



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.

The documentation for this place is based on the heritage assessment completed by Robin Chinnery, Historian, and Philip Griffiths, Architect, in November 2003, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 3.16.1 Dealing with hazards and disasters
- 4.2 Supplying urban services
- 8.5.3 Associating for mutual aid

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 111 Depression & boom
- 404 Community services & utilities

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

North Kalgoorlie Fire Station is a fine example of a single appliance fire station built to a standard 1930s design. (Criterion 1.1)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

North Kalgoorlie Fire Station was built in 1935, as Western Australia recovered from the Great Depression. It was among the first fire stations built in a period of intense building of fire stations, with 18 built in 1934-38. (Criterion 2.2)

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Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

North Kalgoorlie Fire Station was designed by architect K. C. Duncan, designer of the majority of fire stations built in Western Australia from 1930 to 1960, who was an office bearer and life member of the Volunteer Fire Brigades' Association. (Criterion 2.3)

North Kalgoorlie Fire Station, built for the relocation of Brown Hill Volunteer Fire Brigade No. 7, has been operated by the North Kalgoorlie Volunteer Fire Brigade since its inception. (Criterion 2.3)

North Kalgoorlie Fire Station is significant as one of the earliest examples of the standard plan single bay fire station designed by K. C. Duncan, which was widely used in the inter-war and post World War Two periods. (Criterion 2.4)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

North Kalgoorlie Fire Station is highly valued by present and past members of the North Kalgoorlie Volunteer Fire Brigade and their families, by the community of North Kalgoorlie and the district, and by the wider community of the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder for social and cultural reasons, including its long and valuable service, as evidenced also by its inclusion in the Municipal Heritage Inventory. (Criterion 4.1)

North Kalgoorlie Fire Station contributes to the community's sense of place through its operation as a fire station since 1935, and as a distinctive building at the corner of Hare and Peers Streets, in an area that is otherwise predominantly residential. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

North Kalgoorlie Fire Station is one of three single bay fire stations in the State of similar design and construction, built 1934-38, which continue in operation for their original purpose. (Criterion 5.1)

North Kalgoorlie Fire Station is the only surviving fire station built in the pre World War Two period in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. (Criterion 5.2)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

North Kalgoorlie Fire Station provides a good representative example of a single bay fire station constructed during a time of rapid development of the service in the State and is part of a suite of stations completed to standard plans prepared by architect K. C. Duncan. (Criterion 6.1)

12. 3 CONDITION

North Kalgoorlie Fire Station remains close to its original state and is well maintained. The roof has been replaced, part of the appliance room floor

and appliance room ceiling replaced, the timber front entrance doors replaced with a roller door and windows to one room replaced with aluminium framed windows. These changes have obscured some original intentions, but have allowed the place to function as intended. Overall the place is in fair to good condition.

Other buildings on the site, including the equipment store and the toilet block, are in good condition.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

North Kalgoorlie Fire Station remains in use for its intended purpose and continues to be used in a similar manner as that envisaged at the period of construction. There are no conflicting uses and the existing values can be sustained indefinitely with the existing uses and appropriate maintenance. The integrity of the place remains high.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

North Kalgoorlie Fire Station has undergone periodic maintenance and minor change. The roof has been replaced, part of the appliance room floor and appliance room ceiling replaced, the timber doors replaced with a roller door and windows to one room replaced with aluminium framed windows. Floors to the ancillary rooms and corridor have been covered with a patterned vinyl and showers installed in one of three rooms. The underlying fabric remains relatively intact. These changes are minor so that in an overall sense the place retains a high degree of authenticity.

In 2005, the running track and exercise tower have been removed, to be replaced with interpretative elements, and a new building is under construction at the site.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Robin Chinnery, Historian. The physical evidence has been compiled by Philip Griffiths, Architect.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

North Kalgoorlie Fire Station comprises a single appliance station building constructed in brick, render, corrugated asbestos cement with a Zinalume custom orb and corrugated galvanized iron roof in the Inter-War Functionalist style, with an asbestos cement clad addition to the rear, interpretative elements relating to the former exercise tower and running track, and other minor structures, in a park setting. Designed by architect K. C. Duncan, it was built by H. Pilgrim and was completed in November 1935.

The earliest European dwellings were either tents that the settlers had brought to the Swan River Colony, or simple buildings constructed of locally available materials, often of timber with thatch roofs. The fire risk was high, and fires were not uncommon in the towns and agricultural areas. The danger of fire remained an ever present concern for both urban and rural settlers. In 1848, the Commissariat Department purchased the first fire engine to be brought to the Colony, but its effectiveness and its fate are unknown.¹

In 1850, convict transportation to the Swan River Colony commenced. The Pensioner Guards responsible for the convicts provided the first ready labour force in the Colony from which a fire brigade might be established, and a fire engine was imported for their use in 1862.² In 1885, the first volunteer fire brigade in Western Australia was formed at Fremantle; and in Perth, the first formal unit was formed under the Perth City Council, which operated from under the Perth Town Hall.³ However, it was not until the gold boom period of the 1890s, when population increased dramatically and tent towns sprang up in urban areas and on the goldfields, with their heightened risk of fire, that numerous additional fire brigades were established. In late 1895, the destruction of many shops and residences by a major fire at Coolgardie, led to the formation of a volunteer fire brigade. Similar brigades were formed also at Cue, Kalgoorlie in 1896, Brown Hill in 1897 (later re-established as North Kalgoorlie), and Esperance.⁴ Brown Hill proved a profitable gold mining area in the Kalgoorlie district in the late 1890s and

¹ *Perth Gazette* 16 September 1848, cited in Stannage, C. T. *The People of Perth* (Perth City Council, Perth, 1979) p. 63.

² Battye, J. S. *The Cyclopaedia of Western Australia* (The Cyclopaedia Company, Perth, 1912-13) Vol. 2, p. 405.

³ *A Centenary of Service: Fire and Rescue Service of Western Australia 1899-1999* (Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia, Perth, 1999) p. 6.

⁴ Wood, Kenneth A. *Ready, Aye Ready: A History of the Volunteer Fire Brigade Movement in Western Australia*, Wills, Moira (Ed.) (The Western Australian Volunteer Fire Brigades' Association, (Inc.) and the League of Champion Firemen, Perth, 1989) p. 58 and p. 83.

early 1900s, being part of the main mineral belt, which extended in a north-south direction.⁵

Most volunteer fire brigades operated from municipal buildings or sites in return for their voluntary efforts. From 1895, the Government provided some financial assistance to volunteer fire brigades for the purchase of fire engines at Fremantle (1895) and Perth (1897) (the latter being the only brigade that included two permanent members in addition to volunteers) and thereafter at Bunbury, Esperance, Kalgoorlie, Albany, Geraldton and Boulder.⁶

In the late 1890s and early twentieth century, Kalgoorlie, 'the capital town of one of the richest gold centres in the world', was transformed 'from a dreary waste to a highly civilised centre adorned with handsome and substantial structures'.⁷ The townsite was laid out according to the rectangular block principle, with the main thoroughfares being two chains wide, and lesser streets one and a half chains wide, and street tree plantings commenced. A railway and an electric tramway connected the municipalities of Kalgoorlie and Boulder and as the boundaries of both continued to extend the two were brought closer together⁸, finally merging in the twentieth century.

In 1898, the Western Australian Fire Brigades' Association was formed. Although members of the Association were from Perth Brigade there was also strong representation from both the Murchison and Eastern goldfields.⁹

In 1898, the Fire Brigades Act was passed, which established a Board, nominated by the contributors, namely the Government, fire-underwriters, and municipalities, the latter having the choice as to whether they availed themselves of the provisions of the Act, to control and maintain fire fighting services within Perth.¹⁰ In 1899, a site was reserved at the corner of Irwin and Murray Streets, Perth, for the purpose of a fire station, for which Architects Cavanagh and Cavanagh drew plans. Known as the No. 1 Fire Station, it was officially opened in July 1903.¹¹

By 1904, when the Western Australian Fire Brigades' Association drew up a constitution, there were 23 brigades affiliated with it.¹² In 1906, concerns were raised in Parliament as to the number of brigades registered with the Fire Brigade Board, as only two were registered, Perth and Fremantle (registered in 1905). In 1907, a proposed Act for the Constitution of District

⁵ *Twentieth Century Impressions of Western Australia* (P. W. H. Thiel & Co., Perth, 1901, fasc. edition Hesperian Press, Victoria Park, 2000) p. 216.

⁶ Battye, J. S. op. cit., pp. 405-406.

⁷ *Twentieth Century Impressions of Western Australia* op. cit., p. 627.

⁸ *ibid*, pp. 627-628.

⁹ 'Fire and Rescue Service of Western Australia Heritage Inventory' Prepared by the Department of Contract and Management Services for the Fire and Rescue Service of Western Australia, August 1997.

¹⁰ Battye, J. S. op. cit., p. 406.

¹¹ Fire Brigade Board Annual Reports, 1899-1901.

¹² Wood, Kenneth A. op. cit., p. 52.

Fire Brigade Boards was debated, but it was discharged from the Legislative Council.¹³

In the decade 1898-1908, an additional ten volunteer fire brigades were established, seven of which were in the metropolitan area.¹⁴

In December 1909, the District Fire Brigades Act was passed, making it compulsory for fire brigades to register with the Board and for all local authorities to accept the provisions of the Act and to contribute to the costs of the Board.¹⁵ By this Act, the Board was empowered to procure property and also to authorise the sale or exchange of existing properties for fire brigade purposes.¹⁶ In 1910, ten new brigades were established under the Board's control, and it took over numerous existing fire brigades, including those at Brown Hill, South Kalgoorlie, Trafalgar, Westonia, Williamstown, Cue and Menzies. The Board set about replacing or up-grading the properties as required in the pre World War One period.¹⁷

The brigade at Brown Hill became known as Brown Hill Volunteer Fire Brigade No. 7, and its colours for competitions were green and gold.¹⁸ The Brown Hill Volunteer Fire Brigade served the district for 25 years, through to 1935, when it was transferred to North Kalgoorlie.¹⁹ By 1911, 33 fire brigades were affiliated with the Fire Brigades' Association, including Brown Hill.²⁰

In the pre World War One period, most members of the fire brigades were volunteers. A smaller number were permanent employees, and there were also a number of auxiliary staff. These officers were called upon for assistance when required, being paid according to the fires they attended rather than a regular wage. There was increasing concern regarding the conditions for volunteers, in particular the allowance paid to the auxiliaries, and the disbanding of volunteer fire brigades.²¹ In 1912, a meeting between the Board and the Western Australian Fire Brigades' Association agreed it was essential that permanent firemen be employed in the metropolitan area, but not in country areas outside of Midland Junction. In 1915, the Board concluded that in general it was preferable to employ permanent and auxiliary staff at a station rather than a mix of permanent and volunteer staff, which was not always harmonious. However, the manpower shortage during World War One did not enable this policy to be fully implemented until the post war period.²²

13 'Fire and Rescue Service of Western Australia Heritage Inventory' op. cit., p. 19.

14 Wood, Kenneth A. op. cit., pp. 36-37.

15 Battye, J. S. op. cit., p. 406.

16 District Fire Brigades Act, 1909, Section 28.

17 'Fire and Rescue Service of Western Australia Heritage Inventory' op. cit., p. 24; and Wood, Kenneth A. op. cit., p. 40.

18 O'Brien, Syd 'The History of Brown Hill/North Kalgoorlie Volunteer Fire Brigade' Typescript, on file at the station.

19 *Kalgoorlie Miner* 21 November 1935, p. 3.

20 Wood, Kenneth A. op. cit., p. 52.

21 Wood, Kenneth A. op. cit., p. 37.

22 'Fire and Rescue Service of Western Australia Heritage Inventory' op. cit., pp. 27-28.

In the period 1910-17, 42 new fire stations were opened by the Fire Brigades Board. The majority of these were constructed in the pre War period, when standard designs for fire stations were first contemplated, although standard plans did not eventuate until the inter-war period. In many instances, initial sketches were prepared by the Chief Officer, and the station was built by the brigade, or alternatively under the supervision of a local architect. The Board also utilised the services of some architects for more than one station over a number of years. A notable example was J. L. Ochiltree, who designed fire stations at Claremont (1914), Bunbury (1915), McCourt Street, Leederville (1926), and Collie (1929).²³

In 1923, the Board renewed its resolution that volunteer fire brigades would not operate in the metropolitan area, and subsequently the volunteer fire brigades at Leederville, East Fremantle and Subiaco disbanded. However, Guildford, West Guildford and Queens Park, continued.²⁴

In 1923, Architect K. C. Duncan offered his services to the Board. In 1925, it was suggested that his services be engaged in preparing plans for fire stations. From 1926, he and Ochiltree were commissioned by the Board, along with some local architects in country areas who designed stations in their localities, such as Lavater, who drew plans for Wagin and Katanning.²⁵ Duncan was a long serving volunteer fireman. He held various positions in the Volunteer Fire Brigades' Association, serving on the Executive Committee (1924-42), and also as Secretary of the Association (1937-41). He was made a life member in 1937.²⁶

In 1930, the Brown Hill gold mine ceased production. Many residents departed the district, including 20 volunteer firemen who had been members of the Brown Hill Volunteer Fire Brigade.²⁷

During the Great Depression, building activity was curtailed in Western Australia as elsewhere, and no new fire stations were built between 1929 and 1933. As the State began to recover from the Depression, the Fire Brigades' Board entered a period of intense building activity. In 1932, at the Board's request, K. C. Duncan developed a standard plan for country fire stations. In the period 1934-38, 18 new stations were built. The planning and external detailing of many of the stations was similar, following the introduction of standard requirements and standard plans, and with most of the stations being designed by Duncan.²⁸

By the mid 1930s, Brown Hill 'had become practically deserted', and the fire station at Brown Hill was in parlous condition, having 'deteriorated to almost a fowl house'.²⁹ C. Munday, a member of the Brown Hill Volunteer Fire

²³ Fire Rescue Heritage Database, cited in 'Fire and Rescue Service of Western Australia Heritage Inventory' op. cit., p. 25.

²⁴ Western Australian Fire Brigades Board Annual Report 1923, p. 3; Wood, Kenneth A. op. cit., p. 60; and *A Centenary of Service* ...op. cit., p. 14.

²⁵ 'Fire and Rescue Service of Western Australia Heritage Inventory' op. cit., p. 25.

²⁶ Wood, Kenneth A. *Ready, Aye, Ready* op. cit., pp. 109-112.

²⁷ 'The History of Brown Hill/North Kalgoorlie Volunteer Fire Brigade' op. cit.

²⁸ 'Fire and Rescue Service of Western Australia Heritage Inventory' op. cit., pp. 37-38.

²⁹ *Kalgoorlie Miner* 21 November 1935, p. 3.

Brigade for 25 years, some time captain, and one of the oldest volunteer firemen on the goldfields, was 'instrumental in suggesting that the brigade's station be transferred to North Kalgoorlie.' Rather than disbanding the Brown Hill Volunteer Fire Brigade, the Kalgoorlie Roads Board exercised 'wisdom and foresight' in retaining it.³⁰ The Roads Board and the Fire Brigades Board determined to transfer the brigade from Brown Hill in the Hampton district, to a more central location. The site agreed upon for building the proposed new station was Kalgoorlie Lot 995, at the corner of Hare and Peer Streets, in the Lamington district. Designated as Reserve 9190 and vested in the Mayor and Councillors of Kalgoorlie, it was duly set aside for the purpose of 'Fire Station'.³¹

The estimated cost of the new building was £650, with the Roads Boards' share of the cost being £2 6s 3d per annum for 15 years. In August 1935, the Fire Brigades Board agreed to change the name of the Brown Hill Fire Brigade to North Kalgoorlie.³² It would comprise the remaining members of the Brown Hill Brigade and new members from Kalgoorlie. It was agreed that the brigade would retain its No. 7 and its colours of green and gold.³³

In 1935, K. C. Duncan designed *North Kalgoorlie Fire Station*. It was built by H. Pilgrim, of Perth, at a higher than estimated cost of £735.³⁴ *North Kalgoorlie Fire Station* was a single bay fire station, of brick construction with a corrugated iron roof, with a partly rendered partly face brick facade with a central raised parapet. The eastern and western side elevations comprised a section in brickwork and a section in framed construction, with a pair of side hung casement windows in the brick sections and a second window in the timber framed section, this section of the building being clad with asbestos sheeting. In addition to the single bay appliance room, the main building comprised a bedroom and bathroom.³⁵

On 19 November 1935, it was announced that *North Kalgoorlie Fire Station* would be officially opened by E. E. Brimage, Mayor of Kalgoorlie, supported by the Mayor of Boulder, W. F. Coath, and the Chairman of the Kalgoorlie Roads Board, W. R. Hall on 19 November 1935.³⁶ However, the Chairman was 'unavoidably absent', when the station was opened in the presence of a large crowd, who heard the speakers make 'eulogistic reference' to 'the invaluable work of the volunteer firemen', described as 'men who did volunteer work only for the love of service in a civic sense', with whom the

³⁰ *ibid.*

³¹ Kalgoorlie Roads Board Minute Book, SROWA AN 530 Acc. 1887 Item 16, 19 July, 2 and 16 August 1935, p. 70, p. 76 and p. 80 respectively; and Correspondence in FESA Property File North Kalgoorlie Fire Station, 1977.

³² Kalgoorlie Roads Board Minute Book, SROWA AN 530 Acc. 1887 Item 16, 19 July, 2 and 16 August 1935, p. 70, p. 76 and p. 80 respectively.

³³ 'The History of Brown Hill/North Kalgoorlie Volunteer Fire Brigade' *op. cit.*

³⁴ *Kalgoorlie Miner* 21 November 1935, p. 3.

³⁵ *Kalgoorlie Miner* 19 November 1935, p. 4; and 'Kalgoorlie North Fire Stations' in 'Fire and Rescue Service of Western Australia Heritage Inventory' *op. cit.*, p. 2. Note: No original plans have been located to date. Plans held by FESA Museum are still in the process of being collated and conserved. (Su Ferreira, Curator, telephone conversation with Robin Chinnery, 11 November 2003.)

³⁶ *Kalgoorlie Miner* 19 November 1935, p. 4.

Fire Brigades Board 'was glad to be associated.'³⁷ Those present included C. E. Eccles, Town Clerk of Kalgoorlie, and H. J. Edwards Town Clerk of Boulder; members of the W. A. Fire Brigades Board, including J. R. Campbell, President and Mr. Sheed, the local board member; H. J. Critchely, Secretary of the W. A. Volunteer Fire Brigades Association; the officers in charge of Kalgoorlie and Boulder Fire Stations; and the architect, K. C. Duncan, who was entrusted with the duty of handing over a gold key with which to open the building.³⁸ The newspaper reported:

The new station, situated at the corner of Hare and Peer Streets, is typically modern in design and construction, and, in appearance alone, is indeed an asset to the district. the front portion is built of brick and the whole exterior is covered with corrugated plasterite. This material gives the building a most attractive appearance and will keep the interior cool on the hottest days. The spacious hall, which is 40 ft. by 20 ft., provides ample room for the housing of the brigade's fire equipment. The jarrah dado, 6 ft. high, and jarrah floor, walls and ceiling lined with plasterite, give the hall an up-to-date appearance and make it suitable for dancers, meetings and social gatherings. The electric fittings enhance the whole appearance. At the rear of the building is a spacious dressing room and shower bath and a bedroom, large enough for two men to occupy. The building is enclosed by a neat cyclone fence. In the near future, a garden hedge and lawns will be put in to beautify the area.³⁹

The new building was praised by the respective mayors, Mr. Coath declaring it was 'one that any locality could be proud of', and opined that the 'only sad feature was that the old Brown Hill fire brigade had to be shifted to a more central locality', which he saw as 'a sign of the times', commenting it was 'a pity that the outer suburbs of Boulder had fallen so much as to warrant the action.'⁴⁰ However, the people of North Kalgoorlie would benefit from the change, and they 'should be proud of their new station' which he was sure would serve them well.⁴¹ Mr. Campbell stated 'There was ... no better building of its kind, or one more suitable to the district it had to serve in Australia.'⁴² Mr. Critchley said that the fire stations in Western Australia 'compared more than favourably with any in the Commonwealth', whilst Mr. Sheed noted that on his recent visit to Britain, 'he had not seen any station better equipped or more up-to-date than those on the goldfields.'⁴³

The Mayor of Boulder proposed the toast to the Volunteer Fire Brigades, Association making special mention of ex-captain of Brown Hill Volunteer Fire Brigade, C. Munday, and Captain Gilbert, of the North Kalgoorlie Volunteer Fire Brigade. He voiced his admiration for the volunteer firemen, 'who had done exceptionally good work and would continue to do so', and congratulated the board for its interest in the volunteers, concluding 'If it were not for these men that station would not have been built.'⁴⁴

37 *ibid*, 21 November 1935, p. 3.

38 *ibid*.

39 *ibid*.

40 *ibid*.

41 *ibid*.

42 *ibid*.

43 *ibid*.

44 *ibid*.

North Kalgoorlie Fire Station has continued to operate continuously as a fire station for the North Kalgoorlie Volunteer Fire Brigade through the remainder of the twentieth century and into the twenty-first century.⁴⁵ The Brigade has figured prominently in the community through its fire fighting role, and also through its significant achievements in both local and national competitions.⁴⁶ Most notably, in 1998, they won their first 'A' grade State title, and went on to win the national championship in Tasmania.⁴⁷ Through the years, numerous members of the North Kalgoorlie Volunteer Fire Brigade have gone on to join the career fire service, whilst Vaughan Barclay served as President of the Volunteer Association and a member of the Fire Brigades Board in Perth.⁴⁸

In the mid-1930s, a timber-framed kitchen was erected at the rear of the *North Kalgoorlie Fire Station*. To the west of the fire station building, a tennis court was established, with lawn planted around it. A garden hedge was planted along with a small number of tree plantings, including two palm trees. One of the palms survived to the mid 1960s, when it was destroyed by fire and the stump duly removed. There was also storage and work shed for reels etc. The place was enclosed by a timber post and rail fence.⁴⁹ No details of these structures have been located in early documentary records as Fire Brigades Board property files relating to the place for the period 1935-1952 were destroyed, and the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder has no building records for the place pre-dating 1979. The timber post and rail fence survived into the early 1960s.⁵⁰

In the 1930s and 1940s, and through into the post-war period, in addition to its designated use as a fire station and its uses by the volunteer fire brigade, *North Kalgoorlie Fire Station* was hired out for various social gatherings held in the Lamington community, including dances and meetings, and as a polling place for elections. The tennis court was used by brigade members and their families, and also available for hire to the wider public. From mid 1947, private users of the station required sponsorship by the Brigade. Uses included rehearsals for theatrical

⁴⁵ Trevor Tasker District Manager FESA, Kalgoorlie, telephone conversations with Robin Chinnery, 13 November 2003.

⁴⁶ Wood, Kenneth A. op. cit., pp. 174-179.

⁴⁷ *Golden Mail* 23 October 1998, p. 11; and Trevor Tasker, conversation with Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, 13 November 2003.

⁴⁸ 'The History of Brown Hill/North Kalgoorlie Volunteer Fire Brigade' op. cit.

⁴⁹ Syd O'Brien, member North Kalgoorlie Volunteer Fire Brigade for 62 years, conversation with Robin Chinnery, Philip Griffiths and Trevor Tasker, 13 November 2003; and entry in North Kalgoorlie Volunteer Fire Brigade Occurrence Book, October 1948- present, 3 November 1966, p. 292. Note: North Kalgoorlie Volunteer Fire Brigade Occurrence Books and Minute Books for the period 1935 to 1941 are no longer held at the station. In June 1937, the tennis court was being hired out on Saturdays and Sundays, and, in mid 1937, there was a piano at the place for dances etc. (Handwritten transcript of entries from earlier Books, held on file at the place.) It is probable the kitchen had been built by this date to provide the facility for brigade members and also the wider public who utilised the place.

⁵⁰ North Kalgoorlie Station Specification Maintenance & Renovation, in FESA Property File North Kalgoorlie Fire Station, 28 June 1962.

performances.⁵¹ In the post-war period, the original running track was maintained until a new track was made in 1965-66.⁵²

In January 1952, it was decided that a wardrobe be built into the corner of the bedroom, and the existing wardrobe be exchanged for such an item.⁵³ In June, a plan was drawn showing the proposed new position for the gents' earth closet and new urinal.⁵⁴ In the same year, a toilet and a urinal stall, of timber and galvanised iron construction, were erected in the rear yard at a cost of £44 10s.⁵⁵

In 1954, external and internal repairs and painting were carried out by J. Flett, of Kalgoorlie, at a cost of £128 10s.⁵⁶

In 1954, the Fire Brigades Board provided a subsidy of £150 towards the cost of enlarging the kitchen and games room.⁵⁷ In 1955, demolition work was carried out as necessary and a large new kitchen/games room was added to the rear of the building. Works carried out to the bathroom included painting and the installation of a shower recess.⁵⁸ In March, the Volunteer Brigade members were commended 'on their interest in the construction of the building extension' and for the general appearance of the station.⁵⁹ In October, the inspection report noted 'An excellent job has been carried out on extension of the station, the workmanship is a credit to those concerned'.⁶⁰ Financial assistance from the Fire Brigades Board to the Volunteers Brigade had been on a 50:50 basis, and when further expenditure was incurred, an additional £38 10s. was granted.⁶¹ Following completion of the kitchen, Jack Boyes was appointed as caretaker, and he took up residence in the quarters in late July 1956.⁶² Subsequently, there has generally been a resident caretaker at the place.⁶³

In 1956, a septic system was installed, along with a urinal stall and ladies' toilet, at a cost of £150 12s. 4d, as part of the Municipality's programme to

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- 51 Syd O'Brien op. cit.; North Kalgoorlie Volunteer Fire Brigade Occurrence Books 1944-1982.
52 Entries in North Kalgoorlie Volunteer Fire Brigade Occurrence Book, op. cit., October 1948 to July 1965.
53 Excerpt from North Kalgoorlie Volunteer Fire Brigade Minute Books, January 1952.
54 Alterations to North Kalgoorlie Fire Station, site plan, in FESA Property File North Kalgoorlie Fire Station, June 1952.
55 Plan (1964) and Premises Report in FESA Property File North Kalgoorlie Fire Station, May 1964.
56 Premises Report *ibid*; quotes, and extract from Works Committee Minutes, in FESA Property File North Kalgoorlie Fire Station, 1953-1954.
57 Premises Report *ibid*.
58 Memo. From F. Moylan to Chief Officer in FESA Property File North Kalgoorlie Fire Station, 12 September 1956; and Syd O'Brien op. cit.
59 P. O. Bell in North Kalgoorlie Volunteer Fire Brigade Occurrence Book, October 1948-present, 14 March 1955, p. 139.
60 Mr. Carlisle, Chief Officer, P. O. Bell and D/O. Moylan in *ibid*, 4 October 1955.
61 Memo. in FESA Property File North Kalgoorlie Fire Station, 1956.
62 Capt. Whitchurch and Fireman O'Brien, entry in *ibid*, 28 July 1956
63 Trevor Tasker, District Manager FESA, Kalgoorlie, conversation with Robin Chinnery, 13 November 2003. Note: The most recent caretaker left the place earlier this year. It is hoped to appoint another resident caretaker in the near future. (*ibid*.)

convert from a pan system to septic system within its boundaries.⁶⁴ In August, it was reported that new doors to the engine room were required, and fitting a new pair of doors, of tubular steel frame and galvanised iron facing was suggested. Minor repairs were carried out instead and it was agreed that replacement be deferred until the place was next renovated.⁶⁵

In October 1956, fencing around the station was extended to enclose the lavatories, the work being carried out by the volunteer firemen.⁶⁶ In December, the volunteer firemen dismantled the earlier ladder stand and erected a new one.⁶⁷ Subsequently, the stand has been maintained and repaired as necessary.⁶⁸

In 1957, *North Kalgoorlie Fire Station* was re-wired. A plan shows the hall (engine room) with double front doors, bedroom and spare room (bathroom), and kitchen; and the outbuildings, comprising the shed, gents and ladies toilets.⁶⁹ The re-wiring work was carried out by W. Barber at a cost £150 4s. 10d., and included installation of three additional external lights, one on the wall of the hall and one outside each lavatory.⁷⁰

In July 1958, North Kalgoorlie Volunteer Fire Brigade was advised that repairs to the front doors of the appliance room and painting of the exterior of the station would be included in the next Estimates of expenditure for the Fire Brigades. In October, following a further inspection, it was advised that replacement metal doors would be placed on the Estimates.⁷¹ However, as renovations were not carried out until the early 1960s, the doors were repaired in 1959, at a cost of £32 15s.⁷²

In August 1961, the Fire Brigade's Board approved removal of the original storage and work shed in the rear yard of *North Kalgoorlie Fire Station* 1961, and erection of a work and reel shed of galvanised iron construction by Messrs. Bracegirdle & Ritchie at a cost of £276. A plan of the proposed construction was enclosed with the approval, but so far as is known the plan

⁶⁴ Premises Report op. cit.; Town Clerk, Municipality of Kalgoorlie to North Kalgoorlie Volunteer Fire Brigade, and Secretary, Fire Brigades Board to District Officer Moylan in FESA Property File North Kalgoorlie Fire Station, 16 August 1954 and 13 April 1956 respectively.

⁶⁵ Report- North Kalgoorlie Fire Station, and Memo. from Chief Officer to Secretary in FESA Property File North Kalgoorlie Fire Station, 30 August and 11 October 1956 respectively.

⁶⁶ North Kalgoorlie Volunteer Fire Brigade Occurrence Book op. cit., 14, 18, 21 and 22 October 1956.

⁶⁷ *ibid*, December 1956.

⁶⁸ *ibid*, December 1956 to present.

⁶⁹ Premises Report op. cit.; and plan North Kalgoorlie Fire Station in FESA Property File North Kalgoorlie Fire Station, May 1957.

⁷⁰ Premises Report *ibid*; and Memo. from PWD to W. D. Barber in FESA Property File North Kalgoorlie Fire Station, 27 May 1957.

⁷¹ Inspection Reports F/O. Moylan, D/O Collopy, and Board Member Carlisle in *ibid*, 12 July and 14 October 1958.

⁷² Inspection Reports in *ibid*, 6 November 1962 and 10 January 1964; and Premises Report op. cit.

is no longer extant.⁷³ The work was duly implemented, and the shed has continued to serve its intended purpose through into 2003.⁷⁴

In 1962, the interior and exterior were painted at a cost of £181. 10s. 7d., and some repairs were carried out, including repairs or replacement of some windows, indicating this was probably the period in which the replacement aluminium windows were fitted on the western side of the building. In 1964, the perimeter fencing was renewed with tubular posts and rails and link mesh at a cost of £291. A request to erect new fencing 'reaching to the outside of the tennis court' was refused, and the fence line at the corner of Hare and Peers Streets was 'pruned back and squared off' between the hall frontage and Peers Street, thereby saving 40 ft. of fencing and reducing the cost.⁷⁵

In May 1964, it was reported that *North Kalgoorlie Fire Station* was 'the best of the volunteer fire stations on the goldfields. They are kept in faultless cleanliness, and this assists with upkeep. They should last for many years.'⁷⁶ A site plan at this period shows the 1935 Engine Room, bathroom and bedroom, and the 1955 kitchen. To the rear of the kitchen, there is a concrete area and then the reel room (1961). To the rear again, are the ladies and gents toilet buildings. There is a lawn area at either side, and a link mesh fence around the boundaries, which is 15 ft. high bordering the brigade's adjoining tennis court. The ladder stand is without the fence, at the end of the lawn area, which serves as the running track. There is a parking area, with entry from Hinemoa Street.⁷⁷

In mid-1965, grass was removed for the construction of a new, surfaced running track, which was completed by mid January 1966.⁷⁸

In the post World War Two period, only a small number of volunteer fire brigades continued to operate in the metropolitan area, at Guildford, Midland Junction (1931-68), Bassendean (formerly West Guildford), and Canning Districts (formerly Queens Park), which was converted to a permanent station in 1971. After Bassendean became a dual permanent/volunteer fire station, Guildford was left the only volunteer fire brigade in operation in the metropolitan area.⁷⁹ In other areas of the State, volunteer fire brigades have continued in operation. In cities and towns such as Kalgoorlie, volunteer brigades such as North Kalgoorlie continue to play an important role in backing up the regular service where required.⁸⁰

⁷³ Premises Report *ibid*; and Memo. from Chief Officer to District Officer, Kalgoorlie, in FESA Property File North Kalgoorlie Fire Station, 24 August 1964.

⁷⁴ Syd O'Brien *op. cit.*; and site visit, Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, 13 November 2003.

⁷⁵ Premises Report *ibid*; and memos. in FESA Property File North Kalgoorlie Fire Station, 1962 to 1964.

⁷⁶ Premises Report *ibid*.

⁷⁷ North Kalgoorlie Fire Stn. Cnr. Hare & Peers Sts. Vesting Order in FESA Property File North Kalgoorlie Fire Station, 1964.

⁷⁸ Entries in *ibid* July 1965 to 20 January 1966.

⁷⁹ Wood, Kenneth A. *op. cit.*, pp. 60-63.

⁸⁰ Trevor Tasker *op. cit.*

In 1970, as part of a plan to have North Kalgoorlie Volunteer Fire Brigade perform an operational fire turnout role with a Medium Pumper installed at the station, various alterations to up-grade *North Kalgoorlie Fire Station* were approved by the Fire Brigades Board at an estimated cost of \$1,525. In the bathroom, the existing partitions were demolished and replaced, the area and partition was lined with Tilux, a shower and hand basin were fitted, mosaic tiles were fitted to the shower recess with vinyl floor tiles to the remainder of the bathroom floor, and a new cupboard was fitted. In the kitchen, the wood stove was removed and an electric stove installed, Tilux sheeting was used to line the stove recess and to the dado above and around the kitchen sink, the floor was sanded and vinyl tiles laid. A hot water system was installed with connections to the shower, basin and kitchen sink. In the rear yard, the area between the kitchen and the reel room, 45 square yards in area, was concreted, as 15 ft. of path at the side of the station.⁸¹

By 1976, the existing toilet block had deteriorated badly, the cement floor was 'badly cracked and considered a health hazard', and the timber was old and in need of renewal.⁸² In December 1976, it was recommended that \$4,000 be placed on the Estimates - Land & Building Fund for its demolition and re-building in the same position, thereby enabling use of the existing plumbing fixtures and connections where possible. However, the work was not implemented at this date.⁸³

In early 1977, Kalgoorlie Town Council requested the survey and excision of a portion of land from Reserve 9190, at the corner of Hare and Peers Streets, for the purpose of road widening. This was agreed by the Fire Brigades Board on the provisos that the station fence was made good and kerbing installed in front of the Fire Station was constructed so as to allow straight vehicle access to the front doors.⁸⁴

In April 1978, a new bottom panel was ordered for the front 'Filuma' door to the appliance room. The front drive was inspected with a view to concreting.⁸⁵

In 1979, a new toilet block was erected at the place at a cost of \$5,897.⁸⁶

In February 1981, the floor at *North Kalgoorlie Fire Station* was sanded and sealed.⁸⁷

In the mid 1980s, the original ceiling in the appliance room was replaced.⁸⁸

⁸¹ Correspondence and memos. in FESA Property File North Kalgoorlie Fire Station op. cit., 1970.

⁸² Memo. to Chief Officer from Asst. Chief Officer Country Fire Dept. in FESA Property File North Kalgoorlie Fire Station, 22 December 1976.

⁸³ *ibid*, and correspondence etc. in *ibid*, 1976 to 1979.

⁸⁴ Correspondence etc. in *ibid*, 1977.

⁸⁵ North Kalgoorlie Volunteer Fire Brigade Occurrence Book op. cit., 12 April 1978.

⁸⁶ Correspondence etc. in FESA Property File North Kalgoorlie Fire Station, 1979.

⁸⁷ North Kalgoorlie Volunteer Fire Brigade Occurrence Book op. cit., 18 February 1981.

⁸⁸ Syd O'Brien op. cit.

Through to the mid 1980s, the tennis court at *North Kalgoorlie Fire Station* continued in use. After a man was electrocuted there, the court ceased to be used for tennis, and subsequently the area has been utilised for car parking.⁸⁹

In early 1986, air conditioning was installed in the kitchen.⁹⁰

Termites caused damage to a section of the timber floor in the appliance room. In February 1986, it was recommended that this area should be replaced with a concrete slab, 4m. x 7m.⁹¹ However, in 1987, the timber floor was repaired.⁹²

In September 1992, the front roller door to the appliance room was replaced.⁹³

On 30 March 1993, a Vesting Order was issued directing that Reserve No. 9190 (Kalgoorlie Lot 995) 'shall vest in and be held by the Western Australian Fire Brigades Board' for the purpose of 'Fire Brigade Station.'⁹⁴

In March 1994, a quote was obtained from Readymix for re-surfacing the running track. The new running track was duly made in winter 1994.⁹⁵

In 1997, *North Kalgoorlie Fire Station* was included in 'Fire and Rescue Service of Western Australia Heritage Inventory', and considered to be eligible for Entry into the State Register of Heritage Places as 'a good example of the design and use of single bay stations with brick facades and central raised parapets, dating from the accelerated building campaign of the 1930s.'⁹⁶

In c.1995, part of the original timber floor at the fire station was replaced with a new timber floor after the original stumped floor gave way. In May 2000, Kalgoorlie Lot 995, the site of *North Kalgoorlie Fire Station*, was 'set apart as Reserve 9190' for the purpose of 'Fire Brigade Station', with a Management Order (formerly Vesting Order) issued in favour of FESA, and a new Crown Land Title was issued.⁹⁷

In May 2001, fencing at the rear of the toilets was dismantled in readiness for the fencing contractor.⁹⁸

⁸⁹ North Kalgoorlie Volunteer Fire Brigade Occurrence Book op. cit., 1948 to 1985; and Trevor Tasker and Syd O'Brien op. cit.

⁹⁰ North Kalgoorlie Volunteer Fire Brigade Occurrence Book op. cit., 14 January 1986.

⁹¹ Facilities Submission in FESA Property File North Kalgoorlie Fire Station, 6 February 1986.

⁹² North Kalgoorlie Volunteer Fire Brigade Occurrence Book op. cit., 14 January 1986, 15 June and 23 November 1987.

⁹³ *ibid*, 24 September 1992.

⁹⁴ Vesting Order, 30 March 1993, in FESA Property File North Kalgoorlie Fire Station

⁹⁵ North Kalgoorlie Volunteer Fire Brigade Occurrence Book op. cit., March to August 1994.

⁹⁶ 'Guildford Fire Station and House' op. cit., p. 3.

⁹⁷ Crown Land Title Vol. 3117 Fol. 500, in FESA Property File North Kalgoorlie Fire Station Note: When V. Nikoloski, DOLA, notified FESA and enclosed a copy of the Management Order and Crown Land Title, it was stated that the Management Order was 'issued in favour of Council' which conflicts with the information on the Crown Title. (Correspondence in *ibid*, 8 September 2000.

⁹⁸ North Kalgoorlie Volunteer Fire Brigade Occurrence Book op. cit., 28 May 2001.

In July 2001, *North Kalgoorlie Fire Station* was included in the Municipal Heritage Inventory for Kalgoorlie-Boulder, the Management Category being 'High Level Protection TPS'.⁹⁹

On 21 November 2001, the North Kalgoorlie Volunteer Fire Brigade celebrated 65 years of active service and life-member Syd O'Brien's outstanding achievement in serving the brigade for 60 years, with an evening of hors d'oeuvres and dancing at the Miners and City Workers Club in Boulder.¹⁰⁰

Vandalism and break-ins to *North Kalgoorlie Fire Station* had occurred on a number of occasions in the late twentieth century, with entry generally gained by breaking-in through the rear door or a window. After a further attempted break-in to the quarters in March 2002, security screens were fitted to the place in April 2002.¹⁰¹

In 2003, the place continues in use as a fire station. The place is the only surviving pre World War Two fire station in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, and one of a small number of such stations in the State which continues in operation for its intended use in 2003. It is proposed to amalgamate the two volunteer fire brigades from North and South Kalgoorlie, which would then be based at a new station to be built on the reserve site at *North Kalgoorlie Fire Station*, for which plans have been drawn. The proposed works include any necessary repairs and conservation to the existing appliance room (1935), which would be utilised as a trophy room for the brigade.¹⁰²

In April 2005, the Heritage Council approved works at the site to accommodate the construction of the new station. These works included the removal of the exercise tower and running track, with a photographic record to be completed prior to demolition and interpretative elements to be included in the new development.¹⁰³ In May 2005, the running track and exercise tower have been removed and construction is underway on a new building on the reserve site adjacent to *North Kalgoorlie Fire Station*.¹⁰⁴

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

North Kalgoorlie Fire Station comprises a single appliance station building constructed in brick, render, corrugated asbestos cement with a Zincalume custom orb and corrugated galvanized iron roof in the Inter-War Functionalist style (1935), with an asbestos cement clad addition to the rear (1955), interpretative elements relating to the former exercise tower and running track, and other minor structures, in a park setting. It was completed in November 1935, to a design by architect K. C. Duncan.

⁹⁹ HCWA Database Place No. 1322. Note: The place is listed on the database as Lamington Fire Station, corner Peers and Hinemoa Streets, Kalgoorlie.

¹⁰⁰ Invitation on file at North Kalgoorlie Fire Station.

¹⁰¹ North Kalgoorlie Volunteer Fire Brigade Occurrence Book op. cit., 1965 to 21 April 2002.

¹⁰² Trevor Tasker, telephone conversations with Robin Chinnery, November 2003.

¹⁰³ HCWA letter to FESA, 5 April 2004, on HCWA file P7508

¹⁰⁴ Mike Hessel, FESA property services, phone conversation with Clare Schulz, 4 May 2005.

North Kalgoorlie Fire Station is located to the east of the Railway in the suburb of Lamington, an area of historic houses and the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital. There are many modest and larger early houses from the first gold boom period located around the site of the fire station, as well as some more recent replacement housing.

North Kalgoorlie Fire Station is set on a triangular piece of land, with Hare Street to the north, running from south-west to north-east, which is the main access for the fire station. Peers Street lies to the east and runs along the site of the fire station, while Hinemoa Street runs along the south side making up the remaining side of the triangle. The streets surrounding the site are broad and typical of streets in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. The site has a number of Eucalypts around its perimeter planted in the verge.

There is a Kloppe's log barrier fence around much of the site, with the immediate area of the fire station fenced in with a cyclone fence; a fence made of galvanized steel tube, with galvanized link mesh panels.

The site features include the original fire station (1935), and its extension (1955), the equipment shed (1970s), shade area, interpretative elements relating to the former running track (1994) and ladder tower, the remains of the tennis court and the male and female toilets (1980).

The fire station is sited on the corner of Hare Street and Peers Street, with a cyclone fence extending across the front and down the side boundaries, with a concrete driveway giving access to the appliance room from Hare Street. A concrete path extends along the east side of the station, with a garden area between the path and boundary fence. The garden has a hedge, Japanese Jade and Bottlebrushes. Further south a pair of gates provides access from Peers Street, with a concrete driveway leading into the area between the rear of the fire station and the equipment store. The equipment store (1960s) is located to the rear of the fire station and the gap between the two buildings has a shade cloth structure over it to form a breezeway. Still further south lies the framed construction toilets (1980). The bitumen paved running track was formerly located to the west of the fire station, off set from the building, running from a point about half way along the gambrel roofed section of the fire station and terminating at the ladder tower to the south. Pipes were installed at intervals along the west side and to the east side of the running track, and light fittings were attached to these poles. Beyond the former running track to the west, there is a cyclone fence and the site of the tennis court, now used for carparking. In May 2005, a new fire station building was being constructed on this site. The remainder of the ground is graveled on the surface and planted out with a variety of Eucalypts.

There is no surface evidence of there having been any other structure on the site, other than an earlier toilet block, but its precise location is unknown.

Although they were once well maintained, the grounds are now in fair to poor condition.

Fire Station 1935

The original fire station comprises a single appliance station building constructed in brick, render, corrugated asbestos cement with a Zincolume

custom orb and corrugated galvanized iron roof in the Inter-War Functionalist style. There is an appliance room under a gambrel roof and then two rooms and a corridor under a skillion roof. The front section of the fire station is of masonry construction (the front elevation and a return bay along each side), with the remaining construction being framed and clad. The front elevation comprises a single large opening with a roller door that replaces earlier timber construction hinged doors. This is set in a rendered surround that extends up beyond the roof eaves line and terminates in a stepped parapet. The words 'FIRE STATION ' appear on bas relief over the roller door. Either side of the door, the rendered brick is flanked with face brick panels, which terminate at the wall top with a rendered string. Colonial profile eaves gutters on timber fascias can be seen over the rendered band, with the replacement zincalume roof discharging into the gutters. The louvred vent to the gambrel roof beyond is seen over the top of the stepped parapet. The final feature of the front elevation is the opening plaque, which reads: -

THIS BUILDING WAS ERECTED BY
THE W.A. FIRE BRIGADES BOARD
AND OPENED BY
E.E. BRIMMAGE ESQ J.P.
MAYOR OF KALGOORLIE
19TH NOVEMBER 1935

MEMBERS OF THE W.A. FIRE BRIGADE BOARD

J. R. CAMPBELL, PRESIDENT	D. SHEED
D. A. WATSON	J.H. PRUNSTER
C.H. CURLEWIS	F.E. GIBSON
A. J. REVELL	H.G. CRITCHLEY
J. L. HARDWICK	F. W. GERHARD
	CHIEF OFFICER
K.G. DUNCAN F.R.I.A.	H. PILGRIM
ARCHITECT	BUILDER
PERTH	PERTH

The eastern side elevation comprises a section in brickwork and a section in framed construction. The brickwork section returns precisely the same treatment as the front façade brickwork, but an additional feature of the brick panel is a pair of 8 pane side hung casement windows. The framed section is constructed in major timber posts, then stud framing in between, clad externally with short length sheets of 3" pitch corrugated asbestos cement sheeting, which has been painted. There is a second pair of casement

windows in the centre panel of this wall under the main gambrel roof. The gambrel roof has plain galvanized iron louvred vents in the gables, while the roof is replacement zincalume custom or profile steel. The rear section of the 1935 part of the building employs the same framed construction as the appliance room section, but here the roof is in a skillion format, with a box gutter against the 1955 addition to the rear. In this instance there is a single 8 pane casement window located towards the north end of the wall.

The western side is a mirror image of the eastern side until towards the rear of the appliance room, where the brick construction chimney breast and flue can be seen. The skillion roof section is also a mirror image of the east side, except that the casement window has been replaced by a set of aluminium sliding windows, with a white powder coated security and flyscreen over them.

The 1935 fire station consists of three spaces and a corridor, the appliance room facing onto Hare Street, a centrally located corridor and a room to either side of the corridor.

The appliance room has a 4.5" jarrah floor, with a repair section of 2.5" boards under the location of the appliance parking area. The lower walls have a wainscot consisting of 4.5" v-jointed stained timber boarding, a splayed skirting, quad, and terminating with a moulded capping. The upper walls are plastered brick, with plasterboard over the framed sections. There is a cove and replacement gyprock ceiling. In the south-west corner there is a face brick construction fireplace with a timber mantle, to which has been added a timber framed mirror and decorative surround at some other date. There is a manually operated roller door at the front together with the switchboard, and a darts board. Along the west wall there is an open trophy display shelf and on the east wall a glass fronted trophy display cabinet. Photographs of competition winner are displayed on the walls, as well as a timber construction honour roll and a roll of life members of the volunteer brigade. There is a faux bois writing slope and cupboard on the south wall in which the incident books are stored.

The eastern room under the skillion roof has become a shower room. It has a concrete floor covered with vinyl, splayed skirting, chipboard shelving against the north wall, twin showers in a fibro lined cubicle, hot water heater and a stainless steel wash hand basin. The ceiling is lined on the rake with fibro cement.

The corridor has a vinyl covered timber floor, quads, a splayed skirting, board lined dado, upper walls in fibrous cement, with a plasterboard ceiling with cover strips and a small covered cornice.

The western room has a vinyl covered timber floor, quads, a splayed skirting, board lined dado, upper walls in fibrous cement, with a plasterboard ceiling with cover strips and a small covered cornice.

The gambrel roof has been re-clad, one window replaced with an aluminium framed window, and the timber doors replaced with a roller door. Part of the timber floor has been replaced in the appliance room, the ceiling

replaced and the eastern room converted into a shower facility, with concrete floors and fibrous cement lined partitions.

There is some brick joint erosion, but otherwise this section remains in fair condition. The addition of the showers and associated modifications are intrusive.

1955 Addition

The 1955 addition added another 5.3m to the fire station and provided a kitchen and community area. The addition directly abuts the skillion roofed section of the 1935 fire station. It is a gabled roof structure separated from the skillion roof building by a box gutter with a hopper and downpipe on the western side. The whole of the exterior is clad in painted asbestos cement sheeting with cover strips over the board joints. There is a set of three metal louver jamb sets on the east elevation, with timber architraves and these windows are covered with security mesh flyscreens. The gable is completed with a timber bargeboard and the painted corrugated iron roof in short length sheets is simply rolled over the barge to form a barge cap. The south elevation is similarly treated, with two sets of two jamb sets of louvers. All louvres have obscured glass blades. The back roof is a ledge and braced tongue and grooved face door, with an aluminium construction security screen flywire door on the out side. The west elevation is a mirror image of the east, without windows. The old kitchen stove flue is visible at the ridge and an air conditioning unit has been installed in the northern end of the wall.

The kitchen has a vinyl covered timber floor, splayed skirting, Masonite (a compressed wood fibreboard) lower walls and thick timber dado and plasterboard upper walls, coved cornice and a plasterboard ceiling. Louvred windows and the ledge and braced door are noted above. The room has a set of plastic laminated construction cupboards with a stainless steel sink and double drainer, a recess where the wood stove once stood and a free standing sideboard. There is fluorescent lighting fitted to the ceiling.

The sink cabinet has been replaced, the cooker removed and an air conditioning unit added.

The building is generally in fair condition.

Equipment store

The equipment store is a small timber framed building with galvanized corrugated iron walls, louvres in the south and east elevations, and a sliding door in the north elevation. The roof is painted corrugated galvanized roof with a roll top ridge, ogee gutters, p.v.c. downpipes, timber barges, and barge caps.

A concrete paved area links the Equipment store with the kitchen and a very light framed steel structure supports a shade cloth cover that spans between the two buildings.

The store has a concrete floor and the building is unlined.

The building is generally in fair condition.

Toilets (1980)

This is a male and female toilet block constructed in timber framing with 'Hardiplank' (a fibrous cement imitation weatherboard) walls, Colorbond custom orb gambrel pattern roof. It has anodized aluminium sliding windows and flush panel doors.

The building has a concrete floor, fibrous cement linings, and melamine covered partitions, with vitreous china and stainless steel fittings and plastic cisterns.

The building is generally in fair condition.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

In the period 1900-10, the first purpose built fire stations were built. No. 1 Fire Station, at the corner of Irwin and Murray Streets, Perth, officially opened in July 1903, was designed by architects Cavanagh and Cavanagh.¹⁰⁵ In 1904, a large purpose built masonry fire station was built by the Boulder Municipal Council, around the same period in which a timber station was built at Leederville.¹⁰⁶ In 1908, a new purpose built fire station was built at Phillimore Street, Fremantle, known as No. 2 Station, also to a design by Cavanagh and Cavanagh.¹⁰⁷

The Districts Fire Brigades Act, 1909, ushered in a seven year period of rapid development, 1910-17, in which 42 new stations were built, of which, so far as is known, only four were substantial, purpose built, masonry buildings. In the post World War One period, between 1920 and 1929, 12 new stations were built, of which at least seven were substantial, architect designed, buildings. From the World War One period to the mid 1920s, Architect J. L. Ochiltree was generally referred to as the Fire Brigades' Board's Architect. From 1926, Architect K. C. Duncan also designed a number of fire stations for the Board.¹⁰⁸

Between 1929 and 1933, no new fire stations were built due to the Depression. In 1932, the Board once more began to look ahead, and planning commenced for fire stations at Goomalling and Cue. The remainder of the inter-war period saw intense building activity by the Board, when 18 new stations were built, 15 of them in country areas. The majority of the stations were built to designs by K. C. Duncan, who had developed a standard plan for country stations in 1932. In 1933, K. C. Duncan drew plans for a single bay fire station to be built on the Municipality of Guildford's reserve at Meadow Street.¹⁰⁹ The Municipality agreed to build the station, to

¹⁰⁵ Fire Brigade Board Annual Reports, 1899-1901.

¹⁰⁶ 'Fire and Rescue Service of Western Australia Heritage Inventory' op. cit., p. 20.

¹⁰⁷ Fire Brigade Board Annual Report, 1908.

¹⁰⁸ 'Fire and Rescue Service of Western Australia Heritage Inventory' op. cit., p. 26.

¹⁰⁹ 'Guildford Fire Station' in 'Fire and Rescue Service of Western Australia Heritage Inventory' op. cit., p. 2.

be leased to the brigade.¹¹⁰ This was most unusual as by the 1930s the majority of new fire stations were built and owned by the Board.

Guildford Fire Station (1934) was the first of five similar single bay fire stations. The other stations were *North Kalgoorlie Fire Station* (1935), Tammin (1935), Busselton (1936) and Meekatharra (1936). All were characterised by a partly rendered partly face brick facade and a central raised parapet, of simple rendered design with a low triangular cap. Simple rendered pilasters with slightly chamfered edges flanked the appliance doors below the parapet. Decorative detailing included the rectangular name plate on the parapet and a plain rendered cornice band. Guildford Fire Station and Busselton were the most substantial of these stations, with brick walls on all sides and tiled roofs, whilst the other three had a face brick facade returning along the side walls to accommodate a single window, with timber framed walls clad with asbestos or corrugated iron. Roofs were of similar materials.¹¹¹

During World War Two, only two new stations were built, and the Board did not renew its building programme until after the lifting of war time restrictions in the early 1950s. In the post World War Two period, Duncan, and subsequently Duncan, Stephen & Mercer, were responsible for the design of numerous new fire stations in which the basic design for facilities and layout remained much as in the inter-war period, although there were some modifications with regard to the decorative details.¹¹²

In 1990, two of the five single bay fire stations built in the 1934-38 period, at Busselton and Meekatharra were replaced by new stations. In 1996-97, the stations at Tammin, North Kalgoorlie and Guildford were extant, and continuing in use for their original purpose.¹¹³ *North Kalgoorlie Fire Station* is one of four 1930s fire stations on the Register, the others being Guildford, Toodyay and Coolgardie.

North Kalgoorlie Fire Station is a notable example of an inter-war single bay fire station, which continues in use for its intended purpose in 2003.

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

'North Kalgoorlie Fire Station' in 'Fire and Rescue Service of Western Australia Heritage Inventory' Prepared by the Department of Contract and Management Services for the Fire and Rescue Service of Western Australia, August 1997.

¹¹⁰ Grant Barker, Secretary, Guildford Volunteer Fire Brigade, telephone conversation with Robin Chinnery, January 2003.

¹¹¹ 'Fire and Rescue Service of Western Australia Heritage Inventory' op. cit., pp. 37-38.

¹¹² 'Fire and Rescue Service of Western Australia Heritage Inventory' op. cit., p. 38.

¹¹³ 'Thematic History of Fire Brigades in Western Australia' Prepared by Department of Contract and Management Services, Western Australia, August 1996, p. 45; and 'Guildford Fire Station and House' op. cit., p. 3.

13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH

Further research may identify whether the track (constructed post war period, resurfaced 1965/66 and 1994) and the exercise tower are rare elements as part of a fire station.