



**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
- 3.11.5 Establishing water supplies
- 3.18.2 Banking and lending
- 4.2 Supplying urban services
- 7.6.4 Dispensing justice
- 8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 107 Settlements
- 303 Mining
- 308 Commercial & service industries
- 403 Law & order
- 404 Community services & utilities
- 504 Depression & boom
- 507 Water, power, major transport routes

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Boulder Court House (fmr) is a fine example of a public building in the Federation Free Classical style. (Criterion 1.2)

Boulder Court House (fmr) is an important example of the work of a notable group of individually known architects of the Public Works Department whose works were of significant quality and influence within a critical phase of development of the State. (Criterion 1.2)

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

For consistency, all references to garden and landscape types and styles are taken from Ramsay, J. *Parks, Gardens and Special Trees: A Classification and Assessment Method for the Register of the National Estate*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

Boulder Court House (fmr) contributes to the character and diversity of the streetscape of Burt Street and is integral to the Burt Street Heritage Precinct and Boulder Town Centre. (Criterion 1.4)

11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

Boulder Court House (fmr) is closely associated with the discovery of significant gold reefs in the Golden Mile and the development of Boulder as a service and residential town for the gold mines. (Criteria 2.1 & 2.2)

Boulder Court House (fmr) is evidence of the consolidation of the Goldfields and Boulder and Kalgoorlie as the epicentre; (Criterion 2.2)

Boulder Court House (fmr) is an example of the Police court of its period illustrating the development of administration of the law in the State. (Criterion 2.1)

Boulder Court House (fmr) is informative of the effects of Federation upon State institutions. (Criterion 2.1)

Boulder Court House (fmr) is associated with the administration and maintenance of the Eastern Goldfields Water Supply scheme, which has been of great significance to the operation of the mining industry and the development of the goldfields and agricultural areas along the pipeline route. (Criteria 2.1 & 2.2)

Boulder Court House (fmr) is associated with prominent goldfields warden J. M. Finnerty, who was the first magistrate to adjudicate in the place from 1900 to 1903. (Criterion 2.3)

Boulder Court House (fmr) is an example of the work of John Grainger and Hillson Beasley, who were members of a notable group of architects of the Public Works Department responsible for a significant number of public buildings in the 1890s and 1900s, during a period of unprecedented development in Western Australia. (Criterion 2.3)

Boulder Court House (fmr) is an extension and progression of the design and construction theme for the goldfields government buildings begun in 1892 and is part of that exclusive group. It is a fine example of the Federation Free Classical style in a public building in the goldfields and typical of the work of the PWD in the 1890s and 1900s. (Criterion 2.4)

11.3 SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11.4 SOCIAL VALUE

Boulder Court House (fmr) has associations with the administration of the law, banking and provision of a water supply and would have been familiar to all residents of Boulder for one reason or another. (Criterion 4.1)

Boulder Court House (fmr) is highly valued by the community of Boulder as evidenced by its on-going use as a community resource. (Criterion 4.1)

Boulder Court House (fmr) formed part of the civic centre of Boulder and as such provides a significant sense of place for residents of the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder and the wider community as part of the town's goldfield history. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1 RARITY

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Boulder Court House (fmr) is representative of a government institution designed by Public Works Department architects of the day, in the Federation Free Classical style.

12.3 CONDITION

Boulder Court House (fmr) is in fair to good condition having been in constant use since construction. The condition attests to ongoing use and maintenance. However there is evidence of interior and exterior damage resulting from rising damp.

12.4 INTEGRITY

The original court function has not taken place since 1977. Subsequent uses have had little impact on the place. *Boulder Court House (fmr)* retains a moderate to high degree of integrity.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

Boulder Court House (fmr) retains a considerable degree of the original fabric associated with the original 1900 and 1905 constructions. Minimal intrusion is evident, with removable partitions dividing an interior room and the infill of part of the recessed porch, both associated with the Court House. Overall, *Boulder Court House (fmr)* 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 July 2008, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

The document draws on the *Report of an Assessment of Cultural Heritage Significance and a Conservation Plan for the Former Boulder Courthouse*, Ian Molyneux and Associates Architects, February 1992.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Boulder Court House (fmr) is a single-storey stone, brick and render building with a corrugated iron roof, constructed in two stages (1900 and 1905) in the Federation Free Classical style for the Public Works Department (PWD).

The Boulder townsite was surveyed in 1896, following a recommendation by the Commissioner of Crown Lands who reported that there were 1,000 men living on various leases in the Golden Mile and that the sale of illegal liquor would be easier to control if a town was established.¹ The overcrowded Boulder Block, in the heart of the Golden Mile mining tenements, also presented a sanitation problem. Although the new town was only three miles from Kalgoorlie, that distance was considerable when there was no public or other transport available, and Boulder was the preferred residential area for the miners because it was

¹ *West Australian*, 3 April 1896, p. 4.

close to their work in the large mines on the Golden Mile. The lack of transport also meant there was scope for a full range of businesses and services at Boulder.²

Boulder was gazetted a municipality on 6 August 1897. Once the townsite was declared, lots were thrown open for sale, resulting in the rapid development of the town. The building of the Boulder Railway Station in 1897 and the location of the tramway in Burt Street in the early 1900s, together with the construction of an underpass beneath the railway to connect Fimiston Street with Burt Street, changed the main Boulder thoroughfare to Burt Street.³ *Burt Street Precinct* developed as the hub for many of Boulder's key commercial and cultural institutions, together with government buildings, churches and dwellings. Containing many fine individual buildings, designed in many different styles, but principally in the Federation Academic or Free Classical style, *Burt Street Precinct* includes several landmark buildings including the Post Office, (1903) Town Hall (1908) numerous hotels and the *Boulder Courthouse*.⁴

One complete street block of the new townsite, comprising 5.25 acres (2.12ha) bounded by Burt, Lane, Piesse and Brookman streets, was designated Lot 253 as a reserve for Government buildings.⁵ A post office was on the site by June 1897, on the corner of Lane and Burt Streets and a police station was located on the rear of the site immediately adjoining, fronting Piesse streets. These two sites later became Lot 1 (post office) and Lot 2 (police station) stretching between Burt and Piesse streets, and the Government provided a grant of a quarter acre of land on the Government Reserve for the building of a Mechanic's Institute. In 1899, court sittings at Boulder were being held in the Institute building.⁶

The PWD drew up plans for *Boulder Court House (fmr)* in 1899. The place was to be located between the police station site and the Mechanic's Institute, with access from the police station site on the south-east corner. The plans were for a stone building with a courtroom, magistrate's room, clerk of court's office, and a police charge room with direct access to the dock. The plan was signed by Hillson Beasley as Chief Draftsman and countersigned by Chief Architect John F. Grainger.⁷

Tenders for construction were advertised in the *West Australian Government Gazette* and a contract was awarded to Carrick & Ford on 18 January 1900 with a price of £1,159-8-1.⁸ Thomas Carrick was listed as a contractor in Guildford in 1898 and 1899, and James J. Ford was a builder resident in Charles Street, Perth in 1899. Carrick & Ford also won the contract to build the Boulder Infant School in 1900, and are credited with the construction of the *Kalgoorlie Miner* newspaper building in that year. T. J. Carrick of Fremantle built the Engineer's

² Wilson, H. H. *The Golden Miles*, Rigby, 1977, pp. 173; Webb, M. & A., *Golden Destiny: The Centenary History of Kalgoorlie-Boulder and the Eastern Goldfields of WA*, (2 vols), Hocking & Co and St George Books, Perth, 1995, p. 416; Spencer-Compton, G., 'The Beginnings of Boulder, 6th August, 1897', *Early Days*, Vol. 5, Part 4, 1958, pp. 1-6; Boulder Progress Committee Minutes, 30 September 1896 & 27 November 1896, SROWA, AN531 Acc 1892/4030, referenced in Heritage and Conservation Professionals, *Boulder Town Hall Conservation Plan*, City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, August 2002, p. 9; *Kalgoorlie Miner*, 13 February 1897, p. 4.

³ Margaret A. Feilman and Partners, 'Kalgoorlie-Boulder Historic Survey' (August 1975), n.p.

⁴ Burt Street Precinct, Boulder (P00172), Assessment Documentation April, 1996.

⁵ Bellingham & Co, Insurance Plans for Boulder, c. 1904.

⁶ Police Dept file, 'Use of Mechanic Institute for Court purposes - Boulder', SROWA, WAS 76 CONS 430 Item 1899/0378.

⁷ PWD Plans, 'Boulder Court House', SROWA WAS 399, CONS 1647 Item 07170.

⁸ *West Australian Government Gazette*, 1900, p. 281; PWD, *Annual Report*, 1900, p. 154.

