



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)

- 3.26.2 Providing hospital services
- 9.7.1 Dealing with human remains
- 9.7.2 Mourning the dead
- 9.7.3 Remembering the Dead

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 404 Community services and utilities
- 701 Other sub-theme

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

The white timber fence forms a pleasing entry statement to *Wooroloo Cemetery*. Together with the rows of cypress trees, chosen as sentinel plantings, and the well-tended graves, this creates a pleasing and harmonious cultural environment. (Criterion 1.4)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

The large number of burials that took place at *Wooroloo Cemetery* during the period 1915 to approximately 1925, including people of many different ethnic backgrounds, provides an interesting picture of the socio-economic forces that were present in Western Australia during the first quarter of the twentieth century. (Criterion 2.1)

Wooroloo Cemetery is historically linked with the development of the *Wooroloo Sanatorium* and, apart from the buildings which are no longer accessible to the public, is the only public link with this phase of *Wooroloo's* history. (Criterion 2.2)

Wooroloo Cemetery contains burials of people from many parts of Western Australia, who were brought to *Wooroloo* on account of their illness, and bears mute testament to the large number of people who died from tuberculosis prior to the advent of modern medicines. (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.

Wooroloo Cemetery is closely associated with some of Wooroloo's early settlers, such as Frank Wishart and Ernest Wilson who were also two of the earliest members to be appointed to the committee that controlled and managed the place. (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Wooroloo Cemetery is highly valued by the local community as it is the final resting place of many of their early settlers and continues to be used by the community for internments. (Criterion 4.1)

Wooroloo Cemetery contributes to the community's sense of place through its association with past members of that community. This sense of place is further endorsed by those who visit friends and relatives buried in the cemetery and through the inclusion of the place in the local Municipal Inventory. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Wooroloo Cemetery is the only cemetery in Western Australia that was established in association with a hospital. Although the hospital was later used by residents of the local community, initially it was gazetted as the Wooroloo Sanatorium Hospital. *Wooroloo Cemetery* is also unusual in that it has a large number of burials which are not marked with a headstone, although the plot number is recorded. Those graves which are marked with headstones show an interesting mix of ethnic groups which are not generally found in the Perth metropolitan area. (Criterion 5.2)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Due to the historical factors that led to the establishment of *Wooroloo Cemetery*, it can not be considered a representative example of a local cemetery. The ethnic mix is unusual in the Perth metropolitan area and there are a large number of graves which bear no headstone. The lack of a headstone would be understandable if the cemetery was quite old (grave markers could have disappeared through natural attrition) however, *Wooroloo Cemetery* was only established in the first quarter of the twentieth century and this points more to the historical fact that this was a cemetery where those interred were often far from family or friends. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

Wooroloo Cemetery is currently maintained by the Shire of Mundaring. The white timber fence at the entrance is in good repair and the grounds are tidy and free from weeds. The place is obviously well cared for and is in very good condition.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

Wooroloo Cemetery was originally gazetted as a burial ground in association with the Wooroloo Sanatorium. This later changed to include the

surrounding community. The cemetery has been in continuous use since it first opened and its integrity is high.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

Wooroloo Cemetery contains a number of burials and original headstones which generally date to the time of burial. As cemeteries generally cover a long time span, each individual headstone could be said to form its own authenticity. The place also has a large number of mature trees which were probably planted at a fairly early stage in the cemetery's history. Taking these factors into account, *Wooroloo Cemetery* has a high degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary and physical evidence has been compiled by Fiona Bush.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Wooroloo Cemetery is a cemetery that contains a large number of burials with accompanying headstones. The cemetery was first used in 1915, shortly after patients were admitted to Wooroloo Sanatorium. It was used by the Sanatorium and the surrounding community.

The area around modern day Wooroloo was first explored by Europeans when the road to Northam was surveyed by Chauncy in 1847. The road crossed Wooroloo Brook and a government well was established near this point to provide travellers and teamsters with water.¹ Later in 1875, a 100 acre reserve was set up around the well to provide a stopping place for teams. The site became known as Warriloo or Keagine Well. During the 1890s, the name 'Wooroloo' was widely used and became the accepted form.²

The Byfield brothers from Mahogany Creek, were the first Europeans to settle in the district. John Byfield established a vineyard in the area in 1878, while William Byfield settled further to the east of his brother. The arrival of the Eastern Railway in 1885 opened up the area to timber getters and James Byfield established a sawmill in the area in 1891. The mill became an official stopping point on the railway line in 1893 and this attracted the interest of orchardists and farmers.³

The gradual growth of the district saw the settlers applying to the Education Department in 1895 for the provision of a school. Further correspondence received by the Department in 1896, was signed by the honorary secretary of the 'Wooroloo Settlers' Association'.⁴ A temporary school was established later in the year near Byfield's Mill. A school site was set aside in 1897 and the status of Byfield's stopping point was raised to that of a booking station and the place became known as Wooroloo. The district continued to attract fruit growers, such as Frank Wishart who came from Angaston in South Australia.⁵ Wishart was soon followed by his parents and business partner and friend, Ernest Wilson. Fred T. Jones (from Chidlow) and E.B. Stephens opened a store with a gallon license in Wooroloo in 1899. A Wooroloo Progress League was established and one of their first decisions was to

1 Elliot, I., *Mundaring, a history of the Shire*, Shire of Mundaring, Mundaring, 1983, p. 267.

2 Elliot, p. 267.

3 Elliot, p. 268.

4 *ibid.*

5 Elliot, I., p. 269.

appoint a Hall Committee in 1903. The building was completed in 1904. The opening ceremony was attended by the local M.L.A., Mathieson Jacoby.⁶

The small settlement of Wooroloo was given a considerable boost in 1913 when the West Australian government set aside a 3,500 acre reserve for a hospital to treat patients with consumption. Public and state government concern over the large number of people suffering from the tuberculosis disease as well as its infectious nature led firstly to the construction of a consumptives ward at Perth Hospital in 1904 and secondly to the establishment of the sanatorium proper at Coolgardie in 1906.⁷ In 1904, land had also been reserved at Mahogany Creek for the purpose of establishing a consumptives' sanatorium.⁸ Although the development of this site did not go ahead, the overtaking of the Coolgardie hospital, the lack of accommodation at the West Subiaco Hospital, which housed chronic cases of the tuberculosis disease, the increasing number of cases, and the public attention focused on 'the white plague' reinforced the belief that a large facility specialising in the treatment of this disease was long overdue.^{9 10}

Wooroloo was chosen because of the beauty of the surrounding countryside and the elevation of the site.¹¹ The design of the sanatorium complex was developed with input from the state's principal medical officer, the district medical officer at Coolgardie (Dr. R.M. Mitchell) and Hillson Beasley, the Chief Architect. Building started in 1914 and the official opening was held on the 1 May 1915.¹² In its first year of operation, 315 people were treated at Wooroloo Sanatorium, of this number 45 died and 110 were discharged.¹³ In this era while it was understood that tuberculosis was a highly infectious disease, treatment at this stage was limited to fresh air and the strong belief that patients had to be encouraged to recover. This encouragement was provided by the pleasant surroundings, and the arrangement of various activities to keep those who were only in the primary stages of the disease occupied.¹⁴ The large number of burials in *Wooroloo Cemetery* bears mute testimony to the fact that these measures were not particularly successful. In the first full year of operation (1916), there were 50 burials recorded at *Wooroloo Cemetery*. Without actually checking the names of the persons admitted to the Sanatorium, it seems highly unlikely that all of these burials came from the small settlement at Wooroloo.

6 *ibid* p. 269.

7 Report of the Board of Management of the Perth Public Hospital, 1904, p. 6, in *Votes & Proceedings*, 1904, Vol. 2; Report of the Principal Medical Officer of the Medical Department, 1905/1906, p. 4, in *Votes & Proceedings*, 1906, Vol. 2. The Coolgardie Consumptives Sanatorium was established in unused wards that had been renovated and refurbished to accommodate 40 to 60 patients at Coolgardie Hospital.

8 Correspondence File 13479/98, Vol. 1, pp. 92 & 93, Lands & Surveys Department, cited in Elliot, p. 271.

9 Annual Report of the Medical, Health, Factories, Early Closing, Vaccination & Quarantine Departments, 1911, pp. 9 & 10, in *Votes & Proceedings*, 1912, Vol. 1; Annual Report of the Medical, Health, Factories, & Early Closing Departments, 1912, p. 4, in *Votes & Proceedings*, 1913, Vol. 1.

10 This paragraph reproduced from the Heritage Council assessment for *Wooroloo Sanatorium* (#8566), prepared by Kristy Bizzaca, Alan Kelsall & Gina Binet, July 2001.

11 Uziel, U., *The Complete History of the Wooroloo Sanatorium - Wooroloo Hospital*, Graylands Teacher's College Thesis, 1969, p. 2.

12 Uziel, p. 3.

13 Uziel, p. 7.

14 *ibid*.

Many of the patients at the Sanatorium were miners whose lungs had become infected while working on the various gold fields.¹⁵ The discovery of gold in Western Australia attracted large numbers to the goldfields, many of these hopeful immigrants came from all over the world. The names found in Woorloo Cemetery is quite broad in its ethnic mix, such as Chinese, Japanese, Yugoslavian, German, English, Irish, Scottish as well as Aboriginals.¹⁶

The first years of the sanatorium's operation coincided with the return of soldiers from World War One. Large numbers of these men were diagnosed with phthisis and it became necessary to provide accommodation for their treatment.¹⁷ In February 1917, the Australian military took over portion of the advanced cases block for use as a military hospital (No. 22 Army General Hospital.) and by December of that year 81 soldiers had been treated at *Woorloo Sanatorium (fmr)*.¹⁸ Also, 564 civilian cases of tuberculosis had been treated at *Woorloo Sanatorium (fmr)*, an increase of approximately 70 from the previous year, with 306 of these being chronic cases.¹⁹

By 1937/1938, the majority of cases at *Woorloo Sanatorium (fmr)* were still of an advanced nature. In this year, 207 patients suffering from tuberculosis were admitted to the sanatorium and 66 people died from the disease. Those receiving specialised surgical treatment for tuberculosis had to be accommodated at Perth Hospital as the operating theatre at the sanatorium was considered inadequate for 'modern' surgical methods. (In fact, the theatre was not connected to running water until 1941). In the late 1930s, some success was found in the treatment of the secondary infection with the sulphanilamide group of drugs.²⁰

There was an increase in the numbers of tuberculosis patients in the early to mid 1940s as a result of servicemen returned from World War Two and the beginnings of post war immigration to Western Australia.²¹

In 1944, the treatment of tuberculosis was revolutionised by the isolation of streptomycin by American Selman Waksman and his collaborators. It was the first antibiotic discovered to be effective in the treatment of this disease.²²

¹⁵ Elliot, p. 272.

¹⁶ Information on Woorloo Cemetery held by Shire of Mundaring.

¹⁷ Phthisis is a generic term used for a progressive wasting disease and is more commonly associated with tuberculosis of the lungs. (*The World Book Medical Encyclopaedia*, World Book Inc., Chicago, 1991, p. 696.)

¹⁸ Annual Report of the Medical, Health, Factories, & Early Closing Departments, 1916, p. 20, in *Votes & Proceedings*, 1917-1918, Vol. 2; Annual Report of the Medical, Health, Factories, & Early Closing Departments, 1917, p. 13, in *Votes & Proceedings*, 1919, Vol. 1. It is not known when this military hospital ceased to function.

¹⁹ Ibid. (both).

²⁰ Annual Report of the Public Health Department, 1937 & 1938, p. 13, in *Votes & Proceedings*, 1939, Vol. 2; Annual Report of the Public Health Department, 1939 - 1943, pp. 19 - 20, in *Votes & Proceedings*, 1944, Vol. 2.

²¹ Annual Report of the Public Health Department, 1939 - 1943, p. 20, in *Votes & Proceedings*, 1944, Vol. 2. The appointment of the state Tuberculosis Officer came as a result of the end of the state and federal funding and organisation of the treatment of tuberculosis. As the first Officer, Henzell established the state program for the treatment of the disease, including the development of state wide chest clinics, and was instrumental in the development of the Perth Chest Hospital. He later became the Commissioner of Public Health from 1950 to 1963. (Snow, D., op. cit., p. 24.)

²² Information from www.britannica.com & FunklandandWagnalls.com.

Approval was finally given for the establishment of the chest clinic at Perth Hospital that would be the centre for the treatment of tuberculosis in 1947. By the late 1950s, the incidences of tuberculosis had reached an all time low in the state. This decline coincided with the development and opening of the Perth Chest Hospital as the main state hospital facility for the treatment of lung illnesses, including tuberculosis. From 1957/1958, patients began to be transferred from *Wooroloo Sanatorium (fmr)* to the new hospital.²³ By 31 December 1959, only 29 elderly male and 2 elderly female patients remained at the site. These patients continued to be accommodated in a tuberculosis section at *Wooroloo Sanatorium (fmr)*, which had now been taken over by the Medical Department for use as a geriatric hospital.^{24 25}

In June 1970, its use was changed to a medium security prison.²⁶

Wooroloo Cemetery was originally surveyed by W.H. Shields on 15 September 1902, although it was not gazetted until 13 July 1906.²⁷ However, a plan dated 3 December 1915, suggests that the cemetery was later linked solely to the Sanatorium as the plan was labelled 'Wooroloo Sanatorium Cemetery.'²⁸ Further evidence that *Wooroloo Cemetery* was controlled by the Sanatorium, rather than a board of trustees, is indicated by the fact that burials started to take place in 1915, prior to the gazettal of trustees.

Early burial records held by the Shire of Mundaring shows that the cemetery originally had a closed section. It is possible that this portion of the cemetery was used by the Sanatorium to bury patients who had succumbed to their disease. The earliest recorded burial was that of William Boucher. He died on 24 April 1915 (age 63) and was buried the same day. His religion was recorded as Church of England.²⁹ However, the earliest burial noted in the cemetery was that of Lawrence Johnson who can be found in the Catholic section of the cemetery. No records have been cited which detail information about early burials in the Catholic section of the cemetery. Burials continued to be recorded in this closed section of the cemetery up until 1924. This last burial was that of an unknown aboriginal (the corner of the page is torn) who died on 17 February and was buried on the 19th, aged only 17.³⁰

Trustees were appointed to *Wooroloo Cemetery* on 23 June 1916. Four men were appointed: Edward B. Stephens, William H. Howard, Frank Wishart and Ernest Wilson.³¹ Frank Wishart was a local orchardist, while Edward Stephens ran a grocery store with a gallon license with his partner Fred Jones. Stephens was also a member of the Greenmount Road Board (1907 – 1913 and 1921 – 23) and Chairman from 1909 – 1913.³² Ernest Wilson operated the 'Buffalo Handle Factory' in Wooroloo until just before his death in 1945. The

²³ Annual Reports of the Public Health Department, 1958, 1959 & 1960.

²⁴ Annual Report of the Public Health Department, 1959, p. 31.

²⁵ Previous 5 paragraphs reproduced from the Heritage Council assessment for *Wooroloo Sanatorium* (#8566), prepared by Kristy Bizzaca, Alan Kelsall & Gina Binet, July 2001.

²⁶ Uziel, p. 9, p. 11 and p. 27.

²⁷ Callow, B. & Associates Pty Ltd., Shire of Mundaring Municipal Inventory, 1996, Site No. 210, p.2.

Western Australia Government Gazette, 13 July 1906, p. 2143.

²⁸ P.W.D. plan No. 17049.

²⁹ Information on Wooroloo Cemetery held by Shire of Mundaring.

³⁰ *ibid.*

³¹ Western Australia Government Gazette, 23 June 1906, p. 2068.

³² Elliot, p. 269.

factory manufactured handles from karri wood for axes and other tools. These handles sold locally, inter-state and overseas.³³

The earliest burial recorded in the Public Section of the Cemetery (noted as being the Church of England section prior to becoming the Public Cemetery), was Maude Hanbury. Maude died on 23 March 1916 and was buried on 25 March. It is not known if Maude was a patient at Wooroloo Sanatorium, however she was only 25 when she died, suggesting that she may well have died of tuberculosis. The information held by the Shire of Mundaring is one copied page out of a book. It covers the period 1915 – 1920. The burials recorded throughout these years show several burials per month with the ages of the deceased varying from 11 up to 74. At this stage it is not clear what the difference was between the burials in this section of *Wooroloo Cemetery* and the closed section of *Wooroloo Cemetery*. Both sections were used concurrently and burials in the closed section also included people of the Anglican faith. One of the most notable differences between the closed section and the open section was that many of the deceased buried in the closed section represent a variety religions such as Presbyterian, Methodist, Protestant, Buddhist, Confucian, Lutheran and one Free Thinker. Some were listed by ethnicity only, such as Japanese, Chinese and Aboriginal.³⁴

In July 1918, all of the Trustees resigned and new ones were appointed: Robert M. Mitchell, Ernest C. Lovely, Samuel Mahon and Philip H. Milner.³⁵ Robert Mitchell was the Chief Medical Officer at Wooroloo Sanatorium while Ernest Lovely was the secretary.³⁶ The following year the original four trustees (Stephens, Howard, Wishart and Wilson) were re-appointed together with those appointed in 1918.³⁷ Over the years members resigned as they moved away from the district (or died) and new trustees were appointed. Frank Wishart died in 1925, while Stephens and Howard left the district (1925 and 1926 respectively). In 1945, the last remaining original Trustee, Ernest Wilson died.³⁸ Frank Wishart was buried in the non-conformist section of *Wooroloo Cemetery*, in plot 66. His friend Ernest Wilson was laid beside him in plot 67.

The Mundaring Road Board (later Shire of Mundaring) took over the control and management of *Wooroloo Cemetery* in November 1957.³⁹ As part of the Bicentennial celebrations, the R.S.L. received funds to erect headstones on the graves of returned servicemen. A number of these headstones have been erected in *Wooroloo Cemetery*. The cemetery was entered in the Shire of Mundaring's Municipal Inventory in April 1997. A gazebo was also included in this listing, however, the structure shown in the Municipal Inventory is not the same as the present one. It can only be concluded that sometime after the Inventory was compiled the original gazebo was replaced with the present structure. In July 2001, *Wooroloo Cemetery* is still used by the local community as a burial ground.

33 *ibid.*

34 Information on Wooroloo Cemetery held by Shire of Mundaring.

35 Western Australia Government Gazette, 5 July 1918, p. 923.

36 Elliot, p. 271.

37 Western Australia Government Gazette, 18 July 1919, p. 1297.

38 Western Australia Government Gazette, 2 March 1945, p. 253.

39 Western Australia Government Gazette, 29 November 1957, p. 3459.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Wooroloo Cemetery is a cemetery that contains a large number of burials with accompanying headstones. The cemetery was first used in 1915, shortly after patients were admitted to Wooroloo Sanatorium. It was used by the Sanatorium and the surrounding community.

The place is located on Linley Valley Road slightly to the south of Wooroloo and to the west of Wooroloo Prison Farm. The western entrance to Wooroloo Prison farm is located approximately 100 metres to the east of the entrance to the cemetery. *Wooroloo Cemetery* lies in a rural area.

The entrance to the cemetery is marked by a white painted timber fence with a pair of timber gates. The timber fence extends about 5 metres to either side of the gates. Beyond this, the fence is a simple post and wire fence. The entry drive, which heads south, is marked with a line of cypress trees. This drive terminates at a timber and iron gazebo of recent construction. The drive then turns west and this stretch is again lined with cypress trees. A cross drive (running north-south) is located approximately 100 metres from the gazebo and is also lined with cypress trees. These elements together create a pleasing and harmonious cultural environment. The cemetery is divided into various sections which relate to various religious denominations (Church of England, Roman Catholic and Non-conformists). A small area on the southern side of the east-west road contains a mixture of denominations and ethnic groups.

Some of the oldest burials lie in this small section. This area typically has a large number of unmarked mounds together with some mounds marked by headstones. None of the burials are marked with plot numbers. The documentary records indicate that this area has a diversity of religious denominations and ethnic groups. Several Chinese are buried here however, there is only one headstone with Chinese characters. To the east of this area is the original Church of England section. All of the graves here (and in the rest of *Wooroloo Cemetery* except the small area described above), are identified with cast iron markers showing the plot number. The oldest grave in this section is that of Maude Hanbury which lies in the south east corner of this area. This area also contains a number of military burials that belong to members of the Australian Imperial Forces. All of these burials are marked by new granite headstones which display the badge of the Imperial Forces, the soldier's number, rank, name, battalion and the date of death. A number of these types of burials can also be found in the other sections of the cemetery.

The oldest burial in the Roman Catholic section of the cemetery (which lies to the north west of the Church of England section), belongs to Lawrence Johnson who died on 20 May 1915, aged 29. This burial is four days earlier than the earliest documented burial, that of William Boucher in the closed section. No headstone marks Boucher's grave.

The older headstones in the cemetery are typically simple marble slabs of varying styles, with the details of the deceased recorded with inlaid letters. The grave is often defined by a concrete or stone (granite) border which has been filled with gravel or the grave has been sealed with a large slab. The newer burials display larger headstones, generally granite, with incised lettering.

Wooroloo Cemetery is in excellent condition and is well cared for. The gazebo near the entrance to the cemetery appears to be of fairly recent construction (late 1990s), and is in good condition.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

Although *Wooroloo Cemetery* was not originally established to serve the local community, none the less it has many of the attributes of a community cemetery as it was (and is) used by the local community. A number of graves are not marked with a headstone, a similarity which is often shared with a number of pioneer cemeteries such as the Gwalla Cemetery at Northampton. The size of the cemetery is very similar to that found in Mundaring, and has a similar time scale. Documentary evidence suggests that this was the only purpose-built hospital cemetery changed to a general cemetery.

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

No key references.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

It would be interesting to correlate the deaths that occurred at the Wooroloo Sanatorium with those buried in the cemetery. This would be particularly useful to determine the differences between the original closed portion of the cemetery with the Church of England section (prior to it becoming the public cemetery). Further research may reveal a form of class system in operation at *Wooroloo Cemetery*.