



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)

- 3.5.3 Developing agricultural industries

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 302 Rural industry & market gardening

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

The elevated siting and lack of development surrounding *Coffee Pot & Waggrakine Well* give landmark value to the place which is accentuated by the prominent and unusual roof form. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

Coffee Pot & Waggrakine Well is a remnant of Reverend Charles Grenfell Nicolay's ambitious endeavour to establish a coffee plantation in Western Australia, which was a total failure (Criterion 2.1)

The coffee plantation was worked by ticket of leave labour employed by Reverend Charles Nicolay and the Coffee Pot building was most likely constructed by convicts or ticket of leave men. (Criterion 2.2)

The Coffee Pot was established as part of an experimental coffee plantation which operated from 1870 to 1873 on the western slope of the Moresby Flat Topped Range, east of Geraldton, as an early attempt at specialised agriculture in the district, and one of a number of attempts made by the colonial Government in the 1860s and 1870s to find export crops which could be profitably grown in the State to generate needed revenue. The place is possibly one of the earliest attempts to at commercial coffee production in Australia (Criterion 2. 2)

* 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.

The Waggrakine Well was a source of water first surveyed by W. Phelps in 1870, but used by travellers prior to this time. (Criterion 2. 2)

Coffee Pot & Waggrakine Well is representative of the eccentric pioneering spirit that characterised the life of Reverend Nicolay, who lectured at Kings College, London; was the co-founder, in 1848, of the first tertiary institution for women in England, Queens' College London; served as an Anglican chaplain in Brazil from 1858 to 1867; was chaplain to the Geraldton convict depot 1870-1874; led geological expeditions on behalf of the Colonial Government; collected and established the nucleus of a geological collection that began the Western Australian Museum; and served as chaplain to the Fremantle Prison from 1878 until his death in 1897. (Criterion 2.3)

Reverend Nicolay's experimental coffee plantation at Waggrakine, for which the Coffee Pot was built, was one of the earliest attempts at commercial coffee production in Australia, and probably the first such attempts in Western Australia. (Criterion 3.3)

11.3 SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11.4 SOCIAL VALUE

Coffee Pot & Waggrakine Well importance to the Chapman Valley community for its association with early settlement and agricultural history is demonstrated in the re-roofing of the building in the early 1980s by local residents in order to slow its deterioration. (Criterion 4.1)

Coffee Pot & Waggrakine Well contribute to the local community's sense of place, being an easily recognisable and unique building in the mid-west region, and a reminder of the early history of the area. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1 RARITY

The Coffee Pot is rare as a residence built on a coffee plantation, in the early nineteenth century, in Western Australia. (Criterion 5.1)

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

12.3 CONDITION

Coffee Pot & Waggrakine Well is in poor condition. Whilst the local community made attempts to conserve the place with a re-roofing program in the 1980s, further conservation work is still required to stabilise the stone walls and arrest deterioration. Encroaching vegetation and livestock threaten the condition of the fabric. The place is in poor condition.

12.4 INTEGRITY

Coffee Pot & Waggrakine Well has low integrity. The original coffee plantation was a short lived experiment with little evidence to suggest the place was occupied for its original function after 1873, nevertheless a pastoral function has been retained since that time. Whilst it would not be viable to make the structure habitable or re-establish the plantation, interpretative evidence of the original function could be provided.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

The current poor condition of the fabric and the unusual roof form are unlikely to be an accurate representation of the original thatched roof cottage but enough fabric remains for the place to have moderate authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Irene Sauman, Historian. The physical evidence has been compiled by John Taylor Architect.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Coffee Pot & Waggrakine Well, a one-room stone and iron cottage with a nearby well, was built for Frederick Granville Nicolay in 1872, most likely by ticket of leave labour. The building originally had a thatched roof of rushes. The place was built on an experimental coffee plantation, which was abandoned in 1873, shortly after the Coffee Pot was constructed. The name 'Coffee Pot' is a corruption of coffee plot. The Waggrakine Well was recorded by surveyor W. Phelps in 1870. *Coffee Pot & Waggrakine Well*, on a 100-acre (40.5ha) section of the coffee plantation, was granted to the Anglican Church in 1875. It was acquired by private owners in 1977. In the early 1980s, local residents re-roofed the Coffee Pot to protect it from weathering.

Early European settlement in the Chapman Valley area comprised large pastoral landholdings. Mining of copper and lead was another activity, begun with the establishment of the Geraldine Lead Mine on the Murchison River. Western Australia was stagnating in the 1840s, with a small, scattered population and lack of capital. The introduction of convicts in 1850 brought with it Imperial funds for support of the Convict Establishment which resulted in some public works, and general growth. The colony was a large importer of consumables and equipment, with little to export, and the Government made a number of attempts to find export crops that could be profitably grown in the State and generate needed revenue. In 1862-63, cotton was grown on the Greenough Back Flats with Government assistance, but results were unsatisfactory. Bishop Salvado experimented with growing tobacco at New Norcia in the 1860s, which although successful on a small scale did not translate to commercial quantities.¹

¹ Appleyard, R. T. 'Western Australia: Economic and demographic growth, 1850-1914', in Stannage, C. T. (ed) *A New History of Western Australia*, UWA Press, Perth, 1981, pp. 227-233; Bain, Mary Albertus, *A Life of Its Own*, City of Geraldton, 1996, p. 108.

In April 1870, the Reverend Charles Grenfell Nicolay, newly appointed Anglican chaplain at Geraldton, recommended that an experimental coffee plantation be established in the district, as the climate was similar to some parts of Brazil where coffee flourished. Nicolay had impressed Governor Weld and the Colonial Secretary with his knowledge and ability, and in July 1870, the Governor authorised the setting aside of a reserve for the purpose of a coffee plantation. The unnumbered reserve was situated on the western slope of the Moresby Range, and comprised some 640 acres.² In August 1870, surveyor W. Phelps surveyed the reserve area, recording the Waggrakine (Waggarakine) Well, which was situated within the reserved land. Waggrakine Well was north of the main thoroughfare to Geraldton, but there were tracks leading to it from the road, indicating that it was used by travellers through the area. The Aboriginal name Waggrakine was later applied to a pass in the Range (1874), and a siding on the Geraldton-Northampton railway line (1879).³

Charles Grenfell Nicolay was born in England in 1815. He was the seventh child of Frederick Nicolay, clerk of his Majesty's Treasury. His father died when he was two years old and his mother struggled to raise her eight children. As a result, Charles did not attend university. In 1841, at the age of 26, he was ordained a Deacon in the Church of England and appointed to a curacy in the Scilly Isles. Following his appointment, he married Mary Ann Raven. They had eight children, the eldest Frederick, born in 1842. In 1843, Nicolay was appointed librarian of King's College, London, a position he held until 1858. During this period, he acquired a thorough knowledge of geography, geology and history, through reading. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society in 1844, and was lecturer in geography at King's College from 1854 to 1858.⁴

Nicolay is credited with being a co-founder of Queen's College, London, in 1848, the first institution of higher learning for women in England. He was Dean, Deputy Chairman and Professor of Geography and History at Queen's for a number of years. During his time at King's and Queen's colleges, Nicolay published a number of books and papers on geography, history and social matters. In 1856, he was asked to resign as Dean of Queen's College, due to certain 'defects of temper' and poor relations with some of the female staff.⁵

In 1858, he was appointed chaplain to the British residents of Bahia, Brazil, at the Church of St George, which had been consecrated by Matthew Hale. He remained in Brazil until 1867, when he was once again asked to resign. He was without a clerical position until 1870, when he was appointed chaplain at Geraldton, which included the chaplaincy of the convict depot

² Playford, Phillip E. & Pridmore, Isobel, 'The Reverend C. G. Nicolay: A pioneer geographer, geologist, and museum curator in Western Australia', *Early Days*, Vol. 7 No. 1, pp. 29-33; Phelps, W., Surveyor's Fieldbook No. 11, p. 31, August 1870.

³ DOLA Nomenclature File, Waggrakine Well, Battye Library; Phelps, W., Surveyor's Fieldbook No. 11, p. 31, August 1870; 1875 survey for Location 161A.

⁴ Playford, Phillip E. & Pridmore, Isobel, op cit.

⁵ Playford, Phillip E. & Pridmore, Isobel, op.cit., p. 30, quoting the 1856 report of an official inquiry by Committee of Education into the operation of Queen's College, London.

there. Reverend Nicolay arrived in Fremantle on the *Lady Louisa*, on 25 April 1870. His wife did not join him until 1878.⁶ Nicolay immediately interested himself in the affairs and natural resources of the colony, and after assuming his duties at Geraldton, made his recommendation regarding the establishment of a coffee plantation. The Government agreed to commit £100 for the project, and Reverend Nicolay wrote to his son Frederick, in Melbourne, and asked him to come and manage the plantation.⁷

Frederick Nicolay had joined the British merchant service in 1860, and by 1870 was working on a cattle station in Queensland, before spending some time in Tasmania and Melbourne.⁸ In his reminiscences, written many years later, he writes of receiving his father's letter and of discussing it with the person who delivered it to him, although he does not say who that person was:

I was invited to go to Geraldton to start and take charge of a coffee plantation which the Government of Western Australia had arranged for... I told him that I did not understand coffee planting - "But you have been at coffee plantations in Brazil & seen how they are conducted & with a good book on the subject would be able to see that the ground was properly prepared & the seed sown in the proper manner. You know something of gardening. Your father seems to think so." Oh, we as children were very fond of gardening & my father is quite an expert gardener. We had a large one in Brazil. "Well then I suppose you grow beans and why not coffee? You will have no opposition & all the information that can be obtained found for you." So I agreed.⁹

Some time had elapsed before Frederick received the letter, and more time elapsed before he reached Western Australia. In the meantime, Reverend Nicolay began work on the plantation. Money was advanced for seed and labour, and in August 1871, £19-10-0 was paid to a Mr Crowther for fencing. Charles Nicolay is recorded as employing at least five ticket of leave men at Chapman Valley between 1870 and 1872. These were undoubtedly employed on the plantation. In July 1871, John Johnson and James O'Hara were employed as labourers, and Thomas Eyre and Will Stanley were employed on fencing.¹⁰

Reverend Nicolay made two reports on the coffee plantation, one in June 1871 and another in June 1872. In 1871, he stated that some of the seeds sown had begun to germinate and looked healthy. In 1872, he reported that unfortunately the seedlings suffered from the depredation of 'the common enemies birds and grubs', and 'the strong northerly winds which prevailed

⁶ Erickson, R., *Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians*, Perth, UWA Press, 1988, p. 2322.

⁷ Playford, Phillip E. & Pridmore, Isobel, op cit; CSO records, ACC 36, Vol. 709, Fol. 1-19, 16 July -24 July 1872; Nicolay, Frederick Granville, *Diaries and reminiscences*, [c.1900], p. 69, Battye private archives, ACC 1706A.

⁸ Nicolay, Frederick Granville, op cit.

⁹ *ibid.*

¹⁰ Erickson, R., *Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians*, op cit; WABI, Employers of convicts & WABI, Convicts, ACC 3785A; CSO records, ACC 36, Vol. 709, Fol. 1-19, 16 July -24 July 1872.

all last summer'. After two seasons, the Government considered the plantation a failure and having spent the promised amount, advanced no more money for the project.¹¹

The conditions required for growing coffee are a moderate, humid climate with high rainfall. Temperatures between 15°C and 25°C are ideal, with extremes below 3°C or above 30° being detrimental to the development of the essential coffee cherry. The plants are very susceptible to frost, and also grow best when sheltered from the wind. An annual rainfall of at least 1000mm, and preferably over 1800mm is required, with a large amount of cloud cover being better than direct sunlight.¹² It is hardly surprising that coffee did not do well at Waggrakine, as the area has few of these characteristics.

When Frederick Nicolay arrived at Geraldton, he found his father living alone in the Anglican parsonage with a ticket-of-leave man as a servant, and the coffee plantation experiment all but over:

I was soon introduced to the Coffee Plantation. A military tent was in readiness for me until a house was built. It did not take long for that to be done. It consisted of one large room square & built of brick. The roof was thatched with rushes as were most of the smaller houses in the district of which there were none anywhere near. There was one house belonging to a sheep station only two miles off - the property of a Mr Mills [Narra Tarra], but that had a shingled roof. The Coffee Plantation was seven miles from Geraldton - I had one man there, a ticket of leave man from the "Depot" or convict prison... Thomas Hansbury.

As to the Coffee Plantation - there was actually nothing to be done in the way of planting as it was out of season. The Government had given up the scheme as far as contributing any more money, as it turned, so my father had made a sort of little farm for the place in order to get money to pay expenses and get the land into good tilth for the coffee & grew some wheat, barley & oats.

