



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.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 3.5.1 Developing primary production

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 301 Grazing & pastoralism & dairying

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Monuments within the Cemetery are valued for their aesthetic qualities providing good examples of craftsmanship of ironwork and stone masonry. (Criterion 1.2)

Narra Tarra Homestead, Outbuildings & Cemetery has an attractive setting with the Homestead and outbuildings on elevated ground overlooking the undulating land of the Chapman Valley and the East Chapman River below. (Criterion 1.3)

The Cemetery has a landmark quality with the enclosing stone wall and well-established planting providing a pleasing contrast in the cleared, pastoral landscape. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

Narra Tarra Homestead, Outbuildings & Cemetery, through its history, the remaining fabric and the physical changes made, is indicative of the large pastoral leases of the 1850s and 1860s which were the earliest forms of European settlement in rural Western Australia, preceding closer agricultural settlement and the establishment of rural townships. (Criterion 2.1)

The 1910 subdivision of Narra Tarra Station as an agricultural area is illustrative of Government initiatives in fostering closer land settlement and a viable agricultural industry. (Criterion 2.1)

Narra Tarra Homestead, Outbuildings & Cemetery provides evidence of the early (1850s) pastoral settlement of the Victoria region. (Criterion 2.2)

* 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 Cemetery is one of the larger cemeteries on a station property in the State, and provides a record of a number of the people who lived and worked in the Chapman Valley and an insight into rural life between the 1870s and 1970s. (Criterion 2.2)

Narra Tarra Homestead, Outbuildings & Cemetery is associated with three generations of the family of Joseph Green and John Mills, who established the place and operated it from 1853 to 1910, and with three generations of the family of Frank Green Snr (1926 to 2002). (Criterion 2.3)

11.3 SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11.4 SOCIAL VALUE

Narra Tarra Homestead, Outbuildings & Cemetery contributes to the community's sense of place because of its long association with farming in the region, and the participation of its various owners in the community life of the Chapman Valley. (Criterion 4.1 & 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1 RARITY

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Narra Tarra Homestead, Outbuildings & Cemetery is a good example of a farming complex established on a pastoral landholding in the 1850s and 1860s, retaining many of the elements of the early pastoral complex. (Criterion 6.1)

12.3 CONDITION

Narra Tarra Homestead, Outbuildings & Cemetery is mostly in good condition. Those structures still functioning, such as the Homestead, have been well maintained but the limited current use of the Stores and Shearing Shed have allowed some fabric to fall into disrepair.

12.4 INTEGRITY

Narra Tarra Homestead, Outbuildings & Cemetery has high integrity. The place has retained a pastoral function since first established which is likely to be a sustainable in the immediate future. Some consideration may need to be given to finding compatible uses for those structures which are currently under utilised.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

Narra Tarra Homestead, Outbuildings & Cemetery displays a moderate degree of authenticity. Alterations to the external appearance and fabric of the Homestead, and deteriorating fabric of the outbuildings has reduced some of the authenticity of the place.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Irene Sauman, Historian. The physical evidence has been compiled by John Taylor Architect.

If there is any special curtilage that has been decided by the Register Committee or the Heritage Council a brief description of it should go here.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Narra Tarra Homestead, Outbuildings & Cemetery comprises Old Homestead (ruin), masonry Homestead, Kitchen Outbuildings, Store, Quarters and Machinery Sheds, Shearing Sheds, and a Cemetery. The Homesteads and Outbuildings were constructed between 1853 and c.1870s, with additions and alterations to the present. The property was established by Joseph Green (1853-1863). Later owners were Green's son-in-law, John Mills (1863-1898), and Mills' sons-in-law, Everard Firebrace Darlot (1898-1900) and Samuel Lockier Burges (1900-1910). Narra Tarra Station was subdivided into smaller agricultural blocks in 1910, at which time the Homestead and Outbuildings were situated on Narra Tarra Estate Lot 11. A number of family members and others are interred in the Cemetery, which was situated on Victoria Location 873, now Narra Tarra Estate Lot 12.

The Chapman Valley region was first explored by Europeans in 1839, when Lieutenant George Grey's party was forced to travel overland from Gantheaume Bay to the Swan River Settlement after being shipwrecked. Grey named the Murchison, Bowes, Hutt and Chapman rivers, and named the district the 'province of Victoria'. He was impressed with the agricultural potential of much of the district, but his views were not endorsed by Captain Stokes, in 1841. Stokes led an expedition to Champion Bay (Geraldton) in the *Beagle*, and took a party inland as far as the Moresby Flat Top Ranges. He was scathing of the area, and put Grey's impressions down to the fact that he and his party were half-starved and probably suffering hallucinations.¹

Throughout the 1840s, there was a growing shortage of good pastoral land in the Settlement and the colony was in a generally depressed state. This was exacerbated when the Avon Valley experienced drought conditions in 1848-49, but land settlement further afield was discouraged, as it would increase Government expenditure on infrastructure. Various expeditions, overland and along the coast, in the second half of the 1840s, rediscovered the land Grey had described, as well as discovering coal deposits on the upper Irwin River. The most important expedition was the one organised by the York Agricultural Society, the party comprising A. C. and C. F. Gregory, Lockier Burges (the elder), J. Walcott and A. Bedart, the latter three experienced graziers. Their expedition, as well as locating good pastoral lands, also discovered lead in the Murchison River, which led to the establishment of the Geraldine Lead Mine in the Northampton region, originally run by Lockier Burges.²

In the 1850s, a number of large pastoral stations were established in the Chapman Valley-Northampton area, including Narra Tarra Station. The first lands that formed part of Narra Tarra Station were Victoria Locations 83, 84, 85, 131, 161 & 162, taken up in 1853 and 1858, by Joseph (Joshua) Green.³ The Homestead and Outbuildings were built near the junction of the Chapman and East Chapman rivers. In December 1856, the buildings were included in Victoria Location 35, comprising 12 acres of land surveyed by F. T. Gregory.

¹ Bain, Mary Albertus, 'The Irwin Story', *Early Days*, Vol. 6, Pt. 5, pp. 7-21; Bain, Mary Albertus, *Ancient Landmarks: A social and economic history of the Victoria District of Western Australia 1839-1894*, UWA Press, 1975.

² *ibid.*

³ DOLA, Register of Country Lands, SROWA, CONS 1803, Item 1.

Green paid £12 for title to Location 35 in 1857. The surveyor's fieldbook shows two buildings in existence at this time. One of these buildings, most likely the larger of the two, was the Old Homestead. It was subject to flooding and was eventually replaced with the current Homestead, which was built on higher ground. The Homestead and the Outbuildings were built of local stone.⁴

Joseph Green had arrived in the colony in 1830, on the *Minstrel*, as an indentured servant to William Heal. He was twenty-one years of age. In 1837, he married Harriet Parsons, at Guildford, with whom he had three daughters, Sarah, Caroline and Louisa. Around 1851, he was living at *Baylup*, the halfway house to Toodyay, while working as a carter between Guildford and the Avon Valley. The family then moved to Chapman Valley.⁵

In 1857, Joseph Green's daughter, Caroline, married police constable John Mills. John Mills had arrived in the colony in 1852-53, and was stationed at Champion Bay by 1855. He bought land in the Chapman Valley district, which was later incorporated into the Narra Tarra Station when he and Caroline took over the property. Joseph Green transferred ownership of Location 35, and the adjoining 15-acre Location 192, to John Mills in September 1862, for £25. This was the same cost of £1 an acre that Green had originally paid for the land. At this time, Mills' address was given as Narra Tarra and Joseph Green's as White Peak.⁶ The Narra Tarra Station landholding at this time was around 100,000 acres, mainly leasehold.⁷

The Homestead, which replaced the Old Homestead built by Green, may have been added by John Mills, especially as it appears that by 1862 Joseph Green was farming at White Peak. Mills may also have been responsible for most of the original farm buildings at *Narra Tarra Homestead, Outbuildings & Cemetery*. Green is recorded as employing six ticket of leave men between 1854 and 1868, and the Old Homestead could have been built with the assistance of ticket of leave labour.⁸

The Mills had nine children. One daughter, Harriet, married Everard Firebrace Darlot in 1885, and another, Bertha, married Samuel Lockier Burges in 1892.⁹ In 1898, John Mills sold Victoria Location 35, and other freehold Locations, totalling 473 acres, to his son-in-law Everard Darlot and Everard's brother Leonard Hawthorne Darlot, for £200.¹⁰ The Darlots were from New South Wales. Everard arrived in the colony in 1878 and Leonard in 1882. They acquired pastoral land in the Pilbara-Gascoyne-Murchison districts, including *Muccan*, *Warrawagine*, *Berringarra*, *Mt Rason* and *Annean*, as well as *Urella* at Mingenew and *Yangedine* at Beverley. Both were involved in public affairs. Everard Darlot was MLA for the Murchison in the Forrest government from 1890-1894, and Leonard was MLA for De Grey 1900-1901.¹¹

In 1900, the Darlots sold 473 acres freehold of Narra Tarra Station land to Everard's brother-in-law, Samuel Lockier Burges.¹² The sale included Victoria

⁴ Gregory, F. T., Surveyor's Fieldbook, No. 9, p. 18, 10 December 1856; Country Grant 965, 29 April 1857; physical evidence.

⁵ Erickson, Rica, op cit, p. 1263.

⁶ Deed of Memorial Book 6 No. 1368, 23 September 1862, registered 10 January 1863.

⁷ Erickson, Rica, op cit, p. 2169.

