



REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Removed Entry

The Minister for Heritage Directed that this Interim Entry in the State Register not be made permanent on 7 May 2007. Notice of this decision under the Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990 appeared in the Government Gazette on 25 September 2007.

1. **DATA BASE No.** 7098
2. **NAME** *Homeleigh* (1913, 1914, 1920s, 1935, 1937, 1955, 1960s, 1990s)
3. **LOCATION** Muirs Highway, Manjimup
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
Lot 1 on Diagram 20235 being the whole of the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume 1185 Folio 727, portion of Lot 6695 on Deposited Plan 81684 being part of the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume 1194 Folio 476 and portion of Lot 5639 on Deposited Plan 81710 being part of the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume 1185 Folio 728 as shown on Heritage Council of Western Australia Survey Drawing No. 7098 prepared by Midland Survey Services
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Shire of Manjimup
6. **OWNER** Hermann Kalau vom Hofe
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**
 - Register of Heritage Places: Interim Entry 14/07/2006
 - National Trust Classification: -----
 - Town Planning Scheme: -----
 - Municipal Inventory: -----
 - Register of the National Estate: -----
8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**

9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**

10. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**
Homeleigh, a collection of farm houses and related buildings in a farm setting, including a timber and iron Federation Bungalow residence, an asbestos and iron packing shed, a timber and iron shearing shed, timber and iron machinery shed, post War asbestos and iron residence, and minor outbuildings, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place is a good example of self-sufficiency in relation to a modestly sized farm, with simple well made buildings and a picturesque setting being the result of a single family's endeavours from its inception to the present;

the collection of buildings at the place, especially the 1913 house group and shearing shed, are fine examples of their respective kinds, with the interior of the house having much original detail, and some particularly fine spaces and decorative treatments;

the place was built by one of the first settlers of non-British origin in the Manjimup district, the vom Hofe family, assisted by well known Manjimup farmer/builder Jack Ipsen, and remains in the ownership of Dick vom Hofe to the present;

the two storey barn constructed of slab timber was a unique example of technical achievement that survived from 1914 to 1995, and has the potential for future reconstruction as the materials have been salvaged and numbered to facilitate such a project; and,

the 1913 house building group, shearing shed, pine avenue, and other mature tree plantings and cleared paddocks form a picturesque pastoral landscape.

The metal sheds have little cultural heritage significance.

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 documentation for this place is based on the heritage assessment completed by Phillip Griffiths, Architect and Robin Chinnery, Historian, in July 2004, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 2.2 Adapting to diverse environments
- 2.4.2 Migrating to seek opportunity
- 3.5.3 Developing agricultural industries
- 3.16 Struggling with remoteness, hardship and failure
- 5.8 Working on the land
- 6.2 Establishing schools
- 6.5 Educating people in remote places
- 8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 101 Immigration, emigration & refugees
- 302 Rural industry & market gardening
- 402 Education & science

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

The collection of buildings at *Homeleigh*, especially the 1913 house group and shearing shed are fine examples of their respective kinds, with the interior of the house having some particularly fine spaces and decorative treatments. The interior retains much original detail, pressed metal ceilings, wallpaper and fittings that have aesthetic value. (Criterion 1.1)

Homeleigh, including the 1913 house building group, shearing shed, pine avenue, and other mature tree plantings and cleared paddocks form a picturesque bucolic landscape. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

The complex of buildings at *Homeleigh*, including the 1913 and 1955 homesteads, outbuildings, various associated structures and farm buildings, former tennis court site, and mature tree plantings, illustrate the occupation, and evolving uses of a rural property in the continuous occupation of a single family since its inception in 1913. (Criterion 2.1)

* 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.

Homeleigh was established as a farm in the pre-World War One period, the homestead being built from the first order of timber supplied from the newly opened timber mill at Palgarup in 1913. The farm supplied all of Manjimup's bacon through to 1939, whilst the apple orchard was one of the first in the district, becoming one of the largest at its peak in the post-World War Two period. (Criterion 2.2)

Homeleigh homestead (1913) was built by one of the first settlers of non-British origin in the Nyamup district, Kurt vom Hofe, assisted by well known Manjimup farmer/builder Jack Ipsen. The farm was developed and worked by Kurt and his wife, Luise, and their children for more than 50 years, before being transferred to their son, Dick, in whose ownership it continues in 2004. (Criterion 2.3)

The two storey barn constructed of slab timber at *Homeleigh* was a unique example of technical achievement that survived from 1914 to 1995, and has the potential for future reconstruction as the materials have been salvaged and numbered to facilitate such a project. The homestead (1913) was a considerable achievement in the context of the difficulties faced by settlers such as Kurt vom Hofe in the early twentieth century. (Criterion 2.4)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Homeleigh is valued by the community as one of the oldest established farms in the district still remaining in the original family ownership, the site of one of the first and largest apple orchards in the district, for its use as an Assisted School in the inter-war period, and for the social role it served in the inter-war and post-World War Two periods, in particular the packing shed which was the venue for dances and other social events. (Criterion 4.1)

Homeleigh contributes to the community's sense of place as a well-known farming property on Muirs Highway. (Criterion 4.1)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

The two-storey slab construction barn at *Homeleigh* was believed to be unique in Western Australia, and although now collapsed, its material has been salvaged and it could be re-assembled. (Criterion 5.1)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Homeleigh is a good example of making do and self-sufficiency in relation to a modestly sized farm, with simple well made buildings and a picturesque setting being the result of a single family's endeavours from its inception to the present. (Criterion 6.1)

Homeleigh, including the 1913 and 1955 homesteads, outbuildings, various associated structures and farm buildings, former tennis court site, and mature tree plantings, provide representative evidence of the occupation, and evolving

uses of a rural property in the continuous occupation of a single family since its inception to the present. (Criterion 6.2)

12.3 CONDITION

The two-storey slab barn has collapsed and is stored for reconstruction. The 1913 house and associated buildings are not occupied and do not receive maintenance. The packing shed, shearing shed and machinery shed are in use, receive maintenance and are in good repair. The current residence is well maintained. Overall the place is in fair to good condition, although the 1913 house is in need of some urgent work to stabilize it.

12.4 INTEGRITY

The current house, shearing machinery shed, and machinery shed are all in use for their intended purpose. The 1913 house and associated buildings are either not in use or are used for storage. The packing shed is used for storage. The uses of each of the structures is readily apparent so that the integrity of *Homeleigh* overall remains high.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

The buildings and landscape of *Homeleigh* are the product of a number of building campaigns. Most of the buildings have changed little since they were built, though some have suffered from the loss of fabric, such as the losses that have occurred as the result of general deterioration of the 1913 house, and the collapse of the two-storey barn.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Robin Chinnery, Historian. The physical evidence has been compiled by Philip Griffiths, Architect.

Refer to site plan for a recommended curtilage to conserve the place and its setting.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Homeleigh is a collection of farm houses and related buildings in a farm setting, including a timber and iron Federation Bungalow residence, an asbestos and iron packing shed, a timber and iron shearing shed, timber and iron machinery shed, post War asbestos and iron residence, and minor outbuildings.

In 1831, Lt. Preston, R. N., discovered the mouth of the Warren River, believed to have been named after Admiral John Borlase Warren.¹ In 1852, A. C. Gregory undertook the first European exploration of the Warren District, which takes its name from the river. Crossing the Blackwood River, he followed the Donnelly River downstream to the coast to its mouth, before heading east and striking the Warren River three miles from the coast. He found good grassy flats six miles up the river and a good strong stream. Then he went south-east to Brooke Inlet, and further explored the Warren District. In the same year, Robert and Thomas Muir made an exploratory journey to the district in search of new land.² In 1856, Thomas and Andrew Muir took 1,000 sheep to the Warren district, to Perup and Lake Muir. Subsequently, they established themselves at Fernhill, Deeside, and Mordalup. In 1859, Charles Rose and Frank Hall took up adjoining leases 1425 and 1426; however, only Rose persisted and remained at Wilgarrup.³

In the late 1850s, and through the 1860s, a number of people took up Locations in the Warren District, mostly for pastoral purposes. In this early period of development, convicts were employed on the construction of roads and bridges, and also ticket-of-leave men as shepherds to care for the pastoralists' flocks.⁴ Circa 1865, ticket-of-leave men built 'Lake Muir' homestead, with the bricks made on site, and a shingle roof; and Rose built his homestead at Wilgarrup of slab and daub with a roof of jarrah shingles.⁵ In 1866, 'Deeside' was built by ticket-of-leave men for Thomas Muir; and Walter Blechynden settled at 'Glenpennant'.⁶

In 1871, the Upper Warren district was included under the Sussex Roads Board.⁷ In the early 1870s, more homesteads were built by settlers who had taken up Locations in the district, including John Mottram at Peppermint Grove near the Warren River, Peter Wheatley at 'Clover Cottage', A. L. Clarke established 'Fern

¹ Evans, H. D. *Southern Sketches: A tale of the development of the Warren and nearby districts* (Dept. of Agriculture, Western Australia, 1993) Foreword.

² Jennings, Roger 'The History and Development of the Warren District of Western Australia, 1852-1911' Typescript in Battye Library, pp. 1-4.

³ *ibid*, p. 5. Note: Some secondary sources give the date as 1857, and some spell the name of the place Wilgarrup.

⁴ Jennings, Roger *op. cit.*, p. 17.

⁵ Evans, H. D. *op. cit.*, p. 20.

⁶ Evans, H. D. *op. cit.*, p. 21.

⁷ Evans, H. D. *op. cit.*, p. 22.

Hollow', and Charles Young, 'Mica Hill'.⁸ In 1876, the Upper Warren District became part of the Blackwood Roads Board.⁹

The population in the Warren District gradually increased. By 1891, there were an increasing number of families. Four families, the Blechyndens, Clarkes, Mottrams, and Wheatleys, decided that a school should be built to provide for the educational needs of their children.¹⁰ A site convenient to all of them was selected, at Nelson Location 1353, and a ticket-of-leave builder, Jack Haines (also Haynes), was employed to supervise the building of the Upper Warren School, intended to also function as a church, which was opened on 1 July 1891.¹¹ The cost of the teacher's salary was shared among the children's parents, and each of the four families who had initiated the school boarded the teacher for three months at a time.¹² Similar arrangements would be made when a school was established at *Homeleigh*. On 1 May 1892, a second school was opened in the Upper Warren district, at Dingup.¹³ The school buildings at both places served for school and church purposes.¹⁴

In 1893, the Homestead Act was passed, by which it was possible for potential settlers to select a free homestead farm, to a maximum of 160 acres, provided the selector resided there and improved it for a period of seven years.¹⁵ Additional land could be selected under Conditional purchase.¹⁶ The Homestead Act encouraged a new wave of European settlers to the Warren District. In 1896, the Upper Blackwood district broke away from the Blackwood Roads Board, and formed the Nelson Roads Board, which included the Warren district and Bridgetown.¹⁷ In 1898, the railway reached Bridgetown, which encouraged further settlement in the surrounding district.¹⁸

In 1909, two German sailors, Friedrich Adolf Theodor Kurt Kalau vom Hofe (sometimes spelt von Hofe), known as Kurt vom Hofe, and his friend, Hugo Grumpelt, arrived at Fremantle, and walked to Wagin, where a number of German people had settled.¹⁹ The men had earlier, in 1904, jumped ship at Fremantle, but then returned to Germany and came out as immigrants.²⁰ Initially

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- 8 Evans, H. D. op. cit., p. 22. Note: 'Clover Cottage' and Clarke's residence were also built by Jack Haines, and the former is built of similar bricks to those used at the place. (Evans, H. D. 'The Anglican Church in the Warren District' typescript, p. 2. Collection of Phyll Mottram; and Oral evidence, Joan Lefroy with Robin Chinnery, site visit, 22 May 2001.)
- 9 Evans, H. D. op. cit., p. 22; and Jennings, Rodger op. cit., p. 16.
- 10 *Government Gazette* 9 July 1891, p. 524. Note: Evans gives date as 1883, and Jennings gives the date as 1871.
- 11 Evans, H. D. op. cit., p. 23. Note: In 'The Anglican Church in the Warren District' p. 2, Evans states that Haines was 'engaged to undertake the construction'; and Report of the Central Board of Education for the year ending 31 December 1891 in *Votes and Proceedings* 1892, p. 1, p. 8, and p. 16.
- 12 *ibid*; and Jennings, Roger op. cit., p. 18.
- 13 Report of the Central Board of Education for the year ending 31 December 1892 in *Votes and Proceedings* 1893, p. 7, p. 15, p. 43.
- 14 'The Anglican Church in the Warren District' op. cit., pp. 2-3.
- 15 Crowley, F. K. *Australia's Western Third: A History of Western Australia from the first settlements to modern times* (Macmillan & Co. Ltd., London, 1960) p. 104.
- 16 Evans, H. D. op. cit., p. 30.
- 17 Jennings, Rodger op. cit., p. 16.
- 18 Evans, H. D. op. cit., p. 15.
- 19 'From Kassel to Homeleigh: Luise and Kurt Kalau vom Hofe: Pioneers of the Manjimup District, 1909-1983' Typescript by Elizabeth (Pixie) Kalau vom Hofe (1986), p. 1.
- 20 H. von Hofe, son of Kurt von Hofe, letter to HCWA, 4 October 2004, on HCWA file P7098.

