



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
- 3.4.4 Making forests into a saleable resource
- 3.7.1 Establishing postal services
- 3.7.2 Developing electronic means of communication
- 7.6.3 Policing Australia

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 107 Settlements
- 206 Mail services
- 209 Technology and technological change
- 301 Grazing, pastoralism and dairying
- 302 Rural industry and market gardening
- 403 Law and order

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

The materials used in the construction of the Government Building and the barn, have, over many decades of exposure to the elements, developed a mellow appearance which harmonises with the colours and textures of the natural landscape. This patina that the old buildings have acquired, in combination with their slightly decayed appearance and rural setting, give the place rustic quality. (Criterion 1.1)

The vernacular form of the cottage with its symmetrical façade, minimal ornamentation, spreading hipped roof and prominent verandah, is demonstrative of the colonial approach to the design of common domestic housing. (Criterion 1.2)

The aesthetic of the cottage, kitchen, government building and barn are significant as individual components and for the character of the collective cultural environment formed by those places. (Criterion 1.4)

* 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.

11. 2. HISTORIC VALUE

Slab Cottage Group is important for its association with the Quindalup mill which was one of the first ventures of this kind in the colony, and played an important part in the economic development of the state. The buildings are vestiges of the settlement which grew up around the first timber mill and the jetty at Quindalup, the focus of which later shifted inland to the location of the second timber mill. (Criterion 2.2)

Slab Cottage Group played a significant role in the history of Quindalup. Evidence suggests that, in the settlement's early years, the outbuildings may have been used as a bond store and a lock-up. Later, from 1923 through to 1966, the district's post office and telephone exchange were based on the property. (Criterion 2.2)

Slab Cottage Group is closely associated with the Harwood family who are believed to have occupied the property for around 100 years. John Harwood (b.1840) and his wife were among the earliest settlers in the Quindalup area, and several generations of the family members were active within the local community. John Harwood (b.1840) is thought to have taught at the school on the adjoining property, William Harwood (b. 1870) was a member of the Quindalup Social Club in the 1930s, and from 1923 through to 1966 members of the Harwood family operated the district's post office and telephone exchange. (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

The site contains substantial evidence of material culture, including both building fabric and archaeological material, which could usefully inform the study of European settlement in Western Australia. The three oldest buildings have potential, through research and teaching use, to yield information about and promote understanding of a range of 19th century vernacular building techniques. Archaeological material on the site, specifically the 19th and early 20th century ceramics and glassware evident in the vicinity of the cottage, has potential to inform research into domestic life of the rural working class during an early period of settlement. (Criterion 3.1)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Slab Cottage Group is one of a number of historic sites in Quindalup that are valued by local residents because they provide a tangible link to past events in the district, particularly the time when there was a sizeable population at Quindalup. Many landmarks relating to this period of Quindalup's history have now disappeared, making *Slab Cottage Group* one of the key sites which provides the district with a sense of place. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

The cottage is an unusual building in the context of Western Australia, by being one of very few surviving 19th century dwellings constructed of split timber slabs. (Criterion 5.1)

If, as assumed, the government building was constructed for the intention of being a lock-up and customs facility, it has considerable rarity value. The use as a customs facility would make it one of the oldest surviving facilities of this

kind in Western Australia. A similar building exists in Busselton, but no others of comparable scale, function or age are known to exist. (Criterion 5.1)

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Slab Cottage Group is representative of vernacular cottages constructed during the colonial period in Western Australia. The 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 6.2)

The arrangement of the farmyard, and particularly the internal layout of the cottage, provides evidence of a way of living that typified many families of the lower classes in rural area of Western Australia during the 19th and early 20th centuries. (Criterion 6.2)

The barn and government building are representative of colonial masonry work and construction detailing. (Criterion 6.2)

12.3 CONDITION

The cottage is in good condition, having been restored and converted to a café in 2000. Only the western perimeter rooms were substantially altered with the existing internal linings stripped and replaced with new cladding in order to adapt this area for use as a commercial kitchen.

