



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*

Wanerenooka Mine Site has aesthetic interest for the landscape in which the sites are located, arranged along a valley, the way in which the sites are organised and positioned within that landscape, and for the relationship of the buildings to each other (particularly in the northern area of the precinct with sites 1 to 6). (Criterion 1.3)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Wanerenooka Mine Site has historic significance as the earliest mine in the Northampton area and the second copper mine in Western Australia, preceded only by the short-lived White Peak Mine. (Criterion 2.2)

Wanerenooka Mine Site contained the earliest European community in the Northampton area, forming the basis for later settlement throughout the region and the formation of the town. It also housed the original government services to the area. (Criterion 2.2)

The place was an early point of contact between Aboriginal people and Europeans. (Criterion 2.2)

The place is strongly associated with the philanthropist and former convict Joseph Lucas Horrocks and the development of his utopian ideas, which culminated in the Gwalla Estate. It is also associated with G. Shenton, W. Padbury, C.A. Manning, G. Leake, W. Brockman, F. Wittenoom, L. Samson, R. Scholl and other major merchants and capitalists who invested in mining activities and other ventures throughout the Midwest. (Criterion 2.3)

11.3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, R., Irving, R., Reynolds, P., *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present* Angus & Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

The shafts of the *Wanerenooka Mine Site* contain evidence of some of the earliest below-ground mining activity in Western Australia, as well as other evidence of the operation of early winding and pumping gear. (Criterion 3.1)

The structural remains of the buildings at this place provide information on early vernacular construction in the Midwest region. (Criterion 3.1, Criterion 3.2)

The structural and artefact evidence and its distribution across the landscape provide insights into the organisation of mid-19th century mines and mine communities. (Criterion 3.2)

The archaeological deposits associated with the *Wanerenooka* settlement provide invaluable and irreplaceable evidence of the diet, supply and lifestyles of the miners and their families on the frontier site. (Criterion 3.2)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

The place has social value to the local community as the original settlement from which the town of Northampton developed. As public awareness of the history and national significance of *Wanerenooka Mine Site* increases, its social significance is likely to increase. (Criterion 4.1)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1. RARITY

Wanerenooka Mine Site is the first settlement, first copper mine and first mining community in the Northampton area, and many elements of the original mine and settlement (1856 to 1868) have survived almost undisturbed. (Criterion 5.1)

The place demonstrates a way of life and industrial activity no longer found in Australia. (Criterion 5.2)

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Wanerenooka Mine Site is representative of mid-19th century mining activity on the then remote frontier of European settlement in Western Australia, and demonstrates the organisation and nature of a mine settlement and community of that era. (Criterion 6.2)

The place demonstrates the techniques and technology of mid-19th century mining, ranging from relatively crude removal of ore to the introduction of steam-powered machinery. (Criterion 6.2)

12.3 CONDITION

The ruins of the structures at *Wanerenooka Mine Site*. are either in a deteriorating condition or have been graded clear of rubble to foundation level. The surface and some sub-surface deposits of artefacts located throughout the site have been vulnerable to fossickers and collectors.

12.4 INTEGRITY

The place retains a high degree of integrity and is sustainable as an industrial archaeological site.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

With the exception of demolition and deterioration over time into their current ruinous states, the building fabric and sites within the *Wanerenooka Mine Site* have not been significantly altered. Neither have the intermittent salvage of materials and disturbance by both fossickers and animals compromised the high authenticity of the place.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Attached are key sections of the supporting evidence prepared by Considine and Griffiths, Architects, with Dr Martin Gibbs of Palassis Architects: 'Historic Wanerenooka Mine Precinct Conservation Report', (prepared for the Shire of Northampton, August 1996).

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the documentary evidence refer to Considine and Griffiths, Architects, with Dr Martin Gibbs of Palassis Architects: 'Historic Wanerenooka Mine Precinct Conservation Report', (prepared for the Shire of Northampton, August 1996).

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the physical evidence refer to Considine and Griffiths, Architects, with Dr Martin Gibbs of Palassis Architects: 'Historic Wanerenooka Mine Precinct Conservation Report', (prepared for the Shire of Northampton, August 1996).

13.3 REFERENCES

Considine and Griffiths, Architects, with Dr Martin Gibbs of Palassis Architects: 'Historic Wanerenooka Mine Precinct Conservation Report', (prepared for the Shire of Northampton, August 1996).

13.4 FURTHER RESEARCH
