



## 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 Slater Homestead Conservation Plan prepared by Laura Gray, Heritage and Conservation Consultant, Irene Sauman, Historian, and Gaye Nayton, Archaeologist, for the Shire of Goomalling, in June 2002, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

#### PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 3.3.4 Looking for land with agricultural potential
- 3.4.5 Tapping natural energy sources
- 3.5 Developing primary production
- 3.22 Lodging people
- 4.5 Making settlements to serve rural Australia
- 6.5 Educating people in remote places
- 8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

#### HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 107 Settlements
- 301 Grazing, pastoralism and dairying
- 311 Hospitality industry and tourism
- 402 Education and science
- 406 Religion
- 507 Water, power, major transport routes
- 602 Early settlers

#### 11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE\*

*Slater Homestead* is a landmark on the Goomalling-Dowerin Road, situated south of the road on a sweeping bend and is clearly viewed from both east and west approaches. (Criterion 1.3)

*Slater Homestead*, a significant rural cultural environment comprising the c1856 and 1907 homestead, c1868 schoolhouse, c1889 inn ruin, c1860 barn and c1889 outbuilding ruin, together with 2 wells, fences, plantings and various other elements, has a significant visual impact on the wheatbelt roadside vista in which it is situated. (Criterion 1.3)

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\* 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.

The stone construction homestead, schoolhouse and barn are fine examples of the Victorian Georgian style of architecture, applied in a rural setting, and together with the remaining elements, form a significant group demonstrating the development of *Slater Homestead*. (Criteria 1.3 & 1.4)

## **11. 2. HISTORIC VALUE**

Established in the mid 1850s, *Slater Homestead* was the first European settlement in the area east of the Avon Valley. *Slater Homestead* was established on a natural water source and pre-contact Aboriginal watering place, the Goomalling Spring, from which the name Goomalling derived. (Criterion 2.1)

*Slater Homestead* provided hospitality to a number of travelers through the area, both from the homestead, providing accommodation to explorers and pioneers from its establishment in the mid 1850s, and from the licensed inn, established in c.1890 to cater for gold seekers and travelers. (Criterion 2.2)

*Slater Homestead* was owned and built by George Slater, who was the first permanent settler east of the Avon Valley, and a respected and committed member of the Goomalling community. He was elected the inaugural Chairperson of the Goomalling Farmer's Association in 1896, was instrumental in facilitating the wheat storage facility at the railway siding to assist local farmers, and in 1906 established the Catholic Church and Convent in Goomalling. (Criterion 2.3)

A number of significant explorers, including John Forrest, mounted their expeditions from *Slater Homestead*, and travelers and gold seekers travelling along the goldfields road in the early 1890s, including Arthur Bayley who later discovered gold at Coolgardie, also lodged at *Slater Homestead*, when it offered the facilities of a wayside inn. (Criterion 2.3)

*Slater Homestead* is a significant example of the achievement of one family in establishing and developing a substantial agricultural settlement in the relatively remote area east of the Avon Valley, from the mid 1850s. During its years of operation, *Slater Homestead* extended as a pastoral homestead, to include facilities for the purposes of breeding horses, developing a vineyard, educating the family, and providing hospitality for the passing gold seekers. (Criterion 2.4)

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

As the first settlement in the area east of the Avon Valley in the 1850s, the potential archaeological record associated with *Slater Homestead* can provide information on the social, farming and cultural system in rural Western Australia from the 1850s. (Criterion 3.1)

*Slater Homestead* and Goomalling Spring were important stopping places on the route to the Yilgarn Goldfields and have the potential to inform on the materials taken to the goldfields by miners and early explorers. (Criterion 3.2)

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

The value of *Slater Homestead* is demonstrated by the use of the place as the venue for a centenary celebration in 1929, and by the various attempts made by the Shire of Goomalling to purchase *Slater Homestead* over the past decade, when the place had stood empty and derelict. (Criterion 4.1)

*Slater Homestead* contributes to the wheatbelt and wider Western Australian communities' sense of place through its association with George Slater, and as the place of the initial development of the region and town of Goomalling. (Criterion 4.2)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **12.1. RARITY**

*Slater Homestead* is a rare group of intact pastoral settlement buildings, comprising the original homestead and extension, schoolhouse, inn, barn, outbuildings, wells, plantings, fences and various other elements, dating from the mid 1850s. (Criterion 5.1)

### **12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

*Slater Homestead* is a representative example of a pastoral outpost settlement that was extended over time, from the 1850s to the early twentieth century. (Criterion 6.1)

*Slater Homestead* clearly demonstrates and represents a range of activities associated with the way of life for three generations of the Slater family, east of the Avon Valley. (Criterion 6.2)

### **12.3 CONDITION**

The buildings that comprise *Slater Homestead* range from fair to good condition. No maintenance or works had taken place for many years until 2002, when works were undertaken by a local tradesman, Glen Beveridge. The homestead (both stages), barn and schoolhouse were re-roofed with short sheets of galvanised sheeting, the verandahs of the homestead and schoolhouse were leveled and posts restored or reconstructed, and some new timbers introduced to the west end of the barn roof. All the windows and doors in the homestead and schoolhouse, and doors in the barn, were restored, and drainage installed to each building and across the site.

### **12.4 INTEGRITY**

The intention of the place, as a pastoral settlement, remains evident, although in 2002 *Slater Homestead* has been vacant for many years. Minimal incremental changes to the use of the place took place over the years from when it was first established in c.1856, until it was vacated over 100 years later. The place demonstrates a moderate to high degree of integrity.

### **12.5 AUTHENTICITY**

*Slater Homestead* is mostly intact, except for the inn and outbuilding, which are ruins. The place has a moderate to high degree of authenticity. The original c.1856 homestead demonstrates the highest degree of authenticity, with minimal evidence of alteration to the original fabric despite the enclosure of the east verandah addition of the west wing. The c.1868 schoolhouse also demonstrates a high degree of authenticity. The barn has undergone change that reflects the ongoing development of its function in the farm setting, and has also retained a high degree of authenticity. The fabric of the ruins has a high degree of authenticity. Conservation works completed in 2002 have not diminished the authenticity of the place.

### **13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE**

Key sections of the supporting evidence have been taken from 'Slater Homestead Conservation Plan', prepared by Laura Gray, Heritage and Conservation Consultant, Irene Sauman, Historian, and Gaye Nayton, Archaeologist, for the Shire of Goomalling, in June 2002.

Key sections include: 3.0 Documentary Evidence (p6-20), 4.0 Physical Evidence (p21-74), 5.0 Analysis of Evidence (75-77), 8.0 Levels of Significance (p84).

#### **13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE**

For a discussion of the Documentary Evidence, refer to 'Slater Homestead Conservation Plan', prepared by Laura Gray, Heritage and Conservation Consultant, Irene Sauman, Historian, and Gaye Nayton, Archaeologist, for the Shire of Goomalling, in June 2002.

#### **13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE**

For a discussion of the Physical Evidence, refer to 'Slater Homestead Conservation Plan', prepared by Laura Gray, Heritage and Conservation Consultant, Irene Sauman, Historian, and Gaye Nayton, Archaeologist, for the Shire of Goomalling, in June 2002.

#### **13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION**

For a Comparative Analysis, refer to 'Slater Homestead Conservation Plan', prepared by Laura Gray, Heritage and Conservation Consultant, Irene Sauman, Historian, and Gaye Nayton, Archaeologist, for the Shire of Goomalling, in June 2002.

#### **13.4 KEY REFERENCES**

'Slater Homestead Conservation Plan', prepared by Laura Gray, Heritage and Conservation Consultant, Irene Sauman, Historian, and Gaye Nayton, Archaeologist, for the Shire of Goomalling, in June 2002.

#### **13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH**

The length of time that the Goomalling Inn operated for is unknown.