



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)

- 2.5 Promoting settlement on the land through selection and group settlement
- 3.4 Developing sheep and cattle industries
- 3.21 Accommodating travellers/catering for tourists

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 104 Land allocation and subdivision
- 301 Grazing, pastoralism and dairying
- 311 Hospitality industry and tourism
- 602 Early settlers

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

The highly picturesque qualities of this cottage, together with the weathered patina that its wall and roofing materials have acquired over the years, has made it one of the more evocative domestic buildings of the colonial period in Western Australia. This is demonstrated by the fact that a photographic image of *Day Cottage* was included on the cover of a book dealing with the heritage of Australia, and that artists have repeatedly used the building as a subject for their work. (Criterion 1.1)

The simple vernacular form of *Day Cottage*, with its almost symmetrical façade, minimal ornamentation and spreading hipped roof, is demonstrative of the colonial approach to the design of domestic housing. (Criterion 1.2)

Day Cottage is located close to Day Road, and is a visually prominent element in the East Rockingham landscape. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

The place has historic value as one of the earliest land grants in the Rockingham region, Location 72 being taken up in 1866. The cottage on the property is among the region's oldest built structures. (Criterion 2.1)

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

The place has value for its close association with the Day family. William and Susan Day were early settlers of the district, and their son, Henry Day, remained in the district for many years working as a stockman on the Chesterfield and Mona's Mount properties. (Criterion 2.3)

The place has some significance for its association with Jabez White, the initial owner of the property, who became well known as an early settler of the Gosnells foothills and builder of one of the first flourmills in the Canning Region. (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

Day Cottage has value as a research site for cultural heritage. The state in which the cottage has been preserved – with an intact shingled roof, evidence of early paint work, and minimal modifications – provides an opportunity for the study of a highly authentic colonial dwelling that is in a relatively sound condition and remains largely undisturbed. It is also highly probable that the site contains archaeological remains that would have the potential to provide information relating to domestic life during an early period of settlement in this state. The amount of available historical documentation relating to the place further enhances its value to the historical archaeologist and architectural historian. (Criterion 3.1)

The place also has some interest from a cultural-geological point of view: the stone employed in the construction of most of the old buildings on the site is a vuggy lacustrine limestone which, apart from in the Cockburn Sound region, is not usually quarried for building purposes. *Day Cottage* is one of the older surviving buildings constructed of this stone type. (Criterion 3.1)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Day Cottage is among a number of significant sites in East Rockingham which provide the district with a sense of history and permanence. The importance of these places is heightened by the impending development, which is likely to substantially alter the character of the district. (Criterion 4.2)

The place is also valued by long term residents of Rockingham and, to some extent, descendants of the Day family, because of its social and cultural associations. *Day Cottage* is the most tangible connection that descendants of the family have with their forebears, and which residents of Rockingham have with these pioneers of their district. Local residents, particularly those connected with the Rockingham historical Society, have as early as 1970 demonstrated a keen interest in the preservation of *Day Cottage*. (Criterion 4.1)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Day Cottage is a rare example of a dwelling dating from the colonial period of Western Australia, which has been preserved in a highly authentic state and is in a structurally sound condition. (Criterion 5.1)

Day Cottage is a crucial component of a rare cultural environment, East Rockingham, which comprises an almost intact collection of colonial buildings and recognisable sites of early settlement. Few districts, particularly within such close range of Perth, are able to boast of a comparable cultural environment. (Criterion 5.2)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Day Cottage is representative of vernacular cottages constructed during the colonial period in Western Australia. The more or less symmetrical composition of the front elevation, spreading form of the hipped roof, prominent verandah, use of local materials and planning with a detached kitchen at the rear, are all characteristic of this building type. (Criterion 6.1)

12. 3 CONDITION

Day Cottage is in a fair condition. Although it is presently unoccupied, its owners carry out basic maintenance such as fixing loose roof sheeting and mowing the grass. They also regulate visitor access to the place. Specific areas of building fabric are deteriorating, although this deterioration has not yet progressed to the degree that has impaired the structural integrity of the cottage. Timberwork of the front verandah is relatively unprotected from weather and consequently in poor condition. Verandah on the south and west sides have mostly collapsed, and grass has encroached on the verandah floors. In places the stonework and mortar is fretting due to rising damp. The roof sheeting is in fair condition, rusted in places and bent and uneven at the eaves. Ceilings in the principal rooms are stained probably from possums. Doors and window joinery in walls exposed to weather is in poor condition, although the doors appear to be in a restorable condition. Some of the window sashes have deteriorated to the degree that they can not be repaired. A small amount of termite damage was noted in timberwork near the back door.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

The integrity of *Day Cottage* is high, as it has retained its original function. Conservation of the place may result in the loss of specific elements of the existing original fabric, but if this work were undertaken sympathetically it would detract minimally. There is a proposal to block off part of day road immediately south of *Day Cottage* at a future date, creating two cul-de-sacs, and this would impact on the landmark qualities of the place – it would no longer be located along a major roadway.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

Day Cottage has been preserved with a high degree of authenticity. Only minor structural changes have been made to the building fabric since the 1890s. Most of the original fabric is still extant (although some elements are deteriorated) and painted finishes are of an early date. The conversion of the detached kitchen to create a bathroom and laundry, and the fit-out of the north-west room of the cottage as a kitchen are among the most significant changes that have been made to the building.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Attached are key sections of the supporting evidence prepared by Palassis Architects, 'Ellendale (also known as Day Cottage) Conservation Plan' prepared for the City of Rockingham, November 1999.

13. 1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the Documentary Evidence refer to Palassis Architects, 'Ellendale (also known as Day Cottage) Conservation Plan' prepared for the City of Rockingham, November 1999.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the Physical Evidence refer to Palassis Architects, 'Ellendale (also known as Day Cottage) Conservation Plan' prepared for the City of Rockingham, November 1999.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

For a discussion of the Comparative Information refer to Palassis Architects, 'Ellendale (also known as Day Cottage) Conservation Plan' prepared for the City of Rockingham, November 1999.

13.4 REFERENCES

Palassis Architects, 'Ellendale (also known as Day Cottage) Conservation Plan' prepared for the City of Rockingham, November 1999.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH
