



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)

- 6.1 Forming associations, libraries and institutes for self education
- 7.6.1 Developing local government authorities

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 401 Government & politics
- 404 Community services & utilities

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Menzies Town Hall and Shire Offices is a very fine example of the Federation Free Classical architectural style applied to a rural civic administration building, displaying an unusual composition of the classical architectural elements, built of local stone, with a pleasing scale and proportion. (Criterion 1.1)

Menzies Town Hall and Shire Offices has a landmark quality demonstrated by the visual impact of the clock tower in vistas along the main street of Menzies and from many positions around the town. (Criterion 1.3)

Menzies Town Hall and Shire Offices is highly valued by the community of Menzies and districts, as its landmark presence in the main street contributes to the streetscape, townscape and character of Menzies. (Criterion 1.4)

11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

As an imposing and substantial public building constructed between 1896 and 1901, designed by G. Finlay, *Menzies Town Hall & Shire Offices* demonstrates the general prosperity experienced in the Eastern Goldfields at the turn of the century, and the particular growth and prosperity of Menzies as the railhead of the Eastern Goldfields line from 1898 to 1901. (Criterion 2.1 & 2.2)

Menzies Town Hall & Shire Offices has been associated with the major municipal, civic, social and cultural activities of Menzies since 1901. (Criterion 2.3)

* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, R., Irving, R. and Reynolds, P. *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and terms from 1788 to the present*, Angus & Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

11.3 SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11.4 SOCIAL VALUE

Menzies Town Hall & Shire Offices is valued by the local community as the venue of all major civic, social and cultural activities in Menzies since 1901.

Menzies Town Hall & Shire Offices contributes significantly to the local community's sense of place as a prominent century-old landmark in the main street of Menzies. (Criterion 4.1)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1 RARITY

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Menzies Town Hall and Shire Offices is a fine example of a rural civic administration building constructed in 1901 in the goldfields. (Criterion 6.1)

Menzies Town Hall and Shire Offices is a fine representative example of Federation Free Classical style. (Criterion 6.1)

12.3 CONDITION

Menzies Town Hall and Shire Offices is in fair to good condition. Although maintenance takes place regularly, there is continued fretting of the stone and mortar to the front and side walls.

12.4 INTEGRITY

Menzies Town Hall and Shire Offices has provided a civic administration and social function since it was constructed, although considerable changes have taken place to facilitate the ongoing use of the place. The place has adapted to changing needs with minimal alterations to the structure and fabric of the shire offices at the front, but the town hall and associated services at the rear of the shire offices are a more recent construction replacing the original hall. *Menzies Town Hall and Shire Offices* has a high degree of integrity.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

There is considerable evidence of the original fabric of the shire offices at the front of *Menzies Town Hall and Shire Offices* and although that has a high degree of authenticity, the remainder of the building, specifically the reconstructed hall, has no evidence of original fabric, except some elements of the stage. Overall, *Menzies Town Hall and Shire Offices* has a moderate degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Irene Sauman, Historian. The physical evidence has been compiled by Laura Gray, Conservation Consultant.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Menzies Town Hall & Shire Offices comprise the brick and iron former Menzies Road Board Office (1896), brick, stucco and stone Municipal Offices with clock tower (1901), and steel-framed, corrugated iron-clad community centre (1991). The community centre is a reconstruction of the timber-framed corrugated iron-clad town hall, which was originally the Mechanics' Institute Hall, built on Walsh Street in 1897, and re-erected and enlarged on the current site in 1900. The Municipal Offices were designed by architect G. Finlay as a front to the town hall and Road Board Office. In the 1980s, *Menzies Town Hall & Shire Offices* was restored and renovated and, in 2002, continues to be occupied by the Shire of Menzies.

Following the discovery of the rich Coolgardie goldfields in 1892, prospectors began to venture into the surrounding areas. In 1894, gold was found by Leslie Robert Menzies in an area north of Goongarrie and the Lady Shenton and Florence mines were established. A mining camp, known as Menzies, developed in the vicinity of the mines as other prospectors flocked to the area.¹ The North Coolgardie goldfield was gazetted on 28 June 1895, and encompassed the towns of Menzies and Goongarrie.² Ten mining companies had been floated in the area by September 1895.³

Menzies was declared a townsite on 16 August 1895, and became a municipality four months later, on 20 December, replacing Goongarrie as the main town in the field.⁴ The election of the first Municipal Council, comprising a chairman and six councillors, was held on 20 January 1896. The town's population grew at such a rate that three months after the election, representation was increased to a mayor and nine councillors. Henry Gregory was the first Chairman and Mayor of Menzies. He later represented the district in the Legislative Assembly.⁵

Menzies Municipal Council meetings were initially held in rented timber and iron premises, but in July 1896, these premises were destroyed by fire. The Council subsequently had a brick building constructed on the municipal reserve in Shenton Street for their offices.⁶ The site, Menzies Town Lot 124, with an area of 0.73 acres (2954 sqm), was gazetted Reserve 3981 as Municipal endowment on 23 April 1897, and vested in trust to the Menzies Road Board.⁷ The new Council offices are believed to have been built by contractor Charles W. Arnott and may have been designed by his brother, architect C. Robert Arnott.⁸ The large lot adjoining the site, Lot 866, was vested as a Municipal reserve 'for any purpose occasion may require'.⁹

¹ Webb, Martyn & Audrey, *Golden Destiny: The centenary history of Kalgoorlie-Boulder and the Eastern Goldfields of Western Australia*, City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 1893, p. 178.

² *West Australian Government Gazette*, 28 June 1895, p. 894.

³ Laffin, Christine M., *The History of Menzies*, typescript, [1963], pp. 1-5

⁴ *West Australian Government Gazette*, 16 August 1895, p. 1358 & 20 December 1895, p. 1963.

⁵ *Twentieth Century Impressions of Western Australia*, Facsimile of 1901 edition, Perth, Hesperian Press, 2000, p. 665.

⁶ *North Coolgardie Herald*, 11 November 1896, p. 3, from research notes on 'Town Hall, Menzies' by Ian Elliot, July 1994, HCWA file 1559.

⁷ DOLA, Reserves Index Enquiry, Reserve 3981.

⁸ Ball, Julia & Aris, Kelly, *Shire of Menzies Municipal Heritage Inventory*, 1996, Site 9; *Twentieth Century Impressions of Western Australia*, op cit, p. 669.

⁹ *Twentieth Century Impressions of Western Australia*, op cit, p. 665; DOLA, Reserves Index Enquiry, Reserve 3283.

Menzies continued to grow and develop. By 1898, it had ten hotels, three banks, four churches, a police station, post and telegraph office that employed 25 people, 40-bed hospital, a school for 200 children and a Mechanics' Institute.¹⁰ Menzies was connected to Kalgoorlie by rail in 1898, with the extension of the Eastern Goldfields line. From early 1898 to mid 1901, when construction on the line to Leonora was underway, Menzies was the railhead for the northern goldfields and thrived on the goods forwarding traffic. As well as mining, the surrounding district supported a pastoralism industry, which had begun with the droving of cattle from the North West of the State and from South Australia to provide meat for the goldfields population.¹¹

By March 1900, £40 needed to be spent on improvements to the Council offices and consideration was being given to enlarging the premises.¹² In May 1900, members of the Menzies Mechanics' Institute voted to hand their building over to the Council for use as a town hall and the Council agreed to accept the place.¹³ The Mechanics Institute had been inaugurated in 1895, but their first building was blown down in a storm. In 1897, a new Mechanics' Institute hall was built on Lot 14, in Walsh Street, financed by government grants totalling £500. The new hall, which could seat 350, measured 30ft (9.1m) x 50ft (15.2m) and had an Oregon frame covered with corrugated iron, a baltic pine floor and a stage measuring 15ft (3.57m) x 8ft (2.44m). The place was built by contractor P. McInnes at a cost of £477. The Mechanic's Institute hall opened on 4 March 1897 with a ballad concert and minstrel show.¹⁴

