



**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)**

- 4.2                    Supplying urban services
- 7.6.1                Developing local government authorities
- 8.5.2                Helping other people
- 8.5.3                Associating for mutual aid
- 8.14                 Living in the country and rural settlements

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

- 306                  Domestic activities
- 401                  Government & politics
- 404                  Community services & utilities
- 408                  Institutions
- 604                  Local heroes and battlers
- 701                  Other - Women in the community

#### **11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE\***

*Alice Williams Memorial Building, Nungarin* is a modest representative example of the design detail of the Inter-War Free Classical style. (Criterion 1.2)

*Alice Williams Memorial Building, Nungarin* is valued for the pleasing use of materials, the scale and proportion of the building, and the setting, which contribute to the heritage ambience and character of the main street of Nungarin. (Criterion 1.3)

#### **11.2 HISTORIC VALUE**

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Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

*Alice Williams Memorial Building, Nungarin* is part of the national Country Women's Association movement, begun in 1922, and is indicative of the development of the organisation in Western Australia since 1924 and its importance in the community life of isolated country districts when few other services were available. (Criterion 2.1)

*Alice Williams Memorial Building, Nungarin* was the second Nungarin Roads Board office, and later Shire Council office from 1936 to 1968, and is indicative of the growth of the central Wheatbelt region. (Criterion 2.1 & 2.2)

*Alice Williams Memorial Building, Nungarin* has been the official rooms of the Nungarin Branch of the CWA (the oldest branch in the State) since 1968. (Criterion 2.1 & 2.2)

*Alice Williams Memorial Building, Nungarin* illustrates the significant contribution made by women to life in country districts as well as their involvement in the wider community. (Criterion 2.2)

*Alice Williams Memorial Building, Nungarin* was renamed in 1994 in memory of Alice Williams, a prominent and dedicated member of the Nungarin CWA from its foundation in 1924, who held the highest offices in the State organisation. (Criterion 2.3)

*Alice Williams Memorial Building, Nungarin* was designed by prominent architectural firm, Eales, Cohen and Fitzhardinge, who designed Guildford Town Hall (1937) and other civic buildings of the period. (Criterion 2.3)

### **11.3 SCIENTIFIC VALUE**

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### **11.4 SOCIAL VALUE**

*Alice Williams Memorial Building, Nungarin* is highly valued by the local community, as, since 1968, it has been the home of the oldest branch of the CWA in Western Australia, established in 1924. It is significant for having remained the venue of the Nungarin branch of the CWA, at a time when other larger CWA branches such as Mukinbudin and Kununoppin have been disbanded. (Criterion 4.1)

*Alice Williams Memorial Building, Nungarin* has, and continues to be the venue of social interaction and support and a place where community projects have been initiated and actioned, evidenced by the naming of the building in 1994 after a prominent CWA member and the inclusion of the place in the Nungarin Municipal Heritage Inventory as place no. 1. (Criterion 4.1)

*Alice Williams Memorial Building, Nungarin* is valued as the home of local government for the Nungarin community from 1936 to 1968. (Criterion 4.1)

*Alice Williams Memorial Building, Nungarin* contributes to the sense of place of the local community for its associations and prominent position in the townscape. (Criterion 4.2)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **12.1 RARITY**

*Alice Williams Memorial Building, Nungarin* is the only example of a modest building designed in the Inter-War Free Classical style in the town of Nungarin. (Criterion 5.1)

## **12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

*Alice Williams Memorial Building, Nungarin* is a modest representative example of an Inter-War Free Classical style building that contributes to the streetscape of Nungarin. (Criterion 6.1)

*Alice Williams Memorial Building, Nungarin* represents a local government continuum in Nungarin, with the earlier original Roads Board Office and later Shire office still located within the townsite. (Criterion 6.1)

*Alice Williams Memorial Building, Nungarin* is a good representative example of a rural Roads Board Office reused for a community function, being the CWA meeting rooms. (Criterion 6.2)

*Alice Williams Memorial Building, Nungarin* is a good example of the small community facilities built for and/or purchased by the CWA. (Criterion 6.2)

## **12.3 CONDITION**

*Alice Williams Memorial Building, Nungarin* is in good condition, having been in constant use since construction.

## **12.4 INTEGRITY**

Although no longer used for its original purpose, the original form of the building is evident, and the subsequent forty-year association with the CWA for is significant. *Alice Williams Memorial Building, Nungarin* retains a high degree of integrity.

## **12.5 AUTHENTICITY**

*Alice Williams Memorial Building, Nungarin* retains most of its original fabric, and has a high degree of authenticity.

## **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 November 2006, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

### **13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE**

*Alice Williams Memorial Building, Nungarin* is a modest single storey concrete block and tile building constructed in Inter-War Free Classical style in 1936 as the Nungarin Roads Board Office. It has been occupied by the Nungarin branch of the Country Women's Association since 1968.

The district north of Merredin was taken up in pastoral leases at Yarragin, Kwelkin, Moujakine and Mangowine from the late 1860s by members of the Glass and Adams families. The track through the area became the road to the Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie goldfields in the early 1890s. Charles Adams at Mangowine held a liquor licence to serve the goldfield traffic and many farmers were involved in carting goods to the fields until the railway line was constructed through Merredin. In 1910, land in the Noongarin Rock area was opened for

agricultural settlement and a railway for the area was under construction, looping northward from Northam through Goomalling, then east through Wyalkatchem and Noongarin Rock before returning southward to the Eastern Goldfield line at Merredin. The line was opened on 28 August 1911, and a siding, known as Nungarin, was established near Noongarin Rock. A settlement grew around the siding to serve the agricultural area. Some 50 blocks were allocated in the district under the Civil Service Settlement Scheme.<sup>1</sup>

The Nungarin area was part of the Merredin Roads Board District with two representatives on the Board, but the settlers were disgruntled with the service received.<sup>2</sup> The local roads were in poor condition making carting of goods more difficult and time-consuming than necessary. In February 1921, a redistribution of the district boundaries was proposed, and on 24 March 1921 the Nungarin Roads Board District was formed from areas in the Merredin and Ninghan districts, and covered an area of 2,000 square miles (518,000 hectares). The first Roads Board election was held on 6 August 1921, and seven members were elected: Joseph Jolly, chairman and Thomas Adams (Mangowine ward); Walter Hodges and Carlo Vanzetti (Danberrin); Ernest Riley (Nungarin); Harold Andrews (Lake Brown) and George Maddock (Wattoning). Meetings were held in the Agricultural Hall until the first Roads Board Office, a small timber building, was opened in 1922.<sup>3</sup>

The Nungarin district grew rapidly during the 1920s agricultural boom. In 1924, Nungarin was the first district in Western Australia to form a branch of the Country Women's Association (CWA), when thirty women attended a meeting in the Agricultural Hall on 7 June 1924. The CWA had been formed as a non-sectarian and non-political organisation in New South Wales in 1922. The main aim of the Association was to provide services for countrywomen and children in Australia.<sup>4</sup> The first Committee of the Nungarin branch comprised Mrs R. Francis, President, Mrs Burns and Mrs Benson, Vice-presidents, Mrs J. H. Johnson, Secretary and Mrs Nichols, Treasurer. The branch had fifty members by 1925.<sup>5</sup>

From the beginning, the Nungarin CWA was active in improving living conditions for families in the district, supporting the nearby Kununoppin Hospital and fighting for improved medical services in the district. A Children's Christmas tree was instigated as an annual event from 1924. In 1925, the Road Board supplied 74

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1 *100 years of local government in Western Australia: Shire of Nungarin, 1921-1971*, Shire of Nungarin, Northam, 1971, pp. 12-13.

2 For an overview of the development of Roads Boards see HCWA documentation for P00618 Cuballing Civic Precinct or P01227 Irwin Roads Board Office (fmr).

