



## 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)

- 2.6.1 Resisting the advent of Europeans and their animals
- 3.8.5 Moving goods and people on land
- 3.22 Lodging people
- 3.23 Catering for tourists
- 8.4 Eating and drinking

#### HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 203 Road transport
- 311 Hospitality industry and tourism
- 602 Early settlers
- 605 Famous and infamous people

#### 11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE\*

*Mahogany Inn* is a simple Victorian Georgian building with unusual parapet walls on either side of a low front verandah. The steeply pitched roof of the front façade with its central dormer window and low verandah roof line lends the building an old world charm which is further enhanced by the long stretch of lawn and mature trees which provide height and depth to the Inn's setting. (Criterion 1.3)

*Mahogany Inn* is a prominent landmark along Great Eastern Highway due to the Victorian Georgian style which marks it as a building with early colonial roots, while the lawned area provides a clear view of the building. This style of building and landscaping is unusual along this section of Great Eastern Highway. (Criterion 1.3)

#### 11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

*Mahogany Inn* was important in the development of York and the agricultural region of Avon Valley in the first half of the nineteenth century as it provided a resting point for travellers whom relied upon it to provide food and lodgings. *Mahogany Inn* was the first resting point for travellers after

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\* 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.

ascending Greenmount Hill and the last stop before travellers pushed on to Guildford. (Criterion 2. 2)

*Mahogany Inn* is located on the site of the Mahogany Creek military station. Military stations were constructed and manned during the early, formative years of the colony. They were specifically built to accommodate soldiers who were posted to protect white settlers from Aboriginal attack. The sites of these military stations are important reminders that the settlement of Western Australia was not a peaceful one and that the original inhabitants were willing to fight for their lands. (Criterion 2.2)

*Mahogany Inn* represents that phase in Western Australia's history when the 'hills' region of Perth was considered to be a healthy holiday destination for people living in the Perth metropolitan area. Perth residents would take a train up into the 'hills' and stay overnight at the Inn. The continued popularity of the Inn as a stop-over point is attested by the construction of motel units at the rear of the original 1850s building. (Criterion 2.2)

From 1884 until c.1900, *Mahogany Inn* was owned by Stephen Parker, whom established prominent longstanding law firm Parker and Parker in Perth in 1868. Parker was an important political figure in Western Australia history as an active supporter for responsible government for the colony and held several high government posts. He was knighted for his services to the State in 1908. (Criterion 2.3)

*Mahogany Inn* was also owned by the Byfield family, who were one of the district's earliest European settlers, and the Craven family, who became well known during the First World War for the parties they held for soldiers. (Criterion 2.3)

### 11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

The site of *Mahogany Inn* has been continuously occupied since 1839. Recent additions to the original 1850s structure will not have totally obliterated the archaeological record below the floor boards of the Inn or across the southern section of the site. Although evidence of the military barracks may not remain above ground, archaeological evidence of the military's occupation of the site may still remain. The place also has the potential to reveal archaeological evidence about later occupation phases on the site. This evidence could reveal important information about how lifestyles changed from 1839 - 1970s. (Criterion 3.2)

### 11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

*Mahogany Inn* is held in high esteem by local residents and the wider community as it is considered to be a place with a fascinating history which erroneously includes the escapades of 'Moondyne Joe'. The place has gained a modicum of notoriety due to this supposed connection. (Criterion 4.1)

*Mahogany Inn* is important to the local community as it contributes to the district's sense of place as it is a reminder of the very early development of the district. (Criterion 4.2)

## 12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

### 12. 1. RARITY

Only a few military stations were constructed in the Swan River colony and these date to the first decades of colonial settlement. These stations were

originally built to accommodate the soldiers of the 21<sup>st</sup> Regiment which was a military detachment assigned to the colony to protect the colonists. Although it is likely that there are no physical remains of the barrack building at Mahogany Creek, the station's presence on this site is not common. (Criterion 5.1)

At least three wayside inns were established on the old Perth-York Road (later Great Eastern Highway). The Traveller's inn (fmr) at The Lakes on Great Eastern Highway is now a ruin. *Mahogany Inn* is one of a few wayside inns remaining on the Old Perth-York road. (Criterion 5.2)

## 12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

*Mahogany Inn* is an excellent example of a simple Victorian Georgian building which was not architect designed. The steeply pitched hipped roof which continues down over the front verandah was not uncommon in this era, although the short parapet walls at either end of the front elevation are not common. (Criterion 6.1)

Wayside inns became a common facility along the main routes of the Swan River colony during the first fifty years of settlement. These inns were later supplanted by hotels, or became displaced in importance when railway lines were constructed, drawing travellers away from the more traditional road routes. (Criterion 6.2)

## 12. 3 CONDITION

*Mahogany Inn* is currently in fair to poor condition. The lathe and plaster ceilings in the attic are in danger of collapse and some sections have in fact come away from the lathes leaving the lathes exposed. The floor in some sections of the attic is also in poor condition. A large percentage of the window frames are in fair to poor condition and several panes of glass are missing from various windows. The iron roof appears to be in fair condition.

The walls are generally in fair condition, although there are areas which are deteriorating due to rising damp. The cause of the bulge on the western wall is not known. The front verandah is in poor condition and is currently not used as it has loose and rotting boards.

The building appears to be poorly maintained. Urgent work is required on the front verandah and the attic ceiling.

## 12. 4 INTEGRITY

The original layout of the 1850s inn is still discernible and could be recovered at a later date. The current use could be described as the modern equivalent of the wayside inn and is eminently suitable for the building. *Mahogany Inn* has retained a high degree of integrity.