In July 1900, Menzies Council was promised a grant of £500 for construction of new council chambers. G. Finlay was engaged to draw up plans for the new chambers, which were to incorporate the existing brick Council offices and the Mechanics' Institute hall. The hall was to be dismantled and re-erected on Reserve 3283, in an enlarged form, while a new building would be erected as a frontage to the hall and existing offices.¹⁵ Cost of the work was estimated at £1,110. To keep the cost as low as possible it was decided to undertake the work using day labour supervised by Patrick Stuart, town clerk and municipal engineer.¹⁶ Stuart had migrated from Ireland to New Zealand, arriving in Western Australia in 1891. He spent some years with the Public Works Department before taking up the position at Menzies in 1896.¹⁷

The original plan of the building appears to have called for a timber building, as council immediately voted an additional £200 to enable the front walls to be built of stone.¹⁸ Council later decided that all the rooms in the new front

¹⁰ Laffin, Christine M., pp. 6-10; *North Coolgardie Herald*, 24 April 1901, Special Mining Issue, p. 13.

¹¹ Webb, Martyn & Audrey, op cit, pp. 780-781.

¹² *North Coolgardie Herald*, 1 March 1900, p. 2, from research notes on 'Town Hall, Menzies', op cit.

¹³ *North Coolgardie Herald*, 10 May 1900, p. 2 & 22 May 1900, p. 2, from research notes on 'Town Hall, Menzies', op cit.

¹⁴ *North Coolgardie Herald*, 13 January 1897, p. 2, 19 February 1897, p. 2, 24 February 1897, pp. 2 & 5 & 5 March 1897, p. 2, from research notes on 'Town Hall, Menzies', op cit.

¹⁵ *North Coolgardie Herald*, 5 July 1900, p. 2, from research notes on 'Town Hall, Menzies', op cit.

¹⁶ *North Coolgardie Herald*, 7 July 1900, p. 2, 18 July 1900, p. 2, 19 July 1900, p. 2 & 20 July 1900, p. 2, from research notes on 'Town Hall, Menzies', op cit.

¹⁷ *Twentieth Century Impressions of Western Australia*, op cit, p. 669.

¹⁸ *North Coolgardie Herald*, 7 July 1900, p. 2, 18 July 1900, p. 2, 19 July 1900, p. 2 & 20 July 1900, p. 2, from research notes on 'Town Hall, Menzies', op cit.

section should be of brick and stone, rather than just the front wall, a decision, which further increased the cost of construction.¹⁹

A description of the building under construction was published in the *North Coolgardie Herald* in July 1900:

[The building] is entered by a neatly designed vestibule 8ft x 8ft, the floor of which will be paved with encaustic tiles. From this vestibule you pass through swing doors into a corridor 20ft long by 8ft wide, leading into the main hall, which will be 60ft x 30ft, clear of the stage, and 20ft from floor to ceiling. Two large escape doors are located on the north side, and five windows on the south side, with ample provision for ventilation in the ceiling. The stage will be 30ft x 8ft, raised 4ft above the level of the hall floor, with a good pitch. It will be fitted with all necessary proscenium, wings, slides and curtains. The clear opening in proscenium will be 18ft x 12ft high. At rear of the stage will be two ante rooms, each 14ft 9in x 10ft. From the corridor to the left you pass through a door into the Council Chamber which will be 28ft x 18ft, and 16ft from floor to ceiling. This chamber is designed to give ample accommodation to the councillors, combined with comfort and appearance. It is to be furnished with fireplace, and doors leading to the back, to the town clerk's office (which is now the Council Chamber), and to a 10ft verandah in front of the present chamber. The walls of the new chamber will be lined throughout, and finished with a 5ft moulded dado, and the ceilings lined with zinc painted ceiling and moulded cornice and centre flowers, which, when finished, will present a handsome appearance. On the right of the corridor will be three small rooms, to be used as a ticket office, cloak-room, and store-room. On the south end of the main front will be the public library and reading room, 25ft 6in x 18ft, and 14ft from floor to ceiling; also a card room, 9ft 6in x 8ft 6in. These rooms are entered from a verandah in front, 10ft wide, and will be neatly finished and provided with a fireplace and well ventilated. The main light to the reading room will be from the south and east. This room may be easily extended should occasion require it. In the centre of the main front, and immediately over the institute, is the clock tower rising to a height of 36ft from the floor of the institute to the apex of the roof, and showing a clock face on four sides. The whole design shows a considerable amount of thought and attention to convenience and comfort, as well as economy. The whole of the front and clock tower will be constructed of stone, with cement dressings. The remaining parts will be of wood and iron, with jarrah flooring to the main hall and stage. The style of the architecture is rural Italian.²⁰

Work on dismantling and re-erecting the Mechanics' Institute hall began in July 1900 and was completed in September. Con Berthold provided a drop curtain, proscenium, wings and three background scenes for the hall stage at a cost of £45. The proscenium was panelled in pale green and pink, embellished with flowers and surmounted by the WA coat of arms, while the background scenes comprised a landscape, drawing room and kitchen.²¹ Although the council chambers and the front portion of the building were hardly begun, the Mayor at that time, Dr Corliss, took it upon himself to offer the new hall free of charge to induce Raphael's Royal Pantomime and Opera Company to perform at a grand opening. The event went ahead on 26 September 1900, with the company performing Wallace's English opera

¹⁹ *North Coolgardie Herald*, 20 February 1901, p. 2, from research notes on 'Town Hall, Menzies', op cit.

²⁰ *North Coolgardie Herald*, 19 July 1900, p. 2, from research notes on 'Town Hall, Menzies', op cit.

²¹ *North Coolgardie Herald*, 12 July 1900, p. 2, 17 July 1900, p. 2 & 5 September 1900, p. 2, from research notes on 'Town Hall, Menzies', op cit.

'Maritana', and Dr Corliss declared the hall open. The next day he resigned as Mayor over criticism of the event. Some councillors felt he had no right to allow use of the hall without charge, while others felt that an official opening should wait until the entire building was completed and that one or more Parliamentary Minsters should be invited.²²

Completion of the Town Hall and offices was delayed until April 1901 due to the front section being constructed in brick and stone, and the final cost was £2,075.²³ The matter of cost led Council to rescind its earlier decision to hold a formal opening on completion of the place.²⁴ An earlier approach to Sir John Forrest to lay a foundation stone had been unsuccessful, so the building came into use without benefit of foundation stone or formal opening.²⁵ The Municipal reading room and circulating library, which occupied the rooms at the southwest corner of the building, was opened to the public in July 1901. The first librarian was Miss Lardi.²⁶

The inclusion of a clock tower was possibly a result of long-standing confusion over timekeeping in Menzies. It was reported that people could take their choice from town time, telegraph time or any of the various whistle times from the surrounding mines.²⁷ When Council requested mines in the district to conform to a uniform start time, the Mine Manager's Institute informed Council that uniform times could not be considered in the absence of a town clock. Various efforts were made to obtain a grant for purchase of a clock, estimated to cost about £200, but even former Mayor Henry Gregory, who was Minister for Mines in the Leake government in 1901, was unable to help.²⁸ The legend that a clock ordered for the Town Hall went down with the *Orizaba* in February 1905 appears to be just that - a legend.²⁹ No record of a purchase or order for a town clock has been found in municipal balance sheets or accounts of council meetings published in local newspapers to June 1905, and no record of a government grant for such a purpose has been located.³⁰ The clock tower remained without a clock.

In 1902, extra work was carried out on the hall: the ventilation was improved, the stage enlarged and an annex added for a supper room. The work was undertaken by day labour under the supervision of Patrick Stuart, at a cost of

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- 22 *North Coolgardie Herald*, 22 September 1900, p. 2, 25-28 September 1900, p.2, 18 October 1900, p. 2, 19 November 1900, p. 4, 21 November 1900, p. 2 & 5 December 1900, p. 2, from research notes on 'Town Hall, Menzies', op cit.
- 23 *North Coolgardie Herald*, 20 February 1901, p. 2, 18 April 1901, p. 2 & 20 May 1901, p. 2, from research notes on 'Town Hall, Menzies', op cit.
- 24 *North Coolgardie Herald*, 3 May 1901, p. 2, from research notes on 'Town Hall, Menzies', op cit.
- 25 Research notes on 'Town Hall, Menzies' by Ian Elliot, July 1994, HCWA file 1559.
- 26 *North Coolgardie Herald*, 25 May 1901, p. 2, 28 June 1901, p. 2, 11 July 1901, p. 2 & 18 July 1901, p. 1, from research notes on 'Town Hall, Menzies', op cit.
- 27 *North Coolgardie Herald*, editorial 12 January 1897, p. 2, from research notes on 'Town Hall, Menzies', op cit.
- 28 *Menzies Weekly Times*, 23 July 1898, p. 5; *Menzies Miner*, 17 September 1898, p. 4; *North Coolgardie Herald*, 21 December 1900, p. 3, 20-21 February 1901 p. 2, 15 June 1901, p. 2, 31 December 1901, p. 2, 11 April 1902, p. 2, from research notes on 'Town Hall, Menzies', op cit.
- 29 Rodgers, P. & B., op cit, pp. 23-24.
- 30 *North Coolgardie Herald*, 20 February 1903, p. 2, 29 May 1903, p. 2, 21 January 1904, p. 2 & 28 March 1904, p.2 and Research notes on 'Town Hall, Menzies' by Ian Elliot, op cit.

£266.³¹ In April 1903, J. West added two doors to the south side of the hall, at a cost of £13.³²

On 1 March 1912, the Municipality of Menzies was dissolved due to the decline in population.³³ The town came under the jurisdiction of the Menzies Road Board and the building became the Board's headquarters. The land was vested in the Menzies Road Board on 6 January 1917.³⁴

Over the years, in addition to providing administrative offices, Board room and library for the Menzies district, the building was a place of entertainment. Picture shows, travelling waxworks, concerts, dances and social evenings were held in the hall, which doubled as roller-skating rink and as an exhibition area for travelling salesmen. The room under the stage was used for card, chess and draughts games for a time.

In 1961, Menzies Road Board became the Shire of Menzies and the Shire Council continued to occupy *Menzies Town Hall & Shire Offices* as its meeting place and offices.³⁵

In 1985, the Shire of Menzies began a restoration programme for *Menzies Town Hall & Shire Offices*. The external stonework was restored, damaged stones replaced and mortar re-pointed. In 1988, a bicentennial heritage grant assisted with the restoration of the council chambers, hallway and lobby, while the Council used a restored room on the north side as council chambers. In 1990, the Menzies Youth and Community Group was formed and the first project for the Group's committee was the establishment of a community centre. The town hall was considered the perfect place, but it needed extensive restoration work. A decision was made to rebuild the hall to the original design using steel framework and modern construction methods. The Lotteries Commission provided a grant of \$125,000 for the project and the Ministry of Sport and Recreation provided \$20,000 for the inclusion of child care facilities at the new centre. The reconstructed hall was opened on 17 August with a performance of the opera 'Maritana' by the WA Opera Company.³⁶

Menzies Town Hall & Shire Offices was given a Level 1 management category in the Shire of Menzies Municipal Heritage Inventory, adopted on 18 December 1996.³⁷

In 1999, clocks were installed in the clock tower, one clock face for each of the four sides of the tower. The new timepieces were unveiled at midnight on New Year's Eve, 31 December 1999, to herald in the new millenium.³⁸

In 2002, *Menzies Town Hall & Shire Offices* continues to be occupied as Shire offices and meeting place while the hall functions as the district's community centre.

