



REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES - ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in September, 1991 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE

Balladong Farm Group operates as a coherent visual whole with the structures of the stables, granary, shearing shed and butchers shop, and the adjacent Bridge House and Balladong House, contributing to the aesthetic harmony of the group. Visual complexity is created through soft coloured brick and stone walling; the textures of shingled roofs and corrugated iron sheeting; timber wall slabbing; and, fine timber joinery. (Criterion 1.1)

The timber construction of the original buildings of *Balladong Farm Group*, is a technical accomplishment. (Criterion 1.2)

The aesthetic quality of the place is valued by both the York community and the wider heritage oriented community and is cited in listings by Local Government and the National Trust. (Criterion 1.3)

This aesthetic character is reinforced by the unity of the individual components which collectively form a significant cultural environment. (Criterion 1.4)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Balladong Farm Group was the first farm established following settlement of the Avon Valley as a farming district in 1831. (Criterion 2.1)

Balladong Farm Group has a close association with settlers William Heal, Henry Bland, and Stephen Parker, who were significant in the establishment of farming activities in York, and in the development of the farm from 1831. (Criterion 2.3)

Balladong Farm Group demonstrates technical innovation in the design of the place, the evolution of differing building materials through time, and the sensitivity to the technical requirements of farm usage. (Criterion 2.4)

11.3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

In both its original and reconstructed form, *Balladong Farm Group* has the capacity to contribute to the wider understanding of nineteenth century agricultural practise in Western Australia. (Criterion 3.1)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Balladong Farm Group has been significant to the York community since its establishment in 1831. As a successful farm run by key personalities in the district, and servicing other parts of the state with its produce and technological achievements, *Balladong Farm Group* has contributed to and influenced the social fabric of York and the Avon Valley. (Criterion 4.1)

Balladong Farm Group contributes to the community's sense of place by providing a link with the European settlement and development of the area. The importance of the place has been supported by community involvement in the conservation and management of the place. (Criterion 4.2)

Balladong Farm Group also contributes the York community's sense of place as an historical farm demonstrating the farming methods of the second half of the nineteenth century. Today, that context has been extended through the re establishment of the working farm and the use of the place for education and tourism. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Balladong Farm Group is a unique example of an operating historical farm. The farm has been re-established, incorporating surviving historical elements in buildings and farming environment, to demonstrate the distinctive character of nineteenth century farming method. Because of this, and because of the high degree of original fabric, *Balladong Farm Group* has the capacity demonstrate a way of rural existence that is now rare. (Criteria 5.1, 5.2)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Balladong Farm Group is representative of nineteenth century farming. Current programmes of management demonstrate historical farming and are part of the place's conservation. The recreation of historical methods at the farm is relevant to a proper understanding of the value of the farm at the time of its establishment. (Criterion 6.1)

Balladong Farm Group is representative of nineteenth century farm development, with the fabric of the buildings incorporating response to change over time and providing indications of the development of regional and local prosperity in tandem with the State's development. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

Extensive restoration and reconstruction work has been carried out on the main buildings, the paddocks and fencing. The original buildings and farm infrastructure are either restored or undergoing a programme of renewal. *Balladong Farm Group* is in good condition.

Detailed considerations of condition may be found in the Conservation Plan by Bodycoat, R. , Duncan Stephen & Mercer, Architects: 'Balladong Farm, York, WA. Conservation Plan' (prepared for the Shire of York in conjunction with the Heritage Council of Western Australia and the National Trust of Australia (WA), March 1995).

This plan has been received by the Shire of York and the National Trust of Australia (WA) and is currently being used as the basis for implementation of conservation works to the place.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

Balladong Farm Group is unlikely ever to be viable or sustainable as a 'nineteenth century' farm, but the gradual introduction of strategies which will appropriately assist interpretation and at the same time increase revenue, will ensure that its integrity is permanently intact and remains high.

Integrity is addressed in detail in the Conservation Plan by Bodycoat, R. , Duncan Stephen & Mercer, Architects: 'Balladong Farm, York, WA. Conservation Plan' (prepared for the Shire of York in conjunction with the Heritage Council of Western Australia and the National Trust of Australia (WA), March 1995).

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

Balladong Farm Group has a high degree of authenticity. Where missing elements are reconstructed, or new elements are provided as necessary for current day management, care is being taken with presentation and interpretation to avoid compromising the historic cultural elements.

For more detail refer to the Conservation Plan by Bodycoat, R. , Duncan Stephen & Mercer, Architects: 'Balladong Farm, York, WA. Conservation Plan' (prepared for the Shire of York in conjunction with the Heritage Council of Western Australia and the National Trust of Australia (WA), March 1995).

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Attached are key sections of the supporting evidence prepared by Bodycoat, R., Duncan Stephen & Mercer, Architects: 'Balladong Farm, York, WA. Conservation Plan' (prepared for the Shire of York in conjunction with the Heritage Council of Western Australia and the National Trust of Australia (WA), March 1995).

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a detailed discussion of the documentary evidence, refer to the Conservation Plan by Bodycoat, R., Duncan Stephen & Mercer, Architects: 'Balladong Farm, York, WA. Conservation Plan' (prepared for the Shire of York in conjunction with the Heritage Council of Western Australia and the National Trust of Australia (WA), March 1995).

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a detailed discussion of the physical evidence, refer to the Conservation Plan by Bodycoat, R., Duncan Stephen & Mercer, Architects: 'Balladong Farm, York, WA. Conservation Plan' (prepared for the Shire of York in conjunction with the Heritage Council of Western Australia and the National Trust of Australia (WA), March 1995).

13.3 REFERENCES

Bodycoat, R., Duncan Stephen & Mercer, Architects: 'Balladong Farm, York, WA. Conservation Plan' (prepared for the Shire of York in conjunction with the Heritage Council of Western Australia and the National Trust of Australia (WA), March 1995).