



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)

- 8.7 Honouring achievement
- 8.9 Commemorating significant people

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 605 Famous People

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

The stepped design of the Memorial and details such as the stylised wings on either side of the light fixtures, contributes to the Memorial being a fine example of the Inter-War Art Deco style. (Criterion 1.1)

The Memorial has a pleasing simplicity of form with shallow recessed areas which add interest through the play of light and shadow. The use of indigenous floral motifs such as gumnuts and leaves on the bronze wreath and recess panels is an uncommon feature of pre-World War II commemorative works in Western Australia. (Criterion 1.2)

The Memorial has landmark qualities. It is prominently situated on a traffic island at the confluence of three major roads. (Criterion 1.3)

The height and proportions of the Memorial contribute to the aesthetic qualities of its immediate surroundings. (Criterion 1.3)

The Memorial, on its island site with its well-kept lawn, contributes to the precinct which marks the entrance to Kings Park, and provides a visual point of entry to the City of Perth via Malcolm Street. (Criterion 1.4)

11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

The Memorial is an example of the commemorative structures that were being erected in the vicinity of Kings Park, a place which was becoming the major site for memorials of State and national significance. (Criterion 2.1)

The Memorial represents the first civic monument in Western Australia, and possibly Australia, erected to honour an Australian woman. (Criterion 2.2)

* 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.

The erection of the Memorial on its particular site was a highly contentious issue at the time. Some of the arguments used against its siting in such a prominent location have been viewed as representative of a gender bias operating at the time. (Criterion 2.2)

The Memorial was erected to commemorate the memory of Edith Dircksey Cowan, for her many contributions to the improvement of the lot of women and children in Western Australia, and for her achievement as the first woman to be elected to Parliament in Australia. (Criterion 2.3)

The Memorial was designed by architect Harold Boas, the bronze portrait bust of Edith Cowan was by artist Margaret Johnson. (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

The Memorial is highly valued by those persons and institutions with whom Edith Dircksey Cowan was and is associated. In particular, those involved with social welfare and the various Western Australian, national and international organisations of women, and in more recent times, the Edith Cowan University. (Criterion 4.1)

The Memorial is situated in the general locality of Parliament House, where Edith Dircksey Cowan became the first woman in Australia to be elected to Parliament, and the dwellings in which she resided at various times while living in West Perth. (Criterion 4.1)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

The Memorial is believed to be the first civic monument erected in Australia to honour an Australian woman. (Criterion 5.1)

The clocks are some of the few remaining public clocks in the City of Perth. They represent a custom based on a need for public clocks which has declined since the middle of the last century. (Criterion 5.2)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

The Memorial is a representative example of a monument that commemorates a person or event, while at the same time having a practical use, in this instance its function as a clock tower. (Criterion 6.1)

The design of the Memorial, with its Art Deco features, is typical of a number of structures erected in Perth and elsewhere during the 1930s. (Criterion 6.1)

The Memorial is characteristic of the practice of erecting a monument to commemorate the achievements of an individual who has contributed significantly to the life of the community. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

The Memorial is in good condition. In recent times, the stonework was cleaned and the clock mechanisms checked.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

The Memorial continues its function as a memorial to Edith Dircksey Cowan thereby retaining a high degree of integrity.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

The Memorial has a high degree of authenticity. There have been no obvious changes to its appearance since its erection in 1934. Some change has taken place to its immediate surrounds, such as the enlargement of the traffic island, and its surface converted to lawn.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary and physical evidence has been compiled by Dr Robyn Taylor, Historian.

13. 1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Edith Dircksey Cowan Memorial is a commemorative clock tower erected in 1934 on a traffic island in Kings Park Road, West Perth, to honour 'one of Australia's greatest women'.¹ The traffic island was one of a number of safety zones being planned at the time by the Perth City Council,² and because of its prominent location opposite the entrance gates to Kings Park, the site was considered a highly desirable place for a monument of State or national, importance. The plan to use the site for the Memorial was not universally accepted, and its erection was to become a highly contentious issue.

Edith Dircksey Cowan (1861-1932) was born at Glengarry near Geraldton, the second child of Kenneth Brown, a pastoralist, and his first wife Mary Eliza Dircksey Wittenoom, daughter of the colonial chaplain, J. B. Wittenoom. In 1879, she married James Cowan, then registrar and master of the Supreme Court. 'His appointment in 1890 as Perth police magistrate gave them permanent social and economic security and gave her an insight into the wider society's social problems.'³ From the 1890s, Edith Cowan became involved with many volunteer organisations associated with social welfare and the rights of women. She worked for the Ministering Children's League, the House of Mercy for unmarried mothers, and was a foundation member of the Children's Protection Society which led to the setting up of the Children's Court of which she was one of the first women to be appointed to the bench. She was a founding member of the Karrakatta Women's Club, and helped form the Western Australian National Council of Women of which she was president then vice-president up until the time of her death. She was an initiator of the Women's Service Guild, which campaigned for the setting up of the King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women, and was appointed secretary to the new hospital's advisory board. During the war years Edith Cowan was active in the Red Cross and wartime charity activities,

1 Statement inside the cover of the Edith Cowan Memorial Committee's Minute Book of meetings. Batty Library Private Archives, Accession MN 927.

2 Minutes of the Perth City Council: December 5, 1932. Batty Library Private Archives, Accession 2826/25.

3 Brown, Margaret, Edith Dircksey Cowan (1861-1932), entry in *Australian Dictionary of Biography, 1891-1939*, Volume 8, pp.123-124. The Cowans were to live in Malcolm Street not far from the site of the memorial Memorial. One of the houses they lived in, a weatherboard cottage, was moved to Edith Cowan University.

and for this work she was awarded an OBE in 1920. She was also appointed a Justice of the Peace. In 1921 she successfully campaigned as an endorsed Nationalist for the Legislative Assembly, holding the seat of West Perth, thus becoming the first woman in Australia to be elected to Parliament. In office, she campaigned for the promotion of migrant welfare, infant health centres and women's rights. In 1923, as a private member, she introduced the Women's Legal Status Act, 'which opened the legal profession to women.'⁴ She lost her seat in 1924. In 1926, she helped found the Royal Western Australian Historical Society, and was active in the planning of the State's centenary celebrations in 1929. A plaque bearing her name is located in Kings Park under one of the commemorative trees planted in 1929 along Fraser Avenue. Despite suffering from ill health during the latter years of her life, she continued her committee and social welfare work until her admission to hospital.

Following Edith Cowan's death on 9 June, 1932, the Western Australian National Council of Women made a decision at its August meeting that a public meeting should be called to discuss the erection of a suitable memorial.⁵ The meeting was held the following month on 22 September, 1932, at the McNess Hall with the Lord Mayor James T. Franklin presiding. There were divided opinions at this meeting as to whether the memorial should be utilitarian, or of a more permanent nature. Because of her involvement with women's health, a suggestion was proposed that an Edith Cowan Ward should be erected at the King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women, 'to enable twilight sleep to be administered to patients'.⁶ Another suggestion was a model baby health centre. An honour drive in Kings Park and a pathway in the grounds of Parliament House were other considerations.⁷

The meeting then passed the following resolution:

That in the view of the State and nation-wide activities of the late Mrs Cowan, in the interests of humanity, we, who are proud to look upon her as one of Australia's greatest women, urge that any memorial to her memory should be of a permanent character and preferably should take the form of a monument to be erected in Kings Park where other great Australian pioneers are honoured.⁸

The form of this memorial was subsequently discussed by the Edith Cowan Memorial Committee, which was established to raise the necessary funding through public subscriptions. In October, the Committee wrote to the Kings Park Board asking approval for a memorial to be erected in Kings Park, and suggesting that this could take the form of an archway at the Entrance Gates.⁹ This request was refused by the Board. A letter sent to the Committee stated, 'the Board have other suggestions in view re the Main Gates, and are dis-

4 **ibid.**

5 Cowan, Peter, *A Unique Position: A Biography of Edith Dircksey Cowan, 1861-1932*, UWA Press, Nedlands, 1978, p.281, citing *The West Australian*, 06/09/1932.

6 **ibid.**, p.282. Twilight sleep was induced in the patient by the breathing in of a combination of oxygen and nitrous oxide through a mask. The gas had a calming effect and helped to relieve labour pain without causing loss of consciousness.

7 **ibid.**

8 This resolution is pasted inside the cover of the Edith Cowan Memorial Committee's Minute Book. Battye Library Private Archives, Accession MN 927.

9 Wycherley, Paul, *Mrs Cowan's Clock, The Location of the Edith Cowan Memorial*, Edith Cowan University, Churchlands, WA, 1997, p.3, citing Kings Park Board Minutes for meeting held on October 20, 1932.

inclined to favourably view the erection of further memorials other than National ones, within the Kings Park.¹⁰ Understandably, this response was not well received given the fact that it was believed Edith Cowan was a woman of national importance.¹¹

At this time, the Perth City Council was considering the erection of various safety zones within the city including one in the middle of Kings Park Circus.¹² 'This was considered essential as a factor of safety for pedestrians requiring to cross the circus, which is approximately 150 feet in diameter'.¹³ A plan dated December 1932 shows the existing road construction and the proposed widening of the Circus. The Circus had been planned in 1927, and a conduit to carry electrical wiring for lamps was laid down before the road was macadamised.¹⁴ An ornamental post had been designed to 'take the cluster of high powered lamps'.¹⁵ According to a statement by Perth City Councillor Harold Boas, a suggestion had also been proposed that the site 'would be an admirable position to put the electrically controlled Observatory clock, so that it would show to both incoming and outgoing traffic from the city, instead of as it is at present, at the side fence of the Observatory'.¹⁶ The safety zone had also been considered a potential site for the Lord Forrest Memorial, then the State War Memorial, before these were finally located within Kings Park.¹⁷

The proposals for the site had evidently been made known to the Edith Cowan Memorial Committee. At a meeting of the Perth City Council on 5 December, 1932, the Committee's letter was tabled requesting permission to erect a memorial on the proposed safety zone. The letter was referred to the Council's Works Committee which recommended that permission be granted 'provided the design is to the satisfaction of the Council'.¹⁸ Although it was not generally known at the time, Boas, a prominent Perth architect and chair of the Works Committee, began work on the memorial design in conjunction with the City Engineer, H. G. Atwell. In February 1933, following its approval by the Edith Cowan Memorial Committee, a sketch of the design was published in *The West Australian*.¹⁹ Protests about the erection of the memorial in Kings Park Circus and its design were soon received by the Council from the Royal Institute of Architects and the Town Planning Institute.²⁰ Kings Park Board also expressed its objections. The sentiment being shared by these bodies was the site was too important for other than a memorial of national significance and that it should be retained for that

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- 10 Letter dated 25/10/1932 to the Edith Cowan Memorial Committee. Battye Library Private Archives, Accession No. 482A.
- 11 In his publication, *Mrs Cowan's Clock*, Paul Wycherley, who is a former Director of Kings Park, includes an interesting chapter titled 'Kings Park Board and Women's Organizations', which gives a history of some of the conflicts between the two parties.
- 12 Minutes of the Perth City Council: December 5, 1932. Battye Library Private Archives, Accession 2826/25.
- 13 'Statement submitted by Harold Boas', with the Edith Cowan Memorial Committee papers, Battye Library Private Archives, Accession MN 927.
- 14 Referred to in the Perth City Council Works Committee Minutes, 24/07/1933.
- 15 'Statement submitted by Harold Boas', op.cit., p.2.
- 16 *ibid.*
- 17 *ibid.*, p.3.
- 18 Council Minutes of Meeting dated 19/12/32.
- 19 *The West Australian*, 17/02/1933, p.18.
- 20 Council Minutes of Meeting, dated 13/03/1933 and 27/03/1933.

purpose. The RIA also felt that the 'design itself was ill conceived and lacking the dignity of a memorial.'²¹ These sentiments were not shared by a number of correspondents to the press, and the feeling that there might be a gender bias behind these complaints is hinted at.²² The most serious objection was to be lodged by the Town Planning Commissioner, Mr D. L. Davidson, who argued the safety zone would be a traffic hazard and if the Perth City Council persisted with it, he would seek an injunction in the Supreme Court. Despite the threats and subsequent legal action, the Perth City Council proceeded with its plans for the safety zone and the memorial. Mr Yates of the Perth Observatory was consulted in relation to the clocks, and specifications were drawn up so that tenders could be invited.²³ The cost of the safety zone had been estimated at £139, while the cost of the memorial would be covered by the funds raised by the Edith Cowan Memorial Committee. In May 1933, a cheque to the value of £350 was received by the Council as the first instalment for the memorial.²⁴

In June 1933, the Memorial Committee conferred with artist John Brackenreg about finding a sculptor to undertake the work of modelling a plaque with the likeness of Edith Cowan. Although he had consulted with a few sculptors he knew in the Eastern States, Brackenreg recommended it should be undertaken by a Western Australian, and that he knew of four people who could be approached to submit designs and tenders.²⁵ The submitted designs included a cast which would have been in plaster. It was agreed that bronze rather than marble would be the medium used for the memorial.²⁶ The artists chosen to submit were Muriel Southern, an Art Instructress at the Fremantle Technical College, Margaret Johnson, a Perth portrait painter, and John MacLeod, a sculptor who had undertaken the 1929 centenary plaque for the Perth Town Hall and the statue of Paddy Hannan (1929) for Kalgoorlie. Justin Walsh of Northam was also asked to submit, but he reported back that the results of his cast were disappointing.²⁷ Southern and Johnson had letters of support from Mr Drabble, of the firm W. Drabble which undertook their casting. His firm would eventually cast the final bronze pieces for the memorial. Margaret Johnson's model was selected, with the tender price of 49 guineas.

In March 1934, the Perth City Council's Works Committee reported that W. Ogilvy's tender of £443 for the safety zone and memorial with granite base had been accepted, and the Memorial Committee had undertaken to raise £507 which included the medallion and swag estimated to cost £64.²⁸ Work on the memorial couldn't commence until May that year because the Donnybrook quarries 'owned by the late S. B. Alexander had been closed

21 Wycherly, op. cit., p.5. Wycherly extracted these comments from RAI Minutes dated 27/02/1933.

22 *ibid*, p.4.

23 Perth City Council Minutes of meetings held 27/03/1933 and 05/04/1933.

24 Perth City Council Minutes of meeting 15/05/1933.

25 Edith Cowan Memorial Committee Minutes of meeting dated 06/06/1933.

26 *ibid*.

27 Edith Cowan Memorial Committee Minutes of meeting dated 18/08/1933. Walsh was a farmer in Northam with considerable talent in the field of sculpture. In an interview with Walsh some years ago, he mentioned to the writer of this report that he often had failures with his clay modelling because of the climate drying out the clay before he could complete the modelling.

28 Perth City Council Minutes of Works Committee meeting held 05/03/1934.

down'.²⁹ However, the contractor, Mr Ogilvy was able to get the quarries re-opened and 'anticipated it would take two weeks to erect the memorial'.³⁰ In the meantime, Committee member Miss Creeth had collected articles published in *The West Australian* about Edith Cowan's life, 'the account of her funeral, and further references the day after the funeral, also a portrait', and placed these in a jar which was sealed with bitumen. The intention being that the jar would be placed under the foundation stone.³¹

The Committee's invitation to the Lieutenant-Governor Sir James Mitchell to unveil the memorial was accepted, the event being scheduled to take place the following month on Saturday 9 June, coinciding with the second anniversary of Edith Cowan's death in 1932.³² The following is an extract of the Governor's speech at the time of the unveiling.

Mrs Cowan was a great woman, one of the really great women of Australia. It would be quite impossible for me to attempt to tell you of her work for the good of others, because she did so much. She was a remarkable woman, also, in the fact that she rarely, if ever, made a mistake. In whatever work she undertook, she first convinced herself that it was right and just and worthy, and, thereafter, she never spared herself. One of her greatest services was to the children. For 15 years she gave unstinting labour in the Children's Court. To women too, she was a friend in need, aiding deserving cases, fighting others' battles, both in Parliament and outside. In every way she did a great work - one that is still going on and that will go on through the ages.³³

The safety zone, which then measured 18 feet in diameter, was originally paved with terrazzo. Five pylons were erected around the perimeter and fitted with reflectors, or cats' eyes, 'which act as a warning sign to drivers in the event of the failure of the electric light on the tower'. Apparently the lamps came on automatically between sunset and sunrise, and the clocks 'worked by half-minute impulses from a master clock in the Observatory ... synchronised hourly with the standard time.'³⁴

There appears to have been little change to the design of the traffic island for the next forty years or more. A photograph dated 1974 shows the same circular raised platform with the five pylons in place. Today, the pylons have gone, and the traffic island has been enlarged with a reticulated lawn. The 'circus' has also been modified around the island to regulate vehicles making right-hand turns into and out of Kings Park.

Over the years, there has been growing recognition of Edith Dircksey Cowan's tremendous contribution to the community. In 1975, she featured on one of the six Australian stamps issued to commemorate famous Australian women. In 1979, one of the plaques laid down in St Georges Terrace to commemorate the State's 150th anniversary was dedicated to her. In 1984, the Federal seat of Cowan was created in Western Australia, then in 1991, the Edith Cowan University was established, the first university in Australia to be named after a woman. In 1995, Edith Cowan was chosen to

29 Edith Cowan Memorial Committee minutes of meeting, 27/04/1934.

30 *ibid.*

31 *ibid.* Whether the jar was actually placed in the memorial has not been established.

32 Edith Cowan Memorial Committee papers. Letter from the Governor's Private Secretary dated 09/05/1934.

33 See 'Information Re "Edith Cowan" Memorial', National Trust of Australia (WA) Perth file, No.40.

34 *ibid.* This description in fact makes reference to a single clock, rather than the four clocks. However, the lights are also referred to in the singular.

appear on the new \$5 bank note which was issued by the Reserve Bank of Australia. Other commemorative gestures include a plaque placed in St George's Cathedral in 1996, and her inclusion in the Historical Walk Trail established at the Karrakatta Cemetery in 1996. She has been the subject of exhibitions, such as 'Women in Law', a permanent exhibition at the Francis Burt Law Education Centre in Perth, and a national touring exhibition organised in 1996 by Edith Cowan University titled 'A Tough Nut to Crack'.

On 12 March, 1996, the *Edith Dircksey Cowan Memorial Memorial* was rededicated, being 75 years to the day when she became the first woman elected to Parliament.³⁵ Reference to Edith Cowan can also be found in the most recent public art installation in Kings Park which was unveiled in November 1999 to commemorate the centenary of women's suffrage. Another project which includes Edith Cowan, and funded as part of the Centenary of Women's Suffrage commemorations, is a large tapestry to honour the women who played a significant role in the King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women. The tapestry is being made by the Handweavers, Spinners and Dyers Guild of Western Australia, and will be hung in the hospital during 2000.

The *Edith Dircksey Cowan Memorial* has been assessed for inclusion in the City of Perth's draft Municipal Inventory. At this point in time, the Inventory has not been endorsed by the Council of the City of Perth. The Memorial does not appear on any other heritage listing.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

The *Edith Dircksey Cowan Memorial* is a clock tower which was erected in 1934 to commemorate the life and achievements of a woman who had made an outstanding contribution to the State. The Memorial is located in Kings Park Road in West Perth, a suburb on the edge of the Central Business District. The immediate locality has considerable prestige being the site of major State institutions, such as Parliament House, Dumas House and the former Observatory, now the headquarters of the National Trust of Australia (WA). The main entrance to Kings Park is immediately opposite. The locality is also one of the more prestigious addresses for residential living in the city because of its views over the city and the Swan River. Edith Cowan and her husband had lived in nearby Malcolm Street for a number of years.

The Memorial is prominently situated on the crest of a hill on a large grassed circular traffic island in the centre of the confluence of Kings Park Road, Malcolm Street, and Fraser Avenue, the main access road into Kings Park. Cliff Street is a minor road which enters Malcolm Street where it joins Kings Park Road. The confluence of these roads forms a circular traffic route around the Memorial. The traffic island is slightly oval in shape with the length, about 24-5 metres, being along the Kings Park Road axis. The width is about 20 metres.³⁶

The overall design of the Memorial is in the Inter-War Art Deco style.³⁷ It is four-sided and well proportioned. It is constructed of smooth faced Donnybrook freestone mounted on a light grey granite base of sunk draft

35 Information regarding the various commemorative gestures were supplied by Ms Hilary Shilkin, a former staff member at Edith Cowan University who co-organised the exhibition 'A Tough Nut to Crack'.

36 These measurements are approximate.

37 Apperly, Irving, and Reynolds, op. cit., pp.188-191.

blocks, that is, the blocks are rough surfaced with smooth margin edges to give the blocks a raised appearance. The stone blocks are joined with cream mortar. Apart from the base, the Memorial is in two sections. The lower wider section is 2130 cm high with square recessed panels and ledges, while the upper section carries elongated recessed panels. The whole is approximately 6 metres high with the base measuring 1650cm square.

The Memorial is surmounted by a dome supporting an electric lamp. Below the lintel on each side there is a circular shaped lamp with stylised carved wings emulating the Egyptian sun god Ra or sun disk sign.³⁸ Below each light is a clock situated in the uppermost curved section of the recessed panel. The inside of the panels is beaded with a wreath of gumleaves and gumnuts. The lower recessed square panel on the side facing the city, and Parliament House, carries a bronze plate with a full face portrait of Edith Cowan in low relief. Her portrait is surrounded by a wreath of gum leaves and gumnuts. Under the portrait is a bronze horse-shoe shaped wreath made up of gumnuts and leaves. Below this is a metal plaque, possibly bronze, which also serves as an access to the interior of the Memorial. There are discreet hinges on the proper right side and small keyholes on the upper and lower left side. The words 'Drabble, Perth' are inscribed on the lower left edge.

The inscription on the plaque reads:

ERECTED IN HONOUR OF
EDITH DIRCKSEY COWAN
O.B.E., J.P.
BY THOSE WHO ADMIRE
HER MANY GOOD WORKS FOR HUMANITY
1861-1932
FIRST WOMAN MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
IN AUSTRALIA
A LIFE OF SERVICE

On the other side of the Memorial facing Kings Park Road, Edith Dircksey Cowan's name is inscribed in capital letters into the stone.

The Memorial is in good condition. The stone surfaces are clean, apart from some rust coloured water stains on the lower granite base. There are a number of reticulation nozzles on the traffic island, three of which are at the base of the Memorial. However, the staining is minimal. There is evidence of minor repair work to the Donnybrook stone and removal of some green staining caused by the bronze portrait panel. There is also evidence of what appears to be minor damage to the stonework around two sides of the inscription panel. This may have been caused by vandals attempting to prise open the panel. The bronze work appears to have been given a protective coating. The lawns are well kept, and growth is just clear of the base. The site appears to be well drained, and there is no evidence of rising damp. The clocks were accurate at the time of inspection.

38 This motif is also referred to as the Assyrian symbol of protection. See 'Information Re "Edith Cowan" Memorial', National Trust of Australia (WA) Perth file, No.40.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION³⁹

Other comparable examples of women's memorials in Western Australia include:

Queen Victoria statue, Kings Park erected in 1903 by Williamson. (This was the first monument to have been erected in Kings Park.);

Memorial to Bessie Rischbieth, Kings Park. A sheltered timber slatted bench seat with circular drinking fountain. This memorial was sponsored by the Women's Service Guild and erected in the 1975, during the International Women's Year;

Pioneer Women's Memorial fountain, Kings Park. Comprises of water features, fountain, gardens and the Statue of a Woman by Margaret Priest. This memorial was sponsored by the CWA and other women's organisations and opened in 1968;

Minmarra Gun Gun, Kings Park by sculptor Anthanasois Kalamaras. This memorial was sponsored by the Women's Committee of the Sesquicentenary (150) celebrations and completed in 1979;

Plaques commemorating women in the pavement in Kings Park; and,

Elements and public art works commemorating women in the botanic gardens at Kings Park.

A search of the registers of other State Heritage Councils revealed no (specific) comparable examples of memorials of this type dedicated to women.

13.4 REFERENCES

Battye Pictorial Collection: Cowan Memorial, West Perth, dated 1974. Ref: 4325B/38/19, 54160P.

Edith Cowan Memorial Committee papers: Ref. 482A, and Minute Book: MN 927. Battye Library, private archives.

Minutes of the Perth City Council: April 20, 1931 - December 5, 1932 (Accession 2826/25) and December 19, 1932 to August 20, 1934 (Accession 2826/26)

Kings Park Board, newspaper cuttings book.

The West Australian newspaper:

Edith Cowan Memorial - proposed design, WA. 17/03/1933, p.18.

Photograph of the unveiling ceremony, WA 11/6/1934, p.12.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

Research into the technology used in the 1930s to automatically turn the Memorial lamps on and off, and synchronise the clocks with impulses from the master clock at the nearby former Observatory, could be added to this documentation.

³⁹ All information in this section from Dr Robyn Taylor. Telephone conversation with Jacqui Sheriff, 26 May 2000; Erickson & Taylor, 'Thematic History of Kings Park & Botanic Gardens', prepared for Kings Park and Botanic Garden, 1997, p. 35.