



REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Permanent Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 9080
2. **NAME** *Merredin State Farm Manager's House (fmr)* (1904)
FORMER NAMES Nangeenan Experimental Farm, Merredin Experimental Farm
OTHER NAME Merredin Research Station
3. **LOCATION** Great Eastern Hwy, Merredin
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
 That part of Nangeenan Agricultural area Lot 2, being part of Crown Reserve 10009 and being part of the land comprised in Crown Land Record Volume 3077 Folio 328 as is defined in Heritage Council of Western Australia survey drawing No. 9080 prepared by Steffanoni Ewing & Cruickshank Pty Ltd.
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Shire of Merredin
6. **OWNER** Department of Agriculture
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**
 - Register of Heritage Places: Interim Entry 27/08/1999
 Permanent Entry 08/08/2000
 - National Trust Classification: -----
 - Town Planning Scheme: -----
 - Municipal Inventory: -----
 - Register of the National Estate: -----
8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**

9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**

10. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**
Merredin State Farm Manager's House (fmr), a timber and iron bungalow displaying some characteristics of the Federation Bungalow style, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place is representative of the Experimental Farms which were opened between 1895 and 1907. Of the five Farms established during this period, Merredin is the only one still in use;

the place illustrates the State Government's pro active attitude to land settlement and to agricultural and technological advancement, which included various schemes developed from the late 1880s to the 1950s to

encourage people to take up farm land, and to improve farming techniques;

Merredin Research Station has made significant contributions to agriculture in the State, and in Australia generally, with the development of improved strains of wheat, rye grass, and barrel medic and other legume crops. The Manager's House is the oldest remaining structure on the Merredin Research Station site and reflects its first phase of development as a Research Station;

the place is of aesthetic value as a good example of a Public Works Department standard design weatherboard and corrugated iron residential building, built in country areas in the early 1900s;

the early occupants of the place, among them father and son, John and Harry Robinson (1904-1909), were instrumental in the development of the Research Station and the establishment of the Nangeenan agricultural settlement;

the place is valued by the local community for its associations with the development of farming in the district;

the place, together with its original tree plantings, is valued by the local community as a familiar feature on Great Eastern Highway, since 1904; and,

the place is a representative example of government housing provided for rural employees in the early 1900s, and represents a way of life for the Manager of the Research Station.

The recent garden plantings, garage, clothesline and concrete slab for the laundry building (demolished), are of no heritage value.