



# 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\*

*Toodyay Fire Station* is a modest building employing a restrained use of the Inter-War stripped classical style, though it is used more as a decorative motif applied to a simple rectangular plan utilitarian. (Criterion 1.1)

Although the fire station itself is utilitarian, its modelled brick façade acknowledges its location as part of the central Toodyay townsite and exhibits a stylistic aspiration beyond its purely functional requirements. (Criterion 1.3)

By its scale and distinctive appearance, *Toodyay Fire Station* is an integral part of the Stirling Terrace streetscape, which is an important historic streetscape with high aesthetic values. (Criterion 1.4)

### 11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

*Toodyay Fire Station* was one of the few structures built in Toodyay during the inter-war period. This demonstrates part of Toodyay's restrained development, following its initial period of substantial establishment. (Criterion 2.1)

The establishment of the former fire station and *Toodyay Fire Station* was as a direct result of the Bush Fires Act 1937, which allowed local authorities to purchase and maintain bush fire fighting equipment, to establish and maintain bush fire brigades or to subsidise volunteer bush fire brigades. (Criterion 2.2)

*Toodyay Fire Station* was one of eighteen new fire stations built by the Western Australian Fire Brigades Board during an intensive building campaign between 1933 and 1938. (Criterion 2.2)

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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.

*Toodyay Fire Station* is associated with the Toodyay Fire Brigade and the Volunteer Fire Brigade who have had a pivotal role in the protection and maintenance of the region. (Criterion 2.3)

*Toodyay Fire Station* was designed by architect Ken Duncan, who was a member of the Volunteer Fire Brigade and was responsible for the design of 71 fire stations around Western Australia. (Criterion 2.3)

### 11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

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### 11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

*Toodyay Fire Station* is highly valued by the local community because of its association with the Toodyay Fire Brigade. The Brigade's display cabinet contains letters of appreciation from the community and also of condolence in the case of officers killed fighting fires. It is also valued as a meeting place and for its social activities. (Criterion 4.1)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **12.1. RARITY**

*Toodyay Fire Station* is the sole stripped classical building in Toodyay today. The fire station is only one of two single bay stripped classical fire stations built during the Western Australian Fire Brigades Board 1930s building campaign; the other station being Southern Cross. (Criterion 5.2)

### **12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

*Toodyay Fire Station* is representative of fire stations constructed in small, rural towns in the 1930s. (Criterion 6.2)

### **12.3 CONDITION**

*Toodyay Fire Station* is in good condition to represent its aesthetic, historic and social values in a legible way. The condition of the fabric is good to very good and the few intrusive elements do not prevent an understanding of the building's values.

### **12.4 INTEGRITY**

*Toodyay Fire Station* is currently used for training purposes, but will be disposed of when the Fire and Rescue Service and the Fire Brigade are co-located. The integrity of the building is high.

### **12.5 AUTHENTICITY**

*Toodyay Fire Station* has undergone change that has remained sympathetic to the original use and nature of the building. The majority of the original fabric remains and it is possible to readily understand which parts of the building are original and which are later additions. The rescue trailer is a later addition, and is of little aesthetic value. Overall, the building's authenticity is high.

### **13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE**

Attached are key sections of the supporting evidence prepared by Considine and Griffiths Architects, 'Conservation Plan for Toodyay Fire Station', prepared for Smith Tucker Property Services Pty Ltd on behalf of the Fire and Rescue Service of Western Australia, April 1999.

#### **13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE**

For a discussion of the Documentary Evidence refer to Considine and Griffiths Architects, 'Conservation Plan for Toodyay Fire Station', prepared for Smith Tucker Property Services Pty Ltd on behalf of the Fire and Rescue Service of Western Australia, April 1999.

#### **13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE**

For a discussion of the Physical Evidence refer to Considine and Griffiths Architects, 'Conservation Plan for Toodyay Fire Station', prepared for Smith Tucker Property Services Pty Ltd on behalf of the Fire and Rescue Service of Western Australia, April 1999.

#### **13.3 REFERENCES**

Considine and Griffiths Architects, 'Conservation Plan for Toodyay Fire Station', prepared for Smith Tucker Property Services Pty Ltd on behalf of the Fire and Rescue Service of Western Australia, April 1999.

#### **13.4 FURTHER RESEARCH**

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