they took up land at Wagin, but after finding it unsuitable went on to the Warren district, east of present day Manjimup.²¹ In 1910, the railway line reached Manjimup, and the improved transport to the district encouraged further agricultural development. Mr. Ike Doust, established at 'Dunreath', advised vom Hofe and Grumpelt on land suitable for agriculture, and with his guidance they chose neighbouring land with a permanent supply of water from Moorilup Brook, a tributary of the Wilgarrup River.²²

In October 1911, Kurt vom Hofe mortgaged Nelson Location 5639 to secure a sum of £100.²³ He set up a tent by the brook, and began the task of clearing his land. In common with many early settlers, he had no previous experience of farming. He obtained work with nearby settlers, the Ipsens, which provided him with some farming experience, and he began saving his wages towards building a house on his own land.²⁴

In November 1912, Nelson Location 5639 was mortgaged to secure the sum of £175, and again in August 1913, to secure a further sum of £50²⁵, probably to finance of building of the homestead at the property. Having selected a home site on the rise above the brook, Kurt vom Hofe built a home for his bride-to-be, Luisa 'Luise' Emma Dorothea Elsie Danker, who had been his next door neighbour in Kassel. Daughter of Professor Otto Danker and his wife, Joanna, Luise was a kindergarten teacher and well-educated.²⁶ Local farmer Jack Ipsen, a builder by trade, assisted Kurt vom Hofe in building the Federation Bungalow design style homestead²⁷, constructed 'with sawn timber and relatively sophisticated balloon technique', which was completed in 1913.²⁸

The timber with which the homestead was built was the first order supplied from the new timber mill at Palgarup.²⁹ The homestead was timber framed, clad with timber weatherboards and 'lined with flat iron', with 'a good floor and ceiling', and an iron roof.³⁰ The floor was timber and the ceilings of timber boards other than those of pressed metal in the living room and the large room to the rear.³¹ A plan, dated 1913, shows the adjoining Nelson Locations 5639, 6695 and 5638, which comprise vom Hofe's property; however, no buildings are shown.³²

On 1 December 1913, Kurt vom Hofe met Luise Danker on her arrival at Fremantle, and they married that day. After purchasing furniture and fine china

21 'From Kassel to Homeleigh' op. cit., p. 1.

22 Dick vom Hofe, conversation with Robin Chinnery, 8 June 2004; H. von Hofe, letter to HCWA, 4 October 2004, on HCWA file P7098. Dick von Hofe believed that the advice had been provided by a Mr. Doust of Riverside.

23 Certificate of Title Vol. 998 Fol. 107. Note: This CT was not issued until 17 April 1928.

24 'From Kassel to Homeleigh' op. cit.

25 Certificate of Title Vol. 998 Fol. 107.

26 'From Kassel to Homeleigh' op. cit.

27 Apperly, Richard, Irving, Robert, and Reynolds, Peter *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1878 to the Present* Angus & Robertson, North Ryde, 1989, pp. 144-147.

28 Molyneux, Ian 'Timber Barn, Nyamup, W. A.' in *The Architect* September 1970, p. 47.

29 'From Kassel to Homeleigh' op. cit.

30 Kurt vom Hofe to Education Department in 'Homeleigh- Establishment of School' SROWA Acc. 1497 Item 2119/28, 8 November 1928.

31 Site visit Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, 8 June 2004.

32 Canceled Public Plan (502208) (443/80 Sheet 4) SROWA Cons. 5386 WAS 981 Item 1272 (1913).

for their new home, they traveled by train to Manjimup, and then by road to their newly completed home, which, at Luise's suggestion, they named *Homeleigh*.³³ Their five children would be raised at the place, Irmgard (b. 1916), Erika Gabrielle (b. 1917), Kurt Horst (b. 1920), Edith (b. 1924) and Herman (b. 1928), later known as Dick, who continues to live on the property with his wife, Elizabeth 'Pixie' in 2004.³⁴

In c. 1913, a photograph shows the recently completed homestead viewed from the rear, where there is a verandah under a skillion roof. At this period, the timber weatherboards appear to be un-painted.³⁵

Having taken up occupation of their new home, the vom Hofes continued the task of developing the property. Their first income came from raising pigs in three timber pig pens erected a short distance from the homestead, a few remains of which are extant in 2004, 'near the big pepper tree.'³⁶ The pigs were slaughtered, then dressed and made into bacon in a shed of timber slab construction, which Kurt built a short distance to the rear of the homestead. The smoke-cured sides of bacon were hung in the kitchen to dry out, then stored in the cellar beneath the house. Kurt would take the cart 16 miles into town and 'supplied the whole of Manjimup with bacon until 1939.'³⁷ The site of the pig-dressing shed was later utilised for the laundry building.³⁸

Luise assisted Kurt on the farm and when she was working in the paddocks the young children were put 'in a big box' to ensure they did not wander away as she worked nearby.³⁹ In the early period, she cooked on an open fire in the kitchen, but later a wood-fired stove was installed.⁴⁰

In 1914, Kurt and Luise vom Hofe built a large two-storey barn constructed from jarrah timber cut on the property. They selected trees with straight grain that made for ease of splitting for the slabs to be used in construction of the walls and floors, slit rafters and for shingles for the roof.⁴¹ The vom Hofes would have been familiar with slab construction used for farm buildings in the district, none of which would survive as long as the barn at *Homeleigh*. Architect Ian Molyneux described the barn at Homeleigh as follows:

None of the timber is sawn. In plan the building measures 31' 0" by 20' 9" and is formed of four rows of four 1' 0" diameter posts set in the ground and two storeys high. Ground floor height is eight feet. The two centre rows support 9" diameter purlins which project from the north gable to support a hoisting beam. There are 9" diameter ties between the centre posts at purlin level. The split rafters are 5" x 5" at 3' 0" centres in two spans, lapped and housed over the purlins, and simply butted at the ridge without ridge piece. The shingles are nailed to split battens. The ground floor sleepers and first floor beams are 1' 0" diameter logs halved with the split face uppermost to take floor slabs and fixing battens for wall slabs. First floor beams are housed into the posts while the sleepers are supported between posts on separate

33 'From Kassel to Homeleigh' op. cit. pp. 1-2.

34 *ibid*; and site visit, Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, 8 June 2004.

35 Photograph *Homeleigh*, c. 1913, vom Hofe Family Collection.

36 *ibid*, p. 2; and Dick vom Hofe, conversation with Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, 8 June 2004.

37 'From Kassel to Homeleigh' *ibid*.

38 Dick vom Hofe, conversation with Robin Chinnery, 8 June 2004.

39 'From Kassel to Homeleigh' op. cit.

40 *ibid*.

41 *ibid*; and Molyneux, Ian op. cit.

stumps. Slabs are 3" thick and floor slabs span approximately 6' 6" between beams without other support. Gables are framed with split studs and sheeted with split boards.⁴²

Kurt vom Hofe may have utilised his seafaring experience in building the barn since the heavy timbers were raised with a hand pulley and Kangaroo jack (a hand mechanical jack).⁴³ At the ground floor of the barn were stables, storage for the cart, general storage and work areas, and shearing shed, with provision for storage of oats and clover hay at the upper floor. A chaff cutter was installed on this floor, from which the chaff fell to the ground floor in the southern portion of the barn for bagging, in readiness for sale.⁴⁴ An early un-dated photograph shows the barn with its shingle roof.⁴⁵

Circa 1914, Kurt and Luise vom Hofe excavated by hand an area to the rear of the homestead where they built a retaining wall and constructed an 18,000 gallon concrete water tank.⁴⁶ Water was pumped from this concrete tank to a tank on a timber stand to provide an outdoor shower. A good supply of fresh water in the area of the homestead was essential for domestic use, their pig farming operation and for Luise's poultry.⁴⁷

Luise vom Hofe had 'a special fondness' for the garden she established around the homestead.⁴⁸ Early tree plantings included an oak, palms and a Norfolk Island Pine in the front garden, which survive as mature trees into 2004.⁴⁹ In 1915, the vom Hofes planted an avenue of pine trees along the track from the homestead to the front gate at the road (a distance of about 200 metres) and in a square near the homestead around a proposed future tennis court. The trees in both locations grew to maturity, but the tennis court had to be re-located after the ground became uneven due to the tree roots.⁵⁰

In 1920, a plan of the Warren district shows Nelson Locations 5639, 6695 and 5638 as having been taken up, but the only building shown on the plan is a slab house at Nelson Location 5625.⁵¹ A photograph, dated 1922, shows the first top gate at *Homeleigh*, a three bar gate with two diagonal bars, and the homestead in the distance.⁵²

From 1921, initiation of the Group Settlement Scheme in the South-West led to increased settlement in the Manjimup district, and the network of railways was expanded to service them. This provided a further opportunity for the vom Hofes who cut and sold jarrah sleepers from *Homeleigh*, which financed the purchase of a T-model Ford truck in 1928.⁵³ Near the barn, a timber and iron shed (the

42 Molyneux, Ian, *ibid.*

43 *ibid.*

44 *ibid.*

45 Photograph of barn at *Homeleigh*, n.d., vom Hofe Family Collection.

46 'From Kassel to Homeleigh' *op. cit.* p. 2.

47 Dick and Pixie vom Hofe, conversation with Robin Chinnery, 8 June 2004.

48 'From Kassel to Homeleigh' *op. cit.* p. 5.

49 Site visit Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, 8 June 2004.

50 'From Kassel to Homeleigh' *op. cit.*, p. 3.

51 Canceled Public Plan (502210) (443/80 Sheet 6, North) SROWA Cons. 5386 WAS 981 Item 1274 (1920).

52 Photograph of top gate at *Homeleigh*, 1922, vom Hofe Family Collection.

53 Molyneux, Ian *ibid.*

machinery shed) was built, which would be gradually extended through the years.⁵⁴ The vom Hofes' farming operation expanded with the purchase of more land where they grew maize. It was known as the 'Swamp Block', and was later owned by their son, Kurt. Luise also grew tobacco for seed, at the request of the Department of Agriculture, as the property was free of the disease 'Blue Mould' and approximately 15 miles from the nearest commercial tobacco farm.⁵⁵

On 17 April 1928, the first Certificates of Title were issued for *Homeleigh*.⁵⁶ In that year, an area of 15 acres at *Homeleigh* was planted with apple trees, commencing an orchard which would peak at 45 acres, and which would continue in production through into the late 1970s.⁵⁷ Whilst dairying was the focus of most farms established in the region under the Group Settlement Scheme, the vom Hofes continued raising pigs for bacon and sheep for mutton, along with some wool production, and worked towards establishing their orchard.⁵⁸ They kept a small number of cows for their own milk supply. There were three timber cow bales not far from the homestead, of which only one remains in 2004.⁵⁹

In the late 1920s, with further settlement in the vicinity of *Homeleigh* there was an increase in the number of families. The vom Hofe children had had no education to date other than the limited time that Luise could spare, for there was no school within a reasonable distance. The three school-age children from the Archer family, who lived about 1.5 miles from *Homeleigh*, traveled five miles to school at 'Deeside', the nearest school. In 1928, the Lindley family, with five school age children, arrived from Victoria to settle near *Homeleigh*. On 19 September 1928, Kurt vom Hofe wrote to the Education Department requesting that a school be opened at *Homeleigh* to provide for his own children and those of his neighbours. He offered to cart building materials from Manjimup for the erection of a school building, a task in which the neighbours would assist. On 27 September, they made a formal request to the Department, and proposed that the school, for seven boys and three girls, be located on the Government Reserve Wilgarup, Deeside Road, offering to accommodate a teacher at a settler's home, 1.25 miles away, at a cost of 25s.⁶⁰

On 4 October 1928, the Education Department advised that there were insufficient children of school age 'to warrant provision of a Government School', but forwarded information about the Assisted Schools programme, whereby the Government paid a grant of £12 per annum per child in average daily attendance, on condition that the parents provided a supplementary grant and 'a proper room' for school purposes.⁶¹ Both Kurt and Luise vom Hofe were well educated and found it 'especially hard ... to see the children grow up' without the opportunity for formal education.⁶² The correspondence reflects their deep concern for their

54 Dick vom Hofe, conversation with Robin Chinnery, 8 June 2004.

55 'From Kassel to Homeleigh' op. cit., p. 3.; H. von Hofe, letter to HCWA, 4 October 2004, on HCWA file P7098.

56 Certificate of Title Vol. 998 Fol. 107.

57 'From Kassel to Homeleigh' op. cit.

58 *ibid*; Molyneux, Ian op. cit.; and Dick and Pixie vom Hofe, conversation with Robin Chinnery, 8 June 2004.

59 Dick vom Hofe conversation with Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, site visit, 8 June 2004.

60 Correspondence in 'Homeleigh- Establishment of School' op. cit., 19 and 27 September 1928.

61 Correspondence in *ibid*, 4 October 1928.

62 Luise vom Hofe in *ibid*, 21 November 1928.

children, and the Department's lack of understanding of the arduous nature of the settlers' lives on their isolated farms where men, women and children worked long hours each day, so the mothers were unable to supervise correspondence lessons, and the families were without means to transport the children several miles to school, or to erect a new school building without government assistance.⁶³

On 8 November 1928, Kurt vom Hofe offered the use of a room, 14ft. x 15 ft., at the *Homeleigh* homestead, which was in use as a store-room, to provide a school-room. If a lady were appointed as teacher, it would be necessary for her to share a well furnished bedroom, 12 ft. x 16 ft., with Irmgard and Erika, and if a gentleman were appointed he would have to share with him, as the family of seven people could not all sleep in one room.⁶⁴

The Department agreed 'to test the arrangement' on a temporary basis as regards the school-room, providing it was 'well ventilated and lighted and the outhouse accommodation and water supply are satisfactory'; but 'more satisfactory arrangement' would be necessary for boarding and lodging a teacher.⁶⁵ There was one large window in the proposed school-room, where the walls were clad with flat iron, 11 ft. high, 'with perforation in the top of the wall'.⁶⁶ Luise vom Hofe wrote to the Director of Education: 'We have a lovely place ... besides a lovely playground amongst a small pine forest (200 trees) close to the house, where the school could be held too during hot summer days', and that as Kurt had indicated he would be willing to sleep on the verandah, the teacher could be provided with 'a nice sunny room with a fireplace and well furnished'⁶⁷, which was one of the front rooms of the house, whilst the proposed school-room was a larger room at the rear.⁶⁸ For water supply there were two 1,000 gallon galvanised corrugated iron tanks, one 1,000 gallon concrete tank and one 18,000 gallon concrete tank. There was only one outhouse, but Kurt vom Hofe volunteered to build another if required.⁶⁹ The Education Department approved the arrangements, and appointed a retired Scottish teacher, Miss M. A. Thompson. In March 1929, she traveled to *Homeleigh*, where the school opened on 18 March.⁷⁰ It continued under Miss Thompson until it closed on 28 August 1936.⁷¹ Subsequently, the teacher's room became Dick vom Hofe's bedroom and the school-room became his older sisters' bedroom, the interior walls were wall-papered, whilst the wall papering to the living room may be earlier.⁷²

In 1934, a photograph shows the homestead at *Homeleigh* viewed from the front, with and open, painted, timber picket fence and a single pedestrian gate, from which the front path leads. By this date, the garden was well established and in

63 Correspondence in *ibid*, October- November 1928.

64 Kurt vom Hofe in *ibid*, 8 November 1928.

65 Director of Education in *ibid*, 13 November 1928.

66 Kurt vom Hofe in *ibid*, 10 December 1928.

67 Luise vom Hofe *op. cit.*

68 Dick vom Hofe, conversation with Robin Chinnery, 8 June 2004.

69 Luise and Kurt vom Hofe in 'Homeleigh- Establishment of School' *op. cit.*, 21 November and 10 December 1928 respectively.

70 Correspondence and memoranda in *ibid*, 12 December 1928 to 9 May 1929.

71 Correspondence and memoranda in *ibid*, May 1929 to August 1936.

72 Dick vom Hofe conversation with Robin Chinnery, 8 June 2004.

the rear ground may be seen the pines planted in 1915, which have reached a considerable height in almost 20 years.⁷³

In 1935, a large, timber framed asbestos clad, packing shed was built at *Homeleigh* for packing apples. This building, bearing the date '1935' under the east gable' came to be used 'almost as a community hall' in the district, and, with the piano brought across from the homestead, served as the venue for numerous dances and other social events.⁷⁴ In 1936, photographs show the interior of the packing shed, the packing shed and orchard, and hay carting at *Homeleigh*.⁷⁵

Wall papering of some of the interior walls of the homestead is believed to date from around the 1930s.⁷⁶

In 1937, a shearing shed of timber and iron construction was built at *Homeleigh*, which continued in use for its intended purpose through into the late 1990s. In the same year, a garage of timber construction was built near the homestead. Both buildings are extant in 2004.⁷⁷

In 1939, a further six acres of apple orchard were planted at *Homeleigh*. In July, after the fruit season was finished, Kurt and Luise vom Hofe left the children to look after the property for three months, and departed for a visit to their homeland. In September 1939, World War Two began and for the next seven years, which they spent with relatives in Germany and England, their only contact with the children was through the Red Cross. Kurt, aged 19, returned from Muresk Agricultural School to work at *Homeleigh*. In 1942, a power plant, run on 32 volt batteries, was installed at *Homeleigh*, which continued in use until June 1963, when SEC power was connected. Along with other families of German origin in the district, the vom Hofes were subject to taunts and rumours, and when they cleared and planted four more acres of apple orchard in 1942, it was rumoured that the clearing was to provide an airstrip for the enemy.⁷⁸

In 1942, Kurt purchased Hugo Grumpelt's property adjoining *Homeleigh*, taking on outside work milking cows over a number of years to pay for it. Edith departed *Homeleigh* to take up nursing, Erika went away to the Eastern States, and Herman, now known as Dick, went away to boarding school at New Norcia. In 1947, Kurt and Luise vom Hofe were finally able to return to Australia and to *Homeleigh*, which remained their home for the rest of his life and most of Luise's. Kurt Jnr. continued to farm the adjoining property.⁷⁹ In the 1940s and 1950s, Dick supplemented the farm's income by trapping rabbits and selling the skins, for which there was a market at that period.⁸⁰

In the mid 1950s, the front bedroom at the east, which had served for Miss Thompson and then for Dick, was converted to serve as a dining room. The fireplace was retained and an opening was cut through to provide a serving hatch

73 Photograph of *Homeleigh*, 1934, vom Hofe Family Collection.

74 'From Kassel to Homeleigh' op. cit.; and site visit, Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, 8 June 2004.

75 Photographs of *Homeleigh*, 1936, vom Hofe Family Collection.

76 Dick vom Hofe, conversation with Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, 8 June 2004.

77 Dick vom Hofe, conversation with Robin Chinnery, 8 June 2004.

78 'From Kassel to Homeleigh' op. cit., pp. 3-4.

79 'From Kassel to Homeleigh' op. cit., pp. 4-5; and Dick and Pixie vom Hofe conversation with Robin Chinnery, 8 June 2004.

80 Dick and Pixie vom Hofe conversation with Robin Chinnery, 8 June 2004.

through from the kitchen. The present architrave to the interior door may date from the same period, whilst the other architraves, windows and doors all remain original. The former schoolroom, later the girls' room, remained unchanged. The former school-room, later the girls' room, remained unchanged.⁸¹

In the early 1950s, the laundry building of timber and iron construction was built on the site of the slab shed at the rear of the homestead, with single men's quarters at the east side, to accommodate farm workers and/or shearers. Some of the early meat safes were retained and have continued to be stored in the laundry through to 2004.⁸²

In c. 1954, a photograph shows the homestead at *Homeleigh* with a path leading to the front steps up to the front verandah. There is lawn to both sides of the path, and in the middle of the path, a circular bed. There is a simple timber balustrade to the verandah, and a diagonal pattern timber lattice at the western end.⁸³

In December 1954, Dick vom Hofe married Elizabeth 'Pixie' Barrett.⁸⁴ In 1955, they built a new house at *Homeleigh*, on a two acre lot fronting Muirs Highway, up the hill from the original homestead. Portion of Nelson Location 5639, being Lot 1 of Diagram 20235, was registered in Dick's given name, Herman Kalau vom Hofe, on 10 October 1955.⁸⁵ In 1955, an early photograph shows the new house nearing completion, before the porch was built.⁸⁶ Here, Dick and Pixie vom Hofe's three children would grow up, also spending much time at their grandparents' homestead down the hill.⁸⁷

On 23 July 1956, Friedrich Adolf Theodor Kurt Kalau vom Hofe, farmer, of *Homeleigh*, was registered as the owner of portion of Nelson Location 5639, 158 acres in area, portion of Nelson Location 5638, 113 acres three roods and 34 perches in area and portion of Nelson Location 6695, 70 acres one rood and two perches in area.⁸⁸

In 1961, a photograph shows the 1955 homestead with a galvanised pole and cyclone wire fence to the front garden, where there are pencil pines at either side of the entry.⁸⁹ These were later removed.⁹⁰

On 12 February 1962, *Homeleigh* was transferred to Herman 'Dick' Kalau vom Hofe⁹¹, who has continued to work the property through into 2004.⁹² In the 1960s, he extended the machinery shed to the east.⁹³

81 Dick and Pixie vom Hofe, conversation with Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, 8 June 2004.

82 Dick vom Hofe, conversation with Robin Chinnery, 8 June 2004.

83 Photograph of *Homeleigh*, c. 1954, vom Hofe Family Collection.

84 'From Kassel to Homeleigh' op. cit., pp. 4-5.

85 Certificate of Title Vol. 1185 Fol. 727.

86 New house, *Homeleigh*, 1955, vom Hofe Family Collection.

87 'From Kassel to Homeleigh' op. cit., p. 5.

88 Certificate of Title Vol. 1194 Fol. 476.

89 Photograph of homestead (1955) at *Homeleigh*, 1962, vom Hofe Family Collection.

90 Pixie vom Hofe conversation with Robin Chinnery, 8 June 2004.

91 Certificates of Title Vol. 1185 Fol. 728 and Vol. 1194 Fols. 475 and 476 respectively.

92 Site visit Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, 8 June 2004.

93 Dick vom Hofe conversation with Robin Chinnery, 8 June 2004.

Through the 1950s and 1960s, the apple orchard and sheep farming continued at *Homeleigh*, plus some cattle farming. The orchard was increased by additional plantings of eight acres in 1962, and six more acres in 1968. As the orchard expanded, the workload increased proportionately, and, with high labour costs, it was decided to cease packing at *Homeleigh*. Henceforward the apples were transported to a centralised packing facility at Manjimup.⁹⁴

In 1966, Kurt vom Hofe died, aged 83 years, and Luise continued to reside at their homestead until 1975, when she was 89 years of age. In 2004, the homestead remains as she left it.⁹⁵

In 1970, it was reported that there had been 'no significant alterations' to the two storey slab barn at *Homeleigh*, which was 'in very good condition', other than some sagging at the north-east corner, 'caused by discharge of rain-water from the adjacent gutterless shed'.⁹⁶ It was noted that 'A beautiful patina of moss and weathering has accumulated on the unprotected timber which shows no sign of deterioration.'⁹⁷ The barn continued in use through into the 1990s.⁹⁸

In 1974, prices for apples were declining and Dick vom Hofe recognised the future for the orchard was limited. The purchase of Ike Doust's property, 'Dunreath', five km. to the east of *Homeleigh*, enabled expansion of sheep farming operations. As sheep numbers increased, the orchard at *Homeleigh* was progressively removed, partly under a government scheme that paid orchardists to remove trees as there was had been an over-supply of apples.⁹⁹ In the 1970s and 1980s, the machinery shed was further extended.¹⁰⁰

In the 1980s, pine trees in the avenue in the section towards the road failed and had to be removed. Rose gums were planted in their stead as it was hoped to avoid the problems of debris dropping from the trees.¹⁰¹

In the 1980s and 1990s, two corrugated iron clad sheds were added to the complex of farm buildings at *Homeleigh*.¹⁰²

In c. 1991, the first section of the packing shed was re-stumped, and the second section was done about four years later. It has been little altered since cessation of its original use, and continues in use for storage.¹⁰³

By February 1996, when architect Ian Molyneux referred the slab barn and the homestead at *Homeleigh* to the Heritage Council of Western Australia 'for Council's information and consideration of assistance as an urgent case' on behalf of Dick vom Hofe, 'one side of the original shingled roof' of the barn had

94 'From Kassel to Homeleigh' op. cit., pp. 4-5.

95 'From Kassel to Homeleigh' op. cit., p. 5; and Dick and Pixie vom Hofe conversation with Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, 8 June 2004.

96 Molyneux, Ian op. cit.

97 *ibid.*

98 Dick vom Hofe, conversation with Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, 8 June 2004.

99 *ibid.*; and 'From Kassel to Homeleigh' op. cit., p. 5.

100 Dick vom Hofe, conversation with Robin Chinnery, 8 June 2004.

101 Dick and Pixie vom Hofe, conversation with Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, 8 June 2004.

102 Dick vom Hofe, conversation with Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, site visit, 8 June 2004.

103 Dick vom Hofe, conversation with Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, site visit, 8 June 2004.

been 'replaced with boards'.¹⁰⁴ The vom Hofe family 'were anxious to see the buildings properly conserved' but concerned about being able to complete 'such a project', and so they had 'offered the barn for relocation to other museum sites', although 'aware the preference is to conserve the structures on the site.'¹⁰⁵ Molyneux compared the place with 'equally rare barns of diverse constructional types at "Lowlands" and "Alverstoke", and with photographs of the complex at "Leschenault", which was no longer extant, and concluded that the barn at *Homeleigh* 'is of exceptional relative significance and warranting special care', which was also 'a rare surviving example' of 'pole-framed, un-clad slab wall construction.'¹⁰⁶ He noted the two buildings were 'in a good state', but in need of conservation, for which he suggested 'an expenditure of say \$15,000-00 on urgent conservation planning, restoration and stabilisation, legal agreements of conservation, etc., would be an appropriate allocation for a site of such relatively major significance to the State and Region.'¹⁰⁷ This application was not successful, and without assistance the vom Hofes were unable to undertake the urgent conservation works. In October 1999, the barn collapsed. Dick vom Hofe carefully salvaged all the material which was sound, including most of the slabs, which he numbered for future reconstruction purposes if assistance becomes available.¹⁰⁸

In c. 2001, the timber stumps to the shearing shed were replaced with steel.¹⁰⁹

In 2004, *Homeleigh* remains in the ownership of Dick vom Hofe, who has entered into a trust with his children that the place may not be sold at any period prior to 2077.¹¹⁰ The original homestead (1913) remains unoccupied, whilst a number of early tree plantings and a rose survive in the garden. The front steps are in poor repair and the timber balustrade is no longer in place, but is stacked on the front verandah along with other original materials, whilst the interior remains as it was when Luise vom Hofe departed about 30 years ago. The outbuildings remain, along with the water supplies, including the large concrete tank. The pre-World War Two farm buildings, including the 1920s machinery shed, 1935 packing shed, and 1937 shearing shed, all continue to be used and maintained, as are the more recent corrugated iron sheds. Only a small number of apple trees remain from the once large orchard.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Homeleigh is a collection of farm houses and related buildings in a farm setting, including a timber and iron Federation Bungalow residence, an asbestos and iron packing shed, a timber and iron shearing shed, timber and iron machinery shed, post War asbestos and iron residence, and minor outbuildings.

Homeleigh is located on the Muirs Highway approximately 20 kms east of Manjimup, just beyond Nyamup, on the north side of the highway.

104 Ian Molyneux, Ian Molyneux and Associates Architects, to John Forbes, CEO, HCWA, 26 February 1996.

105 *ibid.*

106 *ibid.*

107 *ibid.*

108 Dick vom Hofe conversation with Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, 8 June 2004.

109 Dick vom Hofe, conversation with Robin Chinnery, 8 June 2004.

110 HCWA Place No. 7098, *Homeleigh*, Backlog Review Form.

Homeleigh's topography falls away from Muirs Highway to the north toward the Wilgarup River, with much of the valley cleared for either orchard, since removed, or pasture. The land is generally cleared, with fringe plantings of trees near property perimeters including Mahogany Gums, a driveway of Pines and Gums, a clump of plantings around the 1913 house including Norfolk Island Pines, Camellias, Parade Palms, an Oak Tree, Date Palm, a Plane Tree and some Pepper Trees, and a cultivated garden of annuals and perennials around the 1955 house. Many of the pines have been damaged by storm activity and some of the original plantings have been lost altogether.

The built elements include a house built in 1955 nearest the road, with a packing shed built in 1934-5 to its north located further down the valley, then at the end of the driveway that runs from the road to the east of the house, the 1913 house and associated structures including a laundry/pig dressing shed, pig feed shed, water closet, garage and generator shed, water storage cistern, high-level water storage tank and small shower room, then the remains of a tennis court to the east of this group and a single cow bail to the north of the tennis court. Further east and to the north, there is the site of the two-storey slab construction barn, the stacked material from the barn, a shearing shed, machinery shed, and two metal framed and clad sheds from recent times.

1913 House Group

a) House

The 1913 house is a single storey timber framed and weatherboard clad, corrugated iron roofed Federation Bungalow style residence. The house is a rectangular plan form, with a front verandah extending almost the full width of the building, and a rear verandah extending across two thirds of the building. The place is set on stumps, with the ground falling from south away to the north, allowing access to a cellar that is constructed under the hallway of the house. The walls are clad with painted jarrah timber weatherboards, with corner stop beads, single pane double hung windows, and four panel doors. The roof takes a gambrel and gable form and is clad with short length sheets of galvanized corrugated iron, with brick construction chimneys over the living room, teacher's room and kitchen areas, the latter being in a precarious state. There is a timber balustrade across the rear verandah with rectangular vertical balusters, while the balustrade to the front verandah has been removed and the stair reduced to a pair of timber strings. The verandahs have timber floors and the front verandah has a lined soffit. To the west of the rear verandah, there is a pair of corrugated iron rainwater storage tanks on platforms supported on bush pole stumps.

The house is planned around a corridor that runs through from front of back, with bedrooms located on the west side, and a bathroom and lounge to the east. Further east, there is the teacher's room to off the lounge, and kitchen and pantry. An office has been created by filling in part of the eastern end of the verandah.

Interior spaces have timber floors and skirtings, timber framed walls clad with plain galvanized iron, most of which has been covered with wall paper, and flat tongue and grooved timber board ceilings, and small timber cornices. Wallpapers appear to date from the early and mid inter war period.

The bathroom is fitted out with painted tongue and grooved boarded walls, a plain galvanized iron dado, timber dado trim, enamelled cast iron claw foot bath, timber construction cabinets, and shower and circular show curtain rail.

In the lounge, special features include a painted pressed metal ceiling, wall papered walls with a wall paper frieze, a brick construction fireplace with timber surround, and flanking sconce lights on the chimney breast.

The teacher's room maintains the same pattern as the other bedrooms, but includes a fireplace on the southern wall, complete with timber surround.

Features in the kitchen include a wide chimney breast with a Metters wood stove and room heater, flanked by two full height cupboards, and two sets of cupboards over the mantle. There are timber carcass cupboards and a sink on the west wall, and under counter cupboards and overhead cupboards on the south wall. The cupboards still contain material belonging to the last occupant. Off to the west of the kitchen there is a pantry with shelving around the west and north walls, with ingredient containers, preserves, and kitchen equipment still on the shelves.

On the rear verandah, the office space is simply lined out with painted asbestos walls and it has no special features.

Under the front verandah, there is a masonry construction stair and cellar with a concrete floor.

The place has not been occupied for some time so that there has been deterioration with the loss of gutters and downpipes, together with elements of the front verandah, deterioration of verandah floorboards, breakdown of paint systems, and the set of chimneys to the kitchen and teacher's room are in a parlous state.

b) Cistern and Shower (1914)

There is a masonry construction 18,000 gallon water storage cistern to the south of the house, with a timber and metal deck cover. To the east of the cistern there is corrugated iron water storage tank on stout timber poles, enclosed on three sides with timber weatherboards to create a shower cubicle. Soil around the cistern is retained on dry stone coffee rock walling.

c) Pig Feed Shed

The pig feed shed is a simple timber framed gabled roof building on timber stumps, with a timber floor, corrugated iron skillion roof and a single door on its eastern side. The interior is unlined and has a timber floor.

d) Laundry, Pig Dressing and Quarters (1950s)

This building comprises timber framed walls to three sides, with much of the south wall open, and a corrugated iron gabled roof. The west side of the shed contains a copper, laundry troughs, and a meat safe. The east side contains a small single quarters, lined out internally.

e) Water Closet

To the east of the laundry there is a small freestanding timber construction water closet, with a gabled roof, tongue and grooved ledge, braced door and concrete floor.

f) Garage and Generator Room (1942)

This building is the easternmost structure associated with the house. It is a large gabled roof timber framed gabled roof building clad with flat and corrugated asbestos, with timber framed and boarded doors to the east, with small lean-to on the southern side built to accommodate the generator.

All of these buildings are in fair condition and have had few changes.

Eastern Shed Group

To the north east of the house there is a group of sheds and elements that include the site of the storey barn and the salvage material from it, the shearing shed, sheep dip, sheep pens, and machinery shed, together with two modern metal frame and clad sheds. The fences associated with shearing shed comprise a series of pens and races in post and rail construction, together with a timber construction stock loading ramp to the east of the machinery shed.

Two Storey Slab Barn (1914)

There is little to indicate the location of the barn, which was located to the west of the shearing shed. Following the collapse of the building, the owners numbered the timbers and arranged the material in stacks on a site south of the location of the buildings original site. The stack comprises notched posts and slabs.

a) Shearing Shed (1937)

The shearing shed is a single storey timber structure, timber weatherboard clad, on replacement galvanized steel stumps, with a gabled roof covered with corrugated iron. The gable section runs on north south axis, with a skillion roof to the north of this section. There is a pair of doors to the south, ventilation flaps to west, a holding pen entry to the north and exit trap to the east.

The shed is arranged with a ramped entry from the north, holding pens under the skillion roof, a single shearing stand, then an exit to the east, leading to a below ground sheep dip. The shed has timber floors, timber grated floors in the holding pens, unlined timber stud framed walls, and an unlined roof.

b) Machinery Shed (1928 and two subsequent stages 1970s and 1980s)

The machinery shed is a timber framed and clad skillion corrugated iron roofed building. The building was constructed in three stages starting on the western side and finishing on the western side. The building generally has an earth floor, with bush pole main timbers, timber studs between bush poles and weatherboard cladding to the south, west and northern walls. The eastern side is open. The northern part of the shed is divided off and has been lined out with boards for fertiliser storage and handling. The three distinct stages of construction can be seen with straight joints in the weatherboards between each section.

Packing Shed (1935)

The packing shed is located roughly to the north of the 1955 house in an open paddock, with a single pine tree planted to its north-west. It is a timber framed, gabled and skillion roofed building, with flat asbestos wall cladding and corrugated asbestos cement roofing, together with roof lights set into the plane of the roof.

The building is raised on replacement galvanized steel stumps, and is framed in timber, with an entry and gabled roof entrance canopy to the eastern end of the building, a north wall of four pane windows, a western entry under a skillion roofed canopy, with a water closet on the north-west corner, then a generator shed, southern entry, and machinery storage area, accessible from the eastern side of the building. The machinery storage area, generator shed and water closet are all accommodated under skillion roofs. All doors are timber construction with timber board faces.

The interior is unlined and the trussed rafter roof construction is exposed to view. From floor to window sill level, the walls are lined with battens to protect the asbestos cement wall cladding from impact damage. The floor is tongue and groove timber. There are timber construction benches for packing case construction on the north wall of the building, but otherwise there is little evidence of fruit packing activities.

1955 House

The 1955 house is set in a cultivated garden surround by a post, galvanised steel rail and chicken wire fence. The garden includes lawns, garden beds and plantings that include roses, a variety of trees, annuals, and perennials. The house is simple hipped tiled roof bungalow, with a skillion roofed garage. The roof is converted with concrete tiles and the walls with asbestos cement sheeting with cover battens. The windows are timber side hung casements. There is a separate framed garage to the north of the house, together with some small framed sheds.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

There are 78 homesteads on the Register of Heritage Places; Metropolitan (13), Peel (5), Southwest (19), Great Southern (4), Wheatbelt (12), Goldfields (1), Midwest (15), Gascoyne (0), Pilbara (4) and Kimberley (5).

Of these 78 homesteads on the Register of Heritage Places, there are 3 Federation Bungalow design style homesteads; Liveringa Homestead Group, Kimberley, 1904; Wilkinson Homestead, Metropolitan, 1912 and St Erney's Homestead, Southwest, 1908.

Of these 78 homesteads on the Register of Heritage Places, only two were constructed from timber slabs; Abbey Farm, Southwest, 1864 and Westbrook Homestead, Southwest, 1863.

From 1911, Kurt and Luise vom Hofe developed *Homeleigh* differently from most farming properties in the Warren district, raising pigs and producing bacon for Manjimup in the pre-World War Two period when most local farms were initially pastoral and later dairying. The timber utilised in construction of the homestead (1913) was the first order supplied from the new timber mill at Palgarup. The quality of materials and construction are of a high standard and indicative of the standards and aspirations of its owner/builder. The vom Hofes developed one of the first and ultimately largest apple orchards in their district, and the packing shed (1935) served as an important social venue for the surrounding area. In common with other isolated families, they sought to establish a school for their own and neighbouring children. In many instances where Assisted Schools such as that at *Homeleigh* were established the school-room was a building separate

from the homestead, and the dedication of two rooms for teacher's quarters and school-room in a moderate sized homestead was unusual. The complex of buildings, structures and plantings at *Homeleigh* illustrates the progressive development of the place over more than 90 years, and, having been well maintained, has retained a high degree of integrity.

Single storey buildings of slab construction were not uncommon in rural areas of Western Australia in the nineteenth century, whilst smaller numbers were built in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as sawn timber became more readily available. The two storey barn (1914) Kurt and Luise vom Hofe built at *Homeleigh* is believed to have been unique and exceptional, and, although it collapsed in 1999, the careful salvage and retention of materials by Dick vom Hofe leaves open the possibility for its future reconstruction.

13. 4 KEY REFERENCES

'From Kassel to Homeleigh: Luise and Kurt Kalau vom Hofe: Pioneers of the Manjimup District, 1909-1983' Unpublished typescript by Elizabeth (Pixie) Kalau vom Hofe (1986)

'Homeleigh - Establishment of School' SROWA Acc. 1497 Item 2119/28

Molyneux, Ian 'Timber Barn, Nyamup, W. A.' in *The Architect* September 1970

13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH

Further research may reveal additional information about the development of *Homeleigh*.