



## 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.

The wording of this document has been adapted from 'Cue Conservation Plan', by Considine & Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd and Jacqui Sherriff, Historian, in December 2000 including amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

#### PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 7.2 Developing institutions of self-government and democracy
- 7.6.1 Developing local government authorities

#### HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 401 Government and politics
- 404 Community services and utilities

#### 11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE\*

With its symmetrical fenestration, decorated entablature, classically proportioned elements and simple form, *Cue Municipal Chambers (fmr)* is a fine example of a stone building in the Federation Free Classical style, and makes a strong and clear architectural statement. (Criterion 1.1)

*Cue Municipal Chambers (fmr)* has a high townscape value through its aesthetic contribution to the town of Cue. The stone of the exposed plinth was quarried locally and is characteristic of several other key buildings in Cue. (Criterion 1.4)

#### 11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

*Cue Municipal Chambers (fmr)* was the centre for local government in the Shire of Cue for over seventy years, between 1896 and 1912, and 1921 and 1980. It was an important civic building for the community and reflected the growth of the town and the development of local government in the district. (Criteria 2.1 and 2.2)

*Cue Municipal Chambers (fmr)* was designed by Alfred Cox, an architect based in Cue, who designed several buildings in the historic town. Cox was Officer

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\* 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.

in Charge of the Public Works Department in the goldfields area between 1895 and 1905. (Criterion 2.3)

*Cue Municipal Chambers (fmr)* provided offices and meeting rooms for the Cue Municipal Council, the Cue and Day Dawn Roads Board, and the Cue Shire Council. The building has strong associations with councillors and staff from over these years. (Criterion 2.3)

### 11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

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### 11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

*Cue Municipal Chambers (fmr)* has social value for the important role it played in Council activities, and later for its use as the Cue Crafts Association, the Infant Health Centre and Cue's tourist bureau. (Criterion 4.1)

*Cue Municipal Chambers (fmr)* is highly valued by the community as a key element of the historic built environment of the town, and as such, contributes to the community's sense of place. The social value of *Cue Municipal Chambers (fmr)* is further evidenced by its inclusion in the Shire of Cue's Municipal Inventory of Heritage Places. (Criteria 4.1 & 4.2).

## 12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

### 12. 1. RARITY

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### 12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

*Cue Municipal Chambers (fmr)* is a representative example of Federation Free Classical style architecture applied to a small commercial building in a remote location. (Criterion 6.1)

*Cue Municipal Chambers (fmr)* is representative of local government offices built as newly settled districts achieved municipal status. (Criterion 6.2)

### 12. 3 CONDITION

The forecourt of *Cue Municipal Chambers (fmr)* contains relatively new elements, such as the concrete paving. The concrete paving is causing severe water damage to the wall, as it lies above the building's damp proof course. The general upkeep of the fenced yard is poor.

The verandah on the north west elevation is in poor condition and crude repairs have already been made. The exterior walls are generally in poor condition and most of the stone plinth should be repointed. The poor condition of the roof, box gutters, rainwater heads and downpipes are largely responsible for this deterioration and desperately require attention. There is some cracking that requires attention. Overall the place is in fair condition.

### 12. 4 INTEGRITY

*Cue Municipal Chambers (fmr)* has ceased to be used for its intended purpose. Subsequent uses have brought about internal change, but allowed the original intent of the spaces to remain legible. Its present use as Cue's Tourist Bureau retains its connection to the community. It also has the capacity to

retain and conserve the remaining physical evidence of the *Cue Municipal Chambers (fmr)*. The ongoing conservation of the remaining significant fabric is capable of being undertaken. The integrity of the place is moderate.

#### **12.5 AUTHENTICITY**

The changes to the original building have been significant by virtue of the south west extension of the building. However, the original section was left largely intact in the process. The verandah has been poorly repaired and this has reduced its authenticity. Much of the original fabric has been replaced, and elements including the basins, cupboards and air-conditioning units are additions. In an overall sense, the authenticity of the building is moderate.

#### **13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE**

Key sections of the supporting evidence have been taken from 'Cue Conservation Plan', prepared for the Shire of Cue by Considine & Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd and Jacqui Sherriff, Historian, in December 2000.

Key sections include: 3.1 Documentary Evidence (pp. 91-104), 3.2 Physical Evidence (pp 104-127), Analysis of Documentary & Physical Evidence (pp. 127-130), 3.6 Graded Zones and Elements of Significance (pp. 134-135).

##### **13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE**

For a discussion of the Documentary Evidence, refer to 'Cue Conservation Plan', prepared for the Shire of Cue by Considine & Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd and Jacqui Sherriff, Historian, in December 2000.

##### **13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE**

For a discussion of the Physical Evidence, refer to 'Cue Conservation Plan', prepared for the Shire of Cue by Considine & Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd and Jacqui Sherriff, Historian, in December 2000.

##### **13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION**

For a Comparative Analysis, refer to 'Cue Conservation Plan', prepared for the Shire of Cue by Considine & Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd and Jacqui Sherriff, Historian, in December 2000.

##### **13.4 KEY REFERENCES**

'Cue Conservation Plan', prepared for the Shire of Cue by Considine & Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd and Jacqui Sherriff, Historian, in December 2000.

##### **13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH**

No original plan of the building has been located and the precise nature and timing of all changes, including the rear addition, are not known. There have been no invasive investigations, so that colour schemes throughout time have not been ascertained.

No visible evidence of the linoleum flooring and frosted windows exists. It is also difficult to determine the material of the original ceilings. No floor cavities were inspected.