & Fire Officer's House*, the station's asymmetrical massing, parallel line motifs and rounded corners are a much more distinctive execution of this style, more usually employed for residential or other types of public buildings. Furthermore, the style is carried through to the interior of both buildings, with original doors and windows displaying characteristics of the Functionalist style.

Fire Stations & Detached Residences

Although it is unusual for a fire station to be designed and constructed with a detached residence, for speed and access reasons, at Albany, this composition was necessary due to the right-angled shape of the site. A number of other Fire Stations with detached residences have been identified:

- P8806 *Guildford Fire Station & House* (1934) – Inter-War Functionalist style Fire Station and a Californian Bungalow style residence.
- P14623 Northam Fire Station and Quarters (1991) – Late Twentieth Century Perth Regional style Fire Station and residence.
- P14627 Osborne Park Fire Station & House (former) (1957) – Demolished 2005 – Inter-War Functionalist style Fire Station and Californian Bungalow style residence.
- P14452 Bunbury Fire Station and Fire Officers House (1968) - Late Twentieth Century Perth Regional style Fire Station with elements of Late Twentieth Century Brutalist style, and Late Twentieth Century Perth Regional style residence.
- P14514 Geraldton Fire Station & Fire Officers House (1969) – Late Twentieth Century Perth Regional style Fire Station and residence.

None of the above examples comprise a fire station and detached residence both constructed in the Inter-War Functionalist style. Excluding *Guildford Fire Station & House*, none of the above is entered on the State Register of Heritage Places, or on the Assessment Program.

Conclusions

Albany Fire Station & Fire Officer's House is one of many fire stations constructed during the Inter-War years to a standardised design by K.C. Duncan. Fire stations from this date, and designer, are already well represented on the State Register of Heritage Places.

Albany Fire Station & Fire Officer's House has been identified as one of a number of stations constructed with a flanking accommodation/office wing. However, the fire station at Albany differs from the others in the same category (*Merredin Fire Station Complex* and *Bassendean Fire Station*) for originally being a double bay station and not incorporating a central rendered brick stepped parapet.

Furthermore, the architectural detailing of *Albany Fire Station & Fire Officer's House* sets it apart from its contemporaries. Although a number of fire stations have been identified as also being designed in the Inter-War Functionalist style, Albany Fire Station is an unusual execution of this style. Mostly, the Inter-War Functionalist details employed at fire stations are restricted to the front façade and incorporate simple rendered pilasters and recessive bands. At Albany, the station's asymmetrical massing, parallel line motifs and rounded corners are a much more distinctive execution of this style, more usually employed for residences or other types of public buildings.

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

No key references.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

Further research, including possibly oral histories, may be able to provide specific information regarding the work practices of the Albany Volunteer Fire Brigade.