



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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)

- 1.3 Assessing scientifically diverse environments
- 3.4.4 Making forests into a saleable resource
- 4.5 Making settlements to serve rural Australia
- 5.1.1 Coping with unemployment
- 8.3 Going on holiday
- 8.5.2 Helping other people

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 107 Settlements
- 304 Timber industry
- 404 Community services and utilities
- 504 Depression and boom

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

The cottages within *Dryandra Woodland Settlement* are modest, timber-framed and weatherboard structures. Although typical of forestry interwar housing, they have pleasing aspects in a woodland setting. Despite varying degrees of modifications, the cottages have retained their original grouping, contributing to the aesthetic qualities of the landscape. (Criterion 1.3)

The approach to *Dryandra Woodland Settlement* along a narrow dirt track enhances its aesthetic value by offering a sense of isolation. (Criterion 1.3)

* 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 and 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Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

Dryandra Woodland Settlement is a compact village retaining its original layout, and enhanced by a paddock and rows of pine trees along its edge. It has a landscape setting, in a clearing enveloped by indigenous Wandoo and dense plantations of Brown Mallet. The combination of design and context, including the paddock and mature pines, forms a significant cultural environment. (Criterion 1.4)

11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

The site layout and landscape elements of *Dryandra Woodland Settlement*, especially the garden of Cottage No. 382 and remnant fruit trees around the cottages, illustrate a way of life no longer practiced, which was associated with the forestry industry and the care of the unemployed during the Depression. In particular, the garden and fruit trees demonstrate the level of self-sufficiency of forestry workers. (Criteria 2.1 & 2.2)

Dryandra Woodland Settlement has historic value as the former site of the Dryandra Nursery, which provided trees, including Silver Princess (*Eucalyptus caesia*), Weeping Gum (*Eucalyptus sepulcralis*), Flowering Gum (*Leucoxydon rosea*), Bushy Yate (*Eucalyptus lehmannii*), and the Coolgardie Gum (*Eucalyptus torquata*), to farmers and local government authorities in Western Australia from 1958. (Criterion 2.2)

11.3 SCIENTIFIC VALUE

Dryandra Woodland Settlement has the potential through archaeological investigation to reveal more about the forestry industry and, in particular, the mallet bark industry. (Criterion 3.1)

Dryandra Woodland Settlement has the potential, through archaeological investigation, to reveal more about the lives of the Indigenous people who lived at the place prior to European settlement. (Criterion 3.1)

11.4 SOCIAL VALUE

Dryandra Woodland Settlement is valued by the community as it represents the way of life of forestry workers that continued from the early 1900s to the 1970s but is no longer practiced due to changes in the forest management practices and the reduced extent of the industry generally. (Criterion 4.1)

Dryandra Woodland Settlement has social value for former residents and workers. (Criterion 4.2)

Dryandra Woodland Settlement has social value to naturalists who have used the place as a base to study the flora and fauna of Dryandra Forest. (Criterion 4.2)

Dryandra Woodland Settlement is valued by those disadvantaged children for whom Lions service clubs established Lions Dryandra Village in 1972 as a holiday camp. (Criterion 4.2)

Dryandra Woodland Settlement has value to members of the public who have stayed at the Lions Dryandra Village holiday accommodation. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1 RARITY

Dryandra Woodland Settlement has rarity value as a forestry settlement east of the Darling Scarp Divide and the only such settlement connected with the mallet bark industry. (Criterion 5.1)

Dryandra Woodland Settlement is believed to contain the oldest extant forestry house in Western Australia, although it is not intact. (Criterion 5.1)

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Dryandra Woodland Settlement is representative of small, largely self-sufficient, isolated forestry settlement in southwest Western Australia. (Criterion 6.1)

Dryandra Woodland Settlement is representative of the fluctuating forestry settlements in Western Australia, which were relatively portable with timber construction buildings being relocated to and from other sites as required, during wartime and periods of shortage until the late 1950s. (Criterion 6.2)

The structures within *Dryandra Woodland Settlement* are representative of Depression-era housing and 'group housing'. (Criterion 6.2)

Individual structures representative of their type include:

- Cottage No. 16 (Banksia): representative of an early Type 6 Forestry cottage prior to the Depression;
- Cottage No. 382 (CALM Manager's House): representative of a Type 6 Forestry cottage built at the close of the Depression;
- Cottages Nos. 381 (Possum), 379 (Marri) and 378 (Wallaby): representative of Type 8 Forestry cottages built at the close of the Depression;
- Tammar Hall is representative of a timber-mill town hall of the 1930s, relocated to a new site when it had served its purpose. It is also representative of the make-do of the Volunteer Defence Corps during the shortages of WWII; and,
- The former Stables (Building No. 17) is representative of the changes that government structures can undergo in changing circumstances.

12.3 CONDITION

The cottages, garages and other structures are in fair to good condition, with exception of the slab huts, which are in fair to poor condition.

The mature pines generally appear to be in fair to good condition. A few at the southern end of the cottages appear to be dead.

