



REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Interim Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 2329
2. **NAME** *Bell Cottage (ruin)* (c. 1868)
OTHER NAME Woodbine
3. **LOCATION** Mandurah Road, Rockingham
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
That portions of Cockburn Sound Locations 64 and 224, being part of the land comprised in Certificates of Title Volume 2106 Folio 447 and Volume 1712 Folio 793 respectively as together are defined in Heritage Council of Western Australia survey drawing No. 2329 prepared by Steffanoni Ewing & Cruickshank Pty Ltd.
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** City of Rockingham
6. **OWNER** Trecap Pty Ltd
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**

• Register of Heritage Places:	Interim Entry	16/03/2001
• National Trust Classification:	Classified	11/06/1973
• Town Planning Scheme:		-----
• Municipal Inventory:	Adopted	24/10/1995
• Register of the National Estate:		-----
8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**

9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**

10. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**
Bell Cottage (ruin), a ruined Victorian Georgian cottage with limestone masonry walls and remnants of a shingle clad roof covered by corrugated iron, together with three peppercorn trees and the ruins of a limestone masonry barn, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place is one of the earliest land grants in the Rockingham region, and the cottage and barn on the property are among the region's oldest built structures;

the Victorian Georgian elegance of the cottage and its simple vernacular construction have considerable visual appeal, and together with the barn ruin and old peppercorn trees present an aesthetically pleasing composition. The building fabric has acquired, through many

years weathering, a textual and tonal quality that harmonises with the surrounding environment;

the place is important for its close association with the James Bell family who were pioneers of the district, and specifically Jane Bell (nee Green) who arrived in Western Australia as an orphan sponsored by the Children's Friend Society [sic] and who, after suffering abuse in the hands of her custodian, came to the public eye in a legal case for the murder of her child;

the place is part of the documented life of James and Jane Bell which, involving an advancement from humble beginnings to a situation of land ownership, business success and respectability;

the cottage in particular is highly valued by long term residents of Rockingham because it is a tangible reference to the district's history, residents having fought for its preservation for approximately thirty years;

the authenticity of the cottage and its visual qualities makes it one of the more evocative and memorable ruins in the near vicinity of Perth, and a landmark along Mandurah Road;

the place has considerable archaeological potential which may provide information relating to domestic life during the early period of this state's settlement. Relatively few sites of this nature have been investigated; and,

the place is an important component of a clearly definable precinct containing cultural and natural heritage sites.

Apart from the cyclone mesh fence recently erected around the building's perimeter, the site contains no cultural fabric that is deemed to be 'intrusive' to the character of the place.