There was practically nothing for me to do and no pay so I began to turn my attention to sheep farming, ie to learn something about sheep, so I went to the "Bowes" station owned by a Mr Thomas Burges as sort of gentleman jackeroo.¹³

After this entry, Frederick Nicolay makes no further mention of the coffee plantation or the Coffee Pot building. The entries in his reminiscences are not dated and no exact date for his arrival in Geraldton has been found. His arrival was certainly after his father's last report on the plantation in 1872, and as he mentions it being out of season for planting, it could have been later in that year. This is confirmed by the dates of employment of Thomas Hansbury (Hansbury). Reverend Nicolay employed him at Chapman Valley from 1 January 1871 to 31 December 1872.¹⁴

¹¹ CSO records, ACC 36, Vol. 709, Fol. 1-19, 16 July -24 July 1872.

¹² Australian Coffee Research and Development Team, *Coffee Growing in Australia: A Machine Harvesting Perspective*, Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation, NSW, 1995, pp.20-21.

¹³ Nicolay, Frederick Granville, op cit, pp. 81-83 & 109.

¹⁴ *ibid*; Erickson, Rica, *Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians*, op cit; WABI, Employers of convicts & WABI, Convicts, ACC 3785A.

Frederick Nicolay also does not say who built his cottage, but his wording indicates that he did not turn his hand to the work himself; he was after all the son of a gentleman. Given his father's connection to the convict depot, and the employment of ticket of leave men on the plantation, the Coffee Pot is most likely to have been built by ticket of leave men. Whether Thomas Hanbury, the ex-convict employed as a servant for Frederick Nicolay was involved in the work is not known. Hanbury worked as a general servant, miner, labourer, fencer and woodcutter during his fourteen years in the colony. He died in 1879.¹⁵

In 1875, the Anglican Church acquired a grant of the 100 acre Victoria Location 161A (later designated Location 1455), on which was situated *Coffee Pot & Waggrakine Well*. Location 161A was part of the larger coffee plantation reserve.¹⁶ Reverend Nicolay had been appointed editor of the *Perth Gazette & W.A. Times* in 1874, and was forced by his Bishop to resign his chaplaincy in 1875, rather than carry on with it while undertaking other work as well. Nicolay may have ensured the Church acquired *Coffee Pot & Waggrakine Well* before he left his position at Geraldton. Alternatively, it is possible that Church funds were used in the construction of the Coffee Pot as the Government had ceased to provide money for the project by the time the place was built, and Reverend Nicolay had no income of his own.¹⁷

Reverend Nicolay was appointed chaplain at the Fremantle convict establishment in 1878, a position he held until his death. On behalf of the Government, he was involved in a feasibility study for a ship canal between Rocky Bay and the coast, led an expedition to investigate reports of coal in the bed of the Fitzgerald River, and prepared a 'Handbook of Western Australia', published in 1881. That year, he was authorised by Governor Robinson to begin collecting rocks and minerals, which eventually formed the nucleus of a museum in Fremantle, with himself as curator. He also advised the Government on geological matters during this period, and wrote circulars on prospecting for gold, the geology of Western Australia and Aborigines. Nicolay was criticised from a number of quarters regarding his involvement in these projects, being considered by many to be incompetent mainly, it seems, due to his lack of formal educational qualifications.¹⁸

Following the death of his wife, Reverend Nicolay's daughter Mary Ann, a nursing sister, arrived from England in 1888 to live with him.¹⁹ Reverend Nicolay died suddenly on 9 May 1897. Mary Ann Nicolay remained in Western Australia. She took a group of ten nurses to South Africa during the

¹⁵ Erickson, R. & O'Mara, G., *Convicts in Western Australia, 1850-1887*, UWA Press, Perth, 1988, p. 235.

¹⁶ CSO Correspondence Register, SROWA, ACC 51/9; Country Grant Vol. 1 Fol. 63, 12 May 1875; Phelps, W., Surveyor's Fieldbook 11, p. 31, August 1870. Research in the *West Australian Government Gazette* consolidated index 1836-1890, pp. 90-94, showed that Reserve 161A was not gazetted during that period.

¹⁷ Playford, Phillip E. & Pridmore, Isobel, op cit. The North-West Diocese of the Anglican Church at Geraldton does not currently have an archivist and were unable to provide any information on the place.

¹⁸ Playford, Phillip E. & Pridmore, Isobel, op cit.

¹⁹ *ibid.*

Boer War, and was appointed Inspecting Matron of Government Hospitals on her return. She was awarded the Coronation medal in 1937. Frederick Nicolay worked as a pearler and a farmer and, in the early 1900s, ran a coach and cart building business in Fremantle with his sons.²⁰

The description of the Coffee Pot building in Frederick Nicolay's reminiscences, written some thirty years after the event, show some discrepancy with the physical building. The Coffee Pot was built in stone, not brick, and there is evidence of two smaller rooms as well as the main room, although the stonework of part of this appears to indicate it could have been added at a later date. Local oral tradition dating back to at least the 1920s refers to the building as the Coffee Pot, and knows of no other building ever having been on the site.²¹ No records have been located to indicate that the place was occupied at any time after 1873,²² but it may have been used by shepherds or a farm labourer initially. For many decades, the land has been used to graze sheep and grow wheat while the building gradually crumbled.

From some time in the 1920s or early 1930s until after World War Two, the property was leased from the Anglican Church by Stuart Mills for grazing of stock. During World War Two the army used the property as a training camp. By this time, the structure had no floors or roof. It is locally believed that the troops stationed at the property were deployed to New Guinea and fought on the Kokoda Trail.²³

The property was leased from the Anglican Church by Ivo Dick Criddle from c.1947 and used as a market garden. When Criddle died in 1953, his two sons took over and a market garden continued to operate from the site until c.1970. During the time that the Criddles leased the property, the chimney was bricked up so that the building could be used as a silo.²⁴

In 1977, a Geraldton company, Kroan Pty Ltd, purchased the place from the Anglican Church. Sometime in the early 1980s, local residents undertook to re-roof the building to provide some protection from weathering. In 1988,

²⁰ *ibid*; Erickson, R., *Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians*, op cit.

²¹ Stan Gratte, Jean Trautman, Barbara Shields. Harley Criddle, Andrew Mills. Enga Smith, Wayne Sutton, Joan Downes, phone conversations with Tanya Henkel, March 2003, recorded on HCWA file P0475.

²² The following sources were checked for information regarding post-1873 occupation: Anglican Church North West Diocese, Geraldton (owners 1875-1977); William Walker, White Corsair Pty Ltd, (current owners); regional heritage adviser, Tanya Henkel; Certificate of Title (no leases of land recorded); Bain, Mary Albertus, *Ancient Landmarks: A social and economic history of the Victoria District of Western Australia 1839-1894*, UWA Press, 1975; Suba, Tanya & Callow, Bruce, *European Site Survey Chapman Valley*, Landcorp, 1993; Heritage Commission of WA, *Upper Chapman Valley Heritage Trail*, brochure.

²³ Andrew Mills, grandson of Stuart Mills; Stan Gratte, Local Historian and Enga Smith, member of the Mills family and author of *Saddle in the Kitchen*, a memoir of growing up in area, published by Hesperian Press; phone conversations with Tanya Henkel, March 2003, recorded on HCWA file P0475.

²⁴ Harvey Criddle, son of Ivo Dick Criddle, and Andrew Mills, phone conversations with Tanya Henkel, March 2003, recorded on HCWA file P0475.

White Corsair Pty Ltd purchased the land as an investment. The land is not leased out but is used by local farmers for grazing sheep.²⁵

Coffee Pot & Waggrakine Well is entered on the Shire of Chapman Valley Municipal Heritage Inventory, adopted on 31 October 1996, and has been designated Management Category 1.²⁶

In 2003, the place is vacant.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Coffee Pot & Waggrakine Well comprising the remains of a stone cottage (1872) and well are located in a paddock on sloping land, about 700 metres north of the Geraldton-Yuna Road. Access to the place is across private land used by local farmers for sheep grazing. The well is sited approximately fifty metres to the north-east of the cottage and further down the hill. Power lines and poles run through the valley, close to the well. The land is elevated with views back towards Geraldton harbour to the south-west, and has a moderate slope falling to the south-east and views to the Moresby Flat Top Range to the north-east.

The cottage is a rectangular, two-room structure with stone walls and a steeply pitched, pyramidal, corrugated metal deck roof. A skillion roof extends at a lower pitch over a room on the west side of the cottage, with eaves close to ground level. The structure is only partially enclosed as the south wall is all that remains of a former room on the east side of the cottage, and the roof does not continue over this space.

The random rubble stone walls, approximately 450mm wide, have been laid on a plinth, projecting below floor level. More of the plinth is visible towards the eastern end of the building, as the land falls away. The north-east corner of the structure has collapsed, with rubble scattered around the surrounding ground surface. It is likely the cottage once extended beyond the current roofed portion as the plastered walls and window opening in the south elevation are indicative of an interior space. Two further rectangular, timber framed openings punctuate the south elevation and a timber door frame remains in the east elevation, near the collapsing corner. A semi-circular arched fireplace opening is located in the north wall, with the masonry above supported on arched steel lintels. Cracks that widen towards roof level have developed in this wall with the loss of structural stability around the collapsing corner. The fire-place opening has been occluded externally with a low stone buttress projecting from the north elevation. Coursed brickwork is evident around this opening. The flooring material of the cottage was not distinguishable at the time of inspection beneath layers of dirt and rubble.

²⁵ Certificate of Title Vol. 1463 Fol. 904, 22 March 1977 & 26 August 1988; Telephone conversation with William Walker, White Corsair Pty Ltd, 11 March 2002. Enquiries to date have failed to uncover the identity of those who re-roofed the building.

²⁶ Suba, T., Callow, B. & Grundy, G., *Shire of Chapman Valley Municipal Inventory of Heritage Places*, 1995-6, Place No 1.

The Colorbond finish metal deck roof was erected over the stone walls in the early 1980s to prevent further deterioration of the structure. It has been crudely constructed and has wide galvanised-appearance ridge cappings to the steep pyramid form. A gutter has been fixed along the overhanging eaves of the skillion section but is not connected to a downpipe.

There is little documentary evidence to suggest the form of the original building. The existing structure appears to have been extended from an early description of the place as one large square room built of brick but it is unclear when these modifications may have occurred. The masonry of the western end exhibits a different hue and block size to the central and eastern walls, perhaps indicative of different eras of construction. The only evidence of brick construction is in the external fireplace surround in the north elevation. The corrugated pyramid roof is unlikely to reflect the original pitch or form which is believed was once thatched with rushes.

The cottage is in poor condition and requires stabilisation, particularly at the north-east corner. While the place is unfenced, livestock are free to encroach and have the potential to exacerbate deterioration of the remaining fabric.

The opening of the well is at ground level, with the stone walls describing an opening approximately 2.2 metres in diameter. Sheets of corrugated iron have been placed over the well opening to provide cover. There is water currently 2.1 metres below ground level and an irrigation pipe running from the well to the east.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

The Coffee Pot is a unique little building which has been virtually unused since construction. Searches in HCWA database and Municipal Inventories for the Victoria district and the south-west for a similar small rural residence or a building associated with experimental farming projects of the 19th century revealed no other building of this type, with regard to size or association.

Searches in the heritage databases for all States in Australia found no other places listed that were associated with the production of coffee. In the Northern Territory, coffee was grown commercially at Beatrice Hills from 1884, but the enterprise failed before the end of the decade due to a corporate collapse of the parent company, and reduction in the supply of cheap labour as a result of stricter immigration laws. A viable coffee industry survived in Queensland and Northern New South Wales from the 1890s to the 1920s, when it declined due to high harvesting costs and difficulties in obtaining cheap labour. It is not known when the earliest coffee plantations were tried in this region. Token coffee plants were grown by Robert Towns at Cleveland Bay, Queensland, in c1864 to comply with the 'Coffee and Sugar Cultivation Act' that had granted him the land, but this

was a temporary measure while sugar was being established, and it is unclear as to whether commercial coffee was ever grown here.²⁷

Other attempts to grow coffee in Western Australia were made by Bishop Salvado at New Norcia from c1873-1878, and by David Picton Davies and Francois Arekoin in Glen Forrest in 1885. No evidence has been found to show that either of these ventures was successful, or that any elements of the coffee experiments remain.²⁸

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

No key references.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

Further research in the CSO records could provide more detail on the coffee plantation project, and may uncover correspondence on the grant of the land to the Anglican Church.

Further research may also provide more information relating to other commercial coffee growing attempts in Australia.

²⁷ Online searches of State heritage listings; conversations with Bruce Baskerville of Heritage NSW and Nicole Warren of Heritage NT; Docker, E.W. *The Blackbirders: the Recruiting of South Sea Labour for Queensland 1863-1907*, Angus & Robertson, Sydney, 1970, p.17; Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation, op.cit. p.17;

²⁸ Elliot, I, *Mundaring: A History of a Shire*, Shire of Mundaring, 1893, p.162; July 2002 conversation with Tereas DeCastro, postgraduate student at UWA undertaking research into coffee growing at New Norcia. Future issues of New Norcia studies containing her research may provide more information.