



**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)

- 3.4.3 Mining
- 3.7.1 Establishing postal services
- 3.7.2 Developing electric means of communication
- 5.1 Working in harsh conditions

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 106 Workers
- 111 Depression and boom
- 110 Resource exploitation and depletion
- 206 Mail services
- 210 Telecommunications
- 303 Mining

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Menzies Post Office (fmr) has aesthetic significance as a fine representative example of Goldfields vernacular architecture. (Criterion 1.1)

Menzies Post Office (fmr) contributes to the main street character of Menzies, anchoring one of the two intersections in the main street, and providing a material contrast to the other public and private buildings lining the main street that are of masonry construction. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

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Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

The development of *Menzies Post Office (fmr)* demonstrates the rapid growth in demand for government services associated with the gold rush population and its later decline. (Criteria 2.1 & 2.2)

Menzies Post Office (fmr) is associated with the discovery of gold in Western Australia and the development of the Goldfields town of Menzies, which was the administrative centre of the North Coolgardie field. (Criteria 2.1 & 2.2)

Menzies Post Office (fmr) was designed under the direction of Public Works Chief Architect George Temple Poole, who had a major influence on West Australian architecture and was responsible for many elegant public buildings in the state between 1885 and 1897. (Criterion 2.3)

Menzies Post Office (fmr) is associated with the post office employees who worked long hours in harsh and unhealthy conditions to ensure that the mail and telegrams were delivered, with several falling ill and at least two losing their lives during a typhoid outbreak. (Criterion 4.1)

11.3 SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11.4 SOCIAL VALUE

Menzies Post Office (fmr) provided a continuous postal service to the town of Menzies and the surrounding pastoral and mining district from 1896 to 1952, and is important to the local community as a place of social interaction and communication and for associations with the early goldfield history of the region. (Criteria 4.1 & 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1 RARITY

Menzies Post Office is rare as a corrugated iron clad post office dating from the turn of the 20th century, and is relatively rare as a completely corrugated iron post office from any era. (Criterion 1.1)

Menzies Post Office (fmr) is rare as a building designed under the direction of George Temple Poole in corrugated iron. (Criterion 1.1)

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

The establishment and expansion, and later downgrading, of *Menzies Post Office (fmr)* represents the ebb and flow in the demand for government services associated with the rapid growth and later decline in population resulting from the gold rush. Its later upgrading represents the demand for services when people returned to the Goldfields in the Depression. (Criterion 6.1)

Menzies Post Office (fmr) is a representative example of a building constructed of corrugated galvanised iron in direct response to the urgent need for buildings in a remote area. Corrugated galvanised iron was ideal in this situation as it was light and could be easily transported by camels, which were a common mode of transport in remote desert areas. (Criterion 6.1)

12.3 CONDITION

Menzies Post Office (fmr) is generally in fair condition, with a number of urgent conservation works identified, notably the extensive termite damage to the floor in

the postal hall, the weathered timber elements on the western frontage and south sides, deteriorated stumps and subsidence of the floor in locations throughout.

12.4 INTEGRITY

Menzies Post Office (fmr) has retained a moderate degree of integrity. Although the place no longer functions as a post office and is now a private residence, it demonstrates the original intentions and presents opportunities for interpretation.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

The original structure, form and fabric of *Menzies Post Office (fmr)* are mostly intact, and minimal alterations are evident. The documentary evidence shows that a section of the building has been demolished, and the post office quarters are no longer extant, but despite those interventions, *Menzies Post Office (fmr)* demonstrates a high degree of authenticity of the remaining fabric.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentation for this place is based on the heritage assessment completed by Irene Sauman, Historian and Laura Gray, Heritage and Conservation Consultant, in March 2007, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Menzies Post Office (fmr) is a single-storey corrugated iron clad building constructed in 1896 and enlarged in 1903. The place originally had separate Quarters, which are not extant.

The first post office in Menzies was organised by the Menzies Progress Association and operated as a Receiving Office from 1 March 1895. People waiting on mail sorted through the letters themselves. The place was most likely already located on Reserve 3008, which was gazetted on 16 August 1895 for 'public utility', with an area of 5 acres. The Municipal Council requested, and received, a large portion of the southern end of the Reserve area for its own use.¹

The Post and Telegraph Department created a Receiving Office in areas where the population might be transient or when finances did not allow for the establishment of a full post office at that time. The first official postmaster at Menzies was S.R.H. Roberts, who arrived in October 1895. He found 940 unclaimed letters and 727 unclaimed papers awaiting him. The first post office building consisted of a two-room hessian structure on bush poles, one room of which was the postmaster's sleeping quarters. The structure was too hot to work in during the day, cold at night and didn't keep out the rain. Roberts contracted typhoid in November 1895 and was replaced by Charles Fisher.²

Early in 1896, a small iron building was constructed to replace the hessian rooms and tents, but crowds waiting for mail would push to get near the window and the building would rock on its foundations.³ On 29 January 1896, Fisher sent an

¹ Landgate, Reserve Enquiry, Reserve 3008; Landgate file, Crown Grant reserve 3008, portion used for Post Office 1896-1948, SROWA, WAS 211 CONS 541 Item 1896/0862. The Municipal area was gazetted Reserve 3283 and is the site of the Menzies Town Hall.

² Rodgers, Pat & Brenda (comp), *No sign of the time: a collection of stories of the Menzies district*, Shire of Menzies & Hesperian Press, Carlisle, 1992, p. 15; Owen, George E., *A history of the Colonial Post Office, Western Australia, 1829-1901*, [Perth], The Author, 1959.

³ Site map showing location of building, Landgate file, Crown Grant reserve 3008, Item 1896/0862, op cit; *West Australian*, 27 March 1896, p. 4.

urgent telegram to the Post and Telegraph Department requesting more staff. He reported that the messenger employed delivering telegrams was working 11 hours a day and could not keep up, with the result that important telegrams were often delayed. Other staff were working 13 hours for four days a week and 11 hours the remaining two days to cope with the work, but business was certain to increase as more men were expected on the field and the money order system was about to be introduced into the office. Two more messengers were required, as well as two mail assistants and a booking and window clerk who understood cables. The office was cramped for space. Fisher asked, 'can contractors be asked to push on with new building at once'.⁴

Approval was immediately given for three assistants at £150 a year with a Goldfields allowance of £30. A.J. Edmunds, F.G. Shaw and H. Thornber were appointed.⁵ Menzies Mayor, Henry Gregory, also sent a telegraph to the Premier supporting Fisher's demands for staff and buildings.⁶ In March 1896, it was reported that most of the material for *Menzies Post Office (fmr)* was 'on the ground', and it was hoped that the government would 'push on with the additions to the post and telegraph office', indicating that the existing small building was to be included in the construction.⁷ This would have allowed post office functions to continue while the rest of the place was under construction. The section of *Menzies Post Office (fmr)* on the east side, shown in early photographs (but not extant), is almost certainly this original structure.⁸ There were nine postal staff working at Menzies in the small iron building, but four had contracted typhoid and one, 22 year old William Johnson, died.⁹ *Menzies Post Office (fmr)* and Quarters was completed by November 1896.¹⁰

At that time, the Public Works Department was experiencing a construction boom. As townsites sprung up where gold was discovered, the Government was responsible for providing services as soon as possible, but had the difficult task of judging which of the goldfields would last and therefore which townsites should be provided with permanent buildings.¹¹ At the same time, an influx of architects from the other colonies brought new knowledge and experience in building techniques and materials. Corrugated iron, which had been in popular use elsewhere, became the most ubiquitous building material in Western Australia at this time¹² due to its relative cheapness, light weight and the stackability of the iron sheets, which had to be transported long distance by camel. George Temple Poole was Chief Architect of the Public Works Department (PWD) when the place was built, which accounts for the well-proportioned and simple elegance of the design, with the exception of the box-like existing postal building on the east side.

4 Correspondence 29 January 1896, National Archives, Series K1 Item 395/96, Assistance for Post Office Menzies for messenger and accommodation, 1896.

5 National Archives, Series K1 Item 395/96, op cit.

6 Rodgers, Pat & Brenda (comp), op cit, p. 15.

7 *West Australian*, 27 March 1896, p. 4.

8 National Archives, Series K1209 Menzies Post Office photographs, 1898-1900 & current photographs and physical inspection.

9 *West Australian*, 20 April 1896 & 20 May 1896, p. 6. Another post office employee also died of typhoid but his name has not been located.

10 Postmaster General, *Annual Report*, referenced in the *West Australian*, 17 November 1896, p. 9. No plans have been located. A large number of issues of *Menzies Miner* are missing for 1896, and no tenders for construction were found in the Government Gazette.

11 Oldham, R. and J. (1980) George Temple-Poole, architect of the golden years 1885-1897. University of Western Australia Press, Nedlands, p.61.

12 Le Page, J.S.H (1986) Building a state, the story of the Public Works Department of Western Australia 1829-1985. Water Authority of Western Australia, Leederville, p.228.

Photographs dated between 1898 and 1900 show *Menzies Post Office (fmr)* with a verandah frontage to Brown Street and a gabled wing on the east side. There were 26 postal staff employed at Menzies by about 1898.¹³

In 1901, Federation changed the administrative responsibility for post offices from the State to the Commonwealth, but post offices built in the State between 1901 and 1925 were still produced by the West Australian PWD, after which time the Commonwealth took over that part of postal operations as well.¹⁴

In 1902, the corner section of Reserve 3008 occupied by *Menzies Post Office (fmr)* and Quarters was gazetted as Reserve 7507 for 'Post office', but it remained encompassed within Reserve 3008.¹⁵ In 1903, tenders were called for additions to the place and this resulted in construction of the gabled wing facing Shenton Street, extension of the verandah along the original part of the Shenton Street frontage, and relocation of the entry door. This wing matched the one at the east side fronting Brown Street.¹⁶ M. Mackesy won the contract to build the additions with a price of £497.¹⁷ PWD Chief Architect John Grainger was responsible for the addition to the place, which was designed with a continuity of style. In 1904, J.R. Douglas erected a fence around the property for £49.00. An undated site plan shows *Menzies Post Office (fmr)* and the Quarters, with the 1903 additions and the fencing.¹⁸

There are few records for the place over the next twenty years but postmasters during this period included: James R. Guard (January 1904); Edmund G. Carige (August 1905); John W. C. Bird (January 1908); Hubert T. Wansborough (March 1913); Arthur J. Tresidder (January 1914); Arthur G. Stephens (January 1916); Ernest H. Wood (February 1917); and, Donald S. Gorman (January 1921).¹⁹

The downturn of the goldfields affected the operation of *Menzies Post Office (fmr)*, resulting in a decrease in revenue which is illustrated in the 1921 to 1923 period. Letters and cards received in 1921 numbered 52,422 and in 1923 were 19,272; letters and card posted in 1921 numbered 35,529, and in 1923 were 18,765. Telegrams received were down from 4,067 in 1921 to 1,851 in 1923, and telegrams transmitted, 5,098 to 2,559.²⁰

There was a parallel reduction in staff. A temporary telegram messenger was employed and the position of Postmaster was abolished to be replaced by the new position of Senior Postal Assistant in Charge. Unfortunately, no postal officer who qualified for the position wanted to move to Menzies. The position was eventually filled by an officer of a lower grade, Postal Assistant Edward

13 National Archives, Series K1209, op cit.

14 Pope, B., Bush, F., Broomfield, W., & Kelsall, D., *Historical and archaeological assessment of post offices in Western Australia owned by Australian Post as at 21st July 1991*, National Trust (WA), 1993, Part 5.

15 Landgate, Reserve Enquiry, Reserve 7507.

16 National Archives, Series K1209, op cit; National Archives, Series PP554/1 Item 81/82, Menzies Post Office, site plan, c.1905-1946.

17 *West Australian Government Gazette*, 8 September 1903, p. 2617 & 16 December 1904, p. 3158.

18 National Archives, Series K1209, op cit; National Archives, Series PP554/1 Item 81/82, Menzies Post Office, site plan, c.1905-1946.

19 Southworth, Geoff, *Postmasters & Postmistresses of Western Australia: 1829-1992*, The Western Australian Study Group, Perth, 1998, p. 134.

20 Statistical table, 1921-23, National Archives, Series K1184 Item 29/2, Menzies Post Office, staffing 1923-39.

Tomkinson. He took up the post on 5 January 1923 with a view to obtaining permanency and was still in the position in 1925.²¹

Mail had been transported to and from Menzies by rail since the opening of the line from Kalgoorlie in 1898, and a contract in association with the operation of *Menzies Post Office (fmr)* was the portorage of mail between the post office and Menzies railway station. This was an even more important task when there was only one post office staff member, which was the case when, in May 1925, the contract for the portorage by J.J. Wilson was increased to £48 a year.²²

In 1928 *Menzies Post Office (fmr)* was downgraded to an unofficial post office under the control of postmistress Mrs M.A. Ahern. When J.J. Wilson died in 1929, his son John took over the mail portorage contract, which he combined with his sandalwood business. Over the next 10 years, John Wilson and his brothers Tom and Fred variously performed the job.²³

In the 1930s, as men returned to the Goldfields to try their luck during the Depression years, business at *Menzies Post Office (fmr)* showed a rapid increase once again. In 1935, District Inspector W. Dunham of the Post Master General's Department recommended that *Menzies Post Office (fmr)* be upgraded to a Grade 1 post office with a Postmaster, Postal Clerk and Telegraph Messenger. The benefits of providing an official service at Menzies were enumerated as: facilitate circulation of telephone and telegraph traffic; provide an official distributing centre for a number of mining centres; reduce the telegraph loading at Leonora and the stamp and postal note distribution at Kalgoorlie; and, ensure a satisfactory service from the public viewpoint.²⁴

Menzies Post Office (fmr) was reinstated as an official postal facility in 1936. In 1940, business had decreased with the reduction of a number of men employed on one of the mines. Staff at that time consisted of postmaster Robert G.A. McGhie, postal clerk P.W. McConville, telegraph messenger A. Brown and part time telephonist Miss B. Silva.²⁵

From 1941, the local butchers undertook the portorage of mail to and from the railway station. As the butcher shop changed hands from Herbert Mitchell to Charles Lane to Herbert Rush, so too did the portorage contract get passed on. On 30 June 1952, *Menzies Post Office (fmr)* was again reduced in status and the mail portorage was discontinued. Postmasters over this period had been: William J. Barrett (October 1942); John A. Williams (January 1947); and, Francis C. Connolly (October 1948).²⁶

The PMG decided that a post office building was not required at Menzies and the place was offered for sale on the entire area of Reserve 3008, which, together with Reserve 7507 was duly cancelled. The land was designated Menzies Town Lot 102 with an area of 1.575 acres (6,374 square metres).²⁷

Lot 102 was purchased by Alder Marie Hegarty in 1954. In 1959, the place was transferred to the Menzies Road Board. At some time, the Quarters building has

21 National Archives, Series K1184 Item 29/2, op cit.

22 National Archives, Series K1205 Item M1942/5, PMG portorage Menzies Post Office - rail station, 1925-52.

23 National Archives Series K1205 Item M1942/5, op cit.

24 National Archives, Series K1184 Item 29/2, op cit.

25 National Archives, Series K1184 Item 29/2, op cit.

26 Southworth, Geoff, op cit, p. 134.

27 Landgate, Reserve Enquiry, Reserves 3008 & 7505.

been removed from the site, and the original small post office section and 1896 gabled east wing of *Menzies Post Office (fmr)*, have been removed.²⁸

In 1996, *Menzies Post Office (fmr)* was entered on the Shire of Menzies Municipal Heritage Inventory with a recommendation for inclusion on the State Register.²⁹

Several other buildings had been added to Lot 102 over the years, including an iron-clad Catholic Church and a Telstra depot.

In 2007, *Menzies Post Office (fmr)* is occupied as a rented residence.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Menzies Post Office (fmr) is a single-storey corrugated iron clad building, comprising a postal hall, five main rooms, bathroom and store, corner front verandah and a semi enclosed rear verandah, a freestanding WC, and a shed of no significance.

Located on the southeast intersection of Brown and Shenton streets in the Menzies townsite, *Menzies Post Office (fmr)* is located on the north side of the Menzies Town Hall and Shire office, and directly opposite the Lady Shenton building. *Menzies Post Office (fmr)* addresses both street frontages with vehicular access off Brown Street. The remainder of the site fronting Brown Street is mostly vacant and provides a thoroughfare for Shire staff to access the works depot at the rear of the Town Hall. Also at the rear of the site is a simple rectangular building with a hipped roof. Raised on timber stumps, the timber-framed building is clad with asbestos with a corrugated iron roof, and the windows are sets of louvres. Behind the site is a Telstra facility including a communication tower. Immediately south of the fenced boundary of the site is an extensive steel framed carport for Shire purposes.

The gravel site is predominantly level, although it banks up from the Brown Street frontage. There is a metal clad 1.5 metre high perimeter fence associated with the post office building, along the front (Shenton Street) boundary south from the building, to the south and along to a point where it returns to form an eastern edge to the site, and extends northwards with a dogleg and returns west along the north boundary for a short distance to connect to the building. There is a double gate entry on the east, and north (Brown Street) frontage. There are pepper trees (*Schinus molle*) in the rear yard and a conifer (*Pinus* sp.) on the Shenton Street frontage in close proximity to the building. There are grassed patches within the fenced area, but otherwise it is gravel, and an area that shows remnants of bitumen to the south, and there is a recent raised garden area along the south side.

Menzies Post Office (fmr) is typical Goldfields vernacular architecture in the basic bungalow design of the Federation period that does not respond to any specific architectural style guides. The building is a single storey timber framed structure clad with corrugated iron wall linings and roof sheeting.

Menzies Post Office (fmr) is raised off the ground on jam stumps (where visible on the south side). The roof is clad with short sheets of corrugated iron roof sheeting. The roof is predominantly hipped and features a gable on the protruding west facing frontage, and at the rear it forms a high skillion over the bathroom.

²⁸ National Archives, Series K1209, op cit & current photographs and physical evidence.

²⁹ Ball, Julia & Aris, Kelly, *Shire of Menzies Municipal Heritage Inventory*, 1996.

The corner front verandahs have a separate skillion roof hipped at the corner. The flat metal lined chimneys are located on the exterior of the building, on the south (Room 2) and within the rear verandah (Kitchen). The front verandah extends around the recessed section of the Shenton Street frontage, and the full length of the Brown Street frontage of the building. The verandah is supported by simple square timber posts and timber cross balustrades, with some lattice sheeting a recent temporary addition. The rear verandah has been mostly enclosed above a corrugated iron dado with grapevines and various plantings. The remainder of the building still evidences the original corrugated iron sheeting in horizontal configuration. The sheeting has been painted. The windows are mostly timber framed double hung sashes.

The floor plan is approximately a square with a protruding room on the west frontage. The interior layout evidences the postal hall and 5 rooms in addition to the bathroom, and a storeroom addition on the south side. Entry off the verandah on the Shenton Street frontage, south into the protruding section of the building, leads into a short entry foyer with a door to the front west room (Room 1) on the right, the corridor extends to the left, with doors to flanking rooms both sides (Rooms 2 and 3) and the Kitchen ahead (door removed). The Kitchen access flows directly through to the rear door onto the verandah. The Kitchen also opens onto the bathroom (east), the storeroom (south) and Room 2 on the west where there is also a hatch opening above the dado in the wall. Rooms 1 and 2 are also connected. Room 3, as well as a central corridor connection, has an entry off the front verandah, and connects to Room 4 on the east, and the Postal Hall on the north. The Postal Hall has verandah access on the north frontage and has a double door access onto the rear verandah.

The interior evidences a significant degree of original fabric in the tongue and groove Oregon timber floorboards throughout, and ripple iron dado walls with flat battened wall linings above, and similar ceiling linings. The wall linings above the dado are in a vertical sheet configuration. In the Postal Hall, the dado is also lined with flat sheets and the dado height is lower than the remainder, except the back of the Postal Hall wall in Rooms 3 and 4 where the dado is the same as the Postal Hall. The Postal Hall has a coved ceiling, unlike the flat ceilings throughout the remainder of the building. There is a boxed ceiling beam that extends through Rooms 3 and 4, indicating a structural element. The doors are predominantly four panelled although doors in Rooms 3 and 4 are flush panel with a glazed panel infilled with obscure green glazing. The double hung windows in the vicinity of the Postal Hall and Room 2 also have green glazing on the lower panes of the windows. The double entry doors on the north side into the Postal Hall are a pair of panelled doors with a fixed double pane fanlight above. The double doors on the south side of the Postal Hall, onto the rear verandah, are ledge and brace doors with flywire doors still evident. There is a large timber table with turned timber legs in the Postal Hall (the tenant claims it to be the original postal table). The fireplace in Room 2 is boarded over, but the fireplace and mantelpiece in the Kitchen remains in situ. The Kitchen has a basic fitout, as does the bathroom with a boxed bath, simple vanity basin and toilet pedestal and cistern.

There is no evidence of the east gable frontage as shown in the documentary evidence. Nor is there evidence of any remnants or ruins of the post office quarters.

The flat roof metal frame shed in the south-west corner of the site is of no heritage significance.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

From the 1880s to the 1920s several major and many minor post and telegraph buildings were erected in Western Australia, reflecting the relative prosperity of the State in that era and the subsequent population growth. What is considered notable about the post offices built during the 1885-1926 period in Western Australia is the continuity of style, beginning with George Temple Poole (1885-96), and continuing through John H. Grainger (1897-1905) and Hillson Beasley (1905-16) and, to a lesser degree, W. B. Hardwick (1916-26), whose work was more affected by changes in the social and political scene and the economy.³⁰

George Temple Poole

George Temple Poole was responsible for 25 places built as post offices on the Heritage Council database, none of which (besides *Menzies Post Office*) have walls constructed of corrugated iron. Eighteen of these 25 places are entered in the Register of Heritage Places.

Of the 25 post offices associated with Temple Poole, four others are in the Goldfields and have similar construction dates to *Menzies Post Office (fmr)*. However, being constructed of stone or brick, they are not directly comparable. They are 00569 *Coolgardie Post Office & Associated Buildings* (1894-98) (registered); 00761 *Balladonia Telegraph Station (fmr)* (1889-1950) (registered); 00767 *Norseman Post Office* (1897) (registered), and, 01476 *Leonora Post Office* (1903).

Of all of the places associated with Temple Poole on the database, only three others besides *Menzies Post Office (fmr)* have walls of corrugated iron. All three are on the Register of Heritage Places. They are 00147 *Beverley Railway Station* (1896); 01170 *Walkaway Railway Station Museum* (1888); and, 03097 *Pinjarra Railway Yards* (1893). None of these are comparable to *Menzies Post Office (fmr)*. In the case of Beverley and Walkaway the main station buildings, which demonstrate the Temple Poole 'style' are constructed of stone or brick, and it is the sheds or outbuildings that are of corrugated iron. In the case of Pinjarra, the original station building was of corrugated iron, however it is no longer extant.

Menzies Post Office (fmr) is rare as a building in corrugated iron designed by the PWD under the direction of George Temple Poole.

Post Offices

There are 479 places on the Heritage Council database with walls clad in corrugated iron. Ten of these are or were post or telegraph offices (including *Menzies Post Office*) but few are comparable to *Menzies Post Office (fmr)*.

Of the nine other corrugated iron clad post offices, seven were constructed after 1925 and some of these have brick or cement street frontages and are only corrugated iron to the rear. Another place, 14228 *Roy Hill Homestead* includes a former post office similar in appearance to *Menzies Post Office* and still contains evidence of its use as a post office. It has no construction date but it could be estimated to be from the 1920s when the station was at its peak. In 1999 it was vacant and in poor condition.³¹

The remaining post office, which is the most comparable for being in the Goldfields region and having a relatively similar construction date, is 07351

³⁰ Pope, B., Bush, F., Bloomfield, W. & Kelsall, D., op cit, p. 17.

³¹ O'Brien Planning Consultants (1999) *Shire of East Pilbara Municipal Inventory*. Place No. NU13.

Ravensthorpe Old Post and Telegraph Office (1901). However, it is smaller than Menzies Post Office and bears more resemblance to timber post offices of the south-west region.

Menzies Post Office is rare as a corrugated iron clad post office dating from the turn of the 20th century, and is relatively rare as a completely corrugated iron post office from any era.

Corrugated iron

There are 50 places on the Register of Heritage Places that have corrugated iron walls, seven of which are in the goldfields region. They are 00557 *State Battery, Coolgardie* (1902); 01340 *Coolgardie Fire Station* (1938); 01459 *Gwalia Townsite Precinct* (1896); 01460 *Art's Place, Gwalia* (n.d.); 01461 *Mick Omedi's Camp, Gwalia* (1940); 10120 *Doctor's House (fmr) Norseman* (1939); and, 10520 *Leonora-Gwalia Water Supply Group* (1903-1907). The iron-clad residences that remain in the Gwalia township, are mostly unoccupied and of a much smaller scale than most, being miner's shacks. Mazza's Store and Patroni's Guest House are more substantial Gwalia structures, but are of no particular style, are unoccupied, in only fair condition and were not involved with Government services.³²

Other Goldfield buildings that are known to be iron clad are the Conglomerate Pub, Nullagine (not yet assessed); Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar (registered); and, Menzies School and Leonora Police Station Group (both currently undergoing assessment).

Menzies Post Office (fmr) is representative of the use of corrugated iron in the Goldfields region. The material was commonly utilised because of its light weight and stackability for transporting long distances by camel.

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

Post & Telegraph Department, State Records Office and Postmaster General's archives, National Archives as referenced.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

³² Heritage Council database; HCWA assessment documentation for Hotel & Store, Marble Bar and Gwalia Townsite.