Introduced planting varies in condition. Some comparatively recent planting east of the cottages is in poor condition. The pine trees generally appear to be in fair to good condition although a few are dead or in poor condition. Remnant fruit trees and ornamental plants around the cottages, including House No. 382, are generally in fair condition.

The dams appear in fair to good condition. The tennis courts appear in poor to fair condition. Water storage tanks and stands around the cottages are in poor condition. Fences appear to be in fair to good condition. The recent seats, play equipment and barbeques are in fair to good condition. Native vegetation appears to be in good condition.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

Additions and alterations have been carried out to the structures that comprise *Dryandra Woodland Settlement*, in particular the enclosure of rear verandahs to cottages and additions of rear porticos. The integrity of many of the structures has been compromised by these alterations but the original form, function and layout of the individual structures and the place as a whole is discernable and the original function of the original cottages remain as accommodation.

Dryandra Woodland Settlement retains a moderate degree of integrity.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

There has been a varying degree of alterations and additions carried out to the structures that comprise *Dryandra Woodland Settlement* not necessarily to maintain the place. Additions have been built to the rear of the cottages which although not identical to the original building in form or materials, some are sympathetic in respect of proportioning and massing but many additions diminish the authenticity of the original structures.

Much exterior timber joinery has been replaced with aluminium and some fabric is missing. However, much of the original fabric of the structures is evident.

Structures added to the site are clearly evident as new structures and do not overly diminish the original buildings.

Dryandra Woodland Settlement has a moderate to high degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

This document based on 'Dryandra Woodland Settlement: Conservation Plan' prepared by Kelly Aris, Conservation Architect, with Erickson & Taylor, Research Historians and Heritage Consultants, Thompson Palmer Pty Ltd, Landscape Architects, and Gaye Nayton, Historical Archaeologist, for the Department of Contract and Management Services in 1998, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

13. 1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For documentary evidence see 'Dryandra Woodland Settlement: Conservation Plan', pp. 1-52

Archaeological evidence indicates that Aborigines have occupied the southwest of Western Australia for at least 40,000 years. Thirteen different clans, collectively known as Nyoongars, were thought to live in the region. Those inhabiting the Dryandra area were from the Wilman group.

Very little is known about the Aboriginal use of Dryandra. However, five important cultural sites have been noted in the area, including an ochre pit. Ochre was highly valued for body decoration and rock art. Other sites include artefact scatters, stone arrangements and a scarred tree.

European settlement in the Williams-Narrogin area began in the 1860s, when pastoral leases were made available. This was followed by closer settlement associated with village leases. Many new settlers needed capital to develop farms, so began harvesting mallet for the high-quality tannin found in the bark.

By the early 1900s a sizeable tannin industry had become established in the area. Dryandra was originally dedicated as State forest in 1903, as an area for the protection of water catchments and growing wandoo and mallet forests.

Brown Mallet, a eucalypt, once grew on and near laterite breakaways throughout the southern Wheatbelt. Mallet bark was found to contain between 47 and 60 per cent of high quality, water-soluble tannins, an essential component in the production of quality leather.

From 1903 to 1924, extensive bark stripping took place throughout the Wheatbelt, until many naturally occurring stands of mallet were exhausted. In fact, the mallet was so heavily cut by the mid-1920s, the newly established Forests Department decided to set aside portions of Dryandra for the protection of existing stands and the establishment of new plantations. A mallet replanting program was started near Lol Gray lookout and,¹ during the Depression (1923-33), sustenance workers planted some 4000 hectares of mallet.²

A cottage was built for the Resident Overseer at Lol Gray in 1925 (relocated to Dryandra in the 1940s, this cottage [no. 16] is believed to be the oldest extant forestry cottage in the State). Dryandra Forest (State Forest No. 51) was established in 1934 and the following year *Dryandra Woodland Settlement* was established, comprising five Type 6 and 8 cottages. In the early 1940s, the Resident Overseers cottages from Lol Gray and Contine were relocated to Dryandra and c.1948, three more Type 8 cottages were built there.³

Forests Department⁴ staff were located at the Dryandra Settlement, as well as at outstations on high points at Contine, Congelin, Montague and Highbury. Each had its own fire tower, tended by the overseers' wives during periods of high fire danger. Lookout trees once helped to protect the woodland and mallet plantations from the ravages of wildfire. Two can still be seen at Dryandra, one at Lol Gray and another at Congelin.

The mallet bark industry declined in the 1960s as cheaper techniques and materials were developed by the leather industry, and mallet is no longer in commercial use for tannin production. The sowing of mallet was suspended in 1965 and some buildings relocated to Narrogin. Today Dryandra contains about 7,500 hectares of mallet plantations, utilised primarily for the production of tool handles, fence posts and firewood.

Most of the European cultural sites at Dryandra are associated with the mallet industry. Other features include the Congelin railway siding and dam, the Lol Gray school site, and survey markers erected by John Forrest.⁵

In the early 1970s, the Lions Club of Scarborough secured a lease for the buildings at Dryandra for holiday accommodation for underprivileged children. It continues this programme today (2006).