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- 31 *North Coolgardie Herald*, 27 September 1901 p. 4, 20 November 1901, p. 2, 28 February 1902, p. 2, 24 April 1902, p. 2, 14 November 1902, p. 2. & 17 November 1902, p. 3, from research notes on 'Town Hall, Menzies', op cit.
- 32 *North Coolgardie Herald*, 23 April 1903, p. 4, from research notes on 'Town Hall, Menzies', op cit.
- 33 *West Australian Government Gazette*,
- 34 Certificates of Title Vol. 126 Fols. 120 & 121, 6 January 1917.
- 35 Research notes on 'Town Hall, Menzies' by Ian Elliot, op cit.
- 36 *Kalgoorlie Miner*, 27 July 1991, pp. 7 & 10.
- 37 Ball, Julia & Aris, Kelly, *Shire of Menzies Municipal Heritage Inventory*, 1996, Site 9.
- 38 Photographs taken at site inspection, 12 August 2002; information provided by Shire of Menzies.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Menzies Town Hall and Shire Offices is located on the east side of the Menzies main street and faces due west. The place is built on the front property boundary and has no buildings adjoining either side. The street is lined with immature Eucalyptus street plantings on the road verges and along the central median strip. The site is flat with no plantings. To the north, some distance from *Menzies Town Hall and Shire Offices* is a steel fabricated carport construction. On the south side, along the hall side are basketball courts.

Menzies Town Hall and Shire Offices displays characteristics of an eccentric rendering of Federation Free Classical style, particularly popular in Western Australia in the 1890s. Typical of the style, the street front facade is symmetrical, with simplified classical forms and a tower.

Menzies Town Hall and Shire Offices comprises a stone building at the front that is now the shire offices, and a considerably more recent construction at the rear in the form of steel framed and colorbond clad town hall, kitchen and support facilities.

Menzies Town Hall and Shire Offices is a single-storey face stone construction, stucco decorated with a corrugated iron roof and a two storey central front tower. The face stone is regular in shape and laid in random coursing with stucco quoins and other stucco detailing. The central entry is detailed with stucco pilasters supporting a stucco pediment above. The arched entry has a central keystone, and etched glass infills around the panelled double entry doors. The front facade has stucco banding at windowsill level and moulded horizontal cornice stucco detailing.

Flanking the central entry are rooms featuring four vertical window elements that are in turn flanked by a recessed frontage with parapet walls, and skillion verandahs to the front alignment. The parapet is stucco with banded moulding on the north side, and stone with three horizontal protruding bands on the south side. The verandahs are supported by pairs of 0.075 metre square stop chamfered timber posts, with cut out circular timber detailing between the post pairs. The verandah floors and central entry steps are concrete, although the entry has a recent tessillated tile floor detailing.

The roof over the front section of the building is predominantly hipped with a hipped roof and wide eaves on the tower. There are gable roofs either side, and hipped roofs behind the parapets that have skillion verandahs. The tower eaves and gable eaves are wide and lined with spaced battens parallel with the roof's edge. The roofs are clad with corrugated iron. The roof over the hall is gabled and clad with colorbond to match the horizontal sheets of wall lining.

The central tower is square in plan, and rises to two stories high, all corners are quoined (as for the main building), and the central front of the tower features a rendered panel with serif lettering 'TOWN HALL' immediately under the eaves. The round clock faces are surrounded by stucco frame, and the clock numbers are in Roman numerals.

Menzies Town Hall and Shire Offices has a rectangular plan, although the stone offices at the front form something of a 'T' shape. The central front (west) entry doors open into a small entry and another set of double doors that led into the foyer. Right of the foyer is the shire offices. Left is the library and council chamber beyond, and straight ahead is the hall. From the library, the kitchen and crush space and other facilities are accessed. There is an entry on the north side that leads into the crush space and accesses the hall. The stage is located at the rear of the hall and has external access at the rear.

The main entry doors are panelled with frosted glass panels, sidelights and arched highlights. Within a metre of the main entry doors are another set of doors complete with intricate stained glass sidelights and fanlight. On the right, inside the external entry is a ticket box window.

The windows generally are timber framed double hung sashes, except the vertical windows on the front façade, and aluminium framed windows in the hall section of the building. The north side entry is a double set of glazed doors in aluminium frames, with the doors flanked by fixed glazed panels. The interior doors are the original four panelled doors, including the hall doors.

On the interior, most floors are concrete, with terracotta tiles in the library, carpet in the offices, and carpet over the timber floor in the Council chambers. The hall has a 3 inch (0.075 metre) tongue and groove soft wood timber floor, the stage has jarrah tongue and groove floorboards, and the north side area is vinyl over concrete. The reception area steps down three steps on the south side, where the office of the Shire's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the storeroom are located.

There are timber architraves in the front section of the building and the original high skirting boards have been retained in the library. The original walls are hard plaster, and the new division walls near the CEO's office are timber framed and lined with plasterboard. The hall has 3 foot (0.900 metre) varnished pine tongue and groove dado wall with plasterboard sheeting above. The steel columns along the side walls of the hall are exposed. The stage proscenium and dressing rooms are partitioned walls clad with plasterboard. The kitchen and north side are similarly plasterboard-lined walls with ceramic splash tiles in the kitchen and toilets.

The library ceiling is the original decorative pressed metal ceiling but most other ceilings are replacements. In the reception area, the ceiling is lined with ripple iron, as is a small section of the north wall in that room. The remainder of the front section has plasterboard ceilings. The hall has a covered ceiling lined with spaced metal strips, and the kitchen and north side ceilings are lined with acoustic panels, the kitchen lined on the rake.

The reception area has a contemporary office fitout. The fireplace has been boarded over, but an original safe is built in behind in the storeroom, where there is also a recent sink installation. In the library, the truncated corner on the south corner has an original safe installed, while the corresponding truncation on the north east corner has the original mantelpiece with the Roll of Honour above. The back-to-back truncated fireplace in the Council chambers also has the original mantelpiece. The kitchen has a modest fitout and an extensive counter with timber dado lining on the hall side. The toilet facilities are recent fitouts.

Menzies Town Hall and Shire Offices is generally in good condition. Much of the fabric is a recent construction. The mortar is fretted along the front and the stone has seriously deteriorated in several sections of the front and side walls. The place shows evidence of change, in the new construction at the rear, replacement floors and ceilings in the office sections, and the installation of clocks in the clock tower

Menzies Town Hall and Shire Offices has retained a moderate degree of integrity.

The place is mostly intact in the front section, but due to the recent sections at the rear, overall *Menzies Town Hall and Shire Offices* demonstrates a moderate degree of authenticity.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

The development of *Menzies Town Hall & Shire Offices* has more in common with Town Halls in the agricultural areas of the southwest than with other goldfield Town Halls. *Menzies Town Hall & Shire Offices* is of more modest scale than those at Boulder and Kalgoorlie.

The development of *Menzies Town Hall & Shire Offices* with separate Road Board Office and hall fronted by a later and grander office construction is similar to the Town Hall development at Merredin, Bruce Rock and Wagin. The difference is in the period and the time frame of the development. *Menzies Town Hall & Shire Offices* was developed over a period of five years (1896-1901) while the development of similar buildings in the southwest spanned several decades (late 1890s-1930).

The building with which *Menzies Town Hall & Shire Offices* could best be compared is the former Merredin Town Hall. Both buildings are of similar scale with central clock tower and while Menzies retains its hall, albeit reconstructed, the original 1913 hall at the rear of the Merredin Town Hall offices has been removed. The Merredin Town Hall offices were occupied as the offices of MLA Hendy Cowan c.1993. Both Town Halls are constructed in a Classical style, as befitting their purpose, Merredin in Inter-War Academic Classical in 1925, and Menzies in Federation Free Classical.

In 1929, Wagin built a larger hall with a frontage extending across the existing 1896 hall. In 1928, Bruce Rock added two-storey offices to the front of their 1918 agricultural hall. These offices were designed in Inter War Georgian Revival style. Bruce Rock Shire Council continues to occupy the upper floor of the building.³⁹

13.4 REFERENCES

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

³⁹ Heritage Council assessments of Merredin Town Hall (P1576) and Bruce Rock Shire Offices (P0323).