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.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 7.7.3 Going to war
- 8.1.3 Developing public parks and gardens
- 8.5.1 Preserving traditions and group memories
- 8.8 Remembering the fallen

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 405 Sport, recreation & entertainment
- 501 World Wars & other wars
- 604 Local heroes & battlers

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

The combination of the World War One painted Donnybrook stone War Memorial Pavilion in Inter War Free Classical style located within the treed and grassed Memorial Park is aesthetically appealing. (Criterion 1.1)

The War Memorial is a unique and aesthetically excellent example of a well-designed Inter War Free Classical style monument (Criterion 1.1)

Narrogin Memorial Park & War Memorial Pavilion is a picturesque urban parkland setting that comprises informal plantings including mature Japanese peppers, Himalayan cedar, Peppermint tree, and various eucalypts, which provide a backdrop to the unique War Memorial Pavilion and associated formal forecourt to the east. (Criteria 1.2 & 1.3)

11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

Memorial Park has associations with the development of Narrogin since the 1890s, originally being part of the police precinct until 1922, when *Narrogin*

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* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, R., Irving, R., Reynolds, P. *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture. Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present,* Angus and Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.
For consistency, all references to garden and landscape types and styles are taken from Ramsay, J. *Parks, Gardens and Special Trees: A Classification and Assessment Method for the Register of the National Estate,* Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

Memorial Park & War Memorial Pavilion was established on the site. (Criterion 2.1)

Narrogin Memorial Park & War Memorial Pavilion is an example of Australia's commemoration of those who served and died during two World Wars, and is one of numerous war memorials established in rural towns in Western Australia in the years immediately following the end of World War One. (Criterion 2.2)

Since the laying of the foundation stone on Anzac Day, 25 April 1922 up to the present day (2005), *Narrogin Memorial Park & War Memorial Pavilion* has been the focus of Anzac Day services in Narrogin, and has become the location of additional memorials serving as reminders to specific events and peoples. In 1953, an additional plaque listing the names of servicemen and servicewomen who died in World War Two was added to the War Memorial Pavilion. (Criterion 2.2)

The place has associations with the Narrogin sub-branch of the Returned Servicemen's League and the families of local residents who served and fell in the line of duty during World Wars One and Two and to whom the memorial pays tribute. (Criterion 2.3)

The War Memorial Pavilion was designed by architect George Lavater who also designed numerous fire stations, Pingelly Town Hall, Highbury Hotel and Narrogin residence, *Carinya* and was Narrogin Town Councillor and later Secretary of the Narrogin Roads Board (1915-1935).

11.3 SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11.4 SOCIAL VALUE

Since 1922, *Narrogin Memorial Park & War Memorial Pavilion* has been the focus for Anzac Day commemorative services in Narrogin. (Criterion 4.1)

Narrogin Memorial Park & War Memorial Pavilion is valued by the community of Narrogin and district for its significant contribution to the townscape and character of Narrogin and as a reminder of Narrogin, Western Australia's and Australia's involvement in World Wars One and Two commemorating the Anzac spirit. (Criterion 4.1)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1 RARITY

The War Memorial Pavilion demonstrates a rare form and design of a war memorial in Western Australia. (Criterion 5.1)

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

The Memorial Park is a fair example of a World War One commemorative park that has survived into the 21st century in good condition. (Criterion 6.1)

Narrogin Memorial Park & War Memorial Pavilion demonstrates the widespread cultural expression of Western Australian communities at the end of World Wars One and Two to commemorate those lost in the wars by building individually designed war memorials. (Criterion 6.1)

12.3 CONDITION

Narrogin Memorial Park & War Memorial Pavilion is in good condition. Memorial Park is maintained on a regular basis, and the War Memorial Pavilion similarly is clearly well maintained.

12.4 INTEGRITY

Narrogin Memorial Park & War Memorial Pavilion has retained a high degree of integrity as a war memorial despite the intrusion of ablution facilities and changes to the setting over the years from a formal to an informal layout.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

The original fabric of *Narrogin Memorial Park & War Memorial Pavilion* remains mostly intact. The original face stone on the War Memorial Pavilion has been painted, but otherwise there seems to have been only minimal intrusion to the fabric. *Narrogin Memorial Park & War Memorial Pavilion* has retained a high degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentation for this place is based on the heritage assessment completed by Irene Sauman, Historian and Laura Gray, Heritage and Conservation Consultant, in October 2005, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Narrogin Memorial Park & War Memorial Pavilion comprises Memorial Park, an informally laid out triangular-shaped park with scattered gardens and trees, seating and barbecue facilities, within which is a painted Donnybrook stone and concrete War Memorial Pavilion (1922-23; 1937-38; 1953) designed by architect George Lavater.

The township of Narrogin developed as the maintenance and administration centre of the Great Southern Railway and a service centre for the surrounding farming region. The population of the district increased rapidly in the early 1900s with prospectors moving into the area due to the downturn in gold production in the eastern goldfields. Narrogin was declared a Municipality in 1906.[1]

Like most country towns in Australia, Narrogin sent many men to the war front between 1914 and 1918. First among those who enlisted were the men who had joined the 25th Light Horse 'B' Squadron in 1912. During the war years, various proposals were put forward for construction of a memorial to the local enlisted men. In July 1915, the Bishop of Bunbury proposed a new Anglican Church as a memorial, and a year later there were calls for a memorial soldiers' institute to be built beside the town hall as a 'rest house' for wounded and shell-shocked servicemen.[2] It was at a Council meeting on 13 March 1917 that Mayor Dr W. H. Mackie endorsed a ratepayers suggestion that the triangular piece of land bounded by Fortune, Egerton and Earl streets should be made 'a lasting memorial to the soldiers from this electorate who have fallen or are likely to fall in the present war'.[3] The site was adjacent to the State School where it was claimed 'it would for generations to come exercise an ennobling influence on the minds of the rising generation'.[4]

The land in question was part of Police Reserve 8079. The Narrogin police station was located in one corner, on Earl Street, while most of the three-acre site was used as a yard for the police horses.[5] There was a great deal of discussion and varied opinions as to whether an institute or a park was the most suitable war memorial, and whether an institute should be built beside the town hall or on the police paddock site.[6] While these matters were being discussed, a Soldiers' Memorial Committee was formed and fundraising for an institute began. When Premier James Mitchell visited Narrogin on 8 July 1919, the idea of a memorial park was uppermost in the minds of the Town Council, and the Premier was

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1 A more detailed history of the development of Narrogin can be found in HCWA assessment documentation for Narrogin Post Office, P1818 and Narrogin Railway Station, P3521.

2 White, Maurie, *Memorial I: Narrogin and World War I*, Narrogin, 1993, pp. 113-115.

3 White, Maurie, *Memorial I*, op cit, p. 115.

4 White, Maurie, *Memorial I*, op cit, p. 115.

5 Pustkuchen, O. E., *The Way Through: The story of Narrogin*, Artlook Books Trust, Perth, 1981, p. 186; White, Maurie, *Memorial I*, op cit, p. 115.

6 Richards, Oline, *War Memorials in Western Australia*, Perth, O. Richards, April 1996, p. 4, acknowledges that community disputes over functional versus symbolic memorials was not unusual.

asked if the Government would give the police paddock to the Town for that purpose. The Premier agreed to the request and an area of a little under 1.25 acres (approx 0.60 ha) was excised from the site and vested in the Town Council. It was gazetted Reserve 17532 as a Soldiers Memorial Site on 24 September 1920.[7]

Discussion continued regarding whether the memorial institute should be built on the newly acquired Reserve or on a site next to the town hall, and doubts were raised as to whether such a building could be erected on land ostensibly granted for a park. In the event, problems regarding the fundraising for the institute soured the project for the local community and at a public meeting held on 15 September 1921, the majority voted against the memorial institute plan. It was decided that Narrogin's soldiers' memorial would be a park with a pavilion, with Council to provide a room in the proposed additions to the town hall for the use of returned servicemen in lieu of the institute.[8]

The War Memorial Pavilion was designed by George G. Lavater, ARIVIA, and built by local contractor Hugh Marsh, both of whom had been responsible for the design and construction of the Narrogin Town Hall. Lavater was a Narrogin Town Councillor in the early years of the Municipality and was later Secretary of the Narrogin Roads Board (1915-1935). He designed Wagin & Narrogin fire stations (both demolished) and the additions to Katanning Fire Station, as well as the Pingelly Town Hall, Highbury Hotel and Narrogin residence, *Carinya*.[9] Lavater also provided design work gratuitously for the Council on occasion, such as for the Egerton Street Bridge.[10] Hugh Marsh worked on the construction of the Narrogin Trading and Agency Company Building and Wickepin residence *Comadyne*, as well as Yillminning Hall, Gillmanning Hall/School, Noman's Lake School, Cootarring School and the Great Southern Flour Mill, Narrogin, all of which have been demolished.[11]

The first Anzac Day ceremony at *Narrogin Memorial Park & War Memorial Pavilion* was held in 1922, when the foundation stone of the Memorial Pavilion was laid as part of a full agenda of ceremonies attended by 'practically the whole of the residents' of Narrogin. The events began with an 11.00 a.m. service for children held in the Town Hall and presided over by Mayor J. J. James. The Rev C. M. Hilson, Rev Mason, and Rev Wesley Smith participated in the service, at which E. B. Johnston MLA gave 'a stirring address'. The event was followed by a parade of returned soldiers and Boy Scouts in uniform, led by the Narrogin Brass Band.[12]

> At 2 p.m. a further service was conducted in what is known as Memorial Park. Here a memorial building is in course of erection, the foundation course of solid concrete having been already laid in preparation for the superstructure… Around the memorial were grouped several machine guns and others of heavier calibre…[13]

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7 White, Maurie, *Memorial I*, op cit, p. 115; DLI Reserve Enquiry, Reserves 8079 and 17532.

8 White, Maurie, *Memorial I*, op cit, p. 115-117. The Soldier's Institute was eventually built by the RSL in 1925 on Egerton Street.

9 Gray, Laura & Williams, Lucy, *Conservation Plan for Narrogin Town Hall Complex*, October 2001, p. 18.

10 *Narrogin Observer*, 12 January, 1907, p. 2.

11 Gray, Laura & Williams, Lucy, op cit, p. 18.

12 *Narrogin Observer*, 29 April, 1922, p. 5.

13 *Narrogin Observer*, 29 April, 1922, p. 5.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. N. Olden, DSO laid the foundation stone using a silver trowel presented to him for the occasion. Lt-Col Olden was a local dentist, and as second in command of the 10th Australian Light Horse, was notable for accepting the surrender of Damascus on 1 October 1918.[14] Lt-Col Olden and Dr. W. H. Mackie then both spoke at length, after which wreaths were laid at the foot of the foundation stone and Victory Medals were presented to the returned servicemen. The parade then made its way to the cemetery where wreaths were laid on the graves of several soldiers and a final service was held.[15]

The War Memorial Pavilion was completed at a cost of £325.00. The brass name plates of men who had served in World War One were attached with screws to two large jarrah tablets, which were covered with plate glass and attached one each side of the entrance at the eastern end of the War Memorial Pavilion. The name plates were designed so that in the future they could be rearranged or added to, as in 1923 the authorities were still unsure if all names had been collected.[16] The War Memorial Pavilion was dedicated on Anzac Day 1923, following a children's service and street parade similar to the previous year. An Oregon pine flagstaff, which was presented to the Town by Millar's Karri & Jarrah Company, was located 'in the foreground' to the War Memorial Pavilion, and flew a Union Jack presented by Mr. Wankey for the occasion. Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Nicholson, CMG, DSO, VD, representing the Governor, Sir Francis Newdegate, unveiled the memorial tablets and dedicated the building 'in a forceful speech of some duration… richly embellished… by reference… to the prowess of the Australian soldier… during the late war'. Several prayers and hymns followed and the ceremony ended with the playing of the National Anthem.[17]

The report of the event included a description of the War Memorial Pavilion:

> It takes the form of a Doric Pavilion on 12 reinforced concrete columns. The floor is raised about two feet above the ground and the sides are balustraded, while the ends are solid panels. The entrance is by steps at either end. The bases are of Donnybrook stone. The lintel is in reinforced concrete and on the interior of this frieze are the names of the principal battles in which the West Australian forces took part... The whole is surmounted by a tiled roof with pedimented parapits (sic) at each end.[18]

Of the four guns located in *Narrogin Memorial Park & War Memorial Pavilion*, three were installed some time in the 1920s. The oldest, located at the northwest corner, is a British 9-pounder rifled muzzle-loader, of the type used in Western Australia in the late 19th century by No. 1 Battery and the Fremantle Artillery Volunteers, and may be from one of those units. It was originally installed in front of the Narrogin Town Hall in 1913.[19]

The other two guns are German weapons, and are Narrogin's share of the 3,000-plus weapons captured by Australian forces and distributed throughout the Commonwealth.[20] The larger of the two is a 77mm Feld Kanone (field gun) of the type first produced in 1896 at the Krupp armament works, and bears the letter 'Fr

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14 'The ride to Damascus', www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Senate/3541/diana_bell.html.

15 *Narrogin Observer*, 29 April, 1922, p. 5.

16 The names of those on the WWI and WWII plaques are listed in Maurie White's publications *Memorial 1* and *Memorial II* together with biographical information for many, and a full list is available on the website http://members.westnet.com.au/web/llarment/ngnwarmemorial.htm.

17 *Narrogin Observer*, 28 April, 1923, p. 5.

18 *Narrogin Observer*, 28 April, 1923, p. 5.

19 White, Maurie, *Memorial I*, op cit, p. 122.

20 *Narrogin Observer*, 15 November 1919.

Kp' for Friedrich Krupp, and the number 4253. The smaller German gun is a mortar, known technically as a Flachbahnwerfer, or New Model light Minenwerfer (bomb-thrower or mortar), which was provided with a special carriage to give a flatter trajectory for closer targets.[21]

The capture and display of war trophies has a long tradition. Before the time of the Roman Empire, a trophy was a memorial set up on a battlefield by a victorious army and comprised captured armour and weapons hung on a tree and dedicated to an appropriate god. To destroy a trophy was considered sacrilege. In order to facilitate reconciliation with defeated people the Romans took their captured relics back to Rome and displayed them within the city. Since then, war trophies have been those items taken from the battlefield, and have become memorials to the fallen as well as to the conquest.[22]

In World War One, captured trophies were marked with a label indicating the name of the capturing unit and the date and place of capture. Trophies were removed from the battle area to the headquarters at the rear and then to England, where they were stored. In previous wars where Australians had fought in the Imperial forces, such as the Boer War, England had taken first pick of war trophies for its own collection before distributing those remaining through the rest of Great Britain and the colonies, and it intended doing the same with the World War One trophies. Australian Prime Minister W. M. (Billy) Hughes insisted that Australia receive the trophies its troops had captured, claiming Australia needed them to make her own national history.[23]

The Prime Minister's view was accepted by the British War Office and Australia received some 300 artillery pieces, 3,000 machine guns, trench mortars, horse-drawn vehicles and motor vehicles. Allocation of items was managed by the War Trophy Committee of the National War Memorial and various State War Trophy Committees, with items allocated according to State of origin of capturing unit and population of the receiving town. Acceptance of a trophy was conditional upon the signing of a written agreement guaranteeing the relics would be permanently displayed and preserved. Not all towns could, or would accept a trophy, and some demanded a larger item to better reflect their contribution to the war effort. Later allocations were made from remaining trophies and those received at various times over the ensuing years.[24]

Narrogin, with a population between 3,000 and 10,000, received one gun - the field gun, number 4253 - from the initial Pool A allocation.[25] The smaller mortar would have been a later allocation.[26]

Between the two World Wars, Memorial Park was gradually transformed into a formally laid out urban park, which was in keeping with the general trend of war memorial sites in Australia, where 'most of the memorials are associated with formal landscape settings with trees and other ornamental plantings'.[27]

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21 White, Maurie, *Memorial I*, op cit, pp. 123-125.

22 Billett, Major R. S., *War Trophies from the First World War 1914-1918*, East Roseville, NSW, Kangaroo Press, 1999, p. 1.

23 Billett, Major R. S., op cit, pp. 33-36.

24 Billett, Major R. S., op cit, pp. 36-53.

25 Billett, Major R. S., op cit, Appendix 10, Western Australian Directory of Allotted Trophies.

26 The trophy number for this item would likely be found in Australian War Memorial archives of the Trophy Committees but is not known at the present time.

27 Richards, Oline, *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, op cit, p. 91.

A post-and-rail fence enclosed the area with the entrance from Memorial Avenue, which separated *Narrogin Memorial Park & War Memorial Pavilion* from the Police precinct on the east side. On 10 October 1929, a tree planting ceremony was conducted at Memorial Park as a State centennial event. Two trees were planted by early settlers Mr and Mrs Michael Brown, and one tree each by the first mayor, W. E. C. Moss, and the current mayor, Patrick McCormick.[28] The Browns planted two pine trees in front of the War Memorial Pavilion (one died in 1937 and the other was removed in 1955).[29] No details of the other trees planted was given in the newspaper report of the event, which concentrated on the speeches of the day. Others present at the ceremony were Senator E. B. Johnston, C. H. Wittenoom, MLC, V. Doney, MLA, and Narrogin councillors.[30]

Alf Oxman was appointed gardener/caretaker of *Narrogin Memorial Park & War Memorial Pavilion* in 1930, and five years later was reportedly responsible for:

> [T]he profusion of expertly cultivated blooms, neat lawn, ordered pathways and the restful seclusion of shapely trees and ornamental shrubs… Today these gardens rank second to none in the country districts and are both the envy and the admiration of visitors from other towns.[31]

A large yucca on the north side of Memorial Park was noted for its immense flower spike. A photograph of *Narrogin Memorial Park & War Memorial Pavilion*, dating from the 1950s, shows the orderly and formal layout of the grounds, with shrubberies and flowerbeds bordering the paths.[32]

In the 1920s and 1930s, *Narrogin Memorial Park & War Memorial Pavilion* continued to be the venue for well attended Anzac Day ceremonies, which followed the pattern set in 1922 with the main ceremony held in the early afternoon.[33] In 1937, floodlighting was attached to both ends of the War Memorial Pavilion to ensure that Memorial Park was safe to venture into at night. The World War One jarrah honour boards, which had become dilapidated, were removed, and the name plates were attached to two bronze plaques, which were then attached to the east and west sides of a concrete plinth set in the centre of the War Memorial Pavilion. The work was done by the Narrogin Returned Service's League (RSL) with a grant of £18 provided by the Narrogin Council, and the new installation was unveiled on Anzac Day 1938 by Mrs E. S. Hall.[34]

In the early 1940s, a baluster on the south side of the War Memorial Pavilion was dislodged and not replaced and by the late 1940s, *Narrogin Memorial Park & War Memorial Pavilion* was described as being in a 'filthy' condition. Wardens were appointed by the RSL to take care of the place and the Council allocated £10 a year for upkeep. Fundraising was undertaken in 1950-51 for suggested improvements to the place. Most suggestions did not eventuate, but one that did was the addition of a plaque with the names of the thirty-five servicemen and one servicewoman from the Narrogin district who had died in World War Two. Also

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28 *Great Southern Leader*, 19 October 1929, p. 5.

29 White, Maurie, *Memorial I*, op cit, pp. 123-125.

30 *Great Southern Leader*, 19 October 1929, p. 5.

31 *Narrogin Observer,* an editorial in 1935, quoted in White, Maurie, *Memorial I*, op cit, p. 118.

32 Photograph of Memorial Park c. 1950s, courtesy Narrogin Library; photograph of children in one of the Pepper trees in 1991, from Chris Rowett, *In and Out of Town: a contemporary view of country life*, Shire & Town of Narrogin, 1992, [p. 17].

33 From 1935, the ABC Anzac Service for Schools was broadcast on Anzac eve and the children's service on Anzac Day was no longer held.

34 White, Maurie, *Memorial I*, op cit, p. 118.

listed are the places where Australians received battle honours. The plaque was added to the south side of the plinth in the War Memorial Pavilion in 1953, and had the effect of increasing Anzac Day attendance numbers, which had decreased noticeably following the end of World War Two.[35]

In 1958, the RSL invited members of the Women's Services, who had served overseas, to take part in the parade. Sister O'Donnell marched in 1958, and Sister Bess Bacon took part for many years from 1959. Two other names worth noting in connection with Narrogin Anzac Day services are those of Ernest Phillips, who was the bugler from 1944 until his death in 1969, and Ernest Evenis, bugler from 1970 until his death in 1989. [36]

The Narrogin Anzac Day Ceremony had traditionally been an afternoon event with a religious service, but from 1961 the ceremonies were relocated to the morning and made non-denominational, with a sporting event following in the afternoon. The change was immediately popular, resulting in record numbers attending. During the 1960s, army and air force cadets from the Narrogin Senior High School participated in the services, and provided a four-man guard of honour at the corners of the War Memorial Pavilion.[37]

In February 1968, the fencing around *Narrogin Memorial Park & War Memorial Pavilion* was removed. In the early 1970s, the Government resumed Memorial Avenue and added the land to the police precinct to provide sufficient area for construction of a new courthouse and public office building. With the formal road access to *Narrogin Memorial Park & War Memorial Pavilion* removed, Memorial Park was remodelled to create the open and informal layout of a public urban park with scattered flower gardens, lawns and shady trees.[38] Trees along the east boundary of Memorial Park were removed around this time, but it is unclear whether it was the remodelling of Memorial Park or the resumption of Memorial Avenue that was the reason for this.[39]

The RSL Memorial fund was closed in the 1970s and the remaining $760 was given to the Council to provide a memorial to those who had fallen during the conflicts of World War Two, Korea, Malaysia and Vietnam. This took the form of a barbecue area, which was added to Memorial Park in the late 1970s, and the words, 'Korea' and 'Vietnam' were inscribed on the War Memorial Pavilion.[40] The apex (western) end of Memorial Park was 'beautified' in 1979 with prize money won during the Tidy Towns competition.[41]

On 17 April 1986, in time for the Anzac Day celebrations, a Bofors gun was installed in Memorial Park by RSL members. This was a QF 40mm Mk I, built in Canada from a design developed by Bofors in Sweden in 1929. It had been used in Darwin against Japanese air raids in World War Two, and was later displayed at Clayton in Victoria before arriving in Narrogin.[42] In July 1986 four metal seats, donated by W. Manning, Freeman of Narrogin, were installed in the Park, and a

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35 White, Maurie, *Memorial 1*, op cit, pp. 119-120 & *Memorial II*: *Narrogin and World War II,* Narrogin, 1993, p. 138; Photograph of Memorial Park c. 1950s, op cit, shows the gap in the Pavilion balustrade.

36 White, Maurie, *Memorial II*, op cit, pp. 138.

37 White, Maurie, *Memorial II*, op cit, pp. 138.

38 White, Maurie, *Memorial I*, op cit, p. 120; physical evidence; Ramsay, J., op cit, pp. 6-7.

39 Pustkuchen, O. E., op cit, p. 187.

40 Physical evidence.

41 White, Maurie, *Memorial I*, op cit, p. 120.

42 White, Maurie, *Memorial I*, op cit, p. 126.

drinking fountain, donated by Moulds Fuel, was added during the Australian Bicentenary year of 1988.[43] The 1923 Oregon flagstaff remained in place until 26 November 1988, when it was snapped in half by some 'rowdy youngsters' when they hauled on the lanyard. It was replaced by a metal flagstaff.[44]

Other artillery displays have been added in the 1990s, to commemorate the various services of the Australian Armed Forces. These include a torpedo commemorating the Navy, an artillery gun commemorating the Army, and a propeller commemorating the Air Force.[45]

Narrogin Memorial Park & War Memorial Pavilion was entered in the Town of Narrogin Municipal Inventory in 1996, with a recommendation for entry into the State Register of Heritage Places (Level 1 management category).[46] The place is entered in the Statewide War Memorial Survey (1996), and the War Memorial Pavilion is included in the Art Deco Significant Buildings Survey (1994).[47]

The three mature Japanese pepper trees (*Schinus terebinthifolia*) in Memorial Park are possible remnants of the 1930s plantings, but other existing trees are more likely to have been planted post World War Two.[48]

In 2005, *Narrogin Memorial Park & War Memorial Pavilion* provides a well maintained, passive recreation venue in the centre of Narrogin and the War Memorial Pavilion continues to be the focus of Anzac Day ceremonies in the town.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Narrogin Memorial Park & War Memorial Pavilion comprises Memorial Park, a triangular landscaped park with informal plantings including some mature trees that form an appropriate setting for the single-storey stone and tiled roofed War Memorial Pavilion.

Narrogin Memorial Park & War Memorial Pavilion is located on a triangular section of land bounded by Williams Road across the north west, and Fortune Street along the south boundary. The Narrogin Courthouse and police complex forms the boundary to the east side of the park. The apex of the triangle is the west end where Fortune Street terminates at Williams Road.

The site is level. It is grassed almost entirely, with a range of informal mature and immature planting throughout, and a small landscaped area at the west end apex. Central within the park is a single storey face brick ablution building, with a brick pillared pergola on the north and west sides and a drinking fountain and barbeque installation in the adjacent paved area. Some attempt has been made to camouflage the facility with a flowering plum (*prunus blireiana* or *cerasifera*). Linking through the vertical axis of the park on a concrete path, is the War Memorial Pavilion, centred in the south end of Memorial Park, with the vertical axis connecting in a formal double pathway with central plantings through to the courthouse. A double pathway bounds the eastern edge of the park, with a

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43 White, Maurie, *Memorial I*, op cit, pp. 119-120.

44 White, Maurie, *Memorial I*, op cit, p. 118.

45 Physical evidence.

46 Narrogin Municipal Inventory Steering Committee, *Municipal Heritage Inventory prepared for the Town of Narrogin, 1995*.

47 Richards, Oline, *War Memorials in Western Australia*, op cit, p. 84; Geneve, Vyonne, *Significant Buildings of the 1930s in Western Australia*, National Trust, Perth, 1994.

48 Information provided by consultant horticulturalist John Visca.

variety of plantings along the edge, screening the courthouse building. Within the eastern end of Memorial Park, there are also a number of remnant wartime relics. In the central section of the Park, there are some metal-formed bench seats with commemorative plaques in informal locations beneath mature trees.

The War Memorial Pavilion is a single storey structure raised on a plinth. It is constructed of painted face donnybrook stone pillars to dado height, with rendered and painted masonry dado infill on the ends. The long sides of the dado walls are infilled with Italianate concrete balusters. The dado walls are capped with a slate ledge. A series of Tuscan columns support the entablature and the dado wall. The gable roof is clad with terracotta Marseille roof tiles. The War Memorial Pavilion is a single space in a rectangular plan with concrete stepped access at each gable end. The entablature is plain rendered with a decorative cornice. The gable ends feature a stepped parapet with scrolled brackets, and a triangular pediment surmounted within the entablature. On both stepped parapets there are stucco wreaths each side of the central pediment. On the west end, the words 'Korea' and 'Vietnam' are written on the cornice.

Central within the War Memorial Pavilion there is a concrete plinth on the concrete floor. The plinth has plaques on three of the four sides listing the names of those who served or who fell during the two World Wars. Around the inside of the cornice of the Pavilion, in black sign writing, are the names of places where World War One campaigns took place, from central east clockwise they are: Damascus, Gaza, Mont St Quentin, Moiquet Farm, Villiers, Bretonneux, Flers, Gallipoli, Ypres, Messines, Bullecourt, Pozieres, and Jenin. The ceiling is battened asbestos sheeting.

South east from the pavilion there is a torpedo mounted on a concrete plinth. It is a 1995 commemoration of the Australian Navy. On the north side there is an artillery gun that commemorates the Australian Army, and in the north east corner, there is a propeller that is a 1997 commemoration to the Royal Australian Air Force. Other artillery elements are located in the north east corner of the park.

The park is open to the street frontages. Except for the paved area in the vicinity of the ablution building, and the central path from the ablution building east to the pavilion and onwards to the courthouse, the entire park is grassed. There is an informal adhoc combination of mature, recent, native and exotic plantings throughout. From the landscaped area at the west apex, a group of gum trees, including several Spotted gums *(Eucalyptus maculata)* define the east edge. Further east and central between the streets in an open grassed area is a circular rose garden. South east from the rose garden there is a Himalayan cedar (*Cedrus deodar*) with an Italian cypress or Pencil pine (*Cupressus sempervirens*) close by near Fortune Street. Further to the south east there are two mature Japanese peppers (or peppercorns) *(Schinus terebinthifolia)*. In the low garden and shrubs between the two trees there is a Bracelet honey myrtle *(Melaleuca armillaris)*. There are a few mature paperbarks (*Melaleuca* species) scattered on the north side of the ablution building, and another mature Japanese pepper *(Schinus terebinthifolia)* on the centre axis between the ablution building and the War Memorial Pavilion. South east of the ablution building is a mature buddleia *(Buddleja madagascariensis)* with a group of Spotted gums *(Eucalyptus maculata)* in the vicinity of the Fortune Street roadside. On the opposite side of the park just north of the War Memorial Pavilion there is a mature peppermint

(Agonis flexuosa) and there is a group of immature eucalypts of varying species in the north east corner of the park.[49]

Narrogin Memorial Park & War Memorial Pavilion is in good condition. The Memorial Park is obviously maintained on a regular basis, and the War Memorial Pavilion similarly is clearly well maintained.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

Narrogin Memorial Park & War Memorial Pavilion shares features in common with other war memorials in Australia, including separate locations for World War One lists of names (which list all those who served) and the World War Two lists (which list those who died). Display of captured artillery as war trophies from World War One, and Australian artillery from World War Two is another common feature.

War memorials took a number of forms, ranging from a traditional monument, statue or obelisk, to memorial buildings, parks, tree plantings and honour avenues. While many places have memorial parks, it is considered likely that the majority of them were existing parks that have been renamed rather than parks established as memorials. It is not uncommon for war memorial parks to be affected by development and urban growth, with few remaining intact.[50] Narrogin Memorial Park is an exception to these generalities, having been established specifically as a memorial park, and surviving urban development to exist in the 21st century.

With few exceptions, memorial parks were formal in layout, as was Narrogin's Memorial Park, originally. The forecourt of the War Memorial Pavilion is all that remains of the original formal layout of the grounds.

There are approximately 142 war memorials in the Heritage Council database, 40 of which were constructed between 1920 and 1925. Of these, 10 others (besides *Narrogin Memorial Park & War Memorial Pavilion*) are located in the wheatbelt region, but few are comparable. The war memorials at Kellerberrin (P0998 Memorial Hospital & War Memorial) and Bruce Rock (P10644 *Memorial House*, registered) are incorporated into hospital buildings, while Goomalling and Wagin have War Memorial Halls (P1113 and 2656). P7225 Cuballing & Yornaning War Memorial, P12612 Jennacubbine War Memorial, P10053 Southern Cross War Memorial, P14366 Trayning War Memorial and P15702 Meckering War Memorial are granite or stone obelisks. Meckering War Memorial was relocated in 1970 to a park beside the railway line. P11011 Peace Park Memorial, Moora consists of a stone column in a park with memorial tree plantings. Some of the trees carry plaques to individual men, erected by their families, and a Turkish gun is mounted near the memorial column.[51]

Comparable war memorials (that is, those that are memorial parks or gardens constructed 1920-1925) in all regions include:

P05700 *Anzac Park, Bunbury* (registered) a memorial in the form of a cenotaph with a marble statue of a soldier located in a geometric style park setting.

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49 Identification of plantings by consultant horticulturalist John Visca.

50 Richards, Oline, *War Memorials in Western Australia*, op cit, pp. 4-10.

51 Heritage Council database; Richards, Oline, *War Memorials in Western Australia*, op cit, individual Shire entries.

P11817 Dongara War Memorial & Memorial Park. A granite obelisk on a stepped base that was originally constructed in the cemetery but moved to the memorial park when the park was created in 1938.

P11795 Gingin War Memorial. A dressed granite obelisk on a stepped plinth and rock face granite base, originally located in front of the Roads Board office, it was moved to the park in 1968.

P15695 Collie War Memorial, Soldiers Park & Honour Ave, Memorial Arch and Gates. A dressed granite obelisk and carved plinth, on a stepped rock face granite base, unveiled in 1921, within Soldiers Park. The Park was planted from 1921 but the trees are no longer extant.

The memorial parks at Bunbury and Collie are comparable to *Narrogin Memorial Park & War Memorial Pavilion* as the memorials were constructed within the parks and not relocated there at a later date. Memorial Park is a fair example of a World War One commemorative park that has survived into the 21st century in good condition.

There are only two other places on the Heritage Council database that are war memorials comprising a pavilion, neither of which are directly comparable to *Narrogin Memorial Park & War Memorial Pavilion*. They are P6621 Bridgetown Memorial Park, War Memorial and Pavilion and P13070 Vietnam Memorial Pavilion in Kings Park. The Pavilion at Bridgetown (c. 1950s) is of random rubble masonry with ornamental wrought iron entrance gates. The Vietnam Memorial Pavilion (1989) is a large timber framed pavilion with a tiled roof that was formerly located at the Karrakatta Cemetery. [52]

The War Memorial Pavilion is a rare form of a war memorial in Western Australia.

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

No key references.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

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[52] Heritage Council database; Richards, Oline, *War Memorials in Western Australia*, op cit, individual Shire entries.