



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES PERMANENT ENTRY

1. **DATA BASE No.** 00115
2. **NAME** *Ellensbrook* (1857, c.1861, c.1871-77, c.1890s, c.1900-03, 1950s, c.1970, 1984-90)

FORMER NAME Ellensbrook Farm Home for Aboriginal Children
3. **LOCATION** Lot 303 Ellen Brook Road, Gracetown
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
 1. Part of Reserve 8428 being portion of Lot 303 on Deposited Plan 49922 and being part of the land contained in Crown Land Title Volume 3159 Folio 95;
 2. Part of Ellen Brook Road road reserve running through Lot 303 on Deposited Plan 49922;

together as defined in Heritage Council of Western Australia Survey Drawing No. 115 Rev D prepared by McMullen Nolan Surveyors.
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Shire of Augusta-Margaret River
6. **OWNER** State of Western Australia

(As to 1. Management Order to Conservation Commission of Western Australia)

(As to 2. Responsible Agency: Shire of Augusta – Margaret River)
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**

• Register of Heritage Places:	Interim Entry	27/03/1992
	Permanent Entry	17/08/2012
• National Trust Classification:	Classified	01/05/1978
• Town Planning Scheme:	Yes	26/04/1985
• Municipal Inventory:	Adopted, Recommend	17/06/1996
	RHP	
• Register of the National Estate:	Permanent	21/10/1980
8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**

9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**

10. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Ellensbrook, a single storey vernacular style homestead constructed of local materials including field granite, locally quarried limestone, paperbark, hand-split timber slabs, driftwood and a timber roof beam from the rig of a small ship, located in a grassed clearing alongside Ellen Brook in a natural bush setting behind the coastal dune system, and including Meekadarribee Cave, a family grave site (1850s-1860s), stone dam wall, flume and waterwheel (1950s), Mulberry tree (*Morus sp.*) [date unknown] and 1950s plantings of Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*), Norfolk Island Pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*), Flame Tree (*Erythrina sp.*), Pepper Tree (*Schinus terebinthifolia*) and Hydrangeas (*Hydrangea sp.*), has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place is an excellent example of an early rural European settler's residence constructed in stages to a simple design using local materials such as karri, paperbark, field granite, locally quarried limestone and driftwood;

the place was built by notable southwest colonists Alfred and Ellen Bussell in 1857 as their residence and the heart of their pastoral enterprises, and continued to be owned and mostly occupied by direct descendents of the influential Bussell family until 1956;

the place illustrates the development of cattle and dairying in the southwest of Western Australia;

the place is likely to contain in-situ archaeological deposits with the potential to contribute to wider understandings of the role of women, interactions between European and Indigenous populations, and the lifeways of early settlers and Indigenous people in the southwest;

the place is a rare example of a domestic scale Indigenous institution that operated prior to the introduction of *The Aborigines Act 1905 (WA)*, and a rare example of a government-run Indigenous institution from this period, being the first and until 1911 only official government home in the State for Indigenous children;

the place demonstrates the crucial role that women played in enabling the European settlement of the State and is a good representative example of the isolated lives of early European settler women in the southwest, their dedication to home and family and the often trying circumstances in which they lived;

the site was found, and original buildings erected, with assistance from local Nyungars and Nyungar workers who were essential to the place's survival and success throughout the Bussell family's occupation;

residents of the place were associated with the earliest tourism development of the Margaret River area in the nineteenth century, protecting and promoting local caves, and tourists were accommodated at the place from the late 1890s until the 1910s, and again in the 1950s;

the place contains the only known extant remains of an attempt at domestic production of hydro-electricity, and the only waterwheel in the State known to have been constructed to power a private residence;

the place is an excellent example of family, community and institutional efforts to conserve an historic place of high social value to the local and wider community;

the place is in a picturesque location retaining its isolated natural setting, with the built features located in a grassed clearing adjacent to Ellen Brook, behind the coastal dune system on the west coast of the Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park, creating a cultural landscape in harmonious relation to the natural environment; and,

the place, its retention and subsequent restoration, illustrates the development of heritage ethos in Western Australia.

The storage shed to the west of the homestead and the caretaker's cottage, are of little significance. Modern day fencing to the property is of little significance.