Quarters and Outbuildings at Caves House in 1904 and Thomas Carrick is listed at Fremantle in the Post Office Directory of that year, while T. F. Carrick is credited as the builder of the Fremantle Artillery Barracks & Signal Station.⁹

A description of *Boulder Court House (fmr)* in the 1899/1900 PWD *Annual Report* stated that Boulder Police Court was constructed with stone walls, brick partitions and an iron roof.¹⁰ The stone came from the Ashlar Quarry, which was established in 1897 by a group of local businessmen.¹¹ Stone from this quarry was also used in the construction of the Kalgoorlie Railway Station.¹²

Boulder Court House (fmr) was formally opened on 10 October 1900:

This morning the first local court held at Boulder was inaugurated this morning under the presidency of Mr Warden Finnerty. Accompanying him from Kalgoorlie were Messrs Cr S Smith, Cr Cotter, Dr Friedman and R D Thompson, J's.P. Cr Green, Mr Rabbish, and Drs Sawell and Bridgeford were also on the Bench.

Counsel was well represented by Messrs. W. H. Jones, of Kalgoorlie, and B Scott, C Mann, W Davies and J G Josephs. Prior to commencing business, Mr R D Thompson, as the oldest justice present, welcomed the opening of the Court, and congratulated Boulder on its latest public facility.

Cr Green responded on behalf of Boulder, remarking on the need for such a court in Boulder, and the convenience it would be for residents....

The Court then adjourned to drink the health of the Warden and to honour the toast to the new Court. Toasts were made and speeches made, after which the list was called on.¹³

The first case concerned a woman who was charged with use of obscene language at midnight. She was cautioned but ordered to pay damages and costs for breaking a pane of glass.¹⁴ There were several financial cases ranging in value from £1-19-6 to £8-9-0.¹⁵ As a Police Court, cases were heard by a magistrate and no jury was involved.¹⁶

Boulder Court House (fmr) was supervised from Kalgoorlie and J. M. Finnerty held court sittings once a month until 1903, when E. P. Dowley was appointed Stipendiary Magistrate at Kalgoorlie and took over responsibility for Boulder. Court sittings were increased to twice a month in 1904. Clerk of Courts at this time was G. B. Wilson.¹⁷

In 1904, plans were drawn up for extensions to the Court House function and the addition of offices for the Post Office Savings Bank and the Goldfields Water Supply.¹⁸ The clerk of court's office was divided to create a room for female witnesses and a passage, which accessed a new clerk's office and public area on the west side.¹⁹ The plans required the additions to be made in brick, and a new

⁹ *Wise's Post Office Directory*, 1897-1912; PWD, *Annual Report*, 1900, p. 154; HCWA assessment documentation for P991 and P428. HCWA assessment documentation for P1292 *Kalgoorlie Miner Building* gives Carrick's name as 'Garrick' from a secondary source.

¹⁰ PWD, *Annual Report*, 1899-1900, p. 77.

¹¹ Ian Molyneux and Associates Architects, op cit, p. 45.

¹² information located during research for assessment of Kalgoorlie Railway Station.

¹³ *Kalgoorlie Miner*, 20 February 1909, p. 8.

¹⁴ Ian Molyneux and Associates Architects, op cit, p. 45.

¹⁵ *Kalgoorlie Miner*, 20 February 1909, p. 8.

¹⁶ *Wise's Post Office Directory*, Legal Directory entries.

¹⁷ *Wise's Post Office Directory*, Legal Directory entries.

¹⁸ The Post Office Savings Bank was renamed the Government Savings Bank in 1906 and State Savings Bank of Western Australia in 1926.

¹⁹ PWD Plans No. 1125, 'Boulder Police Court, additions for Savings Bank and Goldfields Water Supply', courtesy Dept of Housing & Works; *West Australian Government Gazette*, 1904, p. 948.

brick facade was constructed over the stone frontage of the existing 1900 Court House. As suggested by Ian Molyneux, the change from stone to brick may have been the result of a new architect taking responsibility for the work, with Hillson Beasley taking over from John Grainger as PWD Chief Architect around this time, but it could also have been a decision not to continue using the porous sandstone, or perhaps for some financial reasoning, as it was not usual for the PWD architects of this period to make such changes to the buildings designed by their predecessor.²⁰

The Goldfields Water Supply had been completed in 1903 and the Goldfields Water Supply Administration (GWSA) was created to administer and manage the scheme, including levying water rates. The pipeline was divided into four districts with an engineer in charge of each. The Kalgoorlie District Engineer was responsible for servicing the towns of Boulder and Kalgoorlie and the GWSA's most important customer, the mines on the Golden Mile, where the larger mines had immediately combined to form the Kalgoorlie Boulder Mines Water Trust to negotiate good terms for supply from a position of strength. The Kalgoorlie District Engineer's office was located in the Government Buildings in Hannan Street, Kalgoorlie, while the Water Supply office in *Boulder Court House (fmr)* housed an engineer, foreman, inspectors and clerks, in closer proximity to the Golden Mile, and was the place where Boulder residents went to pay their water rates.²¹

The Post Office Savings Bank had been established in 1863, after several earlier attempts to establish savings banking had failed. The use of post offices as agencies meant that transactions could be conducted by telegraph from any WA post and telegraph office.²² In 1889, the Bank had 19 branches with deposits totalling £31,000. During the 1890s, the gold discoveries and resulting population expansion saw 47 new branches open and deposits reach £1.3 million.²³ In preparation for Federation and the placement of the postal services under Commonwealth control, the Savings Bank Amendment Act 1900 was promulgated to enable Bank duties to continue to be carried out by post office officials while remaining under State control.²⁴

The establishment of a Commonwealth Savings Bank, however, was inevitable, so when the Commonwealth began construction of a new post office building at Boulder in 1903, the State appears to have taken the opportunity to relocate the Boulder branch of the Savings Bank to a separate State owned building. In 1911, the Commonwealth Savings Bank was established and began operation in WA on 13 January 1913 with a branch in Perth and 162 post office agencies. A notice issued on 7 March 1913, announced the closure of WA Savings Bank post office agencies and listed the addresses of its private agencies.²⁵ The Commonwealth Savings Bank had already taken over the State Savings Bank in

20 Ian Molyneux and Associates Architects, op cit, p. 7.

21 Hartley, Richard G., *River of Steel: a history of the Western Australian goldfields and agricultural water supply, 1903-2003*, Bassendean, Access Press, 2007, pp. 136-143; PWD Plans No. 1125, 'Boulder Police Court, additions ...', op cit.

22 'State Savings Bank of Western Australia', Battye Library Archives no. 4, 1966, PR4593; *Statutes of Western Australia*, 'Post Office Savings Bank Ordinance', Victoria no. 5, 1 July 1863.

23 'State Savings Bank of Western Australia', Battye Library Archives no. 4, op cit.

24 Ball, J., Kelsall, D. & Pidgeon, J., *Statewide Survey of Banks, 1829-1939: southern region, Western Australia*, Perth, National Trust, 1997, p. 11.

25 'State Savings Bank of Western Australia', Battye Library Archives no. 4, op cit.

Tasmania (in 1912) and was negotiating to take over in other states, including WA, but its overtures were rejected by successive WA governments.²⁶

The Boulder branch of the Savings Bank may have been the first to be separated from a post office. The earliest other instance of the Savings Bank operating outside of a post office was in 1906-07 when receiving agencies were opened at five 'timber mills and stations', although those Bank branches operating from other State Government building complexes in the goldfields, all of which included a post office, had the ability to move into a separate office within the building at any time. Whether they did that before 1913 is not known.²⁷

Boulder continued to be an important residential and service area because of the concentration of large mines on the Golden Mile, which continued to operate during the 1910s, despite the general downturn in gold production, and despite Kalgoorlie businesses and services being patronised by Boulder residents due to the Loopline railway and the tramway system.

The Boulder Court House dealt with financial disputes under the value of £100, marital issues such as applications for separation and maintenance, inquests into deaths including accidents on the mines, minor thefts and assault cases, etc. In 1910, a dentist was charged with practising while unregistered, having neglected to pay his registration fee for the second time.²⁸

In 1924, the four Goldfield Pipeline districts were reduced to two, with offices at Kalgoorlie and Northam. Workers who had jobs with GWSA were long-serving, many having worked on the pipeline during construction stayed with the job for the rest of their working lives.²⁹

On 31 October 1931, the Commonwealth Bank took over the assets and liabilities of the WA State Savings Bank. Together with New South Wales, it was the last State to relinquish its Savings Bank. In most towns in WA, the State Savings Bank agencies were absorbed into the existing Commonwealth Bank facility, either in a bank building or a post office, but at some, such as Boulder, the Commonwealth Bank took over the State Savings Bank premises at *Boulder Court House (fmr)*, leasing them from the government.

