



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 documentation for this place is based on the heritage assessment completed by Kris Bizzaca, Historian, and Fiona Bush, Heritage Consultant, in May 2004, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 4.1.2 Making suburbs
- 3.5.3 Developing agricultural industries

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 104 Land allocation & subdivision
- 302 Rural industry & market gardening
- 603 Early settlers

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Whilst *Holmesdale* is a comparatively small, unassuming building, the restrained use of elements of the Queen Anne style has created a house that has an interesting form and carefully expressed details. The stonework and rendered details in the c.1890 cottage section display a high level of craftsmanship. (Criterion 1.2)

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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.
For consistency, all references to garden and landscape types and styles are taken from Ramsay, J. *Parks, Gardens and Special Trees: A Classification and Assessment Method for the Register of the National Estate*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

11. 2. HISTORIC VALUE

Holmesdale has associations with the early development of the Darlington area in the late nineteenth century as an agricultural district and as a holiday destination during the first quarter of the twentieth century. (Criterion 2.1 & 2.2)

The place has associations with the Darlington Vineyard first established by Dr. Alfred Waylen in the 1880s. (Criterion 2.2)

Holmesdale was constructed for Hon. Josceline Amherst, who became Dr Alfred Waylen's business partner in the Darlington Vineyard in 1886. Amherst was Private Secretary to Governor Broome and Clerk to the Executive Council, and became a prominent member of the Darlington area serving as President of the Royal Agricultural Society, President of the Swan Wine and Fruit Growers' Association, and a founding member of the Darling Range Roads Board. (Criterion 2.3)

Since its original construction in c.1890, *Holmesdale* has been in the ownership of only four individuals/families: J. Amherst, retired publican John Chipper, the Saw family and lastly the Hammond family, who remain the owners and occupants in 2005. (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Holmesdale is valued by the local community for its contribution to the built environment and historical development of the Darlington and larger Mundaring area, and as a result contributes to this community's sense of place. This is evidenced by its inclusion in the Shire of Mundaring Municipal Inventory. (Criterion 4.1 & 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Holmesdale is a modest example of a house designed in Federation Queen Anne style. (Criterion 6.1)

Holmesdale is an example of a place that was used by a Perth family as holiday or short stay accommodation during the 1920s and 1930s. (Criterion 6.2)

12.3 CONDITION

Holmesdale is in fair condition with minor cracking to some of the walls and a rising damp problem in one of the interior walls.

12.4 INTEGRITY

Despite the additions made to the c.1890 cottage section, the original layout has not been altered and it is possible to determine the original extent of the c.1890 cottage. Later extensions have also remained intact, with the exception of the creation of a bathroom (room 6) and corridor in what used to be a bedroom, and alterations to the 1950s sunroom (now rooms 8 and 9). The house continues to be used as a family residence. *Holmesdale* has a high degree of integrity.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

Despite additions to the original c.1890 cottage, the majority of the alterations are self-contained within their time period and therefore the fabric in the various additions is still original for that particular addition. The exception to this is the addition of diagonal cross members to the verandah, the new timber porch and stone steps to the front of the original cottage and new stud walls in rooms 6 and 8. *Holmesdale* has retained a high degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Kris Bizzaca, Historian. The physical evidence has been compiled by Fiona Bush, Heritage Consultant.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Holmesdale is a single storey stone and iron house, in a simplified form of Federation Queen Anne style, constructed in four phases (c.1890 granite stone cottage, c.1910s dolerite stone extension, 1920s stone extension to northeast, 1950s stone sunroom). The initial c.1890 section was constructed for Josceline Amherst.

Dr Alfred Waylen was the first European to purchase land in Darlington. Waylen purchased three 50 acre blocks in 1883 (Lots 951, 952 and 953) on which he established a vineyard. By March 1886, Waylen had planted 24 acres with vines, fenced a 30 acre paddock (four acres of which were cleared) and built a four room cottage and stable. He named the vineyard 'Darlington'.