⁸ Erickson, Rica, op cit, p. 1263; WABI, Employers of convicts, MN 1217.

⁹ *ibid.*

¹⁰ Deed of Memorial Book 12 No. 129, 27 June 1898, registered 20 September 1898.

¹¹ Erickson, Rica, op cit, p. 761.

¹² Certificate of Title, Vol. 198 Fol. 117, 11 August 1900.

Locations 112, 203, 481 & 523, 271, 665 & 701 (446 acres) and Locations 35 and 192 (27 acres).¹³ Cost of the purchase was £1 an acre. Burges immediately mortgaged the land to Dalgetys for an advance of £5,000, not to exceed £6,000.¹⁴

In 1901, Narra Tarra Station comprised some 30,000 acres of freehold and conditional purchase lands. It was described as primarily a sheep station, running about 10,000 head of sheep on land that had a carrying capacity of one sheep per two acres. Only about 150 acres of land were under cultivation at the time. The property also ran about 30 horses. Samuel Burges was experimenting with growing English and other grasses for pasture, as the natural feed available to the sheep in the summer was not sufficient to put weight on the fleece.¹⁵ The place was briefly described in *Twentieth Century Impressions of Western Australia*:

The homestead, which is built about the centre of the property, is very prettily situated, and all the appointments are in excellent taste and right up to date. The stabling and poultry-farm are run on model lines, and the direct interest taken in these matters by Mr. Burges is evidenced by the perfect manner in which they are carried on.¹⁶

The extensive Burges family farmed *The Bowes*, near Northampton, and had other properties at Yuin and in the South-West. Samuel Lockier Burges was the grandson of Samuel Evans Burges, who had arrived in the Swan River Colony in 1830 with his brothers, William and Lockier. Samuel Lockier's father, Thomas, had acquired the *Bowes* station from his uncle William Burges, who had not married.¹⁷ Samuel Lockier Burges is reputed to have lived the high life, being the first man in the district to own a car, a 1905 model Ford, and the first to own a tractor, described as a Fowler steam traction engine. While originally concentrating on sheep, Burges was later noted for growing large areas of wheat with the aid of machinery. A costly lawsuit over Willi Gulli Station, near Northampton, and expensive living are believed to have impoverished him. In 1906, Burges paid out his mortgage to Dalgety's and re-mortgaged the property to the West Australian Bank for a larger amount. This mortgage allowed him to draw up to £12,000 against the property.¹⁸ In 1909, with debts mounting, Samuel Burges sold Narra Tarra Station to the State Government for £24,119-4-0. Narra Tarra Station was subsequently subdivided into agricultural blocks of varying size.¹⁹

The development of the Chapman Valley district for agricultural purposes had begun in 1879, when former employees at the Narra Tarra mine selected farmland in the area following one of the periodic closures of the mine due to falling mineral prices. In the 1890s, a Lands Officer was appointed for the Chapman Valley district, in keeping with the Government's pro-active approach to establishing closer agricultural settlement throughout the State.

¹³ ibid, 1 July 1909; *West Australian Government Gazette*, 22 April 1910, p. 903; Deeds of Memorial, Book 16 No. 100, 1 June 1909 & No. 101, 30 June 1909.

¹⁴ Deeds of Memorial, Book 13 No. 712, 7 August 1900 & No. 713, 11 August 1900.

¹⁵ *Twentieth Century Impressions of Western Australia*, Facsimile of 1901 edition, Perth, Hesperian Press, 2000, p. 609.

¹⁶ ibid.

¹⁷ Erickson, Rica, op cit, p. 392; O'Mara, Gillian *The Burges Saga*, O. G. Burges, Cottesloe, 2000, p. 29.

¹⁸ Deeds of Memorial, Book 14, Nos. 748 & 749.

¹⁹ Certificate of Title, Vol. 198 Fol. 117, 1 July 1909; Deeds of Memorial, Book 16 No. 100, 1 June 1909 & No. 101, 30 June 1909. No land survey information was located for the Narra Tarra Estate at SROWA.

The Chapman State Farm was established to prove the suitability of the district for agricultural purposes, and by the end of the 1890s, demand for land in the district exceeded supply. Following the passing of the *Agricultural Lands Purchase Act, 1896*, the Government began to purchase large pastoral landholdings for subdivision into agricultural blocks. In the first decade of the twentieth century, around 118,000 acres was bought in the Chapman area, subdivided and sold.²⁰ Mt Erin station was subdivided in 1904, Oakabella shortly after, and the Bowes by 1911. White Peak was not considered suitable for agriculture, but various parts were sold off privately over the years.²¹

The price the Government paid for Narra Tarra Station and Oakabella drew criticism, because the land had to be sold at a price that covered the cost. The Narra Tarra Estate Lots varied in size from 443 to 2002 acres and in price from 7/6 to £4-15-0 an acre, with the majority being under £1 an acre. Because the land was well watered and arable it was argued that the lots could be smaller, thereby making them more affordable. Lot 11, containing the Homestead and Outbuildings, was 1,995 acres in size and, because of the buildings, drew the highest price. At £4-15-0 an acre it cost £9,500, putting it out of the reach of 'the man of moderate means'.²²

The twenty-eight Narra Tarra Estate Lots were approved for selection from 1 March 1910. There were no initial applications for twelve of the lots, including Lot 11. On 8 March it was reported that 'the homestead block has been applied for by F. R. A. Mitchell, who is understood to be the son of the Minister for Lands', James Mitchell.²³ It is not entirely clear what happened with the property in the years immediately following. No title was issued to F. R. Mitchell for Lot 11, the first title being in the name of Frank Green Snr, merchant and storeowner of Geraldton. Green Snr purchased Lots 11 and 33, comprising approximately 1,998 acres, in 1925-26. There was no Lot 33 in the original Narra Tarra Estate subdivision and it appears that Lot 11, and some other lots, were further subdivided, most likely because the criticism levelled at their size and price in 1910 had proved an accurate assessment of the situation regarding affordability. By dividing Lot 11 in two it had been possible to reduce the price per acre of the section without buildings. Frank Green Snr paid £5,400-10-0 for both lots.²⁴

Frank Green Snr was Mayor of Geraldton for a period around 1918. His successful retail business operated as Frank Green & Co.²⁵ Frank Green Snr's son, Eldred Arthur Green, resided at Narra Tarra and managed the place. During the Depression, Frank Green Snr purchased other Narra Tarra lots as they became available. As well as Lots 11 and 33, the property also now includes Lots 21, 22 and 24. When Frank Green Snr died in 1960, Eldred

²⁰ *West Australian Government Gazette*, 1 January 1897, p. 11; *Agricultural Lands Purchase Act*, Statutes of Western Australia, 1896; Glynn, Sean, *Government Policy and Agricultural Development: A study of the role of government in the development of the Western Australian wheat belt, 1900-1930*, UWA Press, 1975, p. 86; Sims, Shirley, 'The History of the Upper Chapman District, 1839-1911,' Bound typescript, [197-], p. 14.

²¹ McDonnell, P. A., *Chapman Valley Pioneers*, Geraldton Newspapers, 1974, Part 2, Entry 39.

²² *West Australian Government Gazette*, 1910, pp. 497 & 2544; *Geraldton Guardian*, 1 March 1910, p. 1.

²³ *Geraldton Guardian*, 8 March 1910, p. 2.

²⁴ Country Grant Vol. 1029 Fol. 309, 5 May 1932.

²⁵ *Geraldton Guardian*, January 1918.

inherited Narra Tarra. Eldred Green transferred the title to his son Frank Edward Green in 1975.²⁶ Eldred Green died in 1977.

Part of Narra Tarra Station is still owned by members of the Mills family. Joshua Mills, second son of John and Caroline, acquired Lot 17 from the Narra Tarra Estate in March 1910. That property is currently run by his grandson.²⁷

The Homestead has undergone numerous changes and additions over the years to facilitate changing family dynamics and the requirements of modern living. The Outbuildings have also been enlarged and altered to suit modern farm practice and other farm buildings have been added to the complex.

Narra Tarra Homestead, Outbuildings & Cemetery are entered on the Shire of Chapman Valley Municipal Heritage Inventory, adopted on 31 October 1996. Homestead and Outbuildings are entered as place No. 2 and the Cemetery as place No. 3. Both have been designated Management Category 1.²⁸

In 2002, Frank Edward Green and his wife Susie continue to own Narra Tarra, and the property is tenanted.

Cemetery

A family Cemetery was established at Narra Tarra Station on 405 square metres of land in the north-west corner of Victoria Location 873. The Cemetery is surrounded by a low stone wall. In 1889, John Mills transferred title of the Cemetery site to the Anglican Church.²⁹ The site of the Cemetery was designated Narra Tarra Estate Lot 12 and Reserve 12616 on 11 March 1910. It was vested in the Shire of Northampton. The Reserve is now cancelled, due to the Cemetery no longer being used for burials.³⁰ The first recorded burial was in 1874, and the last in 1977. A right-of-way provides access to the Cemetery from Chapman Road East (formerly the Geraldton-Beatenally road). There are headstones for a number of those interred, and other burials for which there are no markers.

The headstones in the Cemetery record the following people:³¹

Frederick John Mills (1873 - 10.11.1874) aged 18 months, son of John & Caroline Mills.

Guydon Firebrace Darlot (1.11.1886 - 9.3.1888) infant son of Harriet (nee Mills) and Everard Darlot, grandson of John and Caroline Mills.

