



# REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

## 11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in September, 1991 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

### 11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE

House B1 and House B2 have aesthetic qualities with their ground hugging appearance and the textural richness of the close spaced verandah posts seen against the soft textures of the stone wall surfaces. The Blacksmith's Shop (B3), and the Barn (B4), with their weather beaten limestone walls and slightly rusted corrugated iron roofs, compliment the two older houses. The aesthetic characteristics of these buildings is valued the community as typical of homestead architecture. (Criterion 1.1)

The beauty imparted by the Tuart forest to the south, the belt of mature Melaleuca trees at the edge of the estuary flats, and the cultivated gardens surrounding the Homestead and School Precincts, contrasting with the open fields, contributes to the aesthetic value of the setting of the place. (Criterion 1.3)

The Homestead and the School Room Precincts have landmark qualities as seen from the Layman Road approach. The planting and buildings of the homestead Precinct have a relationship with the homestead at Lockeville created by the alignment of the former Ballarat railway embankment running between them and the inter-lying estuarine flats. (Criterion 1.3)

The various elements of the fabric of the Homestead and School Room Precincts, both landscape and built, collectively form a significant cultural environment. (Criterion 1.4)

### 11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

*Wonnerup Precinct* is significant in the evolution and pattern of the history of Western Australia. (Criterion 2.1)

The Homestead Precinct is significant for those parts of its garden setting which were laid out in the nineteenth century, and for its nineteenth century and early twentieth century buildings illustrating the evolution of European settlement in the South West of Western Australia. (Criterion 2.1)

The School Room and Teacher's House demonstrate Government involvement in education in the district between 1872 and 1912, and reflect the development of the local farming and timber industries. (Criterion 2.1)

*Wonnerup Precinct* is important in relation to the spearing of George Layman (the elder) in 1841, an event which illustrates the mixed nature of the relationship between the Aborigines and European settlers at the time. (Criterion 2.2)

*Wonnerup Precinct* is important in relation to the opening of the Ballarat timber line in 1871, the opening of the School in 1873, and the arrival of the railway link to Busselton in 1895, all events having great impact on the district. (Criterion 2.2)

*Wonnerup Precinct* is important for its close association with three generations of the Layman family, with Robert Heppinstone and with the Molloy family, members of which have been significant within the history of the State. (Criterion 2.3)

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

*Wonnerup Precinct* has a potential for archaeological research in regard to the earlier buildings which no longer exist. (Criteria 3.1, 3.2)

*Wonnerup Precinct*, a National Trust property, has a potential to be further developed as a teaching and research site. (Criteria 3.1, 3.2)

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

*Wonnerup Precinct* is highly valued by the Busselton community and through the National Trust by the people of Western Australia. (Criterion 4.1)

*Wonnerup Precinct* is significant to the Aboriginal (Nyungar) people owing to the repercussions resulting from the spearing of George Layman. (Criterion 4.1)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

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

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### **12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

*Wonnerup Precinct* demonstrates the principal characteristics of the homesteads associated with the spread of European settlement throughout the south-west of Western Australia. These characteristics include similarities in the fabric, both natural and built, and similarities in the way of life practiced and which mark *Wonnerup* as part of an historic theme. (Criteria 6.1 and 6.2)

### **12. 3 CONDITION**

The buildings at *Wonnerup Precinct*, except for the Blacksmith's shop, are structurally sound and in good condition apart from superficial problems.

For a detailed analysis of condition see John Pidgeon and Craig Burton, Conservation Plan for Wonnerup Western Australia, prepared for the National Trust of Australia (WA) 1995.

### **12. 4 INTEGRITY**

*Wonnerup Precinct* has a high degree of integrity and being in the care of the National Trust, the significant values should have long term viability and sustainability.

For a detailed discussion of integrity see John Pidgeon and Craig Burton, Conservation Plan for Wonnerup Western Australia, prepared for the National Trust of Australia (WA) 1995.

### **12. 5 AUTHENTICITY**

The setting and buildings in *Wonnerup Precinct* have been modified in various ways, which has affected the authenticity of various elements, but overall the place retains its authenticity.

For a detailed discussion authenticity see John Pidgeon and Craig Burton, Conservation Plan for Wonnerup Western Australia, prepared for the National Trust of Australia (WA) 1995.

### **13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE**

The documentary and physical evidence is found in John Pidgeon and Craig Burton, Conservation Plan for Wonnerup Western Australia, prepared for the National Trust of Australia (WA) 1995.

#### **13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE**

For a detailed discussion of the documentary evidence, refer to the Conservation Plan by John Pidgeon and Craig Burton, Conservation Plan for Wonnerup Western Australia, prepared for the National Trust of Australia (WA) 1995.

#### **13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE**

For a detailed discussion of the physical evidence, refer to the Conservation Plan by John Pidgeon and Craig Burton, Conservation Plan for Wonnerup Western Australia, prepared for the National Trust of Australia (WA) 1995.

#### **13.3 REFERENCES**

John Pidgeon and Craig Burton, Conservation Plan for Wonnerup Western Australia, prepared for the National Trust of Australia (WA) 1995.

## HISTORICAL TIME FRAME

- 1829 George Layman arrives in Swan River Colony, having first emigrated to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) in 1827.
- 1832 George Layman is assigned Sussex location 3, 500 acres on the Abba River (in South West Western Australia).
- 1837 Layman acquires title to the land and then purchases the adjacent Lot 4 (site of Wonnerup House) from J T Cooke. Layman subsequently builds a house.
- 1841 George Layman speared by Aboriginals, after a dispute.
- 1859 His son, George Layman II, marries and builds the first stage of House (B2). House (B1) and House (B2) are expanded over the years.
- 1873 George Layman II hands over some land (Reserve 33859) to the colonial government in return for the construction of a school building. The School Room is built.
- 1884 The teacher's house is built nearby.
- 1900s James Layman, youngest son of George Layman II, takes over management of the farm from his father. The Stables are built.
- 1911/12 James Layman dies, leaving his parents and four unmarried daughters to manage the property.
- 1971 National Trust (WA) acquires Wonnerup
- 1973 Wonnerup opens as National Trust historic property.