## 12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

The additions made to *Mahogany Inn* in the 1980s have all taken place at the rear of the building and could be removed without impairing the original structure. Although, changes have been made to the original fabric, the place has retained original exterior and most interior walls and original wall and ceiling finishes to many of the rooms. A high percentage of the original doors have survived, although the door architraves appear to be of more recent origin. Original timber floor boards remain in rooms 2, 11 and 12. All

of the window frames along the northern elevation appear to be original. *Mahogany Inn* has retained a moderate degree of authenticity.

### 13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

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

#### 13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

*Mahogany Inn* is a single storey building with attic displaying stylistic features which link it to the Victorian Georgian style. Historical folklore relates that the building developed from military barracks that were constructed in c.1839, with later additions by Edward Byfield in the 1850s. The current research has been unable to verify this information. The physical evidence has been unable to confidently confirm a construction date of 1839. Later additions were made to *Mahogany Inn* in 1976, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1986 and 1989. The building was originally constructed as military barracks and was later used as a wayside inn, private residence, folk museum and currently as a accommodation and function centre.

A company of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Foot Regiment accompanied the first settlers to the Swan River Colony in 1829.<sup>1</sup> They were sent to provide whatever military protection was required and initially the one company was considered to be sufficient. Initial contact with the Aborigines was peaceful however, after only a short time the Aborigines came to realise that the white settlers were displacing them from their traditional land. Skirmishes soon occurred between the two groups and in 1831 Stirling requested that, when the 63<sup>rd</sup> was replaced, the married soldiers be discharged to remain in the settlement to form a military reserve force. Some remained and formed a small mounted police force.<sup>2</sup> A detachment of the 21<sup>st</sup> Royal North British Fusiliers replaced the 63<sup>rd</sup> when they arrived in the colony in September 1833.<sup>3</sup>

Ensign R. Dale reached the Avon valley in August 1830.<sup>4</sup> Dale's enthusiastic report of the valley persuaded Governor Stirling to throw open the district for immediate settlement and selection in November 1830. The town of York was laid out and the first settlers arrived in the district in September 1831.<sup>5</sup> A rough track was laid out by Dale and a wayside inn established at a point approximately halfway between Guildford and York. This inn came to be known as 'Halfway House' and was run by a variety of people. The inn was later abandoned and today nothing remains of this building<sup>6</sup> The road to York was improved in 1835 by George Smythe and it was during this new survey that permanent water was found where a small tributary creek met Mahogany Creek. Smythe re-routed the York track to the north to take

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<sup>1</sup> Blackburn, G., *Conquest and Settlement, the 21<sup>st</sup> Regiment (Royal North British Fusiliers) in Western Australia 1833 - 1840.*, Hesperian Press, Carlisle, 1999, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> Blackburn, p. 1.

<sup>3</sup> Blackburn, p. 2.

<sup>4</sup> Appleyard, R.T. & Manford, Toby, *The Beginning, European discovery and early settlement of the Swan River Western Australia*, Perth, 1980, p.178.

<sup>5</sup> Deacon, John.E., *A survey of the historical development of the Avon Valley with particular reference to York, Western Australia during the years 1830 - 1850*, UWA Masters Thesis, 1948, p. 16.

<sup>6</sup> Elliot, I., *Mundaring, a history of the Shire, Shire of Mundaring*, Mundaring, 1983, pp 18 - 19; p. 261.

advantage of the water supply and at some stage a well was dug to provide a permanent water source.<sup>7</sup>

As traffic between Guildford and York increased during the 1830s, relations between the Aborigines and the white settlers deteriorated. Travellers along the Old Perth-York road came increasingly under attack by Aborigines and the settlers often retaliated, usually with inappropriate force and to innocent victims.<sup>8</sup> By 1838, the possibility of establishing a military patrol which could be based at the 'Halfway House', was raised.<sup>9</sup> At this time, six military posts had been established at the larger settlements in the colony. There appears to be no further discussion on the construction of a seventh post. However, in tender notices for the supply of fresh meat to the military stations in February 1839, Mahogany Creek is listed for the first time.<sup>10</sup> Payment records for soldiers posted to Mahogany Creek first appear in February 1839.<sup>11</sup> It therefore seems fair to assume that sometime towards the end of 1838 or the beginning of 1839 a military barracks was constructed at Mahogany Creek. Six men of the 21<sup>st</sup> Regiment were stationed at the post until the Regiment left for India in 1840. The 21<sup>st</sup> were replaced by a detachment of the 51<sup>st</sup> Regiment in July 1840.<sup>12</sup> The barracks continued to be manned until at least July 1841 as tenders for fresh meat were advertised in June 1841. In the tender list of September 1841, Mahogany Creek is no longer listed.<sup>13</sup>

William and Robert Habgood (Perth merchants), applied for the land on which the barracks stood in November 1842<sup>14</sup>. The land, consisting of 320 acres, became Swan Location 97.<sup>15</sup> They operated a wayside house for a short while as Edward Landor records that he found a 'comfortable way-side house, with good outbuildings and other accommodations at Mahogany Creek', on his way to the races at York in 1842.<sup>16</sup> The brothers advertised to let the barracks in October 1843 describing the place as:

the well known Road-side House at Mahogany Creek, situated on the York Road, nine miles from Guildford. The house is surrounded by very superior timber and will be let on moderate terms.<sup>17</sup>

A successful lessor was not found immediately as the advertisements ran until November 1843.<sup>18</sup> The lease was apparently taken up by Edward Byfield for, in September 1844, Byfield advertised his intent to apply for a Publican's

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7 Elliot, p. 147.

8 Elliot, p. 21.

9 *Perth Gazette* 19 May 1838.

10 *Perth Gazette* 28 February 1839. A search was made through the *1838 Government Gazette* and the *Perth Gazette* to find any mention of tenders for the erection of a military post. No tenders were found and the *Perth Gazette* does not mention the establishment of a new post at Mahogany Creek.

11 Blackburn, p. 33.

12 Blackburn, p. 97.

13 *Inquirer* 29 September 1841.

