



REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES – ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in November 1996 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

The wording of this document has been adapted from 'Cuddy Cuddy Changing Station, Howatharra: Conservation Plan', prepared by Considine & Griffiths Architects with Robin Chinnery, Historian, for Ruth O'Brien, Howatharra, in September 2002, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 3.4.3 Mining
- 3.5 Developing primary production
- 3.6 Recruiting labour
- 3.8.1 Shipping to and from Australian ports
- 3.8.5 Moving goods and people on land
- 8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 106 Workers
- 110 Resource exploitation and depletion
- 203 Road transport
- 301 Grazing, pastoralism and dairying
- 303 Mining
- 507 Water, power, major transport routes
- 602 Early settlers

11.1 AESTHETIC 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

The changing station group is a fine collection of simple vernacular weathered granite buildings in the Victorian Georgian style, which are aesthetically pleasing both individually and collectively. (Criterion 1.1)

The buildings at *Cuddy Cuddy Changing Station, Howatharra* demonstrate fine stonework, with large stone quoins and finely jointed random-rubble work laid in pug and finished with lime mortar joints. (Criterion 1.2)

The fine collection of buildings at *Cuddy Cuddy Changing Station, Howatharra*, organised around the lead-in drive and turning circle and set in surrounding paddocks, are an important element in a distinctive cultural landscape set against the substantial natural backdrop of Table Hill. (Criterion 1.4)

11. 2. HISTORIC VALUE

Cuddy Cuddy Changing Station, Howatharra is significant as the changing station at Chapman Valley, being built for this purpose, following the construction of the road between Geraldton and Northampton to transport ore from the mines at Northampton to the port at Champion Bay in the 1850s and 1860s. (Criterion 2.1)

Cuddy Cuddy Changing Station, Howatharra was built as a changing station to service the horse teams used on the Northampton-Geraldton road when the mines at Northampton were being developed, the most significant industrial development in Western Australia in the mid-nineteenth century. The changing station probably functioned for around twenty years, until the railway took over as the main form of transport between Champion Bay and the mines. (Criterion 2.2)

The establishment of *Cuddy Cuddy Changing Station, Howatharra* is significant in that the time of its establishment relates to the closure of Port Gregory as the main export port of the region and the shift to the port at Champion Bay near where more significant mining areas were discovered in the late 1850s. *Cuddy Cuddy Changing Station* was therefore well-positioned along the main route from the mines to Champion Bay and also on what was to become a major transport route for pastoral and agricultural enterprises. (Criterion 2.2)

The railway formation to the east of the study area is significant as evidence of the important railway service that improved links between port and mines and led to the changing station being superseded and a siding established on the property. (Criterion 2.2)

Cuddy Cuddy Changing Station, Howatharra is associated with William Taylor (teamster and farmer) and his family, who owned and occupied the place, working the property between the 1860s and 1953. He was responsible for the construction of most of the buildings. (Criterion 2.3)

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

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

Cuddy Cuddy Changing Station, Howatharra has archaeological potential with its as yet unsurveyed well and cottage ruin, together with scattered ruins associated with all the buildings. The additional information may provide insight into the operation and ways of life at a changing station. (Criterion 3.2)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Cuddy Cuddy Changing Station, Howatharra is valued for social and cultural reasons, and is a visible reminder of the importance of the road from the mines at Northampton to the port at Geraldton in the nineteenth century, before the opening of the railway in 1879. It is also valued for its long-term association with the Taylor family, who were among the pioneers of the district. Its belated inclusion in the Municipal Inventory is evidence of its social value to the community of Chapman Valley. (Criterion 4.1)

Cuddy Cuddy Changing Station, Howatharra can be seen from the road and contributes to the community's sense of place through its position on the North-West Highway, and as a visual reminder of the past importance of the road and horse-drawn transport in the early years of the district. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Cuddy Cuddy Changing Station, Howatharra is rare as one of the few changing stations to survive largely intact to the twenty-first century. (Criterion 5.2)

Cuddy Cuddy Changing Station, Howatharra demonstrates historic practices associated with horse drawn transport. (Criterion 5.2)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

The early period at *Cuddy Cuddy Changing Station, Howatharra* is representative of a phase of opening up the road between the important mines in the Northampton Mineral Field and the port at Champion Bay. Its later period of development to wholly pastoral and agricultural purposes is representative of the adaptation of the place once the importance of road transport decreased in importance, following the completion of the Geraldton-Northampton Railway Line. (Criterion 6.1)

Cuddy Cuddy Changing Station, Howatharra is representative of the practice of horse-changing primarily, but also representative of other small holding farming practices such as raising sheep and growing wheat. (Criterion 6.2)

12.3 CONDITION

Cuddy Cuddy Changing Station, Howatharra has suffered a good deal of damage. Many of the buildings have not been used for a substantial period of time and others have simply been used for storage. The form of construction with stone laid in pug, and the primitively constructed timber roof framing that has resulted in outward thrust on walls, has left some of the buildings in a very poor state. Overall the place is in fair to poor condition.

12.4 INTEGRITY

Cuddy Cuddy Changing Station, Howatharra has ceased to be used for its intended purpose and its elements have been used for a number of purposes since that time. There have been changes to the buildings to suit subsequent uses, but most of these changes seem to have been minimal. Its original use is quite readily discernible, to the extent that the Engine Shed (Building 1), the Long Stable (Building 2) and the Small Stable (Building 3) have changed little and so reveal their function. Little is known about the early function of the Large Barn (Building 4) and the Cow Shed (Building 5), so that no statement can be made on integrity, in respect to those buildings. The Homestead (Building 7), although much altered, retains its function and the Butchery and Hen House (Building 8) has been altered little, leaving its function readily discernible. Overall, the place retains a moderate to high degree of integrity.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

The buildings at *Cuddy Cuddy Changing Station, Howatharra* appear to have undergone few changes throughout their life. All of the buildings have been re-roofed. Overall, the place retains a moderate to high degree of authenticity. The Homestead (Building 7) underwent significant changes that did not result in major alteration to the basic plan.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Supporting evidence has been taken from 'Cuddy Cuddy Changing Station, Howatharra: Conservation Plan' prepared by Considine & Griffiths Architects with Robin Chinnery, Historian, for Ruth O'Brien, Howatharra, in September 2002.

Key Sections used: Documentary Evidence (pp. 1-29), Physical Evidence (pp. 30-96), Analysis of Documentary and Physical Evidence (pp. 97-99)

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the documentary evidence, refer to 'Cuddy Cuddy Changing Station, Howatharra: Conservation Plan', prepared by Considine & Griffiths Architects with Robin Chinnery, Historian, for Ruth O'Brien, Howatharra, in September 2002.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the physical evidence, refer to 'Cuddy Cuddy Changing Station, Howatharra: Conservation Plan', prepared by Considine & Griffiths Architects with Robin Chinnery, Historian, for Ruth O'Brien, Howatharra, in September 2002.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

For a discussion of the comparative information, refer to 'Cuddy Cuddy Changing Station, Howatharra: Conservation Plan', prepared by Considine & Griffiths Architects with Robin Chinnery, Historian, for Ruth O'Brien, Howatharra, in September 2002.

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

'Cuddy Cuddy Changing Station, Howatharra: Conservation Plan', prepared by Considine & Griffiths Architects with Robin Chinnery, Historian, for Ruth O'Brien, Howatharra, in September 2002.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

Further genealogical investigations into William Taylor may reveal whether he was in fact Convict No. 1526 (b. 1825) as surmised in the 'Cuddy Cuddy Changing Station, Howatharra: Conservation Plan' prepared by Considine & Griffiths Architects with Robin Chinnery, Historian, for Ruth O'Brien, Howatharra, in September 2002, p. 9.

A search for the existence of any accounts or reminiscences of people who stopped at the *Cuddy Cuddy Changing Station, Howatharra* may reveal more about the social interaction and activities that occurred there while horse teams were at the station.