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.

11. 1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Constructed in the Federation Bungalow style, *Wilkinson Homestead* is aesthetically pleasing example of the style. (Criterion 1.1)

Wilkinson Homestead's front garden, with its attractive collection of plants gathered from the gardens of local community members and its setting adjacent to John Okey Davis Park, contribute to the aesthetic value of the place. (Criterion 1.4)

11. 2. HISTORIC VALUE

The subsequent subdivision of the land into a farm lot and then museum grounds and park shows the evolution of Gosnells from a rural to an increasingly suburban environment. (Criterion 2.1)

Wilkinson Homestead is a physical reminder that the Gosnells district was a major citrus producing area in Western Australia from the 1930s to the 1950s. (Criterion 2.2)

Wilkinson Homestead is indicative of the style of dwelling owned by a middle class businessman who subscribed to the popular Arcadian ethos of the period. By virtue of his personal wealth, Wilkinson was able to develop his small-holding into a successful business. Wilkinson was one of a number of men of who settled in the Gosnells district and established orchards. (Criterion 2.2)

John Wilkinson was a significant figure in the development of Gosnells as a major citrus growing area. Being one of the first fruit orchardists in the area, Wilkinson established what was to become one of the largest producing citrus orchards in Gosnells. (Criterion 2.3)

Wilkinson Homestead demonstrates the development of intensive agriculture in the early part of the twentieth century and the recognition of the Gosnells district's soils as suitable for citrus growing. (Criterion 2.4)

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* 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.

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

Wilkinson Homestead has the potential to inform and contribute to the understanding of land uses in the area. These range from indigenous land use, of which there is archaeological evidence, to the agricultural practices of the first settlers, the development of the citrus industry and later, suburban subdivision. (Criterion 3.2)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Wilkinson Homestead is highly valued in the Gosnells district for its collection of local artefacts, as a venue for school programs, meetings, special events and other cultural activities. The place is an important venue for the museum's school programs, which are presented by senior members of the community therefore providing a link between the generations of the Gosnells community. (Criterion 4.1)

Wilkinson Homestead contributes to the community's sense of place by representing the district's history and primary agricultural practice, citrus production, a significant part of the region's heritage. The museum's public accessibility adds to this sense of community involvement. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Wilkinson Homestead is a common style of dwelling in the state for the early 1900's. However, the Municipal Inventory for the City of Gosnells shows only two other similar dwellings in Gosnells proper and only one of these is an orchard homestead. (Place no G12 Lewis House.) The place therefore represents the type of dwelling associated with citrus production, a major industry in the area. Due to the encroachment of suburbia, citrus production is no longer a dominant industry in the district. (Criterion 5.2)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Wilkinson Homestead is representative of the type of dwelling built by a middle class businessman in the semi-rural areas in the early years of the twentieth century. It is the only remaining element of the orchard that he set up inspired by the popular Arcadian notion of living off the land. Although others aspired to this lifestyle, the success of Wilkinson's venture was largely due to the wealth gained from his successful tailoring businesses in Fremantle and Perth. (Criterion 6.1)

12. 3 CONDITION

Wilkinson Homestead, despite a period of neglect, is in very good condition due to renovation of the fabric in recent years.

The style of restoration or the period of neglect has resulted in the loss of some of the more decorative original features. This includes the loss of original glass from windows and of original ceiling roses. There is also some decoration missing from the verandah. Conversion of the place to a museum resulted in the partial removal of two interior wall to provide larger display areas.

The place is managed so as to provide regular maintenance, and features security methods intended to protect the museum's collection, including a chain fence which surrounds the immediate property.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

Wilkinson Homestead has a moderate degree of integrity. The structure is sound and well able to support its current use as the City of Gosnells Museum which houses a collection of local historic artefacts. Honest re-creation of the fabric would be difficult to achieve due to the lack of documentary evidence as to the former state of the place. Interpretations of original fabric and patterns of use could easily and appropriately be achieved through renovation / replication.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

Wilkinson Homestead has a low level of authenticity due to the extent of renovation carried out on the fabric.

Wilkinson Homestead is the only remaining element of the entire built environment relating to the orchard operation as all other structures have

been removed. The orchard itself no longer exists save for a few remnant trees, which have been relocated from the site of the original Wilkinson orchard. This land is now known as John Okey Davis Park.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The Documentary evidence has been compiled by Fern Turner, graduate student with the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage at Curtin University of Technology. The Physical evidence has been compiled by Alice Steedman, Architect.

13. 1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Wilkinson Homestead, located on Lot 101 Homestead Road, Gosnells, was constructed in 1912 for John Wilkinson and his wife Emma. It is a Federation bungalow styled stretcher bond brick dwelling with a corrugated Colorbond roof. The homestead is the only remaining element of the Wilkinson's Orchard, apart from a few remnant citrus trees which were relocated from the adjacent John Okey Davis Park and replanted at the rear of the homestead in 1997.

The Homestead is situated on land, which prior to the European settlement of the Canning was used as a hunting ground and gathering place for the local indigenous people. European settlers had contact with these people.[1] Oral evidence suggests that Beeloo and Beeliar tribes continued to meet in the area, situated adjacent to *Wilkinson Homestead* and now known as John Okey Davis Park, up until the 1920s. [2]

The Homestead is located on Part of the original Location 16, surveyed by Lieutenant Governor Stirling and the Surveyor General John Septimus Roe in November 1829. [3]

The first European settlers of Canning Location 16 were John Okey Davis, his wife Frances and family of seven children who arrived in the new colony on board the *Lotus* on 13 October 1829. Davis received his grant of 7,026 acres on 14 November 1829, which was allocated in accordance with his investment of £ 527/6/0.

Davis settled in the Canning in February or March 1830 and proceeded to choose a homestead site near the western most boundary of the area now known as John Okey Davis park, immediately to the west of *Wilkinson Homestead*. The property became known as 'Chenies' and by 1835, 25 acres were under cultivation.

Frances Davis died in 1835 and John died the following year.[4]

Prior to his death John Okey Davis had arranged for the property to be sold when his youngest child, Sarah, turned 21. His sons Henry and Frederick continued to farm Chenies and by 1844 theirs was the biggest agricultural enterprise on the Canning. The brothers' partnership dissolved in 1854 and in 1855 Chenies was sold to John Davis Gotch, a cousin of John Okey Davis.[5] Henry Davis continued to manage the property under an 18 year

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1 McDonald, G. and Cooper, W.S., *The Gosnells Story*, City of Gosnells Council, 1988, p.44.

2 'Biographical File Davis File 2 of 2 File Series' Gosnells Public Library Local History Collection, City of Gosnells Library. Not Paginated.

3 McDonald and Cooper, op. cit., pp. 1, 2, 10, 16, 116, 117,16,49,50.

4 Their gravesite is located in John Okey Davis Park.

5 `Biographical File, Davis File 2 of a 2 File Series' Gosnells Public Library Local History Collection. Not Paginated.

lease taken up in 1856, however he left the property only one year later.[6]

Chenies was sold in 1862 to businessman Charles Gosnell from whom the City of Gosnells takes its name. There was very little development of the property during the Gosnell years and it was occupied at times by owners of neighbouring properties, including Joseph Harris of Bovey Farm.

The economic boom of the Gold Rush and the completion of the South West [railway] Line in 1893 provided real impetus for the sale of and subdivision of land adjacent to the railway.[7] In 1902, the heirs of Charles Gosnell's estate sold Chenies to the newly formed Gosnells Estate Company for £14,200. The property was subdivided forming smaller lots close to the railway and larger farm lots which were allocated depending on the fertility of the soil. Rail transport allowed the new wave of settlers to commute to their businesses in the cities and still maintain the Arcadian dream of living in a rural environment.[8]

> To Escape the abnormally high rents of the metropolis, many a citizen will prefer to have his home in the country, when there is a clean, hard level road over which he can spin to his business in town in 20 or 30 minutes on the bicycle... By its aid the artisan will be able to have his little estate in the country, his garden, his green field his free breakfast table - milk, eggs, vegetables, all his own growing, free wood and water, hygienic surroundings for his children and his Sundays spent in Arcadian simplicity tending his fruit trees and flowers. [9]

John Wilkinson subscribed the popular notion of a rural and Arcadian lifestyle. Born in Ballarat in 1871, he arrived in Western Australia in 1896. A tailor by profession, he bought into a business in Fremantle with his partner W.W. Middleton. Their firm, Wilkinson and Middleton, became 'Among the most popular and best known tailoring emporiums of Western Australia'.[10] In 1905, Wilkinson bought lots 1130 and 1134 from the Gosnells Estate Company. This purchase of 27 acres of land located between Homestead Road and the Canning River in Gosnells, was made with an eye to developing a 'country estate'.

Circa 1910, the Wilkinsons built a one room cottage on the property, which was used for weekend visits prior to the homestead being built. It was situated near a large Jarrah tree.[11] This cottage remained on the property until after the Wilkinson's left in 1969, but has subsequently been removed. [12]

In 1912, a Mr Pope constructed the substantial brick and iron building now known as *Wilkinson Homestead*, for John Wilkinson located to the east of

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6 McDonald and Cooper, op. cit., pp. 50, 59.

7 The Company had proceeded with sub-dividing the land and blocks varied in area from quarter acre to twenty-five acres. Plans were made for a townsite with quarter acre blocks surrounding the railway station. This was done to prevent a repetition of the difficulties which had occurred at neighbouring Maddington where large blocks were sold adjacent to the siding, consequently preventing close settlement to the townsite.

8 McDonald and Cooper, op. cit.. pp. 104,106.

9 *Western Mail*, 17/4/1896 as quoted in McDonald and Cooper, op. cit, p.121.

10 P.W.H. Thiel and Company, *Twentieth Century Impressions*, Perth, 1901.

11 Lucy Wilkinson interviewed by Fern Turner at Wilkinson Homestead 24 March 1998. The Jarrah has been identified in the Municipal Heritage Inventory Place Record Form, LGA place No: G24(b)Wilkinson Orchard, City of Gosnells.

12 Lucy Wilkinson interviewed by Fern Turner at Wilkinson Homestead 24 March 1998.

the aforementioned cottage. John Wilkinson continued to commute to his business, which was by then located in Perth, until 1915 when his orchard was well enough established to begin production.[13]

Initially almond and stone fruit trees were planted. The almonds were to be marketed to Plaistowes confectionery manufacturers in West Perth but this did not prove viable.[14] Along with other growers in the area, Wilkinson joined the Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association. It was through this membership that an American expert, Dr Roland Machin, advised growers that conditions in this area were ideal for citrus production. The growers took up this suggestion after the failure of the stone fruit crop of 1914-15 due to a series of fruit fly infestations. [15]

The Wilkinson family, along with Oscar Lauterbach, W.F. Green [a fruit fly expert] and scores of other growers, came to be at the forefront of Gosnells' development as a major citrus producing area. The recognition that the soils were equal to those of the best citrus growing areas in the world lead to the concentration on citrus rather than mixed orchards.[16]

> ...the dark green discipline of orange groves of the floodplain and the springtime scent of their blossom soon became landmarks of the Gosnells Road District. The suitability of the younger soils for citrus production was recognised at the time the Gosnells Estate was thrown open and within four years, 200 acres of navel oranges had been planted.[17]

John Wilkinson's son Valentine [Val], married Lucy Baxter in 1936. The mantlepiece in the bedroom at the south-east corner of the building was a wedding present given to them by Lucy's cousin, Max Elstein, who was a furniture maker.[18] Val Wilkinson took over operations after his marriage and became a successful orchardist. [19]

Such large scale production of perishable goods led to an expansion of local businesses in the 1920s and 1930s. McKim's fruit processing business was one of those that provided local employment and a market for fruit growers.[20] The Cottees, Plaimars and Bush-Boake-Allen Factories also produced jams and juices, cordials and essences from the fruit.[21] These markets were assisted by the railway network, which allowed for the

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13 McDonald and Cooper, op. cit. p.117.

14 Lucy Wilkinson interviewed by Fern Turner at Wilkinson Homestead 24 March 1998.

15 McDonald and Cooper, op. cit. p. 133.

16 ibid., p. 131. Early Maddington and Gosnells settlers were also responsible for the successful introduction of specialist commercial citrus fruit production, at a time when many farms in Western Australia still had its own mixed orchard.

17 *Western Mail* 13 November 1919, as quoted in McDonald and Cooper, op. cit., p.131.

18 Lucy Wilkinson interviewed by Fern Turner at Wilkinson Homestead 24 March 1998.

19 File entitled `Museum', Gosnells Public Library Local History Collection, no date, no pagination. According to Val Wilkinson, who was President of the South Suburban Fruit Growers Association, the orchard produced up to 100 tons of lemons per annum and between 5-6000 cases of oranges. There are references that relate to the production of citrus on the orchard, but no evidence could be located as to when these yields were achieved.