3 Public Works Department file, 'Roads Board district, Nungarin', SROWA, WAS 211, CONS 1657, Item 1921/00154; Gray, Laura & Cornish, Maxine, *Nungarin Road Board Office conservation plan*, November 2001, p. 11; HCWA assessment documentation for P1919 Nungarin Roads Board Office (fmr), registration based on the conservation plan.

4 For more information on the establishment of the CWA in Western Australia see HCWA documentation for P13926 Walkaway CWA Rooms, P00817 Poinciana House, Marble Bar, or P6912 Pingaring CWA Rooms. References: Erickson, Rica, Gibbings, B. & Higgins, L., *Her Name is Woman*, CWA, Perth, 1974; & Kelly, B., Haywood, R. & Smeeton, P., *A Continuing Story: A continuation of the history of the Country Women's Association of Western Australia 1974-1999*, CWA, Perth, 1999.

5 Hinge, R. & Cornish, B., *Country Women's Association Western Australia: History of Nungarin Branch: 1924-1971*, Nungarin, 1971, pp. 1-4, courtesy Nungarin Shire Library.

peppercorn trees for the CWA to plant on Arbor Day and some still survive on Railway Ave.<sup>6</sup>

An indication of the issues faced by country communities and by women in general in the 1920s is illustrated by the 'aims' presented by the Nungarin branch to the first CWA of WA conference held in 1925, among them being: the need for legislation to entitle illegitimate children to bear the name of their father; that married mothers be made equal guardians of their children; that arrangements be made whereby a farmer's wife will be entitled to some portion of the property or income; and, that the Commissioner of Railways be asked to reduce the high freight on eggs and poultry and also the high charges imposed in station cloak rooms.<sup>7</sup>

In 1926, the new Nungarin Hall built by the Road Board incorporated a meeting room for the CWA. Also in 1926, the first meeting of the Women's Section of the Primary Producer's Association was held in Nungarin, with the organisation being established at the instigation of members of the Nungarin CWA. Other local improvements instigated by the branch at this time was the fencing of the local cemetery and construction of public conveniences on Mitchell Terrace. When the Barbalin Water Scheme was opened in October 1929, the Nungarin members catered for both the afternoon tea at the opening ceremony at Barbalin, and the celebration dinner at Nungarin that evening, 28 miles apart.<sup>8</sup>

By 1927, the number of representatives on the Road Board had increased to eleven as more farming properties were developed. In the Mukinbudin area, the farmers became increasingly dissatisfied with the service received from the Nungarin Board, where their representatives were outnumbered. The balance of power shifted when a member of the Mukinbudin faction ousted the sitting member for Mangowine. What followed was a great deal of heated debate, with resignations, retractions, walkouts and delegations amid threats to bodily move the timber Roads Board Office to Mukinbudin. This resulted in a group of local farmers mounting an armed guard on the building. In 1933, the Mukinbudin Road Boards District was created, reducing the size of the Nungarin District and the number of Board members to five, while negotiations regarding the exact boundaries of the two Districts continued for another five years.<sup>9</sup>

The threat to their timber office may have gone some way to encouraging the Nungarin Board to construct a more substantial office building, but in reality their office facilities were in need of upgrading. Town Lot 8, facing the railway station, was added to Municipal Reserve 17875, which already included Lot 47, the site of the existing Road Board office.<sup>10</sup> The new Roads Board building was designed by architectural firm Eales, Cohen & Fitzhardinge and constructed by Cook and Wakefield of Kellerberrin.<sup>11</sup>

Architects J. Herbert Eales and Eustace Cohen were partners from 1913. A third partner was W. G. Bennett in the early 1930s, followed by John B. Fitzhardinge in

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6 Hinge, R. & Cornish, B., pp. 1-4; & Gray, Laura & Cornish, Maxine, op cit, p. 11-12.

