



HERITAGE
COUNCIL
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Permanent Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 00048
2. **NAME** *Sir Richard & Lady Spencer's Grave (1839; 1841; 1855)*
3. **LOCATION** Seymour Street, Albany
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
Lot 998 on Plan 190, being Crown Reserve 23769 and being the whole of the land comprised in Crown Land Title Volume 3008 Folio 998.
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** City of Albany
6. **OWNER** The State of Western Australia.
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**
 - Register of Heritage Places: Interim Entry 05/06/1992
Permanent Entry 17/04/2003
 - National Trust Classification: Classified 04/04/1977
 - Town Planning Scheme: -----
 - Municipal Inventory: Adopted 23/09/1999
 - Register of the National Estate: Permanent 21/10/1980
8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**

9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**

10. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Sir Richard & Lady Spencer's Grave, a grave with a headstone, railings and a flag pole, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the importance of the site is related to the prominence of the Spencers in the history of Albany and the state. Captain Sir Richard Spencer, who had had a distinguished naval background and fought in the Napoleonic Wars, was recruited by Governor Stirling for the position of Government Resident for King George Sound. Arriving with his family in 1833, he bought 'Strawberry Farm', which became an important centre of social activity for the region. Lady Spencer made a significant contribution in her own right as the hostess of 'Strawberry Farm' and was noted for her work to improve the general conditions of the settlement continued during the years following her husband's

passing.¹ Sir Richard Spencer's influence included his role in the development of fine merino wool exportation from the Albany region. He is also remembered for his understanding attitude with the original occupants, the Meananger Aborigines.² Both the location of the grave and the flagstaff, which were erected in 1842, were as he had requested.³ The grave's well defined and prominent location is symbolic of the privileged and influential position that the Spencer's enjoyed from 1833 until their deaths, 1839 and 1855.

the grave and its surroundings are valued for their aesthetic qualities as a simple structure of headstone, railings and a flagpole, set in a grassed park setting;

the grave is a landmark on Strawberry Hill and contributes positively to its environment;

the site is a significant element of the cultural environment created primarily by Strawberry Farm buildings and garden; and,

the site contributes to the community's sense of place as a carrier of the history and memory of the early occupation and settlement of King George Sound.

¹ G.E.E. Warburton, *Letter: 8 November 1840*, cited in Crabb, Dawn, *The Way to St Werburgh's*, Albany Advertiser, 1974, p. 42.

² *Municipal Inventory of the City of Albany*, Vol. 1, p. 17 & Vol.2, pp. 55, 62.

³ Crabb, Dawn, *op.cit.*, p. 52.