



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*

Wyening Mission Group (fmr), particularly the Mission House and the Winery, are competent examples of a rural idiom that has been influenced by both local and Spanish vernacular architecture. As a group, they have some importance to the community for their aesthetic characteristics. (Criterion 1.1)

The stone-constructed winery, in its setting on the hillside, is of particular aesthetic value. (Criterion 1.1)

Situated straddling Behanging Road, *Wyening Mission Group (fmr)* is a key visual experience in the area and contributes to the aesthetic qualities of the surrounding rural district. The later sheds complement the Mission House and Winery, and along with the mature trees and plantings, contribute to the density of development and the sense of a rural setting. (Criterion 1.3)

The Mission forms part of a large historic precinct of buildings built by the Spanish Benedictine Monks and relates to New Norcia and its network of outstations. (Criterion 1.4)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Wyening Mission Group (fmr) is a substantial demonstration of the organisation and life-style of an agrarian out-station set up to support the Spanish Benedictine mission in Western Australia. The place is important in the history of European occupation and the evolution of the Calingiri area. It also has some importance to the Aboriginal community for its associations with New Norcia Mission and the historic process of 'Christianisation' and 'assimilation' of Aboriginal people. (Criterion 2.1)

Wyening Mission Group (fmr) is important for its historic involvement with viticulture. As the Benedictines were not able to import wine, Wyening Mission provided altar wine for Catholic Churches throughout the State. This

* 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.

was the only plantation to do so. The Benedictines at Wyening Mission also made the wine for their own consumption, and were allowed half a bottle of wine each, per day. (Criterion 2.2)

Wyening Mission Group (fmr) has important associations with a number of eminent persons such as Bishops Salvado and Torres; the award winning winemaker, August Schwartzbach; the Benedictines; and the Aboriginal people who lived at New Norcia who collectively made an important contribution to the development of the State. (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

The winery at *Wyening Mission Group (fmr)* shows a degree of technical innovation for its period, especially in its use of gravity and the local topography to assist in the process of wine production. (Criterion 3.3)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Wyening Mission Group (fmr) has been highly valued by the local rural community for its public role in the life of the Wyening Valley for over a hundred years. Today the place contributes significantly to the local area through its historic importance and landmark qualities. (Criterion 4.1)

The place has been important to several generations of Benedictines and Aboriginal people from New Norcia who lived and worked there on a transitory and seasonal basis. The place also has some social importance to the wider Aboriginal community for its association with New Norcia. (Criterion 4.1)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Wyening Mission Group (fmr) is rare as one of a handful of monastic complexes built by the Spanish Benedictine monks who founded New Norcia, as a monastic complex which was constructed to provide food and income for the Benedictines, as the only commercial vineyard in the Western Australian wheatbelt; and, as one of the only two vineyards in Australia owned by religious organisations. (Criterion 5.1)

The winery demonstrates a traditional process on viticulture now discontinued in favour of modern techniques, while the stone wells and the stone wash pool demonstrate a pastoral tradition that ended when the district became more closely settled in the 1900s. (Criterion 5.2)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

This place is representative of the way of life of the Benedictine Order in Western Australia and the techniques they used to manage a property as a community. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

Though the elements of this place vary individually, the *Wyening Mission Group (fmr)* is in moderate condition overall and is structurally capable of sustaining remedial work. The place has suffered in recent years from a lack of maintenance.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

The integrity of this place is moderate overall.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

The authenticity of the various elements of *Wyening Mission Group (fmr)* varies, with the Mission House and Manager's House having a low degree of authenticity, the Winery, stone wells, dam and the landscape itself having high authenticity and the remaining elements lying between these points.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Attached are key sections of the supporting evidence prepared by Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd with Dorothy Erickson : 'Wyening Mission and Winery, Victoria Plains : Conservation Plan', prepared for Victoria Plains Tourist Association, December 1996)

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the documentary evidence refer to Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd with Dorothy Erickson : 'Wyening Mission and Winery, Victoria Plains : Conservation Plan', prepared for Victoria Plains Tourist Association, December 1996)

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the physical evidence refer to Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd with Dorothy Erickson : 'Wyening Mission and Winery, Victoria Plains : Conservation Plan', prepared for Victoria Plains Tourist Association, December 1996)

13.3 REFERENCES

Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd with Dorothy Erickson : 'Wyening Mission and Winery, Victoria Plains : Conservation Plan', prepared for Victoria Plains Tourist Association, December 1996)

13.4 FURTHER RESEARCH
