

# Shire of Ashburton - Local Heritage Survey

February 2026

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## INTRODUCTION

The Shire of Ashburton (the Shire) has a rich and distinctive heritage reflective in its landmarks, buildings, objects, landscapes and the stories or traditions associated with them. This heritage is a valuable community asset, contributing to local cultural identity, strengthening connections to the past, and helping to explain the historical development of the region. The identification, conservation, and management of local heritage places is required under State legislation to ensure these assets are appropriately recognised and protected for the benefit of future generations. In 2025, the Shire commenced a review of its 2019 Local Government Heritage Inventory to meet these statutory obligations and to ensure information relating to places of heritage value in the region is accurate, current, and comprehensive.

### THE STUDY AREA

The Shire is located within the Pilbara region of Western Australia, approximately 1,400 kilometres north of Perth, and covers an area of 105,647 square kilometres. It is bounded by the City of Karratha in the north, the Shire of East Pilbara in the east, and the Shires of Meekatharra, and Carnarvon in the south. The Shire encompasses the major towns of Onslow, Tom Price, Paraburdoo, and Pannawonica, and includes some of the world's largest open cut mining operations, along with extensive pastoral leases and cattle stations set against an ancient arid landscape.



## HERITAGE EXPLAINED

As previously noted, the identification and protection of local heritage assets is required under State legislation to ensure that these places are appropriately managed for the benefit of future generations. This section provides detail on the Shire's obligations relating to the identification and protection of heritage places.

### WHAT IS A LOCAL HERITAGE SURVEY (LHS)?

The *Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990* requires each local government to identify buildings of cultural heritage significance in its district through a LHS - previously referred to as a Local Govt Heritage Inventory (LGHI).

The LHS is an information source for places of local heritage value, however inclusion in the LHS has no statutory implications. For a local government to have statutory authority over the development of a heritage place, it needs to be identified within the Heritage List adopted under the relevant Local Planning Scheme.

Each place on an LHS is assigned a management category, which recognises the value that each heritage place exhibits. This classification system is used as the basis for selecting properties to be included within the Heritage List. Places included on the Heritage List have a higher level of significance. Refer to section 3.4 for detail on the Management Categories.

### WHAT IS A HERITAGE LIST?

The deemed provisions for local planning schemes of the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015* sets out that a 'local government must establish and maintain a heritage list to identify places within the Scheme area that are of cultural heritage significance and worthy of built heritage conservation.'

Entry on the Heritage List, provides statutory protection which seeks to ensure that development has minimal impact on the cultural heritage value of the place. Development Applications are required for works affecting a heritage place.

### HOW IS A PLACE ASSESSED?

Places are selected for inclusion on the LHS based on their local heritage significance.

A place is considered significant if it embodies any of the following values: Aesthetic, Historic, Research, or Social. These values have been defined by the Heritage Council of Western Australia and are used as criteria to assess the importance of places for heritage listing.

**Aesthetic Value:** Architectural style, design excellence, and landmark value.

**Historic Value:** Cultural phases and momentous events that have shaped part of the local history.

**Social Value:** Association with a local community for cultural, spiritual, and educational reasons.

**Research Value:** Provides evidence about past activity, construction technology, and industrial processes.

## MANAGEMENT CATEGORIES

The Shire has assigned a Management Category to each level of heritage significance in line with best practice and HCWA guidelines. These categories provide guidance on the appropriate level of conservation and protection for each place. Management Categories are outlined below, with definitions and recommendations provided for each.

CATEGORY	DEFINITION	RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT STATEMENT
Category 1: Exceptional Significance	Essential to the local heritage Rare or outstanding example.	Inclusion on Heritage List. The place should be retained and conserved in consultation with the Heritage Council of WA. Consider for nomination to State Register.
Category 2: Considerable Significance	Important to the local heritage. High degree of integrity and authenticity.	Inclusion on Heritage List. The place should be retained and conserved.
Category 3: Notable Significance	Contributes to the local heritage. May have some altered or modified elements.	Consider inclusion on Heritage List. Encouragement should be given to the retention and conservation of the place.
Category 4: Limited Significance	Contributes to the local heritage through its context and history rather than its built form.	Retain record in the LHS for archival purposes.



## PART A - THEMATIC FRAMEWORK

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Shire of Ashburton, located in the heart of the Pilbara region of Western Australia, has a rich and dynamic history shaped by Aboriginal heritage, European exploration, pastoralism, mining, and resource development. Aboriginal peoples have occupied the region for thousands of years, with enduring cultural and spiritual ties to the land. European exploration and settlement in the 1800's introduced pastoralism, pearling, and mining - creating the foundations of early towns such as Onslow.

Over time, the region has faced extreme environmental challenges, including droughts, cyclones, and pests, which influenced settlement patterns, infrastructure, and economic activity. The discovery and development of mineral resources, particularly iron ore and later hydrocarbon projects, transformed the Shire's economy, driving the growth of towns such as Tom Price, Paraburdoo, and Pannawonica, while Onslow evolved from a port town to a regional service and industrial hub.

Throughout its history, the Shire has balanced economic development with social and environmental challenges, including the displacement of Aboriginal communities, population fluctuations, and the impact of transient workforces. Today, Ashburton is a diverse region with a thriving mining and resources sector, active pastoral industry, tourism opportunities, and a powerful sense of community identity, reflecting over two centuries of resilience, innovation, and adaptation.

## **ABORIGINAL HERITAGE AND EARLY EUROPEAN EXPLORATION**

The Pilbara region has been inhabited by Aboriginal peoples for thousands of years. Family groups travelled across the landscape as hunter-gatherers, following seasonal food and water sources, and developed intricate social frameworks. Cultural and spiritual identity was closely tied to the land, with sacred sites, tribal boundaries, and ceremonial grounds respected and maintained through oral traditions, art, story, song, and dance. Sites associated with Aboriginal history can be archaeological, such as rock engravings and cave paintings, or ethnographic - interpreted through cultural practice.

European contact, beginning in the early 19th century, had a profound impact. Lieutenant Philip Parker King surveyed parts of the Western Australian coast from 1818–1822, naming features including the Curlew River. Overland exploration followed decades later, led by F.T. Gregory in 1861, with expeditions inland from the Dampier Archipelago. Gregory's optimistic reports of agricultural potential encouraged settlement. Other explorers, including T.C. Murray, Edward Timothy Hooley, and L. Mount, faced harsh conditions, unreliable water sources, and complex interactions with Aboriginal groups, sometimes leading to violent clashes.

By 1866, Hooley successfully traversed the region, establishing stock drives and engaging peacefully with Aboriginal communities. Pastoral settlement increased, with early leases taken up by J. Fitzgerald, A. McKay, and D. Edgar. Aboriginal labour was essential for station operations, but European diseases devastated local populations. Tensions between pastoralists and Aboriginal people occasionally erupted, such as the 1869 Battle of Minderoo. The growing pearling industry also exploited Aboriginal divers, often under harsh conditions.

## **FOUNDING AND GROWTH OF ONSLOW (1882–1925)**

The arrival of James Clark and John McKenzie in 1882 brought commercial opportunity. Clark's lightering service encouraged the growth of a town inland from the Ashburton River mouth. Town planning followed the telegraph line, and the settlement was named Onslow in honour of Acting Governor A.C. Onslow, gazetted in 1885. Buildings were constructed from local coral sandstone, though residents faced extreme weather, poor potable water, cyclones, and sandstorms.

Clark established the Rob Roy Hotel and a wool press, supporting the pastoral and pearling economies. Stock routes were developed, including the De Grey-Mullewa route in 1893, with donkeys and camels preferred for overland transport. Gold and copper discoveries in the late 1880s and 1890s brought temporary economic growth, though pastoralism remained the primary industry. Permanent homesteads at stations like Yanrey, Uaroo, and Yarraloola emerged, and mechanisation in shearing reduced Aboriginal employment.

The drought of 1891, and later in 1911–1915, threatened pastoral viability. Pests including rabbits, foxes, and dingoes further challenged livestock operations, prompting the creation of the Vermin Board in 1917. Infrastructure developed slowly: telephones arrived in 1917, mail service by Norman Brearley's North West Airlines in 1921, and roads were gradually upgraded. Medical services improved with the appointment of Dr Longdon and the construction of a hospital in 1902. Religious and social life flourished with the construction of the Church Hall in 1904, whilst education was conducted privately in homes.

## **INTER-WAR PERIOD AND WORLD WAR II (1925–1945)**

The relocation of Onslow to Beadon Point in 1924 was a major community undertaking. Key buildings, including the hospital, Mechanics Institute, and many stores, were physically transported to the new site, while sturdier structures such as the old Police Station and Gaol were left in place and preserved. A free land-exchange system encouraged residents to rebuild at Beadon Point, though not everyone chose to relocate; the Hope family departed the district, while the Cornish family's Beadon Hotel quickly emerged as a focal point of social and commercial life in the rebuilt town.

Pastoralism and mining navigated a challenging period through the 1920s and 1930s, marked by drought, overstocking, and fluctuating commodity prices. Severe cyclones in 1934 caused widespread damage but also generated local employment during recovery efforts. Growing mechanisation gradually replaced camel and donkey transport, and the opening of the Ashburton River bridge in 1932 significantly improved overland access. Despite the hardships, social life thrived. Race Week, church events, and activities at the Mechanics Institute, until it was destroyed in the 1934 cyclone, remained central to community cohesion.

World War II brought further upheaval. Onslow became a strategic Allied base, its airport bombed by Japanese forces in 1943, prompting partial evacuation of residents. The pearling industry collapsed following the internment of Japanese crews, while pastoral stations continued to supply the war effort. Local communities also contributed actively to the Red Cross and other wartime initiatives, reinforcing strong civic spirit during a time of uncertainty.

## **POSTWAR MINING AND IRON ORE DEVELOPMENT (1945–1979)**

The postwar period marked a turning point for the Pilbara region. British nuclear tests at the Monte-Bello Islands between 1946 and 1952 temporarily boosted population and activity in the North West. Meanwhile, asbestos mining commenced at Wittenoom in 1943, employing Aboriginal people and new immigrants. While the industry provided employment, the long-term health impacts, including mesothelioma, would later have devastating consequences.

Iron ore exploration by Stan Hilditch, Lang Hancock, and Thomas Price revealed extensive deposits, previously considered too remote to exploit. Hilditch's discoveries on pastoral lands, Hancock's aerial surveys, and Price's technical expertise convinced companies of the economic potential. Hamersley Iron was formed to develop the Mt Tom Price deposit. The port at Dampier was completed in 1966, and the first shipment of ore was exported to Japan the same year, ushering in the Pilbara iron ore boom.

Company towns were purpose-built to accommodate workers and families. Tom Price (1966) grew rapidly, reaching 3,000 residents by 1968. Facilities included schools, a hospital, civic centre, swimming pool, and a combined Church Centre for multiple denominations. Paraburdoo (1970) exhibited modern housing, a shopping centre (then one of the largest outside a metropolitan area), and community services. Pannawonica (1972) was built to house employees of the Cleveland Cliffs Iron Ore Company.

In 1963, a major cyclone caused widespread destruction in Onslow, leading to State Government assistance and a reconstruction effort. A new hospital opened in 1965, the Onslow Fire Brigade was formed in 1971, and a new landing replaced the damaged jetty in 1972. Old Onslow was returned to the State as Crown land in 1976, with its historical significance documented in the Webb report. At the same time, mechanisation decreased Aboriginal employment on pastoral stations, resulting in displacement and socioeconomic challenges.

## **TOURISM, FESTIVALS, AND COMMUNITY LIFE (1980–1999)**

The 1980s and 1990s saw tourism emerge as a key industry in the Shire of Ashburton. Karijini and Millstream-Chichester National Parks, along with sites such as Duck Creek Gorge, Knossos, and Woongarra Gorge, became natural attractions for botanists, geologists, photographers, and nature enthusiasts. Onslow's mild winters made it a popular destination for amateur fishing, while commercial fishing and prawning operations thrived.

However, Wittenoom faced a different trajectory. With asbestos contamination widespread, health risks forced gradual depopulation. By the late 1990s, government programs provided grants and relocation assistance; most buildings were demolished, services were reduced, and the town was officially degazetted in 2007.

Community life in the Shire remained vibrant through newsletters, annual festivals, and achievements such as Tidy Towns awards for Tom Price (1992) and Paraburdoo (1993). Cyclones continued to affect the region: Ian (1992), Olivia (1996), and Bobby (1995) causing substantial infrastructure damage and loss of life. Aboriginal organisations, including Onslow Noualla, promoted education, housing projects and employment initiatives to support local Indigenous communities.

## LNG, MINING BOOM, AND MODERN DEVELOPMENT (2000–2025)

In the early 21st century, major industrial expansion reshaped the Shire of Ashburton, driven by the establishment of the Ashburton North Strategic Industrial Area (ANSIA). This precinct, covering 8,000 hectares of Crown land near Onslow, was designated to support large-scale LNG and domestic gas processing. Key projects within ANSIA included Chevron's Wheatstone LNG, constructed from 2011, and completed in 2017, with its first shipment departing in October that year. The proposed Scarborough LNG development, a joint venture between ExxonMobil and Woodside, was also allocated land within ANSIA, although its progression remains subject to broader market conditions.

Construction of the Wheatstone Project brought rapid demographic change. Onslow's population surged from around 600 residents to more than 5,000 at peak construction, placing intense pressure on housing availability, local services, and infrastructure. Residential rents increased sharply, and property turnover accelerated as long-term homeowners capitalised on high demand. To support the town during this period of growth, Chevron invested more than \$250 million in community infrastructure, delivering a new Shire Administration Building (2016), the Onslow Aquatic and Recreation Centre (2017), upgraded water and power systems, extensive GROH housing, airport improvements (2015), upgrades to Onslow Road (2019), and conservation works at Old Onslow (2017). BHP Billiton Petroleum also contributed to community facilities, providing \$5 million toward the development of a new basketball centre and skate park in 2016. Meanwhile, traditional fishing and prawning activities declined, due to turbidity associated with dredging, and the draw of higher-paid employment in construction and LNG operations.

Across the inland towns of Tom Price, Pannawonica and Paraburdoo, iron ore expansions continued to drive economic activity. However, these operations increasingly relied on the Fly-in/ Fly-out (FIFO) model, contributing to a more transient workforce and raising concerns about the long-term social fabric of the region. While companies argued that FIFO operations were essential for workforce retention in harsh climates, local communities noted impacts on family life, town vibrancy, and volunteer capacity. Global trends also shaped the sector; strong steel demand in the early 2000s fuelled expansion, but the slowdown in China from 2011 onward led to moderate contractions and operational adjustments.

Pastoralism continued to play a meaningful role in the regional economy, transitioning steadily from sheep to cattle grazing, while salt production, fishing, and tourism supplemented local incomes. During this period, the region also marked several community milestones, including Pannawonica's 40th anniversary in 2012 and the revitalisation of Tom Price's town centre, which delivered upgraded civic spaces, recreational facilities, and streetscape improvements.

During the 2020's, LNG operations have remained central to the region's economic base. Post-construction stabilisation has brought Onslow's population back to a more sustainable level, while environmental monitoring programs and further infrastructure enhancements continue around ANSIA. Heritage preservation has become a renewed priority, particularly at Old Onslow, where conservation works, interpretation efforts, and archaeological investigations support both cultural understanding and tourism potential. The Shire continues to navigate broader conversations about long-term workforce models, aiming to balance economic development with community sustainability, residential growth, and quality of life.

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## PART B – PLACE RECORD FORMS

# CATEGORY 1

Exceptional Significance



**SHIRE OF ASHBURTON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT HERITAGE SURVEY  
PLACE RECORD FORM**

**NANUTARRA HOMESTEAD**



**LOCATION**

<b>Address</b>	North West Coastal Highway, Nanutarra
<b>Other Names</b>	Nanutarra Station Complex
<b>HCWA Place Number</b>	15370
<b>Region</b>	Pilbara
<b>Local Government Authority</b>	Shire of Ashburton

**LAND DESCRIPTION**

Reserve No.	Lot/Location	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	GPS Coordinates
-	Pt Lot 4	D98585	2184/247	22°32'26.66"S 115°29'52.07"E
-	Pt Location 155	DP220379	3059/4	22°32'8.13"S 115°29'45.45"E

## PLACE DETAILS

<b>Place Type</b>	Individual Building or Group
<b>Construction Date</b>	c.1883/4
<b>Architectural Style</b>	Victorian Georgian
<b>Architectural Period</b>	Victorian (1840-1890)
<b>Date Source</b>	Nanutarra Homestead Conservation Plan
<b>Construction Materials</b>	Walls: Earth/Mud Brick Roofs: Corrugated Iron

## USE OF PLACE

<b>Original</b>	Farming/Pastoral	Homestead and sheep station
<b>Present</b>	Farming/Pastoral	Cattle station
<b>Other</b>	-	

## HISTORICAL NOTES

The area known as Nanutarra was granted to Richard Hicks in 1866. Like many of the stations in the North West, Nanutarra was used as grazing land for a number of years prior to being developed with a permanent settlement. By 1880 and as early as 1878, Harry Higham took up this lease, along with several others nearby to run sheep on the land. It is believed that Harry had constructed some sort of temporary structure at the station around 1878, however the Nanutarra Homestead as it is recognised today was not commenced until 1883 (completed 1894) when the brickmaker began moulding bricks on site.

The building was designed by Raglan Jarvis of Fremantle and initially comprised of what is now known as the north wing. Higham built the home for his wife, Maud Batement who he would not bring to Nanutarra until a suitable abode existed. The Higham family were a prominent early family in the Ashburton region who amongst other things lobbied for improved conditions including but not limited to a mail service, port improvements, a police station, and a roads building.

The success of Nanutarra was dependent on skilled labour and Higham had many Aboriginal workers undertaking a variety of tasks including fencing, shearing, team mustering, and stock work. By the 1900s, Higham had left a manager in charge of Nanutarra, a common trend amongst pastoralists as stations increased in size.

After a period of drought in the mid-1930s, the place was transferred to the Boolaloo Pastoral Company, owned by the Barrett-Lennard family. In the 1960s cattle were introduced to Nanutarra for the first time, with the fall of wool prices contributing to this decision. The Barrett-Lennard family sold the Station to the Australian Cattle Company in 1985 and since this time it has continued to be run as a cattle station.

The Bogle family purchased Nanutarra Station in 1992 and lived in the homestead until late 2000 when operations were moved to Uaroo homestead. However, following the death of Robert Bogle in late 2007, both Nanutarra and Uaroo pastoral properties were sold in 2008, but the homestead has remained under the ownership of the Bogle family and separate from the surrounding cattle station.

In 2000, Nanutarra received \$5,000 from the Heritage Council of Western Australia for the preparation of a Conservation Plan for the place. Restoration works have been completed at the property in recent times.

## DESCRIPTION

**Exterior:** Nanutarra Homestead is located on Lot 4 on the western side of the North West Coastal Highway opposite the Nanutarra Roadhouse. To the south of the homestead is the Ashburton River. The homestead is located within a fenced yard, which is largely grassed with a number of large trees around the perimeter.

The homestead comprises two wings (known as the north wing and the south wing), each with a verandah to all sides and corrugated iron roof sheeting. The verandahs are supported by steel posts and have poured concrete floors. The two separate buildings were once connected by a central verandah.

The north wing (c.1884) was constructed from locally made bricks and comprises three rooms. The external walls appear to have been lime washed over an extended period but are now finished with paint. Windows are timber double hung. The roof sheeting has recently been replaced.

The construction date of the southern wing is unknown. However, it is considered that it may be part of the initial c.1878 temporary dwelling constructed by Higham. Extensive renovations were conducted to the south wing in the 1950s. It comprises a former kitchen and living area, constructed from bricks with timber double hung windows. The bricks have been painted. Attached to the western end of this wing is a timber framed and corrugated iron clad store, with awning windows.

There are a range of other buildings around the homestead including a shed to the north; a visitor's quarters to the east; a bathroom to the west; and a meat house to the south. Refer to the Conservation Plan for further details on these buildings. In addition, there are three marked graves surrounding the Homestead: one to the northwest, one to the south and another to the southwest.

The Shearing Camp is located to the north of the homestead and comprises a number of ruinous buildings, bare slabs, and the remains of water tanks. The most notable structure remaining in the camp is the Shearer's Quarters, which comprises a steel and timber structure with corrugated metal sheeting.

**Interior:** The internal walls of the north wing are finished with painted plaster, and it has 130mm tongue and groove floor boards on timber joists. The ceiling is lined with 150mm tongue and groove timber boards. The central room contains a brick fireplace with a timber surround and has doors on the east and west.

The south wing has painted concrete floors, and the ceiling lining is fixed to the underside of the rafters. The kitchen has a large, plastered brick fireplace and chimney with a built-in wood stove.

## ARCHAEOLOGY NOTES

Nanutarra has the potential, through its built fabric from several eras and the sites of demolished buildings, to yield information regarding the evolution of pastoral industry practices from the 1880s to the present.

<b>CONDITION</b>	Fair. Areas of masonry and render have deteriorated in the north and south wings due to rising damp and moisture ingress, and minor cracking has occurred in the original walls as a result of movement. The roofs are in poor condition with the exception of the roof to the north wing, which has recently been replaced. The elements at the Shearing Camp are in a poor condition.
<b>INTEGRITY</b>	High. Whilst the place is currently not inhabited the original intent of the homestead is clear, and it has not been used for any other purpose or substantially altered. Maintenance and restoration are required to enable the continued use of the buildings for accommodation.
<b>AUTHENTICITY</b>	High. Despite some changes, most notably to the verandahs and to the south wing the homestead retains much of its original fabric.

## ASSOCIATIONS

Name	Type	Year From	Year To
Harry Higham	Previous owner	c.1878	1937
Raglan Jarvis	Architect	c.1883	c.1884
Barrett-Lennard family	Previous owner	c.1930	1985
Australian Cattle Company	Previous owner	1985	1992
Bogle family	Owner	1992	Present

## HISTORIC THEMES

General	Specific
OCCUPATIONS	Grazing, pastoralism & dairying
DEMOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENT AND MOBILITY	Workers (Aboriginal People)
PEOPLE	Early Settlers

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*Nanutarra, comprising a mud brick and iron Victorian Georgian homestead (c.1883/4) and vernacular outbuildings [meat house (c.1940s), visitor's quarters (c.1950s) and outhouse] located in an open yard, together with gravesites, shearing camp (ruins), and archaeological remnants, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:*

*the homestead is a good example of Victorian Georgian architecture, featuring two detached wings.*

*the place is a good representative example of a pastoral station complex dating from the late nineteenth century, having been established c.1878 as part of the early pastoral development of the Ashburton region.*

*the historic development of the station demonstrates the characteristic expansion of remote pastoral properties, particularly in the State's north west, from simple nineteenth century family homesteads to the large pastoral complexes of the present.*

*from the 1870s to the 1930s, the place was owned and predominantly managed by members of the prominent Western Australian Higham family.*

*the place's early and ongoing success relied in part on the Aboriginal workers and their families who lived and worked at the place from the late nineteenth into the twentieth century; and,*

*the place is representative of stations in the State's north west that were run and overseen by European pastoralists and supported by an Aboriginal population, who both lived and worked on the station, from the late nineteenth century until well into the twentieth centuries.*

*the bough shed, bathroom, vehicle shelter, machinery shed, workers' quarters and fence are of little significance.*

## MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Category	Category 1: Exceptional significance
Management Recommendation	Essential to the heritage of the locality. Inclusion on Heritage List. The place should be retained and conserved in consultation with the Heritage Council of Western Australia.

**HERITAGE LISTINGS AND SURVEYS**

Type	Status	Date
SOA Local Heritage Inventory/Survey	Adopted	August 1999
State Register of Heritage Places	Permanent	November 2005

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Eastman & Poletti Architects & Williams, L (2002) Nanutarra Homestead Conservation Plan.

**DOCUMENT CONTROL**

Date Created	June 1999
Date Modified	August 2017
Date Modified	February 2026

**OTHER IMAGES**



Views of Nanutarra Homestead, 1904. Source: Western Mail, Saturday 30 January 1904, pp. 33



Rear elevation of the north wing 2016.



Rear and side (western) elevation of the south wing 2016.



Central room of the north wing 2016.



Eastern room of the north wing 2016.



Visitor's Quarters 2016.



Meat House 2016.



Shearers Quarters 2016

**SHIRE OF ASHBURTON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT HERITAGE SURVEY  
PLACE RECORD FORM**

**OLD ONSLOW TOWNSITE**



**LOCATION**

<b>Address</b>	Old Onslow Road, Talandji
<b>Other Names</b>	-
<b>HCWA Place Number</b>	03444 (Other HCWA Numbers: 03949 and 04232)
<b>Region</b>	Pilbara
<b>Local Government Authority</b>	Shire of Ashburton

**LAND DESCRIPTION**

Reserve No.	Lot/Location	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	GPS Coordinates
Various refer to State Register of Heritage Places Register Documentation				21°42'43.15"S 114°56'53.27"E

## PLACE DETAILS

<b>Place Type</b>	Historic Town
<b>Construction Date</b>	Townsite gazetted 1885
<b>Architectural Style</b>	Various. Victorian Georgian
<b>Architectural Period</b>	Victorian (1840-1890)
<b>Date Source</b>	Old Onslow Townsite Conservation Plan
<b>Construction Materials</b>	Various: Stone, brick, timber, and corrugated iron

## USE OF PLACE

<b>Original</b>	GOVERNMENTAL	Courthouse
<b>Present</b>	RESIDENTIAL	Single storey residence
<b>Other</b>	TRANSPORT/COMMUNICATIONS	Water

## HISTORICAL NOTES

The town and port of Old Onslow was gazetted in 1885 after years of lobbying from pastoralists seeking a port for exporting wool. The first building on the site was a goods shed taken over in 1883 by James Clark and John McKenzie, who opened a warehouse and store. Their store—as well as the newly established telegraph line—later influenced how the townsite was surveyed and laid out.

Onslow was named after Sir Alexander Campbell Onslow (1842–1908), the Chief Magistrate and briefly Acting Governor. The original townsite contained 116 lots arranged in two blocks: ten near the river and the remainder inland. All streets except Anketell were named after Onslow’s relatives.

From the beginning, the location proved difficult. The Ashburton River’s heavy wet-season flows, and cyclone-driven surges made safe mooring unreliable. Flooding of nearby claypans also affected the townsite. Over time, a sandbar at the river mouth became increasingly problematic, causing frequent maritime accidents and prompting calls for alternative port infrastructure.

A sea jetty was constructed, though the first attempt was destroyed by a cyclone in 1897. Subsequent jetties were built too close to the river mouth, allowing silt to accumulate and rendering them ineffective at low tide or for heavy vessels.

A more viable solution came with the construction of a new jetty at Beadon Point, some distance from the original town. This shift left Old Onslow isolated from regional transport networks. By 1920, the need to relocate the town was widely accepted, and the Ashburton Roads Board supported moving to Beadon. The process generated significant debate, including disputes over compensation and the name of the new town—variously proposed as Beadon, Ashburton, or Onslow.

New Onslow was gazetted in January 1924, with land sales commencing in 1925. Old Onslow was gradually abandoned, though it technically remained a townsite until 1976, when the land was reverted to the Crown. Many buildings were moved to the new town, but stone structures remained and now stand as ruins marking the original settlement.

Over time, the Old Onslow Townsite has deteriorated due to erosion and unmanaged visitation. In January 2016, stabilisation works funded through the Chevron-operated Wheatstone Project’s \$250 million social and critical infrastructure package were completed. These works included temporary mesh frames for the Old Gaol openings, protection of the water tank, and temporary arch supports to stabilise a gaol cell. The Pilbara Regional Council managed the project in partnership with Chevron and the Shire.

## DESCRIPTION

The Old Onslow Townsite lies about 20 km west of the 'new' Onslow (established in 1924). It is approached from the south via an unsealed road accessed off Twitchen Road. Within the site, several gravel tracks cross the former townsite, some following the approximate alignment of historic streets. However, the original town layout is now difficult to recognise, as natural regrowth has reclaimed much of the area and vehicle traffic has created new informal routes. Interpretation signs mark the locations of former buildings, and a Visitor Information Bay with toilets is located near the former Police Complex.

Few structures remain. When the town was relocated to Beadon Bay, most movable buildings were transported to the new site, and other materials were repurposed on pastoral stations.

The remaining ruins include the Police Station, the old Gaol, remnants of the 1894 Post Office, James Clark's house, and the store and water tank from the hospital site. The most visually prominent ruins are the Police Station and Quarters and the old Gaol. Built from locally quarried "coral sandstone" and designed by the Public Works Department in the Victorian Georgian style, these structures stand out among the surrounding vegetation.

The Police Station and Quarters was built in 1893. The old Gaol, located southeast of the Police Station, contains two original 1893 cells, an exercise yard on the western side, and a 1906–07 addition of three more cells to the east. Between the Police Station and the Gaol is a water tank with a curved roof.

The town cemetery is situated northeast of the townsite along the continuation of Campbell Street. Used until the 1920s, it covers roughly two hectares.

To the east of the townsite are remnants of the 1909 Ashburton Sea Port tramline, including parts of a timber bridge, raised earthen embankments, and other structural remnants. Further east lie the archaeological remains of the Ashburton Sea Port, including piles from two former jetties.

## ARCHAEOLOGY NOTES

The place has enormous potential to reveal information about the history of the development and the abandonment of the town. Several studies have been undertaken to determine the character and extent of archaeological potential.

<b>CONDITION</b>	Old Onslow Townsite is in ruinous and therefore poor condition.
<b>INTEGRITY</b>	As an archaeological site, the integrity of the place is high.
<b>AUTHENTICITY</b>	Standing ruins, remnant structures and archaeological sites within Old Onslow Townsite have a high degree of authenticity, as most sites have been undisturbed and are relatively intact.

## ASSOCIATIONS

Name	Type	Year From	Year To
James Clark, John McKenzie	Other Association	1880s	1900s

## HISTORIC THEMES

General	Specific
PEOPLE	Aboriginal people
OCCUPATIONS	Fishing & other maritime industry
TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATIONS	River & sea transport
OCCUPATIONS	Grazing, pastoralism & dairying
DEMOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENT & MOBILITY	Resource exploitation & depletion
DEMOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENT & MOBILITY	Workers (Aboriginal, convict)
SOCIAL & CIVIC ACTIVITIES	Law & order
DEMOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENT & MOBILITY	Settlements
PEOPLE	Early settlers
DEMOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENT & MOBILITY	Racial contact & interaction

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*Old Onslow Townsite, an archaeological site comprising various structures and features, including the Police Station Complex (1893; 1906/1907), located in a natural setting on the banks of the Ashburton River, in the Pilbara region of Western Australia, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:*

*the place is a rare example of an historical archaeological site of a former 'frontier' settlement in a very remote area of the North West of the State.*

*the remaining fabric and archaeological material of the place is important for its ability to reveal information about the history of the town from its establishment up to its abandonment in 1925.*

*the plan of the town, with its centre, residential area and labourers' camps, is representative of social planning characteristic of eighteenth and nineteenth century European colonial attitudes towards Aboriginal, Japanese, Chinese, Malay, Filipino, Afghan and Italian workers and their families, demonstrating the frontier mentality of the era and the private enterprise ethic which exploited natural resources.*

*the place was established to service the local pearling and pastoral industries in the late nineteenth century, and as such has associations with the development of the North West of the State.*

*the Police Station Complex has landmark value as it is the most substantial structure remaining within the original townsite.*

*the place is of significance to the local Aboriginal community, who have strong memories of Old Onslow, in particular with regard to conflict between local Aboriginal people and European settlers and the exploitation of Aboriginal workers in the pearling and pastoral industries.*

*the natural setting of the place, with its native vegetation and location on the flats of the Ashburton River, together with the ruins and archaeological remains of the buildings lends the place high aesthetic qualities.*

*the place is associated with a number of prominent Western Australians who assumed leases in the area and were engaged in the pearling and pastoral industries, including the Forrest family; and,*

*the place has associations with J. Clark, who established the port at the Ashburton River in 1882/1883 and who, through the construction of such enterprises as the jetty, the first general store and the Rob Roy Hotel, was largely responsible for the development of the town in the 1880s through to the early 1900s.*

**MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

Management Category	Category 1: Exceptional significance
Management Recommendation	Essential to the heritage of the locality. Inclusion on Heritage List. The place should be retained and conserved in consultation with the Heritage Council of Western Australia.

**HERITAGE LISTINGS AND SURVEYS**

Type	Status	Date
SOA Local Heritage Inventory/Survey	Adopted	August 1999
State Register of Heritage Places	Permanent	February 2006

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Webb, A&M, (1983) Edge of Empire. Artlook Books Nayton, G  
(2016) Old Onslow Townsite Conservation Plan  
Pilbara Regional Council, Heritage Listed Old Onslow Receives a Face-Lift. Available Online:  
<http://www.prc.wa.gov.au>

**DOCUMENT CONTROL**

Date Created	June 1999
Date Modified	October 2016
Date Modified	February 2026

## OTHER IMAGES



Old Onslow Police Station 2016.



Old Onslow Gaol 2016.



Remnant wagon 2016.



Typical sign interpreting the historic townsite 2016.



1909 Timber bridge 2016.



Cemetery 2016.

**SHIRE OF ASHBURTON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT HERITAGE SURVEY  
PLACE RECORD FORM**

**PEEDAMULLA HOMESTEAD**



**LOCATION**

<b>Address</b>	Onslow-Peedamulla Road, Peedamulla
<b>Other Names</b>	-
<b>HCWA Place Number</b>	04656
<b>Region</b>	Pilbara
<b>Local Government Authority</b>	Shire of Ashburton

**LAND DESCRIPTION**

Reserve No.	Lot/Location	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	GPS Coordinates
-	Lot 149	DP405313	-	21°50'40.46"S 115°37'36.18"E

## PLACE DETAILS

<b>Place Type</b>	Individual Building or Group
<b>Construction Date</b>	1915
<b>Architectural Style</b>	Victorian Georgian
<b>Architectural Period</b>	Federation (1890-1915)
<b>Date Source</b>	Gray, L (2000) Peedamulla Homestead Conservation Plan
<b>Construction Materials</b>	Walls: Local Stone Roofs: Corrugated Iron

## USE OF PLACE

<b>Original</b>	FARMING/PASTORAL	Homestead
<b>Present</b>	FARMING/PASTORAL	Ruin
<b>Other</b>	-	

## HISTORICAL NOTES

Peedamulla Homestead was originally known as Peedamullah until 1928. The name comes from a local Aboriginal word meaning “plenty water.” After Francis T. Gregory’s 1862 explorations opened the Ashburton district to pastoralism, more than 106 leases were taken up between 1879 and 1883, including those that became Peedamulla Station. Morrell and Cook were the first known leaseholders, followed by brothers Edmund and Archibald Burt in the early 1880s.

Around 1885, a water tank and a small stone dwelling were built, with another similar building added about ten years later. The Burts employed Aboriginal workers, most of whom were born on or near the station, with men undertaking pastoral work and women assisting around the homestead. Archibald Burt was active in the development of Old Onslow after its gazettal in 1885, serving on the Ashburton Roads Board before leaving the property in 1895. Edmund remained in charge and likely commissioned the circa-1915 homestead, built as living standards improved and in anticipation of his marriage in 1916.

Edmund served as Chairman of the Ashburton Roads Board between 1920 and 1927, during which the new town of Onslow at Beadon Point was developed. The station sat along the original coastal highway, and travellers often stopped at the homestead. Edmund died in 1927; Peedamulla Station Ltd was incorporated the following year and took over the lease in 1929. Ownership changed again in 1933 to Cornelius McManus and W. Montgomery, and a cyclone in 1934 destroyed 40 windmills.

In 1937, Alexander Hardie purchased the 286,253-hectare property. After his death in 1954, other Hardie family members continued operations. The lease was reduced in 1961 due to land resumed for the Onslow Water Supply, and cyclones in 1961 and 1963 damaged the homestead and shearing sheds, with significant stock losses. Falling wool prices led to the sale of the station in the early 1970s to Neville and Moira McDonald. They sold it again within three years.

In 1975, the Commonwealth Government purchased Peedamulla for the Aboriginal people of the Onslow region. The Noualla Group (Inc.) took over the lease, and since 1981 the Jundaru Aboriginal Corporation has managed the station. Cyclone Olivia unroofed the homestead in 1984, leading managers to relocate to a transportable building nearby. Since 2014, Ashburton Aboriginal Corporation has delivered pastoral training programs on the station.

## DESCRIPTION

Peedamulla Homestead consists of single-storey stone and iron buildings, including the c.1915 homestead, adjacent kitchen and outbuildings, earlier stone buildings from c.1895, and a c.1885 stone water tank. The homestead is built of local stone with rendered quoins showing Victorian Georgian influences. It comprises two rectangular wings linked by a central breezeway, with all rooms opening onto a surrounding concrete verandah that was likely timber originally. Many cast-iron verandah posts around the homestead and kitchen remain.

Several more recent station and training-related buildings sit less than 50 metres north of the homestead and obstruct the view when approaching from the main gravel road. A few hundred metres to the northwest stand the c.1885 water tank, a circular double-stone structure with a regularly bonded external face and mud-mortared rubble inner wall. Near the tank are two small single-room stone structures: a c.1885 dwelling with bush-timber lintels, a west verandah and evidence of a former southern verandah, and a c.1895 building with bush-timber rafters and flat tin sheeting.

Inside the homestead, remnants of plaster cornices, air vents and hard-plastered walls survive. The roof and ceilings were reconstructed as part of the 2019 restoration project, while a classically detailed arch with Corinthian columns continues to connect the lounge room to the breezeway. Each room retains its fireplace and mantelpiece. Evidence of weathering remains visible in some areas, reflecting the building's condition prior to the restoration project.

## HISTORIC THEMES

General	Specific
OCCUPATIONS	Grazing, pastoralism & dairying
DEMOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENT AND MOBILITY	Workers (Aboriginal People)
PEOPLE	Early Settlers

## ARCHAEOLOGY NOTES

The place may contain material or subsurface remains that have the potential to contribute to a better understanding of the evolution of human occupation and development in the remote North-West.

<b>CONDITION</b>	Good. The original exterior walls are in good condition. The roof and ceilings have been reconstructed ensuring that the interior is now protected from the elements.
<b>INTEGRITY</b>	High. The original intent of the place is clear and pastoral activities are currently performed on the site.
<b>AUTHENTICITY</b>	Medium. The original fabric of the place has a high degree of authenticity. The place underwent critical restoration detracting from the original built form.

## ASSOCIATIONS

Name	Type	Year From	Year To
Edmund and Archibald Burt	Previous Owner	c.1880	1928
Cornelius McManus and William Montgomery	Previous Owner	1932	1937
Hardie Family	Previous Owner	1937	1972
Neville and Moira MacDonald	Previous Owner	1972	1975
Jundaru Aboriginal Corporation	Tenant	1981	Present

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*Peedamulla Homestead, a group of single-storey stone and iron buildings including a homestead, adjacent kitchen and outbuildings (c.1915), older stone buildings (c.1900) and a water tank (c.1885) set in a landscape of pastoral grass and trees, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:*

*the place has close associations with Edmund and Archibald Burt, early pastoralists in the Pilbara who were important identities in the establishment of Onslow and the development of the Ashburton region.*

*the place has associations with the development of the pastoral industry in the Ashburton district and demonstrates the evolution of a pastoral settlement since 1885.*

*it contributes to the community's sense of place as a former pastoral station homestead that was once a regular stopping place for travellers on the original north-west highway; and,*

*the place is a representative example of a c.1915 North-West pastoral homestead.*

## MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Category	Category 1: Exceptional significance
Management Recommendation	Essential to the heritage of the locality. Inclusion on Heritage List. The place should be retained and conserved in consultation with the Heritage Council of Western Australia.

## HERITAGE LISTINGS AND SURVEYS

Type	Status	Date
SOA Local Heritage Inventory/Survey	Adopted	August 1999
State Register of Heritage Places	Permanent	September 1998

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY

Webb, M. & A. (1983) Edge of Empire, Artlook Books, Gray, L (2000) Peedamulla Homestead Conservation Plan

## DOCUMENT CONTROL

Date Created	June 1999
Date Modified	October 2016
Date Modified	February 2026

## OTHER IMAGES



Left Image: Peedamulla Homestead, August 1962. Source: State Library of Western Australia 144577PD

Right Image: Peedamulla Homestead, 2016.



Peedamulla Homestead rear elevation, 2016.



Peedamulla Homestead interior, 2016.



Remnant verandah post and window detailing, 2016.

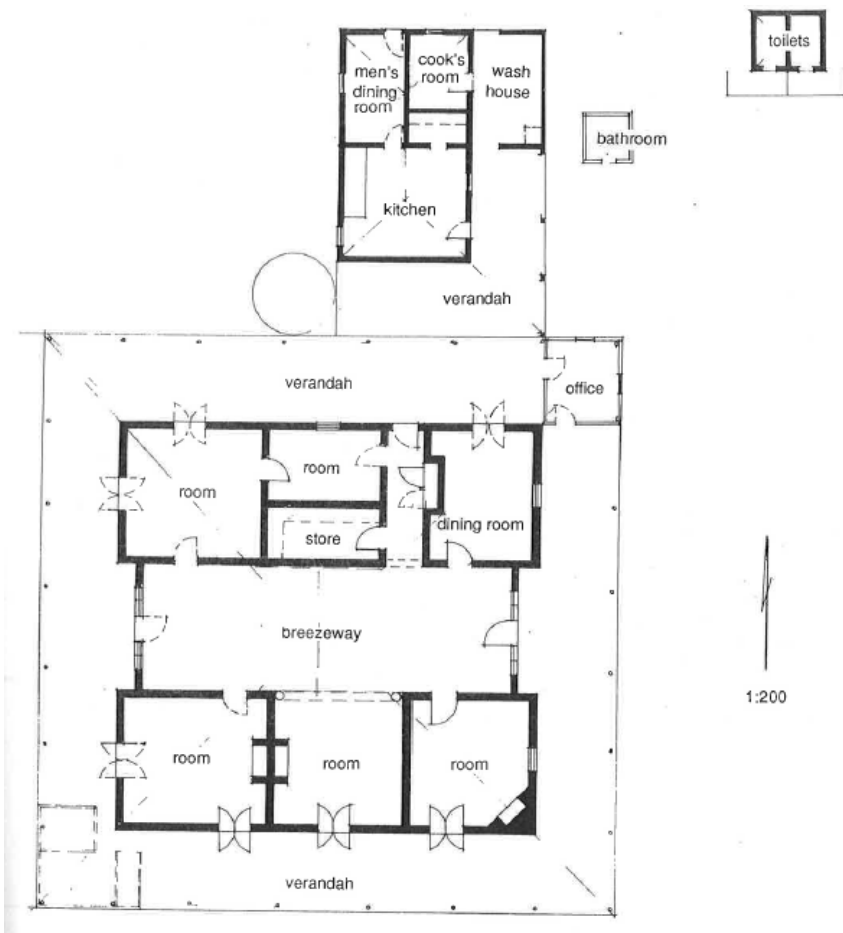


Fireplace and chimney, 2016.



Left Image: Water tank, 1885 dwelling and 1895 building after 1963 cyclone. Source: State Library of Western Australia 140132PD

Right Image: Water tank and 1885 dwelling 2016.



Floor plan of 1915 Homestead. Source: Gray, L (2000) Peedamulla Homestead Conservation Plan

**SHIRE OF ASHBURTON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT HERITAGE SURVEY  
PLACE RECORD FORM**

**TAMBREY HOMESTEAD RUINS**



**LOCATION**

<b>Address</b>	Roebourne Wittenoom Road, Chichester
<b>Other Names</b>	Coolawanyah Station, Tambrey Station Homestead Ruins
<b>HCWA Place Number</b>	01743
<b>Region</b>	Pilbara
<b>Local Government Authority</b>	Shire of Ashburton

**LAND DESCRIPTION**

Reserve No.	Lot/Location	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	GPS Coordinates
-	Lot 52	DP 238012	-	21°38'1.98"S 117°36'25.14"E

## PLACE DETAILS

<b>Place Type</b>	Individual Building or Group
<b>Construction Date</b>	1893
<b>Architectural Style</b>	Victorian Georgian
<b>Architectural Period</b>	Federation (1890-1915)
<b>Date Source</b>	Heritage Council of Western Australia Assessment Report 1998
<b>Construction Materials</b>	Walls: Mud brick Roofs: Corrugated Iron

## USE OF PLACE

<b>Original</b>	FARMING/PASTORAL	Homestead
<b>Present</b>	FARMING/PASTORAL	Ruin
<b>Other</b>	-	

## HISTORICAL NOTES

Tambrey Station was originally part of the Inthernura Station lease held by Samuel Henry Viveash. It emerged as a separate station in the mid-1880s when Henry Seymour Meares took over the lease, remaining associated with Tambrey for more than 30 years and serving on several Roads Boards and regional organisations. In 1892, William Henry Cusack, a jackaroo and blacksmith from one of Viveash's stations, began working at Tambrey for Meares.

The homestead was built in 1893 while Cusack was managing the property. Constructed quickly due to the expected birth of Ms Cusack's child, it used antbed mud bricks mixed with chopped spinifex and dags from the woolshed, with roof timbers cut from nearby trees. The walls reached only about 2.45 metres.

In 1902, Cusack and Meares became partners in the lease, which by 1915 covered 161,874 hectares and could support around 20,000 sheep. Charles Ogilvie Ferguson, employed at Tambrey, later acquired an interest in the property and, following the deaths of Meares and Cusack during World War I, took over operations.

Around 1922, Cusack's son, Thomas D. Cusack, assumed management. As Chairperson of the Roebourne Roads Board, he often hosted meetings at Tambrey Homestead. His wife, Olive, served as Secretary and established a tennis court with the help of Aboriginal workers; social gatherings there drew families from across the district.

In 1949, Lang Hancock purchased Hooley and Tambrey Stations for £50,000. A year later, Les Parsons of Coolawanyah Station and Sir Edward H. Lefroy bought both properties from Hancock for the same amount. In the late 1970s the station transitioned from sheep to cattle, and part of the homestead roof was lost during a cyclone in the early 1980s.

By 2016, Tambrey Station Homestead was vacant and ruinous, and the station now forms part of the larger Coolawanyah Station.

## DESCRIPTION

**Exterior:** The homestead comprises a group of building remains located about 500m north of the Roebourne-Wittenoom Road. The ruins include a mud-brick homestead, several bush-timber and iron outbuildings, and sheep yards situated south of the creek.

Built in 1893, the homestead is a typical North West vernacular dwelling. It originally consisted of a rectangular core with surrounding verandahs, thick mud-brick walls, a corrugated short-sheet iron hipped roof without gutters, and a separate kitchen building. The mud bricks were made of local materials, such as spinifex, and sheep dags.

A cyclone in 1982 removed part of the roof, and the structure has deteriorated significantly since. Short roof sheets survive along the eastern side, but most other sections are missing. The western wall has partly collapsed, the northern side wall has fully collapsed, and although the four original openings on the eastern wall (two doors, two windows) remain, they are in poor condition.

**Interior:** Internally, the dwelling appears to have once comprised three large rooms. The walls show signs of mud rendering over the mud brick. The central room has a large open fireplace constructed of the same mud brick as the rest of the building. No evidence of ceilings, doors or windows remain.

## ARCHAEOLOGY NOTES

Tambrey Station Homestead has the potential, through its built fabric and the sites of demolished buildings, to yield information regarding the evolution of pastoral industry practices from the 1890s to the present.

<b>CONDITION</b>	Poor. The condition of the place reflects the effects of the environment and abandonment. Part of the roof was ripped off during a cyclone in 1982, the western wall has deteriorated and partially collapsed, and the sidewall (northern) has also collapsed.
<b>INTEGRITY</b>	Medium. Although the place is now vacant and in ruin, the original intent is still clear. The long-term viability of restoring the place is questionable.
<b>AUTHENTICITY</b>	High. The place has no obvious interventions to the 1893 fabric, apart from general deterioration caused by exposure to the elements since its abandonment.

## ASSOCIATIONS

Name	Type	Year From	Year To
Samuel Henry Viveash	Previous owner	-	-
Seymour Henry Meares	Original owner	mid 1880s	1919
Cusack Family	Previous owner	1892	1949
Charles Ogilvie Ferguson	Previous owner	-	1949
Lang Hancock	Previous owner	1949	1950
Parson Family	Owner	1950	Present

General	Specific
OCCUPATIONS	Grazing, pastoralism & dairying
DEMOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENT AND MOBILITY	Workers (Aboriginal People)
PEOPLE	Early Settlers

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*Tambrey Station Homestead, comprising the ruins of a single-storey mud brick and iron dwelling, and associated bush timber and iron buildings, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:*

*the place has associations with the development of the pastoral industry in the Pilbara district and demonstrates the evolution of a pastoral settlement since 1893.*

*the place has close associations with H. Meares, S. H. Viveash, W. H. and T. D. Cusack, C. O. Ferguson, and R. and L. Parsons, all of whom played a significant role in the development of the North-West pastoral industry. The place also has associations with the Aboriginal people who worked and lived on the property; and,*

*the place was of high-quality workmanship and demonstrates techniques of mud brick construction that are important for the local material components and the design detail of the arched openings.*

*Nearby structures, including the meathouse, kitchen buildings, storeroom and carriage shed, together with T. Cusack's grave, the slab floor of the shearer's kitchen and sheep yards, are considered to have some heritage significance and contribute to the understanding of the place.*

## MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Category	Category 1: Exceptional significance
Management Recommendation	Essential to the heritage of the locality. Inclusion on Heritage List. The place should be retained and conserved in consultation with the Heritage Council of Western Australia.

## HERITAGE LISTINGS AND SURVEYS

Type	Status	Date
Register of the National Estate	Registered	October 1984
Classified by the National Trust	Classified	June 1984
State Register of Heritage Places	Permanent	October 1998
SOA Local Heritage Inventory/Survey	Adopted	August 1999

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY

Heritage Council of Western Australia Assessment Report 1998

## DOCUMENT CONTROL

Date Created	June 1999
Date Modified	October 2016
Date Modified	February 2026

**OTHER IMAGES**



Northern elevation of Homestead, 2016.



Eastern elevation of Homestead, 2016.



Close up of mudbrick, 2016.



Fireplace within homestead, 2016



Meathouse near Homestead, 2016.



Grave at Homestead, 2016.



Trough near Homestead, 2016.



Stock yards, 2016.

**SHIRE OF ASHBURTON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT HERITAGE SURVEY  
PLACE RECORD FORM**

**YANREY HOMESTEAD**



**LOCATION**

<b>Address</b>	Yanrey Road, Yannarie
<b>Other Names</b>	Yanrey Pastoral Station
<b>HCWA Place Number</b>	15397
<b>Region</b>	Pilbara
<b>Local Government Authority</b>	Shire of Ashburton

**LAND DESCRIPTION**

Reserve No.	Lot/Location	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	GPS Coordinates
-	Lot 320	DP 68269	-	22°30'23.91"S 114°47'41.43"E

## PLACE DETAILS

<b>Place Type</b>	Individual Building or Group
<b>Construction Date</b>	1901,1915
<b>Architectural Style</b>	Victorian Georgian
<b>Architectural Period</b>	Federation (1890-1915)
<b>Date Source</b>	1999 Shire of Ashburton Municipal Heritage Inventory
<b>Construction Materials</b>	Walls: Corrugated Iron Roofs: Corrugated Iron

## USE OF PLACE

<b>Original</b>	FARMING/PASTORAL	Homestead
<b>Present</b>	FARMING/PASTORAL	Homestead
<b>Other</b>	-	

## HISTORICAL NOTES

Yanrey's original leaseholders were John (Jack) and David Stewart. After John's death, the station was sold in 1898 to Thomas F. de Pledge, an Englishman who had worked for Stewart as a jackaroo. De Pledge spent his life improving the property, establishing a stud sheep flock, and is believed to have overseen construction of the western section of the homestead, with the eastern section added around 1915.

Yanrey became the third-largest station in the Ashburton Road Board District at 876,892 acres. De Pledge was a major local figure, contributing to development in Onslow and the wider Ashburton district. He donated 100 pounds to the St Nicholas Church building fund and was active in public life, serving on the Ashburton Road Board and involving himself in sporting bodies such as the WA Turf Club.

With the arrival of motor vehicles, older camel, horse and donkey tracks became problematic. Between 1927 and 1930, several roads were built exclusively for motor vehicles, including one to Yanrey. Despite this, the station remained isolated, with communication heavily dependent on the telephone line. Cyclones in the 1930s regularly damaged both roads and telegraph infrastructure, delaying repairs while the Roads Board focused on town and jetty restoration.

A 1925 West Australian article described the homestead as situated on the northern bank of the Yannarie River, surrounded by native timber and ornamental plantings, with wide verandahs, a grass tennis court, and a large breezeway living room protected by insect netting and storm shutters.

Yanrey also features in early aviation history. In 1920, Major Norman Brearley landed there during his efforts to establish a commercial airline, taking Mrs de Pledge and Henry Parsley on what became the first flight into Onslow. During World War II, an air force unit was stationed at the property.

In 1953, the last major overland sheep drove in the district took place from Yanrey. After de Pledge's death in 1954, ownership passed to his daughters, Maud Alston and Patricia de Pledge. The homestead has altered little aside from maintenance and, as of 2016, remains in the de Pledge family.

## DESCRIPTION

**Exterior:** Yanrey Homestead is located approximately 45 kilometres north of the North-West Coastal Highway off Yanrey Road. The homestead building is surrounded by an area of green lawn and a variety of mature trees, which contrast with the vast pastoral landscape beyond.

It is reported that Yanrey Homestead was built in two stages. The first part (the western wing) was erected in 1901, and the second part (the east wing) was added in 1915. The dwelling is surrounded by a deep timber verandah under a separate skillion roof, which is supported by square timber posts.

The house has corrugated iron walls on a timber frame. All rooms have a set of double timber doors, with glass panelling and a timber fly screen door providing access to the deep shady verandah. There are aluminium sliding doors to the front and rear elevations of the dwelling.

**Interior:** There are two centrally located rooms, which run from the front to the rear of the dwelling and are used as living spaces. From the eastern side of this central area four accommodation rooms project, which are accessed via timber and glass panel doors. The floors are boarded with timber, and the ceilings/walls are comprised of decorative pressed tin in a variety of patterns.

## ARCHAEOLOGY NOTES

Yanrey Homestead has the potential to yield information regarding the evolution of pastoral industry practices from the 1900s to the present.

<b>CONDITION</b>	Good. However, there are some deteriorated elements such as gutters, eave linings and weathered timbers. As the property is still a working station, the priority for maintenance of the farm improvements is shared with other necessities and responsibilities.
<b>INTEGRITY</b>	High. The homestead continues to be used for its original purpose as a homestead for farming.
<b>AUTHENTICITY</b>	High. Most of the fabric is extant from the original buildings, including fireplaces, timber floors and decorative pressed tin wall linings.

## ASSOCIATIONS

Name	Type	Year From	Year To
John (Jack) and David Stewart	Original owner	-	1898
De Pledge family	Current owner	1898	Present

## HISTORIC THEMES

General	Specific
OCCUPATIONS	Grazing, pastoralism & dairying
PEOPLE	Early Settlers

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*Yanrey Homestead, a timber framed structure clad with corrugated iron (c.1901, 1915) located in an open landscaped yard, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:*

*it is a good example of the Victorian Georgian style of architecture, in a garden setting. It is relatively rare being a metal-clad homestead in this style. The interior spaces with decorative pressed tin walls and ceilings create a sense of opulence and quality in this remote area.*

*the place has associations with the development of the pastoral industry in the Pilbara district and demonstrates the evolution of a pastoral settlement since the 1900s.*

*the place has close associations with Thomas de Pledge, an early pastoralist in the Pilbara who was an important identity in the establishment of the new Onslow town and the development of the region.*

## MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Category	Category 1: Exceptional significance
Management Recommendation	Essential to the heritage of the locality. Inclusion on Heritage List. The place should be retained and conserved in consultation with the Heritage Council of Western Australia.

## HERITAGE LISTINGS AND SURVEYS

Type	Status	Date
SOA Local Heritage Inventory/Survey	Adopted	August 1999

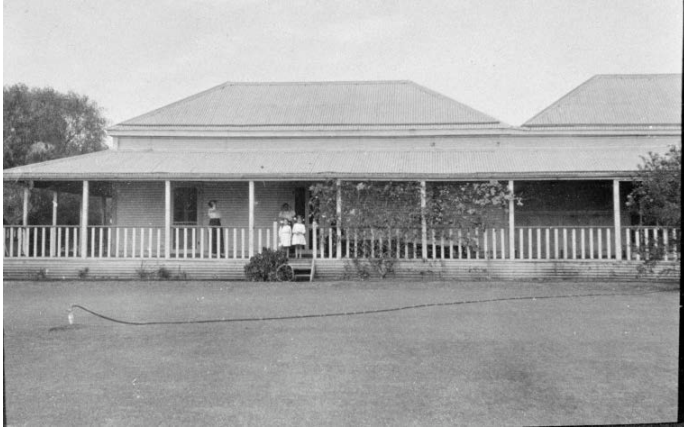
## SUPPORTING INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY

The West Australian, The North-west an Ideal Home, Friday 18 September 1925, pp.12 Webb, M&A (1983)  
Edge of Empire, Artlook Publishers, WA  
Oral Information given to Cathy Day (OBPC) by Sue & William Alston 1 February 1999 Obituaries  
Australia, T de Pledge, Available online: <http://oa.anu.edu.au>

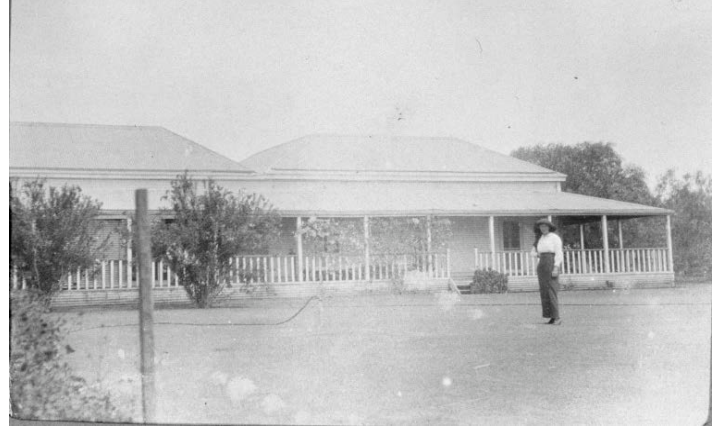
## DOCUMENT CONTROL

Date Created	June 1999
Date Modified	October 2016
Date Modified	February 2026

**OTHER IMAGES**



Yanrey Homestead c.1915. Source: State Library of Western Australia



Yanrey Homestead c.1915. Source: State Library of Western Australia



Rear and eastern elevations of Yanrey Homestead, 2016.



Close up of front elevation of Yanrey Homestead, 2016.



Western elevation of Yanrey Homestead, 2016.



Central internal living space, 2016.

**SHIRE OF ASHBURTON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT HERITAGE SURVEY  
PLACE RECORD FORM**

**HAMERSLEY HOMESTEAD**



**LOCATION**

<b>Address</b>	Tom Price Railway Road, Mount Sheila
<b>Other Names</b>	-
<b>HCWA Place Number</b>	-
<b>Region</b>	Pilbara
<b>Local Government Authority</b>	Shire of Ashburton

**LAND DESCRIPTION**

<b>Reserve No.</b>	<b>Lot/Location</b>	<b>Plan/Diagram</b>	<b>Vol/Folio</b>	<b>GPS Coordinates</b>
-	556	P404911	LR3167-447	22°16'44.67"S 117°40'37.49"E

## PLACE DETAILS

Place Type	Individual Building or Group
Construction Date	c.1880/90
Architectural Style	Victorian Georgian
Architectural Period	Victorian Period c. 1840 - c. 1890
Date Source	Comparative Analysis
Construction Materials	Walls: Stone Roofs: Corrugated Iron

## USE OF PLACE

Original	FARMING/PASTORAL	Homestead
Present	FARMING/PASTORAL	Homestead
Other	-	

## HISTORICAL NOTES

Hamersley Station is reported to have been established by James Anderton Hall, a pioneer of the north who overlanded stock from Perth in the 1860's. Hamersley Station was subsequently sold to Duncan McRae.

Charles Mitchinson Straker later partnered with Duncan McRae and together they also purchased the nearby Croydon Station and Coolawanyah Station. Arriving from England in his early twenties, Straker went straight to the North West where he undertook well sinking along the Murchison Stock Route. After this he travelled around the country as a shearer and later was given the job of managing Hamersley Station.

It is likely that the homestead was built in 1885 when the Court House and Custom Store were being built in Cossack. All three buildings share a common materiality and detailing which is distinctive to the Cossack/Roebourne area.

Mr Straker passed away in 1920; however, Hamersley Station was not sold immediately after his death. Reported to be worth £36,000 at the time, an application not to sell the land and to recover costs was submitted by Sir Walter Hames, K.C on the basis that it would be '*undesirable to sell the properties at present.*'

In 1947, Dalgety and Company Limited auctioned the estate of Mr Straker which at the time covered 357,000 acres. The property was reported to comprise a large stone homestead with a verandah to all sides, blacksmith shop, forge store, men's quarters, sheep and cattle yards, 22 paddocks and 28 wells. Sometime after Straker's death the property came into the ownership of the Hancock family who also owned Ashburton Downs Station and Mulga Downs Station.

The Bogle family purchased Hamersley from Lang Hancock in 1983. Cattle had been introduced only a few years previously and Robert Bogle did much to increase and develop the herd. In 1992 the property was sold by the Bogle family to Rio Tinto who currently manage the Station.

## DESCRIPTION

Hamersley Homestead is located off Tom Price Railway Road to the east of Mount Sheila and north of Tom Price. The homestead is located within a fenced yard, largely grassed with a number of shady mature trees providing a stark contrast to the red earth Pilbara landscape surrounding it.

The homestead is constructed from ashlar stone with white rendered quoining at the corners and around the window and door reveals, a similar appearance to the Court House and Custom Store at Cossack. The windows are timber sliding with mullion detailing.

The homestead is long and rectangular and would have originally comprised two separate components, which are now joined by glazing. The south-west portion contained sleeping quarters each with a door and window to the verandah. It has a hipped corrugated roof with no gutters. The verandah, which is an extension of the main roof is supported by steel circular posts and has a concrete floor.

## ARCHAEOLOGY NOTES

Hamersley Station has the potential, through its built fabric and site remnants, to yield information regarding the evolution of pastoral industry practices from the late nineteenth century.

<b>CONDITION</b>	Good
<b>INTEGRITY</b>	High. The homestead continues to be used for its original purpose as a farming property.
<b>AUTHENTICITY</b>	High. Whilst the building has undergone alterations over the years its original form and detail is still discernible.

## ASSOCIATIONS

Name	Type	Year From	Year To
James Anderton Hall	Previous Owner	-	-
Duncan McRae	Previous Owner	-	1911
Charles Mitchinson Straker	Previous Owner	-	1920
Lang Hancock	Previous Owner	-	1983
Bogle Family	Previous Owner	1983	1992

## HISTORIC THEMES

General	Specific
OCCUPATIONS	Grazing, pastoralism & dairying
DEMOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENT AND MOBILITY	Aboriginal Occupation
PEOPLE	Aboriginal People
PEOPLE	Early Settlers

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*Hamersley Homestead, comprising a single-storey homestead building with a hipped corrugated iron roof located in a garden setting, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:*

*it is a good example of the Victorian Georgian style of architecture, executed using local materials.*

*the place is a good representative example of a pastoral station complex dating from the late nineteenth century, having been established as part of the early pastoral development of the Ashburton region.*

*the place is associated with several families and/or individuals who contributed to the settlement and development of the Shire including Charles Mitchinson Straker who was responsible for the Government well sinking along the Murchison Stock Route; and the Hancock family who discovered asbestos in the Pilbara in the 1950s and then iron ore in the 1960s.*

## MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Category	Category 1. Exceptional Significance
Management Recommendation	Essential to the heritage of the locality. Inclusion on Heritage List. The place should be retained and conserved.

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY

Obituaries Australia, Hall, Ernest A.  
The Canberra Times, Hancock Selling, 11 February 1980, pp.3  
The Daily News, Adjusting an Estate, Thursday, 4 August 1921, pp. 7  
The West Australian, 'Hamersley Station Roebourne' Friday, 6 June 1947, pp. 2  
The West Australian, Notice, Friday, 6 October 1911, pp. 9  
Webb M&A (1983) Edge of Empire, Artlook Publishers  
Legislative Assembly Hansard, 'Well Sinking on the Murchison Stock Route' Wednesday, 9 October 1985, pp. 1286

## DOCUMENT CONTROL

Date Created	November 2016
Date Modified	February 2026

## OTHER IMAGES



Hamersley Homestead side elevation, 2016



Hamersley Homestead side and rear elevations, 2016.



Hamersley Homestead front elevation, 2016



Hamersley Homestead rear elevation, 2016.

**SHIRE OF ASHBURTON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT HERITAGE SURVEY  
PLACE RECORD FORM**

**MOUNT FLORENCE STATION**



Mount Florence circa 1950. Image Source: Robyn Richardson

**LOCATION**

<b>Address</b>	Roebourne-Wittenoom Road, Chichester
<b>Other Names</b>	Mount Florence Homestead
<b>HCWA Place Number</b>	01744
<b>Region</b>	Pilbara
<b>Local Government Authority</b>	Shire of Ashburton

**LAND DESCRIPTION**

Reserve No.	Lot/Location	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	GPS Coordinates
-	Lot 47	P220191	-	21°47'16.31"S 117°51'54.56"E

## USE OF PLACE

<b>Original</b>	FARMING/PASTORAL	Homestead
<b>Present</b>	FARMING/PASTORAL	Homestead
<b>Other</b>	-	

## HISTORICAL NOTES

Around 1884, William Edward Robinson arrived at Mount Florence, then about 100,000 acres, and spent roughly 15 years pioneering the property. Robinson, originally from Brookton, had travelled north in 1878 with his uncle's John Seabrook and Edward Robinson, driving 3,000 sheep from Brookton to Croydon Station near Roebourne. They departed on 7 November 1878 and reached Roebourne on 7 June 1879.

During Robinson's ownership, the distinctive curved corrugated-iron buildings were constructed around 1890. The iron was brought from Cossack, then hand-curved and riveted on site using a specialised machine. Mount Florence's machine was also used for similar structures. The curved form was valued for its resilience in cyclones.

In 1903, J. H. Church purchased Mount Florence and retained it until his death in 1937. Church was a well-known pastoralist, former assembly member for Roebourne, and a committee member of the WA Turf Club.

In 1948, Dalgety and Company advertised the Mount Florence Estate for auction, listing 295,529 acres under pastoral lease 394/432. The property included about 300 miles of fencing, 19 sheep paddocks, five horse and ram paddocks, and a six-room stone homestead (built circa 1905), along with various outbuildings. The stone homestead was later demolished in the late twentieth century.

Richard "Bullock" Andrews, who began managing Mount Florence around 1910, is believed to have purchased the station in 1948. According to oral history from his daughter, Adele Hudson, the station once employed 22 Aboriginal workers, including eight musterers, with the women assisting in domestic work. Every fortnight, the Roebourne mail truck visited the homestead, drawing people from surrounding stations including Hamersley, Coolawanyah, Hooley and Mulga Downs.

A number of historic graves are located on the property, including several associated with former workers. Two notable burials are Mr Williams, who died after a fall from his horse, and Mr Swan, who succumbed to injuries in 1904 despite treatment attempts by a young station worker with prior London hospital experience.

As of 2016, Mount Florence Station remains in the ownership of the Andrews family.

## DESCRIPTION

**Exterior:** The Mount Florence Station consists of a group of buildings arranged around a central landscaped area. There are two particular buildings of interest, which are timber framed buildings with corrugated barrel-vaulted iron roofs and vertically hung corrugated iron wall cladding.

One of these barrel-vaulted buildings was built as the kitchen/dining block circa 1890. This building consists of a large kitchen/dining room and a bedroom at one end. There is a verandah facing the central landscaped area.

The other barrel-vaulted building, on a lower level and removed from the kitchen, is similar in construction but has a verandah to all sides. The verandah floor is mostly paved with large flagstones.

**Interior:** The kitchen/dining block is corrugated iron lined externally and hardboard lined internally with level ceilings. It is understood that this building was adapted in the 1980s to accommodate a kitchen, living and dining area. At this time the hardboard lining was installed as the corrugated iron was black from the fireplace.

## ARCHAEOLOGY NOTES

Mount Florence Station has the potential, through its built fabric and site remnants, to yield information regarding the evolution of pastoral industry practices from the 1890s to the present.

<b>CONDITION</b>	Good.
<b>INTEGRITY</b>	High. The barrel-vaulted buildings continue to be used for living and accommodation purposes associated with the station.
<b>AUTHENTICITY</b>	High. The external original fabric of the barrel-vaulted buildings is mostly in place. Although internally the buildings have been subject to change, their authenticity is only marginally diminished.

## ASSOCIATIONS

Name	Type	Year From	Year To
William Edward Robinson	Previous owner	1884	1903
Mr J.H. Church	Previous owner	1903	1937
Mr Richard Andrews	Previous owner	1910	-
Andrews Family	Owner	-	Present

## HISTORIC THEMES

General	Specific
OCCUPATIONS	Grazing, pastoralism & dairying
DEMOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENT AND MOBILITY	Aboriginal Occupation
DEMOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENT AND MOBILITY	Environmental Change
OUTSIDE INFLUENCES	Tourism
PEOPLE	Aboriginal People
PEOPLE	Early Settlers

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*Mount Florence Station, comprising two timber-framed, corrugated iron clad structures (c.1890, 1915) located around an open landscaped yard, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:*

*the buildings are a good example of North-West vernacular architecture, designed to meet local climatic conditions with their distinctive barrel-vaulted roofs.*

*the place has associations with the development of the pastoral industry in the Pilbara district and demonstrates the evolution of a pastoral settlement since the 1890s.*

*the place has close associations with William Edward Robinson, an early pastoralist in the Pilbara region who has helped pioneer the northern half of the Ashburton district opening up the country; and*

*the place has close associations with Mr. J. H. Church, a well-known Perth figure, prominent pastoralist, former member for Roebourne in the Legislative Assembly, and a member of the committee of the Western Australian Turf Club.*

## MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Category	Category 1. Exceptional Significance
Management Recommendation	Essential to the heritage of the locality. Inclusion on Heritage List. The place should be retained and conserved.

**PLACE DETAILS**

<b>Place Type</b>	Individual Building or Group
<b>Construction Date</b>	c.1890, 1915
<b>Architectural Style</b>	North West Vernacular
<b>Architectural Period</b>	Federation (1890-1915)
<b>Date Source</b>	1999 Shire of Ashburton Municipal Heritage Inventory
<b>Construction Materials</b>	Walls: Corrugated Iron Roofs: Corrugated Iron

**HERITAGE LISTINGS AND SURVEYS**

<b>Type</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Date</b>
Register of the National Estate	Registered	October 1984
Classified by the National Trust	Classified	June 1984
SOA Local Heritage Inventory/Survey	Adopted	August 1999

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Adele Hudson, interviewed by Cal Gertzel and Anne Bloemen, 1995, State Library of Western Australia, OH2689/19  
 The Northern Times, Auction Sales Mt Florence, Thursday 17 June 1948, pp. 6 The  
 West Australian, Monday 9 August 1937, pp. 14  
 The Sunday Times, Pioneers of the Grazing Industry, Sunday 27 September 1936, pp. 20  
 The National trust (1997) "Traces of the Past - The National Trust Register of the Built Heritage of WA"

**DOCUMENT CONTROL**

<b>Date Created</b>	June 1999
<b>Date Modified</b>	October 2016
<b>Date Modified</b>	February 2026

**SHIRE OF ASHBURTON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT HERITAGE SURVEY  
PLACE RECORD FORM**

**ST NICHOLAS CHURCH**



**LOCATION**

<b>Address</b>	19 Third Avenue, Onslow
<b>Other Names</b>	-
<b>HCWA Place Number</b>	15392
<b>Region</b>	Pilbara
<b>Local Government Authority</b>	Shire of Ashburton

**LAND DESCRIPTION**

Reserve No.	Lot/Location	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	GPS Coordinates
19347	264	P144116	LR3137-130	21°38'12.58"S 115° 6'39.41"E

## PLACE DETAILS

<b>Place Type</b>	Individual Building or Group
<b>Construction Date</b>	1927
<b>Architectural Style</b>	Federation Carpenter Gothic
<b>Architectural Period</b>	Inter-War (c.1915 - c.1940)
<b>Date Source</b>	Western Mail, Thursday 24 March 1927
<b>Construction Materials</b>	Walls: Timber Roofs: Corrugated Iron

## USE OF PLACE

<b>Original</b>	RELIGIOUS	Church, Cathedral or Chapel
<b>Present</b>	RELIGIOUS	Church, Cathedral or Chapel
<b>Other</b>	-	

## HISTORICAL NOTES

The first St Nicholas Church in Ashburton was built in 1904 at Old Onslow but was destroyed by a cyclone in 1909. The building had hosted fortnightly socials, dances, and the annual Race Ball, so after its loss these events shifted to private homes, which also raised funds for a replacement. Worshippers met in homes until the Mechanics Institute Hall opened in 1912. No new church was built for another 18 years.

When Onslow relocated to Beadon Point, a building fund committee of six women raised more than £600 in two years. Fundraising events included a large cabaret at Minderoo Station in 1925, attended by about 100 people and raising more than £200.

Construction of the new church began in January 1927, built by Jack Collins. The first service was held on 20 March 1927 by Archdeacon Simpson. The Western Mail described the new building as an imposing structure built on proper ecclesiastical lines and an ornament to the town.

Also dedicated to St Nicholas, the new church proved resilient during several cyclones. In the 1934 cyclone—which destroyed many substantial buildings—the church survived, though afterwards it was described as leaning slightly.

## DESCRIPTION

**Exterior:** St Nicholas Church stands on a 989 m<sup>2</sup> corner block at Third Avenue and Simpson Street, enclosed by a post-and-rail steel fence with decorative gates and shaded by gum trees. The building is a North West–adapted example of the Federation Carpenter Gothic style, characterised by its simple box form, steep gabled iron roof, and timber weatherboard cladding.

The weatherboard church sits on concrete blocks and has a steep corrugated-iron roof with cyclone battens. A lower rear gable houses the sanctuary. Its most distinctive feature is the wide verandah that wraps around the front and both sides, continuing the line of the main roof. The verandah has timber floors and square timber posts with balustrades; termite damage required major replacement works in 2016, using recycled jarrah, and a universal access ramp was added.

**Interior:** Inside, the church has a simple rectangular layout, with a projecting sanctuary at the rear and a small private room to the north-west. It has timber floors and walls lined with vertical boards to shoulder height and horizontal shiplap boards above. There are no fixed pews; single timber chairs sit either side of a central aisle. The timber-lined ceiling follows the steep rake of the gabled roof, creating a tall, open interior space.

## ARCHAEOLOGY NOTES

The place is raised on raised on concrete blocks and would have involved minimal ground disturbance when constructed; and it is understood that no bodies were buried here. There is limited evidence of other structures on the site of the church and therefore the site has limited archaeological potential.

<b>CONDITION</b>	Good Condition
<b>INTEGRITY</b>	High. The church continues to be used for the original purpose
<b>AUTHENTICITY</b>	High. The church appears to have retained almost all of its original fabric although portions of The verandah and portions of the balustrade are no longer extant.

## ASSOCIATIONS

Name	Type	Year From	Year To
Jack Collins	Builder (Carpenter)	1927	1927

## HISTORIC THEMES

General	Specific
SOCIAL & CIVIC ACTIVITIES	Religion
DEMOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENT & MOBILITY	Settlements

## HERITAGE LISTINGS AND SURVEYS

Type	Status	Date
SOA Local Heritage Inventory/Survey	Adopted	August 1999

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*St Nicholas Church, a timber clad building with a corrugated iron roof settled amongst a group of gum trees, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:*

*the church is a good example of the Carpenter Gothic style, which has been adapted, particularly through the incorporation of the commodious verandah, to cope with the intense weather conditions of the North West.*

*the church is a local landmark on Third Avenue and Simpson Street due to its identifiable ecclesiastical style, its picturesque presence amongst mature trees and prominent presence on a corner location.*

*the church fulfills an important role in the religious activities of the community and specifically to members of the Anglican Church.*

*the church represents the role of settlers to the new Onslow townsite for their initiative to raise funds for the construction of a place for worship, demonstrating the true spirit of the community.*

*the church is also one of the few early buildings, built soon after the relocation of the town to Beadon Point, that has survived the harsh climatic conditions of the North West, as cyclones and floods have destroyed many of the structures from the pre-1920s period.*

**MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

Management Category	Category 1. Exceptional Significance
Management Recommendation	Essential to the Heritage of the Locality. Inclusion on Heritage List. The place should be retained and conserved

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Nayton, G (2016) Old Onslow Townsite Conservation Plan Northern Times, Onslow News, Friday 25 September 1925, pp.4 Northern Times, Onslow News, Friday 7 January 1927, pp.2 Webb M & A, 1983, Edge of Empire Artlook Publishers Western Mail, North West News, Thursday 24 March 1927, pp. 34 R. Apperly, R. Irving, and P. Reynold (1989) A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture

**DOCUMENT CONTROL**

Date Created	June 1999
Date Modified	October 2016
Date Modified	February 2026

**OTHER IMAGES**



Left Image: St Nicholas Church, Onslow, 1965. Right Image: St Nicholas Church, Onslow, 2016. Source: State Library of Western Australia



# CATEGORY 2

Considerable Significance



**SHIRE OF ASHBURTON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT HERITAGE SURVEY  
PLACE RECORD FORM**

**ASHBURTON RIVER ROAD BRIDGE**



**LOCATION**

<b>Address</b>	Twitchin Road, Talandji
<b>Other Names</b>	Minderoo Bridge, Bridge No.0841
<b>HCWA Place Number</b>	03395
<b>Region</b>	Pilbara
<b>Local Government Authority</b>	Shire of Ashburton

**LAND DESCRIPTION**

Reserve No.	Lot/Location	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	GPS Coordinates
-	Lot 152	DP 220265	-	21°58'33.20"S 115°1'47.58"E

## PLACE DETAILS

Place Type	Other Structure
Construction Date	1929 - 1932
Architectural Style	N/A
Architectural Period	Inter-War (c.1915 - c.1940)
Date Source	State Heritage Office, Register Committee Report, October 2013
Construction Materials	Steel and Concrete

## USE OF PLACE

Original	TRANSPORT/COMMUNICATIONS	Bridge
Present	TRANSPORT/COMMUNICATIONS	Bridge
Other	-	

## HISTORICAL NOTES

The bridge over the Ashburton River at Camel Pool was first proposed in 1925 after pastoralist Mr Forrest identified the highest and narrowest point of the river as the ideal crossing. Despite concerns that flooding regularly cut access to Beadon Jetty and disrupted shipping, the estimated £5000 cost was considered too high and the project stalled.

A detailed inspection was undertaken in 1927 between Minderoo Station and Ten Mile Pool. In 1928, resident engineer C. Field and assistant F. Brennan carried out boring tests, and later that year engineer Ernie Godfrey, newly arrived from Victoria to lead the Main Roads Board's Bridge Section, prepared the final design. By January 1929 the design was announced, now priced at £10,000. In August 1929 the tender from Atkins and Gorham for £15,303 was accepted, marking a shift away from traditional timber structures to a steel-and-concrete bridge.

The project may have been linked to unemployment relief, with local labour prioritised. Construction finished in May 1932, and the bridge was officially opened by Robert Mervyn Forrest, who noted it was the only bridge of its kind in Australia at the time. Major maintenance included reconditioning the steelwork in 1963, deck repairs in 1965, and replacement of the jarrah deck with a concrete overlay and steel handrails in 1992.

## DESCRIPTION

The Ashburton Road River Bridge is located approximately 40 kilometres south-west of Onslow. The bridge is a composite steel and concrete traffic bridge, which carries Twitchin Road and associated traffic over the Ashburton River. The bridge encompasses four spans for a total of 74 metres in length and 4 metres in width, with a maximum height of 14 metres. The bridge rests atop a number of hollow steel tube piers, set into reinforced concrete. The steel joists supporting the decking are attached directly to the tops of the hollow piers. The original deck was composed of jarrah, although the current surface is bitumen.

## ASSOCIATIONS

Name	Type	Year From	Year To
E Godfrey	Other (Engineer)	1928	1932
Forrest Family	Other	1928	Present

CONDITION	Good.
INTEGRITY	High. The structure has been in continuous use as a road bridge since 1932.
AUTHENTICITY	High. The handrail and decking appear to be the only original elements that have been replaced.

## HISTORIC THEMES

General	Specific
TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATIONS	Road transport
TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATIONS	Technology & technological change
OUTSIDE INFLUENCES	Water, power, major transport routes
PEOPLE	Early Settlers

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*The Ashburton Road River Bridge has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:*

*the bridge demonstrates the evolution of the technology required for the construction of permanent bridge structures over rivers subject to intense flooding. It represents a shift from timber bridge construction to the innovative use of reinforced concrete and steel.*

*the place is associated with the development of the Ashburton area in the early Twentieth Century and provided much needed road access over the Ashburton River, particularly during flooding events, ensuring unimpeded access from the broader region through to Beadon Jetty and the Onslow townsite.*

## MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Category	Category 2: Considerable significance
Management Recommendation	Very important to the heritage of the locality. Inclusion on Heritage List. The place should be retained and conserved.

## HERITAGE LISTINGS AND SURVEYS

Type	Status	Date
SOA Local Heritage Inventory/Survey	Adopted	August 1999
State Register Assessment Program	Current	October 2013

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY

The West Australian, The North West an Ideal Home, Friday 18 September 1925, pp. 12

Northern Times, Ashburton River Bridge, Thursday 12 September 1929, pp. 4

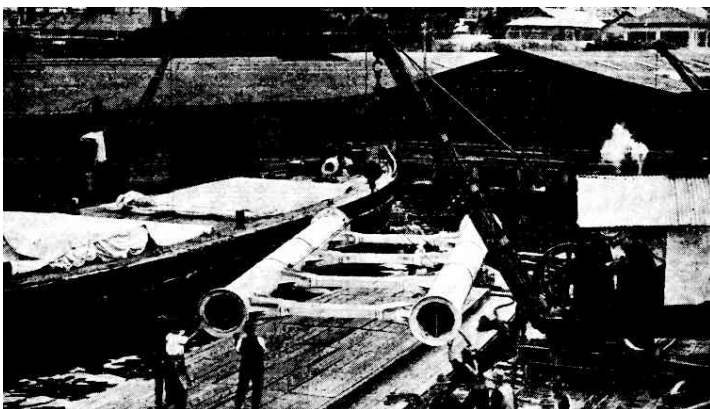
Northern Times, Onslow News, Thursday 19 May 1932, pp. 5

State Heritage Office, Register Committee Report for Ashburton Road River Bridge, October 2013

## DOCUMENT CONTROL

Date Created	June 1999
Date Modified	October 2016
Date Modified	February 2026

## OTHER IMAGES



Left Image: Steel piers for the Ashburton River Bridge being loaded onto a barge. Right image: View of bridge along Twitchin Road.

**SHIRE OF ASHBURTON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT HERITAGE SURVEY  
PLACE RECORD FORM**

**BEADON BAY HOTEL**



**LOCATION**

<b>Address</b>	22 Second Avenue, Onslow
<b>Other Names</b>	Beadon Hotel
<b>HCWA Place Number</b>	15364
<b>Region</b>	Pilbara
<b>Local Government Authority</b>	Shire of Ashburton

**LAND DESCRIPTION**

Reserve No.	Lot/Location	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	GPS Coordinates
-	Lot 1	D54399	1511-22	21°38'10.64"S 115° 6'45.88"E

## PLACE DETAILS

<b>Place Type</b>	Individual Building or Group
<b>Construction Date</b>	1926
<b>Architectural Style</b>	Federation Filigree
<b>Architectural Period</b>	Inter-war (1915-1940)
<b>Date Source</b>	The West Australian, Saturday 2 January 1926, pp. 4
<b>Construction Materials</b>	Walls: Concrete block Roofs: Corrugated iron

## USE OF PLACE

<b>Original</b>	Commercial	Hotel, Tavern or Inn
<b>Present</b>	Commercial	Hotel, Tavern or Inn
<b>Other</b>	-	

## HISTORICAL NOTES

Founded in 1883 at the mouth of the Ashburton River, Onslow developed as a port exporting wool from surrounding sheep stations. After repeated cyclone and flood damage, the government established a new townsite northeast of the original settlement. New Onslow was gazetted in 1924, with land sales beginning in 1925. The Beadon Hotel was built in 1926, run by the Cornish family.

Unlike many early structures, the hotel was not timber and iron. Builder R. Rennie, assisted by the Cornish family, produced grey concrete blocks on site using imported cement. One block stamped by Cyril Cornish with his initials and the date became the informal foundation stone. Although architect J. H. Eales was sometimes credited, contemporary reports confirm Jack Learmonth Ochiltree as the designer, with construction costs of about £7,000.

The hotel originally contained twenty single rooms, seven double rooms, and an eleven-foot verandah used during race week to house up to fifty extra beds. It was commonly known as "Hotel Beadon." The 1934 cyclone caused major damage, destroying much of the upper storey, which was rebuilt the same year. The hotel continued as a key social venue in the town.

Subsequent changes included motel units added in the 1970s. In 2014–15 the Complete Group carried out major redevelopment, conserving and adapting the historic building, demolishing later additions, constructing new accommodation along the south-eastern side, and adding a bottle shop accessed from Simpson Street.

## DESCRIPTION

**Exterior:** The Beadon Bay Hotel stands on the eastern corner of Second Avenue and Simpson Street. It is a two-storey building with a low-pitched corrugated-iron roof, characteristic of the Federation Filigree style despite its Inter-war construction date. A two-storey verandah wraps around the entire structure, supported by timber posts with scroll brackets. The ground-floor verandah has a mixed surface of concrete, pavers and tiles, and a contemporary glass entry on the Simpson Street side. The ground floor features timber sash windows, some of which have lost their original mullioned top panes. The first floor has timber French doors with fanlights, originally providing bedroom access to the verandah.

**Interior:** The building has a U-shaped plan. A corner entrance leads into the bar, while a second entrance from Second Avenue opens to a small office and stair hall. A central courtyard, partly covered by a skillion verandah, provides access to the rear beer garden added in 2015. Original ground-floor elements include timber floors, panel doors, plaster vents, timber stairs and skirtings. The upper floor originally contained fifteen bedrooms, each opening to the verandah via French doors. The 2015 works combined the Simpson Street-facing rooms into a large dining space, retaining sections of the timber stud framing to interpret the former layout. The upper level has timber floorboards and timber sash windows overlooking the open central courtyard.

## ARCHAEOLOGY NOTES

Given the site underwent a major redevelopment in 2015, with substantial ground disturbance, it is unlikely to have a high level of archaeological potential.

<b>CONDITION</b>	Good. Conservation works in 2015 have harnessed deterioration of the original fabric.
<b>INTEGRITY</b>	Moderate. Accommodation is no longer included in the original hotel building
<b>AUTHENTICITY</b>	Moderate. External additions and internal alterations including refurbishment of the bar and adaptation of the rooms has diminished the authenticity of the place.

## ASSOCIATIONS

Name	Type	Year From	Year To
Jack Learmonth Ochiltree	Architect	c.1925	c.1926
R Rennie	Builder	c.1926	c.1926
Cornish Family	Previous owner	1926	-

## HISTORIC THEMES

General	Specific
OCCUPATIONS	Hospitality industry & tourism
OUTSIDE INFLUENCES	Natural disasters
SOCIAL & CIVIC ACTIVITIES	Sport, recreation & entertainment

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*The Beadon Bay Hotel, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:*

*it is a good example of the Federation Filigree style of architecture, which has a deep shady verandah with decorative timber elements around a solid concrete block central core.*

*it is valued as a place where social interaction, refreshments, accommodation and entertainment have been provided for the local community, workers and the travelling public since 1926.*

*as one of the first buildings erected in the new Onslow townsite, the Hotel has had a long association with the development of the Town.*

## MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Category	Category 2: Considerable significance
Management Recommendation	Very important to the heritage of the locality. Inclusion on Heritage List. The place should be retained and conserved.