7 Hinge, R. & Cornish, B., op cit, pp. 4-5.

8 Hinge, R. & Cornish, B., op cit, pp. 6-15, 31.

9 Gray, Laura & Cornish, Maxine, op cit, p. 11-12; *100 years of local government in Western Australia: Shire of Nungarin*, op cit.

10 Reserves Index, Reserve 17875; Gray, Laura & Cornish, Maxine, op cit.

11 *Merredin Mercury*, 24 September 1936, p. 1

the mid 1930s. This partnership designed Guildford Town Hall (1937) and a number of other civic buildings of the period.

On 17 September 1936, the new Nungarin Road Board Office was opened. The building cost around £750, including furnishings.

Pleasing in appearance and an ornament to the town, the substantial new structure in Railway Parade, which will serve as the future headquarters of the Nungarin Road Board was officially opened on Thursday last by the chairman of the Board (Mr. J. Jolly, J.P.), in the presence of a gathering of ladies and gentlemen which must have numbered at least 200, many of whom were from the outside districts of Kununoppin, Mukinbudin, Nukarni, Lake Brown and Merredin. The building, which is of cement brick, comprises a board room, secretary's office and lobby.<sup>12</sup>

Speeches were heard from the chairmen of the Merredin, Mukinbudin and Kununoppin-Trayning-Yelbeni Roads Boards as well as from early members of the Nungarin Roads Board. Mr Jolly declared the building open and unveiled a copperplate tablet with enamelled lettering, which read:

This tablet was unveiled on 17th September 1936 to commemorate the opening of these offices by J. Jolly, Esq. Chairman of the Board; Members of the Board W.S. Hodges, R.S. Horn, H.L.J. Hoare, F.A. Williams, T.C. Brown, secretary; Eales, Cohen & Fitzhardinge architects; Cook and Wakefield contractors.

An afternoon tea in the Nungarin Hall followed the opening ceremony.

During the 1940s, the CWA continued to use their meeting room in the Nungarin Hall. Members made camouflage nets to help the war effort and tea rationing prompted a request to the Tea Board in June 1942 for a tea allowance for the branch meetings. Funds continued to be raised for the Holiday Scheme, which allowed children from inland areas of the State to spend a holiday at the coast, while the Kununoppin Hospital, Seamen's Mission and the Red Cross continued to be supported, as were those in need in the district.<sup>13</sup>

The branch had been raising funds for their own rooms since 1926, but other demands on their time and resources had left this in abeyance. In 1948, a house was purchased at Westonia, dismantled and transported to Nungarin, where it was rebuilt with additional materials on land donated by the Roads Board on Shelter Reserve on Railway Ave, which is adjacent to the railway station yard. It was then one of 113 CWA rooms in the State at that time.<sup>14</sup>

The Road Board continued to occupy its office building on Lot 8, and in 1961, when Road Boards became Shires, the place became the Nungarin Shire Office. In 1965, the ward boundaries in the Nungarin Shire were redistributed to allow for a Council of seven members instead of the five that had constituted the Board since 1933. This was considered to provide better representation for residents while reducing the time spent on Shire business by individual members.<sup>15</sup>

In 1968, a new building to house Shire Offices, Council Chamber and a Library was opened on Railway Ave. The vacant former Road Board Office was offered to the CWA for a peppercorn rental, as the branch had had to demolish their

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<sup>12</sup> *Merredin Mercury*, 24 September 1936, p. 1

<sup>13</sup> Hinge, R. & Cornish, B., op cit, pp. 6-15, 31.

<sup>14</sup> Hinge, R. & Cornish, B., op cit; *Nungarin Shire Municipal Heritage Inventory*, compiled by Maxine Cornish, Shire of Nungarin, 1998, site 017.