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Alfred Robert Waylen was born in Western Australia in 1833. He received his medical education in England and, on his return to Western Australia, established a medical practice in Guildford where he served as medical officer for the Guildford Convict Depot (1859 - 1872). Between 1872 - 1895 he was Western Australia's Colonial Surgeon and principal medical officer.² Waylen established a vineyard on his Guildford property 'Garden Hill' in 1859. By 1860, Waylen together with Dr John Ferguson, William Harris, Joseph Hardey and John Wall Hardey had become one of the leading wine producers in the colony.³ He married Elizabeth Hardey in 1862. She died in 1885 and Waylen re-married Sir Luke Leake's widow, Lady Louisa, in 1887.⁴

The second stage of the Eastern Railway, between Guildford and Chidlow's Wells (Chidlow) was completed in 1884. After the line was opened, the area close to Waylen's vineyard was surveyed and sub-divided into twenty-one suburban lots. The lots lay on either side of the railway line and did not initially attract much attention although Waylen purchased Lot 71 in 1886.⁵

The vines grew successfully in the Darlington soils and in 1886, Waylen decided to enlarge his business by advertising for share holders in his enterprise. A rather large advertisement was lodged in the *West Australian* on 31 March 1886 seeking at least ten investors. The Hon. Josceline G. H.

1 *West Australian*, 31/3/1886; Tuckfield, T., 'Darlington from the beginning', Mundaring and Hills Historical Society, Darlington file, n.d., p.3.

2 Erickson, R., *The Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians pre 1829 - 1888*, Vol. 4, UWA Press, Nedlands, 1988, p. 3235; Bourke, M., *On the Swan: a history of the Swan District of Western Australia*, UWA Press, Nedlands, 1987, p. 198.

3 Bourke, op. cit., pp. 211 - 212.

4 Erickson, op. cit., p. 3235.

5 Elliot, I., *Mundaring, a history of the Shire, Shire of Mundaring*, Mundaring, 1983, pp. 40, 192 - 4.

Amherst, Governor Broome's private secretary and also Clerk to the Executive Council, answered the advertisement and became Waylen's business partner.⁶

Amherst built a cottage, *Holmesdale*, in c1890, on a portion of Lot 71 that is said to have been given to him by Waylen.⁷

Certificates of Title show that the land on which *Holmesdale* stands was transferred with a moiety from Waylen to Amherst on 17 June 1889.⁸ By this time, Governor Broome had returned to England and, after visiting London, Amherst came back to Western Australia in 1888 to manage the Darlington vineyard.⁹

Holmesdale had been constructed on the property by early April 1890. A report of a visit to the Darlington area described the place as follows:

Mr. Amherst's dwelling, a neat little *chalet* built of blue granite, stands on an elevation overlooking almost the whole of the property...

Immediately behind the house is an orchard of about 9 acres, well stocked with flourishing young trees, including several varieties of apple, pear, plum, peach, apricot, greengage, etc. This plot might easily be irrigated from two wells close by, each giving a splendid supply of fresh water.¹⁰

The newspaper article goes on to discuss the recent construction of a substantial wine store (*Darlington Hall*) also built from blue granite. At the end of the building was a 'neat little office' with a desk and other timber work constructed by Amherst. The newspaper article states:

Indeed, his handiwork here and above at his dwelling house proves that a cultured English gentleman may quickly develop into a first-class self-reliant settler.¹¹

After the completion of his house in c. 1890, Amherst named it *Holmesdale* after his family's estate in Kent. Amherst was the fifth son of William Pitt Amherst, Earl of Aracon in the West Indies, Viscount Holmesdale of Kent, and Baron Amherst of Kent.¹²

Holmesdale comprised four rooms; a large lounge and dining area, a bedroom and a kitchen. From many accounts, it is said that Amherst lived the life of a gentleman bachelor there, riding and shooting on the property as he would have in England. Amherst was actively involved in the management of the Darlington vineyard and took great interest in horticulture and the development of the industry and area as a whole. He served as President of the Royal Agricultural Society, President of the Swan Wine and Fruit Growers' Association, and was a member of the Swan Road Board.¹³ Amherst was also one of the original members of the Darling Range Roads Board, which

6 Elliot, op. cit., pp. 193 - 194.

7 Elliot, op. cit., pp. 193 - 194.

8 Certificate of Title, Vol. 21, Fol. 93.

9 Elliot, op. cit., p. 194; Erickson, op. cit., Vol. 1, p. 36.

10 *West Australian*, 5/4/1890.