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For physical evidence see 'Dryandra Woodland Settlement: Conservation Plan', pp. 53-127

¹ Although the Conservation Plan refers to 'Lolgray', it is correct as two words. (See, for example, www.waec.wa.gov.au/download/StreetsPlacesTowns_Directory2004_Part1.pdf)

² www.calm.wa.gov.au/tourism/dryandra_woodland_culture.html

³ *Forestry Cottages: Comparative Assessments* (Heritage Conservation Professionals, 2005)

⁴ The Forestry Department is now known as the Department of Environment and Conservation, which was previously the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM). See Department of Environment and Conservation website: www.dec.wa.gov.au

⁵ www.calm.wa.gov.au/tourism/dryandra_woodland_culture.html

Dryandra's woodland has a rich flora that includes species from both jarrah forests to the west and the semi-arid wheatbelt to the east. The high country of the area is a laterite plateau. The region has woodlands of powderbark (*Eucalyptus accedens*), jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) and a few marri (*Eucalyptus calophylla*). Shrubs are diverse and spectacular when in flower. Dryandra, especially *Banksia nobilis* and *Banksia armata*, dominate.⁶ On poorer soils the mallee, *Eucalyptus drummondii*, occurs. Open forests of brown mallet (*Eucalyptus astringens*) can change, either rapidly or more gradually, into powderbark slopes. Further down the slope the upper storey changes to wandoo (*Eucalyptus wandoo*) with a shrub layer composed almost entirely of sandplain poison.

Of note is 8,300ha of brown mallet plantations which were planted between 1926 and 1962 in areas once covered by wandoo woodlands.⁷

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

For comparative information see 'Dryandra Woodland Settlement: Conservation Plan', pp. 134-38

The Heritage Council database contains 35 sites listed as having housing or quarters for the forestry industry. Of these, four are currently on the State Register of Heritage Places:

Ludlow Forestry Settlement is a former timber town comprising Ludlow Road and river bridge, unsealed bush lanes, eleven forestry cottages featuring original timber and woven wire fencing, domestic cottage gardens and timber framed and clad outbuildings, together with the former sawmill and workshops site in its fenced compound and sundry other structures including three timber framed water tank stands with metal tanks, all located in a forest setting featuring pines and mature Tuarts.

Pemberton Timber Mill Workers' Cottages Precinct is a complex of timber weatherboard clad cottages including related buildings, with corrugated iron roofs in Federation & Inter-War Bungalow styles built for State Sawmills 1913-20 and 1924-26, together with bungalows built c.1951, mill manager's house, teacher's house, former dining room, former boarding house & church, streets & rear lanes, open spaces, gardens & landscaping. The precinct is rare as a large collection of relatively intact timber mill workers cottages including related buildings. However, the town was planned on town planning principles and contained extensive community facilities such as a hospital, shops, hotel and churches, so is not directly comparable to *Dryandra Woodland Settlement*.

Mill Manager's Residence, Jarrahdale is a single-storey, weatherboard and iron vernacular interpretation of a Victorian Georgian style residence, together with outbuildings. The place is historically significant for its direct association with the first and largest timber concession established in Western Australia, and as an example of a mill manager's house at a substantial mill.

Donnelly River Mill and Townsite Precinct comprises a steam-powered timber mill and its associated settlement, first constructed in 1950/51, with subsequent

⁶ Previously known as *Banksia nobilis* and *Banksia armata*, in 2007 all *Dryandra* species were transferred to *Banksia* (http://www.anbg.gov.au/cgi-bin/apni?taxon_id=269948).

⁷ http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl?mode=place_detail;place_id=9928 (accessed 30 September 2008)

additions throughout the 1950s. The largely intact Mill is the only extant example of the technology that utilised steam power in working Western Australia's hardwood forests.

Throughout the history of forestry in Western Australia settlements similar to *Dryandra* have been established and disbanded in response to immediate needs. A characteristic of these settlements has been the relocation of cottages.

Portagabra (formerly Mundaring Weir Forestry Weir Settlement), located around 1 kilometre north of Mundaring Weir, comprises of remnant elements of the former Forests Department settlement together with infrastructure associated with more recent CALM (now DEC) operations. The site contains a 1920s single men's quarters, a 1930s cottage, a 1950s cottage and two relocated cottages from the 1960s and 1970s. The CALM District Office located on the western side of the settlement includes an original c.1925 structure, since extended and modified.

Other extant settlements that have not been assessed for their heritage values are located at Deanmill, Myalup, Lewana and Wellington Mills.

Dryandra Woodland Settlement is relatively rare as an intact, if substantially altered, forestry settlement. It appears to be unique as the only forestry settlement associated with the mallet bark industry, and is the only settlement east of the Darling Scarp Divide.

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

'Dryandra Woodland Settlement: Conservation Plan' prepared by Kelly Aris, Conservation Architect, with Erickson & Taylor, Research Historians and Heritage Consultants, Thompson Palmer Pty Ltd, Landscape Architects, and Gaye Nayton, Historical Archaeologist, for the Department of Contract and Management Services in 1998

'Forestry Cottages: Comparative Assessments' prepared by Heritage and Conservation Professionals for Department of Housing and Works on behalf of GEHA and CALM in October 2005

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

Further research is required to situate the site in a wider social and economic context of mallet bark production in Australia.