<sup>15</sup> *100 years of local government in Western Australia: Shire of Nungarin*, op cit, p. 12.

deteriorating building in 1965 and return to the Nungarin Hall. After much discussion, the CWA decided it would rent the building as its meeting place.<sup>16</sup>

In 1968, Lot 8, the site of the former Roads Board Office was removed from the Municipal reserve and subsequently acquired freehold by the Shire for \$200.00. In 1975, Nungarin CWA took on the place as their official rooms.<sup>17</sup>

Over the years, a close working relationship had been the feature of the Nungarin CWA and Nungarin Roads Board and later Shire. The husbands of CWA members were the members of the Roads Board and all were working for the benefit of the district. Requests for assistance or action from either one was generally promptly attended to.<sup>18</sup> To commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Nungarin CWA, the Shire Council moved unanimously to dedicate the former Shire Offices to the memory of Mrs Alice Williams. The place was officially opened on 7 July 1994 as the *Alice Williams Memorial Building* and a plaque fixed to the front entrance reads:

In memory of Alice Williams MBE 1890-1972 In recognition of the valuable work done by her in improving conditions for country women and their children. Opened on 7th July 1994 by Shire President B.N. Cornish.<sup>19</sup>

Alice Williams came to Nungarin in 1913 from Lancashire, England on a visit to her parents, the Rev and Mrs Edward Wolfstanholme who were serving the parish of Nungarin. She met and married Fred Williams who had a farm in the Mangowine area. Her home for the first four years was a timber and corrugated iron shack with an earth floor, where as well as helping her husband on the farm she began the raising of their ten children. Alice Williams was a foundation member of the Nungarin Branch of the CWA and during her years of service she held many positions in the Association, including Eastern Division President (1937-43), State President (1944-47) and State International Officer (1947-50), and was granted life membership in 1945.<sup>20</sup>

For many years she organised the Eastern Division's Happy Holiday Scheme and established the holiday house Easternholme at Fremantle, giving up her own holidays each year to cook for the children on holiday there. She understood the hardships of country women, particularly those in the Wheatbelt in those early pioneering years, and she understood the tragedies that could befall them, having herself lost a little daughter to drowning in the farm dam. She was awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list in June 1965 in recognition of her many years of service to the CWA. Alice Williams died in 1972, aged 82 years.<sup>21</sup>

A plaque listing the early members of the Nungarin CWA is located in a paved mall abutting the Shire hall in Railway Ave. It was installed in May 1998 to commemorate the centenary of women's suffrage in Western Australia.<sup>22</sup> A Heritage Council project in response to the centenary of women's suffrage sought

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16 *100 years of local government in Western Australia: Shire of Nungarin*, op cit, p. 12; Hinge, R. & Cornish, B., op cit, pp. 49, 54 & 60.

17 Reserves Index, Reserve 17875; Certificate of Title Vol. 1352 Fol. 227, 30 December 1970; *Nungarin Shire Municipal Heritage Inventory*, op cit, site 001.

18 Hinge, R. & Cornish, B., op cit.

19 Physical evidence.

20 Stewart, Noel, *As I remember them*, Perth, Artlook Books, c.1987, pp. 265-269.

21 Stewart, Noel, op cit.

22 *Nungarin Shire Municipal Heritage Inventory*, op cit, site 001; HCWA database.

to identify sites associated with women's history in the State for heritage assessment, and nominated *Alice Williams Memorial Building, Nungarin* as one of these sites.<sup>23</sup> In 1998, *Alice Williams Memorial Building, Nungarin* was entered on the Nungarin Municipal Heritage Inventory with a management category 1. The place was classified by the National Trust of Australia (WA) in 1999.<sup>24</sup>

A time capsule was installed in the front garden of *Alice Williams Memorial Building, Nungarin* on the 75th anniversary of the CWA in Western Australia. A plaque atop the plinth that marks the location of the capsule reads:

A time capsule was buried at this site on 7th July 1999 by Mrs Rosa Tognela State President to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Country Women's Association of Western Australia (Inc). Time capsule to be retrieved on 7th July 2024.<sup>25</sup>

The capsule contains envelopes of significant memorabilia submitted by branches throughout the State. Nungarin's envelope contained a photograph of current members and an A5 size copy of the Nungarin branch history.<sup>26</sup>

In 2004, Nungarin CWA celebrated its 80th birthday with a morning tea attended by the State President and officers. The branch continues to hold its monthly meetings at *Alice Williams Memorial Building, Nungarin* and the organisation is an important part of the local community, helping out in emergencies and fundraising for projects relevant to the country district, including a recent fundraiser for the Royal Flying Doctor Service.<sup>27</sup>

Early photographs indicate some minor changes to *Alice Williams Memorial Building, Nungarin*. The stepped piers above the central arch have been removed, which is believed to have been done in order to reduce the weight that was considered to be causing structural cracks in the porch structure. The fanlight above the front entry is glazed with a single piece of plain glass minus the original glazing bars, and the front doors, which were originally panelled timber, have been replaced with timber framed glazed doors.<sup>28</sup>

In 2006, *Alice Williams Memorial Building, Nungarin* continues to be the official rooms of the Nungarin CWA branch.

## 13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

*Alice Williams Memorial Building, Nungarin* is a modest single storey concrete block and tile building, situated centrally within Railway Avenue, the main street of Nungarin. The building has a short setback from the road, and there are several metres setback from the flanking buildings. The setback area, behind a low curved cement block and rail fence on the boundary, flanks a central concrete path. The distinctive fence comprises two courses of patterned concrete blocks with formed concrete splayed pillars at intervals, with the round steel rail connected through the pillars. Within the setback on the left (south east) side is a concrete plinth with a plaque informing of the time capsule in that location. There are immature shrub plantings on the south east side, and some to the rear, otherwise the site is undeveloped level gravel with no perimeter fences except the front fence.

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<sup>23</sup> HCWA file C94/127 Centenary of Women's Suffrage: Women's Heritage Sites Project.

<sup>24</sup> *Nungarin Shire Municipal Heritage Inventory*, op cit, site 001; HCWA database.

<sup>25</sup> Physical evidence.

<sup>26</sup> *Nungarin Shire Municipal Heritage Inventory*, op cit, site 001.

<sup>27</sup> *Merredin Wheatbelt Tribune*, 14 July 2004, p. 8.

<sup>28</sup> *Nungarin Shire Municipal Heritage Inventory*, op cit, site 001.

*Alice Williams Memorial Building, Nungarin* displays some characteristics of the Inter-war Free Classical style, typically utilized for smaller institutional buildings. The use of classical themes and the symmetrical frontage is typical of the style, together with simplified classical idioms, as demonstrated by the street frontage.

The single storey building is a concrete block structure. It presents a symmetrical two room frontage with central projecting entry porch. The hipped roof is clad with Marseilles clay tiles and features decorative apex elements. The eaves are lined with spaced battens. There are two tall square, rendered chimneys with clay pots. The main hipped roof covers the rear verandah at break pitch skillion. The original colonial profile gutters and rectangular downpipes are in place.

The walls are smooth face painted concrete blocks with areas on the front wall that seem to have had the coursing grooves infilled. The central front entry is a rendered parapet element with ashlar markings featuring voussoir details. The entry features a concave curved recess detail. The double entry doors are timber framed and fully glazed with the words 'Nungarin RB' in an arch formation on each door. Diagonal stainless steel hand rails are in place on the doors. There is a semi circular fanlight above fitting into the arched formation of the recess. On each of the entry walls, there are plaques: on the right side, commemorating Alice Williams in 1994, and on the left side commemorating the opening in 1936. The entry is flanked by a single window central in the wall each side. The front windows are double hung sashes with clear glazing. There is an asbestos panel below the windows, and a concrete lintel above. The remaining windows on the northwest side and rear elevations are also double hung sashes but they have multipanes of obscure bubble glass glazing and, except for the window under the back verandah, also feature vented shutters. The entry and rear verandah floors are concrete.

The floor plan is basically rectangular and is unchanged from the original layout. The front doors open into an entry hall that leads to the rear of the building and along to the right. On each side of the corridor there is one room. On the right (northwest) there is a single meeting room that has a central fireplace on the southeast wall, and another door leading onto the rear verandah. The room on the left (office) is smaller, as the corridor adjoins on the southwest side adjacent to the rear verandah. The corridor opens onto the rear verandah where there is a toilet on the left side. The toilet is a later intervention, with asbestos clad walls.

The original interior fabric is intact for the mostpart. The interior floors throughout are timber boards covered by carpet. The walls are finished in hard sand render finish to picture rail height and smooth hard plaster above. The ceilings throughout are lined with plasterboard with simple square vent details in the meeting room. Moulded picture rails are in place on all the walls. Also in the entry hall there are three CWA honour boards on the walls. Simple original suspended light fittings also remain in situ in the rooms, with a classic fluorescent light in the meeting room, as well as the original bakelite switches. The original splayed skirtings and plain architraves are in place, as are the original doors throughout. The doors are jarrah veneer, although some have been painted. There is a full height original built-in cupboard next to the fireplace in the meeting room. The fireplace in the meeting room is detailed in decorative face brickwork in geometric and linear patterns, with a simple jarrah mantle. The fireplace in the office is truncated across the corner and much less decorative with stretcher bond face brickwork and a simple jarrah mantel. The safe at the southeast end of the rear

corridor is likely original in its original location. Original Venetian blinds remain in situ in the front window of the meeting room.

Overall the place is in fair to good condition. There is no obvious evidence of termite activity. The external timber elements are weathered. Internally, the place is in good condition due to continuous use.

### 13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

#### CWA Halls

There are 96 places associated with the CWA listed on the Heritage Council database, most of which are rooms and halls. In addition to *Alice Williams Memorial Building, Nungarin*, ten others are entered into the State Register. These are:

00044 *Pyrmont*, Albany, an 1870s stone residence, purchased by the CWA in 1950 and used by them as a hostel and club until they sold it in 1967;

00474 *Road Board Office (fmr)*, Nanson, a small 1913 Federation Free style brick and iron hall constructed by the PWD as a roads board office, and also used by the CWA until 1974;

00618 *Cuballing Civic Group*, which includes the former Cuballing Road Board Office, a stone building, which was constructed as an agricultural hall in 1898 and has been occupied by Cuballing CWA since 1952;

00817 *Poinciana House*, Marble Bar, a single storey stone and iron Federation Bungalow style residence constructed in 1909 for George Miles, owned by the CWA from 1967 to 1989, during which time it was used as a CWA rest room;

01691 *Glen Forrest Hall*, an 1897 Flemish bond brick and iron community hall, designed to an octagonal plan, leased by the Glen Forrest and Mahogany Creek CWA branch from 1967 to 1987;

01923 *Mangowine Homestead*, Nungarin, which includes Baandee CWA Rest Room, the first purpose-built CWA rooms in Western Australia, relocated to the site in 1973-74 as a State-wide project to celebrate 50 years of the CWA in the State;

06912 *Pingaring CWA Rooms*, a 1956 community hall purpose built as CWA rooms in 1956, constructed of cement block with iron roof, and occupied continuously by the CWA since its construction;

08577 *Mundaring Sculpture Park*, a landscaped park and sculpture garden including remnants of the 1898 Mundaring Railway Station, the site of CWA meetings from 1950, and the 1954 CWA Hall, a small timber-framed fibro-clad building with cgi roofing, used continually by the CWA since its construction;

10930 *Hyden CWA Rooms*, a 1950 purpose-built concrete block community hall, used continually by the CWA since its construction; and,

13926 *Walkaway CWA Rooms*, a 1959 purpose-built single-storey fibro-clad hall, used by the CWA since its construction and also as a kindergarten from 1972 to 1996.

13378 Wonthella CWA Meeting Rooms was assessed as below threshold in 2002. It is a 1974 conversion for CWA purposes of an existing 1940s timber and asbestos residence.<sup>29</sup>

A Heritage Council project in response to the centenary of women's suffrage sought to identify sites associated with women's history in the State for heritage assessment. *Alice Williams Memorial Building, Nungarin* was identified by this project as one of the most significant CWA sites remaining in the State. Most of the other CWA places on the Register were also assessed as a result of this project.<sup>30</sup>

*Alice Williams Memorial Building, Nungarin* is a good example of the small community facilities built for and/or purchased by the CWA, and rare as the home, since 1968, of the oldest branch of the CWA in Western Australia, established in 1924. Nungarin CWA is notable as it has remained active at a time when other larger CWA branches in the area, such as Mukinbudin and Kununoppin, have been disbanded.

### **Roads Board Buildings**

There are 112 places identified as Roads Board buildings in the HCWA database. In addition to *Alice Williams Memorial Building*, nine others were constructed in the 1930s, one of which is Registered: 01620 *Morowa Shire Office & Town Hall*, a 1930 Inter War Free Classical style brick and tile office building attached to a two-storey town hall form the same period. The other eight places are:

00391 Busselton Roads Board Office (fmr), a 1936 brick and stucco Inter-War Functionalist style building;

001181 Harvey Shire Council Chambers, an imposing 1935 Inter War Free Classical brick and tile building attached to two halls;

01250 Kalamunda Roads Board Office (fmr), a 1934 cement-rendered masonry and tile building, designed by E. Summerhayes and currently the police station and Road Traffic Authority office;

01417 Koorda Roads Board Office (fmr), a 1937 three-room brick and iron building with verandahs later enclosed to create extra space, designed by W. G. Bennett and also used as the local CWA community centre;

01664 Mullewa Town Hall & Shire Offices, a 1935 brick and iron premises designed by Eales, Cohen & Bennett;

02616 Victoria Plains Road Board Office, a 1937 two-room brick building with rendered parapet frontage, designed by Hobbs, Forbes & Partners and also used as a CWA Hall;

02691 Drakesbrook Roads Board Office (fmr), a 1933 timber and iron building of comparable scale and style to *Alice Williams Memorial Building*, in Inter-War Free Classical style, with a brick and render portico featuring an open bed pediment and engaged piers in original condition; and,

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<sup>29</sup> HCWA database and assessment documentation.

<sup>30</sup> HCWA file C94/127 Centenary of Women's Suffrage: Women's Heritage Sites Project.

13645 Nedlands Roads Board Office (fmr), a 1937 Inter-War California Bungalow style brick and tile building designed by William Bennett, with major 1970s additions designed by Julius Elischer.<sup>31</sup>

In addition to *Alice Williams Memorial Building, Nungarin* and the four examples mentioned above, there are no other places in the HCWA database that are noted to have been used as both a Roads Board Office and a CWA facility.

*Alice Williams Memorial Building, Nungarin* is a good representative example of a rural Roads Board Office reused for a community function, being the CWA meeting rooms.

### **Inter War Free Classical Style**

There are 29 places on the Register designed in Inter War Free Classical style, Most of these are larger and with more detailing than *Alice Williams Memorial Building, Nungarin*. This includes five Roads Board Offices. The Inter War Free Classical style places most similar in scale and/ or detailing to *Alice Williams Memorial Building, Nungarin*, are 00478 *Chittering Road Board Office (fmr)* (1929, laterite), 01426 *Kulin Town Hall*, (1928, brick & iron), 01620 *Morowa Shire Office & Town Hall* (see above), 01817 *National Bank, Narrogin* (1906, 1925 remodelling, rendered masonry) and 02759 *National Bank, Wyalkatchem* (1925, rendered masonry & tile),

*Alice Williams Memorial Building, Nungarin* is a modest representative example of an Inter-War Free Classical style building, despite the removal of the top section of the entry porch.

## **13.4 KEY REFERENCES**

Hinge, R. & Cornish, B., *Country Women's Association Western Australia: History of Nungarin Branch: 1924-1971*, Nungarin, 1971.

## **13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH**

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<sup>31</sup> HCWA database.