

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES Assessment Documentation

11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Cultural heritage significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for individuals or groups within Western Australia.

In determining cultural heritage significance, the Heritage Council has had regard to the factors in the *Heritage Act 2018* and the indicators adopted on 14 June 2019.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

•	3.7.1	Establishing postal	services
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• 3.22 Lodging people

3.23 Catering for Tourists4.1.1 Selecting township sites

8.4 Eating and drinking

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

•	107	Settlements

301 Grazing, pastoralism and dairying
 311 Hospitality industry and tourism

602 Early settlers

11(a) Importance in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of Western Australia's history

Chesterfield Inn (fmr), Rockingham marks the location of one of the earliest stopping places for travellers on the road between Fremantle and Mandurah.

Chesterfield Inn (fmr), Rockingham has a continued history that reflects the development of this part of the State from initial settlement.

11(b) Importance in demonstrating rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of Western Australia's heritage

Chesterfield Inn (fmr), Rockingham serves as a reminder of the practice of travelling to areas, either for work or leisure that are now considered metropolitan but were once regional.

P3841 East Rockingham Heritage Precinct, of which *Chesterfield Inn (fmr), Rockingham* is a crucial part, is rare for its collection of places that demonstrate settlement and development in the region.

11(c) Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Western Australia's history;

Chesterfield Inn (fmr), Rockingham, having a long history of European occupation and containing substantial evidence of material culture including potentially both building fabric and archaeological material, has value as a site for research into the cultural history of Western Australia.

Chesterfield Inn (fmr), Rockingham has some interest from a cultural-geological point of view. The stone employed in the construction of parts of this building is a vuggy lacustrine limestone which, apart from in the Cockburn Sound region, has not been quarried for building purposes in other areas.

11(d) Its importance in demonstrating the characteristics of a broader class of places;

The layout and general form of the Cottage is characteristic of nineteenth to twentieth century homesteads in that it comprises a basic original form that has been adapted over time.

11(e) Any strong or special meaning it may have for any group or community because of social, cultural or spiritual associations;

Chesterfield Inn (fmr), Rockingham is among several sites in East Rockingham which provide the district with a sense of history and permanence. The importance of these places is heightened by the impending development which is likely to substantially alter the character of the district.

11(f)¹ Its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by any group or community;

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.

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

As an architectural composition, the Cottage is a pleasing example of the Federation Queen Anne style, with its restrained detailing, comfortable proportions, and the symmetrical arrangement of its fenestration.

11(g) Any special association it may have with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in Western Australia's history;

Chesterfield Inn (fmr), Rockingham has considerable importance for its association with pioneering families, including the Bells, Herberts, Hymus, Chesters and Wards.

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1 CONDITION

In light of the recent conservation works, the structural fabric of the building and roof are in good condition. Where there have been localised repairs to external walls, this masonry is also in good condition. However, where no repairs have been undertaken, the walls are in a fair to poor condition with flaking paint and render with graffiti. The building is essentially a secure and weatherproof shell with all internal fabric having been removed. There are no ceilings, floors, fixtures or fittings. Internal wall finishes are in a poor condition. There are some remaining timber window and door frames which are in a poor condition and left in-situ for possible future repair. Two layers of security fencing surround the building with the landscape in between overgrown with shrubs and vegetation.

12. 2 INTEGRITY

This section explains the extent to which the fabric is in its original state.

It is possible that the central core of the Cottage includes parts of the original Rockingham Arms/Chesterfield Inn. However, this is difficult to corroborate, given the conflicting historical accounts and that the actual layout of the very early structures is unable to be confirmed.

The two fires at the Cottage in 1912 and 1992, and subsequent repair and rebuilding have contributed to a loss of the place's original fabric, Extant original fabric comprises some of the external and internal walls. The recent conservation works are true to the original with replacement roof configuration and covering. To this end the overall integrity of the place is high with the layout and form of the building being true, enabling a clear understanding of the place. Its significance is bound up with both the site and the physical fabric of the Cottage. Some value is derived from the context, which includes a rural landscape (that may shortly be changed to industrial) and a relationship to other sites of early settlement which are likely to be retained.

The archaeology of the place retains a high degree of integrity. Regardless of the provenance of extant fabric, the historic evidence clearly shows that the Rockingham Arms and extant Cottage were in the same general location. The site has not been subject to any major ground disturbing works and the potential for insitu archaeological deposits from the 1850s is high.

12. 3 AUTHENTICITY

This section explains the extent to which the original intention is evident, and the compatibility of current use.

The overall authenticity of the place is considered to be low. The original use as a wayside inn ceased in 1914. The place is currently uninhabited. The future use of the site is unlikely to be compatible with its former uses as a hotel/inn or residence.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentation for this place is based on 'Chesterfield Inn (fmr), Rockingham, East Rockingham Conservation Plan' prepared for Landcorp by Palassis Architects in April 2010, with amendments and/or additions by the Department and the Heritage Council. The discussion of physical evidence has been updated to include the conservation works that have occurred based on a site inspection undertaken by Department officers in January 2020.

13. 1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a full discussion of the documentary evidence refer to the 'Chesterfield Inn (fmr), Rockingham, East Rockingham Conservation Plan' prepared for Landcorp by Palassis Architects in April 2010. A summary is provided below with additional research by Department officers.

Chesterfield Inn (fmr), Rockingham is situated within the Rockingham Industrial Zone along Chesterfield Road, located approximately 45km south of Perth, on a semi-cleared allotment comprising scatterings of remnant Tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*). Several other heritage places are located within 350m, including P2329 *Bell Cottage (fmr)* to the north-east and P2320 *Hymus House and Outbuildings* to the north.

Chesterfield Inn (fmr), Rockingham is located on Gnaala Karla Boodja. An archaeological and ethnographic survey was completed for the site and a Registered Aboriginal Site (artefact scatter) is located approximately 100m to the south-west. Further detail relating to this can be found in 'Report of an Aboriginal Archaeological and Ethnographic Survey of the Rockingham Industry Zone', March 2012 prepared by Gavin Jackson Cultural Resource Management and Dr Edward McDonald on behalf of Amergin Consulting (Australia) Pty Ltd for Landcorp.