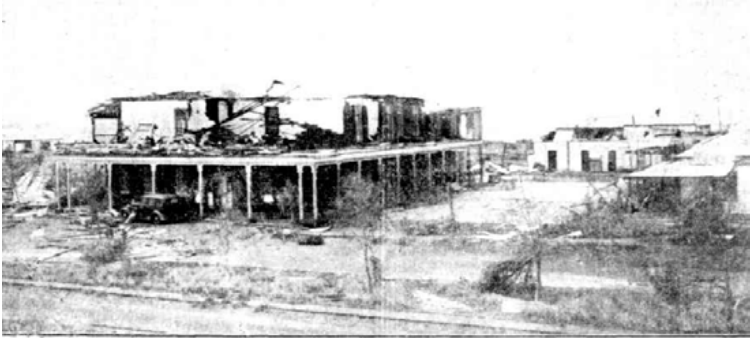
## SUPPORTING INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY

Webb, A&M. Edge of Empire. Artlook Books 1983  
The West Australian, New Hotel for Beadon, Saturday 2 January 1926, pp. 4  
Northern Times, Building at Beadon, Friday 3 July 1925, pp.6

## DOCUMENT CONTROL

Date Created	June 1999
Date Modified	October 2016
Date Modified	February 2026

## OTHER IMAGES



Left Image: Beadon Bay Hotel after 1934 cyclone. Source: Sunday Times Sunday 8 April 1934.



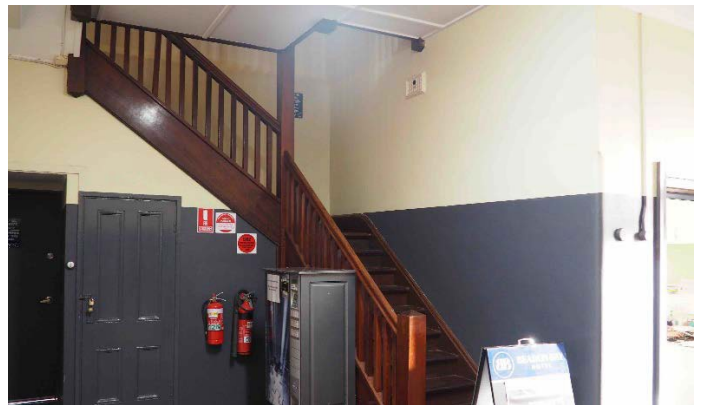
Right Image: Beadon Bay Hotel (date reported to be 1956). Source: <https://au.news.yahoo.com>



Beadon Bay Hotel 2014.



Left Image: Beadon Bay Hotel Second Avenue elevation 2016 showing 2014/15 accommodation wing along right side of image, 2016.



Right Image: Timber stairwell, 2016.



Beadon Bay Hotel first floor verandah, 2016.



Interpretation of former bedroom through retention of timber frame, 2016.

**SHIRE OF ASHBURTON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT HERITAGE SURVEY  
PLACE RECORD FORM**

**STONE HUT RELICS - KARIJINI NATIONAL PARK**



**LOCATION**

<b>Address</b>	Various Locations, Karijini
<b>Other Names</b>	-
<b>HCWA Place Number</b>	18651
<b>Region</b>	Pilbara
<b>Local Government Authority</b>	Shire of Ashburton

**LAND DESCRIPTION**

Reserve No.	Lot/Location	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	GPS Coordinates
R30082	Lot 300	P72977	LR 3165-601	Joffre Gorge: 22°23'43.62"S 118°15'49.56"E
R30082	Lot 300	P72977	LR 3165-601	Oxer Lookout: 22°21'38.52"S 118°17'17.64"E
-	Lot 556	P404911	LR 3167-447	Mount Bruce: 22°33'33.42"S 118° 1'34.78"E

## PLACE DETAILS

<b>Place Type</b>	Historic Site
<b>Construction Date</b>	c.1860/70
<b>Architectural Style</b>	North West Vernacular
<b>Architectural Period</b>	Victorian Period (c.1840-1890)
<b>Date Source</b>	Speculative
<b>Construction Materials</b>	Walls: Stone Roofs: Nil

## USE OF PLACE

<b>Original</b>	FARMING/PASTORAL	Homestead
<b>Present</b>	FARMING/PASTORAL	Homestead
<b>Other</b>	-	

## HISTORICAL NOTES

Karijini National Park is the traditional Country of the Banjima, Kurama and Innawonga peoples. The park's name reflects this long cultural connection, which continues today through the Karijini Park Council.

Colonial exploration began in 1861 when F.T. Gregory led an expedition through the Hamersley Range, reporting good grazing lands that attracted settlers from 1863. Early pastoral leases focused on sheep. Mount Bruce Station was among the early leases but was later abandoned due to low productivity. Mount Bruce, the State's second-highest peak, has remnants of early pastoral activities nearby, including old shepherd huts along Hamersley Road. The Karijini National Park Management Plan notes that the current Ranger Headquarters sits on the former Mount Bruce outstation (Dignam's Well), though little of the original cajeput-timber building remains. A stone hut was also recorded in an 1894 sale notice for Mount Bruce Station. Another stone hut exists near the northern gorges (Joffrey Gorge), but its history is unknown.

Mining has been significant in the region since the 1880s, beginning with alluvial gold at Turee Creek. Blue asbestos was first mined in 1936 along the northern escarpment, and later at Yampire Gorge and Dales Gorge. Lang Hancock mined in Yampire Gorge before moving to Wittenoom Gorge in 1937, with operations continuing until 1966. Evidence of early mining activity and some gravesites reportedly remain.

In the mid-20th century, Dr Gordon Oxe of Wittenoom contributed to promoting the area's tourism and exploration. Between 1959 and 1963, he named several gorges - Kalamina, Weano, Knox and Circular Pool. A stone plinth with a sundial (now removed) was placed at Oxers Lookout in his memory; the plinth survives beneath the lookout.

Hamersley Range was gazetted as an A-Class Reserve on 31 October 1969. It has since been expanded and renamed as Karijini National Park. Today the park is managed to protect its cultural significance, geology, flora/fauna, and unique landscapes. It remains highly valued by Australian's and visitors for its aesthetic and cultural importance.

## DESCRIPTION

Karijini National Park spans 627,440 hectares and protects a large portion of the rugged Hamersley Range, including its gorges, permanent water sources, and associated plant and animal communities. The landscape is defined by steep, orange-red banded gorges in the north—featuring waterfalls and deep pools—and by southern peaks such as Mount Bruce, which overlook expanses of hummock grassland and mulga woodland.

Although the Park remains largely undisturbed compared with surrounding pastoral areas, traces of early colonial settlement, pastoral activity and mining remain throughout the wider landscape. These include remnants of dwellings, stockyards, wells, and former exploration sites.

A stone hut near Joffrey Gorge survives as a tangible link to early pastoral activity. It is a one-room structure of random rubble stonework with an intact chimney and doorway, though its gable roof is long gone. Similar stone hut remains are located along Mt Bruce–Hamersley Road, just outside the park. These ruins, also constructed of random rubble stonework with no surviving roof, are likely associated with the early Mount Bruce Station.

## ARCHAEOLOGY NOTES

The stone hut relics have the potential to yield information regarding the evolution of pastoral industry practices and associated building techniques from the mid Nineteenth Century through to the present.

<b>CONDITION</b>	Fair. The condition of the relics reflects the effects of the environment and abandonment. The relics near Joffrey Gorge however are in remarkably good condition.
<b>INTEGRITY</b>	Medium. Although the structures are now in a ruinous condition it is still possible to understand their original intention/use.
<b>AUTHENTICITY</b>	High. The various relics have had no obvious interventions, apart from general deterioration caused by exposure to the elements since its abandonment.

## ASSOCIATIONS

Name	Type	Year From	Year To
F.T. Gregory	Other	1861	1863
Dr Gordon Oxe	Other	1960s	-

## HISTORIC THEMES

General	Specific
OCCUPATIONS	Grazing, pastoralism & dairying
DEMOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENT AND MOBILITY	Aboriginal Occupation
PEOPLE	Early Settlers

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*The stone hut relics at Karijini National Park (and adjacent) have cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:*

*the stone hut relics demonstrates the origins of European settlement in the district and the self-reliance required of early settlers through the use of simple construction methods and local materials.*

*the stone hut relics are good examples of early building forms used by European settlers in the North West of the state in the mid nineteenth century.*

*the stone hut relics have associations with the development of the pastoral industry in the Pilbara district and demonstrate the evolution of a pastoral settlement since the mid nineteenth century.*

## MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Category	Category 2: Considerable significance
Management Recommendation	Very important to the heritage of the locality. Inclusion on Heritage List. The place should be retained and conserved.

## HERITAGE LISTINGS AND SURVEYS

Type	Status	Date
Register of the National Estate	Registered	October 1978
SOA Local Heritage Inventory/Survey	Adopted	November 2016

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY

Department of Conservation and Land Management, Karijini National Park Management Plan 1999-2002 The West Australian, Sale of Valuable Sheep and Cattle Station at the North-West, Monday 11 June 1894, pp.8  
Webb M&A (1983) Edge of Empire, Artlook Publishers

## DOCUMENT CONTROL

Date Created	November 2016
Date Modified	February 2026

## OTHER IMAGES



Left Image: Plinth under Oxer Lookout. Source: Dan Petersen - Karijini National Park Senior Ranger

Right Image: Stone hut near Mount Bruce along the Mt Bruce-Hamersley Road. Source: Dan Petersen - Karijini National Park Senior Ranger



Stone hut near Mount Bruce along the Mt Bruce Hamersley Road. Source: Dan Petersen Senior Ranger - Karijini National Park Department of Parks and Wildlife



Sheppard's hut relics near Joffre Gorge. Image Source: Dan Petersen Senior Ranger - Karijini National Park Department of Parks and Wildlife

**SHIRE OF ASHBURTON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT HERITAGE SURVEY  
PLACE RECORD FORM**

**MILLSTREAM HOMESTEAD**



**LOCATION**

<b>Address</b>	Kanjenjie-Millstream Road, Millstream Chichester National Park
<b>Other Names</b>	Millstream Homestead Visitor Centre, DPaW Visitors Centre
<b>HCWA Place Number</b>	15368, 01742
<b>Region</b>	Pilbara
<b>Local Government Authority</b>	Shire of Ashburton

**LAND DESCRIPTION**

Reserve No.	Lot/Location	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	GPS Coordinates
R30071	Lot 501	P61847 DP61847	LR3159-208	21°35'24.80"S 117° 4'20.14"E

## PLACE DETAILS

<b>Place Type</b>	Individual Building or Group
<b>Construction Date</b>	1919
<b>Architectural Style</b>	Victorian Georgian
<b>Architectural Period</b>	Inter-war (c.1915-1940)
<b>Date Source</b>	Millstream Station Letter Books SLWA ACC2905A
<b>Construction Materials</b>	Walls: Various (presumed wattle and daub) Roof: Corrugated Iron

## USE OF PLACE

<b>Original</b>	FARMING/PASTORAL	Homestead
<b>Present</b>	PARK/RESERVE	Park/Reserve
<b>Other</b>	-	

## HISTORICAL NOTES

The Millstream–Chichester area is one of the most significant Indigenous cultural and mythological landscapes in northern Western Australia. Its significance derives from thousands of years of occupation and the presence of the Warlu, the mythological serpent whose influence is still strongly associated with Deep Reach Pool (Nhanggangunha). The Fortescue River (Yarnda Nyirranha) also provided water and food resources, especially during dry periods.

European knowledge of Millstream began with F.T. Gregory's 1861 expedition. Pastoral occupation followed soon after, with W. Taylor taking up land along the Fortescue River in 1865. Taylor sold the lease the following year to Alex McRae and T.R. McKenzie, who cultivated a substantial vegetable garden near the first homestead. This early wattle-and-daub homestead, with a thatched roof, was destroyed by fire in 1897. A new dwelling constructed the following year was in turn destroyed by a cyclone in 1908. The surviving kitchen and station-hand buildings are believed to date from these earlier phases.

In 1879 the lease was sold to Messrs Padbury and Loton, and again in 1912 to the Cookson brothers, who operated the station through resident managers until selling in 1950. Claude Irvine, manager from 1912 to 1923, oversaw construction of the present homestead in 1919. Correspondence between Irvine and architect John Cochrane Smith records quality concerns during construction, including wall finishes, cracked concrete floors and varnish issues. By late 1919, Irvine reported the family had moved in and described the house as "most beautifully cool," widely regarded as "the best house in the North West."

During the 1920s the gardens were noted for producing a wide variety of fruits with ease. A 1922 *Sunday Times* article described Millstream as "the garden of the north...a terrestrial paradise."

The Cooksons sold the station to the Gordon family in 1950. Les and Nellie Gordon had been resident since 1923 and continued expanding the gardens, introducing tobacco and grape cultivation. After Les's death shortly after the transfer, his sons Doug and Stewart continued operations until selling to Reg Kennedy in 1964. Kennedy ran both sheep and cattle, but declining cattle prices in the 1970s led to diversification: transportable houses were introduced for accommodation, and the homestead was converted into a tavern. Its roof was fully restored during this period, with steel trusses replacing timber and a suspended ceiling installed. The tavern became popular with tourists and local mine workers until patronage declined in the mid-1980s.

In 1996, the Department of Parks and Wildlife assumed control of the homestead, which now functions as a Visitor Centre – displaying regional history and artefacts.

## DESCRIPTION

**Exterior:** The National Park contains significant wetlands fed by an aquifer that supports diverse flora and fauna. The homestead is accessed via Kanjenjie–Millstream Road off the Millstream–Pannawonica Road and sits within a fenced, landscaped garden containing mature trees, irrigated lawns, picnic areas, and toilets. It serves as the Park’s Visitor Centre and the starting point for several walk trails, including the loop around Jirndawurrunha Pool. Historically planted with many exotic species, the pool now features lilies and mature male palms.

The homestead has a square plan with toilets added along the eastern side. It has a hipped painted corrugated iron roof extending over a deep verandah that encircles most of the building. The verandah has a concrete floor and is supported by non-original circular steel posts and square piers. The former dwelling has only one window—a timber casement with mullions—on the front façade; all other openings are French doors with glazed mullions.

The detached kitchen at the rear is a timber-framed, corrugated-clad structure with a vaulted roof and a verandah. Across the wider Park, remnants of the pastoral era—including stockyards, wells, fences, stock routes, shepherds’ huts and out-camps—remain scattered, particularly at locations such as Daniel’s Well and the upper Harding River.

**Interior:** The original house consists of a central longitudinal room with four projecting rooms. The central room features French doors at both ends, each with sidelights, and retains its original fireplace hearth. Rooms to the west contain interpretive displays, while those to the east provide visitor information. All rooms have false ceilings, tiled floors, and French doors opening to the verandah.

## ARCHAEOLOGY NOTES

Millstream has the potential, through its built fabric and the sites of demolished buildings, to yield information regarding the evolution of pastoral industry practices from the 1890s to the present.

<b>CONDITION</b>	Good.
<b>INTEGRITY</b>	Medium. The place is no longer used for residential purposes. However, its original function as a homestead is still discernible.
<b>AUTHENTICITY</b>	Medium. The homestead has undergone extensive changes over time, including additions and replacement of original fabric. However, the extent of the original homestead is still discernible.

## HISTORIC THEMES

General	Specific
OCCUPATIONS	Grazing, pastoralism & dairying
DEMOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENT AND MOBILITY	Aboriginal Occupation
DEMOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENT AND MOBILITY	Environmental Change
OUTSIDE INFLUENCES	Tourism
PEOPLE	Aboriginal People
PEOPLE	Early Settlers

## ASSOCIATIONS

Name	Type	Year From	Year To
Yindjibarndi people	Other Association	-	Present
Cookson Family	Previous Owner	1912	1950
Gordon Family	Previous Owner	1923	1964
Kennedy Family	Previous Owner	1964	1986

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*Millstream Homestead (1919) has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:*

*the homestead has some aesthetic value for its overall form and some remaining elements of the Victorian Georgian style of architecture within a picturesque garden setting. The setting of the place, with its landscaped grounds and nearby unique wetlands, which supports a high diversity of flora and fauna, contributes to the place's high aesthetic qualities.*

*the place is a good representative example of a pastoral station complex dating from the late nineteenth century, having been established as part of the early pastoral development of the Ashburton region.*

*the place has the potential to contribute to an understanding of the arboreal history of Western Australia.*

*the place is of significance to the local Aboriginal community, which stems from Millstream being the home of the Warlu; and the providence of food and water via the Fortescue River (Yarnda Nyirranha)*

## MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Category	Category 2: Considerable significance
Management Recommendation	Very important to the heritage of the locality. Inclusion on Heritage List. The place should be retained and conserved.

## HERITAGE LISTINGS AND SURVEYS

Type	Status	Date
SOA Local Heritage Inventory/Survey	Adopted	August 1999
Register of the National Estate	Registered	March 1978

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY

Millstream Station Letter Books SLWA ACC2905A.

Millstream Park Council, Department of Environment and Conservation, Conservation Commission of WA (2011)  
Millstream Chichester National Park and Mungaroo Range Nature Reserve Management Plan No. 69 2011.

Pilbara Goldfield News, Friday 29 October 1997, pp. 3.

Sunday Times, Marvellous Millstream, Sunday 16 July 1922, pp. 4.

## DOCUMENT CONTROL

Date Created	June 1999
Date Modified	October 2016
Date Modified	February 2026

**OTHER IMAGES**



Millstream Homestead (left) and kitchen (right), 2016.



Rear elevation of Millstream Homestead, 2016.



Central room of Millstream Homestead, 2016.



Interpretive display in Millstream Homestead, 2016.



Kitchen at Millstream Homestead, 2016.



Internal view of kitchen, 2016.

**SHIRE OF ASHBURTON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT HERITAGE INVENTORY  
PLACE RECORD FORM**

**MINDEROO HOMESTEAD**



**LOCATION**

<b>Address</b>	Twitchin Road, Thalanyji
<b>Other Names</b>	-
<b>HCWA Place Number</b>	15369
<b>Region</b>	Pilbara
<b>Local Government Authority</b>	Shire of Ashburton

**LAND DESCRIPTION**

Reserve No.	Lot/Location	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	GPS Coordinates
-	Lot 152	P220265	LR3098-710	21°59'47.30"S 115° 2'39.10"E

## PLACE DETAILS

<b>Place Type</b>	Individual Building or Group
<b>Construction Date</b>	1881, 1910, 1918
<b>Architectural Style</b>	Victorian Georgian
<b>Architectural Period</b>	Victorian (1840-1890) and Federation (1890-1915)
<b>Date Source</b>	Hudson, T (2016) Minderoo Est 1978, Minderoo
<b>Construction Materials</b>	Walls: Timber and corrugated iron Roofs: Corrugated iron

## USE OF PLACE

<b>Original</b>	FARMING/PASTORAL	Homestead
<b>Present</b>	FARMING/PASTORAL	Homestead
<b>Other</b>	-	

## HISTORICAL NOTES

Minderoo is located in Thalanyji Country and was traditionally known as Mindurru. Aboriginal people played central roles in the Station's development, working as stockmen, shearers and domestic staff.

European presence began after F. T. Gregory's 1861 expedition. Edward T. Hooley later secured a one-million-acre lease and briefly established a camp at Ten Mile Pool, before relocating after a cyclone; the later Minderoo homestead was built near his second campsite. Hooley soon departed, and in 1878 John and David Forrest were granted a pastoral lease.

David and Mary Forrest settled at Minderoo in 1881. Their first dwelling was a basic one-room structure that was later extended using parts of a prefabricated house shipped from Perth. The Forrest's became influential locally, supporting Onslow's development, before retiring to Perth in 1898.

Minderoo became known for early adoption of technology. A new shearing shed was the first of its kind in Western Australia and engineered for the region's winds. Minderoo also installed the first telephone outside the town area in 1922 and was among the first in the district to own a car.

In 1910 the original dwelling was upgraded into a larger homestead with pressed-metal internal linings and glass double doors opening to the verandah. Nearby stood the office, storeroom, staff quarters and kitchen.

David Forrest died in 1917, and the station was passed to his son Mervyn. Mervyn expanded Minderoo into a major sheep station, developing infrastructure such as buildings, fencing, windmills and dams, and advocating for investment in the North West. Minderoo also became a social hub, hosting community events including fundraisers, sports and garden fetes.

After 120 years of Forrest family ownership, the station was sold in 1998 following drought, declining returns and financial pressures. Murion Pastoral Company purchased Minderoo for \$2.45 million, including 30,000 sheep and 1,200 cattle, and over 11 years transitioned the property from sheep to cattle. In 2009, Andrew Forrest repurchased the family property.

Between 2009 and 2011, architect Luigi Rosselli led major conservation works to restore and adapt the homestead and surrounding buildings. Original materials and features were retained or reconstructed, including pressed metal linings and conserved corrugated iron cladding. Timber from the old shearing shed was reused, floors were waxed, and buildings such as the old store, Scotty's cottage, blacksmith's shop and workshop were restored and repurposed.

## DESCRIPTION

**Exterior:** Minderoo Homestead sits off Twitchin Road on the east side of the Ashburton River, within a fenced, grassed yard featuring mature shade trees and a large water feature added during the 2009–2011 renovations. The homestead has grown over time through additions by successive generations of the Forrest family. The earliest section, built by David and Mary Forrest, sits centrally and is constructed of corrugated iron with a deep verandah later adapted in the 2009–2011 works. To the northwest are the jackeroo quarters, and to the southeast is a building believed to date to around 1917–18, likely built by Mervyn Forrest. All buildings have hipped roofs.

**Interior:** The 2009–2011 renovations retained key original features, including timber floors and decorative pressed-tin wall and ceiling linings.

## ARCHAEOLOGY NOTES

The place may contain material or subsurface remains that have the potential to contribute to a better understanding of the evolution of human occupation and development in the remote North West, including the evolution of pastoral industry practices from the 1870s to the present.

<b>CONDITION</b>	Good.
<b>INTEGRITY</b>	High. The homestead continues to be used for its original purpose as a farming property.
<b>AUTHENTICITY</b>	Medium. The original homestead building has undergone changes over time, including additions and replacement of original fabric.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*Minderoo, comprising a complex of single-storey homestead buildings with hipped corrugated iron roofs located in a garden setting, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:*

*the homestead has some aesthetic value for its overall form and some remaining elements of the Victorian Georgian style of architecture within a formal garden setting.*

*the place is a good representative example of a pastoral station complex dating from the late nineteenth century, having been established as part of the early pastoral development of the Ashburton region (1878). It predates the gazettal of the town and port of Old Onslow (1885).*

*the place's early and ongoing success relied in part on the Aboriginal workers and their families who lived and worked at the place from its inception.*

*the place has value through its association with brothers Sir John Forrest (former Premier of Western Australia), David Forrest and Alexander Forrest influential early pioneers, explorers, public figures, and pastoralists in Western Australia.*

## ASSOCIATIONS

Name	Type	Year From	Year To
Sir John Forrest	Previous owner	1878	-
Alexander Forrest	Previous owner	1878	-
David Forrest	Previous owner	1878	1917
Septimus Burt	Previous owner	1878	1901
Mervyn Forrest	Previous owner	1891	1973
Don Forrest	Previous owner	1973	1998
Murion Pastoral Company	Previous owner	1998	2009

## HISTORIC THEMES

General	Specific
OCCUPATIONS	Grazing, pastoralism & dairying
PEOPLE	Early Settlers
DEMOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENT AND MOBILITY	Workers (Aboriginal People)

## MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Category	Category 2: Considerable significance
Management Recommendation	Very important to the heritage of the locality. Inclusion on Heritage List. The place should be retained and conserved.

## HERITAGE LISTINGS AND SURVEYS

Type	Status	Date
SOA Local Heritage Inventory/Survey	Adopted	August 1999

## DOCUMENT CONTROL

Date Created	June 1999
Date Modified	October 2016
Date Modified	February 2026



Minderoo Station Homestead, 1914. State Library of Western Australia

**SHIRE OF ASHBURTON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT HERITAGE SURVEY  
PLACE RECORD FORM**

**EMU CREEK STATION**



**LOCATION**

<b>Address</b>	1 Nyang Road, Barradale (or Yannarie)
<b>Other Names</b>	Nyang Homestead, Wogoola Station
<b>HCWA Place Number</b>	15371
<b>Region</b>	Pilbara
<b>Local Government Authority</b>	Shire of Ashburton

**LAND DESCRIPTION**

Reserve No.	Lot/Location	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	GPS Coordinates
-	Lot 3	P89754	2005/781	23° 1'54.75"S 115° 2'30.58"E

## PLACE DETAILS

<b>Place Type</b>	Individual Building or Group
<b>Construction Date</b>	c.1890
<b>Architectural Style</b>	Victorian Georgian
<b>Architectural Period</b>	Federation (1890-1915)
<b>Date Source</b>	1999 Shire of Ashburton Municipal Heritage Inventory
<b>Construction Materials</b>	Walls: Corrugated Iron Roofs: Corrugated Iron

## USE OF PLACE

<b>Original</b>	FARMING/PASTORAL	Homestead
<b>Present</b>	FARMING/PASTORAL	Homestead
<b>Other</b>	-	

## HISTORICAL NOTES

Wogoola Station (now Emu Creek), established in 1891 by Alexander Cameron and James Clark, took its name from a nearby permanent waterhole. Cameron, an experienced pastoralist, built the station into a well-run operation with substantial shearing sheds, reliable water from windmills and tanks, and early flocks of around 20,000 sheep plus horses and cattle. Early buildings were made from sawn anthill blocks and mud, with the larger homestead—likely built soon after the lease was taken up—comprising four rooms with pressed-tin linings and a surrounding verandah.

A 12-stand shearing shed, built in 1912 by the Hooley brothers, became an important asset. Wool was transported to the coast by donkey team. Clark became sole owner around 1917–18 and relocated parts of the Rob Roy Hotel from Old Onslow to the homestead's western end, where they remain today. The station was largely self-sufficient and served as a stop on the main Carnarvon–Onslow track.

Hardship in the late 1920s and 1930s—including drought, the Depression, and family tragedy—saw the Clarks return to Onslow, after which managers ran the property until its sale in 1950. Later owners faced cyclones, fires and lightning damage. The Greenways (1951–58) made upgrades such as installing hot water and adding French doors. The D'Arcy family purchased the station in 1962, renamed it Nyang, and undertook major repairs and additions. In the 1970s Nyang operated as a tourist station before being sold in 1980.

As of 2016, accommodation continued to be offered within the old homestead or beside the waterhole. The historic shearing shed forms part of the Wool Wagon Pathway. The station has long provided Bureau of Meteorology weather readings—currently one daily. Cyclone Bobby in 1995 caused significant damage, destroying several early buildings. In 2006 the station's name changed from Nyang to Emu Creek when it transitioned fully from sheep to cattle.

## DESCRIPTION

**Exterior:** Nyang Homestead sits on the east bank of the Yannarie River, about 21 kilometres along Nyang Road, with Emu Creek located just to the north. The homestead is surrounded by green lawn and trees that contrast with the broader pastoral landscape. The building has expanded over time and features a low-pitched hipped corrugated-iron roof with cyclone battens and wide verandahs, some of which have been enclosed for bathrooms. Walls are primarily corrugated iron.

The eastern section is the earliest part of the homestead and includes three accommodation rooms and a dining room opening onto the verandahs. Window and door types vary, with most windows being timber casements and doors ranging from French doors to simple timber doors. West of the dining room, the original verandah has been enclosed to form the kitchen. Further west is a section believed to date from around 1925, incorporating materials from the former Rob Roy Hotel. This area contains a lounge, study and additional bedrooms, with a mix of timber sash, casement and aluminium windows.

The corrugated-iron shearing shed (circa 1912) stands about 400 metres to the east. It is elevated on black-heart stumps, with Oregon rafters, jarrah posts and a timber floor, and is now used for storage.

**Interior:** Inside, the homestead has concrete floors and fibro walls and ceilings with cyclone bracing. The only original features remaining are the four-panel timber doors in the eastern accommodation wing.

## ARCHAEOLOGY NOTES

*Nyang Homestead (now known as Emu Creek Station)* has the potential, through its built fabric and the sites of demolished buildings, to yield information regarding the evolution of pastoral industry practices from the 1890s to the present.

<b>CONDITION</b>	Good.
<b>INTEGRITY</b>	High. The homestead continues to be used for its original purpose as a homestead for a farming property.
<b>AUTHENTICITY</b>	Medium. The homestead building has undergone extensive changes over time, including additions and replacement of original fabric.

## ASSOCIATIONS

Name	Type	Year From	Year To
Alexander Cameron	Original owner	1891	c.1917
James Clark	Original owner	1891	1950
D'Arcy Family	Previous owner	1962	1980
Hooley Brothers	Other Association	1912	-

## HISTORIC THEMES

General	Specific
OCCUPATIONS	Grazing, pastoralism & dairying
OUTSIDE INFLUENCES	Tourism
PEOPLE	Early Settlers

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*Nyang Homestead (now known as Emu Creek Station), comprising a single storey corrugated iron dwelling located in a garden setting, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:*

*the homestead has some aesthetic value for its overall form and some remaining elements of the Victorian Georgian style of architecture within an informal garden setting. It is relatively rare being a metal-clad homestead in this style.*

*the homestead and shearing shed are aesthetically linked in their similar construction materials and rural purpose and collectively form a cultural environment that is evidence of the history of early European settlement and occupation of the Pilbara area.*

*the place has associations with the development of the pastoral industry in the Pilbara district and demonstrates the evolution of a pastoral settlement since the 1890s.*

*the shearing shed provides evidence of the importance of the sheep industry to the occupation and development of the Pilbara district, particularly since the cattle industry is now the predominant industry.*

*the place has associations with J. Clark, who established the port at the Ashburton River in 1882/1883 and who, through the construction of such enterprises as the jetty, the first general store and the Rob Roy Hotel, was largely responsible for the development of the town in the 1880s through to the early 1900s.*

## MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Category	Category 2: Considerable significance
Management Recommendation	Very important to the heritage of the locality. Inclusion on Heritage List. The place should be retained and conserved.

## HERITAGE LISTINGS AND SURVEYS

Type	Status	Date
SOA Local Heritage Inventory/Survey	Adopted	August 1999

## DOCUMENT CONTROL

Date Created	June 1999
Date Modified	October 2016
Date Modified	February 2026

**OTHER IMAGES**



South-west corner of Homestead, 2016.



South-east corner of Homestead, 2016.



Kitchen within Homestead, 2016.



Dining room within Homestead, 2016.



Shearing Shed, 2016.



Shearing Shed, 2016.



Shearing Shed, 2016.



Inside view of Shearing Shed, 2016.

**SHIRE OF ASHBURTON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT HERITAGE SURVEY  
PLACE RECORD FORM**

**ONSLOW GOODS SHED**



**LOCATION**

<b>Address</b>	52 Second Avenue, Onslow
<b>Other Names</b>	Onslow Visitor Centre, Beadon Point Goods Shed
<b>HCWA Place Number</b>	04638
<b>Region</b>	Pilbara
<b>Local Government Authority</b>	Shire of Ashburton

**LAND DESCRIPTION**

Reserve No.	Lot/Location	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	GPS Coordinates
R41929	Lot 937	P190235	LR3093/694	21°38'19.56"S 115° 6'51.56"E

## PLACE DETAILS

<b>Place Type</b>	Individual Building or Group
<b>Construction Date</b>	1904, 1910
<b>Architectural Style</b>	North West Vernacular
<b>Architectural Period</b>	Federation (1890-1915)
<b>Date Source</b>	Old Onslow Townsite Conservation Plan
<b>Construction Materials</b>	Walls: Corrugated Iron Roofs: Corrugated Iron

## USE OF PLACE

<b>Original</b>	TRANSPORT/COMMUNICATIONS	Rail
<b>Present</b>	EDUCATIONAL	Museum
<b>Other</b>	-	

## HISTORICAL NOTES

Old Onslow was gazetted in 1885, but the town and port struggled from the outset due to cyclones, silting at the river mouth and the exposed coastline. In 1893 the Public Works Department prepared plans to extend the landing and build a Bond Store, Goods Shed and tramway linking the landing to the town.

Around 1901 the Bond Store and Goods Shed were moved from Lot 107 near the landing to a site beside the new tramline on Anketell Street. This building burnt down in 1903/04. A replacement was approved at Lot 158 for a "Bonded Store" in April 1904, with Thomas H. Parsons contracted to construct the new building. It was built on concrete piers with jarrah framing and galvanised iron cladding, and the tramline was extended through the shed. A telephone line was also installed along the tramway. An office and lookout tower were added in 1910.

As port challenges persisted, a new sea jetty was built at Beadon Point, isolating the old townsite. A new Onslow townsite was gazetted at Beadon Point in 1924, and in 1925 the Goods Shed was transported there by camel. It was extended on reconstruction and used with the new tramway, though no longer as a Bond Store. Further additions were made in 1953.

Cyclones in the 1960s led to major repairs, including a new roof and new sliding doors. The shed was then used to store goods unloaded at the jetty and transported along Second Avenue.

Today the Goods Shed is vested in the Shire of Ashburton and operates as the Onslow Visitor Centre and Museum, managed by volunteers and displaying regional historic artefacts.

## DESCRIPTION

**Exterior:** The Goods Shed is a rectangular jarrah-framed, vertically clad corrugated-iron building about 32 by 13 metres, with a gable roof. An office extension sits at the north-west end, and a long rectangular addition (c. post-1994) at the south-east end covers the former concrete loading platform once used for tramway freight. This platform now displays historic rolling stock, including the 1928 petrol locomotive from the Onslow tramway. The western elevation has three large steel-framed doors (approx. 3m x 4m). The shed and office are painted yellow, with guttering, downpipes, doorframes and verandah posts in Federation green or brown. The office has a hipped roof, sash windows with mullions and a timber skillion verandah on the north side. To the north-east is the rail yard with additional rolling stock.

**Interior:** The interior retains its unpainted jarrah framing and weathered corrugated iron. Large timber tramway doors show remnants of pale green paint. The original office is lined with tongue-and-groove timber, while the 1953 extension is lined with asbestos sheeting.

## ARCHAEOLOGY NOTES

Given the site has been relocated there is limited archaeological potential.

<b>CONDITION</b>	Good.
<b>INTEGRITY</b>	Medium. Although the place is now a Visitors Centre and Museum, its original intention as a Goods Shed complex remains apparent.
<b>AUTHENTICITY</b>	Medium to High. Whilst there is a great deal of authentic fabric existing there has been adaptive work over the years such as the remodelling of the roof and various additions.

## ASSOCIATIONS

Name	Type	Year From	Year To
Public Works Department	Other Association	1893	-

## HISTORIC THEMES

General	Specific
SOCIAL & CIVIC ACTIVITIES	Education & science
TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATIONS	Rail & light rail transport
TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATIONS	River & sea transport

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*The Goods Shed, comprising a corrugated iron clad rectangular building (1904) and associated office, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:*

*the Goods Shed is a key historic structure in the Onslow townsite. Whilst utilitarian in form it contributes to the streetscape of Second Avenue, Onslow's main street.*

*the Goods Shed is also one of the few buildings brought from Old Onslow that has survived the harsh climatic conditions of the North West, as cyclones and floods have destroyed many of the structures from the pre-1925 period.*

*the Goods Shed and associated tramway were essential to the supply and export of goods for the Ashburton district and were a lifeline for the community. The Goods Shed therefore, is an important relic of this way of life and demonstrates a way of life no longer practiced.*

*the Goods Shed is valued by the community as a place with an educational role as a museum and as a place visited by tourists.*

*the building is a rare surviving example of the Goods Sheds, which were often the only buildings constructed in association with jetties of the North West.*

## MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Category	Category 2: Considerable significance
Management Recommendation	Very important to the heritage of the locality. Inclusion on Heritage List. The place should be retained and conserved.

## HERITAGE LISTINGS AND SURVEYS

Type	Status	Date
Classified by the National Trust	Classified	July 1996
SOA Local Heritage Inventory/Survey	Adopted	August 1999
State Register Assessment Program	Current	March 2004

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY

Nayton, G (2016) Old Onslow Townsite Conservation Plan  
National Trust Assessment Report (WA) 1994  
Webb, A&M, (1983) Edge of Empire. Artlook Books

## DOCUMENT CONTROL

Date Created	June 1999
Date Modified	October 2016
Date Modified	February 2026

## OTHER IMAGES



Northern end of Goods Shed showing attached office, 2016.



Close up of office, 2016.

**SHIRE OF ASHBURTON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT HERITAGE SURVEY  
PLACE RECORD FORM**

**FORMER POST OFFICE - ONSLOW**



**LOCATION**

<b>Address</b>	19-21 Second Avenue, Onslow
<b>Other Names</b>	-
<b>HCWA Place Number</b>	15367
<b>Region</b>	Pilbara
<b>Local Government Authority</b>	Shire of Ashburton

**LAND DESCRIPTION**

Reserve No.	Lot/Location	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	GPS Coordinates
-	3 (HN 21)	P36284	2222-527	21°38'10.15"S 115° 6'43.47"E
-	4 (HN19)	P36284	2222-528	21°38'9.71"S 115° 6'43.02"E

## PLACE DETAILS

<b>Place Type</b>	Individual Building or Group
<b>Construction Date</b>	c.1925
<b>Architectural Style</b>	North West Vernacular Bungalow
<b>Architectural Period</b>	Inter-war (1915-1940)
<b>Date Source</b>	1999 Shire of Ashburton Municipal Heritage Inventory
<b>Construction Materials</b>	Walls: Timber Roofs: Corrugated Iron

## USE OF PLACE

<b>Original</b>	TRANSPORT/COMMUNICATIONS	Post and Telegraph Office
<b>Present</b>	RESIDENTIAL	Single storey residence
<b>Other</b>	COMMERCIAL	Office and Administration Building

## HISTORICAL NOTES

The town and port of Old Onslow was gazetted in 1885, with a stone and iron Post and Telegraph Office built in 1894 near Merrow and Campbell Streets. As noted in the Old Onslow Place Record, the town struggled from the outset due to natural site constraints. A new sea jetty was later built at Beadon Point, isolating Old Onslow from district freight movement. By 1920 it was clear a new town was needed, and the new Onslow at Beadon Point was gazetted in 1924. Buildings were relocated between 1924 and 1927, including the Customs' Quarters and the Bond and Goods Shed.

According to the 2016 Old Onslow Conservation Plan, much of the original Post Office fabric was reused in the new Post Office, including roof framing, windows, doors and verandah posts. In 1925, Post Office services were temporarily moved to Beadon while the new building was established. The old Post Office Quarters held little value, and tenders were called for their removal.

The new Post Office and residence were built circa 1925 by the Public Works Department, using the same plans as two nearby police residences. Close proximity of the residence to the post office allowed the postmaster to monitor telegram exchanges at all hours.

Post office services moved to Postie's General Store in 1994. The original building was later used by an employment group and by Onslow Salt Pty Ltd before being converted into a residence in the early 2000s. The Post Office Quarters continue to be used as a residence.

Historically, post offices served as key community hubs for communication and social interaction and were also an important source of respectable employment for women.

## DESCRIPTION

The former Post Office and residence sit on adjoining lots on the north-western side of the Second Avenue and Simpson Street intersection. The Post Office, at No. 21 Second Avenue, occupies the corner beneath a large communication tower; the residence is next door at No. 19. The Post Office has a new timber picket fence and landscaped frontage, while the residence has no fencing or landscaping.

Both buildings are examples of the North West Vernacular Bungalow style, characterised by simple hipped corrugated iron roofs, cyclone battening, and deep verandahs. They are raised on stumps, and the verandahs extend along the front and sides. The residence's verandah has been fully enclosed, obscuring the façade.

The former Post Office is clad in shiplap-profile timber weatherboards. Its verandah has a timber floor and original verandah posts. The crossed balustrades reflect the early design seen in historic photographs.

## ARCHAEOLOGY NOTES

Further investigation is required to ascertain the archaeological potential of the subject place.

<b>CONDITION</b>	Good
<b>INTEGRITY</b>	Medium to Low. The former Post Office no longer serves its original purpose; however, the adjacent residence is still used as a residence.
<b>AUTHENTICITY</b>	Medium to Low. Further investigation is required with regard to the extent of original fabric. Imagery suggests that there has been significant restoration to the former Post Office building.

## ASSOCIATIONS

Name	Type	Year From	Year To
Public Works Department	Builder	1925	1925

## HISTORIC THEMES

General	Specific
TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATIONS	Mail services
DEMOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENT & MOBILITY	Technology & technological change
OCCUPATIONS	Domestic activities
SOCIAL & CIVIC ACTIVITIES	Community services & utilities

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*The former Post Office and Residence, single-storey timber and iron buildings, designed by the Public Works Department, have cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:*

*the place and its close proximity to the Beadon Bay Hotel, at the Simpson Street and Second Avenue intersection, forms an important cultural element in the historic townscape character of Onslow.*

*the buildings are good examples of a North West Vernacular Bungalow with their large simple roof planes, deep shady verandahs and unpretentious homely quality.*

*the former Post Office building contains remnants of the original old Onslow Post Office including roof and roof structures, windows and doors and iron verandah posts.*

*the place is one of the few early buildings, built soon after the relocation of the town to Beadon Point, that has survived the harsh climatic conditions of the North West, as cyclones and floods have destroyed many of the structures from the pre-1920s period.*

*the place provided a continuous postal service to the town and the surrounding pastoral district from 1925 to 1994 and is important to the local community as a place of social interaction and communication.*

## MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Category	Category 2: Considerable significance
Management Recommendation	Very important to the heritage of the locality. Inclusion on Heritage List. The place should be retained and conserved.

**HERITAGE LISTINGS AND SURVEYS**

Type	Status	Date
SOA Local Heritage Inventory/Survey	Adopted	August 1999

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Mrs Laura Shannon, long term Onslow Resident interviewed by Cathy Day (O’Brien Planning Consultants) 13/01/99  
 Nayton, G (2016) Old Onslow Townsite Conservation Plan

**DOCUMENT CONTROL**

Date Created	June 1999
Date Modified	October 2016
Date Modified	February 2026

**OTHER IMAGES**



Old Onslow Post Office pre-1925. Source: State Library of Western Australia



New Onslow Post Office 1939. Source: State Library of Western Australia



Onslow Post Office c.1960. Source: State Library of Western Australia

**SHIRE OF ASHBURTON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT HERITAGE SURVEY  
PLACE RECORD FORM**

**RED HILL HOMESTEAD**



**LOCATION**

<b>Address</b>	Red Hill Road, Cane
<b>Other Names</b>	-
<b>HCWA Place Number</b>	15375
<b>Region</b>	Pilbara
<b>Local Government Authority</b>	Shire of Ashburton

**LAND DESCRIPTION**

Reserve No.	Lot/Location	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	GPS Coordinates
	Lot 165	DP 238633		21°58'31.7"S 116°03'54.5"E

## PLACE DETAILS

<b>Place Type</b>	Individual Building or Group
<b>Construction Date</b>	1880, c.1909
<b>Architectural Style</b>	Vernacular
<b>Architectural Period</b>	Victorian (1840-1890) and Federation (1890-1915)
<b>Date Source</b>	1999 Shire of Ashburton Municipal Heritage Inventory
<b>Construction Materials</b>	Walls: Timber and Stone Roofs: Corrugated Iron

## USE OF PLACE

<b>Original</b>	FARMING/PASTORAL	Homestead
<b>Present</b>	FARMING/PASTORAL	Homestead
<b>Other</b>	-	

## HISTORICAL NOTES

Red Hill Station was first leased by Dalgety's in the 1870s, then passed to Monger and Forrest in the 1880s. It sat on the De Grey–Mullewa stock route, gazetted in 1893, providing safer overland movement of stock with reliable water sources. In 1902 the Barrett-Lennard brothers purchased the station cheaply due to dingo infestation. Dalgety and Co.'s auction listing at the time recorded 317,000 acres, 10,000 sheep, 3,000 lambs, 175 cattle, 63 horses, several wells and windmills, and modest station buildings.

The stone section of the homestead dates to the 1880s, while the weatherboard section was added around 1909 during the Barrett-Lennard period. The station was sold to Tom McGuire and Stephen Tonkin in 1919. By 1918–1919 it was one of the ten largest properties in the district at 429,131 acres.

McGuire was active in local affairs, including the 1920 search for a new Onslow townsite and a 1934 deputation to government after the cyclone that devastated Onslow's jetty and communications.

Ted Crawford took over the station in 1949 and later contributed memories of the district in *Edge of Empire*. The Corker family purchased Red Hill in 1981, shifting it to cattle only, with the last sheep handled around 1983. The weatherboard section of the homestead was demolished in 2014.

## DESCRIPTION

The weatherboard section of the homestead was demolished in 2014/2015, while the stone section was retained. The homestead is substantial, built from timber and stone, with a half-gabled hipped corrugated iron roof. Wide shady verandahs under a broken-backed roof surround the house, with concrete floors and timber posts. The old kitchen walls are constructed from coarse stone blocks, while most of the building is timber.

## ARCHAEOLOGY NOTES

Unable to assess.

<b>CONDITION</b>	Unable to assess.
<b>INTEGRITY</b>	Unable to assess.
<b>AUTHENTICITY</b>	Unable to assess.

## HISTORIC THEMES

General	Specific
OCCUPATIONS	Grazing, pastoralism & dairying
PEOPLE	Early Settlers

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A site visit was not undertaken as part of the 2016 Local Government Heritage Inventory Review. Accordingly, these notes have been obtained from the original 1999 Municipal Heritage Inventory:

*“Red Hill Station has aesthetic, historic and representative cultural heritage significance. The station has a long history in the development of pastoral properties in the Ashburton region. It has strong associations with people who were influential in grazing and in local government decisions such as the siting of the new Onslow township in the early 1920s. As one of the largest properties in the early twentieth century Red Hill is a good representative of other pastoral stations in the North West.”*

## MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Category	Category 2: Considerable significance
Management Recommendation	Very important to the heritage of the locality. Inclusion on Heritage List. The place should be retained and conserved.

## HERITAGE LISTINGS AND SURVEYS

Type	Status	Date
SOA Local Heritage Inventory/Survey	Adopted	17 August 1999

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY

Webb M&A (1983) Edge of Empire, Artlook Publishers  
Short interview with L Corker by Cathy Day (OBPC) 28 January 1999  
Western Mail, Red Hill Station, Saturday 12 July 1902, pp. 36

## DOCUMENT CONTROL

Date Created	June 1999
Date Modified	February 2026

OTHER IMAGES



**SHIRE OF ASHBURTON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT HERITAGE SURVEY  
PLACE RECORD FORM**

**TOM PRICE COMMUNITY CENTRE**



**LOCATION**

<b>Address</b>	315 Central Road, corner Tamarind Street, Tom Price
<b>Other Names</b>	-
<b>HCWA Place Number</b>	15393
<b>Region</b>	Pilbara
<b>Local Government Authority</b>	Shire of Ashburton

**LAND DESCRIPTION**

<b>Reserve No.</b>	<b>Lot/Location</b>	<b>Plan/Diagram</b>	<b>Vol/Folio</b>	<b>GPS Coordinates</b>
R42327	Lot 315	P42327	LR3025-945	22°41'38.46"S 117°47'40.56"E

## PLACE DETAILS

<b>Place Type</b>	Individual Building or Group
<b>Construction Date</b>	1968
<b>Architectural Style</b>	North West Vernacular
<b>Architectural Period</b>	Late Twentieth Century Period (1960-)
<b>Date Source</b>	1998 Shire of Ashburton Municipal Heritage Inventory
<b>Construction Materials</b>	Walls: Brick Roofs: Corrugated Iron

## USE OF PLACE

<b>Original</b>	SOCIAL/RECREATIONAL	Community Hall/Centre
<b>Present</b>	SOCIAL/RECREATIONAL	Community Hall/Centre
<b>Other</b>	EDUCATIONAL	Library

## HISTORICAL NOTES

Tom Price is an iron-ore mining town in the Pilbara, about 1400 km north of Perth. It developed in the 1960s after the discovery of iron ore, with a private townsite established by Rio Tinto Pty Ltd. The town takes its name from the nearby Mount Tom Price, named in 1962 after Thomas Moore Price of Kaiser Steel.

Residential areas were built in stages aligned with mine expansion: the central area in 1966–67, southern, eastern, and western areas in 1968, and the northern area in 1969.

The Community Centre served as the main social hub for early residents, hosting meetings, clubs, theatre, and events. A major fire in 1974 destroyed much of the building, with repairs completed in 1975. Further upgrades occurred in 2010 (roof, flooring, kitchen), and in 2012 the frontage to Central Road was improved.

By 2019, the centre accommodated the Library, Shire Community Development Services, Visitor Centre, and a hall used for community events.

## DESCRIPTION

The Community Centre occupies a prominent corner at Tamarind Street and Central Road. A large car park sits to the north, a basketball field to the west, and Doug Talbot Memorial Park to the south. The single-storey brick building is rectangular with a flat corrugated-iron roof and wide steel-framed verandahs that provide shade along the frontage, which accommodates the Library and Visitors Centre.

<b>CONDITION</b>	Good
<b>INTEGRITY</b>	High. The place continues to provide community services as per its original function.
<b>AUTHENTICITY</b>	Medium. Whilst the overall form appears largely the same the fenestration detail has been altered (presumably as a result of the 1970s fire) and the central breezeway between the east and west wings has been enclosed.

## HISTORIC THEMES

<b>General</b>	<b>Specific</b>
SOCIAL & CIVIC ACTIVITIES	Community services & utilities
SOCIAL & CIVIC ACTIVITIES	Sport, recreation & entertainment
DEMOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENT & MOBILITY	Settlements
OCCUPATIONS	Mining [mineral processing]

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Tom Price Community Centre has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

*as one of the early public buildings in Tom Price the centre adds to the townscape and represents the way of life in a North West mining town in the late 1960s.*

*as the only meeting place for the early residents and its continued life as a library and community hall, the centre has provided an important social service for the local community since 1968.*

**MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

Management Category	Category 2: Considerable significance.
Management Recommendation	Very important to the heritage of the locality. Inclusion on Heritage List. The place should be retained and conserved.

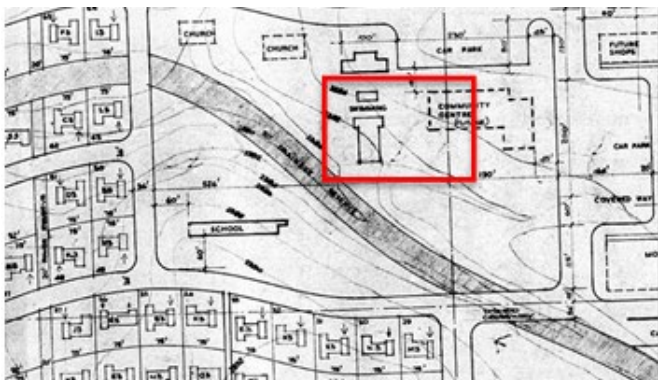
**HERITAGE LISTINGS AND SURVEYS**

Type	Status	Date
SOA Local Heritage Inventory/Survey	Adopted	August 1999

**DOCUMENT CONTROL**

Date Created	June 1999
Date Modified	October 2016
Date Modified	February 2026

**OTHER IMAGES**



Left Image: Site plan of Tom Price showing the subject building in 1966. Right image: Tom Price Community Centre 1968. Source: State Library of Western Australia.



Tom Price Community Centre Tamarind Street, elevation, 2016.



Tom Price Community Centre, 2016.

**SHIRE OF ASHBURTON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT HERITAGE SURVEY  
PLACE RECORD FORM**

**TOM PRICE PRE PRIMARY CENTRE**



**LOCATION**

<b>Address</b>	1 Creek Road, corner Tamarind Street, Tom Price
<b>Other Names</b>	Central Pre-Primary, Australian Inland Mission, Anglican Church, Pre-Primary Centre: Wombats
<b>HCWA Place Number</b>	15374
<b>Region</b>	Pilbara
<b>Local Government Authority</b>	Shire of Ashburton

**LAND DESCRIPTION**

Reserve No.	Lot/Location	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	GPS Coordinates
R46972	Lot 351	P29715	LR3126-392	22°41'37.14"S 117°47'34.51"E

## PLACE DETAILS

<b>Place Type</b>	Individual Building or Group
<b>Construction Date</b>	Circa 1966
<b>Architectural Style</b>	Other
<b>Architectural Period</b>	Late Twentieth Century Period (1960-)
<b>Date Source</b>	Site plan held at the State Records Office
<b>Construction Materials</b>	Walls: Brick Roofs: Corrugated Iron (rib panel)

## USE OF PLACE

<b>Original</b>	RELIGIOUS	Church
<b>Present</b>	EDUCATIONAL	Pre-primary Centre
<b>Other</b>	EDUCATIONAL	Other

## HISTORICAL NOTES

The Tom Price Pre-Primary Centre occupies a building originally used as the 'Tom Price Church Centre and Day Kindergarten,' shown as a church on a 1966 plan. It was jointly owned by the Anglican Methodist and Presbyterian Churches. The Australian Inland Mission (later the Australian Presbyterian Mission) established a kindergarten there on 2 August 1968 as part of its broader work supporting remote communities.

A visitors' book held by the pre-primary records the first visitors as Freddie and Margaret McKay. Reverend Dr Fred McKay, Superintendent of the AIM from 1951, served in Tom Price between 1969 and 1972, continuing the legacy of Rev John Flynn through expanded health, education, and community services across the region. The visitors' book was used until 1971. In 1974/75, Bishop of the North West Howell Witt visited and christened several children. A Friday playgroup for three- and four-year-olds was run during the 1970s by Mary Skidmore.

By 1999 the pre-primary, known as Wombats, catered for 27 students in a four-day program led by Mila SIRR, who began as an aide around 1988 and became the teacher in 1993. As of 2016, Wombats continues to operate as the pre-primary program for Tom Price School.

## DESCRIPTION

The Tom Price Pre-Primary Centre occupies the south-east corner of the Creek Road and Tamarind Street intersection. It sits north of the Tom Price Primary School, separated by a usually dry creek that only flows during heavy summer rain. The site is surrounded by lawn and several large trees, including a prominent eucalypt in the front setback.

The single-storey rectangular brick building has a shallow pitched roof and distinctive aluminium-framed floor-to-ceiling windows along both the front and rear elevations. The Wattle Street (western) end features a central vertical strip of stained-glass windows. Originally finished in pale cream/grey brickwork, the building has been painted red since 1998.

<b>CONDITION</b>	Good
<b>INTEGRITY</b>	High. Whilst the nature of the use has changed (it no longer holds church activities), the continued community use has been retained.
<b>AUTHENTICITY</b>	High. Despite changes to the colour scheme and some modification, the overall external form and detail remain largely as original.

## ASSOCIATIONS

Name	Type	Year From	Year To
Australian Inland Mission	Builder	1968	-

## HISTORIC THEMES

General	Specific
SOCIAL & CIVIC ACTIVITIES	Religion
SOCIAL & CIVIC ACTIVITIES	Education & science

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Tom Price Pre-Primary Centre, a single storey rectangular brick and metal building surrounded by mature trees, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

*the place is a representative example of a Late Twentieth Century modest church building constructed in a remote location, characterised by its simplified form enlivened by the symbolic use of natural lighting.*

*the place has a close association with the expansion of the activities of the Australian Inland Mission in the mid part of the twentieth century, particularly Rev Dr Fred McKay. The Rev Dr McKay and the Australian Inland Mission played an important role in the provision of hospitals, medical services and community services to improve the wellbeing of people in the outback.*

*the building was built circa 1966, as part of the first phase of the development of Tom Price to cater for the spiritual needs of the community and to care for the children whose parents work at or were somehow associated with the nearby iron ore mines.*

## MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Category	Category 2: Considerable significance.
Management Recommendation	Very important to the heritage of the locality. Inclusion on Heritage List. The place should be retained and conserved.

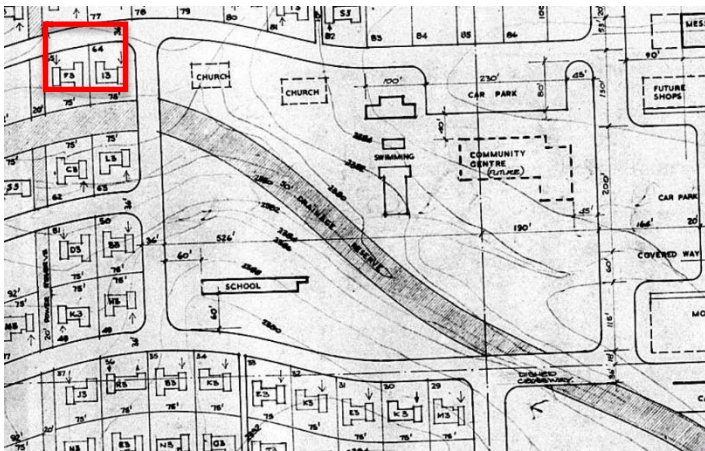
## HERITAGE LISTINGS AND SURVEYS

Type	Status/Category	Date
SOA Local Heritage Inventory/Survey	Adopted	August 1999

## DOCUMENT CONTROL

Date Created	June 1999
Date Modified	October 2016
Date Modified	February 2026

## OTHER IMAGES



Left Image: Site plan of Tom Price showing subject building (highlighted red) in 1966. Source State Records Office

Right Image: Subject place circa 1970 when it was the Tom Price Church Centre and Day Kindergarten. Source: State Library of Western Australia 140811PD



Eastern (side) elevations 2016.



Close up of front façade, 2016.

**SHIRE OF ASHBURTON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT HERITAGE SURVEY  
PLACE RECORD FORM**

**TOM PRICE PRIMARY SCHOOL**



**LOCATION**

<b>Address</b>	5 Creek Road, corner Wattle Street, Tom Price
<b>Other Names</b>	-
<b>HCWA Place Number</b>	15394
<b>Region</b>	Pilbara
<b>Local Government Authority</b>	Shire of Ashburton

**LAND DESCRIPTION**

Reserve No.	Lot/Location	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	GPS Coordinates
R46972	Lot 350	P29715	LR3125-499	22°41'40.54"S 117°47'35.28"E

## PLACE DETAILS

<b>Place Type</b>	Individual Building or Group
<b>Construction Date</b>	1966
<b>Architectural Style</b>	North West Vernacular
<b>Architectural Period</b>	Late Twentieth Century Period (1960-)
<b>Date Source</b>	Building Construction Plans
<b>Construction Materials</b>	Walls: Concrete Block, Glass, and Steel Roofs: Corrugated Iron

## USE OF PLACE

<b>Original</b>	EDUCATIONAL	Primary School
<b>Present</b>	EDUCATIONAL	Primary School
<b>Other</b>	-	

## HISTORICAL NOTES

Construction of Tom Price Primary School began in 1966 as part of the townsite's first development phase. Designed by Central-Engineering Services of Melbourne, it opened in 1967 with 42 students and two staff, growing to 85 students by July that year.

The school was built in stages. The original Wattle Street wing, about half its current size, included an undercroft with partially enclosed ablutions and an upper floor with three classrooms, a store and a staffroom. It featured oiled horizontal boarding, aluminium-framed windows and vee-nib cladding. In 1968 the wing was extended, and a second wing was added, designed using the same materials and style.

A second school site (now the high school) opened in 1971 as enrolments reached 670 students across 19 classes. North Tom Price Primary opened in 1978; both primary schools then taught pre-primary to year five, with older students attending the District High School. Year six remained in primary from 1981, and by 1987 the high school became a Senior High School, with year seven retained in primary.

By 2016 the original buildings had been adapted, including enclosure of the undercroft and additional structures, though all classrooms remain on the upper floor to capture cooling breezes. All spaces are air-conditioned due to extreme local temperatures. Tom Price Primary is one of two primary schools serving kindergarten to year six. Enrolments are closely tied to mining activity, with most students having at least one parent employed by Rio Tinto, alongside families working for government, local industry, and local businesses.

## DESCRIPTION

The Tom Price Primary School is located north of Wattle Street on a large, landscaped site with lawns and mature trees. A distinctive feature is the creek running through the centre of the campus—dry for most of the year but flowing during heavy summer rains. A bridge provides safe access when water is present.

The original buildings sit in the south-west corner of the site. These two-storey structures run parallel and are linked on the eastern side by a first-floor walkway. Since construction, the undercroft areas have been enclosed with concrete blockwork. The buildings have near-flat corrugated-iron roofs, large aluminium windows and metal cladding to the southern elevations, and a first-floor verandah with louvred shutters along the northern side.

<b>CONDITION</b>	Good
<b>INTEGRITY</b>	High. The place continues to serve its original function.
<b>AUTHENTICITY</b>	Moderate. The school has continued to evolve through time with a series of changes including adaptation of original buildings, which distort understanding of their original form and detailing.

#### ASSOCIATIONS

Name	Type	Year From	Year To
Central-Engineering Services Pty Limited, Melbourne	Architect	1966	1966
Godfrey & Spower, Hughes, Mewton and Lobb Architects.	Architect	1968	1968

#### HISTORIC THEMES

General	Specific
SOCIAL & CIVIC ACTIVITIES	Education & Science

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*Tom Price Primary School has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:*

*the place is a competent and representative example of the school design work typical of the North West where the classrooms are located on the second story, to allow for the circulation of cooling breezes.*

*the school has social value to the teachers, students and individuals who have either worked at, attended or have associations with the school from the time of its opening in 1966 up to the present.*

*the school was established in 1966 as part of the first phase of the development of Tom Price to cater for the children whose parents work at, or were somehow associated with, the nearby iron ore mines. The mines continue to directly influence the school's enrolments.*

#### MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Category	Category 2: Considerable significance.
Management Recommendation	Very important to the heritage of the locality. Inclusion on Heritage List. The place should be retained and conserved.

#### HERITAGE LISTINGS AND SURVEYS

Type	Status	Date
SOA Local Heritage Inventory/Survey	Adopted	August 1999

#### SUPPORTING INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY

Building Construction Plans.

Parents Information Booklet updated every year. This information was provided by Principal Gary Quinn, in 1999.

Tom Price Primary School Annual Report 2015 and website.

#### DOCUMENT CONTROL

Date Created	June 1999
Date Modified	October 2016
Date Modified	February 2026

## OTHER IMAGES



Left Image: First wing of Tom Price Primary School 1966. Source: State Library of Western Australia 268,483PD

Right Image: Tom Price Primary School 1966 after extension and construction of new wing. Source: State Library of Western Australia 267,284PD



Tom Price Primary School as viewed from Wattle Street, 2016.



Tom Price Primary School as viewed from Wattle Street, 2016.

**SHIRE OF ASHBURTON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT HERITAGE SURVEY  
PLACE RECORD FORM**

**WYLOO HOMESTEAD**



**LOCATION**

<b>Address</b>	Kooline Wyloo Road, Nanutarra
<b>Other Names</b>	Peake Homestead
<b>HCWA Place Number</b>	15396
<b>Region</b>	Pilbara
<b>Local Government Authority</b>	Shire of Ashburton

**LAND DESCRIPTION**

Reserve No.	Lot/Location	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	GPS Coordinates
	Lot 2	DP 130398		22°41'25"S 116°14'0"E

## PLACE DETAILS

<b>Place Type</b>	Individual Building or Group
<b>Construction Date</b>	c.1890
<b>Architectural Style</b>	Victorian Georgian
<b>Architectural Period</b>	Federation (1890-1915)
<b>Date Source</b>	1999 Shire of Ashburton Municipal Heritage Inventory
<b>Construction Materials</b>	Walls: Corrugated Iron Roofs: Corrugated Iron

## USE OF PLACE

<b>Original</b>	FARMING/PASTORAL	Homestead
<b>Present</b>	FARMING/PASTORAL	Homestead
<b>Other</b>	-	

## HISTORICAL NOTES

Wyloo, originally Peake Station, was established in 1885 by J. and M. McGrath after taking over one of Alexander Forrest's shepherding runs. The McGrath family continued operating the property into the early 1900s. Wool was transported by horses, donkeys, or camels until the 1914 drought.

In 1927 Elder Smith & Co sold Peake Station to the newly formed Wyloo Pastoral Company. In 1928 Peake and Hardey Junction Stations were amalgamated and renamed Wyloo, after nearby Wyloo Pool ("lots of snakes"). Pastoralists R.M. Forrest, John Forrest, and Ray Cruikshank oversaw the amalgamation, and George Monger of Hardey Junction became manager.

During the 1930s Wyloo briefly hosted rotating Ashburton Road Board meetings, though the system soon reverted to holding meetings in Onslow. In 1946 the station was auctioned, advertised as comprising a stone bungalow, men's quarters, two shearing sheds, drafting yards, and extensive sheep and cattle country (550,000 and 234,000 acres respectively).

Wyloo converted fully to cattle by the early 1960s. Its distance from town (180 km from Onslow) was partly alleviated by the establishment of an airstrip. The Pensini family owned and ran Wyloo from 1976 until 2001, after which part of the property was excised to form Cheela Plains.

## DESCRIPTION

The original Wyloo Homestead, built by the station's founder, still stands at the foot of Mount McGrath about twenty metres northwest of the current main dwelling. It is a simple, symmetrical two-bedroom building with verandahs on all sides, paved with local flagstone. The walls are rendered, and the hipped corrugated iron roof and verandah posts have been recently replaced (as at 1999). The building was recorded as being in good condition.

The main homestead is much larger, also rectangular with a symmetrical façade and surrounding verandahs. Its walls are constructed from coarsely rendered mud and stone, with a hipped corrugated iron roof that had also been recently renewed. Timber-framed casement windows have substantial concrete-rendered sills and surrounds. Additions have been made at both ends of the building. The original layout included two bedrooms and a large dining room, with the kitchen remaining separate from the main structure. Internal floors were rammed earth until the 1930s, when timber floorboards were installed.

<b>CONDITION</b>	Unable to assess.
<b>INTEGRITY</b>	Unable to assess.
<b>AUTHENTICITY</b>	Unable to assess.

#### ASSOCIATIONS

Name	Type	Year From	Year To
J and M Grath	Original Owner	1888	c.1910
J and RM Forrest and R Cruikshank	Previous Owner	1928	-

#### HISTORIC THEMES

General	Specific
OCCUPATIONS	Grazing, pastoralism & dairying
PEOPLE	Early Settlers

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A site visit was not undertaken as part of the 2016 Local Government Heritage Inventory Review. Accordingly, the following Statement of Significance has been obtained from the original 1999 Municipal Heritage Inventory.

*“The Wyloo Homestead has significant aesthetic, historic and representative cultural heritage value. Wyloo is a fine representative of one of the early stations that reflects the evolution of grazing and pastoralism in the Ashburton district from the 1880s. The station is also an example of the numerous amalgamations that occurred between families and properties in the early twentieth century when cyclones, drought, low wool prices, and the tyranny of distance brought many problems to the station owners. The survival of the station and the homestead is a testimony to the strength and resilience of the pioneers and their home building knowledge.”*

#### MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Category	Category 2: Considerable significance.
Management Recommendation	Important to the heritage of the locality. Inclusion on Heritage List. The place should be retained and conserved.

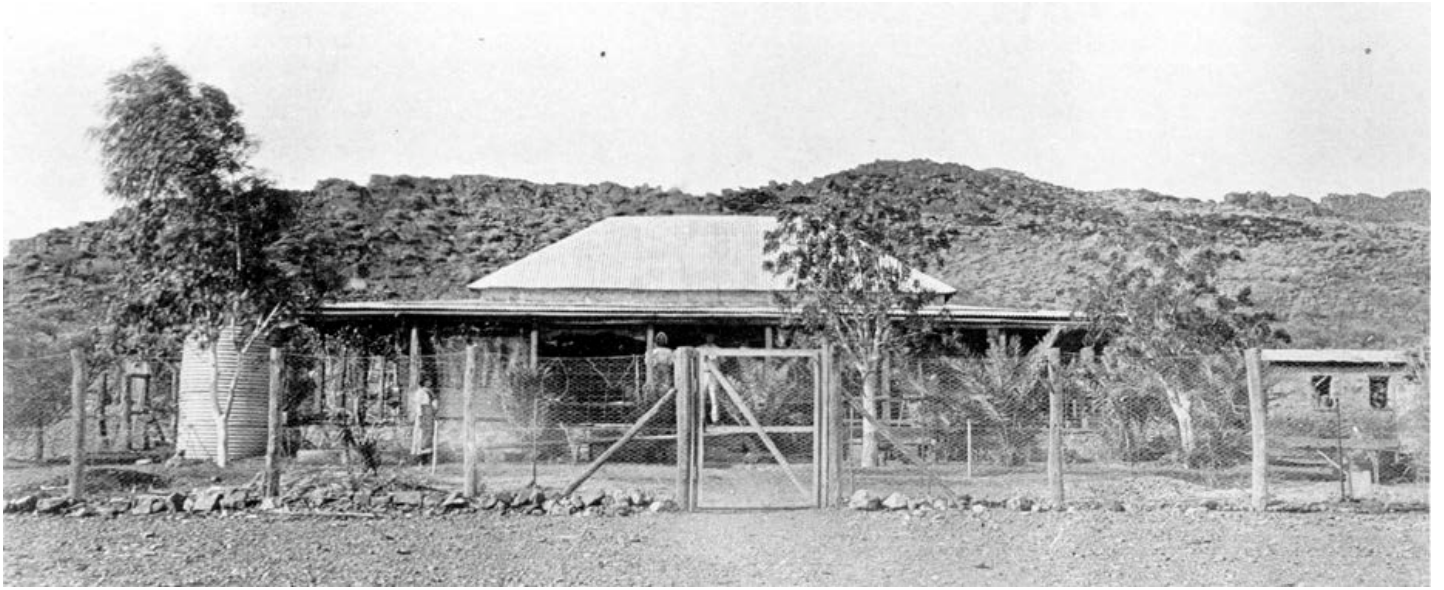
#### HERITAGE LISTINGS AND SURVEYS

Type	Status	Date
SOA Local Heritage Inventory/Survey	Adopted	August 1999

#### DOCUMENT CONTROL

Date Created	June 1999
Date Modified	October 2016
Date Modified	February 2026

**OTHER IMAGES**



Peake Homestead 1910. Source: State Library of Western Australia 001982D



View of the original homestead (Peake Homestead)



View of the later homestead Source: Shire of Ashburton 2012

**SHIRE OF ASHBURTON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT HERITAGE SURVEY  
PLACE RECORD FORM**

**YARALOOA HOMESTEAD**



**LOCATION**

<b>Address</b>	North West Costal Highway, Fortescue
<b>Other Names</b>	
<b>HCWA Place Number</b>	15398
<b>Region</b>	Pilbara
<b>Local Government Authority</b>	Shire of Ashburton

**LAND DESCRIPTION**

Reserve No.	Lot/Location	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	GPS Coordinates
-	Lot 57	DP 107521	-	21°34'10.98"S 115°52'40.30"E

## PLACE DETAILS

<b>Place Type</b>	Individual Building or Group
<b>Construction Date</b>	1920
<b>Architectural Style</b>	Vernacular
<b>Architectural Period</b>	Inter-war (c.1915-1940)
<b>Date Source</b>	1999 Shire of Ashburton Municipal Heritage Inventory
<b>Construction Materials</b>	Walls: Mud Brick Roofs: Corrugated Iron

## USE OF PLACE

<b>Original</b>	FARMING/PASTORAL	Homestead
<b>Present</b>	FARMING/PASTORAL	Homestead
<b>Other</b>	-	

## HISTORICAL NOTES

H and W Woolhouse first leased Yarraloola in 1878. In 1894 severe flooding caused major damage, washing away outbuildings, yards, equipment and over 100 fowls, and leaving four feet of water in the dwelling.

GP Paterson and AR Richardson bought the station at auction in 1898 after selling Yeeda Station in the Kimberley. The auction notice described 400 acres of freehold and 295,000 acres of pastoral lease with 25 miles of Robe River frontage. Improvements included two jarrah-and-iron cottages, a kitchen, men's room, cook's hut, stable, harness room and blacksmith's shop.

According to the 1999 Municipal Heritage Inventory, the current homestead was built by Keith Paterson in 1919–1920. Construction was slow due to delayed supplies; many sourced from overseas. Roads remained rough through the 1920s, so camels, donkeys and horses were still used for heavy transport despite the arrival of motor vehicles. Cargo deliveries via the Yarraloola landing also declined in this period. Paterson designed and built the mud walls himself and brought an expert from Perth to complete the plastering and carpentry.

As of 2016, Yarraloola is owned by the Robe River Iron Associates joint venture through the Yarraloola Pastoral Company, managed by Rio Tinto.

## DESCRIPTION

**Exterior:** Gardens, lawns, and mature trees surround the Yarraloola Homestead. The mudbrick (adobe) house sits on concrete foundations and has a rectangular form with a half-gabled hipped Colorbond roof. A wide concrete-floored verandah, supported by concrete posts and set under a broken-backed roof, wraps the building, and has been partially enclosed. Its proportions are typical of early settler homesteads.

Several outbuildings remain, including a corrugated-iron shearing shed, three later corrugated-iron cottages, a saddle shed, meat locker, water tanks, stock yard, and fencing and pastoral equipment such as a mulesing cradle. The shearing shed, about 100 metres northwest of the homestead, is a large rectangular corrugated-iron structure with a pitched roof.

**Interior:** The homestead interior is in poor condition, with collapsed ceilings and walls due to water ingress. Remaining original features include timber fire surrounds, doors, windows, and ironmongery. The shearing shed retains its original bush-pole structure and rammed-earth floor, though the roof has been replaced. The building is mostly vacant, with some original equipment still onsite.

## ARCHAEOLOGY NOTES

*Yaraloola Homestead and associated outbuildings* have the potential, through their built fabric to yield understanding of the pastoral homesteads from the 1890's to the present. The landscape also has potential to yield artefacts relating to pastoral practices from the 1878 to the present.

<b>CONDITION</b>	Poor. Dilapidation of the Homestead building is quite advanced due to water ingress. Outbuildings are also increasingly in need of repair.
<b>INTEGRITY</b>	Moderate. Currently mothballed with the potential to be restored and re-used as a homestead. The ability to understand the original pastoral operation remains apparent.
<b>AUTHENTICITY</b>	Medium. The Homestead building has undergone some change over time, and the site has evolved in several stages. Decay is beginning to impact the intact original fabric.

## ASSOCIATIONS

Name	Type	Year From	Year To
H and W Woolhouse	Original Owner	1878	1898
GP Paterson and AR Richardson	Previous Owner	1898	-

## HISTORIC THEMES

General	Specific
OCCUPATIONS	Grazing, pastoralism & dairying
PEOPLE	Early Settlers

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*Yaraloola Homestead has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:*

*Yarraloola Homestead has aesthetic, historic and representative cultural heritage significance. The homestead, first built in 1920, was a home of the Paterson family for over 78 years. It is an intact example representing the way of life on a pastoral station in the North West."*

*the homestead and early outbuildings are aesthetically linked in their similar construction materials and rural purpose and collectively form a cultural environment that is evidence of the history of early European settlement and occupation of the Pilbara area.*

## MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Category	Category 2: Considerable significance
Management Recommendation	Important to the heritage of the locality. Inclusion on Heritage List. The place should be retained and conserved.

## HERITAGE LISTINGS AND SURVEYS

Type	Status	Date
SOA Local Heritage Inventory/Survey	Adopted	August 1999
State Register Assessment Program	Current	May 2003

## DOCUMENT CONTROL

Date Created	June 1999
Date Modified	October 2016
Date Modified	February 2026

**OTHER IMAGES**



Figure 1. Site Plan illustrating location of Homestead and out buildings.



Front of Homestead, 2017



Homestead infilled verandah, 2017



Homestead Sleepout, 2017



Homestead original timber fire surrounds, 2017



Outbuilding, 2017



Outbuilding, 2017



Outbuilding, 2017



Pens and gates, 2017



Outbuildings an water tanks, 2017



Shearers Shed, 2017

**SHIRE OF ASHBURTON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT HERITAGE SURVEY  
PLACE RECORD FORM**

**DEEPPDALE STATION**



**LOCATION**

<b>Address</b>	Millstream Road, Pannawonica
<b>Other Names</b>	
<b>HCWA Place Number</b>	-
<b>Region</b>	Pilbara
<b>Local Government Authority</b>	Shire of Ashburton

**LAND DESCRIPTION**

<b>Reserve No.</b>	<b>Lot/Location</b>	<b>Plan/Diagram</b>	<b>Vol/Folio</b>	<b>GPS Coordinates</b>
-	Lot 310	DP 63519		21°42'54.8"S 116°10'47.9"E

## PLACE DETAILS

<b>Place Type</b>	Individual Building or Group
<b>Construction Date</b>	c1880
<b>Architectural Style</b>	Victorian Georgian
<b>Architectural Period</b>	Victorian (1840-1890)
<b>Date Source</b>	N/A
<b>Construction Materials</b>	Roofs: None (Originally Iron) Walls: Local Stone and Mud Brick

## USE OF PLACE

<b>Original</b>	Farming/Pastoral	Homestead and sheep station
<b>Present</b>	Farming/Pastoral	Cattle station
<b>Other</b>	-	-

## HISTORICAL NOTES

Constructed for Jim Woolhouse who held the lease until 1893. He ran the property with his brother George and George's wife Annie. Jim married Susan Thompson in 1892, and they had one daughter, Gladys. Jim died in 1904 from injuries sustained during the Boer War.

The station ran sheep, horses, and donkeys. Sheds, yards, and outbuildings are no longer extant, although some blackheart fence posts from the late nineteenth century remain. An Aboriginal workforce of approximately 60 people was employed at the Station by the Woolhouse's.

From 1893 to 1910, the property was managed by various members of the Woolhouse family. The station bred horses for the British Army in India. From 1920-21 Deepdale was in the ownership of Arther Lockyer. The station is reported to have been running cattle in this period. From 1925 to 1949 Deepdale ceased to be a station in its own right, and became part of Yarraloola, owned by AGP & KD Paterson, DMP Herbert and Mackenzie. The homestead was little used, and most of the associated buildings were removed or deteriorated beyond repair, with the exception of the cook house.

From 1949, Ashley Paterson mustered cattle on the run, and he was joined from 1952 by Bruce Patterson. In 1960, Bruce moved into the homestead at Deepdale. He lived there with his wife and daughters until 1966.

The homestead remained vacant until 1970, when Bron Sharp and family moved in. It is not known when the place was vacated. However, a grave located on the site, dated to 1975, and associated with a member of the Sharp family, indicates continuing occupation of the site until at least 1975. A fire in December 2002 left the homestead derelict.

## DESCRIPTION

Ruin of a single-storey stone homestead built from Robe River stone with clay mortar, along with a small single-room stone cookhouse. A fenced grave site is located nearby, containing a stone and concrete monument to Kenneth Dirk Sharp (1958–1975). Interior walls were finished with mud and lime plaster.

## ARCHAEOLOGY NOTES

There is potential for archaeological deposits within and around the homestead. These may yield information relating to the evolution of pastoral industry practices from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to 20<sup>th</sup> century, including the lifeways of Aboriginal station workers. The building remnants may provide research value related to building techniques from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, including use of locally available materials.

<b>CONDITION</b>	Poor – ruin
<b>INTEGRITY</b>	Low. The homestead is a ruin and no longer inhabitable
<b>AUTHENTICITY</b>	Moderate. The homestead has a high degree of original fabric but has lost its roof, windows, doors, verandah, and general interior finishes.

## HISTORIC THEMES

General	Specific
<b>OCCUPATIONS</b>	Grazing, pastoralism & dairying
<b>DEMOGRAPHICS SETTLEMENT AND MOBILITY</b>	Workers (Aboriginal People)
<b>PEOPLE</b>	Early settlers
<b>PEOPLE</b>	Aboriginal people

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*Deepdale Station (ruin), a single storey stone homestead with associated single room stone cook house, has aesthetic, historical and representative cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:*

*the place has close associations with Jim Woolhouse and the Woolhouse family, early pastoralists in the Shire who initially ran sheep, horses, and donkeys. They bred horses for the British Army in India from the 1893-1910.*

*the place has association with the development of the pastoral industry in the Pilbara district and demonstrates the evolution of a pastoral settlement since 1880.*

*the place has association with the use of Aboriginal workforces in early pastoral settlements in the Pilbara district.*

## MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Category	Category 2: Considerable significance
Management Recommendation	Important to the heritage of the locality. Inclusion on Heritage List. The place should be retained and conserved.

## HERITAGE LISTINGS AND SURVEYS

Type	Status	Date
SOA Local Heritage Inventory/Survey	Adopted	February 2026
State Register Assessment Program	Current	May 2003

## DOCUMENT CONTROL

Date Created	February 2026
Date Modified	

**OTHER IMAGES**



**Figure 1** – Grave of Kenneth Dirk Sharp located west of the Homestead.



**Figure 2** – West elevation of the Deepdale Homestead.



**Figure 3** – Deepdale Homestead looking southeast.



**Figure 4** – Existing condition of the interior and doors



**Figure 5** – Deepdale Homestead existing condition. Remnants of stone paths, verandah posts. Roof door and window joinery missing.



**Figure 6** – Deepdale Homestead looking east from the onsite grave towards the ruin of the homestead.

# CATEGORY 3

Notable Significance



**SHIRE OF ASHBURTON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT HERITAGE SURVEY  
PLACE RECORD FORM**

**BOB MCAULLAY'S TREE**



**LOCATION**

<b>Address</b>	Onslow Road, Thalanyji
<b>Other Names</b>	-
<b>HCWA Place Number</b>	-
<b>Region</b>	Pilbara
<b>Local Government Authority</b>	Shire of Ashburton

**LAND DESCRIPTION**

Reserve No.	Lot/Location	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	GPS Coordinates
-	-	-	-	22° 4'13.42"S 115°28'2.47"E

## PLACE DETAILS

Place Type	Tree
Construction Date	c. 1969 (Planted)
Architectural Style	N/A
Architectural Period	N/A
Date Source	Inscription on plaque next to tree
Construction Materials	N/A

## USE OF PLACE

Original	Transport/Communications	Roads
Present	Transport/Communications	Roads
Other		

## HISTORICAL NOTES

Onslow Road is the main link to Onslow from the North West Coastal Highway. The road was constructed in the 1980's to service the Onslow community and the mining operations.

Bob McAullay was a Shire grade operator from 1969 to 1980. Bob nurtured this tree in its infancy and in recognition of this the Main Roads Department and Shire Council ensured that the tree remained when the Onslow Access Road was aligned and sealed.

In 2012, as part of road upgrade works, Chevron erected a guard rail around Bobby's Tree, to help ensure its ongoing protection. The tree was damaged by vandals in January 2017.

## DESCRIPTION

Bob McAullay's Tree, a gum tree, is located behind a guard rail alongside Onslow Road, approximately 60 kilometres south-east of Onslow townsite. It is a tall tree which stands out amongst the surrounding shrubland. Next to the tree, set in a large stone, is a plaque which reads:

*"This tree is respectfully known as "Bobby's Tree." Bob McAullay, a Shire grade operator from 1969 to 1980, nurtured this tree in its infancy and in recognition of this, the Main Roads Department and Shire Council ensured that the tree remained when the Onslow Access Road was aligned and sealed."*

## ASSOCIATIONS

Name	Type	Year From	Year To
Bob McAullay	Other	1969	1980

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*Bobby's Tree has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:*

*the gum tree has landmark quality, due to its size, canopy, and striking white trunk which stands out amongst the surrounding shrubland.*

*the gum tree is associated with the development of Onslow Road, which has improved access to Onslow.*

## HISTORIC THEMES

General	Specific
TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATIONS	Road Transport
DEMOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENT & MOBILITY	Workers

### MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Category	Category 3: Notable significance
Management Recommendation	Contributes to the heritage of the locality. Inclusion on Heritage List. Encouragement should be given to the retention and conservation of the place

### HERITAGE LISTINGS AND SURVEYS

Type	Status	Date
SOA Local Heritage Inventory/Survey	Adopted	November 2016

### DOCUMENT CONTROL

Date Created	November 2016
Date Modified	February 2026

### OTHER IMAGES



**SHIRE OF ASHBURTON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT HERITAGE SURVEY  
PLACE RECORD FORM**

**FUEL STORAGE TANKS**



**LOCATION**

<b>Address</b>	Onslow, Various Locations
<b>Other Names</b>	-
<b>HCWA Place Number</b>	-
<b>Region</b>	Pilbara
<b>Local Government Authority</b>	Shire of Ashburton

**LAND DESCRIPTION**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Lot/Location</b>	<b>Plan/Diagram</b>	<b>Vol/Folio</b>	<b>GPS Coordinates</b>
Aviation Spirit Tank (former)	385	205462	1723-928	21°38'29.11"S 115° 6'28.56"E
Dieseline Tank (demolished)	383	205462	LR3150-955	21°38'16.64"S 115° 6'31.76"E
Furnace Oil Tanks 1/2 (demolished)	381	205462	1558-483	21°38'1.65"S 115° 6'30.86"E
Pump Outstation	380	205462	1558-482	21°37'57.27"S 115° 6'35.02"E
Hose Locker	3501	48469	LR314-782	21°38'0.94"S 115° 6'40.97"E

## PLACE DETAILS

<b>Place Type</b>	Individual Building or Group
<b>Construction Date</b>	1943/44
<b>Architectural Style</b>	N/A
<b>Architectural Period</b>	Post-war (c.1940-1960) Note: This period actually includes WWII.
<b>Date Source</b>	Glyde, 2007, The Secret Potshot (Exmouth) and the Onslow Fuel Tanks
<b>Construction Materials</b>	Steel and Cement

## USE OF PLACE

<b>Original</b>	MILITARY	Other
<b>Present</b>	OTHER	Other
<b>Other</b>		

## HISTORICAL NOTES

During World War II, a defence survey identified North West Cape as a strategic site, leading Australian forces and the US Navy to establish an advanced aerodrome and submarine base at the southern end of Exmouth Gulf under Operation Potshot. Onslow supported the base with new fuel storage facilities for marine and aviation fuels, built in 1944 under PWD engineer Ken Kelsall and the Allied Works Council. After a Japanese bombing on 15 September 1943, the US Navy supplied weapons to protect the tank area.

After the war, the facilities were decommissioned and taken over by the Shell Company of Australia to supply fuel to State Shipping Service vessels, Blue Funnel Line ships, and naval units involved in the Montebello atomic tests. A 1961 cyclone destroyed part of the jetty; Midalia and Benn later installed an underwater pipeline to pump remaining fuel offshore.

Most structures known as the Fuel Storage Tanks have since been removed. The remaining elements include the Aviation Spirit Tank on Simpson Street, the Pump Out Station, Hose Locker, and jetty remnants. The Aviation Tank has been used for storage and as a cyclone shelter. Other tanks were demolished between 2009 and 2016.

## DESCRIPTION

The remnants of the Onslow Fuel Storage Tanks sit between Simpson Street and the ocean, north-west of the townsite. The original facility included four 2000-ton welded steel tanks, a Hose Locker and a Pump Out Station. The tanks were set low in the dunes: two fuel-oil tanks near the shore with a pumping station between them, the distillate tank further inland, and the aviation fuel tank furthest back. Today only the Hose Locker (at the end of Ocean View Caravan Park), the Pump Out Station (on the beach), and the Aviation Spirit Tank (along Simpson Street) remain.

The tanks were built of steel transported by sea from Perth—half-inch plate at the base, reducing to quarter-inch plate higher up. Materials for the tank bases were also shipped from Perth, while the blast walls were constructed of rammed earth using local clay, sand, gravel and cement.

## ARCHAEOLOGY NOTES

The place has the potential, through its built fabric and the sites of demolished tanks, to yield information regarding coastal defence infrastructure in Western Australia in during World War II.

<b>CONDITION</b>	Good.
<b>INTEGRITY</b>	Low. The place is no longer used as a fuel tank for military purposes.
<b>AUTHENTICITY</b>	Low. The present site is much smaller than the original complex. The setting has altered and most of the structures have been removed.

## ASSOCIATIONS

Name	Type	Year From	Year To
Royal Australian Air Force	Previous Occupant	1943	1945
Australian Military Forces	Previous Occupant	1943	1945
United States Navy	Previous Occupant	1943	1945
Ken Kelsall	Other (Engineer)	1943	1944
Shell Company of Australia	Previous Occupant	1946	-
Midalia and Benn	Previous Occupant	1961/63	-

## HISTORIC THEMES

General	Specific
OUTSIDE INFLUENCES	World Wars & other wars
DEMOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENT & MOBILITY	Government Policy

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*The Fuel Storage Tanks have cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:*

*the Aviation Spirit Pump Station (fmr) is a local landmark by virtue of its simple form and industrial character that provide a striking contrast to the adjacent open dune landscape.*

*the various elements remain as evidence of the importance of defending the Western Australian coastline, during World War II.*

*the place comprises remnants of a much larger defence complex which and has played a part in a larger, national system of coastal defence strategies during World War Two, especially supplying fuel for the aerodrome and submarine base at the southern end of Exmouth Gulf (also known as the potshot base).*

**MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

Management Category	Category 3: Notable significance
Management Recommendation	Contributes to the heritage of the locality. Inclusion on Heritage List. Encouragement should be given to the conservation of the place.

**HERITAGE LISTINGS AND SURVEYS**

Type	Status	Date
SOA Local Heritage Inventory/Survey	Adopted	November 2016

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Glyde, B, 2007, The Secret Potshot (Exmouth) Base the Onslow Fuel Tanks, Artillery WA, Official Newsletter of Royal Australian Artillery Association of WA (Inc) Edition 6 2/05 June 2005  
Landgate Historical Aerials.

**DOCUMENT CONTROL**

Date Created	November 2016
Date Modified	February 2026

OTHER IMAGES



Pump Out Station and remains of Onslow jetty beyond, 2016.

