

State Heritage Listing

“Syred’s Cottage”

Lot 203, Central Place, Bejoording

On 24 September 2004, Syred’s Cottage was included as a permanent entry on the State Register of Heritage Places. The listing also encompassed an adjoining reserve and became known as Bejoording Homestead Complex and Central Square (1856, 1859, c1867).

The State Register of Heritage Places is a statutory list of properties and places that represent the story of Western Australia’s history and development. Entry in the Register is reserved for places of State cultural heritage significance and is the highest recognition afforded at the State level.

The State Register is managed by the Heritage Council of Western Australia with the assistance of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. Entry in the State Register means that any changes or works proposed for the place need to be referred, usually by the responsible local government, to the Heritage Council for advice.

More information about this listing can be accessed on the following link via the State Heritage inHerit website: <http://inherit.stateheritage.wa.gov.au/Public/Inventory/Details/b81f4ec2-8467-4f4b-88d3-dafde63024c6>

Heritage Council of Western Australia - Register of Heritage Places

Place No. 2585 - Statement of Significance

Bejoording Homestead Complex and Central Square, comprising of Bejoording Homestead Complex, a group of single storey buildings, comprising original dwelling (c.1859) (south wing), north wing (c.1867), blacksmith shop (c.1860) and shed, smokehouse (c.1870), and stables (c.1880, 1977), that are mostly mud brick and corrugated iron, with the original dwelling showing influences of the Victorian Georgian style and the remaining structures in the rural vernacular surrounded by mature plantings, together with Bejoording Central Square, designed in 1856 as a town square comprising a 10-acre (4.0469ha) lot of bushland within a farming landscape, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

- the place is a rare remnant of the only known example in Western Australia of a nineteenth century agricultural workers' village ('Bejoording') designed around a central square or common following the English model, and contains the only remaining buildings of this planned settlement, together with the central square;
- the place is a good representative example of rural settlement in the Avon Valley, demonstrating the characteristic development and expansion of a family farm in a remote rural townsite settlement from the late 1850s to the 1870s;
- the individual elements of the Bejoording Homestead Complex, being the original dwelling (south wing), north wing, blacksmith shop and shed, and smokehouse, and stables, together form a visually cohesive farm group in an attractive treed setting;
- in the 1870s, the Homestead was the site of the Bejoording School, which local residents operated privately after the government refused to grant them a school, and in keeping with contemporary employment trends in the Colony in the 1860s, Ticket of Leave men were employed at the place as both school teachers and farm labourers;
- the place has a long association with the Syred family who were the first settlers in Bejoording and continue to own the property in 2004; and
- the archaeological record associated with the place has the potential to yield information regarding rural residential and farming practices, and blacksmithing, in the nineteenth century. The verandahs and breezeway roof to the north wing, and external cement render to the residence and smokehouse are intrusive. The Stables were relocated to the site in 1977 from the Water's family property in Coondle and, while visually contributing to the group, are of little significance to the history of the place.