



## 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)

- 3.26 Providing health services
- 7.6 Administering Australia

#### HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 403 Law and order
- 404 Community services and utilities

#### 11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE\*

*Menzies Warden's Quarters (fmr)* is valued for the use of local stone, pleasing scale and proportion of the building, the setting, and the location that contributes to the character of the town of Menzies. (Criterion 1.1)

*Menzies Warden's Quarters (fmr)* is a significant element in the townscape character of Menzies. (Criterion 1.4)

#### 11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

*Menzies Warden's Quarters (fmr)* was built as the residence of the Mining Warden and Resident Magistrate at Menzies in 1897, and represents the period of prosperity and development in Menzies and the North Coolgardie goldfield during the West Australian gold mining boom of the 1890s. (Criterion 2.1)

*Menzies Warden's Quarters (fmr)* was the residence of the most senior government official on the North Coolgardie goldfield and reflects the importance of the position. (Criterion 2.2)

*Menzies Warden's Quarters (fmr)* is associated with William Lambden Owen, who was Warden and Resident Magistrate at Menzies from 1896-1905 and who influenced the choice of site and design of the place, and also with Public Works Department Chief Architect John H. Grainger. (Criterion 2.3)

---

\* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, R., Irving, R. and Reynolds, P. *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and terms from 1788 to the present*, Angus & Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

*Menzies Warden's Quarters (fmr)* has been associated with the provision of hospital and nursing services since 1927, when the place was occupied as Menzies Hospital and later (1963) as Menzies Nursing Post. (Criterion 2.3)

### **11.3 SCIENTIFIC VALUE**

### **11.4 SOCIAL VALUE**

*Menzies Warden's Quarters (fmr)* is important to the local community for its association with the early mining history of the district and as the venue for medical services since 1927. (Criterion 4.1)

*Menzies Warden's Quarters (fmr)* contributes to the local community's sense of place as a significant building from the gold boom years. (Criterion 4.2)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **12.1 RARITY**

### **12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

*Menzies Warden's Quarters (fmr)* is a good representative example of a Federation Bungalow style regional warden's quarters, designed by PWD Chief Architect John Grainger, and established in 1897. (Criterion 6.1)

### **12.3 CONDITION**

*Menzies Warden's Quarters (fmr)* is in fair to good condition. Although maintenance takes place, it is on an as-needed basis, and there are several items that require attention including flaking roof paint, fretting mortar on west and north walls and inadequate drainage provisions.

### **12.4 INTEGRITY**

*Menzies Warden's Quarters (fmr)* originally provided a residential function as the warden's residence, but has been used as a hospital and nursing facility since 1927, requiring conversion of some areas for use as an office and treatment room and the addition of public toilets. The place continues to provide a residential function for the resident health worker. *Menzies Warden's Quarters (fmr)* has a moderate degree of integrity.

### **12.5 AUTHENTICITY**

There is considerable evidence of the original fabric of *Menzies Warden's Quarters (fmr)*. The place has adapted to changing needs with minimal alterations to the structure and fabric. It has a high degree of authenticity.

## **13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE**

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

Suggested curtilage follows the line of the boundary fence, which surrounds the building as shown on the accompanying site plan.

### 13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

*Menzies Warden's Quarters (fmr)* is a stone and iron building constructed in 1897 as the residence of the Mining Warden at Menzies. The place was built by M. Barry to a design by Public Works Department (PWD) chief architect John H. Grainger, with input from Warden William Lambden Owen. In 1927, *Menzies Warden's Quarters (fmr)* was occupied as the Menzies Hospital. The place was downgraded to a cottage hospital in 1940 and, since 1963, has been referred to as a Nursing Post, which function it continues to serve.

Following the discovery of the rich Coolgardie goldfields in 1892, prospectors began to venture into the surrounding areas. In 1894, gold was found by Leslie Robert Menzies in an area north of Goongarrie and the Lady Shenton and Florence mines were established. A mining camp, known as Menzies, developed in the vicinity of the mines as other prospectors flocked to the area.<sup>1</sup> The North Coolgardie goldfield was gazetted on 28 June 1895, and encompassed the towns of Menzies and Goongarrie.<sup>2</sup> Menzies was declared a municipality on 30 August, and the North Coolgardie goldfield was gazetted a magisterial district on 20 September 1895.<sup>3</sup> Ten mining companies had been floated in the area by late 1895.<sup>4</sup>

The Governor was authorised under the *Goldfields Act, 1886*:

to establish on any Goldfield... one or more Courts, to be presided over and holden by a Warden, and which shall be a Court of Record, and shall have jurisdiction to hear and determine all actions, suits, claims, and demands, disputes, and questions which may arise in relation to Mining.<sup>5</sup>

A Warden's Court was proclaimed at Menzies on 12 July 1895, but the Warden's office was open from at least March. The first Warden at Menzies was Francis (Frank) Gill. Gill had many years experience in mining in the eastern states and was Registrar of Mines at Coolgardie under Warden John Finnerty at the time of his appointment to Menzies.<sup>6</sup> On 20 March 1896, the North Coolgardie goldfield was divided into four districts, Ularring, Menzies, Yerilla and Mount Margaret. Warden's courts were proclaimed at Murrin Murrin (14 August) and Yerilla (21 August), both of which were the responsibility of the Warden at Menzies.<sup>7</sup> Mining administration on the North Coolgardie field was brisk, with an estimated 1,800 leases taken out between March 1895 and September 1896. Warden Gill had a staff of seven, including Registrar R. E. Wright, who was Acting Warden at Menzies when Gill was appointed to other duties.<sup>8</sup> Frank Gill's replacement, appointed in April 1896, was William Lambden Owen, who had previously been the Mining Warden at Cossack, on the Pilbara Goldfield.<sup>9</sup> Because Menzies was a

---

<sup>1</sup> Webb, Martyn & Audrey, *Golden Destiny: The centenary history of Kalgoorlie-Boulder and the Eastern Goldfields of Western Australia*, City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 1893, p. 178.

<sup>2</sup> *West Australian Government Gazette*, 28 June 1895, p. 894.

<sup>3</sup> *West Australian Government Gazette*, 30 August 1895, p. 1411 & 20 September 1895, p. 1495.

<sup>4</sup> Rodgers, P. & B., *No Sign of the Times: A collection of stories of the Menzies District*, Shire of Menzies & Hesperian Press, 1992, pp. 1-10.

<sup>5</sup> *West Australian Government Gazette*, 12 July 1895, p. 969.

<sup>6</sup> *West Australian Government Gazette*, 12 July 1895, p. 969; Webb, Martyn & Audrey, op cit, p. 190; Rodgers, P. & B., op cit, p. 9.

<sup>7</sup> *West Australian Government Gazette*, 14 August 1896, p. 1343 & 21 August 1896, p. 1395.

<sup>8</sup> *Coolgardie Miner*, 3 September 1896, p. 5; photograph of Warden Gill and staff, 1895, Battye Library 1735B/1, Webb, Martyn & Audrey, op cit, p. 462.

<sup>9</sup> Owen, W. Lambden, *Cossack Gold: the chronicles of an early goldfields warden*, Carlisle, Hesperian Press, 1984.

magisterial district, the Warden also acted as Resident Magistrate and the person appointed needed the experience to fulfill both positions.<sup>10</sup>

At Menzies, William Owen selected a site north of the town centre for his temporary camp, a timber-framed hessian clad structure. It was on this site, designated Menzies Town Lot 891, that *Menzies Warden's Quarters (fmr)* was constructed. Owen had insisted on a large block of land for his residence:

I take it that one of the few advantages a Warden gets is to have a good site, but if he is only granted a limited area surrounded by population, not only is he and his family constantly annoyed by his neighbour's bad language, concertinas, dust, traffic and other nuisances, but owing to the careless way sanitary matters are attended to, his, and his family's health is materially endangered. I am constrained to add this as I have had practical experience. E. Lambden Owen, 3 July 1897.<sup>11</sup>

Lot 891, gazetted as Reserve 4095 for Wardens Quarters on 15 July 1898, was 3.67 acres (1.2ha) in size.<sup>12</sup> Plans for *Menzies Warden's Quarters (fmr)* are dated 27 May 1897 and signed by PWD Chief Architect John H. Grainger.<sup>13</sup> A stable with quarters for an employee, marked 'man's room', was included in the plan. A contract for construction of *Menzies Warden's Quarters (fmr)* was awarded to M. Barry, with a price of £2,922.4.0.<sup>14</sup> A revised plan, dated 13 December 1897, shows the building constructed with some alterations to the original plan, which had the six main rooms of roughly similar size. Alterations included relocating the bathroom, effectively enlarging the floor area of the place, and utilising the area vacated by the bathroom to create larger living rooms.<sup>15</sup> Having already demonstrated definite ideas on the location of his residence, it is most likely that William Owen also had input into the design of the finished building.

The Warden's Court appears to have been on the same or adjoining site. Writing of his time in Menzies, William Owen states that 'we had clay tennis courts at the Residency in the Courthouse grounds'. Other entertainment included the annual cricket match of 'the Warden's Court officials versus the banks'.<sup>16</sup>

In March 1898, Menzies was connected to Kalgoorlie by rail with the extension of the Eastern Goldfields line. As the railhead for the district, Menzies grew rapidly to include ten hotels, three banks, four churches, a police station, post and telegraph office that employed 25 people, 40-bed hospital, a school for 200 children and a Mechanic's Institute.<sup>17</sup> As well as mining, the surrounding district supported a pastoral industry, which had begun with the droving of cattle from the North West of the State and from South Australia to provide meat for the goldfields population.<sup>18</sup>

---

10 Webb, Martyn & Audrey, op cit, p. 190; Rodger, P. & B., op cit, p. 9; *Coolgardie Miner*, 3 September 1896, p. 5.

11 DOLA, Correspondence File 3188/97, p. 14, quoted in research notes on Nursing Post, Menzies by Ian Elliot, July 21 1994, HCWA Place file 1555.

12 *West Australian Government Gazette*, 15 July 1898, p. 2050, DOLA, Reserves Index Enquiry, Reserve 4095.

13 PWD Plan 5437, Sheet 2, 'Menzies Warden's Quarters', SROWA, PWD plans on microfiche.

14 *West Australian Government Gazette*, 6 August 1897, p. 1590.

15 PWD Plan 5437, 'Revised ground plan of main building', SROWA, PWD plans on microfiche.

16 Rodgers, P. & B., op cit, p. 11; Photograph, c.1900, Battye Collection, 5969B.

17 Rodgers, P. & B., op cit, pp. 1-10.

18 Webb, Martyn & Audrey, op cit, pp. 780-781.

William Owen remained at Menzies as Warden and Resident Magistrate for almost eight years. In January 1905, he was succeeded by P. L. Gibbons.<sup>19</sup> Gold production had begun to decline by 1905, and the population on the fields was decreasing. In 1908, Gibbons was appointed Warden and Resident Magistrate of Mount Margaret goldfield in addition to his position at the North Coolgardie field.<sup>20</sup> The Mount Margaret field had originally been a district of North Coolgardie field, but had been proclaimed a separate goldfield in 1897.<sup>21</sup> By 1911, Gibbons was Stipendiary Magistrate, Warden, Licensing Magistrate and Coroner for the North Coolgardie and Mount Margaret districts, and Magistrate of Local Courts at Menzies, Davyhurst, Kookynie, Mount Malcolm, Leonora, Mount Morgans and Laverton.<sup>22</sup> The area Gibbons covered, and the positions he filled, increased as the population of the region decreased.

In April 1919, P. L. Gibbons was transferred to Northam and John Elton Geary succeeded to the post at Menzies. Geary held the position of Acting Stipendiary Magistrate for North Coolgardie, Mount Margaret and East Murchison districts. By 1923, the goldfields north of Kalgoorlie had declined to the point where a magistrate resident in the district was no longer necessary. John Geary was provided with a residence at Kalgoorlie, from which he operated as Acting Stipendiary Magistrate, Warden and Coroner for the Coolgardie, East Coolgardie, North Coolgardie, North East Coolgardie, Broad Arrow, Dundas and Mount Margaret goldfield districts, Acting Magistrate of Local Courts at Kalgoorlie, Coolgardie, Norseman, Menzies, Leonora and Laverton, and Chairman of Court of Sessions at Kalgoorlie.<sup>23</sup> John Geary vacated *Menzies Warden's Quarters (fmr)* in August 1923.<sup>24</sup>

Although there was little activity on the goldfields, the town of Menzies had survived as the administrative centre of the district and a service centre for the pastoral industry. In the 1920s, the Menzies Hospital buildings were considered dilapidated and in need of upgrading. The first hospital had been a hessian structure, soon replaced by a two-ward timber and iron building with detached matron's and nurses' quarters, operating theatre, dispensary and kitchen, situated on Reserve 3621 on Niagara Road. The hospital was originally managed by a local committee, but control of the place was handed to the Government in July 1900. A maternity ward was added in 1914.<sup>25</sup> Rather than build a new hospital, it was decided to convert *Menzies Warden's Quarters (fmr)* for use as a hospital. In 1925, the PWD drew up plans for the conversion. The only major change proposed to the place was the enclosure of the northern end of the west-side verandah for a nurse's bedroom. The morgue and one block of latrines from the old hospital were to be moved to the new site.<sup>26</sup>

*Menzies Warden's Quarters (fmr)* was occupied as the Menzies Hospital in 1927. The 1927 Annual Report of the Medical and Health Department detailed the move:

<sup>19</sup> West Australian Government, *Public Service List*, 1905.

<sup>20</sup> *West Australian Government Gazette*, 30 October 1908, p. 2898 & 6 November 1908, p. 3075.

<sup>21</sup> *West Australian Government Gazette*, 12 March 1897, p. 452.

<sup>22</sup> West Australian Government, *Public Service List*, 1911.

<sup>23</sup> West Australian Government, *Public Service List*, 1923.

<sup>24</sup> Research notes on Nursing Post, Menzies by Ian Elliot, July 21 1994, HCWA Place file 1555.

<sup>25</sup> Whittington, Vera, *Gold and Typhoid: Two fevers*, Nedlands UWA Press, 1988, pp. 277-308.

<sup>26</sup> PWD Plan 24215, 'Menzies Hospital, conversion of old residency', 24 September 1925, SROWA, PWD 5437, plans on microfiche.

Early in 1927, hospital operations were moved from the old iron building, which had become dilapidated, to what had previously been the Warden's Quarters. These quarters consisted of a well-built stone house, of more than sufficient size for hospital needs. Relatively few cases are admitted to this hospital, as there is no doctor resident in the district, but the hospital can receive urgent cases and those of a minor character, which do not necessitate the presence of a medical man. A nurse-in-charge is maintained, and the expenditure, which totalled £305 during 1927, was thoroughly justified in view of the distance from Kalgoorlie.<sup>27</sup>

Matron C. C. Motley was in charge of Menzies Hospital at the time of the move. She had been Matron since 1923-24 and remained at Menzies until 1934-35.<sup>28</sup> Matron S. A. Connolly and Matron E. A. Connor followed. In January 1937, *The Mirror* is reported to have given 'a certain amount of publicity with regard to a tin humpy which the nurses at Menzies were living in'. The Secretary of the Menzies Medical Fund at the time had about £50 available towards new quarters and he promptly acquired a grant of £200 from Lotteries and another £100 from the Health Department to erect a 4-room cottage as nurses' quarters. Bunning Bros submitted a plan and specifications and a quote for approximately £400, which was accepted, and the timber framed, asbestos clad quarters was completed in August 1937. The place had three bedrooms and a sitting room, with the nurses' using the kitchen and bathroom facilities of the Hospital. Staff at that time comprised the matron and two nurses.<sup>29</sup>

On 10 November 1939, Matron Connor was called up for military service at Rottneest. She reported at that time that Menzies 'was going down'. There was only one mine working, with one shift a day employing forty men. The doctor had left the town and the bed average at Menzies Hospital for the six months to the end of 1939 was two. People were going directly to Leonora or Kalgoorlie knowing there was no doctor at Menzies. The Health Department considered that the bed average did not warrant the employment of three nursing staff and the staffing at Menzies Hospital was reduced to the Matron and a maid.<sup>30</sup>

Matron Ethel Parker succeeded Matron Connor. In April 1940, she reported that the cost of running the Hospital was out of all proportion to its usefulness. The only patients who came to the place were pensioners and Medical Fund members, and most outpatient treatment was for cuts and sores, which would have been treated by the patient at home if they had not been Fund members. Matron Parker also claimed that Fund members treated the Hospital as a shop, prescribing for themselves and sending for what they needed, and rarely consulting her on the matter.<sup>31</sup>

The Department decided to downgrade Menzies Hospital from a general public hospital to a cottage hospital. It is interesting to note the conditions under which a cottage hospital operated. Under this system, a district nurse was employed. She was allowed the hospital as living quarters, use of the equipment, and was able to charge patients for her services, but she had to

<sup>27</sup> *Votes & Proceedings of Parliament*, 1928, Vol. 2, 'Report of the Medical and Health Department 1927', p. 7.

<sup>28</sup> *Wise's Post Office Directory*, 1920-1938.

<sup>29</sup> Health Department file, Menzies Hospital, SROWA, AN120/4 ACC 1003, Item 155/1939, Vol. 1, Buildings. Four files on Menzies Hospital dating from 1925-1935 had been recalled by the Health Dept in June 2002 and were unavailable at SROWA at the time of this research.

<sup>30</sup> Health Department file, Item 155/1939, Vol. 1, op cit, 10 November 1939.

<sup>31</sup> Health Department file, Item 155/1939, Vol. 1, op cit, 27 April 1940.

make her own arrangements with the local Medical Fund as to the fees its members would pay. Pensioners, indigents and non-indentured Aborigines would continue to be treated free of charge. The nurse was responsible for the cost of the electricity, telephone and sanitary fees at the hospital and for replacing worn linen, and she had to pay for any medicines she required and then charge these to the patients as they were used. If she hired any staff, including domestic, she was responsible for their wages. Medical equipment already in the Hospital and which a nurse could not use was to be sent to other hospitals. For this service, the Department paid an annual salary of £150, with the local community providing another £50.<sup>32</sup>

The Menzies Medical Board protested at these proposed changes, as the community had provided over £500 worth of improvements to the Hospital, including X-ray equipment. The Department agreed to compensate the community for this by paying the whole £200 of the nurse's salary, although how long the Department was prepared to carry this cost is not recorded. Menzies Hospital became a cottage hospital on 1 September 1940. Matron Parker, moved into the Hospital and the nurses' quarters were rented out.<sup>33</sup>

Matron Parker had been doubtful that she could handle the isolation and loneliness of her new situation for any length of time but had agreed to a trial of three months under the new system. She could not afford to keep the maid, who had been her only company, and the town was extremely quiet.<sup>34</sup> During her time at Menzies, she had adopted a baby boy whose mother had died shortly after his birth. The child's father was serving in Palestine with the armed forces and had no family to help him raise a child. The matter of payment by the patients also proved an issue, as most simply did not pay.<sup>35</sup> In October 1940, Ethel Parker resigned and was replaced at Menzies by Matron J. Shilling, who had come from Sandstone Hospital.<sup>36</sup>

In 1960, Menzies Hospital underwent improvements and refurbishment with the additions of a detached maternity ward to the west side of the place, the enclosure of the rear corner verandah with timber-framed walls and the addition of a laundry at the rear north-east corner. The nurses' quarters were purchased by G. Templeman, Secretary of Menzies Road Board.<sup>37</sup> In 1963, the place was officially referred to as a Nursing Post. The services provided by the Nursing Post were virtually the same as those provided for the previous twenty-three years by the cottage hospital: only the name had changed.<sup>38</sup>

Menzies Nursing Post provides a casualty nursing service, provision of a referral service to Kalgoorlie by means of ambulance or Royal Flying Doctor Service if urgent medical attention is necessary, provision of a community nursing service including school health, and health worker education. In 1987/88, Menzies Nursing Post dealt with 1,347 'outpatient occasions of service'. Increased mining activity in the district in the late 1980s and early 1990s saw this figure rise to 2,124 in 1991/92 and 2,293 in 1995/96. In 1989,

32 Health Department file, Item 155/1939, Vol. 1, op cit, May-August 1940.

33 Health Department file, Item 155/1939, Vol. 1, op cit, May-August 1940.

34 Health Department file, Item 155/1939, Vol. 1, op cit, June-August 1940.

35 Notes on her life written by Ethel Dorothy (Eley) Parker, 1891-1997, HCWA file 1555.

36 Health Department file, Item 155/1939, Vol. 1, op cit, November 1940-January 1941.

37 PWD Plan 'Menzies Hospital, repairs & renovation', 5 August 1960, SROWA, PWD 5437, plans on microfiche; DOLA, Correspondence File 3188/97, op cit, pp. 33-34.

38 *Votes & Proceedings of Parliament*, 1965, Vol. 3, 'Report of the Medical Department, 1963', referenced in research notes on Nursing Post, Menzies by Ian Elliot, July 21 1994, HCWA Place file 1555.

Reserve 4095 was vested in the Minister for Health for hospital and allied purposes.

*Menzies Warden's Quarters (fmr)* was given a Level 1 management category in the Shire of Menzies Municipal Heritage Inventory, adopted on 18 December 1996.<sup>39</sup> In 1996-97, the place underwent major refurbishment and renovation costing more than \$180,000. The work included a new observation and treatment room, garage and storeroom, and renovated kitchen. A 'significant amount' of new medical equipment was donated by Paddington Gold Pty Ltd.<sup>40</sup> The refurbished Nursing Post was opened in July 1997 by Kath Finlayson, Menzies Shire president and member of the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Health Service Board. Present at the opening were Peter Broad, chairman of the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Health Service Board, Kalgoorlie MHR Graeme Campbell, Dick Scallan general manager of Paddington Gold Pty Ltd, Shire councillors and other members of the Health Service Board.<sup>41</sup>

In 2002, *Menzies Warden's Quarters (fmr)* continues to be occupied as the Menzies Nursing Post. The Nursing Post is staffed by a Registered Nurse and Health Worker. The current occupant of the position is Ms Jan Mazza, who lives on the premises.

### 13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

*Menzies Warden's Quarters (fmr)* is located in the northwest corner of the Menzies townsite, off Onslow Street.<sup>42</sup> The place is separate from any other dwellings or structures, and is on a slight rise overlooking the townsite in an otherwise flat landscape of cleared and natural low scrub environment. *Menzies Warden's Quarters (fmr)* faces due south, and is approached along a gravel track off Onslow Street. The track, covered with blue metal, loops around in a circular driveway in front of the place, as well as accessing the west side. There is a low cyclone mesh fence framed with galvanised pipe across the front (south) and a post and wire fence around the remainder of the place. The site is predominantly flat with shrubs and trees that have been planted in an informal layout and a line of peppermint trees along the west boundary towards the north.

The footprint of *Menzies Warden's Quarters (fmr)* is predominantly a rectangle with verandahs on three sides and across part of the rear. The place is a good representative example of a Bungalow in Colonial style, of the Federation Period. Typical of the style, the place is a ground-hugging, single storey, verandahed building with simple massing and broad roof planes, constructed of natural materials. The main facade, facing south is symmetrical. The secondary elevations on the west and east are well proportioned.

*Menzies Warden's Quarters (fmr)* comprises the former dwelling, a separate freestanding garage structure on the west side, clad with hardiflex shadowline boards, and a small zincalume shed in the north east corner.

*Menzies Warden's Quarters (fmr)* is a single-storey face stone construction with a corrugated iron roof. The face stone is regular in shape and laid in random coursing with stone quoined corners and openings. The stone is black pointed on the main and two secondary elevations, although much of the

---

<sup>39</sup> Ball, Julia & Aris, Kelly, *Shire of Menzies Municipal Heritage Inventory*, 1996, Site 9.

<sup>40</sup> *Kalgoorlie Miner*, 24 July 1997, p. 8.

<sup>41</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>42</sup> The official street address for the place is given as Sandstone Road, ie, the road to Sandstone, which is called Onslow Street within the town.



line-work is not clearly visible. An area of the west wall has recently been rendered in grey cement and ashlar marked to replicate the stone markings. The verandahs around the front and two sides are included under the main roof, at break pitch, and supported by 0.075 metre square stop chamfered timber posts in metal stirrups. The verandah floor is concrete with cracks evident throughout. There is a concrete ramp onto the verandah from the west on the south west corner, and a pedestrian entry ramp centre front with rails in place each side.

The hipped roof is clad with corrugated iron that has subsequently been painted. The paint is flaking off the roof surface. The roof features horizontal vented gablets on the front (south) and north ends of the main ridge of the roof. Three rendered chimneys dominate the roofline, two symmetrical on the front façade, and the third at the rear. Satellite dishes, aerials, air conditioners and a solar hot water system are situated on the roof.

On the north end of the east side verandah there is an extension clad with hardiflex shadowline boards, and on the south west rear corner of the dwelling is an extension clad with flat hardiflex sheeting and battens. The rear verandah has a concrete floor and the 0.075 metre round steel posts support a skillion roof extension.

The window and door headers are splayed vertical stones and the windowsills are rendered. French doors open onto the verandah from most of the six rooms adjacent to the verandah. The French doors are sets of two doors with three glazed panels above a timber panel, and have external flywire doors except where security doors are fitted over the French doors of the southeast front room and the main entry. The two front sets of French door have painted glass panels. The main entry is a panelled door with six coloured glazed panels, some of which have been replaced with clear glass. The front door also has coloured side and fanlights and a security door. The windows generally are timber framed double casement sashes comprising four panes per window. There is a set of two windows on the west side with a rendered support between.

The central front (south) entry door opens into a corridor that accesses three rooms each side before opening into a vestibule at the rear. From the vestibule, there are two rooms on the right (east) and a bathroom and extension on the left (west) with a small storeroom ahead, at the rear of the building.

The interior doors are the original four panelled except for a replacement flush panel door in the bathroom, and the door into the kitchen that has been removed.

The original timber floorboards are covered in carpet, except in the kitchen where the floorboards have been replaced with concrete. The timber skirting boards and architraves are mostly in place. The walls are hard plaster. The six main rooms have plasterboard ceilings, the central corridor and rooms off the lobby have the original ripple iron ceilings, and the extensions have gyprock ceilings. The back-to-back fireplaces each have original timber mantelpieces in place. The kitchen has a c.1990s fitout although the form of the original chimneybreast has been retained. The bathroom is a c.1970s fitout that includes ceramic mosaic floor tiles.

*Menzies Warden's Quarters (fmr)* is generally in good condition. Much of the fabric has recently been restored, although the roof is weathered and paint is peeling, the mortar is seriously fretted at the rear and northwest corner of the stone walls, and the concrete verandahs are cracked. There is evidence of

previous repairs along the west and south walls. The place shows evidence of change, in the replacement of the original timber verandah with concrete, installation of c.1970s toilet facilities, northwest rear extension, verandah enclosures on east and west side, and toilet facilities in the east enclosure. *Menzies Warden's Quarters (fmr)* has retained a moderate degree of integrity. The place is mostly intact, and demonstrates a high degree of authenticity.

### 13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

There are six former Warden's residences listed in the Heritage Council database. The most well known is *House & Trees (fmr Warden Finnerty's House)*, Coolgardie. This is a large house constructed in 1895 of sandstone with an iron roof, and attributed to PWD architect John Grainger. The place is entered on the State Register, is interim listed on the Register of the National Estate and classified by the National Trust. *House & Trees (fmr Warden Finnerty's House)* is currently occupied as a museum.

Other warden's residences are: Warden's Quarters (fmr), Cue (1900), stone and iron, which has been continuously occupied as a residence; First Warden's House, Norseman (1910), asbestos and iron; Warden's Court, Quarters & Offices, Sandstone, (1908), brick and iron construction, formerly Sandstone Primary School and currently in use as a courthouse; and, Warden's House, Ravensthorpe (1906), corrugated iron construction, still in use as a government owned residence.

*Menzies Warden's Quarters (fmr)* could best be compared to the Warden's residences at Coolgardie and Cue, both of which are substantial stone buildings. The place is a good representative example of the type of housing provided for senior government officials in the goldfields.

### 13.4 REFERENCES

-----

### 13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

Further details of the conversion of *Menzies Warden's Quarters (fmr)* into Menzies Hospital, and its early operation, would be found in Health Department files for Menzies Hospital, 1925-1935 (AN120/4 ACC1003, Item 1435/1925, Vol. 1, conversion of DMO quarters into hospital, Vol. 2, hospital buildings, furniture & equipment; Item 699/1935 Vol. 1, buildings, Vol. 2, water supply). As noted, these files were recalled from SROWA by the Health Department in June 2002 and have not been accessed.