



**HERITAGE  
COUNCIL**  
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

### Permanent Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 8198
2. **NAME** *Donnelly River Mill and Town Site Precinct (1950/51; 1950s)*
3. **LOCATION** Wheatley
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
  1. Wheatley Lots 1 to 33 inclusive, Wheatley Lots 35 and 37 and Nelson Location 13213 being the whole of Reserve 37707 and being the whole of the land contained in Crown Land Record Volume 3078 Folio 368
  2. Lot 36 on Deposited plan 215277 being the whole of Reserve 24298 and the whole of the land contained in Crown Land Title Volume 3075 Folio 432
  3. Parts of Andrew Road, Carey Road, Sears Road and Monohan Road road reserves
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Shire of Nannup
6. **OWNER** State of Western Australia
  - (1. Management Order to Minister for Tourism)
  - (2. Responsible Agency: Executive Director of Department of Conservation & Land Management)
  - (3. Care and control to Shire of Nannup)
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**

• Register of Heritage Places:	Interim Entry	02/06/2006
	Permanent Entry	01/06/2007
	Mill: Interim	22/09/1995
	Mill: Permanent	09/02/1996
• National Trust Classification:	Mill: Classified	-----
• Town Planning Scheme:		-----
• Municipal Inventory:	Mill: Adopted	24/10/1995
• Register of the National Estate:		-----
8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**  
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9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**  
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## 10. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*Donnelly River Mill and Town Site Precinct*, comprising a steam-powered Timber Mill (1950), a collection of timber-framed weatherboard and iron buildings (1950-51) including 37 Workers' Cottages, Boarding House, remains of former Single Men's Huts, Donnelly River General Store, Donnelly Mill Club, Donnelly River Primary School, The Hut (clinic), and the former Butcher's Shop, the Sportsground, Swimming Pool/Reserve Water Supply, Playground and Water Tanks, sited in karri forest near to the Donnelly River and with a central parkland area of native forest, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the precinct is a substantial and intact collection of buildings representing a range of aspects of the working life of a timber-milling town, which collectively form a significant intact townscape;

largely intact, the Mill around which the settlement is constructed is rare as the only extant example of a steam-powered hardwood timber mill in Western Australia, and demonstrates the application of steam power and the innovative mechanisms developed to drive the mill equipment from a single power source;

the precinct forms an aesthetically pleasing cultural environment, comprising the prominent and distinctive landmark of the Mill, together with the Town Site, set in a picturesque valley near to the Donnelly River with a dramatic backdrop of native karri forest;

the precinct is representative of timber milling towns established throughout Western Australia after World War Two, where employers sought to create a complete package of worker's accommodation and social amenities in conjunction with timber mills to enhance the community and foster a close knit working group; and,

the precinct was developed by the Bunning Brothers, a family timber-milling firm that had been operating in Western Australia since 1886 and became the largest mill operator in Western Australia.

The remnant Karri forest and a number of mature trees located throughout the townsite, in particular the introduced species of Poplar, Ash, Pine, Ti Tree, false Cypress and Ficus associated with the original settlement, along with the remnant fences, are of significance. All other garden plantings are of little significance.

The fibro and metal clad public toilet buildings located in the townsite are of little significance.