**SHIRE OF ASHBURTON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT HERITAGE SURVEY  
PLACE RECORD FORM**

**PERMANENT POOLS - ASHBURTON RIVER**



**LOCATION**

<b>Address</b>	Old Onslow Road and Twitchin Road, Thalanyji
<b>Other Names</b>	Three Mile Pool, Five Mile Pool and Ten Mile Pool
<b>HCWA Place Number</b>	15373
<b>Region</b>	Pilbara
<b>Local Government Authority</b>	Shire of Ashburton

**LAND DESCRIPTION**

<b>Place Name</b>	<b>GPS Coordinates</b>
<b>Three Mile Pool</b>	21°45'34.16"S 114°57'3.10"E
<b>Five Mile Pool</b>	21°46'39.21"S 114°58'57.29"E
<b>Ten Mile Pool</b>	21°51'33.87"S 115° 0'2.44"E

## PLACE DETAILS

Place Type	Landscape
Construction Date	N/A
Architectural Style	N/A
Architectural Period	N/A
Date Source	N/A
Construction Materials	N/A

## USE OF PLACE

Original	FARMING/PASTORAL	Other
Present	FARMING/PASTORAL	Other
Other	SOCIAL/RECREATIONAL	Other

## HISTORICAL NOTES

The Three Mile, Five Mile and Ten Mile Pools are permanent pools along the Ashburton River, named for their distance from Old Onslow. They have long been vital water sources in an otherwise dry region. Fresh water is maintained by a levy near Three Mile Pool that prevents saltwater encroachment.

The first weir at Three Mile Pool was built in the 1930s by Richard Mervyn Forrest from brush, but it was not salt proof. Around 40 years later, Don Forrest designed and engaged Bill Shanks of Northern Transport Co to build a stone weir, assisted by Bill Bell and Sam Fullbrook.

Ten Mile Pool was once thought to be Camel Pool, a known teamsters' campsite, but research suggests Camel Pool is actually near the Ashburton Road River Bridge. Ten Mile Pool itself was the site of Edward T. Hooley's 1868 camp, destroyed by a cyclone, after which he relocated to the future Minderoo Homestead site. David Forrest similarly camped at Ten Mile in the late 1870s before another cyclone forced him inland to what became Minderoo Homestead.

Though on private land at Minderoo Station, Three Mile and Five Mile Pools are open to the public with roads maintained by the Shire. Three Mile is commonly used for camping, Five Mile is popular for picnics and swimming, and Ten Mile is less accessible.

## DESCRIPTION

The permanent pools along the Ashburton River are substantial waterholes that never dry up. Access differs between sites: Ten Mile Pool has steep banks, Five Mile Pool moderately steep banks, and Three Mile Pool a gentle slope to the water. Gum trees line the riverbanks, providing shade for visitors.

At Three Mile Pool, a stone river wall includes a plaque reading: "Ashburton River Scotty's Wall, constructed in 1959 by the Forrest Family of Minderoo Station. This tide barrage separates the upstream freshwater from the Indian Ocean. Builders: Scotty Blac, Sam Fullbrook, Nill Bell. Designer: Don Forrest."

## ARCHAEOLOGY NOTES

Given the sites have historically been used for camping by early settlers the three pools have archaeological potential.

<b>CONDITION</b>	Good
<b>INTEGRITY</b>	High
<b>AUTHENTICITY</b>	High

## ASSOCIATIONS

Name	Type	Year From	Year To
Bill Shanks, Bill Bell and Sam Fulbrook	Builder	1959	1959
Sir John Forrest	Previous owner	1878	-
Alexander Forrest	Previous owner	1878	-
David Forrest	Previous owner	1878	1917
Septimus Burt	Previous owner	1878	1901
Mervyn Forrest	Previous owner	1878	1973
Don Forrest	Previous owner	1878	1998
Murion Pastoral Company	Previous owner	1878	2009
Andrew Forrest	Current owner	2009	Present

## HISTORIC THEMES

General	Specific
DEMOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENT & MOBILITY	Exploration and Surveying
OCCUPATIONS	Rural industry and market gardening
PEOPLE	Early settlers

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*The Three, Five and Ten Mile Pools are permanent pools along the Ashburton River, which have cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:*

*the three pools are exceptionally picturesque elements along the Ashburton River. The large expanses of water flanked by gum trees provides a simple yet dramatic natural scene.*

*the pools are valued by the local community and tourists alike as an oasis for camping, picnics and swimming in a mostly dry and remote area.*

*historically the pools were important to the early pioneer settlers for wool washing and stock grazing as well as recreation. The fresh water has been protected by the building of the levy at the Three Mile Pool.*

## MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Category	Category 3: Notable significance
Management Recommendation	Contributes to the heritage of the locality. Inclusion on Heritage List. Encouragement should be given to the conservation of the place.

## HERITAGE LISTINGS AND SURVEYS

Type	Status	Date
SOA Local Heritage Inventory/Survey	Adopted	August 1999

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY

C Day; "Oral history given by Trevor Wright, Shire of Ashburton"  
Hudson, T (2016) Minderoo est 1978, Minderoo  
Western Mail, North West News, Thursday 20 October 1927, pp.12

## DOCUMENT CONTROL

Date Created	June 1999
Date Modified	October 2016
Date Modified	February 2026

## OTHER IMAGES



Three Mile Pool, 2016.



Ten Mile Pool, 2016.

**SHIRE OF ASHBURTON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT HERITAGE SURVEY  
PLACE RECORD FORM**

**SWEETING RESIDENCE - ONSLOW**



**LOCATION**

<b>Address</b>	18 Third Avenue, Onslow
<b>Other Names</b>	
<b>HCWA Place Number</b>	15377
<b>Region</b>	Pilbara
<b>Local Government Authority</b>	Shire of Ashburton

**LAND DESCRIPTION**

Reserve No.	Lot/Location	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	GPS Coordinates
-	Lot 326	DP 202376	1582-300	21°38'10.87"S 115° 6'40.87"E

## PLACE DETAILS

<b>Place Type</b>	Individual Building or Group
<b>Construction Date</b>	c1926 on this site
<b>Architectural Style</b>	North West Vernacular
<b>Architectural Period</b>	Inter-War (1915-1940)
<b>Date Source</b>	1998 Shire of Ashburton Municipal Heritage Inventory
<b>Construction Materials</b>	Walls: Corrugated Iron Roofs: Corrugated Iron

## USE OF PLACE

<b>Original</b>	RESIDENTIAL	Single storey residence
<b>Present</b>	RESIDENTIAL	Single storey residence
<b>Other</b>	-	-

## HISTORICAL NOTES

The town and port of Old Onslow were gazetted in 1885 but soon faced problems due to the site's natural conditions and port operations. A new jetty was later built at Beadon Point, isolating the old townsite from district trade routes. By 1920 it was clear the town needed relocating, and the new Onslow at Beadon Point was gazetted in 1924. Buildings were gradually moved from Old Onslow, including this residence, re-established around 1926. Originally a two-room dwelling, it has since been altered. It is known as the Sweeting Residence after Margaret Sweeting, a long-term local who settled in Onslow in 1947.

## DESCRIPTION

The place is a single-storey residence on Third Avenue, set eight metres back on a 1,012 m<sup>2</sup> block with a simple star-picket and wire front fence, some lawn, and a large palm tree. A single garage with an attached carport sits on the southern side. The house is two rooms wide, with horizontal mini-orb cladding to the front and custom-orb cladding to the sides. It has a shallow corrugated iron gable roof and a flat verandah roof supported by slender steel posts, with a lattice screen for shade. The verandah has a concrete floor, and the facade features aluminum sliding windows and an external air-conditioning unit.

<b>CONDITION</b>	Good
<b>INTEGRITY</b>	High. The place is still used as a residence.
<b>AUTHENTICITY</b>	Medium. Overtime various alterations and additions have been made but the overall form of the original dwelling is still discernible.

## HISTORIC THEMES

<b>General</b>	<b>Specific</b>
DEMOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENT & MOBILITY	Settlements
DEMOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENT & MOBILITY	Land allocation & subdivision

## ASSOCIATIONS

<b>Name</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Year From</b>	<b>Year To</b>
Margaret Sweeting	Owner	1947	-

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*The residence has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:*

*the residence is a modest example of the North West vernacular style of architecture with its corrugated iron wall cladding and corrugated iron roof demonstrating a functional response to the harsh climate.*

*the residence is one of the few buildings brought from Old Onslow that has survived the harsh climate conditions of the North West, as cyclones and floods have destroyed many of the structures from that period.*

## MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Category	Category 3: Notable significance
Management Recommendation	Contributes to the heritage of the locality. Inclusion on Heritage List. Encouragement should be given to the conservation of the place.

## HERITAGE LISTINGS AND SURVEYS

Type	Status	Date
SOA Local Heritage Inventory/Survey	Adopted	August 1999

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY

Oral Information by Laura Shannon, long term resident of Onslow, given to Cathy Day on 13 January 1999.

## DOCUMENT CONTROL

Date Created	June 1999
Date Modified	October 2016
Date Modified	February 2026



**SHIRE OF ASHBURTON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT HERITAGE SURVEY  
PLACE RECORD FORM**

**NINTIRRI CENTRE**



**LOCATION**

<b>Address</b>	2 Central Road, corner Stadium Road, Tom Price
<b>Other Names</b>	Silver City, Koobunya/Nintirri Centre
<b>HCWA Place Number</b>	15365
<b>Region</b>	Pilbara
<b>Local Government Authority</b>	Shire of Ashburton

**LAND DESCRIPTION**

Reserve No.	Lot/Location	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	GPS Coordinates
-	Lot 2	P 18928	1968-566	22°41'33.62"S 117°47'43.85"E

## PLACE DETAILS

<b>Place Type</b>	Individual Building or Group
<b>Construction Date</b>	Circa 1966/7
<b>Architectural Style</b>	Other
<b>Architectural Period</b>	Late Twentieth Century Period (1960-)
<b>Date Source</b>	Site plan held at the State Records Office
<b>Construction Materials</b>	Walls: Corrugated Iron Roofs: Corrugated Iron

## USE OF PLACE

<b>Original</b>	MINING	Housing or Quarters
<b>Present</b>	SOCIAL/RECREATIONAL	Community Hall/Centre
<b>Other</b>	EDUCATIONAL	Pre-Primary Centre

## HISTORICAL NOTES

The Nintirri Centre was originally built in 1966/67 as single men's quarters and an administration centre for Hamersley Iron. Eight identical buildings were constructed in three rows north of Stadium Road; four remained by 2019. A separate Community Centre was built in 1968 at Central Road and Tamarind Street for early residents.

In 1983 local women founded the Women's Activity and Socialising House (WASH) to address the lack of facilities for non-working women and children. The centre was renamed Nintirri in 1985, meaning "holding a child on the hip" or "nurturing" in Eastern Guruma language. The buildings were adapted for community use, including childcare, a toy library, art studios, a conference room and legal aid.

Nintirri became an incorporated body in 1988 and now employs more than 30 people across six service areas. It continues to operate as a community hub, including the long-running Little Gecko's Childcare Centre, after-school care, toy library, school readiness programs, community health and wellbeing services, resource centre functions and family violence prevention services. Around 2013, the original distinctive gable ends were removed and replaced with sheeting to match the main roof form.

## DESCRIPTION

The Nintirri Centre consists of two long, rectangular buildings aligned parallel at the corner of Central and Stadium Roads. Both are set back behind lawn areas with mature shade trees, with bitumen driveways and parking to the north and east.

The buildings are almost identical and separated by an outdoor play area. Each has a wide steel-framed verandah along the front and eastern end, supported by square posts with a pool-fence balustrade. Both buildings have corrugated-iron gable roofs without guttering, and walls clad in wide-profile corrugated metal. The front elevations contain aluminium windows, while the eastern and western ends have solid doors only. The northern building is grey, and the southern building is painted red.

<b>CONDITION</b>	Good.
<b>INTEGRITY</b>	Low. The place was designed and constructed for the use as single men's quarters and as an administration centre for Hamersley Iron.
<b>AUTHENTICITY</b>	Medium. The original roof form has been altered by the removal of gable ends however the overall rectangular form of the building remains as original.

#### ASSOCIATIONS

Name	Type	Year From	Year To
Hamersley Iron	Previous Owner/Builder	1966	1983
Women's Activity & Socialising House	Previous Occupant	1983	-

#### HISTORIC THEMES

General	Specific
SOCIAL & CIVIC ACTIVITIES	Community services & utilities
OCCUPATIONS	Mining (mineral processing)
DEMOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENT & MOBILITY	Settlements

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

<p><i>The Nintirri Centre has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:</i></p> <p><i>the buildings are representative of the early development of Tom Price as they were originally built as single men's quarters for Hamersley Iron. The buildings add to the townscape and represents the way of life in a North West mining town in the late 1960s.</i></p> <p><i>the centre has provided an important social service for the local community since 1983 and today continues to have an important social function providing childcare and community services.</i></p>
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#### MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Category	Category 3: Notable significance
Management Recommendation	Contributes to the heritage of the locality. Encouragement should be given to the retention and conservation of the place.

#### HERITAGE LISTINGS AND SURVEYS

Type	Status	Date
SOA Local Heritage Inventory/Survey	Adopted	17 August 1999

#### SUPPORTING INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY

<p>Shire of Ashburton notes. Nintirri Centre website. <a href="http://www.nintirri.org.au/history">http://www.nintirri.org.au/history</a></p>
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#### DOCUMENT CONTROL

Date Created	June 1999
Date Modified	November 2016
Date Modified	February 2026

OTHER IMAGES



**SHIRE OF ASHBURTON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT HERITAGE SURVEY  
PLACE RECORD FORM**

**TOM PRICE SHOPPING ARCADE**



**LOCATION**

<b>Address</b>	1 Stadium Road, Tom Price
<b>Other Names</b>	Single Men's Mess, Town Services, Electrical and Painters Workshop
<b>HCWA Place Number</b>	15395
<b>Region</b>	Pilbara
<b>Local Government Authority</b>	Shire of Ashburton

**LAND DESCRIPTION**

Reserve No.	Lot/Location	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	GPS Coordinates
-	Lot 1	13318	2796-286	22°41'36.35"S 117°47'44.14"E

## PLACE DETAILS

<b>Place Type</b>	Individual Building or Group
<b>Construction Date</b>	1967
<b>Architectural Style</b>	North West Vernacular
<b>Architectural Period</b>	Late Twentieth Century Period (1960-)
<b>Date Source</b>	1999 Shire of Ashburton Municipal Heritage Inventory
<b>Construction Materials</b>	Walls: Concrete Block Roofs: Corrugated Iron

## USE OF PLACE

<b>Original</b>	MINING	Housing and Quarters
<b>Present</b>	COMMERCIAL	Shopping Complex
<b>Other</b>	INDUSTRIAL/MANUFACTURING	Other

## HISTORICAL NOTES

The Tom Price Shopping Arcade was built in 1967 to be used as a mess for the mining and construction workers. To the north of Stadium Road, within close walking distance, there was a cluster of men's quarters (including what is now known as the Nintirri Centre). The mess closed in 1974 and was converted to town services, electrical, and painter's workshops in 1976. In 1990 the old mess was reopened as a shopping arcade. In 2012 the centre housed Blockbuster Video, various offices, Nameless Café, and Cacy's Convenience Store. In 2016, the place housed a variety of tenants including WorkPac Group, Skilled Workforce, Peppy's Pizza and Cacy's Convenience Store.

## DESCRIPTION

The Shopping Arcade is located along the south-eastern corner of the Stadium and Central Road intersection in Tom Price. The Stadium Street setback comprises car parking and a slightly raised lawn area with mature palm trees. The Central Road setback comprises lawn and other mature vegetation.

The rectangular building, with a gable roof, has simple lines and utilitarian building material typical of the mining towns of the North West. The building is similar in design to the Nintirri Centre opposite; however, it retains its original gables featured centrally and at both ends of the building. Solidly constructed of concrete blocks and steel frame, the buildings windows are concealed by aluminium security frames.

<b>CONDITION</b>	Good.
<b>INTEGRITY</b>	Low. The place was designed and constructed for the use as a mess for the nearby single men's quarters. It is now used as a shopping arcade.
<b>AUTHENTICITY</b>	Medium.

## HISTORIC THEMES

<b>General</b>	<b>Specific</b>
SOCIAL & CIVIC ACTIVITIES	Community services & utilities
OCCUPATIONS	Mining (mineral processing)
DEMOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENT & MOBILITY	Settlements

## ASSOCIATIONS

<b>Name</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Year From</b>	<b>Year To</b>
Hamersley Iron	Previous Owner/Builder	1967	1973

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*The Tom Price Shopping Arcade, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:*

*the place is representative of the early development of Tom Price, being originally built as the single men's mess for Hamersley Iron. The building represents the way of life in a North West mining town.*

## MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Category	Category 3: Notable significance
Management Recommendation	Contributes to the heritage of the locality. Encouragement should be given to the retention and conservation of the place.

## HERITAGE LISTINGS AND SURVEYS

Type	Status	Date
SOA Local Heritage Inventory/Survey	Adopted	17 August 1999

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY

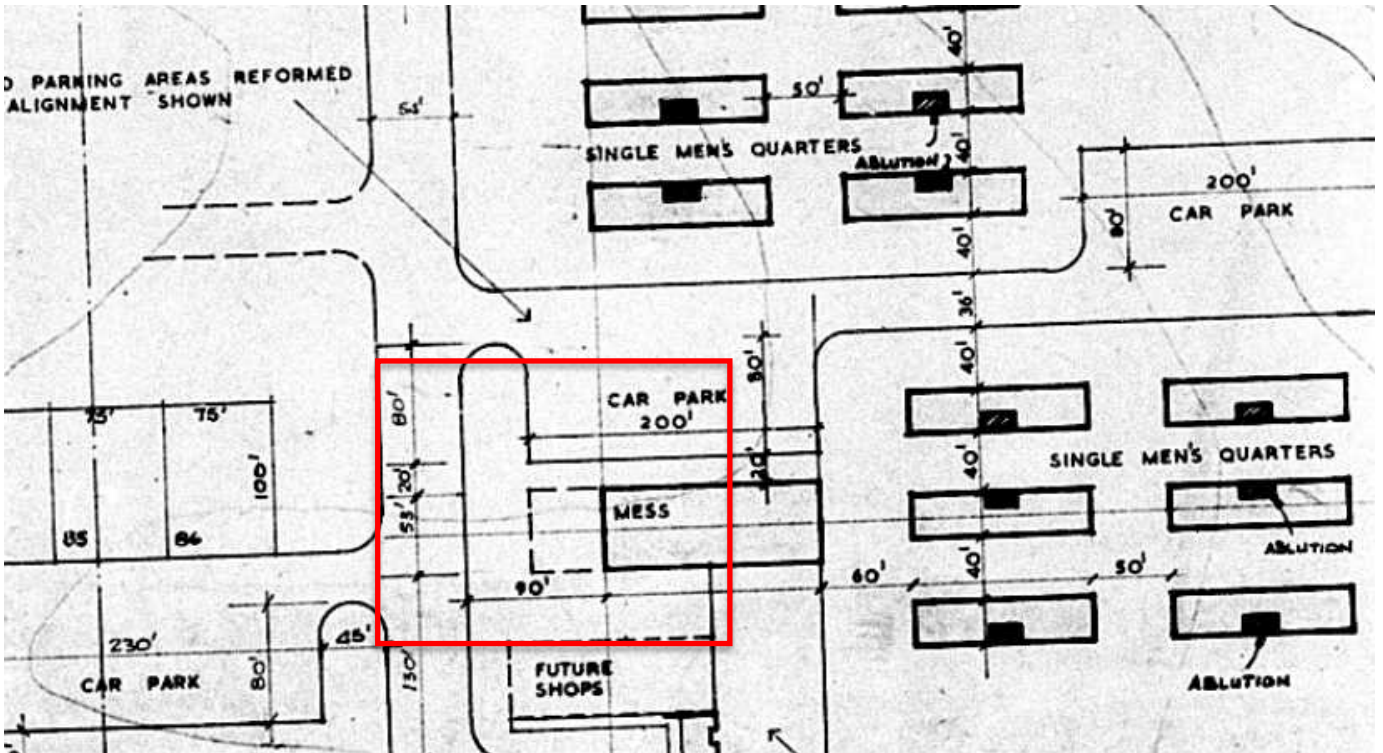
Shire of Ashburton Notes.

Hamersley Iron, (n.d) This is Tom Price booklet, held at the Tom Price Library.

## DOCUMENT CONTROL

Date Created	June 1999
Date Modified	October 2016
Date Modified	February 2026

**OTHER IMAGES**



Site plan of Tom Price showing subject building (highlighted red) in 1966. Source State Records Office



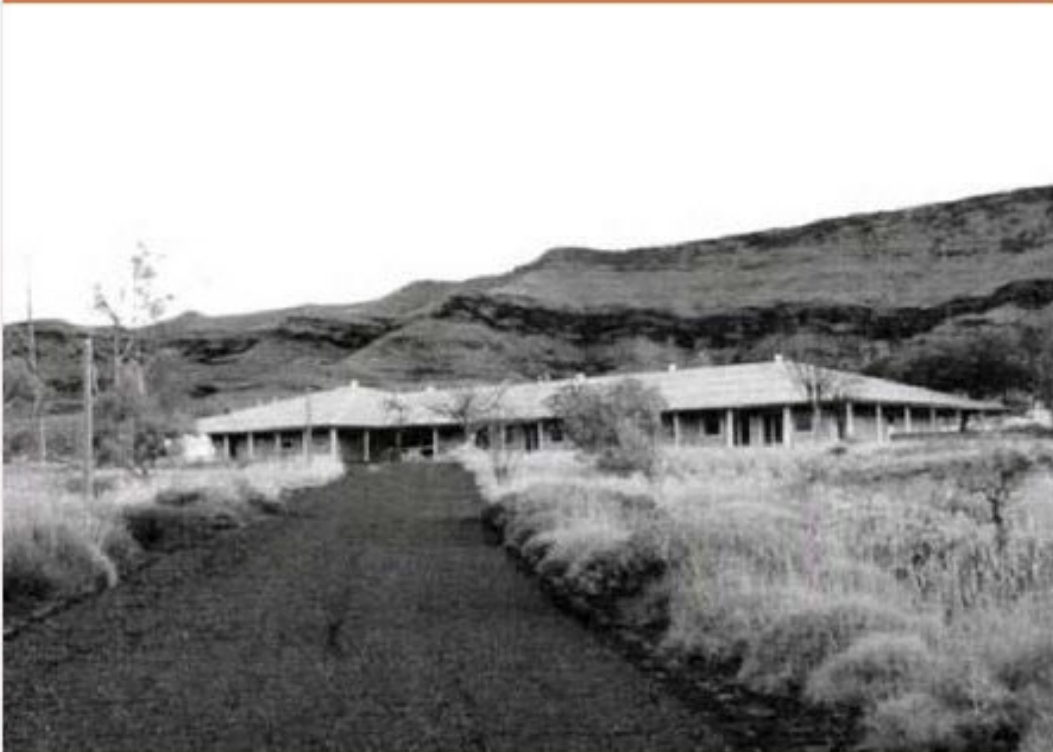
Tom Price Shopping Arcade, 2016.



Tom Price Shopping Arcade, 2016.

# CATEGORY 4

Limited Significance



**SHIRE OF ASHBURTON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT HERITAGE SURVEY  
PLACE RECORD FORM**

**FORMER POLICE RESIDENCE**



**LOCATION**

<b>Address</b>	3 First Street, Onslow
<b>Other Names</b>	-
<b>HCWA Place Number</b>	15366
<b>Region</b>	Pilbara
<b>Local Government Authority</b>	Shire of Ashburton

**LAND DESCRIPTION**

Reserve No.	Lot/Location	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	GPS Coordinates
R42626	944	P191012	LR3100-859	21°38'6.02"S 115° 6'38.38"E

## PLACE DETAILS

<b>Place Type</b>	Individual Building or Group
<b>Construction Date</b>	1925
<b>Architectural Style</b>	North West Vernacular Bungalow
<b>Architectural Period</b>	Inter-war (1915-1940)
<b>Date Source</b>	Webb M&A (1983) Edge of Empire, Artlook Publishers
<b>Construction Materials</b>	Walls: Timber Roofs: Corrugated Iron

## USE OF PLACE

<b>Original</b>	GOVERNMENT	Police Station/Quarters
<b>Present</b>	GOVERNMENT	Government Residence
<b>Other</b>	-	

## HISTORICAL NOTES

The former Police Constable's Residence was built in 1925, shortly after the new Onslow townsite at Beadon Point was gazetted. It formed part of the early streetscape of the new town and replaced the earlier 1893 Police Station and Quarters at Old Onslow, which could not be relocated when the town shifted from the Ashburton River mouth to Beadon Point.

Two police cottages were built to the same Public Works Department plan, each costing £1,400, with identical quarters also constructed for the wharfinger. The subject residence remained on its original site, while the second cottage at No. 1 First Street was later demolished and replaced. Behind the cottages were the police gaol and stables, also now demolished.

The residence was part of a larger program of 1925 public works, including the goods shed, hospital, wharfinger's quarters, tramway, water supply scheme and school. Early reports note the first officers—Sergt. Pilkington and Constable Martin—established extensive gardens at the new quarters. The former Police Constable's Residence was demolished and the site cleared between September 2023 and May 2024.

## DESCRIPTION

The residence was located along a portion of First Street, west of Second Avenue, which comprises a total of four dwellings and abuts the current Onslow Police Station. The house was set back approximately ten metres from the front boundary behind a simple iron post and wire fence and was shaded by a large Poinciana tree.

The residence was an example of a North West Vernacular Bungalow with its large simple roof plane, deep shady verandah and unpretentious homely quality. The building was raised on stumps and had a hipped corrugated iron roof with cyclone battening. The roof form extended to provide coverage for the front and side verandah, which had been enclosed completely obscuring views to the facade behind.

## ARCHAEOLOGY NOTES

There is some potential for archaeology deposits to be found on site.

<b>CONDITION</b>	N/A. The place has been demolished
<b>INTEGRITY</b>	Low. The place has been demolished
<b>AUTHENTICITY</b>	Low. The place has been demolished

## ASSOCIATIONS

Name	Type	Year From	Year To
Public Works Department	Builder	1925	1926

## HISTORIC THEMES

General	Specific
Social & Civic Activities	Law & order
Demographic settlement & mobility	Land allocation & subdivision
Demographic settlement & mobility	Settlements

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*The former Police Residence has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:*

*the building is a good example of the North West Vernacular Bungalow with its large simple roof planes, deep shady verandahs and unpretentious homely quality.*

*the place is one of the few early buildings, built soon after the relocation of the town to Beadon Point, that has survived the harsh climatic conditions of the North West*

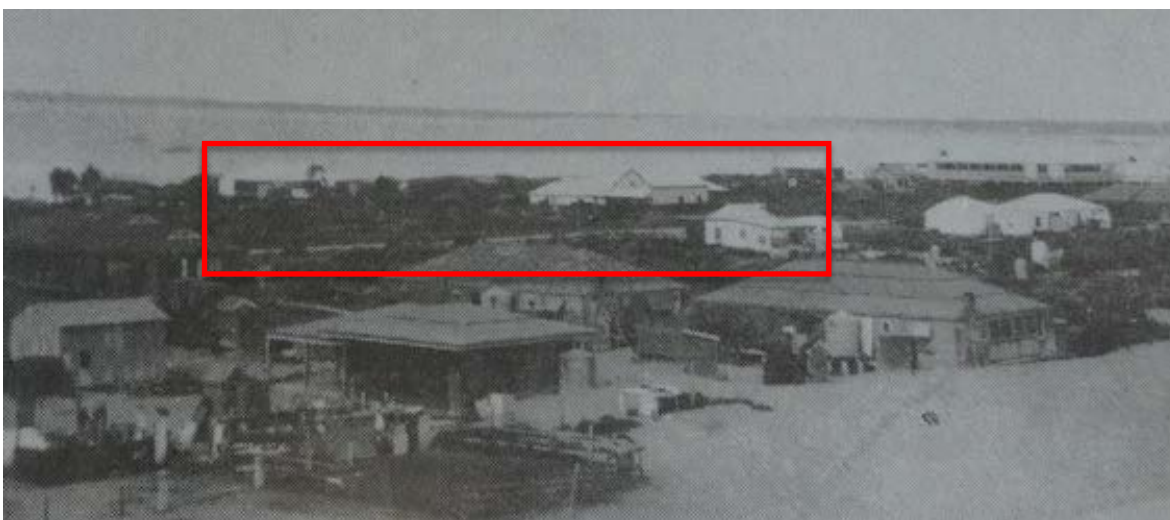
*the place is a good representative example of the type of housing for civil servants built when Onslow was formed at its new site at Beadon Point.*

## MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Category	Category 4. Limited Significance
Management Recommendation	Contributes to the history of the locality through its context and history rather than its built form. Retain record in the LHS

## HERITAGE LISTINGS AND SURVEYS

Type	Status	Date
SOA Local Heritage Inventory/Survey	Adopted	August 1999



Goal and court in the foreground. Behind two police residences (highlighted red).

**SHIRE OF ASHBURTON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT HERITAGE SURVEY  
PLACE RECORD FORM**

**OLD WITTENOOM TOWNSITE**



**LOCATION**

<b>Address</b>	Wittenoom Townsite
<b>Other Names</b>	Wittenoom
<b>HCWA Place Number</b>	15372
<b>Region</b>	Pilbara
<b>Local Government Authority</b>	Shire of Ashburton

**LAND DESCRIPTION**

Reserve No.	Lot/Location	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	GPS Coordinates
Various				22°14'26.06"S 118°20'11.66"E

## PLACE DETAILS

<b>Place Type</b>	Historic Town
<b>Construction Date</b>	Townsite gazetted 1950
<b>Architectural Style</b>	Various.
<b>Architectural Period</b>	Post WW2 (1940-1960)
<b>Date Source</b>	Landgate
<b>Construction Materials</b>	Various

## USE OF PLACE

<b>Original</b>	MINING	Asbestos
<b>Present</b>	MINING	Discontinued
<b>Other</b>	-	

## DESCRIPTION

A site visit was not undertaken due to health and safety concerns.

## ARCHAEOLOGY NOTES

Given the health concerns and risks associated with asbestos - archaeological investigation was not undertaken

<b>CONDITION</b>	N/A
<b>INTEGRITY</b>	Low. The town is now largely devoid of buildings and therefore its legibility as a townsite is no longer readily clear.
<b>AUTHENTICITY</b>	Low. The majority of buildings from the town have been demolished.

## HISTORICAL NOTES

Wittenoom, 288 km inland from Roebourne, was established in the 1940s by Australian Blue Asbestos Ltd to house workers at the blue-asbestos mine. Wittenoom Gorge was likely named by surveyor F. T. Gregory in 1861 after Rev. John Burdett Wittenoom; another view is that it honours Frank Wittenoom of nearby Mulga Downs Station. Pastoral activity dominated the district until the 1930s, when Lang Hancock and his father's partner, Frank Wittenoom, began early asbestos workings. The Mines Department had known of the deposits since 1908, but organised mining began in 1938 and expanded after Colonial Sugar Refineries acquired the leases in 1943 and formed Australian Blue Asbestos Pty Ltd. A government townsite was approved in 1948, gazetted in 1950, renamed Wittenoom Gorge in 1951 and changed back to Wittenoom in 1974.

Between 1950 and 1966 the town was Australia's sole supplier of blue asbestos and grew to include schools, churches, a hotel, shops, an open-air cinema and extensive public services. Asbestos tailings were commonly used in roads, yards and other works. The mine closed in 1966 due to falling reserves and high costs. The following decades revealed the scale of asbestos-related disease among former workers and residents, leading the State Government to pursue policies to depopulate the town. Major demolition programs occurred in 1987 and 1995–96, after which the National Trust (WA) produced a pictorial record of surviving buildings. By 1999 about 30 people remained, falling to three residents by 2019.

Electricity was disconnected in 2006 and postal services ceased in 2007. In the same year the townsite was officially degazetted and removed from maps, and the Shire closed roads to contaminated areas. In 2019 the State Govt introduced legislation to compulsorily acquire the remaining 17 freehold lots from the last five landowners.

## ASSOCIATIONS

Name	Type	Year From	Year To
Lang Hancock	Previous owner	1938	1943
Colonial Sugar Refineries/ Australian Blue Asbestos Ply Ltd	Previous owner	1943	-

## HISTORIC THEMES

General	Specific
OCCUPATIONS	Mining (mineral processing)
DEMOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENT & MOBILITY	Resource exploitation and depletion

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Old Wittenoom has historic cultural heritage significance. Without the story of asbestos mining in the Wittenoom Gorge the history of the Shire of Ashburton would not be complete.

Local and State Government Departments actively discourage visitors, by warning them of the potential danger posed by asbestos remnants in the district.

## MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Category	Category 4: Limited significance
Management Recommendation	Contributes to the history of the locality through its social and history rather than its built form. Retain record in the LGI for archival purposes.

## HERITAGE LISTINGS AND SURVEYS

Type	Status	Date
SOA Local Heritage Inventory/Survey	Adopted	17 August 1999

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY

Edwards, Hugh Gold Dust and Iron Mountains 1993 WA Walkabout  
Australian Travel Guide <http://walkabout.fairfax.com.au>  
National Trust of Australia (WA) Wittenoom – A Pictorial Record 1996  
Information obtained from Lorraine Thomas, Councillor of the Shire of Ashburton. Interviewed by Cathy Day (OBPC) 8 February 1999  
Landgate, Town Names, Available online: <https://www.landgate.wa.gov.au>  
Geological Survey of Western Australia, Bulletin 119 "The iron formations of the pre-Cambrian Hamersley Group W A, with special reference to the associated crocidolite."

## DOCUMENT CONTROL

Date Created	June 1999
Date Modified	October 2016
Date Modified	February 2026

## OTHER IMAGES



Left Image: Fortescue Hotel, Wittenoom, 1966 (built 1947, demolished 1996). Source: State Library of WA



Right Image: Bush Fire Brigade Building, 1995 (built 1983, demolished 1995). Source: National Trust of WA (1995)



Left Image: Post Office, 1995 (built 1983, demolished 1995). Source: National Trust of Western Australia (1995)



Right Image: Wittenoom Hospital 1995 (built 1950, demolished 1995). Source: National Trust of Western Australia (1995)

**SHIRE OF ASHBURTON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT HERITAGE SURVEY  
PLACE RECORD FORM**

**KEMPTON RESIDENCE - ONSLOW**



**LOCATION**

<b>Address</b>	26 Third Avenue, Onslow
<b>Other Names</b>	-
<b>HCWA Place Number</b>	15376
<b>Region</b>	Pilbara
<b>Local Government Authority</b>	Shire of Ashburton

**LAND DESCRIPTION**

Reserve No.	Lot/Location	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	GPS Coordinates
-	362	P202376	911-198	21°38'13.77"S 115° 6'42.91"E

## PLACE DETAILS

Place Type	Historic Site
Construction Date	Demolished 2006/07
Architectural Style	N/A
Architectural Period	Inter-War (1915-1940)
Date Source	Laura Shannon, long term resident of Onslow
Construction Materials	N/A

## USE OF PLACE

Original	RESIDENTIAL	Single storey residence
Present	RESIDENTIAL	Single storey residence
Other	-	-

## HISTORICAL NOTES

There is a local story that the house which once stood on this site was the residence of the Customs Officer of Onslow. However, according to long term resident Laura Shannon, the house was built by her father, and no customs officer was ever appointed to Onslow. Joseph Kempton (Laura's father) finished the house in 1930, and the family resided there until 1941. During World War II the house was taken over by the army and used as an officers' mess. After the war the residence was occupied by Eric Bailey who was the driver for the Onslow train that went from the jetty to the Goods Shed. In 2006/07 the house was demolished and a new residence constructed.

## DESCRIPTION

The following provides a description of the previous residence at 26 Third Avenue, which was demolished in 2006/07. The description has been taken from the Shire of Ashburton Municipal Heritage Inventory 1999:

*'The dwelling is a long, rectangular, weatherboard, single storey building. The hipped corrugated iron roof has small ventilation gables at both ends of the house. Raised on cylindrical concrete blocks the house has an open verandah across the front of the house with simple unadorned verandah posts. The verandah at the end of the house has been semi enclosed with ripple iron and wooden lattice. The building is set back from the road in a natural bush setting with little formal landscaping.'*

## ASSOCIATIONS

Name	Type	Year From	Year To
Eric Bailey (train driver who lived in the house)	Previous Occupant	-	-
Joseph Kempton	Builder	1930	1941

## HISTORIC THEMES

General	Specific
DEMOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENT & MOBILITY	Settlements

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The following Statement of Significance was written for the former residence at 26 Third Avenue, which was demolished in 2006/07. It has been taken from the Shire of Ashburton Municipal Heritage Inventory 1999:

*“The residence has aesthetic, historic and representative cultural heritage significance. Though the story of the past use of the house has some contradictions, the residence has obviously been part of the town of Onslow’s history for many years. It is a good representative of North West housing, adapted for both hot and cyclonic conditions. The house adds to the streetscape of Third Avenue.”*

## MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Category	Category 4: Limited Significance
Management Recommendation	Contributes to the history of the locality through its context and history rather than its built form. Retain record in the LHS for archival purposes.

## HERITAGE LISTINGS AND SURVEYS

Type	Status/Category	Date
SOA Local Heritage Inventory/Survey	Adopted	17 August 1999

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY

Oral Information by Laura Shannon, long term resident of Onslow, given to Cathy Day on 13 January 1999. Shire of Ashburton Municipal Heritage Inventory 1999.

## DOCUMENT CONTROL

Date Created	June 1999
Date Modified	October 2016
Date Modified	February 2026

**OTHER IMAGES**



26 Third Avenue, Onslow 1998 – now demolished. Image Source: Shire of Ashburton Municipal Heritage Inventory 1998



Replacement dwelling at 26 Third Avenue, Onslow 2016.

**SHIRE OF ASHBURTON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT HERITAGE SURVEY  
PLACE RECORD FORM**

**BEADON POINT NAVIGATIONAL LEADING LIGHT**



Photo. Beadon Creek Rear Lead Tower – View from south showing all nine sections, supply shed on south side and protective fencing around base. (2012). Source: Menck, *Archival Record*, 2019.

**LOCATION**

<b>Address</b>	6 Second Avenue, Onslow
<b>Other Names</b>	Beadon Point Rear Navigational Lead Platform
<b>HCWA Place Number</b>	26112
<b>Region</b>	Pilbara
<b>Local Government Authority</b>	Shire of Ashburton

**LAND DESCRIPTION**

Reserve No.	Lot/Location	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	GPS Coordinates
27316	448	169922		21° 38.6444" S 115° 7.0402" E

## PLACE DETAILS

<b>Place Type</b>	Historic Site
<b>Construction Date</b>	Demolished 2019
<b>Architectural Style</b>	N/A
<b>Architectural Period</b>	Inter-War (1915-1940)
<b>Date Source</b>	Beadon Point Leading Lights, General Plan, PWD 27996, June 1936
<b>Construction Materials</b>	N/A

## USE OF PLACE

<b>Original</b>	Shipping Navigation Aid	
<b>Present</b>	Nil	
<b>Other</b>	-	-

## HISTORICAL NOTES

Onslow lies within the Native Title Determined Area of the Thalanyji people and has known associations with the Nhuwala people. Two registered Aboriginal heritage sites lie close to the Beadon Point Rear Lead Navigational Light: the Onslow Old Law Ground (Site 35628) immediately south of the tower, and a ceremonial/water source site (Site 6618) just west of it. Other sites are located further west and south, including evidence of an Aboriginal camp about 750 m west of the tower.

Colonial settlement began in the early 1880s at the mouth of the Ashburton River, with Old Onslow gazetted in 1885 as a port for mining, pearling and pastoral activity. Silting and repeated cyclones led to the relocation of the town to Beadon Point in the early 1920s. A new deep-water jetty opened in May 1925 with a rear lead light aligned to a jetty-mounted front light, both oil-fired and visible for 16 km.

A major cyclone in 1934 destroyed half the jetty, much of the town and both lead lights. The jetty was rebuilt and reopened in 1936 with new steel lead towers, using the 1925 tower as the new rear lead. These fixed white dioptric lanterns were visible from about 13 km. Electric lanterns were installed in 1958–59, extending the range to 22.5 km. As road transport expanded and other Pilbara ports developed, the jetty fell out of use, and its last section was demolished in 1982.

Development of the solar salt industry in 1999 brought a new export jetty, and the front lead light was removed by 2001 to avoid confusion with new navigation channels. A shed at the rear lead was removed between 2012 and 2015. A 2018 survey confirmed the rear lead light was no longer required; it was turned off in January 2019. The Department of Transport later determined the structure unsafe and sought demolition. Following assessment under the Heritage Act 2018 and the Government Heritage Property Disposal Process, the Heritage Council found it did not meet the threshold for State Register listing, and demolition was approved subject to detailed recording.

## DESCRIPTION

The Beadon Point Rear Navigational Leading Light, demolished in 2019, stood on the outskirts of Onslow on the flat coastal plain southeast of the District Hospital, within remnant low scrub. It was a four-sided, 14-metre steel lattice tower built from L-section beams bolted into boxed frames with diagonal cross-bracing. A steel access ladder ascended the southeast face. At the top was a small circular mesh-floored walkway with a tubular safety rail, part of which had become a bird nest site, and above this a solid steel platform supporting the electric navigation light with a plastic cover. The tower was painted white, though joints showed red staining from rust and iron-ore dust. A small timber and corrugated-iron power box sat beside the tower, and both were enclosed by a low wire-mesh fence topped with barbed wire. Historically, this tower operated as the rear light in a pair of lead lights used by ships to align their course through hazardous waters.

## ARCHAEOLOGY NOTES

Potential for archaeological finds related to Aboriginal occupation.

<b>CONDITION</b>	N/A
<b>INTEGRITY</b>	N/A
<b>AUTHENTICITY</b>	Low – the structure has been demolished.

## ASSOCIATIONS

Name	Type	Year From	Year To
Public Works Department	Builder	1936	2019
State Government	Owner	1936	2019

## HISTORIC THEMES

General	Specific
DEMOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENT & MOBILITY	Settlements

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The following Statement of Significance was written for the Beadon Point Rear Lead Navigational Light, which was demolished in 2019. It has been taken from the Archival Record:

*The place provides physical evidence of the period when Onslow was the main port for the Ashburton district, facilitating the North West pastoral industry*

*Along with the former goods shed and possible ruined remnants of the jetty, the place is one of few surviving elements relating to Beadon Point Jetty, which was demolished in 1982.*

*The place has been a local landmark since 1925, visible from within the townsite and on both land and sea approaches and contributes to the Onslow community's sense of place.*

## MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Category	Category 4: Limited significance
Management Recommendation	Contributes to the history of the locality through its context and history rather than its built form. Retain record in the LHS for archival purposes.

## HERITAGE LISTINGS AND SURVEYS

Type	Status	Date
SOA Local Heritage Inventory/Survey	Adopted	February 2026

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cumming, D A, Glasson, M, McCarthy, M, *Lighthouses on the Western Australian coast and offshore islands*, 1995 [http://museum.wa.gov.au/maritime-archaeologydb/sites/default/files/no.\\_100\\_lighthouses\\_on\\_wa\\_coast\\_0.pdf](http://museum.wa.gov.au/maritime-archaeologydb/sites/default/files/no._100_lighthouses_on_wa_coast_0.pdf)

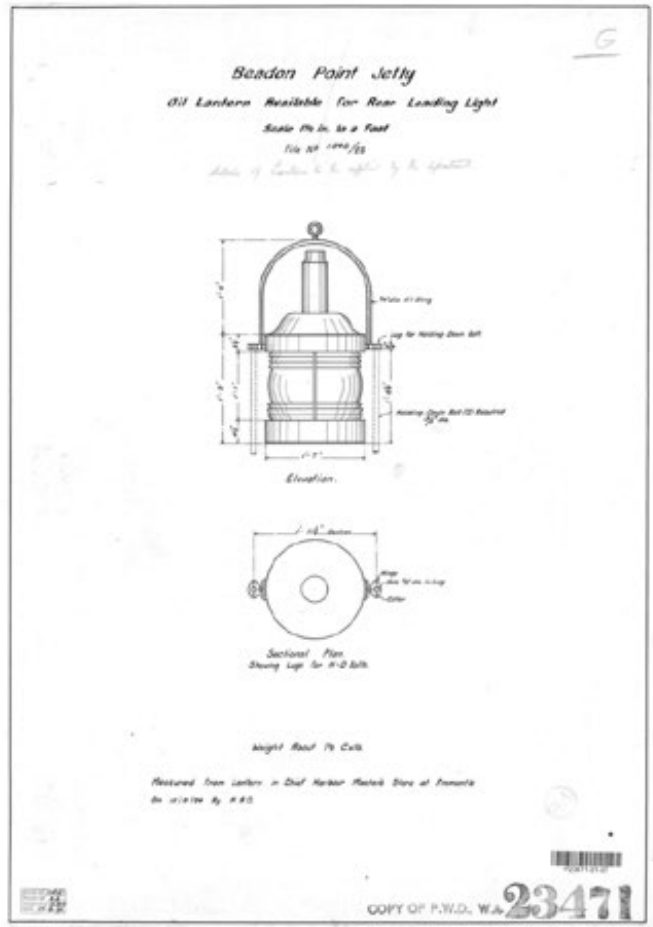
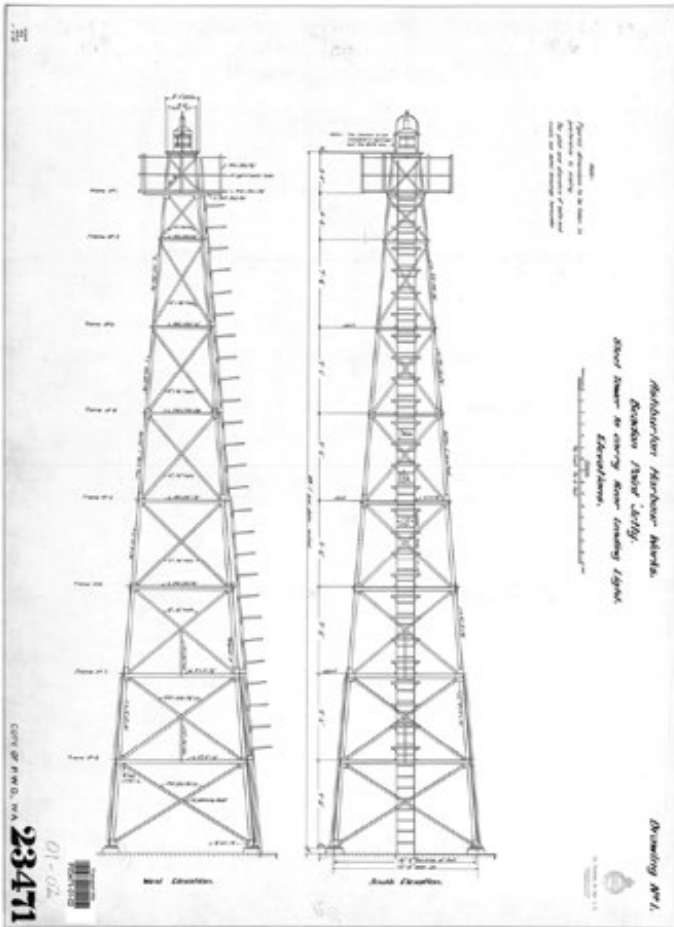
Department of Transport, GHPDP form submitted for referral to Heritage Council of WA, April 2018.

Menck, C., *Beadon Point Rear Lead Navigational Light, Onslow, Archival Record*, for Department of Transport, Historian, July 2019.

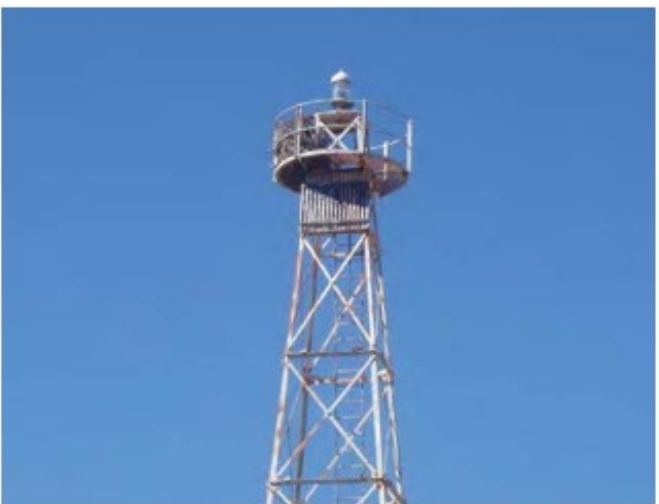
## DOCUMENT CONTROL

Date Created	September 2019
Date Modified	February 2026

OTHER IMAGES



Left Image: 1925 plan for Beadon Point Light Tower (later relocated to be Rear Lead Light) Source: Menck, Archival Record, 2019.  
 Right Image: Lantern detail (1925 plan). Source: Menck, Archival Record, 2019.



Left Image: Access landing (gallery) at top of tower, south side, showing birds' nest built on platform (2015). Source: Menck, Archival Record 2019.  
 Right Image: Lantern, north side (2015). Source: Menck, Archival Record, 2019.

ARCHIVE

**SHIRE OF ASHBURTON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT HERITAGE SURVEY  
PLACE RECORD FORM**

**MANAGER'S RESIDENCE - TOM PRICE**



**LOCATION**

<b>Address</b>	10 Lilac Street, Tom Price
<b>Other Names</b>	-
<b>HCWA Place Number</b>	15379
<b>Region</b>	Pilbara
<b>Local Government Authority</b>	Shire of Ashburton

**LAND DESCRIPTION**

Reserve No.	Lot/Location	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	GPS Coordinates
-	10	P15338	1725-28	22°41'44.76"S 117°47'31.59"E

## PLACE DETAILS

<b>Place Type</b>	Individual Building or Group
<b>Construction Date</b>	1967
<b>Architectural Style</b>	Vernacular
<b>Architectural Period</b>	Late Twentieth Century Period (1960-)
<b>Date Source</b>	1999 Shire of Ashburton Municipal Heritage Inventory
<b>Construction Materials</b>	Walls: Brick Roofs: Cement Tile

## USE OF PLACE

<b>Original</b>	MINING	Housing and Quarters
<b>Present</b>	RESIDENTIAL	Single storey residence
<b>Other</b>	-	-

## HISTORICAL NOTES

A 1966 plan shows the subject dwelling on the west side of the proposed school site, identified as a T4 model known as "The Dorset," to be built in clay brick. Only one T4 was planned in this area. Constructed in 1967, it was reportedly occupied by Hamersley Iron's first manager.

Houses built for "married accommodation" typically offered three or four bedrooms, lounge/dining, kitchen, bathroom, separate toilet, laundry, external store and carport, and were supplied with basic furniture and appliances, including beds, lounge suite, dining setting, refrigerator, washing machine and hot water system.

## DESCRIPTION

The residence at 10 Lilac Street is representative of the housing built by Hamersley Iron in Tom Price in the late 1960s. Although its internal layout and detailing differ slightly from neighbouring houses, it follows the same overall blueprint, with consistent materials, form, setbacks and garden treatment contributing to a uniform streetscape. The house sits on a 985 m<sup>2</sup> lot with an approximate 6-metre setback. The front yard consists of lawn and red gravel, with five mature palm trees. It is a single-storey brick and concrete-tile dwelling with a double carport and has undergone minimal change since its original construction.

<b>CONDITION</b>	Good.
<b>INTEGRITY</b>	High.
<b>AUTHENTICITY</b>	High.

## ASSOCIATIONS

Name	Type	Year From	Year To
Hamersley Iron	Builder/Previous Owner	1966	-

## HISTORIC THEMES

General	Specific
Demographic settlement & mobility	Land allocation & subdivision
Demographic settlement & mobility	Settlements

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

*The residence at 10 Lilac Street comprises a simple vernacular residential building, constructed in the late 1960s to a standard plan by Hamersley Iron for its workers. The subject place is one of a number of residences which was built in Tom Price, to address the need for residential accommodation associated with the development and exponential growth of the iron ore industry from the 1960s.*

**MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

Management Category	Archive.
Management Recommendation	The subject place is not unique in the sense that the values articulated in the Statement of Significance are relevant to the balance of the street and others nearby, such as Wattle and Coolibah Streets.  The place does not have sufficient distinguishing cultural heritage value for it to be heritage listed in its own right.

**HERITAGE LISTINGS AND SURVEYS**

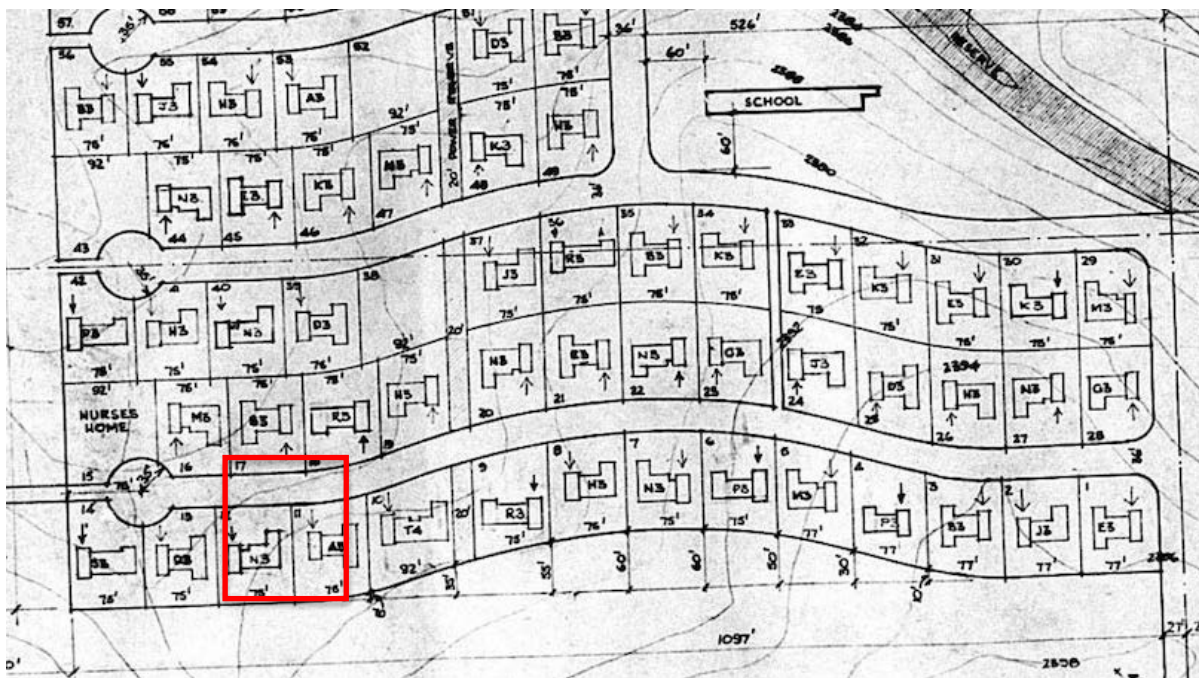
Type	Status	Date
SOA Local Heritage Inventory/Survey	Adopted	August 1999
SOA Local Heritage Inventory/Survey	Archived	February 2026

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Shire of Ashburton Notes.  
Hamersley Iron, (n.d) This is Tom Price booklet, held at the Tom Price Library.

**DOCUMENT CONTROL**

Date Created	June 1999
Date Modified	February 2026



Site plan of Tom Price showing subject building (highlighted red) in 1966. Source: State Records Office

**SHIRE OF ASHBURTON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT HERITAGE SURVEY  
PLACE RECORD FORM**

**TURNER COTTAGE - ONSLOW**



**LOCATION**

<b>Address</b>	65 Second Avenue, Onslow
<b>Other Names</b>	Turner Residence
<b>HCWA Place Number</b>	15378
<b>Region</b>	Pilbara
<b>Local Government Authority</b>	Shire of Ashburton

**LAND DESCRIPTION**

Reserve No.	Lot/Location	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	GPS Coordinates
-	258	P14863	968-71	21°38'23.75"S 115° 6'52.05"E

## PLACE DETAILS

<b>Place Type</b>	Individual Building or Group
<b>Construction Date</b>	Circa 1960
<b>Architectural Style</b>	North West Vernacular
<b>Architectural Period</b>	Late Twentieth Century Period (1960-)
<b>Date Source</b>	Griffiths Architects Heritage Assessment 2012
<b>Construction Materials</b>	Roofs: Corrugated iron Walls: Corrugated iron

## USE OF PLACE

<b>Original</b>	RESIDENTIAL	Single storey residence
<b>Present</b>	RESIDENTIAL	Single storey residence
<b>Other</b>	-	-

## HISTORICAL NOTES

Turner Cottage was listed in the Shire of Ashburton's 1999 Municipal Heritage Inventory as a Category C place. The 1999 statement noted its long association with Florence Turner and its representation of a building style no longer practiced.

In May 2013, the Pilbara JDAP approved demolition of the cottage and construction of a three-storey hotel/restaurant. A Heritage Assessment by Griffiths Architects advised that the building was constructed in the 1960s, had been substantially altered, and held negligible heritage significance. Consistent with its Category C status, demolition approval was recommended subject to a professional photographic record.

Historical research in the Griffiths Architects assessment shows the land was first sold in 1927 to Joseph Mioceovich, a teamster, who did not develop it. It transferred to Florence Jeffreys in 1951, and to Donald Turner in 1954. Turner married Florence Mallett in the late 1950s and around 1960 built the current dwelling at 65 Second Avenue. After his death in 1975, ownership passed to Florence Turner, who lived there until moving to supported accommodation. The land was sold to Annapura (Australia) Pty Ltd in 2005.

Turner Cottage has since been demolished.

## DESCRIPTION

The subject place was a single-storey timber framed residence in a vernacular style, clad with corrugated iron. It had a gabled roof with a skillion to the rear. A small verandah shaded the front of the cottage.

<b>CONDITION</b>	Good
<b>INTEGRITY</b>	High. The original function of the dwelling is still discernible.
<b>AUTHENTICITY</b>	Medium.

## ASSOCIATIONS

Name	Type	Year From	Year To
Joseph Mioceovich	Original owner	1927	1951
Florence Jeffreys	Previous owner	1951	1954
Donald Turner	Previous owner and Builder	1954	1975
Florence Turner	Previous owner	Late 1950s	2005

## HISTORIC THEMES

General	Specific
DEMOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENT & MOBILITY	Settlements

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*Turner Cottage was representative of a very modest residence that was improved and extended over time and was evidence of a make-do ethos.*

## MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Category	Archive.
Management Recommendation	The Griffith's Architects Heritage Assessment 2012 demonstrates that the place was built c.1960 not 1935 as set out in the Shire's 1999 LGHI. Given this and noting that approval for the demolition of the place has been granted it is recommended that the place be removed from the LHS.

## HERITAGE LISTINGS AND SURVEYS

Type	Status	Date
SOA Local Heritage Inventory/Survey	Adopted	August 1999
SOA Local Heritage Inventory/Survey	Archived	February 2026

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY

Phil Griffiths, Turner Residence, Lot 258 (HN 65) Second Avenue, Onslow, Heritage Assessment, 2012.  
Minutes of the Joint Development Assessment Panel, 30 May 2013.

## DOCUMENT CONTROL

Date Created	June 1999
Date Modified	February 2026



View of front elevation from Second Avenue 2016.



View of side (eastern) elevation from Second Avenue 2016.

