



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*

Bruce Rock Hotel is a fine representative example of a rural town hotel built in the Federation Filigree style. (Criterion 1.1)

The location of *Bruce Rock Hotel* on a prominent corner, adjacent to the Post Office and opposite the Railway Station, is typical of the period it was constructed and makes it a landmark in the town. (Criterion 1.3)

Bruce Rock Hotel is integral in the main streetscape of Bruce Rock and makes a significant contribution to the townscape and character of the town. (Criterion 1.4)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Bruce Rock Hotel was one of six State Hotels constructed in developing country districts between 1911 and 1916, and was one of seven established in the State. (Criterion 2.1)

Bruce Rock Hotel was established as a result of the Western Australian Government's philosophy, formulated between 1911 and 1916, which promoted State ownership of commercial enterprises for the benefit of the people. (Criterion 2.2)

Bruce Rock Hotel was closely associated with the State Hotels Department of Western Australia from 1914 to 1973. (Criterion 2.3)

11.3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11.4. SOCIAL VALUE

Bruce Rock Hotel is highly valued for its social associations by the local town and farming communities. (Criterion 4.1)

* 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.

Bruce Rock Hotel contributes to the community's sense of place, being a substantial and imposing building on a prominent corner site. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

There were only seven State Hotels established in Western Australia, and *Bruce Rock Hotel* is the only remaining example of two identical State Hotels built in the Bruce Rock Shire. (Criterion 5.1)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Bruce Rock Hotel is a fine representative example of a rural town hotel built in the early decades of the twentieth century. Its location on a prominent corner, adjacent to the Post Office and opposite the Railway Station, is typical of the period it was constructed. (Criterion 6.1)

12. 3 CONDITION

Bruce Rock Hotel is in good condition due to the current regular maintenance program.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

Bruce Rock Hotel has operated continuously as a hotel and hospitality facility and has retained a high degree of integrity.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

The original fabric of the 1914 and 1921 constructions are mostly in place, although the complete bar refurbishments, installation of aluminium windows, new toilet facilities and the renovation of the accommodation rooms, have reduced the degree of authenticity to a moderate level. The authenticity of the ground floor is lower than that of the upper floor.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Irene Sauman, Historian. The physical evidence has been compiled by Laura Gray, Architect.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Bruce Rock Hotel is a two-storey building constructed in Federation Filigree style.¹ The place was built in 1914, for the State Hotels Department, and extended in 1921 and 1954. *Bruce Rock Hotel*, which has operated continuously as a hotel since its construction, passed into private ownership in 1973, and has been subject to some modernisation.

The Merredin district was settled from the 1880s, when sandalwood cutters began working the area and pastoralists began to take up leases.² With the discovery of gold in the Southern Cross and Kalgoorlie-Coolgardie areas in the 1890s, transport between Perth and the goldfields was required. The Eastern Railway, which had been constructed as far as Northam in 1886, was extended to Southern Cross in 1894, Coolgardie in 1895 and reached Kalgoorlie in 1897. The Northam-Kalgoorlie section was known as the Eastern Goldfields Railway.³

In 1913, a townsite, initially known as Nunagin, was surveyed at the T-junction where the York-Quairading railway line met the Narrogin-Merredin line. These two railway branch lines linked the Great Southern and Eastern Goldfields railway lines. Nunagin was immediately confused with Narrogin and Nungarin, and goods and mail were wrongly delivered. On 17 June 1913, the Surveyor General recommended the lots at Nunagin siding be named Bruce Rock townsite.⁴ The name came from one of the granite outcrops in the area, which had probably been named for a sandalwood cutter who worked the district and used the rock as his base camp.⁵

The first 31 lots of the Bruce Rock township sold quickly. A further 64 lots were surveyed and offered for sale in October 1913. Lot 7, a double-sized lot of half an acre (2025sqm) situated on the corner of Johnson and Bruce streets and directly opposite the railway station, was reserved for a State Hotel.

The gold boom period had seen a huge increase in the number of licensed premises and the number of breweries in the State. In 1898, a temperance movement was formed to advertise the evils of alcohol, promote abstinence, and lobby the Government to restrict the number of licensed premises. In 1911, there were still 1,649 licences held in the State, which

¹ Apperly, R., Irving, R. and Reynolds, P. *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and terms from 1788 to the present*, Sydney, Angus & Robertson, 1994, pp. 108-111.

² Ewers, John K. *Bruce Rock: The Story of a District*, Bruce Rock District Road Board, 1959, pp. 10-13.

³ *West Australian Yearbook*, Perth, 1894, p. 78.

⁴ Ewers, John K. *op cit*, p. 42-45.

⁵ *ibid.*, p. 10.

meant there was one licence for every 171 people. In the goldfields the ratio was as little as 50 people per licence.⁶

The Labour Government which came to power in Western Australia in 1911, under Premier John Scadden, promoted State ownership 'with more speed and to a wider extent' than any previous government.⁷ As well as pragmatic factors such as providing a better service, or one where none existed, there was also the ideological factor of State ownership being in the best interests of the wage earning classes. The result was state owned sawmills, quarries, brickworks, engineering and ironworks, abattoirs, butcher shops, shipping service and hotels.⁸ The Government argued that state owned hotels would control liquor traffic by discouraging it. Family men would be denied drink if it was believed their families were suffering because of it, drunks would not be served, over-indulgence would not be tolerated, only the best liquors would be served, and fine food and accommodation would be provided.⁹

This was not the first venture into state ownership of hotels. In 1903, a Liberal Government built a hotel in the goldfields town of Gwalia in order to provide the place with licensed premises and lessen the sly-grog trade. The 'Sons of Gwalia' gold mine had continued to grow steadily while other mines declined, and the hotel proved to be a financial success.¹⁰

To locate a site for a State owned hotel, the Licensing Act Amendments, 1911, provided for Local Option Polls. The polls ascertained whether voters wanted any change to the number of licensed outlets in their district. If they voted for more licenses, they were asked to state whether or not they wanted 'all new general licenses to be held by the State.' A 'Yes' vote on this question gave the Government a mandate to run a State Hotel in the district.¹¹ The Bruce Rock Road Board district evidently voted 'Yes'.

Although the State Hotel at Wongan Hills was a timber building, it was decided that *Bruce Rock Hotel*, and the State Hotel at Kwolyin, also in the Bruce Rock Shire, should be constructed in brick because they were 'larger centres' which had potential. In 1912, there were already 600 people in the Bruce Rock district.¹² The contract to build *Bruce Rock Hotel* was won by Thomas Hull, with a price of £4,890.¹³ The State Hotel at Kwolyin was built at the same time, to an identical plan.¹⁴ State Hotel plans were drawn by the Public Works Department, under the direction of W. D. Hardwick.¹⁵

⁶ de Mori, Caroline, *Time Gentlemen: A History of the Hotel Industry in Western Australia*, WA Hotels Association Inc. [198-], pp. 61, 85-86; Welborn, Suzanne, *Swan: The history of a brewery*, Perth, UWA Press, 1987, pp. 201-210.

⁷ Stannage, C. T. op cit, p. 383

⁸ ibid.; *Statutes of Western Australia*, 'Government Trading Concerns Act, 1912.'

⁹ de Mori, Caroline, op cit, pp. 61-61.

¹⁰ HCWA assessment No. 1463 'State Hotel (fmr), Gwalia', 1994.

¹¹ de Mori, Caroline, op cit, pp. 61-61.

¹² State Hotels Department, File 26/1921, 'Bruce Rock Hotel building', Vol. 1,

¹³ Ewers, John K. op cit, p. 47.

¹⁴ The Kwolyin State Hotel, built by John Park, burnt down in the late 1980s/early 1990s.

¹⁵ Plans for additions to the place are signed by PWD chief architect W. B. Hardwick.

The construction of *Bruce Rock Hotel* claimed a life. James Kean was killed on 2 April 1914, in an explosion, while sinking an underground tank.¹⁶ The concrete tank was built to collect water runoff from the roof, and was a common feature in Government buildings in dry country areas. *Bruce Rock Hotel* opened on 27 May 1914, but before the place was completed, a dance was held on the newly laid timber floor.¹⁷

In 1916, the new Liberal Government curtailed the development of further State enterprises by passing the State Trading Concerns Act, which also provided for stricter book-keeping practices. An amendment negotiated by the Country Party, however, meant that no State enterprise could be disposed of without an act of parliament.¹⁸ Most State owned enterprises were in country areas or were particularly beneficial to country residents.

The needs of the district quickly outgrew the accommodation provided at *Bruce Rock Hotel*. In 1919, the annual report of the State Hotels Department claimed that the place was 'quite inadequate to meet the demands of the travelling public.'¹⁹ The following year, the manager of *Bruce Rock Hotel*, Andrew Baxter, reported that large areas of land were being cleared for cultivation and new settlers were arriving in the district. Farmers travelled twenty or thirty miles to do business at Bruce Rock, and 'ample accommodation [should] be made available at once.'²⁰

Andrew Baxter had been transferred from the Kwolyin State Hotel in February 1920, to take over the management of *Bruce Rock Hotel*, much to the delight of the residents of the Bruce Rock district.

Since Mr Baxter's arrival a transformation has taken place, and on every side it has been for the better. Both Mr and Mrs Baxter devote themselves to the comfort of travellers and service to the people of the town.²¹

His request for improvements to the place were also heeded by the State Hotels Department, and the place was extended in 1921.

There is no doubt that the State Hotel at Bruce Rock is the best conducted Government Hotel in the State and the prompt response to Mr Baxter's request for improvements, which have been rendered necessary by the popularity which this hostelry now enjoys, shows that even the slow methods of a Government Department have even been awakened.²²

The extensions to *Bruce Rock Hotel* cost £3,789, with furnishings costing another £1,000. The builder was J. H. Brown of Narrogin. The extensions added 16 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a vestibule and verandahs. The existing dining room was enlarged and a second dining room added, and improvements were made to the kitchen and the drainage system.²³

¹⁶ Ewers, John K. op cit, p. 63.

¹⁷ Ewers, John K. op cit, p. 55; State Hotels Department, Annual reports 1913-1923.

¹⁸ *Statutes of Western Australia*, 1917, 'State Trading Concerns Act, 1916'; Stannage, C. T. op cit, p. 383.

¹⁹ State Hotels Department, Annual reports 1913-1923.

²⁰ State Hotels Department, Annual reports 1913-1923.

²¹ *Bruce Rock - Corrigin Post & Narembene Guardian*, 5 February 1920, p. 2.

²² *Bruce Rock - Corrigin Post & Narembene Guardian*, 8 October 1920, p. 2.

²³ State Hotels Department, Annual reports 1913-1923; Site plan PW 131/20, 1917; Additions plan PW 731/20, 1920. (see supporting material)

After the extensions were completed, *Bruce Rock Hotel* comprised 27 bedrooms (two used by the Manager), six rooms for staff, three bathrooms, a commercial room, sitting room and lounge, two dining rooms and a kitchen. The additions to the place were still not enough, however. Another thirty bedrooms were required, according to the Commercial Travellers Association of Australia.²⁴ Current bedrooms had two and three beds in them despite being too small for this number, and people were sleeping on the balcony. Tourist Bureau travel information supports this claim. In 1923, the number of people that could be accommodated at *Bruce Rock Hotel* was given as 40 and, in 1926, the number was 58.²⁵ No new rooms were added during that period, so the only change was the number of beds fitted into the place.

Between 1920 and 1925, negotiations had been carried out by the State Hotels Department to acquire part of the adjoining Lot 6, owned by the West Australian Bank. Temporary bank premises occupied the site. Offers of a land exchange or an outright sale were rejected by the Bank until 1925, when it built new premises on Lot 5. In that year, the Bank offered the land to the Government at £10 a foot. The Government immediately resumed 20 perch (500 sqm) of the land, with a 33 foot (10m) frontage to Johnson Street, for future extensions to *Bruce Rock State Hotel*.²⁶ This was half the area of Lot 6. Compensation of £264 was paid to West Australian Bank.²⁷

During the protracted negotiations over the land, an option had been taken on a vacant block of land behind Lot 6, and this was now purchased for £150. The manager of *Bruce Rock Hotel* wanted this land for parking, as the yard of the place was constantly crowded with cars and other vehicles. He suggested that a new addition to *Bruce Rock Hotel*, sited on Lot 6, could consist of Government offices on the ground floor and single bedrooms above.²⁸

Some alterations to *Bruce Rock Hotel* were carried out in 1925. The bar was enlarged, and a second bar and a storeroom put in, at a cost of £660. These alterations took over the area that had been used as a billiard room.²⁹ No more additions were carried out, however. The Depression and World War Two appear to have intervened in any immediate plans to extend the place further.

By the late 1940s, all State Hotels except Wongan Hills and *Bruce Rock Hotel* had been renovated and modernised.³⁰ It was reported that the bathroom accommodation at *Bruce Rock Hotel* was 'grossly inadequate.' Curtains, bedroom furnishings and main floor coverings were 'dilapidated', and the lounge, entrance hall and dining room furniture

²⁴ State Hotels Department, File 26/1921, 'Bruce Rock Hotel building', Vol. 2.

²⁵ *Western Australian Tourist Hotel & Boarding House Directory*, 1921-1929.

²⁶ State Hotels Department, File 112/20, 'Bruce Rock Hotel additional land'; West Australian Government Gazette, 27 Feb, 1925, p. 399.

²⁷ State Hotels Department, File 112/20, op cit.

²⁸ State Hotels Department, File 112/20, op cit.

²⁹ Plan PW 652/24, 1924.

³⁰ State Hotels Department, File 40/53, 'Condition of hotels & Caves House report.' The State Government owned 7 State Hotels as well as Caves House, Yallingup, which was always referred to separately.

were 'outmoded', and in need of replacing.³¹ The number of guests that could be accommodated at *Bruce Rock Hotel* was listed as 28, indicating that expectations of the travelling public had changed, and sharing rooms and sleeping on balconies was no longer acceptable.³²

It may have been the state of the place that prompted some members of the Bruce Rock community to act. In 1947, meetings were held to discuss the possibility of purchasing *Bruce Rock Hotel* and running the place as a 'community' hotel. A Co-op store and agency was already providing money for amenities such as the hospital and swimming pool. A Committee was appointed to negotiate with the Government on the purchase.³³ The State Hotels Department was outraged. The Minister argued that the Government had developed the place at its own financial risk and now that the business had proved profitable the community wanted to take it over. The Government was also running a budget deficit and it was considered imprudent to sell off a profitable asset.³⁴

This was an interesting turnaround from the soul-searching that had gone on in the early 1920s, when it had been discovered that State Hotels were making a profit. Profit was not part of the philosophy under which they had been established, but State Hotels had proved to be a lucrative earning medium, returning £132,500 between 1903-1930. They also paid no local rates, only minimum water rates, and paid no fees to the Licensing Court as most, including *Bruce Rock Hotel* were not licensed.³⁵

The attempt by the Bruce Rock community to purchase *Bruce Rock Hotel* and run the place as a community facility brought charges of 'Indirect Socialism' from the Association in WA for the Promotion of Private Enterprise, which lobbied the Government and distributed fliers in the Bruce Rock district against the plan. The Temperance League bought into the debate with the claim that State and community hotels did not reduce drinking.³⁶

Two local plebiscites were held on the question of whether the community should purchase *Bruce Rock Hotel*. They received poor voter response (38% and 55% respectively) and gave conflicting results. The Government refused to sell on the grounds that the land was not freehold and would require Parliamentary sanction to transfer it, and that the liquor licence could not be transferred as none existed.³⁷ The Bruce Rock community responded by establishing a licensed club. The Bruce Rock District Club

³¹ State Hotels Department, File 40/53 op cit.

³² *Western Australian Tourist Guide and Accommodation Directory*, 1933-1942.

³³ *Bruce Rock Post*, 17 April 1947; Report by Minister for State Hotels to CSO, State Hotels Department, File 12/47.

³⁴ Report by Minister for State Hotels, op cit.

³⁵ State Hotels Department, Annual reports, 1913-1930; de Mori, Caroline, op cit, p. 67.

³⁶ State Hotels Department, File 12/47, op cit.

³⁷ State Hotels Department, File 12/47, op cit. The legal position of State Hotels was always considered unsatisfactory by the State Hotels Department. Dwellingup Hotel was established and conducted under an Act of Parliament, Corrigin and Bolgart held liquor licences, but the remaining hotels, including Bruce Rock State Hotel, were not licensed (Annual report 1919).

opened in 1949 and, in 1953, the club's business in the town was 'almost equal to that of the Hotel.'³⁸

Bruce Rock Hotel continued to operate profitably, however. In the early 1950s, the place was serving an average of 2,300 meals a month and had a bed occupancy rate of 850 a month. Some renovations were carried out to *Bruce Rock Hotel* in 1954. An amount of £4,200 was spent on alterations and additions to the bar, of a total £6,000 allocated for the place. Despite the renovations, 'claims of modernity' could still not be met at *Bruce Rock Hotel*. Standards now demanded by the public required that considerable money be put back into the State Hotels.³⁹

State ownership of hotels was reassessed, and in 1959, the State Government enacted the State Hotels (Disposal) Act. This legislation, ironically, gave first refusal for purchase or lease to the local communities. Profits from sale or lease of the hotels was to go to a fund for the use of the newly formed Tourist Development Authority.⁴⁰

The Bruce Rock community was not interested in purchasing *Bruce Rock Hotel*. The place was leased until 1973, when it was bought by retired hotelkeeper Michael Desmond Coyne and his wife Helenor for \$1,800.⁴¹ During their ownership the bars were refitted and other maintenance work carried out. At the rear of Lot 6, at the northern side of the place, the Coyne's also added six motel units.⁴²

In 1989, *Bruce Rock Hotel* was purchased by Ronald Allen. In 1995, ownership passed to Bodallin farmer, G. A. Irving.⁴³ In 1998 *Bruce Rock Hotel* is leased out. The place continues to be used as a hotel, and provides accommodation which is often booked out during local sporting and cultural events.⁴⁴

13. 2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Bruce Rock Hotel is located in Johnson Street, the main street of Bruce Rock, on the corner of Bruce Street. It is directly opposite the site of the railway station, and on the adjacent corner to the Bruce Rock Post Office. The location of the hotel in association with the railway station and post office is typical of most country towns in the wheatbelt area.

Bruce Rock Hotel makes a significant contribution to the streetscape of the main street of the Bruce Rock township. The place is central within the main precinct, which is an almost continuous strip of one-storey shops interspersed with two-storey buildings which extends for over two blocks along Johnson Street. *Bruce Rock Hotel* is the most substantial structure in that precinct, and makes a significant contribution to the main street and the character of Bruce Rock.

³⁸ State Hotels Department, File 40/53, op cit; *Western Australian Telephone Directory*, 1948-1950.

³⁹ State Hotels Department, File 40/53, op cit.

⁴⁰ *Statutes of Western Australia*, 1959.

⁴¹ DOLA Certificates of Title, Vol. 1352 Fol. 205.

⁴² Information supplied by Laura Gray.

⁴³ DOLA Certificates of Title, Vol. 1352 Fol. 205, op cit; Vol. 1720 Fol. 843.

⁴⁴ Information provided by Laura Gray from physical inspection.

The two-storey building is a brick construction, detailed in face brick with rendered string courses. The original (1914) section of the building addresses the corner and is symmetrical about the corner. The 1921 extensions were added along the Johnson Street frontage, and responded in detail, scale and materials to the original building. Another extension, in the form of a single storey brick addition to the bar area, was added in 1954, along the Bruce Street frontage.

Bruce Rock Hotel displays characteristics of the Federation Filigree style described in Apperly.⁴⁵ The characteristics of the style are typified by prominent corner 'pubs', with deep shady verandahs extended over the footpath, and masonry form. Another characteristic evident in *Bruce Rock Hotel* is the timber decoration, specifically, the verandah balustrading with vertical timber posts and timber railing. The construction of *Bruce Rock Hotel* is typical of the period, with traditional brick load bearing walls, timber floor and roof construction and corrugated iron roof cladding.

Bruce Rock Hotel addresses both street frontages and has a truncated corner which features a faceted hipped roof. A gable either side faces each street front. Decorative timber spires top each gable and the ridge point of the hipped section. The entire roof is hipped, with a break pitch over the verandah, which is skillioned at the ends. The brick construction is red face brick laid in a stretcher bond with cream struck mortar joints, and rendered courses at window sill and head heights along the street frontages on both floor levels. The first floor verandah and the colonnade at ground floor wrap the entire length of the double-storey street frontages. The verandah is supported by chamfered square timber posts. The upstairs balustrade has been replaced by sheets of colorbond steel cladding, although some bays have reconstructed vertical timber.

There are several entries into *Bruce Rock Hotel* along the street frontages. A gable on the 1921 section on the Johnson Street frontage signals the location of the main entry. South in Bruce Street, the entry is into the lounge bar. The entry at the truncated corner accesses the public bar. The next entry along Johnson Street is the main accommodation entry, and the northernmost entry (with a flywire door) is the private entry.

The layout of the ground floor of *Bruce Rock Hotel* comprises bars on the street corner, dining and kitchen through the centre section, and licensee private quarters at the northern end of the place. The first floor comprises accommodation rooms, bathroom facilities, and two living rooms, one being on the street corner. The first floor rooms which front the streets have access to the balcony through French doors. All the windows in the hotel were originally timber framed double hung. Only the four windows at the north end of the ground floor, facing Johnson Street, are still intact. All other windows have been replaced with aluminium framed windows.

The interior layout has changed over the years, with the bar area being the most significantly altered section of the hotel. The upstairs layout seems to have changed very little.

Entering into the hallway at the main entry, there is little evidence of the 1914 and 1921 detail. Although the main doors are original the glazing in them is not. The interior entry doors are 1970s, timber framed glass panelled doors with chrome fittings. On the right of the entry, a hatch through to the office is closed. A door on the left of the hallway provides access into the public bar, on the street corner. The entry hallway leads into the two-storey staircase foyer. It is austere, with no decorative elements and no obvious light fittings. The walls are bare hard plaster and there is carpet on the timber floors. Directly opposite the hallway, two doors lead into the ladies and gents toilets. Further to the left a passage way leads to the lounge bar. The kitchen is accessed on the right hand side.

The lounge bar and public bars were both completely refitted in the 1970s. The public bar on the corner has new entry doors following an accident some years ago, when a car smashed into the corner of the place. The original corner fireplace is located behind the bar and is boarded over. The public bar now includes the former parlour, with the dividing wall removed. The whole area has suspended acoustic ceiling panels. The lounge bar was extended westward in 1954, and has a fireplace in the west end wall. The walls are hard plaster and the ceilings are suspended acoustic panels. The original corner fireplace in the lounge bar, backing the public bar fireplace, is also boarded over.

The office was not available for inspection. The kitchen has undergone some internal renovation to comply as a commercial kitchen. The alcove of the former stove range has been retained. There has been some structural alterations between the kitchen and dining room. The dining room has plain walls and ceilings, and the fireplace is boarded over. The ceiling reveals the structural support elements for the hallway of the floor above. The central of three street front windows now houses an air conditioner. The timber floor is carpeted over. A central door in the northern wall of the dining room accesses the private area, which was not available for inspection. Double doors on the south wall, next to the fireplace, lead into a hallway to the main entry and the two-storey staircase foyer.

In the exterior space between the storeroom and the lounge bar, the original (1914) timber staircase provides alternative access to the upper floor. In the same area, a concrete staircase leads to the cellar store. The cellar ceiling is supported by large RSJ beams and Jarrah beams. A submersible pump keeps the place dry.

The internal staircase rises to the first floor foyer. The foyer has two arched openings in the south wall which provide a view into the guests' lounge room situated on the street corner. An arched doorway gives access to the room which has a suspended acoustic panel ceiling. The remainder of the first floor is occupied by guest bedrooms and bathrooms.

The bathroom facilities are located on the west side (rear) of the 1921 wing. There is also a toilet on the staircase landing at the north end of the place. The ladies bathroom, at the western end of the 1914 section, still has the original terrazzo floor and screen wall.

All the accommodation rooms have carpeted timber board floors, hard plaster walls, new plaster sheet ceilings, and original doors with fanlights

above, although the fanlight glass has been painted over. The verandah is floored with 100mm (4 inch) tongue and groove jarrah boards. The timber verandah balustrade is being reconstructed, a panel at a time, to replace the colorbond sheeting infill. Metal plates have been fixed on the exterior walls to cover the airvents. At the north end of the place, a steel staircase exits from the enclosed timber landing.

The yard is neat and well kept. In the north section a small skillion roofed brick building houses the sewerage pump. *Bruce Rock Hotel*, and the Bruce Rock hospital and Shire offices, are connected to the Shire's sewerage treatment plant, six kilometres away. All other places in town have a septic system. On the rear (west) boundary, behind the 1914 section of the hotel, are the remains of the timber framed and weatherboard clad stables. Next to the stables is a zincalume garage. Adjoining the rear of the 1914 section of the hotel are brick and timber framed and weatherboard clad laundry rooms. Along the rear boundary of the adjoining Lot 6, at the northern end of the place, six brick and iron motel units were constructed in the 1970s. The units form part of the accommodation provided by *Bruce Rock Hotel*.

The good condition of *Bruce Rock Hotel* attests to the regular maintenance program undertaken by the current licensees. The integrity of the place is intact. The place has a moderate to high degree of authenticity, most due to the changes in the bars, and the addition of the aluminium windows.

Bruce Rock Hotel is similar in style, construction, period of construction and location in the town, to many other hotels situated throughout the wheatbelt. Although the place is a good representative example, a number of other hotels in the district display a higher degree of authenticity. Within the Bruce Rock Shire, the Ardath Hotel, a double storey single frontage hotel in an all but deserted townsite, has had no significant alterations since construction in the 1920s. The Muntadgin Hotel, better known as the 'Munty Pub', is a corner hotel in a deserted townsite in the district which displays a high degree of authenticity. It is similar in construction to *Bruce Rock Hotel* and has had no additions or significant changes. The Quairading Hotel, Quairading also displays a higher degree of authenticity for a two-storey hotel of this type.

Bruce Rock Hotel is a former State Hotel. The other State Hotel in the Bruce Rock Shire was the Kwolyin Hotel. Built to the same plan, the Kwolyin Hotel was destroyed by fire in the late 1980s. In the wheatbelt region, the other State Hotels were: Corrigin Hotel, which has been extensively remodelled and the verandahs removed; Wongan Hills Hotel, which was rebuilt in 1940; and the Bolgart Hotel (1916), which displays a high degree of authenticity as it has had minimal extensions since construction.⁴⁶

13.3 REFERENCES

No key references.

⁴⁶ There were eight State Hotels altogether, including Gwalia, Dwellingup and Caves House at Yallingup besides those mentioned above.

13.4 FURTHER RESEARCH