20 McDonald and Cooper, op. cit., p.189.

21 In 1949, Cottees is listed as `Cottees Passiona Ltd, Stirling Terrace, Albany.` and Plaimar is listed as `Plaimar Ltd, 169 Havelock St, W Perth.' No listing could be found for Bush-Boake and Allen. *Wise's Post Office Directories*, `Trades and Professions', 194', p.849.

transportation of perishable goods.[22]

Other sorts of local business flourished as a direct result of the citrus industry. Due to the dry climate, the Wilkinson orchard and other agricultural properties in the district required irrigation. In many cases this task had to be carried out by hand. As the citrus industry grew, this lead to an increased demand for irrigation technology. After opening his own business in 1923, local businessman Fred Stalker developed a Centrifugal pump in his spare time.[23]

During World War II, the Government paid a guaranteed £21 per ton for oranges and lemons, which were used to supply American servicemen with juice. This provided an economic benefit to the growers of the district, including the Wilkinsons who were able to purchase a grader/cleaner of the sum of £3000 in the late 1940s.[24] A similar device is now housed on the property.

The use of farming technology indicates that the Wilkinson's operation was a large and progressive one since, according to a report on the Citrus growing industry compiled in 1951, orchard tractors, power sprays and fruit grading and washing machines were uncommon in Western Australian orchards.[25] Most of the production was carried on under conditions that, according to the report, wasted both labour and fruit. At this time, the State's citrus industry was confronting difficulties due to an increase in production and labour costs with no corresponding increase in market prices. This certainly affected many orchardists.

The small holdings that had attracted the settlers to the Gosnells estate in the end contributed to the decline in the citrus industry in Gosnells. The orchards were not large enough to make the economies of scale needed to compete in the changing market.[26] Accompanying this was the post-war housing boom, which lead to a new wave of subdivisions. With the orchards becoming unprofitable and the desire for housing competing with previous land uses, many of the orchard properties were sold for subdivision, including the Wilkinson's property.

In 1968, the Visla Corporation, headed by Ron Morellini, bought the Wilkinson property including the Homestead with the intention of subdividing the land to build flats. The council opposed the subdivision and Visla Corporation, after having difficulty meeting the repayments, defaulted to the Town of Gosnells.[27] In 1969, a one acre park was created around the John Okey Davis gravesite which stands at the boundary of the

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22 Lucy Wilkinson interviewed by Fern Turner at Wilkinson Homestead 24 March 1998.

23 McDonald and Cooper, op. cit., p191.

24 Lucy Wilkinson, interview in 'Biographical File, Wilkinson', Gosnells Public Library Local History Collection, no date, no pagination.

25 Stannard, R.W., 'The Citrus Industry of Western Australia: Research Report No. 28', Geographical Laboratory, Department of Economics, University of Western Australia, August 1951.

26 ibid., pp. 10, 6. This report states that in 1948-1949, Gosnells was the fourth largest producer of citrus in the state producing 60,367 Bushels.

27 Val Wilkinson interview, 13/5/1986, opt. cit.

Wilkinson Orchard.[28]

Within the Gosnells area in the late 1970's, there was an increase in the incidents of vandalism, demonstrated by the burning of the Thornlie Homestead. This phenomena, combined with a local tradition of recognising the district's history, lead to the early community interest in the Wilkinson Homestead, which had gradually fallen into disrepair.[29]

Concern for the future of the building was first recorded by the Town Clerk, Mr Whitely, in November 1976:

> The home had probably been built at the beginning of the century and could have some historical value. It is a rambling old bungalow with the old-fashioned wide verandahs all around. It is too good to be pulled down. It could be used as a meeting place or a museum.[30]

The Council and the local Apex Club restored *Wilkinson Homestead* at an estimated cost [in 1977] of $30,000.[31] This included replacing the corrugated iron roof and the ceilings and some rooms were also altered at this time. In November 1980, Mayor R.D. Harris opened the homestead as a community resource centre.[32] It became the headquarters of the Gosnells Historical Society.

On 17 April 1988, the Mayor, as part of Centennial year celebrations re-opened the homestead as the *City of Gosnells Museum* and this use continues to the present [1998]. Out buildings were constructed on the property for the opening of the museum. They include an outdoor lean-to laundry, a replica outhouse, which incorporates shingles from the Thornlie Homestead as its roof, and a barn known as the Agricultural Shed. The latter was not completed until around 1995 and contains many elements recycled from historic buildings. [33]

The Homestead was renamed *Orange Tree Farm* on the 16 June 1994 to commemorate the citrus growing heritage of the district.[34] The Museum collection reflects aspects of life in earlier times in the district including domestic life, agriculture, blacksmithing and brick-making. The collection aims to present artefacts that were used in the district or are examples of the sorts of items used. The museum also provides a schools education programme and a venue for local community meetings and cultural activities. The 'Remember When' project, currently being conducted, will incorporate local memories to produce a play to be performed in October 1998.

The `Heritage Orchard', located at the rear of the homestead, contains remnant orange trees of the Washington Navel variety, that are probably

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28 *The West Australian*, 'South Suburban Section', 17/9/1969, p.4; Telephone conversation with Grant Lowe City of Gosnells Council 10/6/1998. The Park now has 8:3513 Hectares of public open space and, in 1998, is being surveyed by the Parks department of the Gosnells Council.

29 McDonald and Cooper, op. cit., p. 244.

30 *The West Australian*, 'South Suburban Section', 17 November 1976, p.17.

31 *The West Australian*, 4 May 1977.

32 Municipal Heritage Inventory Place Record No G24 (a)/, 'Wilkinson Homestead', City of Gosnells p.2

33 Margaret Le Fevre, President of the Gosnells Historical Society, telephone conversation with Fern Turner, 16 July 1998.

34 File entitled 'Museum' Gosnells Public Library Local History Collection. Not paginated.

forty to fifty years old.[35]

Lucy Wilkinson, the daughter-in-law of John Wilkinson is a volunteer with the museum, continuing the Wilkinson association with the homestead and contributing to the knowledge of it. In May 1998 Mrs Wilkinson received a National Trust 'Living Treasure' award at a ceremony held at the museum.[36]

13. 2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Wilkinson Homestead (also known as Orange Tree Farm and City of Gosnells Museum) is a Federation Bungalow styled stretcher bond brick dwelling with a corrugated Colorbond roof. [37]

It is located in landscaped grounds on the northern side of Homestead Road, Gosnells, adjacent to the Canning River. Three other buildings on the site are related to its use as the Gosnells Museum. These include an agricultural shed located immediately to the east of the Homestead, a replica outhouse located on the lawn to north and a small lean-to structure housing a replica laundry near the north-west corner of the Homestead.

The agricultural shed is a timber framed barn-type structure constructed on two levels following the natural slope of the land. It is clad with vertical rough-sawn weatherboards and has a gabled corrugated Colorbond roof. Whilst the structure was built in stages between 1988 and 1995, it contains recycled building elements including steel framed casement and awning windows, and a number of large timber trusses with steel bracing.[38] The building displays artefacts reflecting the district's agricultural past and has a brick storeroom and plasterboard clad stud-framed office at the southern end. The agricultural shed is connected to the Homestead by a timber framed covered way at the north-west corner of the shed.

The outhouse and lean-to are also timber framed and clad with vertical weatherboards. The outhouse has a shingled gable roof.

The homestead is entered from a gravelled car park located to the west of the museum site. A gently curved brick path, laid in 1988, flanked by cottage style gardens and lawns with mature exotic and native trees leads to the front verandah on the south side of the building. A small citrus orchard, consisting of replanted remnant trees, is located in the grounds at

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35 Greg Bremner, Liaison Officer for Parks, Commercial Services Department, City of Gosnells Council, telephone conversation with Fern Turner, 3 July 1998. Mr Bremner stated that although the trees were of original breeding stock, they were not scientifically significant as they were not a commercially viable genetic line and were characterised by very hard and tart fruit.

36 *The Weekend Examiner*, 5 June 1998, p.5.

37 Apperly, et. al, op. cit.

38 From a file held at the Wilkinson Homestead, no date or source provided. Information verified by Margaret Le Fevre, telephone conversation with Fern Turner, 16 July 1998. Materials used in the construction of the Machinery Shed Wash-house and Outhouse were;- the majority of the pole columns from the Orange Grove Brickworks, vertical boardings and verandah railings purchased from the Ashley Mounsy estate, Purlins from the Fremantle Wool Store, flooring to loft - Maddington Centennial Hall.

the rear of the house. These were replanted from the adjacent park land in 1997.

The half-gabled roof of the homestead has a broken pitch over the wide verandahs that encircle the house. The verandah floors are concrete and the timber posts and beams are unadorned. There is no evidence of decorative timber-work.[39] The roof sheeting and flashings appear in good condition however there is some evidence of rust to gutters and down-pipes. Two chimneys penetrate the roof. The chimney to the east is painted face brick and has a corbeled cap with rendered dressings. The western chimney is also painted face brick but lacks decorative render to its corbeled cap. This chimney may date from a later period or may have been re-constructed.

Whilst the roof of the Homestead is symmetrical the front facade is asymmetrical. The four-panelled timber entry door is centrally located. It has a clear glazed highlight window however glazing to sidelights has been replaced with plain timber panelling. Two small double-hung sash windows are located immediately to the west of the door and a larger double-hung sash is located towards the western corner of front facade. Plaques detailing the history of the Homestead and its dedication as a museum are located to the east of the door. All windows have wrought iron security screens.

The east elevation has two double-hung sash windows with sills to floor level and highlight windows above. The bottom sashes of both windows have additional glazing bars forming a decorative border to the main pane. The verandah is divided half way down its length by a timber trellis screen that adjoins a timber-framed fence and gate adjacent to the building.

The verandah on the western side is divided in a similar way. The west elevation has a centrally located timber panelled door with a highlight window that has been painted over. A small fixed pane window is located to the south of the door and a larger double hung sash window is located to the north. The northern corner of the verandah has been enclosed in brick and contains toilets.

The rear (north) elevation has two double hung sash windows and a single timber panelled door with a wrought iron security screen. The verandah has a timber balustrade as the ground level slopes away at the back of the building. All verandah roofing timbers are painted and appear in good condition since they were replaced when the roof was replaced in 1980.

The interior of the building displays the signs of the 1980 and 1988 renovation. All original ceilings, except for that in the kitchen, have been replaced with plasterboard and have simple coved cornices and decorative replica ceiling roses. New timber picture rails have also been installed. The floors are carpeted except for the front bedroom (denoted sitting room on the plan dated 1991) which has polyurethane coated Jarrah floorboards and the kitchen which has a sheet vinyl floor finish. All timber

[39] A photograph of the Wilkinson Homestead in 1940 shows the decorative timber-work that was present before renovation, HCWA File PD 1127.

architraves, skirtings and four-panelled doors appear original. Most door and window furniture is not original. The light fitting in the front hall appears original or at least of the period.

The building has undergone some minor modification for it to function as a museum. The walls dividing the rooms at the rear of the house have large square openings so that the three spaces now operate as one. The windows are screened with heavy blinds and curtains to stop light affecting the exhibits, some additional lighting has been installed and display cases are fixed to the walls. A display case has been built at the west end of the hallway and obscures a doorway. A servery window has also been installed in the wall of the former bathroom adjacent to the entry hall.

Modifications to the kitchen appear likely to pre-date the buildings use as a museum and include ceramic tiling to the fireplace and splashback, a timber framed cabinet beneath a stainless steel sink and a large square opening in the east wall to enable access to the former pantry. The ceiling appears original fibrous plaster and has been painted with a textured coating.

An ornate Jarrah mantle piece is located on the fireplace in the living room at the rear of the house. The fireplace and hearth are tiled in period ceramics that appear original. The mirror in the top of the mantle piece appears to have been replaced.

A large diagonal crack is evident above the northern corner of the window in the east wall of the sitting room. Minor cracking is also evident in the north wall of the bedroom at the north-west corner of the building.

The mantle piece in the bedroom at the south-east corner of the building is a plain square profile piece of clear finished timber that extends around the edge of the chimneybreast. It is supported on painted timber brackets. The hearth has been tiled in modern ceramics and some termite or other physical damage is evident on the floor adjacent.

13. 3 REFERENCES

Unpublished Sources Courtesy of the Gosnells City Library Local Studies Collection.

13. 4 FURTHER RESEARCH

A report concerning a sacred site near the vicinity of Wilkinson Homestead is held by the Aboriginal Affairs Department.