Court sittings at *Boulder Court House (fmr)* continued twice monthly, supervised from Kalgoorlie. In March 1934, the cases handled involved nine traffic offences, an inquest into a death on the Horseshoe Mine where a man died from asphyxiation after falling down a shaft while shovelling sand, and two marital issues involving pleas from wives for separation and maintenance on the grounds of wilful neglect or cruelty. The claim of cruelty was made against a husband who had fed his baby – between the ages of 4 and 6 months – with tomatoes, champagne, port and cider. Both pleas were dismissed.³⁰ In 1943-44 court sittings were reduced to once a month, at which frequency they remained.³¹

²⁶ 'State Savings Bank of Western Australia', Battye Library Archives no. 4, op cit; 'Commonwealth Bank – About Us – History', <http://about.commbank.com.au/group>.

²⁷ 'State Savings Bank of Western Australia', Battye Library Archives no. 4, op cit.

²⁸ *Kalgoorlie Miner*, 8 January, 1910, p. 4 & various other issues. Boulder court proceedings were reported only intermittently after the first few years.

²⁹ Hartley, Richard G., op cit, pp. 148-149.

³⁰ *Kalgoorlie Miner*, 21 & 28 March 1934, p. 4.

³¹ *Wise's Post Office Directory*, 1910-1949.

During World War Two, the Commonwealth Bank was heavily involved with Commonwealth Loans and other forms of Government fundraising, as well as acting as local agents for the Rationing Commission.³²

The Goldfields Water Supply Branch became the Country Water Supply Branch in 1962. Although gold production had fallen again at this time, nickel deposits discovered at Kambalda in 1966 required the expansion of the water supply system from Kalgoorlie. Partly as a result of the change of focus, but also as a rationalisation of administration costs, the Water Supply office at *Boulder Court House (fmr)* closed in the 1960s and its functions were transferred to Kalgoorlie.³³

In April 1973, a new court house was opened at Kalgoorlie, housing all court functions for the town. Court sittings at *Boulder Court House (fmr)* continued until 9 July 1977, when all proceedings were transferred to the Local Court at Kalgoorlie.³⁴

Boulder Court House (fmr) was classified by the National Trust in 1977 and entered on the Register of the National Estate in 1978.

The Commonwealth Bank continued to operate from the former State Savings Bank premises. In 1992, the Bank wanted to expand its office space within *Boulder Court House (fmr)*, requiring considerable internal alterations. A heritage assessment and conservation plan was commissioned from Ian Molyneux and Associates to ascertain if this was appropriate for the place. The report noted that part of the Clerk of Court's office had already been partitioned off to create a new bank manager's office and a door put through from there to access the banking chamber. The place was subject to rising salt damp, and the Courtroom had suffered earthquake damage and was not used, while the remainder of the Court offices and the Water Supply offices were used by community organisations, including the Goldfields Brass Band. Community use was considered most appropriate and retained good public access to all areas. The report found that *Boulder Court House (fmr)* had 'an unusually high degree and pervasiveness of authenticity of original fabric, from main structures down to fine details such as door handles'.³⁵

Boulder Court House (fmr) was entered on the State Register of Heritage Places in 1992 with minimal documentation based on the Molyneux report, and conservation works were undertaken based on the conservation plan, with the Government providing \$300,000 toward the work.³⁶ Internal alterations to suit bank use could not be recommended and the Bank instead reduced its plans for the facility and increased its floor space with the addition of a transportable building at the rear. The Bank's decision also took into account the close proximity of the Bank's Kalgoorlie branch, where extended banking functions could be provided within easy reach.

The gradual loss of facilities from *Boulder Court House (fmr)* over the years was symptomatic of the general decline of businesses and services in the town in favour of Kalgoorlie.

32 'Commonwealth Bank – About Us – History', <http://about.commbank.com.au/group>.

33 Boulder Town Council, *Rate Books*, 1960s-1970s.

34 *West Australian Government Gazette*, 8 July 1977, p. 2105.

35 Ian Molyneux and Associates Architects, op cit, p. 52.

36 Correspondence 16 August 1994, HCWA place file P0179.

Boulder Court House (fmr) was entered on the 1996 City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder Municipal Inventory, which was updated in 2001.³⁷

In 2008, *Boulder Court House (fmr)* continues to house the Commonwealth Bank in the former Savings Bank premises, the Goldfields Camera Club Inc occupies the former Water Supply offices, and the Goldfields Brass Band occupies the Court House with the courtroom used as the Band practice room.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Boulder Court House (fmr) is a single-storey stone and brick, render, and corrugated iron building, showing influences of the Federation Free Classical style.

Boulder Court House (fmr) is located on the south side of Burt Street, which is the main commercial street of the town of Boulder, and is located immediately adjacent to the former post office on the corner of Lane Street. The street plantings obscure the streetscape views of *Boulder Court House (fmr)*.

Boulder Court House (fmr) has a balanced asymmetrical frontage that occupies the width of the site, with a pedestrian access way along the west side. The front façade is at zero setback onto the pedestrian pavement. The rear boundary adjoins a right of way that affords vehicular access to the rear of the site. There are three outbuildings at the rear of the site; a prefabricated extension adjoining the rear of the bank tenancy; a free standing brick ablution building; and, a small square skillion roofed corrugated iron clad shed. There are no plantings on the site. The side and rear boundaries are delineated by prepainted steel sheet fences.

The front facade of *Boulder Court House (fmr)* displays characteristics of the Federation Free Classical style. The form is asymmetrical with the rhythmical form of richly moulded cornice linking frontage features of two identical gabled sections. The gable sections each have a set of three arched windows. Similarly moulded masonry archways define the recessed sections between. The repeat of the form of the pedimented gables and the linking parapets with recessed porches continues the rhythm. The use of classical themes is typical of the style, and is further demonstrated by the moulded detailing that delineates the base and string course cornice, and the moulded pediment detailing and Italianate baluster infill on the central parapet. The roof is hipped except for the gable features, and the west section has a separate hipped roof. The roof is clad with sheets of corrugated metal sheeting that is difficult to determine in detail from a ground level inspection. The face brick walls, on the front façade are detailed in English bond in contrast with rendered moulding and detailing. The west side (internal) and rear walls of the original 1900 Court House, are face random coursed ashlar stone walls. The recessed porches at the front and the verandah area across the rear of the central Court House section (stone walls) have concrete floors. The east recess has a timber ramped area over the concrete to access the bank. There is also an Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) in the wall in that vicinity.

Boulder Court House (fmr) shows evidence of two distinct periods of development. The original 1900 Court House comprises the central court house gable and eastern side rooms behind the recessed entry. This section is also identified by the original face stone walls at the rear. The 1905 extensions

37

HCWA database and minimum assessment documentation.

comprise the east gable section (bank), and the west section, all in face brick construction, with a brick facade over the stone frontage of the 1900 building. The original double hung timber framed windows remain insitu throughout, with the groups of three on the frontage of both gable walls having glazed arched infills above, similar to the group of three on the corresponding rear (south wall) of the courtroom. The entry door into the Court House section has side panels and a fanlight, although the west end entry only has a fanlight. The original door into the west end (bank) has been replaced with an automatic opening metal-framed glazed door.

Boulder Court House (fmr) forms roughly a rectangular footprint with three tenancies from east to west: Bank, Court House now occupied for community use (brass band), and the west extension for community use (camera club). The Bank tenancy is essentially the entire east wing, entered from the recessed Court House entry porch opening into a single space divided by a contemporary counter with security screens to the ceiling. There are partitioned offices along the west side and the rear door opens directly into the prefabricated extension. An office adjacent on the west side also forms part of the Bank tenancy, which includes the 'safe'. Central off the recessed porch is access into the Court House offices and courtroom. The corridor accesses an office at the south-east corner, and turning right there is a 'kitchen' on the left (rear) and a room on the front of the building before opening into the expansive courtroom, which has the bench along the south wall. The infilled porch is accessed from the courtroom. The third tenancy, accessed from the recessed porch at the west end of the frontage, was inaccessible. The plan shows several rooms and access also on the west side.

The interior maintains considerable original fabric throughout. The walls are hard plaster. The plaster ceilings throughout have retained some decorative roses, particularly in the courtroom where the ceiling is coved. The floors are timber, although not visible except for the bench area in the courtroom. Original skirtings and architraves are evident throughout. Most doors have the original four panels although some have glazed infills in the top panels, and most in the Court House area have fanlights above. The fireplaces throughout have been boarded over except for the simple arched fireplace in the courtroom. The courtroom still has the bench, dock and public railings in situ.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

Comparison with other courthouse buildings in the State undertaken by Molyneux & Associates, indicates that *Boulder Court House (fmr)* was of a standard pattern fit-out for the period.³⁸ However, given that *Boulder Court House (fmr)* contained other government facilities as well as a court house function the place can best be compared to the other government building complexes on the goldfields, namely: *Southern Cross Court House & Registrar's Office* (P02804) and *Southern Cross Post Office* (P02808); *Coolgardie Post Office & Associated Buildings* (P00569); *Government Buildings, Marble Bar* (P00814); *Cue Public Buildings* (P00629); and, *Government Buildings, Kalgoorlie* (P01291).

Southern Cross Post Office and the Court House with warden's quarters were built in 1892 from locally made bricks. The buildings are side by side in the street but are separate. They were designed by George Temple Poole as the first in a series of goldfields Government buildings and the Court House was the first to

38 Ian Molyneux and Associates Architects, op cit, pp. 39-42.

incorporate other functions. The style was Victorian Regency, which was similar to Temple Poole's earlier justice buildings, such as Old Busselton Court House and Police Complex. A Registrar's Office was added in 1911 by Hillson Beasley in sympathetic style. The warden's quarters were removed in the 1950s and a verandah added. The building was restored by local volunteers in the 1970s and opened as Yilgarn History Museum in 1979. *Southern Cross Court House & Registrar's Office* (P02804) and *Southern Cross Post Office* (P02808) are on the State Register as two separate places.³⁹

The Southern Cross government buildings predate the standard construction begun in 1894 with Coolgardie, Cue, Marble Bar and Kalgoorlie. These were all constructed before 1898 and included post office, Savings Bank and court house functions, as well as offices for mining wardens and other government officials. When the Goldfields Water Supply was completed in 1903, both the Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie Government buildings each also housed a GWSA office. All are of stone construction with iron roof, with two-storey and single-storey elements in a single building. Coolgardie, Marble Bar and Cue are in the Federation Arts and Crafts design by Temple Poole, and Kalgoorlie, built in 1897, is in the Federation Academic Classical style with a clock tower and was built at the time when Grainger was taking over from Temple Poole as Chief Architect. Grainger's 1898 additions to the Coolgardie buildings are a seamless extension of the original.⁴⁰

All four places are entered on their respective Municipal Inventories, are classified by the National Trust and entered on the State Register, while Coolgardie, Cue and Kalgoorlie are also permanent entries on the Register of the National Estate.⁴¹

The 1900 construction of *Boulder Court House (fmr)* followed the same theme of stone walls, but a few years later there was a change in approach, for whatever reason as noted in the documentary evidence, and brick was used in the additions to *Boulder Court House (fmr)* with the existing facade altered to form a cohesive whole.

Long-lived banking establishments outside of the Metropolitan Region.

Of the 26 banks on the Register located in regional Western Australia, the following five places constructed between 1900 and 1911 have been in continuous use as a bank;

00465 *ANZ Bank Building*, Carnarvon (1905)

00631 *Fmr Bank of New South Wales*, Cue (1900)

01352 *ANZ Bank*, Katanning (1911)

01817 *National Bank*, Narrogin (1906)

01861 *ANZ Bank*, Northam (1905)

There are 2 banks on the HCWA database in the Goldfields region that have been in continuous use as a bank;

00177 *The Commercial Bank*, Boulder (1900) and 01283 *Union Bank of Australia (fmr)*, Kalgoorlie (1900).

³⁹ Gray, Laura, *Conservation plan Yilgarn History Museum: Courthouse and Mining Registrar's Office building (fmr), Southern Cross*, August 1999; Palassis Architects, *Old Busselton Court House and Police Complex conservation plan*, December 1997.

⁴⁰ HCWA database and assessment documentation.

⁴¹ HCWA database and assessment documentation.

Boulder Court House (fmr) is an extension and progression of the design and construction theme for the goldfields government buildings begun in 1892 and has to be seen as part of that exclusive group. It is a fine example of the Federation Free Classical style in a public building in the goldfields and typical of the work of the PWD in the 1890s and 1900s.

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

No key references.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

The rarity of Post Office Savings Banks could be investigated. A search of the HCWA database failed to produce an accurate record of Post Office Savings Banks. The *Statewide Survey of Banks 1829-1939 Southern Region, Western Australia , Volume I and Volume II* does not contain enough documentary evidence to determine how many Post Office Savings Banks there were in the region.