



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**

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.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 2.5 Promoting settlement
- 3.5 Developing primary production
- 3.9 Farming for commercial profit
- 5.8 Working on the land
- 8.12 Living in and around Australian homes
- 8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements
- 9.7.1 Dealing with human remains

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 104 Land allocation and subdivision
- 301 Grazing, pastoralism and dairying
- 306 Domestic activities
- 602 Early settlers

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Yowangup Homestead Group is a good example of a single storey rural homestead constructed in a vernacular interpretation of the Victorian Georgian style, with its simple form, use of bricks made and fired on the property, and incorporation of local field granite into the foundations. (Criterion 1.1)

Yowangup Homestead Group, including the original homestead, two dams, numerous sheds and outbuildings, family burial ground, remnant Harper fencing, remnant slab-fenced pigpens, hollowed log troughs, remnant house gardens, some mature trees from early plantings and abandoned farm machinery of various eras, comprises a cultural landscape of rural buildings set in a pastoral landscape. (Criterion 1.3)

* 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.

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Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

11. 2. HISTORIC VALUE

Yowangup Homestead Group, constructed c.1860-62 on land purchased in 1855 and used for seasonal grazing of sheep from at least 1852 and probably the 1840s, was the first homestead established in the Katanning region, and represents the arrival of European settlement in the area. (Criterion 2.1)

Yowangup Homestead Group was the centre of the significant pastoral enterprise established by Elijah Quartermaine, who had arrived in the colony with his wife Elizabeth in 1838 as servants to the Viveash family, and demonstrates the rapid social advancement that was achieved by many indentured servants in Western Australia. (Criterion 2.1)

The family burial ground at *Yowangup Homestead Group*, which is believed to hold the remains of Elijah Quartermaine, a shepherd named Walker, and the burials of at least five of Elijah's grandchildren, is indicative of the difficult conditions that early farming families endured while establishing European settlement. (Criterion 2.1)

Prior to Katanning townsite being declared in 1890, *Yowangup Homestead Group* was an important regional landmark and stopping place for travellers through the area, and its subsequent decline in prominence as the town began to develop is indicative of the changing nature of rural areas as service towns were established. (Criterion 2.2)

Yowangup Homestead Group was constructed by Elijah Quartermaine as his primary residence, and with the exception of 1906 to 1914 has been owned and mostly occupied by his direct descendents from the 1860s to the present (2009). The family have been influential local residents throughout this time. (Criterion 2.3)

Yowangup Homestead Group was erected with the assistance of builder John Cronin, who worked on numerous projects in Fremantle and then the Arthur and Kojonup regions in the mid nineteenth century. (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

Due to its long period of continuous occupation *Yowangup Homestead Group* is likely to contain substantial archaeological deposits with the potential to yield information about European life in a frontier existence, and the change of lifestyles and agriculture from the 1860s to the present day. (Criterion 3.2)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

As the earliest homestead in the area, *Yowangup Homestead Group* contributes to the sense of place of residents and descendents of the Katanning region, as demonstrated by local interest in the history of the place dating from at least the 1930s, and the inclusion of the place in the Municipal Heritage Inventory. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Yowangup Homestead Group is a rare example of an early residence of the extensive Quartermaine family, who were the earliest European settlers in the Katanning region and continued to be a significant part of the community through the twentieth century. (Criterion 5.2)

Yowangup Homestead Group is a rare extant example of the work of builder John Cronin, and the only one surviving of at least five residences believed to have been built in the area by Cronin to a near identical design. (Criterion 5.2)

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Yowangup Homestead Group is a good representative example of a mid-nineteenth century homestead associated with the earliest European settlement of the area. (Criterion 6.1)

Yowangup Homestead Group is representative of the changing nature of rural life in the State since from earliest European settlement to the present, through its family burial ground that indicates the trying circumstances of isolated early years, its transition from a major regional landmark to one of many local residences after the 1890 establishment of the town of Katanning, and its shift within the farm from being the main residence and farm hub to a its present role (2009) as a supplementary farm building. (Criterion 6.2)

12.3 CONDITION

Yowangup Homestead Group is in fair to poor condition. Several exterior fabrics are considerably deteriorated. Internally the place is in fair to good condition.

12.4 INTEGRITY

Yowangup Homestead Group has high integrity. Although it is no longer in use as a residence, its original function can be easily determined and could be reinstated. The place continues to operate as a farm run by descendants of the earliest landholding settler.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

Yowangup Homestead Group has high authenticity. There have been few modifications over time. The back verandah was partially enclosed in the 1920s and a kitchen added using part of the back verandah area in 1960. The place continues to be surrounded by farm buildings, but the original c.1860s farm buildings have been lost.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

This document has been based on 'Yowangup Homestead, Katanning, Conservation Plan', prepared by Hocking Planning and Architecture for the Quartermaine Family Group Inc. In February 2006, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the documentary evidence, refer to 'Yowangup Homestead, Katanning, Conservation Plan', prepared by Hocking Planning and Architecture for the Quartermaine Family Group Inc. in February 2006.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the physical evidence, refer to 'Yowangup Homestead, Katanning, Conservation Plan', prepared by Hocking Planning and Architecture for the Quartermaine Family Group Inc. in February 2006.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

For a discussion of the comparative information, refer to 'Yowangup Homestead, Katanning, Conservation Plan', prepared by Hocking Planning and Architecture for the Quartermaine Family Group Inc. in February 2006.

Additional comparative information is provided as follows:

The HCWA database lists 139 homesteads dating from the 1850s or 1860s, of which 35 are Registered. Approximately half of these, both in total and on the Register, are from each decade. The majority of these 35 on the Register are in the Victorian Georgian style (21), with ten listed as Vernacular style (four are listed as both). Fourteen are constructed of brick. Most of these are similar in scale to *Yowangup Homestead Group*; three are double-storey. Approximately half of these brick places have been restored to good condition. Of the 35 Registered 1850s-1860s homesteads, 18 include other nineteenth century farm buildings, while the farm buildings at *Yowangup Homestead Group* date primarily from the twentieth century.

Yowangup Homestead Group is a good representative example of a mid-nineteenth century homestead associated with the earliest European settlement of the area, although it no longer retains its original farm buildings.

The HCWA database lists only one other place built by John Cronin, being P02650 St Joseph's Catholic Precinct, Wagin (most likely the 1894 church building). Information in the Conservation Plan indicates that Cronin constructed at least four other near-identical residences in the Katanning-Kojonup region, none of which survive. Cronin is also believed to have constructed Mt Pleasant Inn at West Arthur, of which only the kitchen remains (part of P4269 Arthur River Group, currently being assessed).

Yowangup Homestead Group is a rare extant example of the work of builder John Cronin, and the only one surviving of at least five residences believed to have been built in the area by Cronin to a near identical design.

There are fifteen other places in the HCWA database with some association to the Quartermaine family, all of which are in the wider Katanning region. Only one

is an extant residence, P01260 Bunkin Homestead, Nippering (not recommended for the Register). A number are sites of former residences or waterholes. P07083 *Wake's Garage Group*, Katanning (RHP) was constructed c.1900 as a livery stable for a Mr Quartermaine and operated as Quartermaine's until c.1909.¹

Yowangup Homestead Group is a rare example of an early residence of the extensive Quartermaine family, who were the earliest European settlers in the Katanning region and continued to be a significant part of the community through the twentieth century.

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

'Yowangup Homestead, Katanning, Conservation Plan', prepared by Hocking Planning and Architecture for the Quartermaine Family Group Inc. in February 2006.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

Further research regarding the interactions between the Quartermaine family and the local Indigenous population may be illustrative.

¹ HCWA Register documentation P07083. The documentation does not identify which Mr Quartermaine operated the livery stables.