John Mills (1824 - 3.6.1900) aged 76, husband of Caroline (nee Green).

Hannah Mills (nee Maley) (28.4.1865 - 9.7.1905) aged 40, wife of Joshua Mills, daughter-in-law of John and Caroline Mills. Two infants are also recorded on her headstone.

Joshua Mills (13.1.1859 - 21.3.1943), son of John and Caroline Mills.

²⁶ Country Grant Vol. 1029 Fol. 309, 9 June 1960 & 11 July 1962; Certificate of Title Vol. 1268 Fol. 789, 3 December 1975; DOLA online enquiry.

²⁷ McDonnell, P. A., op cit; *Geraldton Guardian*, 13 March 1910, p. 2.

²⁸ Suba, T., Callow, B. & Grundy, G., *Shire of Chapman Valley Municipal Inventory of Heritage Places*, 1995-6, Places No. 2 & 3.

²⁹ Certificates of Title, Vol. 9 Fol. 143 & Vol. 27 Fol. 98, 4 January 1889.

³⁰ DOLA, Online Reserves Index Enquiry, 1 May 2002. No date was given for the cancellation.

³¹ Physical evidence; Erickson, Rica, op cit, pp. 761, 1258, 2168-70, 2836; McDonnell, P. A., op cit.

Frank Green, MBE JP (9.8.1875, Yoxall Staffordshire - 9.6.1960), husband of Ellen (Nell) Green.

Ellen (Nell) Green (22.9.1858, Burton on Trent - 21.2.1942) wife of Frank Green.

Ellen M. Nell Preston (12.2.1932) aged 31, wife of David Haynes Preston, mother of Gordon and Dudley, daughter of Frank and Ellen Green.

Private Leonard Thomas Green (11.1.1918) aged 19, son of Frank and Ellen Green. Leonard died of pneumonia in the Fremantle Base Hospital and was originally buried at Geraldton.³²

Eldred Arthur Green OBE (8.4.1977) aged 73 years, husband of Hazel and son of Frank and Ellen Green.

Emma Norris (11.9.1902) age 47, wife of George Norris of Yetna.

George W. J. Norris (15.2.1926) aged 74, husband of Emma Norris.

Henry Norris (30.7.1942) aged 58, son of Emma and George Norris.

Hope Murphy (23.9.1920) aged six months.

Donald Campbell Broad (13.1.1947) aged 24, son of Donald and Elsie Broad, Mellenbye, Yalgoo.

The National Trust publication, *Pioneer Cemeteries and Burial Grounds: An interim guide to the conservation of cemeteries*, lists a number of burials for the Narra Tarra cemetery for which there are no headstones. A few of these may actually be burials at the Narra Tarra Mine. Those burials obtained from the records of undertakers would be accurately attributed to the Cemetery.³³

Albert H. Cooper (27.11.1910) aged 11. Buried by undertaker George Lester. Born at Narra Tarra, son of Emily Jane (nee Gray) & Joseph Cooper (farmer). Died of pneumonia.

C. A. Durant (possibly Narra Tarra Mine)

Harriet Sarah Durant (24.10.1903) aged 50, buried by undertaker George Lester. Daughter of James Whitewood & Martha Whitewood Goodall. Wife of Robert Durant.

Martha Celia Goodall (20.5.1902) aged 82, died at Waggrakine, buried by M. McGuinness. First husband James Whitewood, second James Goodall.

Mary Gray (31.12.1895) aged 2 at Carnsy Hill, Narra Tarra. Buried by Michael Murphy. Daughter of Susannah (nee Bunter) and David Alexander Gray, blacksmith. Died of enteritis.

Robert Green (4.5.1976)

William Johnson (17.7.1898) aged 6 weeks, born at Narra Tarra Mine to Eliza Johnson. Died of convulsions

John Johnson (15.3.1892) aged 73. Buried by Howlett & Campbell, undertakers of Geraldton. Labourer, died of congestion of the lungs.

Hugh John Reynolds (9.3.1907) aged 46, buried by undertaker W. T. Pollitt. Labourer, died from drowning. Son of Harriet & Peter Reynolds.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

³² Geraldton Guardian, 14 January 1910, p. 2.

³³ National Trust, *Pioneer Cemeteries and Burial Grounds: An interim guide to the conservation of cemeteries*, unpublished report [1992], p. 16; Coate, Yvonne & Kevin, *Lonely Graves of Western Australia and burials at Sea*, Hesperian Press, 1986 & *More Lonely Graves*, Hesperian Press, 2000.

Narra Tarra Homestead, Outbuildings & Cemetery comprises Old Homestead (ruins), Homestead, Kitchen Outbuildings, Store, Quarters, Machinery Sheds and Shearing Sheds. The place is currently leased and used for pastoral purposes. The Narra Tarra Cemetery is on a separate title occupying a portion of the Narra Tarra land holding but isolated from the Homestead group. The place has an attractive setting with the Homestead and outbuildings on elevated ground overlooking the undulating land of the Chapman Valley and the East Chapman River below.

