



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.

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

No. 3 Pumping Station has aesthetic significance as an industrial building of considerable architectural refinement, reflecting the style of the Public Works Department and the cultural importance of public engineering works at the time of its construction. (Criterion 1.2)

In its edge-of-town rural setting, *No. 3 Pumping Station* is an aesthetically pleasing component of the Cunderdin area, and its landmark quality is acknowledged by its frequent use as a symbol or logo for Cunderdin. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

No. 3 Pumping Station was a key element in the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme, a significant engineering achievement of the late nineteenth century. The whole enterprise was an indication of the importance of gold and the goldfields to the State and national economy at the time. (Criterion 2.2)

Along with the other pumping stations established along the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme, *No. 3 Pumping Station* was instrumental in the development of agriculture in Western Australia as it provided water to the towns and districts along the line. (Criterion 2.2)

No. 3 Pumping Station has great historic significance as part of the most important engineering scheme of its time in Australia. It has particular associations with the Scheme's designer, C. Y. O'Connor and political promoter, Premier Sir John Forrest, as well as Director W. H. Venn and the architects and engineers of the Public Works Department. (Criterion 2.3)

No. 3 Pumping Station was a major component of the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme, which in itself was a great technical achievement in

* 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.

providing a reliable and permanent water supply from Perth to the Eastern Goldfields and the settlements in between. (Criterion 2.4)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

No. 3 Pumping Station is directly associated with the highly original Australian technological innovations which made the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme possible, as so represents a triumph of applied science. (Criterion 3.1)

As a museum exhibiting aspects of the technology of hydraulics and agriculture, *No. 3 Pumping Station* has potential to yield better public understanding of applied science, design, farming and regional development. However, Dedari Pumping Station is a more intact example. (Criterion 3.2)

No. 3 Pumping Station is a testament to late nineteenth century technical design and innovation as one of the largest overland pumping schemes ever attempted to that time. (Criterion 3.3)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

In its later manifestation as the Cunderdin Museum, *No. 3 Pumping Station* is significant to the community and as a tourist destination. (Criterion 4.1)

The place has social value for its associations with the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme, a technical achievement dating from the late nineteenth century that is still held in high esteem by the Western Australian community. (Criterion 4.1)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1. RARITY

The Goldfields Water Supply Scheme was internationally acclaimed in its day and remains one of the greatest and most ambitious engineering and infrastructure schemes of the late nineteenth century. It has rarity value as Australia's greatest example of such a scheme, and the most tangible infrastructure result of the discovery of gold in Western Australia which in turn had a unique enabling impact on the subsequent pattern of State and national development. (Criterion 5.1)

The pumping stations of the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme were purpose-designed and thus are a building type unique to Western Australia. Of the eight pumping stations built as minor variations to a standard plan, *No. 3 Pumping Station* is one of the few surviving pumping stations which remains sufficiently intact to provide information about the type of place and its original design and function. It is one of the minority which survive with any form of chimney and also one of only two with brick chimneys (the other being No. 1 Pumping Station, Mundaring). (Criterion 5.2)

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

No. 3 Pumping Station 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)

12.3 CONDITION

No. 3 Pumping Station is in reasonably good condition; however, a number of serious structural problems have been identified, and conservation work is urgently needed to prevent deterioration or danger to users.

No 3 Pumping Station and the associated Goldfields Water Supply Scheme is representative of a number of infrastructure developments in Western Australia which resulted from the discovery of gold and associated increase in wealth and population. Others include the developments of harbours at Fremantle and Bunbury and expansion of the railway network. (Criterion 6.1)

12.4 INTEGRITY

No. 3 Pumping Station has a high degree of integrity despite the loss of much of its machinery. It has maintained its integrity through having had only three uses in its life, with such alterations as have been made to the fabric reflecting its history of use without greatly altering or compromising the original design concept. Its integrity can be preserved by conservation and continued sympathetic use.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

Although surrounding earthworks and the original engines have been lost and the present engine is from Gilgai which does not fit the space, most of the building remains relatively unchanged and retains a moderate degree of authenticity. In comparison, Dedari Pumping Station is a more intact example.

The preservation of the building as Cunderdin Museum in recent decades has maintained a high level of authenticity which can be preserved through conservation and continued sympathetic use.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Attached are key sections of the supporting evidence prepared by the Research Institute for Cultural Heritage, Curtin University of Technology, 'Conservation Plan for No. 3 Pumping Station, Cunderdin', for the Cunderdin Shire Council, August 1998.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the documentary evidence, refer to Research Institute for Cultural Heritage, Curtin University of Technology, 'Conservation Plan for No. 3 Pumping Station, Cunderdin', prepared for the Cunderdin Shire Council, August 1998.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the physical evidence, refer to Research Institute for Cultural Heritage, Curtin University of Technology, 'Conservation Plan for No. 3 Pumping Station, Cunderdin', prepared for the Cunderdin Shire Council, August 1998.

13.3 REFERENCES

Research Institute for Cultural Heritage, Curtin University of Technology, 'Conservation Plan for No. 3 Pumping Station, Cunderdin', prepared for the Cunderdin Shire Council, August 1998.

13.4 FURTHER RESEARCH