Lowkey landscaping has also occurred around the perimeter of the cottage, comprising a small paved area at the rear of the building for outdoor seating, pathways to the carpark near the existing residence and to the ablutions block located to the north east of the cottage, a cottage garden between the cottage and the residence and complementary new plantings.

The kitchen building, government building and barn within the *Slab Cottage Group* are in a deteriorated condition, having received little maintenance over the past three decades. Roofs on these buildings have been neglected, resulting in damage to the structural fabric and finishes. Significant fabric of the government building and barn has been lost because of this neglect. The kitchen outbuilding has been used to house farm animals for a time, and its decay is far more advanced than the other buildings.

Development proposals have also been approved for the adaptive re-use of the other *Slab Cottage Group* buildings. The former Government Building is to become an Interpretative Gallery/Centre, which will include the reconstruction of the verandah and the re-erection of the crumbled limestone walls. Works will also involve the roof, gutters and downpipes, wall footings, door and window sashes installation, timber framing and glazing. The conversion of the former Kitchen building into a Function Room/Winter Dining Room proposes work involving carpentry, floor replacement, gutters and downpipes, stove reinstatement, masonry repairs, roof sheeting and installation of new doors and window sashes. A cool room addition to the cottage café (to be weatherboard clad) has also been proposed.

12.4 INTEGRITY

The significant values that have been identified with *Slab Cottage Group* are mostly sustainable. The restoration and re-use of the cottage and the proposed re-use and restoration of the other buildings has not compromised their significance.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

Since the restoration of the cottage and conversion to a café, much of the previously existing deteriorated fabric has been replaced. The existing internal linings of the western rooms has been stripped and replaced with new cladding and deteriorated weatherboard and structural timbers have been replaced with new. Weatherboards on the eastern side have also been replaced, many of which were sourced from the west elevation. The aged appearance of the existing weatherboards has been preserved.

A new corrugated iron roof has replaced the previous, deteriorated one, and the ground level at the front of the cottage has been lowered, with steps cut into the reconstructed verandah. New window sashes have been reconstructed using the remains of original sashes found in-situ as a model, and new electrical services have been installed.

Most of the fabric of the other buildings is original, although the finishes are mostly in a deteriorated state. Parts of the structural fabric of the kitchen, the government building, and the barn have been lost, but no deliberate structural alterations have been made to these buildings since the place was vacated by the Harwood family.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Supporting Evidence has been taken from Palassis Architects, 'Inlet Villa, 1002 Caves Road, Quindalup, W.A., Conservation Plan', for Norma Andrews, June 2000.

Key sections used are: 3.0 Assessment of Documentary and Physical Evidence (p11-41), 4.0 Analysis of the Documentary and Physical Evidence (p43-54)

13. 1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the Documentary Evidence refer to Palassis Architects, 'Inlet Villa, 1002 Caves Road, Quindalup, W.A., Conservation Plan', prepared for Norma Andrews, June 2000.

13. 2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the Physical Evidence refer to Palassis Architects, 'Inlet Villa, 1002 Caves Road, Quindalup, W.A., Conservation Plan', prepared for Norma Andrews, June 2000.

13. 3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

For a discussion of the Comparative Information refer to Palassis Architects, 'Inlet Villa, 1002 Caves Road, Quindalup, W.A., Conservation Plan', prepared for Norma Andrews, June 2000.

13. 4 KEY REFERENCES

Palassis Architects, 'Inlet Villa, 1002 Caves Road, Quindalup, W.A., Conservation Plan', prepared for Norma Andrews, June 2000.

13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH

There are some aspects of the place that warrant further investigation so that the significance of the place can be better understood. In particular, questions relating to the age of the structures and the original use of the government building have not been satisfactorily resolved. It is also possible that a

comprehensive search of early field books could still locate details of the original survey. There may also be other records held by DOLA that may yield information.

Further historical research of Education Department files could provide more information on schools that had operated Quindalup. There could also be other surviving 19th century records relating to the Quindalup area that may provide information relating to the property or the Harwood family.

Archaeological investigation may provide details of the history of occupation and use of the place, possibly confirming certain assumptions that have been made regarding the link of customs and police operations.

Further research into the history of the Harwood family may yield additional information relating to the physical development of the place and the persons that have been associated with it.