11 Ibid.

12 Elliot, op. cit., p. 194.

13 Ibid.;, op. cit., Vol. 1, p. 36; *Western Mail*, 10/2/1900.

was gazetted on 30 April 1897.¹⁴ He was nominated to the Legislative Council on 24 December 1890 and served until July 1894.¹⁵

A photograph of *Holmesdale* taken in 1896 shows the north-west side of the building. This side view shows an opening in the verandah approximately midway along this elevation together with a handrail running around the verandah and a bottom rail. A weatherboard lean-to is visible at the north-west end of the building. Rows of vines can be seen growing in the foreground.¹⁶

Amherst died at *Holmesdale* after a short illness on 1 February 1900.¹⁷ The next year Waylen died on 10 January 1901 and probate was granted to the West Australian Trustee Executor and Agency Co. Ltd.¹⁸

After Amherst's death, *Holmesdale* became occupied by retired publican John Charles Chipper.¹⁹ Chipper had been the licensee of the John Bull Inn in Perth (later known as *The Criterion Hotel*) and then the Mundaring Hotel.²⁰ He was registered as the owner of *Holmesdale* on 19 October 1904.²¹

Chipper gained notoriety amongst Darlington's residents when he divorced his third wife in 1905; the stormy results of which are said to have been cause for much gossip for many weeks.²² He died on 17 February 1906, and probate of his will was granted to Harry Brown of Perth on 15 May of that year.²³

On 13 September 1906, ownership of *Holmesdale* was transferred to William Allnut Saw, civil servant of Perth.²⁴ Saw trained as a surveyor and eventually became the Inspector of Plans and Surveyors and the Assistant Registrar of Titles at the State's Department of Land and Surveys.²⁵

The Saws are said to have primarily used the place as a holiday home.²⁶ This type of occupancy is indicated in *Wise's Post Office Directories*, which list William Saw as a resident in the Darlington area from c. 1908 to c. 1919.²⁷ Saw is again listed at Darlington Road in *Wise's Post Office Directories* from

14 Elliot, op. cit., pp. 276 - 78.

15 Black, D. & Bolton, G., *Biographical Register of Members of the Parliament of Western Australia, Vol. 1 1870 - 1930*, Perth, 1990, p. 27.

16 Photograph held by Mundaring & Hills Historical Society.

17 Certificate of Title, Vol. 21, Fol. 93; *Western Mail*, 10/2/1900.

18 Certificate of Title, Vol. 21, Fol. 93. After Waylen's death, Darlington Vineyard was purchased by Robert Holmes, a Perth wine merchant. Holmes sub-divided the vineyard into two sections, leaving the land on the northern side (Loc. 591) of the railway operating as a vineyard and subdividing the land on the southern side (Locs. 592 and 593). (Certificate of Title, Vol. 335, Fol. 135; Elliot, op. cit., p. 198.)

19 *Wise's Post Office Directories*, 1902 - 1906.

20 Elliot, op. cit., p. 197; Erickson, op. cit., Vol. 1, p. 527.

21 Certificate of Title, Vol. 21, Fol. 93; Certificate of Title, Vol. 318, Vol. 184.

22 *Swan Express*, 9/9/1905, cited in Elliot, op. cit., p. 197; Erickson, op. cit., Vol. 1, p. 527.

23 Certificate of Title, Vol. 318, Fol. 184.

24 Certificate of Title, Vol. 318, Fol. 184; Certificate of Title, Vol. 377, Fol. 200.

25 Erickson, op. cit., Vol. 4, p. 2738; Elliot, op. cit., p. 197.

26 Conversation between Fiona Bush & John Hammond (current owner of the property), 27/3/2004.

27 *Wise's Post Office Directories*, 1908 - 1919.

1934/1935 to 1937/1938.²⁸ In the intervening years, *Holmesdale* appears to have been used by his son as well as a rental property (see below).

In November 1915, May Gwendoline Saw, William's wife, of Bellevue Terrace, Perth was registered as the owner of the property.²⁹ In the decades following, the *Holmesdale* property, which at this time still comprised approximately 80 acres, was gradually subdivided. Land surrounding the *Holmesdale* site went to the Saw's eldest son, Walter William Saw, and his wife, Alison Sydney Owen Saw, but *Holmesdale* itself remained in May Saw's ownership.³⁰

Walter and Alison Saw are listed as having resided at *Holmesdale* intermittently from 1925 to 1933/1934, at about the same time that they became the owners of the adjoining land in the early 1920s.³¹ In 1924, a portion of the Saw estate was laid out as a golf course. A small club house was erected on the property (some distance from *Holmesdale*) and the golf club was active for some ten years before folding and the course falling into disrepair.³²

By the turn of the century, the hills district of Mundaring had developed a reputation for clean air and its slightly elevated position soon made it a popular resort area for convalescents, particularly those suffering from tuberculosis. The notion of clean air also attracted wealthier Perth citizens who purchased land and constructed weekenders. Darlington in particular was considered a local beauty spot in the hills. The presence of a railway station also made the area popular as it was easy to gain access to jobs in the city while living in the hills.³³ The attraction of the hills as a holiday destination developed to such an extent that by the 1920s, guest houses were established (both in existing homes and new buildings) to cater to the wider holiday trade.³⁴

During the Saws' occupancy of *Holmesdale*, a number of additions were made to the place to facilitate its use by the large family. The works occurred prior to the late 1940s and comprised the construction of two bedrooms, a new kitchen on the north-east side of the building. The Saws also constructed a garage on the north-eastern side of the house.³⁵

From June 1941 to 1949, *Holmesdale* was rented and occupied by the Gare family. Sally Hertzfeld (nee Gare) recalls that the place then consisted of 5 acres, with the tennis court some distance from the house. The grounds of the house included lawns and a large rose garden, and there was a hedge on

28 *Wise's Post Office Directories*, 1934/1935 – 1937/1938.

29 Certificate of Title, Vol. 377, Fol. 200; Certificate of Title, Vol. 633, Fol. 101.

30 Certificate of Title, Vol. 633, Fol. 101; Erickson, op. cit., Vol. 4, p. 2738.

31 *Wise's Post Office Directories*, 1925 – 1933/1934; Certificate of Title, Vol. 633, Fol. 101.

32 Elliot, op. cit., p. 197; Conversation between Fiona Bush & Sally Hertzfeld (nee Gare. Mrs Hertzfeld lived in *Holmesdale* from 1941 to 1949), 30/3/2004.

33 Elliot, op. cit., p. 200.

34 Elliot, op. cit., p. 201.

35 Conversation between Fiona Bush & John Hammond (current owner of the property), 27/3/2004; National Trust of Australia (WA), *Holmesdale*, classification documentation, 7/7/1980.

the north-east side (front) of the property that was planted by her mother, Mrs. Gare.³⁶

On 8 August 1947, Margaret Joyce Hammond was registered as the owner of *Holmesdale*.³⁷ The Hammond family lived at the residence from 1949, and John Hammond and his wife, Ani Hammond, continue to reside at the place in 2005. The Hammonds carried out some alterations to *Holmesdale* in the early years of their occupation of the place, including the enclosure and rebuilding of the north-east verandah section, which was initially used as a sun-room and later converted into two separate rooms, and the installation of timber cross braces in the verandah balustrades.³⁸

In 1980, plans were made to subdivide the remaining 5 acres on which *Holmesdale* was located for residential purposes. This went ahead in the early 1980s. At this time, John and Ani Hammond, both of Darlington, became the proprietors of *Holmesdale*.³⁹ During their occupancy of the house they removed the original front timber steps and replaced them with stone steps and added a small timber porch. They also added a stud wall to the sun room to create an additional bedroom.⁴⁰

Holmesdale was classified by the National Trust of Australia (WA) in July 1980 and placed on the Shire of Mundaring's Municipal Inventory in April 1997.

In August 2005, *Holmesdale* continues to be the residence of owners John and Ani Hammond.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Holmesdale is a single storey stone and iron house, displaying a simplified form of Federation Queen Anne style, constructed in four phases (c.1890 granite stone cottage, c.1910s dolerite stone extension, 1920s stone extension to northeast, 1950s stone sunroom). The original c.1890 section was constructed for Josceline Amherst.

The house is located on the western side of Darlington Road in a residential area of land that falls away gently to the south west. The place is screened from the road by a hedge approximately 1.5 metres high. Three large carob trees are located on either side of the concrete drive. The garden, on either side of the driveway, has been planted with a variety of cottage style plants

³⁶ Conversation between Fiona Bush & Sally Hertzfeld (nee Gare), 30/3/2004; Mundaring & Hills Historical Society (Inc.) (ed), *Patchwork of Memories, the story of women in the Shire of Mundaring whose lives made a difference*, Bruce Publishing, Perth, 2000.

³⁷ Certificate of Title, Vol. 1561, Fol. 255.

³⁸ Conversation between Fiona Bush & John Hammond (current owner of the property), 27/3/2004; Conversation between Fiona Bush & Sally Hertzfeld (nee Gare. Mrs Hertzfeld lived in Holmesdale from 1941 to 1949), 30/3/2004.

³⁹ Information from National Trust of Australia (WA), *Holmesdale*, classification documentation, 7/7/1980; Certificate of Title, Vol. 1080, Fol. 303; Certificate of Title, Vol. 1561, Fol. 255; Certificate of Title, Vol. 1915, Fol. 761.

⁴⁰ Conversation between Fiona Bush & John Hammond (current owner of the property), 27/3/2004.

such as: geraniums, several species of roses, agapanthus, etc. The remains of stone terracing, which may date from the time of Amherst's time, can still be seen on the south east and south west side of the house.

Holmesdale has been constructed from random rubble stone walling with rendered quoins to openings and corners. A verandah, with stop chamfered timber posts, decorative brackets and a timber floor, runs around the south-west and north-west sides of the building. All external timberwork is painted white. Due to the slope of the block, the south-west end of the building is two storied. The ground floor is occupied by a cellar. The hipped and gable roof is clad with grey corrugated galvanised iron and there are two rendered chimneys with corbelled tops. The house is roughly 'L' shaped in plan and was constructed in four distinct phases.

Phase 1: This wing (original cottage) was constructed for Amherst in c.1890 and consists of the main, long section of the 'L' and runs in a south-west, north-east direction. The stone used in this wing is almost exclusively granite and it has been marked out to resemble unevenly coursed cut rocks. The rendered quoins in this area have finely scalloped edges to the top and bottom of door and window openings.

Phase 2: This section was constructed by the Saws (c.1910s) and was an addition at the north-east end of the original cottage. The stone used here is almost exclusively dolerite and has not been as carefully laid as the original section of the house. The rendered quoins in this wing have a 'toothed' design to both window edges and corners.

Phase 3: This addition (1920s), which was also constructed by the Saws, but at a slightly later date than Phase 2, is a garage extension on the north-east side of the house (the short section of the 'L'). The rock used in this section is a mixture of dolerite and granite and quoins are in plain brickwork. The garage door is painted white.

Phase 4: This phase represents the replacement of a timber, partly enclosed verandah across the north-east side of the house, with a stone verandah with a large amount of glazing. This work was done by the Hammond family in the 1950s.

The original section of the house has a faceted, rendered bay window on the south-west side with the verandah following the line of the faceted bay. The verandah balustrade is composed of timber diagonal members with shorter vertical and horizontal beams set between the central space formed by the diagonals. The front door, on the south-east side, is approached by a set of stone steps which are covered by a short timber porch with a gable roof (clad with zincalume). A timber staircase leads down from the south-west verandah to the ground floor, giving access to a cellar which has been constructed in the space beneath the house and the hillside. The cellar, which has a dirt floor and ripple iron ceiling, is fitted with timber shelves which were supposedly constructed by Amherst.⁴¹ Window openings in the north-west

⁴¹ Conversation between Fiona Bush & John Hammond (current owner of the property), 27/3/2004.

and south-west sides have been fitted with vertical iron bars. An enclosed weatherboard room on the north-west side of the cellar is thought to have been constructed by the Saws.⁴²

The room layout in this wing is a short central hall, which gives access to one large room (room 2) on the south-west side, followed by a right angle turn which leads to single rooms on the north-west (room 3) and south-east sides (room 4) of the hall. The wing has timber floors and skirting boards, ripple iron ceilings and hard plaster finish to the walls. Original architraves to the openings have survived together with the original doors. The front door has retained its rim lock and still functions.

Room 2 is a combined dining room/lounge room and has French doors leading out onto the south-west and north-west verandahs. A French door (in the north-east wall on the north-west side of the fireplace) has been altered to function as a built-in cupboard. The faceted bay window has double hung sash windows. Timber louvred shutters have been fitted to the doors and windows, these are not original. Both sections of the room have timber chimney pieces with half turned timber posts and timber mantle pieces. The south east wall features built in cupboards on either side of the chimney breast, the south-west cupboard is thought to be the work of Amherst.⁴³

Room 3 is a large bedroom with French doors leading out on the north-west verandah and a chimney piece which is similar to that found in room 2. Room 3 features a double hung sash window and a fireplace with a large opening and timber mantle piece. The configuration suggests that it may once have been used for cooking and that this room may have been the kitchen during Amherst's occupancy.

The Saw's c.1910s addition at the north-east end of the house stretches across the width of the original house and is reached by the continuation of Amherst's hallway. As it is on a slightly higher level than the original section there are two steps up to this addition. The new section has timber floors and skirting boards, asbestos and batten ceilings and hard plaster finish to most walls. Room 5 is the kitchen and it has retained its fireplace and high timber mantle piece. A modern electric stove has been fitted into the opening.

A short corridor on the north-west side of the central hallway leads to rooms 6 and 7 (bathroom and bedroom). Room 6, which was originally a bedroom, was altered in the 1950s to form a bathroom and passage. The south-west wall is a timber stud wall clad with plaster board.⁴⁴ Room 7 has a door leading out onto the north-west verandah and a double hung sash window.

At the north-east end of the hall is a sun lounge which was constructed by the Hammond family during the 1950s. This room stretches across the full width of the house. The lower section of the wall (c.40 cm) is constructed from

⁴² Conversation between Fiona Bush & Sally Hertzfeld ((nee Gare. Mrs Hertzfeld lived in Holmesdale from 1941 to 1949)), 30/3/2004.

⁴³ Conversation between Fiona Bush & John Hammond (current owner of the property), 27/3/2004.

⁴⁴ Conversation between Fiona Bush & Sally Hertzfeld (nee Gare. Mrs Hertzfeld lived in Holmesdale from 1941 to 1949)), 30/3/2004.

random rubble stone walling with glazed sections in between. The top of the stone wall can be used as seating. The windows are white aluminium frames (altered in the 1980s), set into the original timber framework. The ceiling and cornices are plaster. The construction of a stud wall, clad with plasterboard, during the 1980s created two rooms in this section. Room 8 features a fireplace, with the stone chimney breast flush with the walls. The original windows (one in room 5 and one in room 6) along north-west wall have been retained. Room 9 is currently used as a TV room. A glazed door at the south-east end gives access to the garage.

Holmesdale is in fair condition and has been maintained. There is evidence of the 1969 Meckering earthquake damage on the north-west exterior wall of Room 7. There is some cracking above the French doors in the north-east wall of room 2. The worst structural crack is on the wall of Room 3 which extends through to the hallway opposite Room 6. Problems with rising damp along the north-east wall, which divides the original section of the house from the 1910s' addition, have been ongoing for some years despite efforts to fix the problem by John and Ani Hammond.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

Holmesdale is a modest stone residence displaying fairly minimal elements of Federation Queen Anne style. A number of stone residences were constructed throughout Western Australia c.1890 using a similar style. Examples of stone houses, constructed in Federation Queen Anne style can be found around the metropolitan area and country towns such as York, Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie. Examples listed on the Register of Heritage Places include Warden Finerty's House, Coolgardie (0577), Le Fanu, Cottesloe (03306) and Woodlawn, East Fremantle (0805). All of these examples were constructed around 1890.

Although modest in scale, *Holmesdale* is a representative example of Federation Queen Anne style and it is not considered to be uncommon in Western Australia.

By the beginning of the nineteenth century, the Mundaring district was developing a reputation as both a healthy area to live in and a holiday destination. Examples of Perth residents establishing holiday homes in the area can be found in Faversham, constructed c.1911 (database no. 4546), and 27 Hartung Street constructed c.1913 (database no. 8524). Both homes started out as holiday cottages, before their owners decided to make a permanent move to 'the hills'. Guest houses also began to make an appearance during this period. Popularity appears to have peaked around the 1920s and 1930s when a number of guest houses appear. These houses included: 'Jacoby House' (a timber building constructed c.1916), 'Leithdale' (a stone building constructed in 1894 as a private residence) and 'Dalry House' (a stone building constructed at the turn of the nineteenth century as a private residence).⁴⁵

⁴⁵ Elliot, op. cit., p. 197.

Holmesdale is an example of a hills house that was used as a holiday home during the 1910s and 1920s.

13. 4 KEY REFERENCES

No key references.

13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH
