



## 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 'Conservation Plan for St Werburgh's Farm Buildings, Mt Barker' prepared by John Pidgeon and Maxine Laurie for Grey and Jenny Warburton in February 2003, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

#### PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 3.5.3 Developing agricultural industries
- 3.11.4 Clearing vegetation
- 3.9 Farming for commercial profit
- 3.12.2 Developing sources of fresh local produce
- 8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

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

- 107 Settlements
- 301 Grazing, pastoralism and dairying
- 302 Rural industry and market gardening

#### 11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE\*

The relatively intact blacksmith's shop and quarters of the *St Werburgh's Farm Buildings*, featuring steeply pitched corrugated iron roofs with corrugated iron, mud pise and face brick walls exhibiting exposed hand sawn timbers and bush pole ceiling/floor joists, are fine examples of mid nineteenth century farm buildings that have high aesthetic value. (Criterion 1.1)

*St Werburgh's Farm Buildings* is a set of closely grouped mid nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings, which are situated on high ground in a largely cleared landscape close to the Hay River, creating a picturesque historic rural environment. (Criterion 1.3)

---

\* 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 buildings and structures which make up the *St Werburgh's Farm Buildings*, and the associated homestead and chapel nearby, interrelate to form a significant cultural precinct. (Criterion 1.4)

## **11. 2. HISTORIC VALUE**

*St Werburgh's Farm Buildings* is part of one of the first farming properties established in the Hay River valley area and demonstrates the development of agriculture in the Plantagenet district from the 1840s to 2003. (Criterion 2.1)

*St Werburgh's Farm Buildings* is associated with George Edward Egerton-Warburton, who is significant in the history of the Plantagenet region for his role in commanding military outposts as an ensign and later lieutenant in the British army at Mt Barker and Kojonup in the 1840s, as a member of its first Road Board in 1871 and as the builder and first owner-builder of the St Werburgh's chapel, which has been used by the local community for over 130 years. The Egerton-Warburton family, who have owned and run St Werburgh's farm for five generations from its establishment in 1840, have been prominent members of the Mt Barker community. (Criterion 2.3)

*St Werburgh's Farm Buildings*, as part of the St Werburgh's farm, is a significant example of one family's achievement in establishing, developing, and sustaining substantial agricultural settlement in the initially remote pastoral area near Mt Barker, from the 1840s to the present. (Criterion 2.4)

## **11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE**

*St Werburgh's Farm Buildings* has the potential, through investigation and interpretation of its built fabric and contents, to yield information regarding the evolution of the pastoral industry from the 1840s to 2003 in the Plantagenet district. (Criterion 3.2)

## **11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE**

The historic farm buildings are significant to the community as indicated by its placement, as part of the St Werburgh's Homestead, on the Municipal Heritage Inventory of the Shire of Plantagenet (1997). (Criterion 4.1)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **12. 1. RARITY**

*St Werburgh's Farm Buildings* is a rare group of intact agricultural buildings dating from the mid 1840s, which has a high degree of authenticity and has continually been associated with the five generations of one family. (Criterion 5.1)

## 12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

*St Werburgh's Farm Buildings* is representative of farming practices of the nineteenth and early twentieth century in rural Western Australia. (Criteria 6.2)

## 12.3 CONDITION

*St Werburgh's Farm Buildings* is in poor to sound condition.

### Blacksmith's Shop

The condition of the walls to the grain store is generally sound. There are no cracks. The condition of the east wall and the east end of the north wall of the Blacksmith's Shop is poor due to failure of the foundation. There are some areas of cement rich mortar patching. The mud walls of the blacksmith's shop are in sound condition. The external face of the east and north walls have been coated with the cement slurry.

### Quarters

The external surface of the south wall of the quarters is in sound condition. There is some minor deterioration in the pointing of the mortar joints. There are some areas of cement rich mortar patching. The west wall of the quarters is in poor condition. There are extensive areas where the lime pointing has weathered away and a number of bricks are fretting. The bricks at the door jamb near floor level are badly eroded and there are areas of fretting elsewhere, also close to the floor level, indicating problems of rising damp.

The east facing brick wall of the former shearing shed where the south wall doglegs towards the south is in poor condition; the wall has a severe crack. The surface has the same problems described above for the west wall of the quarters. The external face of the north wall of the former shearing shed is in poor condition particularly for the panel at the east end dealt with above. There are fretting and worn bricks and missing lime pointing over most of the area of the wall surface. Approximately half way along the length of the wall mud mortar is missing to the extent of allowing light to shine through the wall. Within approximately 600mm above ground level there are a large number of fretting bricks.

## 12.4 INTEGRITY

The integrity of *St Werburgh's Farm Buildings* is moderate. The present use of the place is generally for storage purposes with the former shearing shed used as a shelter for sheep when required.

## 12.5 AUTHENTICITY

The fabric of *St Werburgh's Farm Buildings* is predominantly in its original state and therefore its authenticity is high.

### **13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE**

Supporting evidence has been taken from 'Conservation Plan for St Werburgh's Farm Buildings, Mt Barker' prepared by John Pidgeon and Maxine Laurie for Grey and Jenny Warburton in February 2003.

Key sections used: 2.1 Documentary Evidence (p20-30) and 2.2 Physical Evidence (p31, 34, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 50-52, 57-58, 62, 66).

#### **13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE**

For a discussion of the documentary evidence refer to 'Conservation Plan for St Werburgh's Farm Buildings, Mt Barker' prepared by John Pidgeon and Maxine Laurie for Grey and Jenny Warburton in February 2003.

#### **13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE**

For a discussion of the physical evidence refer to 'Conservation Plan for St Werburgh's Farm Buildings, Mt Barker' prepared by John Pidgeon and Maxine Laurie for Grey and Jenny Warburton in February 2003.

#### **13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION**

For a comparative analysis refer to 'Conservation Plan for St Werburgh's Farm Buildings, Mt Barker' prepared by John Pidgeon and Maxine Laurie for Grey and Jenny Warburton in February 2003.

#### **13.4 KEY REFERENCES**

'Conservation Plan for St Werburgh's Farm Buildings, Mt Barker' prepared by John Pidgeon and Maxine Laurie for Grey and Jenny Warburton in February 2003.

#### **13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH**

-----