Settlement in Cockburn Sound

British settlement in Western Australia commenced with the establishment of Albany as a penal settlement governed by NSW in 1826 and the Swan River Colony as a free settlement in 1829. Cliff Point Historic Site at Garden Island was the first site inhabited by Lieutenant Governor James Stirling's party when founding the Swan River Colony and was Western Australia's first non-convict settlement.² The party occupied the site for two months in 1829 before moving to the Swan River settlement on the mainland.³

Settlement south of the Swan River/Perth area was first attempted in late 1829–1830 in an unsuccessful venture by Thomas Peel.⁴ A range of factors including poor management, lack of resources and harsh conditions plagued the settlers

As a property owned by the Commonwealth Department of Defence (P18184) Cliff Point Historic Site is listed on the Commonwealth Heritage List, and has not been considered for listing on the (WA) State Register of Heritage Places.

³ (Commonwealth) Department of Environment, 2014 'Commonwealth heritage places in Western Australia — Cliff Point Historic Site, Garden Island' Source: http://www.environment.gov.au/node/19628#garden, Accessed 6 February 2014.

KTA Partnership, 1992, 'Heritage Report on East Rockingham Settlement' for City of Rockingham, Town of Kwinana, Landcorp, p. 2.

camped at Cockburn Sound (now known as P17868 Peel Town Archaeological Sites⁵) and by 1832 the area was abandoned.⁶

Land to the south of the Peel settlement was allocated to some of the settlers associated with Thomas Peel in 1829. It is inferred from documentary sources that 12 families and some single men moved away from Peel town to settle in the East Rockingham area. However, the locations of these settlements cannot be found.⁷

The first farmers to permanently settle in the district, attracted by the good grazing land and adequate water supply, chose to establish themselves close to the Mandurah to Fremantle track (Mandurah Road)⁸ in what is now the City of Rockingham.

Some sources note that the permanent settlement of East Rockingham did not occur until the 1850s. However, it is likely that permanent settlement may have occurred earlier. Marshall MacDermott held the first two permanent allotments surveyed in the East Rockingham/Kwinana area, comprising Cockburn Sound Locations 17 and 18, which were surveyed by Thomas Watson in 1842.9 MacDermott advertised the lease for the lots in May 1843.10 Leases were taken up by William Curtis (c.1845), Kay (c.1850), and Adam Armstrong (c.1860). In 1852 and 1866, the lease for Location 17 was advertised and contained a '...large stone house 11...58 feet long 21 feet wide...with a verandah 10 feet wide 12...'. It is not known where this house was located on Location 17, however, a reference to a house can be seen in an early survey. Surveyor Robert Austin also visited 'Curtis's Farm' in 1848.14

Curtis went on to own Location 42 after leasing MacDermott's land, south-west of Location 17, which was surveyed in 1854. The 1854 survey shows that a house and garden had already been established on the allotment, 15 situated approximately 300m north-east of the extant P2329 *Bell Cottage (ruin)*.

The initial buildings constructed by the early settlers were predominately temporary constructions, located along the Mandurah Road track. ¹⁶ Many of the homes began as small one or two room huts that were expanded as more children

Peel Town Archaeological Sites comprises the archaeological sites and artefacts associated with this settlement, located north-west of Hope Valley in the City of Cockburn. The site is on the HCWA Assessment Program.

⁶ KTA Partnership, op cit., p. 2; Palassis Architects 2003, op cit., p. 9.

Personal communication between Daniel Holland and Dr. Shane Burke, 16 April 2020

Kevin Palassis Architects, 1999, 'Woodbine (also known as Bell Cottage) Conservation Plan', prepared for City of Rockingham, p.13.

Survey of M. MacDermott's 1842, 2 blocks 160 each situated eastward from Rockingham, Sheet 4, State Records of Western Australia, Cons 3869 item 132.

¹⁰ To be let, Inquirer, 3 May 1843, p. 6

Sale of real property, Perth Gazette and Independent Journal, 17 September 1852, p. 2

For Sale at Rockingham, Inquirer and Commercial News, 31 October 1866, p. 2

Cockburn Sound Locations in the vincinity of Rockingham as surveyed by Robert Austin 1842-53, State Records Office WA, Cons 3869 Item 021

¹⁴ R. Austin Field Book 3, State Records Office WA, Cons 3401 Item AUS/03

Cockburn Sound Locations in the vincinity of Rockingham as surveyed by Robert Austin 1842-53, State Records Office WA, Cons 3869 Item 021

Kevin Palassis Architects, 1999 op cit., p. 13. Several accounts of the early buildings in Rockingham indicate that these buildings were of wattle and daub construction, however there is some debate as to whether clay was present for use by early settlers in the region. (Fiona Bush, personal communication, 24 February 2017)

were born. These gradually developed into more substantial buildings constructed from locally hewn limestone.¹⁷ The local limestone quarry¹⁸ is believed to have been used as a source of building material for the local area.¹⁹

In 1865 the East Rockingham School²⁰ was built by members of the small community to cater for the large number of children in the settlement.²¹ By 1868, the East Rockingham settlement was well established with several of the family groups becoming closely related through marriage over the years, including the Mead, Day, Bell, Hymus, Key and Thomas families.²²

When the Rockingham Roads Board was established in 1897, a number of its original members were residents of the East Rockingham area, including representatives of the Bell family, as well as those of the Thorpe (of P12089 Pines Cottage), Day (of P4015 *Day Cottage*), Mead (P2327 *Mead Homestead*), and Hymus (P2320 *Hymus House and Outbuildings*) families.²³

The history of *Rockingham Arms (fmr)* can be broadly separated into three distinct periods: the 'Bush Inn/Rockingham Arms Period (c.1853-c.1895)'; 'Chesterfield Inn Period (c.1895-c.1912)'; and the 'Dairy/Chesterfield House-Present Period (1929-present)'.

Rockingham Arms (c.1853-c.1895)

Accounts of Mrs Phoebe Christie contained in the *Royal WA Historical Society Journal* in 1950, claim that in 1853, William Hymus was granted a 'free' licence for the 'Bush Inn' and that the inn was originally planned by Williams' father to be free of alcohol, due to his following of the Quaker movement. Furthermore, that this did not eventuate as William's father died before the inn operated and William was believed to have taken over.²⁴ However, research undertaken in 2020 has found no evidence that William Humus ever operated the inn.

In 1855, the licence for the Bush Inn was transferred to James Herbert. The inn is potentially denoted by illustration and diary entries of Frederick Mackie, who visited on his way from Fremantle to Australind. Mackie, also a follower of the Quaker movement, notes the isolation of the inn and shows that the establishment

Heritage Council of Western Australia, Register of Heritage Places Assessment Documentation, P2327 Mead Homestead (1999), pp.6-7; KTA Partnership, op cit., p. 5.

P24537 Limestone Quarry, Rockingham, located within P3841 East Rockingham Heritage Precinct (HCWA Assessment Program); Taggart, N, 1984, *Rockingham Looks Back: A history of the Rockingham District 1829-1982*, Rockingham District Historical Society Inc, East Fremantle, p. 95.

Study of Conservation Options for Thorpe, Thomas and Bell Cottages, Palassis Architects (1997), cited in State Register of Heritage Places Assessment Documentation for P2327 Mead Homestead (1999), p.7.

P16042 East Rockingham School Site. Originally constructed of limestone blocks, the hall was destroyed by fire in 1966. A commemorative plaque marks the site, which is located within P3841 East Rockingham Heritage Precinct (HCWA Assessment Program).

Palassis Architects, 1999 op cit., p. 13.

Palassis Architects, 2008, *Town of Kwinana Historical Thematic Framework & Municipal Heritage Inventory*, Town of Kwinana, Accessed http://www.kwinana.wa.gov.au/Documents/Your-Property/Planning/2008-Municipal-Heritage-Inventory.aspx, p. 12; Taggart, op cit., p. 54.

²³ P3841 East Rockingham Heritage Precinct — Preliminary Review, p. 7.

The Memories of Mrs Phoebe Christie' *Royal* WA *Historical Society Journal*, Vol.IV, Part2, 1950,p.74 in 'Chesterfield Inn Conservation Plan' prepared by Palassis Architects for Landcorp, 2010, p. 13; The Rockingham District Historical Society have investigated the license and could find no evidence that William Hymus operated the inn, personal communication between Wendy Durant, Curator, Rockingham District Historical Society, and Daniel Holland, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, 20 October 2020.

comprised of two single storey structures with pitched roofs.²⁵ The exact location of the 'Bush Inn' is unclear, and may or may not have been incorporated into the later Rockingham Arms structure.

In 1857 Herbert purchased the 10-acre allotment 'Cockburn Sound Location 71' and built the Rockingham Arms on Chesterfield Road. Rockingham Arms was likely the only licensed premises in the area, considering the restrictions by the licensing board on the number of licensed premises, and may have provided extra income for other settlers in the area in addition to their other agricultural and business pursuits.²⁶

The building is depicted on an early survey of the area, showing that its location was adjacent to the northern extent of the boundary lot and central from the east and west boundaries.²⁷ This suggests that the location of the extant building was on or very-near-to the site of the extant Cottage. The survey shows a simple rectangular structure.

In 1862, the licence for the inn transferred to James Herbert Jnr, following his 21st birthday. James Herbert also took up the licences for the Stirling Arms Guildford (1862-1865) and then the Freemason's Hotel Fremantle in 1866.²⁸

From 1864 to 1867, the Rockingham Arms was used as the region's first post office following James Herbert Jnr's appointment as postmaster.²⁹

In 1867, the licence was transferred to William Rewell, who also purchased Location 130, expanding the enterprise to around 25 acres.

Herbert's publican ventures were successful, allowing him to purchase more land in the Rockingham area, as well as in Fremantle and Perth throughout the 1860s.³⁰

Between 1870 and 1874, the licence was owned by Andrew Seubert, then transferred to William Summers.

The advertisement for Summers' application of a 'wayside house licence' states that the Rockingham Arms comprised of five bedrooms and five sitting rooms.³¹

An advert for the place's sale in 1874 also stated:

"...the house is a substantial stone building consisting of ten rooms [five bedrooms and five sitting rooms], with a cellar and outhouses...there are attached a stables, barn, stockyard, cowsheds, summer and winter garden,

Register of Heritage Places Chesterfield Inn (fmr), Rockingham 17 May 2021

Nicholls, Mary (ed.) Traveller under Concern: The Quaker Journals of Frederick Mackie on his tour of Australasian Colonies 1852-1855, University of Tasmania, Hobart, 1973, p.267. The diary entry is dated February 20, 1855. Mackie notes the distance of the Bush Inn from Fremantle was about 14 miles in Palassis Architects, *op. cit.*, p. 14

Palassis Architects op. cit., p. 14

The survey map is dated 1843-53, however, the depiction of Herbert's 10-acre allotment was not surveyed until 30 August 1857. 'Cockburn Sound Locations in the vicinity of Rockingham, A survey by Gregory and Austin', 1843-52, State Records Office of Western Australia, Cons 3869 Item 021.

²⁸ 'James A. Herbert: Aerated Water Manufacturer', in The Little Bottler, Vol.12, No.1., p.7 in Palassis Architects, op. cit., p.15

Draper, Rockingham: The Visions Unfold, City of Rockingham, 1997, p.66 in Palassis Architects op. cit., p.15

Durant, W., 'The Inn', unpublished history, 1996, p.10 in Palassis Architects, op. cit., p.15

³¹ 'The Wines Beer and Spirits Sales Act, 1872, 13 August 1874, The Herald, p. 2

well stocked with fruit trees and vines, also a paddock of about 25 acres and about 16 acres of cultivated land all well fenced'.³²

By the 1870s the place had become a popular location for people to holiday away from Perth, particularly for hunters, fishers, and duck shooters on the weekends, and continued to profit from the many people travelling along the Fremantle-Mandurah road.

The most famous holidaymaker supposedly to have stayed at the Rockingham Arms was the Forrest family. Secondary sources report that in the early 1870s,³³ John Forrest and his wife, Margaret (nee Hamersley), may have honeymooned here.³⁴ However, the research conducted for this assessment could find no primary account. John Forrest and his brother, Alexander, did, however, survey the Rockingham area during the 1870s and the Forrest family are believed to have been friends with the Herberts.³⁵

In 1876, James Herbert died and his properties were listed for public auction. The listing for *Chesterfield Inn (fmr), Rockingham* stated that the place was inhabited by William Summers and comprised:

"...nine rooms, with large detached room, a good cellar, a capital well of water, and excellent kitchen garden of half-acre...the whole surrounded with substantial fence of posts and rails and slabs..."

Although the number of 'rooms' at *Chesterfield Inn (fmr), Rockingham* is mentioned several times throughout its history, these figures cannot always be taken to include all the rooms in the place. This is because some records, particularly applications to operate the place as an inn, only listed the number of rooms used for the commercial operations.

During the course of executing Herbert's will, Summers advertised that the term of his lease with Herbert included a provision to purchase the property.³⁷ This was not to eventuate as Herbert's son challenged the validity of the claim³⁸ and the property was advertised for sale.

Chesterfield Inn Period (c.1895-1912)

In 1877, Location 71 and 130 were brought under the Transfer of Lands Act and John Chester is noted on the certificate of tile as being a Yeoman of Fremantle.³⁹

³² 'To be sold or let with immediate possession' The Inquirer and Commercial News, 25 February 1874, p. 1; 'The Wines Beer and Spirits Sale Act, 1872, Application for a Wayside House License, The Herald, 13 August 1874, p. 2

The Forrests were not married until 1876 according to the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

Taggart, N., *Rockingham Looks Back'*, Rockingham District Historical Society (Inc), 1984, p. 77 in Palassis Architects, *op. cit.*, p. 15

Survey of Rockingham Townsite, 1873, John Forrest, State Records Office WA, Cons 3868 Item 372; Personal communication between Wendy Durant, Curator, Rockingham District Historical Society, and Daniel Holland, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, 20 October 2020.

Auctions, The Inquirer and Commercial News, 26 July 1876, p. 3

Notice to intending purchasers of the estate of the late James Herbert' The Herald, 19 August 1876, p. 2

The estate of the late James Herbert, Inquirer and Commercial News, 9 August 1876, p. 2

Certificate of Title, Vol.II, Fol.205, dated 27/?/1877 in Palassis Architects, op. cit., p. 16

In May 1878, Chester advertises his intent to apply for a wayside house licence for the Rockingham Arms, containing '...ten rooms...'. 40

In the 1890s the Rockingham Arms was supposedly renamed to Chesterfield Inn, to avoid confusion with William Day's establishment named 'Rockingham Inn',⁴¹ which had been established from 1886.⁴² However, this could not be corroborated and the name change could have coincided with the construction of a new building or the substantial alteration of the building once known as Rockingham Arms.

References to a place being called 'Rockingham Arms' continue until 1884⁴³ and advertisements to a place known as 'Chesterfield Inn' or 'Chesterfield Hotel' do not appear until 1902. It is possible the alteration of the Rockingham Arms or construction of a new building occurred within this period. This inference is also given weight when considering the significant difference in the physical descriptions between Chester taking up the place in 1877, when it was known as Rockingham Arms (comprising ten rooms), and then after a fire in 1912 (comprising six rooms) as described below.

Following Chester's ownership, the place was then purchased by Caroline and Eliza Chester (1890), Caroline Verry (1892), and then Henry Verry (1912).⁴⁴

According to encumbrances listed on the original certificates of title, the wayside licence for Chesterfield Inn was transferred to several people including McMullen (1902), Newman and Edstrom (1904) and Cotteralls (1905), Biddles (1906), Whyte (1910), 45 and Huxtable (1912). 46

In Edstrom's application for a wayside licence, the Cottage is listed as comprising '...four bedrooms and two sitting rooms...'⁴⁷ This would suggest that the extant Cottage may be similar to the Chesterfield Inn described. As licence applications do not describe rooms used for private use it is unclear how many rooms comprised the place at this time.⁴⁸

A photograph taken in c.1902 potentially shows the original Chesterfield Inn as well as Mr & Mrs McMullen, Daniel Hymus, and Mr & Mrs James Bell.⁴⁹ Some secondary sources have inferred that the picture shows Forrest and his new wife on their honeymoon at Chesterfield Inn, however, this is incorrect.

The advertisement for the transfer of licence to Huxtable stated that the Cottage comprised '...two sitting-rooms and four-bedrooms, exclusive of those required for

Publicans Wayside House Licence, The Herald, 11 May 1878, p. 3

Durant, op. cit., p. 8 as cited in Palassis Architects op. cit., p.28

Wines, Beers and Spirits Sale Act, Inquirer and Commercial News, 11 August 1886, p. 5

Fremantle District Roadsboard, Tenders, The Herald, 20 September 1884, p. 3

⁴⁴ Certificate of Title Volume 2 Folio 205, retrieved from Landgate

^{45 &#}x27;Application for a wayside house licence', The Daily News, 25 May 1910, p. 1

Certificate of Title Volume 2 Folio 205, retrieved from Landgate

Licensing Notices, The Daily News, 19 May 1904, p. 2

Personal communication between Wendy Durant, Curator, Rockingham District Historical Society, and Daniel Holland, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, 20 October 2020.

Auctions, The Inquirer and Commercial News, 26 July 1876, p. 3

^{49 &#}x27;Chesterfield Inn, Rockingham [picture]', ca. 1890-1910, State Library of WA, 459B Vol. 40.

the use of my family...'.50 It is not possible to ascertain from this advertisement how many rooms comprised the place.

The transfer of Huxtable's licence was subject to criticism by the district Licence Board. Huxtable came from New South Wales and, prior to moving to Western Australia, married his brother's widow. Huxtable joined the police force once he arrived, quickly becoming in charge of the Rockingham area. During his time in Rockingham he had an affair with Hymus' daughter, Selina. The affair became public and Huxtable left his wife and resigned from the force with a gratuity of £240. The money he received from the force was believed to have been used to purchase an interest in '…an hotel at Rockingham…'. Huxtable's subsequent marriage to Selina was also believed to have been falsified as he was the registrar of births, deaths and marriages at Pinjarra. The pair left for Melbourne to formally marry.⁵¹ It appears that James Bell, Theo Thomas, James Stokes, John Chester, and John Bell provided character witnesses for Huxtable and the licence was allowed.⁵²

Several news articles reported that on Friday 26 January 1912, a fire destroyed Chesterfield Inn. The West Australian reported:

"...Late on Friday evening the old Chesterfield Inn, well known to visitors to East Rockingham, was totally destroyed by fire...the flames were first observed about half-past 10...having originated in a spare room opening on to the top landing. The building, which consisted of six-rooms, was an old and inflammable one. Only a small quantity of furniture was saved...The cause of the fire is unknown."53

The exact extent of the damage to the place is not known. The building does appear to have been rendered unsuitable for use as an inn, as following the fire the wayside licence was transferred to another premises, about a quarter of a mile from Chesterfield Inn. This licence transfer was granted until 31 December 1912, on the condition that the structure be rebuilt⁵⁴ However, a former resident who lived there as a child in the early 20th century recalls that the building was not completely destroyed, and the fire only damaged the loft.⁵⁵

In October of the same year, the place was bought by Fremantle stock salesmen, William Brogan and William Matthew, who used the grounds for grazing and established a popular racing club.⁵⁶

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⁵⁰ 'Application for a Wayside House Licence', The Daily News, 25 May 1910, p. 1

⁵¹ 'The fun of being Ernerst. Gallant ex-policeman Huxtable, of Perth sets aside a former marriage ceremony and takes miss Hymus to Hymen's altar' Truth, 3 August 1907, p. 5

^{&#}x27;Hedger Huxtable, man who made a mock of marriage is now a certified as a citizen of good fame' Truth, 28 May 2010, p. 11; 'Murray licensing court, annual reviews, a new gallon licence granted, the question of boundaries' South Western Advertiser, 16 December 1911, p. 5

News and Notes, The West Australian, 30 January 1912, p. 6

⁵⁴ 'Licensing Court', South West Advertiser, 16 March 1912, p. 5

Phyllis Day lived at the place as a child in the early twentieth century and her oral history suggests the house was not totally destroyed. Personal communication between Wendy Durant, Curator, Rockingham District Historical Society, and Daniel Holland, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, 20 October 2020

Palassis Architects *op. cit.*, p. 14

By 1913, the Cottage was being used again, to host formal meetings and dinners of the Rockingham Roads Board, of which Huxtable was the Secretary.⁵⁷ Given the short period of time since the fire, it seems likely that to meet the conditions of the wayside lease, the Cottage was repaired/reconstructed using those parts of the original building that were structurally sound. The reporting of the fire as 'totally destroying' the inn may therefore have been exaggerated. It is also possible that reinstatement of all the original elements was not a priority, resulting in a building that differed to the original. The extant Cottage differs from the earlier description in that it does not include a loft or external kitchen.

An additional anomaly that could not be resolved for this assessment is that the original Rockingham Arms comprised a total of ten rooms and the current structure comprises six rooms. The additional rooms may have been those located in the second storey/loft, which were not reconstructed after the fire.

In September 1913, Huxtable advertised his intent to relocate the licence to '...premises proposed to be erected at the corner of Hope Valley Road and Rockingham Road...'. ⁵⁸ The licence transfer was granted, subject to the premises at Hope Valley being erected by 31 May 1914. ⁵⁹

In June 1914, Huxtable had a driving accident involving a train and died. Unluckily, the accident occurred on the day Huxtable received his transfer of licence and the opening of his new premises in Naval Base. ⁶⁰ The notice of his death notes him as overseeing the place known as Chesterfield Inn until the time of his death. ⁶¹

Following the transfer of the wayside licence from Chesterfield Inn to Naval Base, the place was never again used as an inn.⁶² No record of a new wayside licence for Chesterfield Inn can be found and contemporary references to the place being known as 'Chesterfield Inn' also rapidly disappear after this time.

Following Huxtable's death, Brogan and Matthew appointed Henry Day and his wife as tenants. Day worked as a stockman and his wife was postmistress until 1918. It is inferred that the place operated as the Rockingham post office.⁶³

In January 1915, the 10th Light Horse were stationed at Rockingham⁶⁴ and it is believed that they may have used the grounds to agist their horses at *Chesterfield Inn (fmr), Rockingham.*⁶⁵

Western Mail, Perth, 21 February & 28 May 1913, personal communication between Wendy Durant, Curator, Rockingham Districts Historical Society, and Daniel Holland, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, 20 October 2020.

⁵⁸ 'Licensing Notices', The West Australian, 1 September 1913, p. 1

⁵⁹ 'Local and General', South Western Advertiser, 12 September 1913, p. 4

^{60 &#}x27;Rockingham Notes', Fremantle Herald, 19 June 1914, p. 1

^{61 &#}x27;News and Notes', The West Australian, 17 June 1914, p.6

^{62 &#}x27;By-Paths of Beach and Bush', The West Australian, 11 May 1923, p. 9

Draper, Rockingham: The Visions Unfold, City of Rockingham, 1997, p.66 in Palassis Architects, *op. cit.*, p. 17

Western Mail', 8 January 1915, p. 15; 'ROCKINGHAM, WA, C. 1918. TENT LINES OF THE 10TH LIGHT HORSE CAMP', Australian War Memorial, Photographic Collection, https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C194905

Undated letter from Jan Robinson, a Ward descendant, to Wendy Durant in Palassis Architects, op. cit., p. 17

In March 1917, the place was advertised for lease (£50 per annum) or sale (£1000), unlicensed, The advert highlights that the Cottage was an '...8-roomed stone building...'.⁶⁶

In 1918, William Matthew died, and the condition of the place was assessed by a valuer who records the place as being:

'...an eight-room brick and stone house, lathe and plaster lined walls and ceilings with one additional weatherboard room in the back verandah...requiring renovation at such an excessive cost as the possible revenue to be secured would not be justified'...⁶⁷

The condition as described above is curious at this time, given that the structure had only been repaired/reconstructed after the fire, six years prior. This again may indicate the place incorporated some damaged sections of the original building and repairs had been rushed to comply with the conditions of the wayside licence.

In 1923 William and Helena McCormick (nee Sloan) rented the place and completed renovations. William was a Group Foreman for Peel Group 68 associated with the Group Settlement Scheme and had skills as a builder. 68 A photograph supposedly taken in the same year depicts Helena standing out the front of a somewhat dilapidated Cottage. 69

Dairy/Chesterfield House-Present Period (1929-present).

In 1932, Philip Ward bought the place with his wife, establishing it as their residence and developing it into a dairy business. The improvements made to the property included: an external kitchen at the rear; a new bathroom and closet toilet; relocation of the stables; and the building of a new dairy with the stone from an old stable and iron and timber from the deserted settlers' hut.⁷⁰

A former resident who was born and lived at the property recalls a cellar and well still being evident in 1930:

"...the property was quite dilapidated [in 1930]...there was also a cellar in the ground in the front of left hand window which was filled in by my grandfather...there was also a well at the back of the house which would have been built in 1859..."

Architecturally the Cottage appears an example of the Federation Queen Anne style. The form and layout of the extant Cottage is consistent with a late nineteenth/early-twentieth century homestead building style. It is likely the current layout of the building, in particular the two rooms projecting forwards and the façade of the building are the result of building works undertaken from the late-nineteenth century to c.1930 after the Wards had bought the property.⁷²

The West Australian, 28 March 1917, p. 4

Durant, op.cit., p.16 in Palassis Architects, op. cit., p. 17

Durant, op.cit., p.17 in Palassis Architects, op. cit., p. 18

Russell, L, 1979, 'Kwinana, third time lucky', p. 41, produced for the Town of Kwinana; the original source of the photograph is unable to be verified.

Durant, *op.cit.*, p.17 in Palassis Architects, *op. cit.*, p. 18

Letter from Jan Robinson to Wendy Durant, Curator, Rockingham District Historical Society, c.1990

Photograph of Chesterfield Inn c.1930 provided by the Rockingham Districts Historical Society

In 1933, the Chesterfield Inn was the subject of a police enquiry. Ward was accused of deprivation of liberty after chaining an elderly man, Mathew Doherty, in an iron shed adjacent to the house.⁷³ It was found that Ward chained the man for his own safety due to him being in a delirious state and the charges were later dropped.⁷⁴

In c.1950 the Ward family erected a new dairy building to the north – on the other side of current-day Chesterfield Road - from materials collected on-site. It was considered to be one of the best dairies in the district at that time.⁷⁵

The Ward family owned the place until 1967,⁷⁶ following which Chesterfield Investment and Development bought the place and it continued to operate as dairy by the Ingram family until 1976.⁷⁷

Between 1979 and 1992 the place operated as a Youth Hostel. Some improvements were made during this period, including a new garage.

During this time the East Rockingham area was identified to be developed into an industrial estate.

In 1992, for the second time in Chesterfield Inn's history, the Cottage was damaged by a fire. The cause of the fire was unknown, but the tenants were evicted, and the Youth Hostel was closed.

In 1994, plans to demolish the Cottage at Chesterfield Inn to facilitate the erection of a compact steel mill were thwarted by the local community, which initiated the place's recognition as a significant historic site.

Since 2007 the dairy on the site to the north is a ruin and has been earmarked for demolition.

Commencing in 2017 and completed by 2018, major conservation works to the place have included stabilisation, re-instatement of roof structure and covering, masonry repairs and removal of later additions.

At the time of updating this documentation (2020), the conservation works to the external fabric of the building are complete with no works having have occurred internally. Demolition of the dairy has also not occurred.

In 2003, when the place was entered in the State Register on an interim basis, the curtilage included the dairy to the north but has since (2020) been reduced to exclude this element.

Despite the dairy being removed from the curtilage, its history is considered to contribute to the overall history of the *Chesterfield Inn (fmr), Rockingham*. An application for the dairy's demolition was conditional on the preparation of an archival record and included a requirement for the owners to enter into a Heritage Agreement to ensure the retention, conservation and interpretation of the inn. The

⁷³ 'Philip Ward Sent For Trial', The Daily News, 19 January 1933, p. 1

^{&#}x27;News and Notes', The West Australian, 6 March 1933, p. 8

Undated letter from Jan Robinson to Wendy Durant, in Palassis Architects, *op. cit.*, p. 27

Churcher, F., conversation with Ian Boersma, recorded in facsimile to Robyn Taylor dated 5/7/99 in Palassis Architects, *op. cit.*, p. 19

Letter from Nora Taggart to the Shire Clerk of Rockingham, dated 25/5/1976. National Trust files for Rockingham. Durant, *op.cit.*, p.18 in Palassis Architects, *op. cit.*, p. 19

dairy therefore played a particularly important role as an offset to the conservation works that have occurred to the Cottage

The future use of the place is unknown, but it may be used as an ancillary structure (e.g. office) relating to the surrounding Rockingham Industrial Zone development.

13. 2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

The physical description below is based on the 2010 Conservation Plan prepared by Palassis Architects and a physical inspection of the place by Department Officers in January 2020.

Chesterfield Inn (fmr), Rockingham comprises a limestone and corrugated iron Cottage and archaeological deposits on Chesterfield Road, within the industrial area of East Rockingham. The Cottageis largely a 1912 rebuild, likely using materials from earlier buildings - potentially from the Chesterfield Inn, Rockingham Arms - comprising a single storey and in the Federation Queen Anne style. The Cottage is constructed of limestone and brick masonry with corrugated iron hipped roof and two front gables.

Siting

Chesterfield Inn (fmr), Rockingham is situated near the northern boundary of Lot 149 Chesterfield Road. Chesterfield Road is an unsealed road stemming from and perpendicular to Mandurah Road in East Rockingham. Most of the site consists of cleared pasture, with a scattering of remnant tuart trees, mainly near fence lines and native bushland adjoining the property on the west.

There are several other places of cultural heritage significance in the immediate vicinity of *Chesterfield Inn (fmr)*, *Rockingham*. Some 350m away from the house, to the north east is a ruined cottage known as P2329 *Bell Cottage* (fmr) (c.1868). This place is due east of the old dairy, with approximately 300m separation. Some 300m north of *Bell Cottage* is *Hymus House and Outbuildings* (c.1895). While 500m south of *Chesterfield Inn (fmr)*, *Rockingham*, on the intersection of Day Road, is the site of a house built in 1928 and occupied for many years by Sam Chalwell.

Archaeology

The archaeological potential of the place is considered to be high due to its continuous occupation from the 1850s through to 1990 which is significant for its longevity and that the archaeological record is likely to reflect all phases of occupation. The overall site has been relatively undisturbed and as such there is significant potential for intact archaeological deposits.

Specifically, the areas of high potential and significance include the central portion of the house, the area adjacent to the north-west of the house where the stables and outbuilding were located, and to the north and south of the house where there are extant bottle refuse pits (north) and the location of the former well and holding pen (south).

Cottage

The Cottage is a building that has evidently developed from successive additions to a core of four rooms and central passage with additions to the front and sides. In plan, the building forms a square with a verandah recesses to the middle of the north facade. Since the building became unoccupied in the early 1990s, it has suffered from extensive vandal damage, weathering and long term neglect. This eventually led to the urgent need for conservation works to be undertaken. In 2017 and 2018 a full roof replacement and masonry repairs were carried out. The interior of the building remains in poor condition with all floors removed, and will require major work to make it suitable for occupancy. There is a double layer of security fencing to the perimeter of the building.

Exterior

External walls of the building are made up of a combination of original rendered masonry with heavy graffiti and partial areas of reconstruction. A key area of reconstruction is the section of northern wall between the two gabled bays which has been re-built with irregular rubble limestone pointed with a lime based mortar. Brickwork is used for the reveals of door and window openings. Originally there was a verandah to this part of the façade which did not get rebuilt as part of the reconstruction. The roof is clad with new corrugated galvanised steel sheeting over a timber frame structure which formed part of the 2017 campaign of conservation works.

Over the core part of the house, the roof is composed of twin pitches with a central box gutter over the central passage. These roofs connect into a transverse hipped roof over the principal front room. Two rooms project towards the north of the building and are hipped with a gable front. This gable is made up of timber sections with render infill that has been reconstructed as part of the 2017 works. This matches the original apart from the bargeboard and finial detail.

Interior

The core rooms have external walls of rubble limestone that are a consistent thickness of approximately 450mm. Internal walls within the core are also constructed of rubble limestone with a thickness of approximately 350mm, except one wall which divides the north-east room from the central passage. This wall is approximately 150mm thick and is presumably built of brick masonry. It is likely that the passage wall was a later addition as the fireplace is centrally located in relation to the north passage door and the east wall.

The finish to masonry walls are exposed rubble and failing plaster with graffiti. The floors were originally of timber construction but have since been removed to leave just bare earth. All that remains of doors and windows are their frames which are not thought to be original as they are constructed using non-native timber, with wire mesh fixed to the outside for security purposes. There are no ceilings remaining with only the new timber roof structure being visible.

The front room to the north extends across the full width of the building's core rooms where there is a doorway in the centre of the north wall leading onto the

front verandah, with a window either side. A doorway at the west end of this room leads to a room that projects forward to the north facade. Beside this doorway is a fireplace, constructed of brick and limestone rubble. Whilst the north-west corner room can only be accessed from within the house, the north-east corner room has two external door ways. Both rooms had a back door positioned hard against the core part of the house. The north east corner room has a window opening to the east elevation whilst a fireplace occupies the corresponding position in the opposite room to the north-west.

13. 3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

Wayside Inns

There are 669 places in the Historic Heritage database with the use 'inn or hotel', of which 46 have a construction date between 1830 and 1860. Distinction needs to be made between 'inns' and 'hotels' as the two categories are not synonymous and it is not possible to separate them using the database. Places considered 'inns' were traditionally modest, being a person's residence used to supplement income by accommodating people, usually travellers, and were licensed to sell alcohol. Hotels were usually more substantial enterprises and, although owners or lessees often lived on the premises similar to inns, were primarily places of business.

Comparative analysis of inns is difficult as most colonial wayside inns do not survive today or, for those that do, have been changed over time. For those places that survive, major changes that have largely occurred during the gold boom after 1885, usually to convert them to more substantial hotels, makes them unrecognisable to their previous colonial form.

Places that are most comparable to *Chesterfield Inn (fmr), Rockingham* for comprising or being the site of wayside inns between 1830 and 1860 include:

- P382 *Picton Inn* (c.1850) comprises a vernacular wattle and daub single-storey structure that serviced travellers along the Preston River ford.
- P92 Ye Olde Narrogin Inn, Armadale (c.1856-) was built as a stopping place for travellers along the Albany Road. The original building was replaced with a new building in 1937.
- P1693 Mahogany Inn, Mundaring (c.1839-) comprises a single-storey stone
 and corrugated iron building that was used as a wayside inn for travellers
 and holidaymakers along the Perth-York road.
- P1189 Henton Cottage, Australind (1842-) comprises a single-storey Old Colonial Georgian style timber-framed building, which is the oldest extant former wayside inn in the State.
- P2481 Rose & Crown Hotel, Guildford (c.1840-), comprising a two-storey Victorian Georgian building and related structures, although called a hotel, was previously a more modest establishment and was known as Rose & Crown Inn until c.1870. The inn serviced people travelling between Perth and the agricultural areas to the east.

Of the above places P1693 *Mahogany Inn* may be the most comparable to the Cottage at *Chesterfield Inn (fmr), Rockingham* for its modest form, construction materials, and that it has a similar history in that the place was used as holiday accommodation for now urban localities that were once considered regional. The P1693 *Mahogany Inn* also included a loft, which may have been similar to the original Chesterfield Inn building.

Despite the Cottage being a possible reconstruction of the former Chesterfield Inn, the central core of the house may retain some colonial fabric, which would make it a rare example of an extant colonial wayside inn located in this setting in a metropolitan area. However, without further historical and/or archaeological research regarding the exact location and form of the Rockingham Arms, this is difficult to corroborate.

Archaeology

Chesterfield Inn (fmr), Rockingham contains intact archaeological remains, most notably from the mid-to-late nineteenth century, relating to late-colonial settlement. It is difficult to provide direct comparable examples as typically for the period after 1850 archaeological sites are associated with convict themes in the State. Chesterfield Inn (fmr), Rockingham is not related to convict themes and therefore is comparable to sites representative of colonial settlement.

A search of the Historic Heritage database for individual buildings or groups that include archaeology returns 133 places. Of these, 22 are entered in the State Register and 14 are on the Assessment Program. The following examples are most relevant in comparison with the period of occupation, farm cottage and settlement type of *Chesterfield Inn (fmr)*, *Rockingham*:

- P2329 Bell Cottage (fmr), Rockingham (1868)
- P32 Strawberry Hill Farm & Gardens, Albany (free-settlement after 1831)
- P533 Manning Estate, Hamilton Hill (1866-1982)
- P1693 Mahogany Inn, Mundaring (1854-1989)
- P4112 Edward's House & Archaeological Sites, Henley Brook (1830-1850)
- P4216 Lynburn Homestead and Shearing Shed (fmr) (1872-2004)
- P2494 Spring Park (1839-1954)
- P2494 *Oakover*, Middle Swan (1835-1921)
- P4604 Yowangup Homestead Group, Moojebing (1860-1862)
- P12874 Glentromie Farm Group (1850-1880s)
- P18184 Cliff Point Historic Site at Garden Island (1829)
- P17868 Peel Town Archaeological Sites (1830)

The archaeology of *Chesterfield Inn (fmr), Rockingham* can reveal specific information relating to Western Australia's early settlement in this region of the State, particularly through comparison with other archaeological and heritage sites that represent different phases of Western Australian from the nineteenth to twentieth century.

Federation Queen Anne Style

The architectural style is best described as Federation Queen Anne, though it has general domestic character and key features of half-timbered effect prominent front gables, projecting bargeboards, and verandah with timber posts (no longer extant). It is also attributed to this style due to its simple plan shape with a corridor running from the front door past living rooms and bedrooms that lead to service areas at the rear. Although it is void of much ornamentation associated with the Federation Queen Anne style, the building's basic form and fenestration is a simplistic example of this architectural style. Notwithstanding this, a notable contradiction is the building's symmetrical frontage with two projecting rooms towards the front. This is uncharacteristic of the Federation Queen Anne style which usually has one projecting room presenting an asymmetrical frontage.

It is difficult to compare places having this architectural style and use as an inn/hotel constructed during this period since they would not be comparable in scale. Chesterfield Inn (fmr), Rockingham was used as primarily as a residence following its reconstruction in 1912, combined with its modest form, and it is more appropriate to compare this style where it has been applied to residences. However, like the theme of inns/hotels, most residences constructed in this style during the gold boom period are substantial buildings, also making direct comparison difficult.

There are 690 places in the Historic Heritage database that are or comprise elements of Federation Queen Anne style, of which 94 are entered in the State Register and 34 of these having the use 'single storey residence'. The following places are comparable for being constructed in the Federation Queen Anne style applied to single-storey residences:

- P3452 Belvedere, 12 Rosendo St, Cottesloe (1897)
- P1688 Holmesdale Darlington Rd, Darlington (1890)
- P11977 Barrett's House, Scotch College Swanbourne (1900)
- P803 Knocknagow, 24 Preston Point Rd, East Fremantle (1899)
- P2465 Johnson's Complex, 32 & 34 Johnson St, Guildford (1895)
- P2043 The Terraces, (aka Lefroy House), 63 Mount St, Perth (1890)
- P8035 Annesley, 49-51 Lawley Cr, Mount Lawley (1914)
- P805 Woodlawn, 20 Osborne Rd, East Fremantle (1898)
- P7468 Trafalgar House, 15 Barsden St, Cottesloe (1914)
- P2466 Fairholme Group, 41 Market St, Guildford (c.1900)
- P8554 Leithdale, 5-7 Lukin Av, Darlington (1898)
- P3682 Pine Lodge, 42 John St, Cottesloe (1909)
- P802 Aldgate, 7 Aldgate PI, East Fremantle (1895)
- P3260 Halliday House, 114 King William St, Bayswater (1893)

As an architectural composition, the façade of the Cottage is a pleasing, modest example of the Federation Queen Anne style, with its restrained detailing, comfortable proportions, and the symmetrical arrangement of its fenestration which makes the front door the focus of the elevation.

Use of Local Material (Vuggy Limestone)

The subject of early settlers using local materials is important in understanding how people adapted to local conditions across the State during the process of colonisation. *Chesterfield Inn (fmr), Rockingham* was constructed in local 'vuggy' limestone, thought to have been supplied from the local quarry⁷⁸, located at Chesterfield Road. Places identified as being constructed using vuggy limestone include: P23929 *Bell Cottage (fmr), Rockingham* (1868); *P2320 Hymus House and Outbuildings* (1895–1905); *P4015 Day Cottage* (c.1882–1885, 1970s); P12089 Pines Cottage (c. 1854); P1433 Smirk Cottage (c.1902); P4624 Tasker's Cottage (c.1856); P3316 Key Cottage (c.1854) and P4692 Paradise Cottage (c. 1870).

Chesterfield Inn (fmr), Rockingham, Rockingham is a good example of the use of locally available materials that have been re-used as the place has developed over time.

13. 4 KEY REFERENCES

Palassis, K. 2010 'Chesterfield Inn Conservation Plan' prepared by for Landcorp.

13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH

Much contradiction exists in the historical record for the place, making it difficult to be sure the extant Cottage is or contains elements of the Rockingham Arms. Further research may determine the location of the Bush Inn and exact form of the Rockingham Arms, which would assist in determining the similarity of the extant Cottage to the former structures. In the absence of any reliable history, archaeological investigation may reveal further information to corroborate or challenge the history of the extant Cottage.

⁷⁸ P24537 Limestone Quarry, Chesterfield Road, East Rockingham