



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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)

- 4.3 Developing institutions
- 8.5 Forming associations
- 8.5.1 Preserving traditions and group memories

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 404 Community services and utilities
- 407 Cultural activities
- 408 Institutions

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Masonic Hall (fmr), Southern Cross demonstrates a particular aesthetic that is idiomatic with the traditions and themes often reflected in Masonic architecture in this State and that is readily identifiable to and recognised by both the Freemasonry and broader communities. (Criterion 1.1)

Although a restrained and simple form of the Federation Academic Classical style, *Masonic Hall (fmr), Southern Cross* expresses this style in a way that is balanced and proportioned and that is in context with the size and resources of the local Freemasonry and general Southern Cross community. (Criterion 1.1)

The place includes a fine and intact interior, in particular the Hall, as well as significant moveable heritage including mosaics, books, furniture, fittings and 'Craft' paraphernalia. (Criterion 1.1)

The details expressed in the internal and external elements of *Masonic Hall (fmr), Southern Cross*, associated with both the architectural style as well as

* 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Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

Freemasonry culture, are important for their creative if somewhat quirky design. (Criterion 1.2)

Masonic Hall (fmr), Southern Cross is valued for the pleasing use of materials, its symmetry, scale and proportions in a simple landscape setting that is compatible with the streetscape and that makes a significant contribution to the Southern Cross townsite and cultural landscape. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

Masonic Hall (fmr), Southern Cross is part of the building development that occurred in Southern Cross in the last decade of the nineteenth century, as the town grew to become the regional centre, firstly for the Yilgarn goldfield and later for the farming district that was established. (Criteria 2.1 & 2.2)

Masonic Hall (fmr), Southern Cross is closely associated with the presence and activities of Masons amongst the rapidly expanding population of the eastern goldfields in the late nineteenth century. (Criterion 2.1)

Masonic Hall (fmr), Southern Cross was the first Masonic Hall to be erected on the goldfields and to be used solely for Freemasonry ('Craft') purposes and is associated with the Southern Cross Freemason Lodge No. 2574 (later renamed Southern Cross Masonic Lodge No. 44), the second Lodge to be formed in the eastern goldfields, which was based in this building. (Criteria 2.2)

Masonic Hall (fmr), Southern Cross was built specifically for the Southern Cross Freemasons who continuously and solely occupied the place from the time of its construction in 1898 until its closure in 1995. (Criteria 2.3)

Masonic Hall (fmr), Southern Cross is associated with many prominent local identities who contributed to and participated in the cultural and civic life of Southern Cross. (Criterion 2.3)

11.3 SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11.4 SOCIAL VALUE

Masonic Hall (fmr), Southern Cross is representative of the social input and contributions Freemasons and similar charitable organisations have made in local communities across Australia. (Criterion 4.1)

Masonic Hall (fmr), Southern Cross is important to the Freemasonry and local communities as the long-standing and continuous headquarters of the Freemasons of Southern Cross from 1898 to 1995, where important social traditions and interaction occurred between a significant sector of the community which were vital activities for people living in remote regional areas of the State. (Criterion 4.1)

Masonic Hall (fmr), Southern Cross contributes to the local community's sense of place as a distinctive and finely expressed building from the 1890s gold boom period and also as the sole and continuous headquarters for the local Freemasons for almost one hundred years. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1 RARITY

Masonic Hall (fmr), Southern Cross is one of the oldest surviving examples of a Masonic Lodge in Western Australia. (Criterion 5.1)

The vertical sliding wall in the Festive Ward of *Masonic Hall (fmr), Southern Cross* is the only known example of such a detail, and is important as an uncommon element that demonstrates the customs associated with the Freemasons. (Criterion 5.1)

Masonic Hall (fmr), Southern Cross and the extant paraphernalia and regalia represents the presence of the Masonic brotherhood in Southern Cross since 1895, which remained active for 100 years. It is important in demonstrating a distinctive custom that is no longer practiced in this venue. (Criterion 5.2)

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Masonic Hall (fmr), Southern Cross is a representative example of the design elements of a Masonic Lodge, and the associated customs of the Masonic order practiced in Southern Cross. (Criterion 6.2)

12.3 CONDITION

Masonic Hall (fmr), Southern Cross is in good condition. Although maintenance has taken place as required there is some weathering of external timber elements.

12.4 INTEGRITY

The original design and functional intention of the place is clear, although the original organisation is no longer operational in Southern Cross. *Masonic Hall (fmr), Southern Cross* retains a moderate to high degree of integrity.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

Masonic Hall (fmr), Southern Cross retains a considerable degree of the original fabric with some intervention apparent in the roof replacement, the painted external walls and restored tuckpointed front wall, and reconstructed arched window elements throughout. Overall however, *Masonic Hall (fmr), Southern Cross* has a high degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

This document has been based on the Conservation Plan for Masonic Lodge (fmr), Southern Cross, prepared for the Shire of Yilgarn by Laura Gray, October 1998. The evidence sections were updated by Irene Sauman, Historian and Laura Gray, Heritage and Conservation Consultant, in April 2010. The heritage assessment has had amendments and/or additions made by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Masonic Hall (fmr), Southern Cross is a single storey brick building constructed in 1898 for the Southern Cross Masonic Lodge and showing influences reminiscent of the Federation Academic Classical style.

Freemasonry had its origins in the English trade guilds.¹ The first Freemason's Lodge in Western Australia had been established in 1843, but growth was slow until the 1880s, when the increase in the number of lodges reflected the more prosperous conditions prevailing in the colony. The first impact of the gold discoveries hastened the movement to establish lodges in the older settled areas and lodges were established in a number of the larger goldfield towns. By October 1899, there were 35 lodges in existence, owing allegiance to the Grand Lodge of England. On 27 February 1900, the Grand Lodge of Western Australia was formed, marking the attainment of autonomous government for the State's Freemasons.²

The second of the eastern goldfield chapters of Freemasons in Western Australia was established at Southern Cross. The Yilgarn goldfield had been declared on 1 October 1888 the townsite of Southern Cross was gazetted in 1890.³ The Yilgarn was not a profitable field for the alluvial miner, so most men worked for the mining companies who developed the reef mines. Southern Cross had the typical rapid growth of all goldfield settlements and the young, predominately male, population was drawn from all over Australia. The men were active in social and community events and a number of societies were established, including the Druids, Star of the East Loyal Orange Order and the Freemasons.⁴

The Southern Cross Freemason Lodge, No. 2574 English Constitution, was originally constituted by the Grand Lodge of England on a warrant dated 11 July 1895. The constitution ceremony was conducted in Southern Cross on 16

1 For more information on the development of Freemasonry in Western Australia refer to Heritage Council documentation P01046 Masonic Lodge, Geraldton.

2 Collins, N. R. & Forster, H. C., *Golden Jubilee History 1900 - 1950: Grand Lodge of Western Australia of Antient, Free and Accepted Masons*, Paterson Brokensha, Perth, 1950, pp. 5-7. 'Antient' is the Old English spelling and is correct in this instance.

3 For more information on the establishment of the Southern Cross and the Yilgarn goldfield refer to Heritage Council documentation P02812 Palace Hotel.

4 Hallack, E. H., *Western Australia and the Yilgarn Goldfields, being a series of articles written by an "Othersider"*, W. K. Thomas, Adelaide, 1891; Hunt, Lyall (ed), *Yilgarn: Good country for hardy people: the landscape and people of the Yilgarn Shire, Western Australia*, Yilgarn Shire & WACAE, 1988, pp. 178-179.

November 1895, at the Court House, which became the official meeting place, with festivities held in one of the hotels.⁵

One of the most successful and agreeable of recent Masonic functions was held in connection with the antient fraternity last week. The occasion was the constituting a new Lodge at Southern Cross, the second formed in the Eastern goldfields. On Saturday morning last there arrived from Perth, for the purpose of conducting the ceremony, Bro. J. Arthur Wright, D.G.M.; Bro. J. W. Hackett, D.G.S.W.; Bro. F. L. Hussey, D.G. Stc; and Bro. C. T. Mason, P.M. At Southern Cross they were met by Bro. the Right Rev. Bishop Riley, acting D.G. Chaplain, who was staying at Southern Cross...

The new Lodge was consecrated under the title of the Southern Cross Lodge, No. 2574 in the registry of the Grand Lodge of England. The consecration ceremony being concluded the installation of the first Worshipful Master commenced... The brother who had been selected by the brethren to be their first Master was Bro. Sam Colman, the much-respected and popular registrar of the Warden's Court. At the conclusion of the installation the new Worshipful Master invested his officers... After the ceremonial proceedings of the evening were concluded the brethren adjourned to the Railway Hotel, where a banquet of a most excellent description had been provided by Bro. Huggins, the table being as ornamental as it proved sustaining. A most pleasant evening was then spent in true Masonic fashion, enlivened by toasts, speeches, and harmony.⁶

In 1896, Bro. William Oates purchased Southern Cross Lot 45 on Spica St and made the land available for the construction of a lodge. William Oates had been the first Mayor of Southern Cross (1892-95) and was the inaugural chairman of the Yilgarn Road Board. Title to Lot 45 was then transferred to Bros Samuel Colman, Dr Victor Black, Warden for the Yilgarn goldfield, and Sydney Newsham.⁷

In March 1898, it was announced that the plans and specifications for *Masonic Hall (fmr), Southern Cross*, which was to be the first Masonic Hall erected in the goldfields and to be used solely for 'Craft' purposes, had been completed, but there was no indication as to the identity of the architect.⁸

The building, which is to be of brick, is 36 x 36. The Lodge Room will be 36 x 24 and the anteroom will be 15 x 12 with a 6 x 12 passage between them. There will also be a porch 12 x 10 and 14 feet high. The partitions of all the rooms will be moveable so that they can be made into one large room 36 x 12 for banqueting purposes. The work of building is to be commenced at once as the Hall has to be completed within five months. Bros. Stubbs, P.M., and A. Jacobsen have been appointed to act as supervisors. This is the first Masonic Hall erected on the goldfields and to be used solely for Craft purposes.⁹

5 *The West Australian Craftsman*, 50th anniversary celebrations, December 1945, pp. 10-11; Records held by the Southern Cross Masonic Lodge.

6 *The West Australian*, 22 November 1895, p. 4.

7 Certificate of Title, Vol. 60 Fol. 8, 4 September 1896.

8 *The West Australian Freemason*, 15 March 1898, p. 4.

The main body of Freemasonry is called 'Craft Masonry', which refers to the business and actions of Freemasons within the context of a Masonic organisation. The practice of Freemasonry is sometimes referred to as 'the Craft'. <http://www.freemasonswa.org.au/About-Us/Structure-of-Masonic-Orders.aspx> and <http://www.freemasonswa.org.au/getdoc/4d7be773-19b5-4d4d-855a-5d9b7b54b28d/Book-Review---Gems-from-the-Grand-Lodge-Library.aspx> accessed 11 March 2011

9 *The West Australian Freemason*, 19 May 1897, p. 8.

Tenders were called for construction of *Masonic Hall (fmr), Southern Cross* and a contract was awarded to Bro. James Fairclough, with a tender price of £648 13 6.¹⁰ The foundation stone was laid on 1 June 1898:

Owing to the rain the number of the public present was limited. The ceremony passed off successfully and the stone was laid with full Masonic ceremony. The inscription on the stone is as follows: 'This foundation stone of the Southern Cross Masonic Lodge no. 2574, E.C. was laid by the first Worshipful Master Wor. Bro. Samuel Colman, P.M., A.D.G.D.C., on 1st June, A.D., 1898'.¹¹

Bro Colman was presented with a handsome silver trowel, inscribed in similar fashion to the foundation stone, with the addition of the names of the contractors, 'Bro. Jas Fairclough and Wm McIntosh'.¹² A vessel containing coins and other articles was placed in the cavity behind the foundation stone.¹³

A mortgage of £250 was raised on 2 June 1898, and the building was completed in September that year. The dedication of *Masonic Hall (fmr), Southern Cross* took place on 23 November 1898:

The ceremony of dedicating the new Masonic Temple at Southern Cross will take place on Wednesday the 23rd inst., when the installation of the Worshipful Master and the investiture of officers will also take place. The dedication ceremony will be performed by the Right Worshipful Bro. J. W. Hackett, Deputy District Grand Master. The installing master will be Wor. Bro. S. Colman, P.M., F.A.D.G.D.C. The ceremonies will commence at 5 o'clock p.m. prompt time. A banquet will be held afterwards in the Mechanics' Institute Hall.¹⁴

An early description of the exterior of the building has not been found, but photographs hanging in the festive ward at *Masonic Hall (fmr), Southern Cross* show the front walls tuckpointed and a 1200mm high gothic picket fence across the street front.¹⁵

When the Grand Lodge of Western Australia was established in 1900 Southern Cross was the only lodge that, initially, decided to stay under the Grand Lodge of England. At a meeting at *Masonic Hall (fmr), Southern Cross* on 8 August 1900, the Most Worshipful Pro. Grand Master, Bro. J. W. Hackett attended by invitation to discuss the matter of affiliation and Southern Cross Lodge eventually resolved to join the WA Grand Lodge, becoming Southern Cross Masonic Lodge no. 44 on 9 September that year.¹⁶

The order of a Lodge meeting comprised business, ceremonial and festive parts. Business was similar to any club or organisation. The ceremonial component generally involved the working of one of the three Masonic degrees, each ceremony like a play where the candidate took centre stage, members had walk on speaking parts and the Master of the Lodge had the lead role. The speaking parts involved lessons in morality and good conduct

10 *The West Australian*, 28 April, 1898, p. 6.

11 *The West Australian Freemason*, 19 June 1898, p. 2.

12 *The West Australian Freemason*, 19 June 1898, p. 2; *The West Australian*, 2 June 1898, p. 4.

13 *The West Australian*, 21 November 1898, p. 5.

14 *The West Australian*, 21 November 1898, p. 5.

15 Photographs, c.1930 and c.1950.

16 *The W.A. Freemasons' Magazine*, August 1900, p. 8; *The West Australian Craftsman*, 50th anniversary celebrations, December 1945, pp. 10-11.

and utilised the tools of the stonemasons to illustrate. The ceremony took place in the main part of the hall and centred on a square centrally marked on the floor. The festive part of the evening was a meal with toasts, speeches, clapping, singing and music, which took place in the area referred to as the Festive Ward. The meal could vary from a catered five-course dinner to a light supper, either with or without alcoholic drinks.¹⁷ For some gatherings, the festivities were held in a hotel.

The social life of the Lodge involved family members in ladies nights, picnics, concert evenings, etc, and Freemasonry also involved charity, with donations to disaster funds, hospitals and community care organisations, medical research, care for the young and aged, and support for fellow members and their families.¹⁸

There were 90 members of *Masonic Hall (fmr), Southern Cross* in 1904 when the installation of a new Brother was held at the Club Hotel. The installation was attended by 40 local and Grand Lodge members.¹⁹ By 1905, Southern Cross was one of 23 active Lodges in the Eastern Goldfields. Less than a decade later, however, fortunes would change irrevocably with the outbreak of the First World War and the subsequent decline in goldfield production mainly due to the lack of manpower. As a consequence, nine of these goldfield Lodges had gone into recess by 1917-18.²⁰

Although the town of Southern Cross also struggled along with other goldfield towns during the First World War and into the 1920s, being the administrative centre of the Yilgarn Road Board kept it somewhat viable, although some businesses still closed. In spite of the decline in the gold industry and hence the local population, the reallocation of land for agricultural purposes, including post-war land releases for ex-servicemen followed in the late 1920s by the Miners Settlement Scheme for men from the depressed goldfields and the 3500 Farms Scheme for Australian and British migrants, and associated extensions to the railway, brought with it some new settlement to the area, albeit modest. The agricultural schemes were, however, never greatly successful nor stable, and inevitably failed with the crash of wheat prices with the onset of the world-wide Depression. Fortunately, discoveries of gold in Yellowdine in 1934 brought a new lease of life to the Yilgarn area, and saw the re-establishment of former services, the setting up of new ones and the arrival of doctors, lawyers and other professionals to the town of Southern Cross.²¹

In 1945, the Southern Cross Lodge celebrated its 50th anniversary. The Most Worshipful Grand Master, Dr J. S. Battye, accompanied by a number of members of the Grand Lodge in Perth, and members of other Lodges, such as Merredin and Narembeen, attended the celebrations, which coincided with the installation of Bro. A. R. Pollard. In the fifty years previous, there had been

17 Introduction to Freemasonry, www.freemasonswa.org.au/introtofree.asp.

18 Introduction to Freemasonry, www.freemasonswa.org.au/introtofree.asp.

19 *The Southern Cross Times*, 24 December 1904.

20 Tuke, Bro. J., 'Goldfields Masonry: its many interesting phases', *The West Australian Craftsman*, 8 April 1935, pp. 35-36 & 8 May pp. 7-8.

21 Hunt, Lyall (ed), *Yilgarn: Good country for hardy people: the landscape and people of the Yilgarn Shire, Western Australia*, Yilgarn Shire & WACAE, 1988, pp. 197-259, 267-70, 281-89.

274 members initiated and 112 affiliations, these latter being members who had come from other Lodges. The membership of the Lodge in 1945 stood at 67. Bro. J. E. Chadwick, who had been the first initiate in 1895, was still a member at Southern Cross. The banquet at the end of the jubilee meeting was held at the Palace Hotel.²²

During this period and up until the mid 1950s, ownership of *Masonic Hall (fmr), Southern Cross* had been held by three Lodge members as trustees, and these changed occasionally as members moved on or died.²³

By the late 1950s, Freemasonry flourished, particularly in the country, and enjoyed a large membership with many new initiations. Members represented a broad range of the community of Southern Cross and the Yilgarn district and many were also members of the Southern Cross Municipal Council and the Yilgarn Road Board. From 1965, members of the Della Bosca family represented the success of Italian immigrants in the region.²⁴

Freemasonry membership was declining gradually throughout the organisation from the 1960s, with existing members aging and fewer young men joining. This was particularly noticeable in areas such as the goldfields where there was little employment or other facilities to keep the youth in the region.²⁵

Failing membership eventually meant that the Southern Cross Masonic Lodge was no longer viable. In September 1995, the Lodge became a 'Holding Lodge'. The Officers of the Southern Cross Lodge were transferred to positions as Grand Officers of the Grand Lodge. The Southern Cross members were required to meet annually at a time and place designated by the Grand Master.²⁶ As a consequence, *Masonic Hall (fmr), Southern Cross* was no longer required. The Grand Lodge offered the place to the Shire of Yilgarn and the transfer of title subsequently took place.²⁷ *Masonic Hall (fmr), Southern Cross* was still furnished with the fixtures of the Lodge, including an organ, desk, bentwood chairs, cupboards, etc, and Masonic tools.

A conservation plan was prepared in 1998, and *Masonic Hall (fmr), Southern Cross* underwent restoration. The most noticeable work involved removal of the paintwork from the front wall to reveal the original red brickwork, bringing into relief the rendered columns, crowning pediment and circular Masonic decoration of the entry porch.

Masonic Hall (fmr), Southern Cross was occupied for a short period as the Southern Cross Masonic Astronomy Centre, but in 2010 the place is vacant. The Masonic fixtures remain, arranged as if awaiting the next meeting.

22 *The West Australian Craftsman*, 50th anniversary celebrations, December 1945, pp. 10-11.

23 Certificates of Title, Vol. 60 Fol. 8, 28 September 1913 & Vol. 890 Fol. 191, 12 April 1955 & 23 November 1956.

24 *The West Australian Craftsman*, 50th anniversary celebrations, op cit.

25 'The Freemasons and Lodges in this District: Mid-west Murchison', pamphlet provided by Geraldton Masonic Lodge in 2004.

26 Grand Lodge Special Bulletin, September 1995.

27 Certificate of Title, Vol. 890 Fol. 191 & Register 45/DP223122, 19 March 1999.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For the full physical evidence please refer to Conservation Plan for Masonic Lodge (fmr), Southern Cross, prepared for the Shire of Yilgarn by Laura Gray, October 1998.

In August 1999 considerable conservation works took place funded by the Shire of Yilgarn with the assistance of funding from the Lotteries Commission (now Lotterywest).

The short sheet corrugated iron roof cladding was replaced with long sheets of galvanised iron sheeting. Gutters were replaced with ogee profile galvanised gutters and round galvanised downpipes. The face brick external walls that had all been painted many years previously were restored. The paint was removed from the face brick of the entire front façade including the main gable wall. Further to the removal of the paint, the entire frontage of Colonial bond face brickwork was tuckpointed as photographic evidence had shown this was the original face finish for the wall. Windows throughout were restored. The fanlight windows are very distinctive. The front elevation of the building has two four panel windows with a semi circular arched window above. The hall and festive ward have a series of high set windows with a timber framed semi circular arch with five panels radiating from a central half circle in the centre of the sill. All the window panes had been painted on the inside with a light blue paint to obscure the view. The window frames were restored, and reconstructed as required, and all windows were re-glazed with clear glass.

Ground level drainage was addressed with the construction of a closed drain system to the perimeter of the building, connecting the downpipes into the system. Further to that the ground was graded away from the building around the perimeter and an agricultural drain was installed across the rear of the site approximately 2 metres from the rear wall of the building.

On the interior, the hard plaster walls were restored where required, where they had been damaged from moisture ingress. All the walls were repainted the original shade of blue.

The floors throughout required no work and remain with floor coverings, including the original 'Masonic pavement' that remains insitu.

The ceilings required minimal restoration with intervention only as required to restore water damaged tongue and groove polished Oregon boards in the foyer and the hall, and repaint the coved pressed metal ceiling and cornice in the festive ward. The series of octagonal timber framed air vents along the centre of the ceiling were restored and retained.

A unique feature in the festive ward is a vertical sliding wall, comprising an entire wall complete with a door, which slides up to allow open access in the room. The wall is a series of Oregon timber panelled sections together with a four-panelled door. The whole wall section is door height. The feature was restored with minimal intervention.

The front door is the only point of entry to the building. The flat board cladding over the front of the door was removed and the original six panelled timber door retained and restored. All original hardware has been retained to the front door and interior doors.

Electrical services have been upgraded with minimal intervention. The original light switches and power points are still in evidence, alongside c.1930s fittings and more recent interventions including EXIT signs.

All the fixed fittings within the building have been retained: the row of distinctive cast metal hooks with ceramic knobs around three walls of the entry foyer; in the festive ward, the built-in panelled Oregon cupboards either side of the fireplace have been retained and restored; the fireplace required no restoration and has been retained in its entirety. The very basic c.1950 kitchen cupboard was removed, but the sink retained.

Drainage provision has been connected to the sink outlet.

The substantial collection of Masonic furniture, paraphernalia and regalia has been for the most part retained on the premises.

The original freestanding toilet structure at the rear of the building was demolished and a substantial facility that addresses disability provisions has been constructed in the same location in addition to a similar scale storage shed in close proximity. Both structures are framed and clad with corrugated iron with low pitched skillion roofs

The previously undeveloped grounds of Masonic Lodge (fmr), Southern Cross received significant attention. The entire site was re-fenced with corrugated fibrocement fence sheeting except the front boundary that has scalloped spaced gothic picket fencing that has been painted. The front fence has a central pedestrian gate with the Freemasons symbol. The gate opens onto a brick paved pathway that leads to the left where the front door is located. The external foyer area is a simple semi-circle brick paved pattern. The path leads to the rear along the side of the building and continues between the ablutions and storeroom and across the rear of the building, turning towards the rear boundary along the north-west fence. At the rear boundary, there is a gate that opens onto the right of way and to a path on the opposite side, between buildings, providing a pedestrian connection central to the main street: Antares Street. Trimmed Rosemary hedges line the pathways through the site except both sides of the building where there are a variety of grevilleas. Along the south-east side there is a gravelled breather strip between the building and the path.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

There are 88 entries for Masonic halls or lodges in the HCWA database, 11 of which are entered on the State Register, and 4 of these are located in the goldfields. Of those registered, only Geraldton (1892) and Bunbury (1893) are older than Masonic Hall (fmr), Southern Cross. Both still retain their original function, with Geraldton being the home of four different Lodges in the district.²⁸

P00175 *Masonic Temple, Boulder* (1901) is single-storey brick building with iron roof constructed in 1901-02 in the Federation Academic Classical style. It has a projecting entry porch with ante rooms separately roofed and fronting a parapeted facade with the main hall behind, giving the impression of two

²⁸ HCWA database and relevant assessment documentation.

separate buildings. The porch is similar to Masonic Hall (fmr), Southern Cross with columns and triangular pediment. The place is classified by the National Trust and entered on the Register of the National Estate.

P1275 *Masonic Lodge, Kalgoorlie* was constructed of pink sandstone in 1899-1900 in the Federation Academic Classical style. It has a central double-door entrance flanked by pillars, rendered arched-headed windows and a rendered parapet with central triangular pediment. The place is classified by the National Trust and entered on the Register of the National Estate.

The Masonic Hall's at Boulder and Kalgoorlie each had a corrugated iron caretaker's residence at the rear.²⁹

P00637 *Masonic Lodge (fmr), Cue*, is a two-storey iron-clad building with a turret topping the double-height entry portico. It was built in 1899 to a design by architect E. Owen Hughes, who was secretary of the Cue Masonic chapter. The place is described as having outstanding aesthetic significance for its sophisticated Second Victorian Empire style, and is a landmark in the township. It has been unoccupied since the mid 1980s. A conservation plan was prepared by John Taylor Architect in 1996.³⁰

P01530 *Masonic Lodge (fmr), Meekatharra* (1915) is a single storey, timber framed and corrugated iron clad structure with hipped roof. It has a skillion roofed kitchen addition at the rear and the hall itself has a decorated coved ceiling. The Meekatharra Lodge functioned until 1994. Since 2002 the place has been the home of the Sir John Charles Head Orient 31 Lodge of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes.³¹

Masonic Hall (fmr), Southern Cross is a good representative example of a Masonic hall in the goldfields region, many of which were of less substantial construction, and is one of the oldest Masonic Halls in the State.

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

No key references.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

29 HCWA assessment documentation P00175 *Masonic Temple, Boulder* and P1275 *Masonic Lodge, Kalgoorlie*.

30 John Taylor Architect, *Conservation plan for the Masonic Lodge (former) Cue (1899)*, for Ms K. Dowdell, Stoneville, 1996, pp. 5-6, 16-17, 33-34.

31 HCWA assessment documentation P01530 *Masonic Lodge (fmr), Meekatharra*.