



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)

- 7.5.1 Developing local government

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 404 Community services and utilities

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

The symmetrical and richly decorated façade, featuring a central pedimental motif over an arched entry, inset with raised scroll work, has a high degree of aesthetic value. (Criterion 1.1)

The war memorial honour board is an impressive piece of wood carving and construction. (Criterion 1.2)

Cunderdin Hall is a significant component of the streetscape of Main Street, Cunderdin. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Cunderdin Hall is associated with the development of Cunderdin and the immediate region. The establishment of the place through community fund-raising and public subscription represents the optimism and community spirit of the early twentieth century. (Criterion 2.1)

As the second hall built in Cunderdin, *Cunderdin Hall* is representative of the increase in population and consolidation of Cunderdin, following completion of the Great Eastern Railway and the Perth-Kalgoorlie pipeline, as an important administrative and commercial centre for outlying regions. (Criterion 2.2)

The war memorial honour board is a tangible link with Australia's participation in World War One. (Criterion 2.2)

Having being used for a variety of uses, including public hall, Roads Board office, library and film venue, the place has been continuously associated with

* 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.

the working, social and recreational life of the local community since 1910. (Criterion 2.3)

The place was designed by architect Harry Jefferis, who won the competition for the hall's design. Jefferis designed a number of other buildings throughout Western Australia, including the YMCA Building in Murray Street, Perth, in conjunction with J Selby. (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

The war memorial honour board represents the community's desire to remember and honour those of its members who served and died in World War One, and indicates the impact of war on the community. (Criterion 4.1)

Cunderdin Hall is and always has been a community work, meeting and recreational place, as well as the home of local organisations and services. Its growth and various uses over the years represents changes in patterns of work and leisure over almost a century. (Criteria 4.1 & 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Cunderdin Hall is the only building of its architectural style and social function in the town of Cunderdin, and is thus unique in its local context. (Criterion 5.1)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Cunderdin Hall is typical of the better standard of local halls erected in Australian country towns in the early twentieth century. (Criterion 6.1)

12. 3 CONDITION

Overall, the condition is fair to good.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

Although the building has been altered over the years, the dual purpose of the building, a meeting place for the people of Cunderdin and office accommodation, has not been compromised. The building is still used by the public for functions and the offices still function as offices.

Overall, the place has a high degree of integrity.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

The building has undergone several changes; however, these have been limited to three main phases of construction. The first phase occurred in 1910 when the hall and stage were constructed. In 1922-23 the main façade and office section was added onto the existing hall and stage. Then, in 1956, the building was enlarged with the two additions on the east and west side of the hall and a new kitchen and bio box were added on to the rear of the building.

These alterations have made it difficult to determine the extent of the 1910 building. The stage area, the floor of the hall and the tie rods in the hall all

date to 1910 and can be considered to be all that remains of the original core of *Cunderdin Hall*. These areas have retained a good degree of authenticity.

The 1922-23 front section is more easily defined and appears to be generally intact although new windows have been added to the east and west sides of this section. The Landcare office has retained its original 1922-23 layout, while the library's layout has been changed. The men's toilet appears to date to this period, although the fixtures are more recent. The office area is therefore considered to have a high degree of authenticity.

The sections added in 1956 have generally remained intact, with original fittings, although the kitchen and bio box have been either altered or removed. The remaining sections are considered to have a high degree of authenticity.

Overall, the place has a moderate to high degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Attached are key sections of the supporting evidence prepared by the Research Institute for Cultural Heritage, Curtin University, 'Conservation Plan for Cunderdin Hall', prepared for the Shire of Cunderdin, 1999.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the documentary evidence refer to the Research Institute for Cultural Heritage, Curtin University, 'Conservation Plan for Cunderdin Hall', prepared for the Shire of Cunderdin, 1999.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the physical evidence refer to the Research Institute for Cultural Heritage, Curtin University, 'Conservation Plan for Cunderdin Hall', prepared for the Shire of Cunderdin, 1999.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

13.4 REFERENCES

Research Institute for Cultural Heritage, Curtin University, 'Conservation Plan for Cunderdin Hall', prepared for the Shire of Cunderdin, 1999.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH
