



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 'Brookside and Hillview, Northampton' Conservation Plan with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 2.5 Promoting Settlement
- 3.4.3 Mining
- 3.5 Developing Primary Production
- 6.2 Establishing Schools
- 8.14 Living in the Country and Rural Settlements

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 107 Settlements
- 301 Grazing, Pastoralism and Dairying
- 303 Mining
- 402 Education and Science

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Brookside is a well-designed Federation Bungalow style house attractively sited on the side of a hill, in a setting of paddocks, overlooking the remaining fragments of outbuildings and a tree lined brook. (Criterion 1.1).

Hillview is a ruin exhibiting characteristics of the Victorian Georgian style, and retains some aesthetic value as a ruin. (Criterion 1.1)

Brookside and *Hillview* are set in well-chosen locations and, notwithstanding their poor condition and the loss or modification of their immediate historic cultivated landscape surrounds, they make a positive

* 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.

aesthetic contribution to the culturally modified landscape in which they are set. (Criterion 1.3)

11. 2. HISTORIC VALUE

Brookside and *Hillview* are early residences in the Wheal Fortune area of Northampton, and provide evidence of the development of mining and pastoral enterprises in the region, having been built for William Rosser (the elder), one of the most notable local mine proprietors, in the period when lead and copper mining at the Northampton mineral field was a major contributor to the Colony's exports. The Wheal Fortune, West Wheal Virgin and Kirton's mines associated with William Rosser were critical to the economic development of Northampton between 1859 and 1960. (Criterion 2.1)

Brookside was utilised for services for Methodists, and later for the Salvation Army, before purpose-built facilities were available. From 1913 to 1934, Brookside School was established in an outbuilding at *Brookside* to provide the education required by law, which in turn retained the labour force in the district. (Criterion 2.2)

Brookside, Hillview & Surrounds was built for William Rosser (the elder) in the late 1870s-80s, one of a group of five Welsh miners who arrived in 1859 to work on the development of the Northampton mines, and who, together with their families, made a significant contribution to the development of the region. The Rosser family owned and occupied *Brookside* and *Hillview* until 1967 and 1944 respectively, and are remembered as generous and gracious members of the local community, particularly during the time that William (the elder) and his wife Rachel 'Granny' Rosser were alive. (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Brookside, Hillview & Surrounds are valued by the Northampton community as the home of William Rosser (the elder) and his family, whose mining interests were critical in the development of the area and who supported the provision of education for local children by allowing Brookside School to operate out of one of *Brookside's* outbuildings. The importance of *Brookside* and *Hillview* to the community of Northampton is evidenced by their inclusion in the Municipal inventory. (Criterion 4.1)

Brookside, Hillview & Surrounds contribute to the community's sense of place as two of a small number of nineteenth century residences remaining in the *Wheal Fortune* area. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Brookside, Hillview & Surrounds are part of an important body of evidence of built fabric associated with the successful Wheal Fortune, West Wheal Virgin and Kirton's mines. (Criterion 5.1)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Brookside, Hillview & Surrounds are representative of places developed in the district after 1870, associated with farming and mining. The houses and outbuildings represent, albeit by way of ruined fragments, the fabric of places associated with farming practices from the time of their construction, through to the 1960s. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

Brookside, Hillview & Surrounds are in varying states of ruin. *Brookside* has lost part of its roof and its entire west wall. The stables, walled garden and school are fragments of the original structures and the dairy is in a parlous state. The house is in urgent need of stabilisation, while all other standing ruins require stabilisation in the near future to ensure that they will endure. *Brookside* is in poor condition.

Hillview has lost its roof, front and rear verandahs. Part of the north and west walls have collapsed. *Hillview* is in fair to poor condition.

Both places were constructed of stone laid in pug and were finished with limewash, which protected the pug jointing. All of these walls are vulnerable due to the collapsed areas of walling and wall tops exposed by the removal of roofing.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

The original intention of *Brookside, Hillview & Surrounds* remains intact, although some of the outbuildings at *Brookside* would require interpretation to make these intentions clear. All of the historic elements at both locations have ceased to be used for their intended purpose.

The values are likely to be diminished if further attrition continues and work on conservation would need to commence in the near future if the values are to be sustained.

In view of the abandonment of use, decay and the risk of the loss of some of the values, the place has a moderate degree of integrity.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

Brookside is essentially the remains of the building following its development to the maximum extent. What remain are substantial fragments of the historic development of the house and outbuildings. The degree of authenticity remains high.

Hillview was modified significantly with the addition of concrete floors, the replacement of original doors, and the application of cement render over the limewashed random-course stone walls. There was a laundry added to the

western end of the house and a connecting door introduced, then windows were replaced with louvres. Much of what remains is authentic fabric, although evidence of the cumulative changes is also a significant part of the remaining fabric. This building retains a moderate degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Supporting evidence has been taken from Considine and Griffiths, Architects, 'Brookside and Hillview, Northampton: Conservation Plan', prepared for Barbara Williams, October 2002.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the documentary evidence, refer to Considine and Griffiths, Architects, 'Brookside and Hillview, Northampton: Conservation Plan', prepared for Barbara Williams, October 2002, pp. 1-64.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the physical evidence, refer to Considine and Griffiths, Architects, 'Brookside and Hillview, Northampton: Conservation Plan', prepared for Barbara Williams, October 2002, pp.65-123.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

For a discussion of the comparative information, refer to Considine and Griffiths, Architects, 'Brookside and Hillview, Northampton: Conservation Plan', prepared for Barbara Williams, October 2002. pp.127-128.

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

Considine and Griffiths, Architects, 'Brookside and Hillview, Northampton: Conservation Plan', prepared for Barbara Williams, October 2002.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH
