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.

11. 1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Coolgardie Fire Station is an important component of the Sylvester Street streetscape and the historic town of Coolgardie. The Fire Station is a fine example of a timber framed and corrugated iron clad structure dating from the 1930s and as such contributes to the architectural diversity of the town. *Coolgardie Fire Station* complements other corrugated iron structures and contrasts with the grander stone buildings in the town centre. (Criterion 1.3)

11. 2. HISTORIC VALUE

Coolgardie Fire Station represents the continuing history of the provision of fire and rescue services in the town of Coolgardie since 1895. The building is representative of a series of fire stations in Coolgardie and is located on the site of the first fire station, which existed from c. 1899 to 1937. The significance of the fire station is increased by Coolgardie's history of serious fires in the early period of the town's development. (Criterion 2.1)

Coolgardie Fire Station is of significance for its strong associations with the Fire Brigade of Western Australia. The establishment of fire brigades in the early 1900s was of great importance to Eastern Goldfields towns which were particularly susceptible to fire. (Criterion 2.2)

Coolgardie Fire Station has been associated with the members of the Coolgardie Volunteer Fire Brigade since the Brigade's inception in 1895. (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

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11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Coolgardie Fire Station is of significance to the local Coolgardie community. From 1895, the Volunteer Fire Brigade has been an important group within the town and *Coolgardie Fire Station* has been a venue for Brigade educational,

* 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.

training and social events, as well as the headquarters for the Fire and Rescue Service. (Criterion 4.1)

The landmark quality of Coolgardie Fire Station in the context of the Coolgardie townsite contributes to the community's sense of place. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Coolgardie Fire Station is a rare example of a corrugated iron fire station building constructed in the 1930s, since similar examples at Cue (1936), Fimiston (1938) and Norseman (1938) are no longer extant. (Criterion 5.1)

Coolgardie Fire Station demonstrates the provision of fire services in rural Western Australia in the 1930s and represents a way of life no longer practiced as current requirements for fire stations are no longer met by buildings of this type. (Criterion 5.2)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Coolgardie Fire Station is a representative example of a rural fire station from the 1930s. (Criterion 6.1)

Coolgardie Fire Station represents the continuing provision of fire and rescue services in Coolgardie from the 1890s. The place is also representative of the contribution of the volunteer fire brigades to local communities. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

Coolgardie Fire Station is in fair condition. The associated bathroom / store and toilet buildings are also in a fair condition.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

Coolgardie Fire Station has a high degree of integrity as it retains its original function.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

Coolgardie Fire Station has a high degree of authenticity as it retains much of its original fabric, fittings and fixtures. The authenticity of the place is reinforced by the existence of the associated outbuildings, including the bathroom / store, toilets and site features such as the fence, hedge and jacaranda tree.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Attached are key sections of the supporting evidence prepared by Heritage and Conservation Professionals, 'Coolgardie Fire Station: Conservation Plan', (prepared for the Department of Contract and Management Services on behalf of the Fire and Rescue Service of Western Australia, December 1997).

13. 1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the documentary evidence refer to Heritage and Conservation Professionals, 'Coolgardie Fire Station: Conservation Plan', (prepared for the Department of Contract and Management Services on behalf of the Fire and Rescue Service of Western Australia, December 1997).

13. 2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the physical evidence refer to Heritage and Conservation Professionals, 'Coolgardie Fire Station: Conservation Plan', (prepared for the Department of Contract and Management Services on behalf of the Fire and Rescue Service of Western Australia, December 1997).

13. 3 REFERENCES

Heritage and Conservation Professionals, 'Coolgardie Fire Station: Conservation Plan', (prepared for the Department of Contract and Management Services on behalf of the Fire and Rescue Service of Western Australia, December 1997).

13.4 FURTHER RESEARCH
