



## REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES - ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

### 11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in November 1996 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

The wording of this document has been adapted from St Paul's Anglican Church Edwards Crossing Conservation Plan with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

#### PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 8.6.2 Maintaining religious traditions and ceremonies
- 8.6.4 Making places for worship

#### HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 406 Religion

### 11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE\*

*St Paul's Anglican Church & Graveyard, Edwards Crossing* is a simple vernacular structure built of locally made mud bricks, featuring leadlight lancet windows to the south elevation, imported embroidered Pugnesque carpet in the sanctuary, an original 1859 brass bell, and other fixtures and fittings. (Criterion 1.1)

*St Paul's Anglican Church & Graveyard, Edwards Crossing* is the only surviving built element of the Edwards Crossing settlement, and, situated on a rise in the rural landscape, is a local landmark. (Criterion 1.3)

### 11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

*St Paul's Anglican Church & Graveyard, Edwards Crossing* marks the growth phase of Edwards Crossing, before the vulnerability to flooding of the town's surveyed site became apparent, and the settlement was relocated to Beverley. As an early settlement Edwards Crossing facilitated the agricultural development of the Avon Valley and Beverley regions. (Criterion 2.1)

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\* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, Richard; Irving, Robert and Reynolds, Peter *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus & Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

*St Paul's Anglican Church & Graveyard, Edwards Crossing* was constructed by settlers and convicts, and is one of seven extant Anglican churches in the State from the convict period, the majority of which are located in the Avon Valley, demonstrating the importance of this region to the State at that time. The convict period was a growth phase of the Anglican Church coincident with the early term of Bishop Hale, and guided by the colonial missionary ethos. (Criterion 2.2)

*St Paul's Anglican Church & Graveyard, Edwards Crossing* was built on the property of William and Eleanor Edwards, important early settlers in the area who supported the church. William was known as one of Western Australia's most prominent and colourful early European settlers. (Criterion 2.3)

The graveyard, last used in 1972, contains graves for many notable families of the region. (Criterion 2.3)

### **11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE**

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### **11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE**

*St Paul's Anglican Church & Graveyard, Edwards Crossing* has been a focus for the social and spiritual lives of the local Anglican community since 1859, and continues to be a focus of activity for the local community, with the congregation committed to the continued operation and maintenance of the place. (Criterion 4.1)

Prominently sited on the upper Beverley Road, close to the memorial to the Edwards Crossing settlement, *St Paul's Anglican Church & Graveyard, Edwards Crossing* is the visible expression of the Edwards Crossing community, and contributes to the local community's sense of place. (Criterion 4.2)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **12. 1. RARITY**

St Paul's Church is rare as a convict-period mud brick church. (Criterion 5)

*St Paul's Anglican Church & Graveyard, Edwards Crossing* is the most visible surviving element of the Edwards Crossing settlement, which was relocated to Beverley in the 1860s. (Criterion 5)

### **12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

St Paul's Church shares a similar layout and form to five of the other seven extant convict period Anglican churches, being designed to an auditory plan, having a single space for the nave and sanctuary, with a screened vestry if required, and an entry porch. (Criterion 5.1)

*St Paul's Anglican Church & Graveyard, Edwards Crossing* is a good example of a simple rural parish church of the 1850s. (Criterion 5.2)

### **12. 3 CONDITION**

*St Paul's Anglican Church & Graveyard, Edwards Crossing* is generally in good condition largely because of the adaptations which have been undertaken both externally and internally, although there are matters requiring short term attention.

### **12. 4 INTEGRITY**

*St Paul's Anglican Church & Graveyard, Edwards Crossing* has high integrity and is capable of long term sustainability in its current or modified state, particularly given the commitment of the congregation to its conservation.

### **12. 5 AUTHENTICITY**

Much of the original fabric of *St Paul's Anglican Church & Graveyard, Edwards Crossing* is still extant, although masked, and has been adapted to the extent where its authenticity is moderate to low, however the moveable heritage and the stained and leadlight windows have high authenticity.

### **13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE**

Supporting evidence has been taken from 'St Paul's Anglican Church Edwards Crossing Conservation Plan', prepared by Hocking Planning and Architecture for the Diocesan Trustees of the Anglican Diocese of Perth and the Parish of Beverley/Brookton in 1999, with a grant from the Heritage Council of WA.

Key sections used: Documentary Evidence (pp.5-14), Physical Evidence (pp.15-17), Analysis of Documentary and Physical Evidence (p.18).

#### **13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE**

For a discussion of the documentary evidence, refer to 'St Paul's Anglican Church Edwards Crossing Conservation Plan', prepared by Hocking Planning and Architecture for the Diocesan Trustees of the Anglican Diocese of Perth and the Parish of Beverley/ Brookton in 1999.

#### **13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE**

For a discussion of the physical evidence, refer to 'St Paul's Anglican Church Edwards Crossing Conservation Plan', prepared by Hocking Planning and Architecture for the Diocesan Trustees of the Anglican Diocese of Perth and the Parish of Beverley/ Brookton in 1999, pp. 11-14.

#### **13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION**

For a discussion of the comparative information, refer to 'St Paul's Anglican Church Edwards Crossing Conservation Plan', prepared by Hocking Planning and Architecture for the Diocesan Trustees of the Anglican Diocese of Perth and the Parish of Beverley/ Brookton in 1999, pp.15-20.

#### **13.4 KEY REFERENCES**

'St Paul's Anglican Church Edwards Crossing Conservation Plan', prepared by Hocking Planning and Architecture for the Diocesan Trustees of the Anglican Diocese of Perth and the Parish of Beverley/ Brookton in 1999.

#### **13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH**

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