14 *Government Gazette* 4 November 1842.

15 Country Enrolment No. 398, DOLA.

16 Landor, E.W., *The Bushman, life in a new country*, Senate, U.K., 1998 (reprint of 1847 original), p. 239.

17 *Perth Gazette* 14 October 1843.

18 *Perth Gazette* 21 October, 28 October, 4 November, 11 November, 18 November and 25 November 18443.

License at the next sitting of the Guildford Magistrates Board. The License was for a 'house and premises at Mahogany Creek now in his possession'.<sup>19</sup>

Edward Byfield had arrived in the colony in 1840 and married Jane Coates in June 1841. Jane and her brother William were two of the eighteen children sent out to Western Australia by the Society for the Encouragement of Juvenile Immigration in 1834. They were placed in the care of James Stirling. Jane was employed as a nursemaid to Stirling's children and William as a goat herder.<sup>20</sup>

In July 1843, a timber felling license was advertised for sale on land located on the western side of 'Messrs Habgood's' land.<sup>21</sup> According to family history, Byfield was successful in his application for this lease.<sup>22</sup> The license was valid for twelve months. The leasing of the Mahogany Creek property would have been ideal for Byfield as he would have been able to continue cutting the lucrative stands of timber near the Inn.

In 1846, the fees associated with the publican's license were waived when Byfield undertook to operate the toll gate that had been set up outside the Inn to assist with the up-keep of the Old Perth-York road.<sup>23</sup> In the list of publican's licenses granted for 1850, the name 'Prince of Wales' at Mahogany Creek, operated by Edward Byfield appears for the first time. The Inn retained this name until 1881.<sup>24</sup> Byfield's business prospered and he was able to purchase the property from Robert Habgood for £200, in September 1859.<sup>25</sup>

Wayside inns once played a major role in the daily lives of people travelling the roads between the major towns of the Swan River colony. These inns were a haven for travellers on the dusty roads and could be relied on to provide food and lodgings for travellers and their animals. *Mahogany Inn* encouraged travel the rural areas of Avon valley and their towns such as York. The Inn was the first stopping point for travellers after they had climbed the steep Greenmount Hill and some of the accounts of these travellers have survived. In general the descriptions have more to do with the hospitality offered at the Inn, rather than a descriptive portrait of the building. Edmund du Cane, a Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers and in charge of the Guildford Convict Depot, regularly travelled to York and stayed at the Inn. He described the place as a 'small house for travellers (sic)' and was less than impressed with the accommodation. In a letter to his mother he noted that I 'dried and slept in the same room in which are 3 beastly beds made up on boxes'.<sup>26</sup> Du Cane provided the first pictorial representation of the Inn in March 1852. His water colour sketch shows a long, rectangular building composed of two parts. The section on the left appears to be constructed of vertical timber slabs with a slab chimney and possibly a bark roof. The section on the right has smooth faced walls and a

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19 *Inquirer* 4 September 1844

20 Tie, M., Notes on the Byfield family held by the Mundaring and Hills Historical Society.

21 *Government Gazette* 7 July 1843.

22 Notes taken by Maureen Tie at the Byfield Family Reunion, 7/11/1993.

23 *Government Gazette* 6 February 1946; Elliot, p. 24.

24 *Government Gazettes* 1845 - 1881.

25 Memorial Book 6 No. 649. DOLA. William Habgood died in 1845. Erickson, R. *The Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians pre 1829 - 1888*, Vol II, Perth, 1988, p.1300

26 Hasluck, A., *Royal Engineer: a life of Sir Edmund du Cane*, Angus & Robertson, Sydney, 1973, p. 39.

thatched roof. The artist could be depicting wattle and daub construction, plastered rammed earth or plastered stone construction. This section has two doors with small square windows on either side of the doors. The slab section was possibly used as the kitchen. There does not appear to be a chimney in the smooth faced section. To the right of the building is a bridge which may be spanning the small creek that runs into Mahogany Creek.<sup>27</sup>

Edward and Jane Byfield had nine children. Their first, child, Edward George was born in 1843. Seven sons followed: William, James, Charles, John, Thomas, Frederick and Victor. The last child, born in 1861, was a girl, Fanny Jane.<sup>28</sup> A photographic record of the inn was made sometime in the late 1850s or early 1860s. Two photos show *Mahogany Inn* as it appears today with a hipped roof, clad with shingles, which continues down over a front verandah and side skillion wings. Short parapet walls rise above the roof line at either end of the front elevation. A dormer window is centrally located at the front and there are two brick chimneys. A picket railing runs across the front of the verandah and a trellis extends from a vertical slab fence, at the front of the property, to the front steps. A trellis is also visible on the eastern side of the building. In the background, are leafless trees, evidence of ring-barking to assist with clearance. Along the front fence, small shrubs are just visible above the fence line, while a large leafless shrub is visible on the western side of the trellis.<sup>29</sup>

The date for the photographs can be placed sometime between 1852 (using Du Cane's water colour as a reference) and 1869 when Governor Weld stayed overnight at the Inn when he was making a tour of the district in October 1869. Weld describes a 'trellised vine walk which led to the door of the inn'.<sup>30</sup> The photographs show the trellised walk, but the vine had not grown large enough to cover the trellis. The photographs suggest that *Mahogany Inn* as it appears today was built sometime during the 1850s. However, whether the building is a complete renovation of the earlier barracks or a new building in its own right is not clear. Comparisons between the water colour and the photographs suggests that it is a completely new building. However, no comments have been found in the historical record to indicate the opening of a new premises at the Prince of Wales. There is also no record indicating any upgrades. Bishop Hale stayed at the Inn on numerous occasions as he travelled about his parish and he recorded his activities in his diary. Unfortunately his comments are rather terse. On an overnight stay on 16 September 1856 he 'found the place very comfortable'. Again on 31 January 1862 he noted that he 'slept at Byfields'.<sup>31</sup> If the Inn had changed markedly between 1856 and 1862, surely Hale would have noticed and commented. It is therefore possible that the alterations took place between 1852 and 1856.

Edward died in 1863. He left all his property in equal shares to his children, with his wife and brother-in-law (William Coates) listed as his executors.<sup>32</sup> According to family history, Jane was unable to obtain a publican's license, and as the Inn was her livelihood and she had six children under 12 to care

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27 Original water colour held by the owners of *Mahogany Inn*.

28 Byfield Family file, held by the Mundaring and Hills Historical Society.

29 Originals belong to the Craven family, copies held by Maureen Tie.

30 Lady Alice Lovat, *The Life of Sir Frederick Weld GCMG, a pioneer of the empire*, London, 1914, p. 166.

31 Extracts from Bishop Hale's Diary on wall at *Mahogany Inn*.

32 Last will and testament of Edward Byfield. SROWA Cons. 3403, 124/1863.

for, she married James Gregory not long after Edward's death.<sup>33</sup> Gregory is listed as the publican for the Prince of Wales in 1864.<sup>34</sup> Gregory and Jane had two children, Henry Dorman (born 1864/65) and Mary Eliza (born 1866). Mary died in April 1867 and was buried behind the Inn. Two years later, diphtheria claimed the Byfield's only daughter, Fanny Jane on 23 July 1869. She was buried next to her step-sister Mary. Jane died in August 1871 and was buried next to Edward in East Guildford cemetery. Her sons evicted James Gregory from the Inn.<sup>35</sup> The Inn was unlicensed during 1872. The eldest Byfield boys had developed their own careers and were not interested in running the Inn. Their Uncle, William Coates, took over the publican's license in 1873.<sup>36</sup> Coates was an experienced publican as he had established a wayside house at Caringa, on the Northam road. He held the license at the Prince of Wales until 1875.<sup>37</sup>

Benjamin Kenworthy took over the license in June 1875 and remained the licensee until January 1877. Henry Coppin, formerly the police constable at The Lakes, held the license from February 1877 until 1880.<sup>38</sup> In November 1877, William, James and Thomas Byfield sold their eighth shares in the Inn to George Throssell, a merchant at Northam.<sup>39</sup> During 1880 the Byfield sons and George Throssell advertised the Inn for sale. In the advertisement the building is described as the 'Mahogany Creek Hotel'. The property is described as

A grant of about 320 acres with ten acres under cultivation. Hotel commodious, substantial and attractive looking building containing eleven rooms, besides a capital cellar. Two yards, stables and hay house adjoining and also in close proximity two gardens enclosed by a new and substantial fence. Well of excellent water close to kitchen.<sup>40</sup>

The *Eastern Districts Chronicle* reported in October that the 'Mahogany Creek Hotel, one of the oldest and best known Road-side Inns in the Colony' was passed in at auction on the 19 October. It commented that the lack of interest may have been due to the prospect of the construction of a railway line through the hills to York.<sup>41</sup>

In February 1881, John Symonds, announced that he intended to apply for a Wayside House license for the house at Mahogany Creek. He described the place as having

five bedrooms and two sitting rooms, exclusive of those required by my family and rented by me from Mr G. Throssell and Messrs Byfield Bros and which I intend to keep as an Inn of Public House under the sign of 'The Oxford Inn'.<sup>42</sup>

Symonds held the license until the end of 1883 when he transferred both the license and the name to a building at Chidlow.<sup>43</sup> During Symonds occupancy,

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<sup>33</sup> It is unclear why Jane was unable to obtain the license as licenses were issued to women (their names appear in the licensing lists). As she was illiterate, this may have been the stumbling block rather than her sex. Information on her illiteracy obtained from Byfield Family file, Mundaring & Hills Historical Society.

<sup>34</sup> Byfield Family file; *Government Gazette* 23 February 1864.

<sup>35</sup> Byfield Family file.

<sup>36</sup> Byfield Family file; *Government Gazette* 11 February 1873.

<sup>37</sup> Elliot, p. 149; *Perth Gazette* 15 June 1875.

<sup>38</sup> *Government Gazettes*, 23 January 1877, 19 March 1878, 11 February 1879, 20 April 1880.

<sup>39</sup> Memorial Book 8 No. 2, DOLA.

<sup>40</sup> *Inquirer and Commercial News* 18 August 1880, p. 2d.

<sup>41</sup> *Eastern Districts Chronicle* 29 October 1880.

<sup>42</sup> Copy of newspaper cutting on the wall at *Mahogany Inn*.



new settlers began to move into the district. Charles Byfield planted an orchard to the south of the Inn in 1881 and Edmund Lacey established his 'Enterprise Sawmill'. The mill employed about twenty men and according to some newspaper accounts of the day they made heavy use of Symonds hospitality.<sup>44</sup>

In May 1883, John Byfield sold his eighth share to Throssell.<sup>45</sup> Prior to the sale, a further attempt had been made to sell the inn at auction on 29 March 1882. It was passed in at £380.<sup>46</sup> The property was eventually purchased by Stephen Henry Parker in March 1884.<sup>47</sup> Parker used the place as his country retreat.<sup>48</sup> Parker was the son of Stephen and Elizabeth Parker who owned a farming property at York. He was a barrister and established law firm Parker and Parker in Perth which operated from 1868 to 1997.<sup>49</sup> He married Amey Leake in 1872. He became prominent as a member of both the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly for various districts. He was a keen advocate for responsible government for the colony and served as the Mayor of Perth on a number of occasions. He held several important government positions and was knighted in 1908. He and Amy had fourteen children.<sup>50</sup> The town of Parkerville which lies to the north of Mahogany Creek was named after Stephen Parker.<sup>51</sup>

The second stage of the Eastern Railway line, which stretched between Guildford and Chidlow's Well was completed in 1884. The close proximity of the railway line to the property must have tempted Parker as the place was advertised for sale in January 1885 by Parker and Parker. The portrayal of the house is similar to previous descriptions, although there is a description of an extensive orchard. It was noted that there was an abundance of jarrah timber on the property. The property was not however sold and remained in the hands of the Parker family until the 1920s. During the early 1900s, the Parkers built a weekend house to the north of *Mahogany Inn* and Parker gave the Inn to his daughter Hilda after her marriage to Lawrence B. Craven-Smith-Milne.<sup>52</sup>

Photographs taken in 1913,<sup>53</sup> show the Inn with the front as it appears today, together with an extension to the south on the western side, outbuildings and a windmill. There is no evidence of the trellised walk that appears in the c.1860s photographs. Bushes surround the front and western sides of the house and a lawned area extends from the front of the house to the edge of the road.

The Mahogany Inn Estate was sub-divided in 1913 with small suburban lots created adjacent to the railway line and larger rural lots situated away from the line. *Mahogany Inn* was located on Lot 2, with an area of 11 acres 2 roods

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43 Elliot, p. 152; *West Australian* 6 July 1883.

44 Elliot, pp. 151 - 152.

45 Memorial Book 9 No. 187, DOLA.

46 *Eastern Districts Chronicle* 7 April 1882.

47 Certificate of Title Vol. 12 Fol. 312, DOLA.

48 *Inquirer* 30 April 1884.

49 Freehills Internet site <http://www.freehills.com>

50 Battye Library Biographical Cards

51 Elliot, p. 245.

52 Notes obtained from Maureen Tie who interviewed several people who were once associated with *Mahogany Inn*.

53 Originals belong to the Craven family, copies held by Maureen Tie.

and 20 perches. The Parker's weekend house was located on Lot 1.<sup>54</sup> The Craven-Smith-Milne family continued to occupy the place until 1929. During World War I, the Cravens held dances for soldiers. They planted an extensive garden with exotic plants and constructed tennis courts to the south of the house.<sup>55</sup>

After the Cravens sold the house in 1929, Mrs Ilbery and her sister, Mrs Armstrong, operated a guest house and tea rooms during the 1930s. Each of the bedrooms was given a flower name.<sup>56</sup> During the 1940s, Rita Curry continued with the tea rooms and guest house. The place became a popular holiday destination for people living in Perth. Visitors would catch the train to Mahogany Creek and then walk down to the Inn.<sup>57</sup> There was some perception that the hills area was a more healthy environment, purportedly on account of the quality of the air.<sup>58</sup>

The 1950s were a period of decline for *Mahogany Inn* and by the time Trevor Tuckfield purchased the building in 1960 the place had become dilapidated. Tuckfield and his wife spent a lot of time and money restoring the property and Trevor carried out extensive historical research to determine the history of the place. The couple opened the place as a museum calling it the 'Mahogany Museum'. During the Tuckfield's occupancy an attempt was made to relocate the site of the two children's grave which had become lost. Tuckfield painted a new headstone for the grave and placed it in what he thought was the correct location.<sup>59</sup> The children's grave site has since been built on and Tuckfield's grave marker is now on display in the attic. Tuckfield's history also records that the cellar on the western side of the house was part of the 1839 barracks. A hole in the floor gave access to a spring which provided water to the barracks in case of attack.<sup>60</sup>

Robert and Isabelle Barnacle purchased the Inn in 1966 and continued the restoration works that had been started by the Tuckfields. In April 1968, they also opened the place as a museum and tea rooms.<sup>61</sup> The Barnacles produced an information pamphlet to guide visitors around the old Inn. This pamphlet appears to have been the start of the 'Moondyne Joe' legend. Moondyne Joe was a notorious bushranger who escaped on numerous time from the police. The Barnacle's pamphlet claims that Moondyne escaped from the Inn on one occasion and that carvings found in one of the upstairs attic rooms were done by 'Moondyne'.<sup>62</sup> Herbert Craven related to Maureen Tie that he had done the carvings when he occupied the room as a child.<sup>63</sup> The legend of 'Moondyne' at the Inn persists to this day.

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54 Real Estate Maps, Battye Library

55 Information obtained from photographs held by Maureen Tie (copies of originals belonging to the Craven family) and interview with Maureen Tie 5/11/02; Mahogany Creek File, Mundaring and Hills Historical Society.

56 Mahogany Creek File, Mundaring and Hills Historical Society.

57 *Hills Gazette* 22 August 1993.

58 Elliot, p. 271.

59 Tuckfield, T., The Old York Road; Mahogany Creek file, Mundaring and Hills Historical Society.

60 Tuckfield, unpaginated.

61 Mahogany Creek File, Mundaring and Hills Historical Society.

62 Barnacle, R. & I., History of the old Mahogany Inn, undated, Mahogany Creek File, Mundaring and Hills Historical Society.

63 Information obtained from Maureen Tie, 5 November 2002.

Noel and Willy Conway purchased *Mahogany Inn* in the 1970s and added a function room to the western side of the existing south wing in 1976.<sup>64</sup> (This southern wing can be seen in the 1913 photograph). They also placed a relocated asbestos cement house to the south of the Inn which they used as their residence.<sup>65</sup> *Mahogany Inn* became popular for weddings and other functions; at this stage it was called the Old Mahogany Inn.<sup>66</sup>

In 1980, John and Maria Arnold purchased the property<sup>67</sup>. The Arnolds transformed the simple structure by adding several extensions to the rear and sides of the building. The first extension, in December 1980, was for a new toilet block and septic tanks located on the southern side of the Inn.<sup>68</sup> In May 1981, approval was given to construct a gazebo on the western side of the Inn. At the time of this approval, plans submitted to the Shire of Mundaring showed that the Arnolds proposed extensive additions to the old building with a new coffee lounge and restaurant on the southern side of the original building. Approval for the coffee lounge and a pergola on the eastern side of the new lounge was given in March 1983. In 1984 an additional extension was made to the southern side of the existing restaurant and in 1985, the pergola became an enclosed walkway. A winter lounge was added to the northern side of the 1976 restaurant extension in 1986.<sup>69</sup> In September 1989, approval was given to construct twelve motel units to the east of the coffee lounge and by November approval was gained to construct a pool between the new motel units and the existing restaurant. All the extensions were brick construction with a rendered finish.<sup>70</sup> Maria Arnold obtained a Special Facility License in April 1991, permitting liquor to be served once again at the Inn.<sup>71</sup> Sometime during the Arnolds occupancy, the cellar was completely re-lined, one of the front rooms became a cold store and the kitchen was remodelled.<sup>72</sup>

Lorenzo and Julia Bonini purchased *Mahogany Inn* from the Arnolds in October 2000.<sup>73</sup> In 2002, the place operates as a motel, licensed restaurant and function centre. Guided tours are given around the original 1850s section of the place.

The National Trust placed *Mahogany Inn* on its list of Classified places in June 1973 and in 1978 the building was placed on the Commonwealth Register of the National Estate. *Mahogany Inn* was placed on the Shire of Mundaring's Municipal Inventory in 1997 and given the highest level of protection.

### 13. 2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

*Mahogany Inn* is a simple, single storey Victorian Georgian building, with an attic, constructed of rendered stone with a corrugated galvanised iron roof. The building was constructed by Edward Byfield in the 1850s as a wayside

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<sup>64</sup> Mahogany Creek File, Mundaring and Hills Historical Society ; Shire of Mundaring Building License application, 2 September 1976.

<sup>65</sup> Shire of Mundaring Building License application.

<sup>66</sup> Mahogany Creek file, Mundaring and Hills Historical Society.

<sup>67</sup> Certificate of Title Vol. Fol. DOLA

<sup>68</sup> Shire of Mundaring Building License application, 5 December 1980.

<sup>69</sup> Shire of Mundaring Building License applications: 18 May 1981, 20 September 1982, 4 March 1983, 13 November 1984 and 4 February 1986.

<sup>70</sup> Shire of Mundaring Building License applications: 7 September 1989, 23 November 1989.

<sup>71</sup> Arnolds pamphlet on the Mahogany Inn, undated, Mahogany Creek File, Mundaring and Hills Historical Society.

<sup>72</sup> Information obtained from Lorenzo (Laurie) Bonini, 17 November 2002.

<sup>73</sup> Certificate of Title Vol. 1726 Fol. 341, DOLA.

inn. Later additions were made to the rear of the place in 1976, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1986 and 1989. The bulk of the additions were made by John and Maria Arnold.

The place is located in a residential area on the south west corner of Homestead Road and Great Eastern Highway. The block slopes down to the north and has a gentler down slope to the west. The building is located towards the western side of the block, with a gravel car park on the eastern side. The building is separated from the car park by a timber picket fence which returns to run along a small section of the northern boundary. The car park is defined on the northern and eastern sides by treated pine log rail fence. A small creek defines the western boundary. The southern boundary is unfenced.

A garden surrounds the building on the eastern and western sides and a lawn extends out from the front of the house (north), ending at the edge of the road. Mature trees, such as two poplars, a cypress pine and a date palm are located along the northern boundary. A curved garden bed, which features weeping mulberries and other assorted plants, has been planted around the base of the palm and the trees. These plantings are approximately ten years old. Garden beds are also located adjacent to the front of the building. Mature trees are located along the creek line which has become partially clogged with arum lilies. On the southern side of the Inn is an asbestos cement clad house (1970s). The remnants of an overgrown garden and native bush covers the southern portion of the block.

The original 1850s section of the building faces Great Eastern Highway and is approached by a long, shallow flight of cement rendered steps. The building is constructed of rendered stone<sup>74</sup> with a hipped, corrugated galvanised roof. The front section of the roof continues down to cover a verandah, while the sides form skillion roofs for the rooms under these sections. The rear (southern) elevation has become obscured by recent extensions. Two brick chimney stacks with corbelled tops, extend above the roof line. A stone chimney is partially visible on the southern side of the original building.

The new extensions are located to the sides and rear of the original structure. All the extensions are rendered brick with Zincalume roofs. The new extensions on the eastern side contain an enclosed walkway with brick paved floor (1985), which now serves as the main entry into *Mahogany Inn*. On the southern side of the walkway are new motel units (1989) which are accessed from the walkway. The new units extend across the southern side of the Inn and new restaurant area. A small courtyard between the units and the walkway contains a swimming pool.

The northern elevation features a verandah with squared timber posts and timber floor. Shingles are visible on the underside of the skillion roof. The front, double door is centrally located and has two windows on the eastern side and one window on the western side. To the west of this window is a door. This door replaces an earlier window. A glazed panel has been inserted into the verandah roof directly above the window to the east of the front door. The verandah floor, posts and glazed roof section are in poor condition. The windows, which are pairs of casements containing ten panes of glass, have broken window panes and the frames are generally in poor

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<sup>74</sup> As the render is extremely thick it has not been possible to determine if the walls are in fact rendered stone. However, the uneven surface of the walls suggests that the render does in fact cover roughly dressed stone. The current owners believe that the building is stone. A small section of render would need to be removed to confirm the wall construction.

condition. Both doors appear to be in good condition, however due to the unsound nature of the verandah floor the front doors are no longer used. Staff use the door at the western end of the verandah to access the verandah area.

At the western end of this elevation, beneath the line of the verandah floor, is a cellar window with timber bars. The rendered walls around this sub-floor area display the remains of marked lines which indicate that at some stage this wall was marked out to resemble ashlar masonry. Along the remainder of this sub-floor area, the render has become partially dislodged, indicating that the foundations of the Inn are stone. The wall along this elevation appears to be in fair condition.

The dormer window, which is centrally located in the hipped roof, is clad with diagonal timbers boards to the sides and horizontal boards across the front, above the windows. The window features a gable roof and a pair of casement windows with ten panes to each casement. The dormer window is in fair condition, although the window frames are in poor condition.

The western elevation features the entrance to the cellar and is terminated at the southern end by a recent extension extending out to the west. The recent extension (1986) is of rendered brick and is approached by a set of brick steps. To the west of this wing is a timber gazebo.

The entrance to the cellar is approached via a timber trellis which is partially covered with a climbing rose. The tongued and grooved timber door does not appear to be original, although the opening does appear to be original. A cellar window is located to the south of the door. The cellar window is fitted with cast iron bars. The opening has been blocked on the interior side. Above the cellar door and slightly to the north of the cellar window is a side hung window fitted with twelve panes of glass. Another window lies further to the south of this window. This opening has been fitted with a new window frame which does not fully fit the opening. The area beneath the new window has been filled in with brickwork and painted. The wall along this elevation is in fair to poor condition. The render is bulging out from the wall between the cellar door and the cellar window. The new extension is in good condition.

The southern side of the original 1850s building is now enclosed by the extensions. The stone chimney, on the southern side of kitchen now forms the back of the bar. The door opening on the western side of the chimney is not original, although it pre-dates the alterations made in the 1980s. The kitchen (room 9) has retained the casement windows on the eastern side. Light is supplied to this area by an atrium that was created when the new coffee lounge was added in 1983. The southern wall in the coffee lounge area has been built over. A small section of the original wall remains to the east of the new coffee lounge. Window and door openings along the whole of the south wall have been altered.

The east wall has remained largely unaltered. The rendered stone wall is covered by the skillion section of the roof. A window is located approximately in the middle of the wall. The window is side hung and has twelve panes. To the south of this window is an open cement rendered enclosure with a concrete slab. This area is used to hold large gas bottles.

The interior layout of the original 1850s section has a central corridor with two rooms opening off on the western side (rooms 7 and 8) and a large single room (room 2) on the eastern side. Rooms 3 and 4 are located to the east of room 2 and are accessed from this room. Rooms 9 and 10 are located on the

western of rooms 7 and 8 and cannot be accessed from the corridor area of the building.

The central corridor has hard plaster walls with four doors opening off it. The plasterboard and batten ceiling has been coated with vermiculite. The timber floor is covered with carpet. Only two doors are currently used. The front, double doors have a cabinet placed across them, while the door into room 7 has had a cabinet built into the door recess. The main doors have four panels, with no door furniture. Other doors along this corridor are also four panel except the door at the southern end of the corridor which is a four panel, moulded door. This door is not original. The door at the southern end of room 2 has been removed.

A timber panelled staircase is located at the southern end of the corridor on the eastern side. A cupboard with shelves is at the northern end. A door closes off the staircase, although it does not fully extend to the height of the ceiling.

Room 2 is currently used as a dining area and has a timber panelled bar in the south east corner. The bar extends up to the ceiling and appears to be quite old. The date of its construction is not known, it predates any alterations made by the Barnacles.<sup>75</sup> The walls are the same as the corridor, however the room has retained its original timber boarded ceiling and the wide timber boards on the floor are also original. The ceiling has a slight sag; a single timber board running across the ceiling, near the fireplace, indicates where a wall has been removed to create one single room. It is not know when this wall was removed. The fireplace, on the western side of the room, has a simple wooden mantle piece which is not original. Doors are located on the eastern side of the room and give access to room 4. The door which once led into room 3 is not currently in use. A door at the southern end of room 2 is no longer used. This door has been blocked by plaster boarding on the other side.

Room 3 functions as a bathroom and is entered through room 4 via a four panel moulded door which is not original. The walls are hard plaster with a tiled floor which is not original. The sloping ceiling is lathe and plaster. There is a casement window at the northern end of the room. The room does not contain any original fittings. The walls and ceiling are in fair condition.

Room 4 is a bedroom. It is similar to room 3 except it is fitted with tongued and grooved timber boards. The southern section of the western wall is timber framed and covered with plaster board. The room once contained two windows. The window at the southern end has been blocked and the recess fitted with shelves. The remaining window is side hung. There is evidence of rising damp along the eastern wall, particularly towards the south east corner. The southern wall is also affected by rising damp and the floor boards in the south east corner show water staining. The lathe and plaster ceiling is in poor to fair condition.

Room 5 is at the southern end of the north south corridor and opens out into the new coffee lounge/restaurant. The northern wall of this room is un-rendered granite. Room 6 is located on the eastern side. The room is used as an office and has no natural lighting. A opening in the south east corner indicates where a window was once located. The sloping ceiling is lathe and

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<sup>75</sup> A photograph taken in the 1960s shows this bar. Mahogany Creek file, Mundaring and Hills Historical Society.

plaster. The floor is covered with slate which is not original. The four panel moulded door is not original.

Room 8 is on the western side of the north south corridor and is used as a staff sitting room. The walls are covered with wall paper. The gyprock ceiling has been coated with vermiculite. The fireplace has been faced with red bricks and has a simple timber mantle piece. The casement window in the south east corner is not original. An atrium provides natural light to this room. A door on the western side of the room, with surface mouldings, leads into the kitchen (room 9). The door is not original.

The kitchen (room 9) can be accessed from the dining room or the restaurant area on the southern side. The kitchen has tiled walls and floor and a gyprock ceiling. None of these features are original. The fireplace has been fitted with a modern stove. None of the fittings are original. Room 10 is accessed from room 9 and is a continuation of the kitchen with tiled floor and walls. It has a sloping gyprock ceiling with a plaster cornice. The cellar is accessed by a hatch in the floor at the southern end of room 10. The cellar has been re-lined with bricks, laid in stretcher bond and it has a cement floor. Evidence of the original room is no longer apparent, with the exception of a small wooden inspection hatch which provides access to a natural spring or soak. The area is very damp.

Room 7 can only be accessed from room 10. The room now houses a free standing cold storage facility which takes up most of the room space. The ceiling is pressed metal and the fireplace has been bricked up.

The timber staircase in the corridor (room 1) leads to two attic rooms. The stairs lead up to a small landing which provides access to room 11 on the eastern side and room 12 which is directly opposite the top of the stairs. Room 11 is slightly smaller than room 12. It has a dormer window on the southern side. The walls and the sloping ceiling are lathe and plaster. The floor is timber boards. The original door has been removed and replaced with a low gate. The keys on the ceiling have failed in places causing large pieces of plaster to fall onto the floor. The walls are also in poor condition in places. Room 12 is slightly larger and is fitted with a ledged and sheeted door. The section of wall immediately on the western side of the stairs is tongued and grooved timbers. These timbers appeared to have been burnt at some stage as there are scorch marks on the wood on the western side. This side also has some carved figures of a human and a kangaroo which were apparently carved by Herbert Craven.

The remaining walls and the ceiling are lathe and plaster. A dormer window is located opposite the landing. A large fireplace sits in the centre of the room. It is fitted with a large stone slab and smaller hearth stones. The floor is timber boards. All these features are original. The floor and the ceiling are in poor condition. As with room 11, the keys have failed in the plaster ceiling and large sections are missing or about to fall down. The lathes have been exposed in several places.

The remainder of the downstairs section features tiled floors with plastered walls and exposed beam ceilings. The place is heavily decorated with antique objects and old fashioned implements. This area is not original

### **13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION**

A detachment of soldiers arrived with the first colonists to provide military protection. Small settlements that were established beyond Perth and Fremantle were often allocated a small number of soldiers for protection.

Military stations or barracks were established to house these soldiers. The earliest station was built at Albany (King George's Sound) in 1826. Others followed at Port Augusta, Mandurah, Murray, York, Kelmscott (Canning), Upper Swan and Mahogany Creek.<sup>76</sup> Capt. Irwin describes the barracks at Upper Swan, constructed in 1830 as being 'substantial'.<sup>77</sup> Bunbury describes the station built at Pinjarra as being a large 'V' hut which was capable of holding approximately six persons.<sup>78</sup> All of these early barracks have been demolished and their actual locations not firmly placed. This problem also exists at Mahogany Inn.

Wayside inns came into existence during the 1840s on routes that were heavily travelled by the early settlers. Some of these inns still exist today such as the Anchor and Hope Inn near Donnybrook, built in 1845 and rebuilt in 1865, Morgan's Inn at Picton built in c.1852, the Old Mullalyup Inn at Mullalyup (c.1865) and the Traveller's Rest Inn at Bookara (c.1867) which had been in ruins for a number of years, but which has recently been rebuilt.<sup>79</sup>

*Mahogany Inn* is one of the few remaining wayside inns still extant on the Old Perth-York road. The Traveller's inn (fmr) was established at the Lakes in the 1850s, but this is now a ruin. *Mahogany Inn* is of a few wayside inn remaining on the Old Perth-York road.

The style of *Mahogany Inn* is quite common for this era and the simple Victorian Georgian form can be seen in the Patrick Taylor's Cottage at Albany (1830s), the Anchor and Hope Inn, Donnybrook (1845), Newton House at Busselton (1851), Southampton Homestead at Balingup (1862) and Old Mullalyup Inn (c.1865).

#### 13.4 KEY REFERENCES

No key references.

#### 13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

A description of the barracks at Mahogany Creek has not as yet been located, nor is it known whether the soldiers constructed the barracks or assisted with the construction. Lieutenant Bunbury did a tour of duty in the Avon valley in 1837. In his journal, he describes the method of construction used by settlers when erecting their first homes. Rammed earth appears to have been the preferred material as it was considered to be both cheap and durable and the method continued to be used for some time in the colony.<sup>80</sup> The Toodyay road station and the Bilgoman road station, which were constructed in c.1854, were of rammed earth construction.<sup>81</sup> The water colour by du Cane suggests

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<sup>76</sup> This list is not in chronological order. Blackburn, pp. 25 - 33; HCWA Draft Assessment Mandurah Barracks (#3069).

<sup>77</sup> Bourke, M.J., *On the Swan: a history of the Swan District, Western Australia*, UWA Press, Nedlands, 1987, p. 51.

<sup>78</sup> Richards, R., *The Murray District of Western Australia: a history*, Shire of Murray, 1978, p. 108.

<sup>79</sup> Traces of the Past, National Trust Register of the built heritage of Western Australia, CD Rom.

<sup>80</sup> Bunbury, H.W., *Early Days in Western Australia, being the letters and journal of Lieutenant H.W. Bunbury 21<sup>st</sup> Fusiliers*, London, 1830, p.43.

<sup>81</sup> Bush, F., Gibbs, M., & Stephens, J., *The Toodyay Redhill Convict Road Station: an archaeological and architectural assessment*. Unpublished report for the Dept. of Main Roads and the Shire of Swan, 1996. Physical inspection of the ruins of the Bilgoman road station.



a rammed earth structure, which would mean that *Mahogany Inn*, which is constructed of stone, is not the original barracks building.

To go from the simple building that was at Mahogany Creek when du Cane painted his water colour, to the present day structure must have invited some comment in the newspapers of the day. Further historical research needs to be carried out to determine if comments were made about the changes to the wayside Inn before an accurate decision can be made as to whether any portion of the current building is in fact a remnant of the military barracks established at Mahogany Creek in 1839.