Old Homestead (ruins)

Ruins of the Old Homestead can be located on low ground near the Chapman River and close to the road at the entrance of the property. The ruins provide evidence of a rectangular stone structure, plastered internally and rendered with a regular coursed ashlar finish externally. Loose rubble is apparent over the surrounding ground surface and sheets of corrugated iron have been stacked adjacent to the structure. The ruins are visible from the now closed and private road leading to the Homestead with a stake and wire fence prohibiting some access to the place. Vegetation is encroaching on the structure.

Homestead

The Homestead is a single-storey rendered masonry building with a tiled hipped roof. A covered way on the east side of the building links the Homestead to the Kitchen Outbuildings. A steel post and mesh fence with a criss-crossed border frieze, encloses the grassed landscaped area immediately surrounding the Homestead and Kitchen Outbuildings, distinguishing the residential and pastoral functions of the property. Evidence of a former tennis court to the south of the Homestead is barely distinguishable and beyond, the land falls gently to the west providing views over the surrounding rural landscape.

The spreading verandah form is most representative of the Victorian Georgian style which was common in rural homesteads but alterations to the fabric and form of the place, and the absence of any further style indicators prevent the application of a accurate style description.³⁴

The hipped roof forms of the building extend over the concrete floored verandah wrapping around the front (west) elevation, and are supported on square timber posts around the verandah edge. Rendered masonry chimneys with arched tops are visible above the roof planes on the north and south sides of the building and an airconditioning unit and associated ductwork sit atop the southern hip. The masonry walls of the Homestead have been rendered and painted and mostly feature a smooth ashlar finish with the exception of a portion of the wall in the north elevation which has a stone finish above a smooth cement rendered plinth. Two bay windows with tapering walls below sill level, project onto the front verandah. The glazing is supported in timber framing and divided in to four panes in the upper sash. Flyscreens have been fixed externally to the lower sash. A painted brick wing, understood to have been constructed in the mid-twentieth century, extends from the south-east corner of the Homestead.

Interior access was not convenient at the time of the physical inspection.

³⁴ 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, pp. 42-45.

The current roof tiles have altered the appearance of the building, shown in early photographs with a corrugated iron roof, and required alterations to the timber framing to carry the additional load. Early photographs of the place also show evidence that a masonry fence with capped piers once enclosed the homestead group but it is not known when this was demolished.

The Homestead is in good condition and occupied by tenants. Maintenance work to the verandah has been carried out as recently as 2001.

Kitchen Outbuildings

The principal structure of the Kitchen Outbuildings group is a stone building with a corrugated iron roof. Two other sheds with fibre-cement walls and corrugated iron roofs are located nearby to the north but within the fenced enclosure around the Homestead. The smaller, easternmost structure is well ventilated with remnants of insect screening forming the upper part of the walls. It is likely to have been a slaughter house.

The stone building has a simple rectangular form with a hipped roof to the north, a gable at the southern end and little eaves overhang. Two corbelled brick chimneys are visible above the hipped roof. The painted or lime-washed finish to the rough textured masonry walls is deteriorating, revealing the hue of the local stone, and a cement rendered plinth is apparent around the base of the walls. Brick quoining and a flat arched, soldier course lintel surround the door opening in the north elevation and timber lintels extend into the masonry beyond the window openings. Concrete slab paving has been laid in front of the east and north elevations, and pathway of the covered link to the Homestead. The lattice walls of the link support thick vegetation sheltered by a pitched, corrugated iron roof.

While the building appears to be in sound condition there is evidence of severe deterioration to the masonry around the door opening in the north elevation. The interior was not available for inspection at the time of the site visit.

Store; Quarters & Machinery Sheds

Located further north of the enclosed area around the Homestead and Kitchen Outbuildings are a number of structures for storage, accommodation and machinery shelter associated with the pastoral activities of the place. The Store is the most significant of the group, and similar in scale and construction to the stone structure of the Kitchen Outbuildings. It has a simple rectangular form with a hipped, corrugated iron roof and stone walls. It appears there was once an encircling verandah to the place which is now partially enclosed with corrugated iron cladding. The broken-back roof has a lower pitch over this verandah area. Fenestration of the east and west elevations is symmetrical with a disproportionately wide central door. No evidence has been uncovered to confirm a particular function for this opening. Timber framed, four pane windows with flat timber lintels are also in evidence. The structure is currently used as a store and whilst the masonry is in sound condition, the corrugated iron cladding and timber framing for the verandah are dilapidated. Some remnant fabric from other buildings of the property including the Homestead are currently accommodated in the Store.

Other nearby structures include the Quarters to the north of the Store. This steel framed structure with metal deck cladding on the walls and a gable tiled roof is of relatively recent construction. Further steel framed storage structures, partially enclosed with corrugated iron cladding are located to the south and east.

Shearing Sheds

The two Shearing Sheds are located to the east and out of view of the Homestead group. The more significant building comprises a number of rectangular forms and varying construction materials and techniques suggesting the structure has evolved through different periods. Some of the fabric is in a perilous condition and a more functional shearing structure has been constructed immediately adjacent, to the west in recent decades.

The Shearing Shed is only partially enclosed with external cladding primarily of corrugated iron. The timber framing is exposed internally with no wall linings or ceiling in evidence. The hipped roof forms incorporate a number of skylights allowing light into the interior, and a louvred dormer in the western end. Within this lightweight outer structure is a core of stone masonry walls laid in coursed random rubble. The long central wall has been plastered and displays a regular coursed ashlar finish which is deteriorating, revealing the stone behind. The level of this finish is surprisingly sophisticated for a Shearing Shed. It may be evidence of a task to keep workers employed during the Depression. Low timber fence partitions divide some of the interior spaces into animal pens. The floor levels vary across the structure but are generally raised above the ground and of timber construction.

Cemetery

The Cemetery is located to the north-east of the Homestead and comprises a plot of land of approximately 405 square metres within a paddock, south of the Chapman Road East. The land has a gentle slope to the south-east, falling towards the Chapman River. The square plot is defined on the four sides by a low, random rubble stone wall, with a gate in the southern elevation providing access. Some well-established evergreen trees within the cemetery grounds together with the boundary wall are in stark contrast to the level sandy surface of surrounding pastoral land. The tree species are typical of sentinel planting in nineteenth century cemeteries with the dark foliage and shade intended to provide a melancholy and sombre atmosphere.

The layout of the cemetery is a simple linear arrangement with avenues of monuments orientated along two north-south axes. The tree planting roughly follows this arrangement but is concentrated on the west and north sides. The monuments display great variation in design and condition. The more elaborate consist of rectangular stone or concrete surrounds bordered with iron filigree pickets and upright, intricately worked stone or marble slabs. Engraved inscriptions provide evidence that some of the slabs were manufactured in Melbourne as well as Perth. The more recent monuments are simply engraved, granite horizontal slabs. A number of the monuments commemorate more than one member of the family. The documentary evidence records that at least 26 people are buried in the cemetery, but there are only 15 headstones.

The boundary stone wall is mostly in sound condition but some portions, particularly at the corners, are showing signs of structural deterioration. Attempts have been made to stabilise these at risk sections. It is possible that not all those interred in the cemetery are commemorated with a physical monument. Of the remaining monuments, there has been some deterioration particularly to the decorative elements.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

The cemetery at Narra Tarra, with approximately 26 burials, is one of the larger cemeteries on a station property in Western Australia. As well as being

the burial place for a number of family members from 1874 to 1977, it is also the resting place of some station employees and other residents. Other larger station cemeteries, with approximate number of graves, include De Grey Station (25), Strawberry, Irwin (22), Tibradden, Greenough (15), and Spring Hill, Harvey (15). A number of other station cemeteries have up to half-a-dozen graves. There are other burial places which contain a number of graves but are not gazetted cemetery reserves. These are referred to as 'lonely graves'. Among the groups of lonely graves are Bamboo Creek, Pilbara (26), and Wiluna (12).³⁵

There are a number of 19th century farm complexes in mid-west Western Australia, remnants of the pastoral landholdings of the time. *The Bowes* was the home of the Burges brothers. The place is made up of a complex of buildings on the Bowes River, near Northampton. The early buildings comprising homestead, kitchen/dining, laundry and butchery are of stone, the quarters are rendered brick, and there are various light-framed structures, including shearing shed and shearers' quarters. The Bowles is entered on the Northampton Municipal Heritage Inventory and entered in the Register of Heritage Places. (P3270)³⁶

Oakabella was established by James Drummond in the 1850s, on the Oakabella River. The complex includes the homestead and associated walled gardens, kitchen and quarters, two storey barn, blacksmith shop ruins, stables and shearing shed, all in stone, a framed house and other light-framed structures. The place has also been associated with the Burges and Jackson families.³⁷

The Grange was developed by Samuel Pole Phillips on former Cattle Company land on the Irwin River. It comprises Homestead, former Kitchen, Shepherd's Cottage, Shearer's Quarters, Granary, Stables, Slaughterhouse (ruin), and Grange Cottage located a kilometre south-west of the main group. It dates from the 1870s and 1880s.³⁸ The place is entered on the Irwin Municipal Heritage Inventory, Classified by the National Trust and entered in the Register of Heritage Places (P1215).

Walebing, near Moora, comprises a significant group of stone farm buildings constructed in the late 1850s, probably with the help of convict, or ticket-of-leave, labour. It comprises Cottage, Kitchen Stores, Bulk Store & Quarters, Stables, Cart Shed & Dairy, Wool Shed, Flour Mill & Store, remnant Horse Works, and site of Blacksmith Shop. The stone Homestead was built in 1888 and has undergone minimal change. The property has remained in the Lefroy family since its inception and has continued to operate as a farm with continuing use of the majority of the farm buildings. The place is entered on the Moora Municipal Heritage Inventory, Classified by the National Trust and entered in the Register of Heritage Places (P3268).³⁹

The property of *Summer Hill*, New Norcia comprises Homestead, Stables, Cattle Barn, Shearing Shed and Granary constructed in Victorian Georgian style in the 1870s and 1880s. Form of construction was generally random rubble granite and pug, with corrugated iron roofs later replacing the original sheoak shingles. Other elements of the *Summer Hill* farm precinct include stockyards, remnant orchards, stick fences, gates, stone-lined wells, and stone

³⁵ National Trust, *Pioneer Cemeteries and Burial Grounds*, op cit, with the assistance of Robert Mitchell, National Trust, WA.

³⁶ Considine & Griffiths Architects, *Four Homesteads Conservation Plan*, September 1994.

³⁷ *ibid.*

³⁸ HCWA Assessment No. 1215, *The Grange*.

³⁹ Taylor, John, *Conservation Plan for Walebing*, July 2001.

paved roads and river crossings.⁴⁰ *Summer Hill* is entered on the Victoria Plains Municipal Heritage Inventory and the Register of Heritage Places (P3943).

The farm buildings at *Glentromie* were built in brick, with the help of 26 ticket-of-leave men. The Stables is a two-storey building which housed horses bred for the British Army remount trade in India. The property was later owned by Walter Padbury. The Homestead, Stables and Shearing Shed are in good condition. The flourmill is a ruin, and only the sites of four worker's cottages, blacksmith shop, polo field and cricket pitch remain.⁴¹ *Glentromie* is entered on the Victoria Plains Municipal Inventory.

The buildings at *Berkshire Valley* include a one-room stone hut (c.1842); Homestead (c.1847); two-storey Flour Mill (1847); Dairy, and two-storey Stables (c.1855) which includes a harness room, blacksmithy, coach house and stalls; Shearing Shed and Store (1869); triple-arched stone bridge (1869); and, Pig Sty (1870). The Homestead has a gatehouse entrance. Stagecoaches called at *Berkshire Valley* to change horses, and bunk accommodation was available for travellers overnight. Horses were supplied to the British Army remount trade in India. The Mill was restored following damage in the 1968 earthquake, and currently houses the Moora museum. *Berkshire Valley* is entered on the Moora Municipal Inventory and the Register of the National Estate, and is classified by the National Trust.⁴²

Yathroo Homestead and Outbuildings, in the Shire of Dandaragan, dates from c.1855, and comprises stone and concrete block Homestead, timber Book-Keeper's House, stone Cool Room built into a soak, stone Machinery and Storage Shed, stone Barn, stone Stables/Dairy, stone Slaughterhouse, Stone Wall built as part of an irrigation network, Mill site and Lime Kiln. The Yathroo property was developed by Walter Padbury. It was a social centre of the district for many years and accommodated a school and postal service. The place is entered on the Shire of Dandaragan Municipal Inventory.⁴³

Kayanaba is also in the Shire of Dandaragan and entered on their Municipal Inventory. The place dates from 1869 and comprises the brick Homestead (1907), stone Manager's House (1882), timber slab and stone Workman's Hut & Schoolroom (1869), stone Slaughterhouse, Farm Sheds, Employee's Cottage and Cottage Ruins, Lime Kiln, and remains of timber Grandstand (1880s). The place was developed by Edward Roberts who originally worked for Walter Padbury at *Yathroo*.⁴⁴

Most of the homesteads and outbuildings in the places described have undergone alterations to adapt to changing living and working conditions, and the buildings at Narra Tarra are no exception. There is still considerable original fabric remaining at Narra Tarra but this has possibly not been retained to the same extent as, for example, at Berkshire Valley or Walebing. The Narra Tarra Cemetery is a particularly good example of a private station cemetery, while the Homestead and Outbuildings would be considered only a fair example of their type in comparison to other extant station pastoral complexes.

40 Erickson, R. Taylor, R. and Considine & Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd, *Summer Hill Farm Precinct Conservation Plan*, April 2001.

41 *ibid.*

42 *ibid*; Moora Historical Society, 'A Sketch of James Clinch of Berkshire Valley', Battye PR6461; Register of the National Estate, Database No. 010230 & 016073.

43 Shire of Dandaragan Municipal Heritage Inventory.

44 *ibid.*

13. 4 KEY REFERENCES

No key references.

13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH
