



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES - ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in November 1996 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 2.4 Migrating
- 3.8.1 Shipping to and from Australian ports
- 2.5 Promoting settlement
- 3.22 Lodging people
- 3.26 Providing health services
- 7.6.2 Controlling entry of persons and disease
- 7.6.5 Incarcerating people
- 7.7.2 Preparing to face invasion
- 8.3 Going on holiday
- 9.7.1 Dealing with human remains
- 9.7.3 Remembering the dead

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 101 Immigration, emigration and refugees
- 108 Government Policy
- 201 River and sea transport
- 405 Sport, recreation and entertainment
- 501 World wars and other wars
- 502 Refugees
- 701 Other sub-theme

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

The Quarantine Quarters is a good example of a Victorian Regency style residence with unusual colonial features. The Dining Room, Laundry, and Disinfecting block exhibit excellent timber ceilings, trussed roofs and timber portal arches. (Criteria 1.1 & 1.2)

* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, R., Irving, R., Reynolds, P. *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture. Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus and Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

For consistency, all references to garden and landscape types and styles are taken from Ramsay, J. *Parks, Gardens and Special Trees: A Classification and Assessment Method for the Register of the National Estate*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point includes a substantial intact complex of similarly designed and distinctive early twentieth century buildings nestled in a picturesque natural coastal environment on a small peninsular. (Criteria 1.3 & 1.4)

11. 2. HISTORIC VALUE

Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point was one of two major quarantine stations in Western Australia, and played an important role for nearly one hundred years in preventing contagious infections and diseases from spreading into other areas of the state and Australia. (Criterion 2.1)

Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point demonstrates the introduction of a public health system in Western Australia in the colonial period. (Criterion 2.2)

Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point was a disembarkation point, and therefore the first experience of Australia, for many overseas visitors and new migrants from 1886 to the 1970s. (Criterion 2.2)

Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point demonstrates quarantine practices in Western Australia from the late nineteenth century to the 1970s. (Criterion 2.2)

The Cemetery and Crematorium provide evidence of nineteenth century burial practices for those who died in quarantine. (Criterion 2.2)

Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point has been a popular recreation camp for generations of Western Australians since 1979. (Criterion 2.2)

The grave and memorial at the Cemetery demonstrate the bravery of employees at quarantine stations, specifically the nurses from the Australian Army Nursing Service who volunteered at the place in 1918/19, four of whom died from Spanish Flu whilst treating the patients with the disease. (Criterion 2.3)

The Observation Ward, First Class Quarters and Second Class Quarters are good examples of the work produced by W. B. Hardwick, Public Works Department Chief Architect between 1917 – 1927. (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point is a relatively intact quarantine complex that demonstrates twentieth century quarantine practices through the layout and design of its buildings and the associated technical equipment. (Criterion 3.1)

The dedication of *Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point* for quarantine and defence purposes by the Colonial, State and Commonwealth Governments since 1836 and its deliberate isolation from mainstream development has resulted in the preservation of a rare pristine natural coastal environment. (Criterion 3.1)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point is highly valued by generations of Western Australians as a popular recreation camp from 1979 to present (2004). (Criterion 4.1)

Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point is valued by past employees, patients, migrants and refugees who worked, were treated, or were detained there. (Criterion 4.1)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point is a rare example of a quarantine station in Western Australia. (Criterion 5.1)

Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point demonstrates quarantine procedures that are no longer practiced in Australia due to scientific developments and inoculation against disease. (Criterion 5.2)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point is a good, intact representative example of a quarantine station complex in Australia. (Criterion 6.1)

12. 3 CONDITION

Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point is in fair condition.

Asbestos roofs to most building have been replaced but only minor works have been carried out to the place since its change of use to a recreation camp.

In the Dining Hall and Kitchen the original kitchen, associated pantries, and serveries are in a poor condition.

The Quarantine Quarters (Administration Building) is currently fenced off, as it is structurally unsafe.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point has a moderate degree of integrity.

While the place is not used for its original purpose as a quarantine station buildings including the Residence No. 5, Residence No. 3, Residence no. 2, First Class Passenger Quarters, Second Class Passenger Quarters, Kitchen and Dining block have all retained their original function of providing accommodation and dining facilities.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point has a high degree of authenticity.

The Disinfecting Block, Bathing Block, First and Second Class Quarters, and Store have all had their exteriors replaced with asbestos.

Equipment used for quarantine procedures is still evident in various buildings including an industrial size laundry tub, luggage and goods trolley, vertical racked steam dryer, boiler and fumigator. Steam and water pipes which originated from the Boiler Room are still evident in the buildings but pipes no longer run overhead between the buildings.

The Disinfecting Block has a false ceiling, which is thought to conceal timber trusses.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The wording of this document has been adapted from 'An Assessment of Cultural Heritage Significance and a Conservation Plan For Woodman Point Recreation Camp (The Former Woodman Point Quarantine Station)' prepared for the Department of Sport and Recreation by Ian Molyneux and Associates Architects in June 1995, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Unless otherwise indicated the following information has been taken from 'An Assessment of Cultural Heritage Significance and a Conservation Plan For Woodman Point Recreation Camp (The Former Woodman Point Quarantine Station)' prepared for Department of Sport and Recreation by Ian Molyneux and Associates Architects in June 1995.

Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point comprises Quarantine Quarters (1886), Crematorium, Residence No. 5 (1923), Residence No. 3 (1963), Memorial Plaque, Residence No. 2, Residence No. 1 (c.1923), Office Hut, Tool Shed (1973), Wards (1921), Foul Linen Building (c.1923), Disinfecting Block (c.1923), Clean Linen Building (c.1923), Laundry (c.1923), Bathing Block (c.1923), Waiting Room (c.1962), Store (c.1923), First Class Passenger Quarters (1923), Second Class Passenger Quarters (1923), North East Wing Quad Wing, South East Quad Wing, Kitchen and Dining block (1911), Isolation Hospital (late nineteenth to early twentieth century), Observation Wards (1919), Changing Hut (1931), Small Pox Road, Asiatic Quarters ruins, Morgue ruins, Cemetery, munitions bunkers, bunker building, railway ruins, two Norfolk Island Pines (1921), natural coastal vegetation and Stone Wall.

During the early nineteenth century the disease Chlorera Bacillus spread from the Indian subcontinent into Russia onto Western Europe and the British Isles. The spread of Cholera encouraged the introduction of quarantine regulations in British colonies throughout the world. Quarantine is a period or place of enforced isolation of articles, persons or animals who are suffering from, or who have come into contact with, infectious disease in order to prevent the disease from spreading within that country.

Woodman Point was named in 1827 by Captain James Stirling after Thomas Woodman, the Purser of the HMS Success. In December 1829, Captain Stirling granted Thomas Peel land from south of Woodman Point to the Murray River, a total of 250 000 acres.

Quarantine practices were introduced in Western Australia soon after colonisation in 1829. On 31 January 1833 the Perth Gazette published a government notice

A bill to enforce and regulate the performance of quarantine in certain cases of Western Australia (and) to prevent the introduction, or spread within the said Colony, of any infectious disorder highly dangerous to the health of H. M. subjects.¹

In May 1833 the Governor of Western Australia issued a proclamation in the Perth Gazette giving details of new legislation

The Governor, or Acting Governor of Western Australia with the Advice of the Executive Council, shall by proclamation notify that any place or places beyond the seas is or are infected with any Infectious disease, and that it is probable such disease may be brought to the place or places to the said colony, then

¹ Hansford-Miller, F., *Quarantine in Early Colonial Western Australia*, Abadco Press, 1988 p.11.
Register of Heritage Places - Assessment Doc'n **Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point**
31/03/2006 **4**

immediately from and after such notification all Ships and vessels arriving from or having touched at any such place or places, and all vessels and boats receiving any person, Goods, Wares, Merchandise, Packets, Letters or any other article whatsoever, from or out of any vessel so coming from or having touched at such infected place or places as foresaid shall be, and be considered to be, liable to Quarantine...²

The legislation described that the Superintendent of Quarantine shall meet the vessel “at a convenient distance, to windward where possible” to demand answers to a set of ten questions in relation to death and diseases on board and contact with ports. ³

Common infectious diseases during the nineteenth century included Cholera, (W)hooping Cough, Measles, Spanish Influenza, Typhus, Plague. Quarantine practices of at this time included fumigation. Mail was also quarantined by treating with vinegar then fumigated.

Quarantine Stations were subsequently declared for King George Sound (Albany, extant) and Fremantle (Woodman Point), Augusta and Carnac Island.

Clarence Townsite was gazetted in 1836 and included most of the Woodman Point peninsular with the exception of twenty acres at its tip reserved for a quarantine station. A stone wall (partly extant) was constructed marking the boundary of the reserve.

By 1840, there was only one hospital in the colony and it was located in Perth, 12 miles from the coast.

Captain Scott, Master of the brig *Empress* is recorded as being a regular offender against the quarantine regulations at Fremantle. In 1846 the ship brought Whooping Cough to the colony. Colonial Surgeon Dr John Ferguson recognized the disparity between the white and indigenous populations in regard to the effect of these diseases. He reported

... deaths from the disease and its consequences, among the White population amounted to about thirty, and among the Natives at least double that number.

In 1852, he reported

(These) diseases which, being of everyday occurrence in England, and generally not very fatal, are consequently thought light of, but which are utterly unknown here as Native diseases, and which, I have not the slightest doubt would prove most formidable to them....⁴

Quarantine was a political issue that was debated in both Britain and the Swan River Colony throughout the nineteenth century. Quarantine regulations were seen to slow trade and therefore reduce economic development.

Between 1847 and 1858 Western Australia experienced significant population growth and a resultant increase in shipping, due mostly to the arrival of convicts into the Colony. Numbers of ship arrivals at Woodman Point increased from 29 ships in 1847 to 1178 in 1857.⁵

The Colony’s small medical department was responsible for administering the quarantine regulations during this time. Administration of the Act was poorly organized and was rapidly overwhelmed by the growth of the colony. Other

² Hansford-Miller, F., *Quarantine in Early Colonial Western Australia*, p.13.

³ Hansford-Miller, F., *Quarantine in Early Colonial Western Australia*, p.13

⁴ Hansford-Miller, F., *Quarantine in Early Colonial Western Australia*, p. 64

⁵ ‘Woodman Point Recreation Camp: a history, 1886-1982’, Department of Sport and Recreation, Perth, c.1983, n.p.

problems included the lack of definition as to which diseases should be subject to Quarantine, conflicting views about the seriousness of certain diseases, and increasing bureaucracy.⁶

Carnac Island remained as the main quarantine station in Western Australia until the end of 1851, when the Governor considered Woodman Point “ a more eligible situation”. In February 1852, the Permanent Board of Health, Fremantle submitted revised quarantine regulations to the Governor for approval. Suggestions included provision of accommodation for 200 passengers at Woodman Point in the form of two wooden houses. This location was seen as ideal due to the readily available supply of water and being located leeward of Fremantle.⁷

In 1876, 170 hectares of the Clarence town site west of Cockburn road was gazetted as a Quarantine Ground for Stock. This was first used in 1897 in response to the outbreak of cattle diseases in the Kimberley region. Forty hectares of this stock ground north of Marmion Road was subsequently excised in 1892 for the new Fremantle racecourse.

A plan dated 1876 depicts eighteen buildings at Woodman Point including a Hospital (on or near the site of the Isolation Hospital), Quarantine Quarters (on or near the site of the existing Quarantine Quarters), Wards (on or near the site of the D Block) and Crematorium (on or near the site of the Crematorium). No evidence of these buildings has been found.

The Public Works Department is recorded as tendering for construction work for station buildings in 1885. The successful tenderer for the Quarantine Quarters was Harwood and Son at a sum of £490.⁸ In 1886, the Quarantine Quarters was constructed including a lounge, library and dining room for visiting medical staff.

The first recorded arrival of passengers into *Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point* was in December 1886 from the ship *Elderslie*, which carried two cases of Scarlet Fever among its 127 passengers. Services at the Quarantine Station were unable to cope with this number of people and the cargo vessel, *Cingalee*, was engaged to provide additional quarantine facilities.⁹

Letters in the *West Australian* at this time indicate dissatisfaction at the lack of services at *Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point*. Ships bound for Fremantle were often forced to sail to the Albany Quarantine Station with infected passengers still aboard.¹⁰

The Isolation Hospital was constructed between 1886 and 1901. The hospital walls were constructed of a double layer of corrugated iron filled with seaweed, rock, and wool for insulation. Cottages and shower facilities were built for nurses behind the Isolation Hospital before 1923 and removed before 1955.

Since the mid nineteenth century there had been attempts to establish a uniform code of quarantine regulations across the Australian colonies. In 1884, the Australasian Sanitary Conference, including delegates from all of the Australian colonies defined quarantine as;

Such measures taken in regard to vessels coming to the various Australasian ports as will effectually protect the Australasian colonies from the invasion of

⁶ Hansford-Miller, F., *Quarantine in Early Colonial Western Australia*, p.23.

⁷ Hansford-Miller, F., *Quarantine in Early Colonial Western Australia*, p.15

⁸ ‘Woodman Point Recreation Camp: a history, 1886-1982’.

⁹ ‘Woodman Point Recreation Camp: a history, 1886-1982’.

¹⁰ ‘Woodman Point Recreation Camp: a history, 1886-1982’.

contagious or infectious disease, consistent with the least possible restriction to commerce.¹¹

The conference resolved to create a Federal Quarantine Act and established standards for quarantine of specific diseases.

In 1901, a new jetty (not extant) at *Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point* replaced an earlier structure. A red tin shed was built at the end of the jetty. A tramline was constructed from the jetty via the fumigation house (not extant).

In 1903/4, the Quarantine Station Reserve to the west was enlarged to 250 acres including 50 above and 200 below the waterline, and the remainder of the land on the peninsular was made an explosives reserve.

Small Pox Road (construction date not known) was the original access from *Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point* north to and from Marmion Road until 1909, when the new road and entrance along the southern boundary was established. The entrance gate was constructed c.1909.

In 1909, post federation, the Commonwealth Government appointed 13 ports around Australia as Federal Quarantine Stations including *Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point*.¹²

By 1911, a windmill, tanks, shower blocks and a dance floor were all built close to the Quarantine Quarters. Accommodation, cooking and bathroom facilities were located at the rear of the building.

Between 1913 and the mid-1930s, the Federal Government built five minor quarantine stations around Australia to upgrade services. These stations were located at Broome, Bunbury, Darwin, Thursday Island and Townsville.¹³

Prior to the end of World War One, 45 Australian Nurses from the Australian Army Nursing Service embarked on the troopship *Wyreena* bound for Salonica. Peace was declared in November that year before the ship reached its destination. On returning to Fremantle twenty nurses volunteered for duty at *Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point*.¹⁴

A captured German ship carrying Australian Servicemen, the *Boonah*, arrived into *Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point* soon after the nurses on 10 December 1918. Many of the 300 men were suffering from pneumonic influenza (Spanish Flu). Nurse Susie Coney recorded the lack of accommodation and provisions for the patients. Three men died on the first day at the station.¹⁵

Of the twenty nurses, eight contracted the disease and recovered and four contracted the disease and died. Sister Rosa O'Kane died on 21 December 1918 aged 30. Sister Rosa was from Charters Towers in Queensland and the people from this community raised funds for the provision of a memorial cross for her gravesite. Between 31 December 1918 and the first week in January, Sisters Ada Thompson, Hilda Williams, and Doris Ridgeway also passed away.¹⁶

¹¹ 'Conservation Plan for Camp Quaranup Former Quarantine Station', Prepared for CAMS, September 1996, p.12.

¹² 'Conservation Plan for Camp Quaranup Former Quarantine Station', p. 15.

¹³ Broome Quarantine Station Buildings (fmr) P1093 assessment documentation HCWA .

¹⁴ Dr. Ruth Rae, 'Infection Control Nursing c1918-1919', in *Nursing Aust*, Journal of the College of Nursing, June 2003 pp. 95-99.

¹⁵ Dr. Ruth Rae, 'Infection Control Nursing c1918-1919'.

¹⁶ Dr. Ruth Rae, 'Infection Control Nursing c1918-1919'

The war graves commission re-interred Sisters Rosa O'Kane, Ada Thompson, Doris Ridgeway and at least 16 soldiers in 1958 but did not re-inter for Hilda Williams as her service record was not located.¹⁷

Those who died at *Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point* while in quarantine were cremated and either buried on site or re-interred to other burial places.

The Crematorium was constructed at *Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point* before 1911. The Crematorium was last used in 1943 when four soldiers died of smallpox. An incinerator, storage shed and stable were located near the Morgue (not extant). The shed was present until 1951.

The Dining Hall and Kitchen was constructed in 1911 and the second jetty was extended in 1912.

Between 1913 and 1918, as part of a planned major airbase, Woodman Point was extended by approximately 400 metres west and 400 metres south-west. The Commonwealth resumed the most southern fifth of the explosive reserve and a mole and jetty built out from the south shore.

The main period of building at *Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point* was between 1919 and 1924 when facilities were established to cope with the post war influx of passengers including returning servicemen. Increased migration brought about by the Group Settlement Scheme of the early 1920s no doubt also significantly increased the numbers of passengers processed at *Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point* at this time.

In December 1918, an overseas Settlement Committee was set up within the Colonial Office to plan the migration of deserving ex-servicemen to the dominions. In 1921, British Parliament passed the Empire Settlement Act. On 19 February 1923, a special agreement was signed by the State Government, which committed to settling 6000 suitable immigrant families on group settlements.

After the First World War, the Asiatics Quarters including dormitory, bathing block, kitchen, attendant's quarters and toilet were constructed. During World War Two, internees and prisoners of war, including Japanese prisoners, were interred in the Asiatics Quarters. It is said that machine guns towers stood on the beach to deter and prevent escapes from the quarters.¹⁸ These buildings were demolished between 1953 and 1955.

The Observation Ward was designed in 1919 under Public Works Department Principal Architect W. B. Hardwick to accommodate people who had come into contact with infectious patients. There were water tanks, a windmill, a well, cottages and toilets in the vicinity of the Observation Ward as well as a tramline to the Hospital.

The Norfolk Island Pines were planted in 1921.

By 1923, the buildings surrounding the Quarantine Quarters, including the north east quad wing and the south-east quad wing, were in place. The First Class Passengers Quarters and the Second Class Passengers Quarters were designed between 1921 and 1923, under Public Works Department Architect W. B. Hardwick, to upgrade accommodation facilities. They had red roofs and yellow walls and were painted green and grey during the Second World War. The walls

¹⁷ Dr. Ruth Rae, 'Infection Control Nursing c1918-1919'

¹⁸ 'An Assessment of Cultural Heritage Significance and a Conservation Plan For Woodman Point Recreation Camp' prepared for Department of Sport and Recreation by Ian Molyneux and Associates Architects, June 1995, Appendices, BMA 7.

were replaced with asbestos sheeting in the 1950s. The second jetty was extended for a second time in 1923.

The entrance to the *Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point* from the jetty was located between the Waiting Room and the Bathing Block. A tram rail ran trolleys of luggage and belongings from the end of the jetty to the back of the Foul Linen building then onto the Isolation hospital, until shortened in 1945 to reach only the Disinfecting Block before being completely removed.

The Disinfecting Block was constructed in 1923, replacing an older facility where the Machinery Shed now stands. The Disinfecting Block included a boiler room, which generated steam for fumigation and also for shower and laundry outlets. The pipes from the boiler room to the other buildings ran overhead between the buildings. The fumigator was used to disinfect such items as luggage, mail, poppy seeds, pig bristles, goat hair, cotton waste, bedding and laundry.

The Guard Hut, Laundry Building, Bathing Block, Residence No.1 and Store were also built in 1923. The Guard Hut was used at various times as a change room for visiting staff, as a store for deliveries during quarantine periods and as an office.

The Laundry Building was divided into cleaning and ironing sections, both powered by steam from the boiler room.

The Store was originally used for equipment such as kerosene lamps and cleaning apparatus. A small shed adjacent was used for storage of blankets. Both buildings were originally clad in corrugated iron until replaced with asbestos in the 1940s.

The Waiting Room was used for passengers that had no contact with diseases. It was also used at other times by staff for recreation.

By the end of 1930, *Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point* was one of the official thirteen points of entry for overseas vessels in Western Australia.¹⁹ In October 1931, Quarantine Officers were advised that besides their normal duties checking vessels for diseases they would have to deal with the importation of such goods as fertiliser, stock, and dead bodies (bodies for exhibition purposes).²⁰

During the 1930s Anzac ceremonies were carried out near the cemetery.²¹ At this time there was a white picket fence surrounding the cemetery.

The Changing Hut was designed in 1931. The original weatherboard and tin claddings have been replaced by asbestos.

In 1943, four Fijian sailors from the *Suva* died of smallpox at *Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point*. They were cremated and buried in a single grave at the Cemetery. Medical records also show that a further eight people died at the place but the graves for these people have not been found.²²

From this time to the 1950s, the place was mostly occupied by people arriving into the State without valid smallpox or yellow fever certificates. Their

¹⁹ Australian Archives (WA), 258/10, Item No. 335/20. The other points were: Bunbury, Albany, Esperance, Carnarvon, Onslow, Busselton, Point Phillip (Roebourne), Derby, Port Hedland, Geraldton, Wyndham and Broome.

²⁰ Australian Archives (WA), 258/10, Item No. 335/20.

²¹ 'An Assessment of Cultural Heritage Significance and a Conservation Plan For Woodman Point Recreation Camp'.

²² 'Woodman Point Recreation Camp: a history, 1886-1982'.

accommodation was charged to the airline or shipping company, which had overlooked the missing or invalid papers, which then had to recoup the cost from the passengers themselves.²³

Following World War Two, Australia underwent a period of massive economic development. Government policy encouraged migrants from post war Europe and many were happy to leave war-ravaged Europe. From 1947 to 1949 all migrant ships landed their passengers in Western Australia until onward travel could be arranged. Boats moored in Gage Roads and a pilot boat carrying government officials; including doctors, customs, immigration, bank and quarantine officers boarded the boats and inspected passengers and their documentation. Doctors made an onboard examination and diagnosis of all passengers. The boats berthed at Victoria Quay, Fremantle and any passengers identified as infectious were transported to *Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point* by bus and their belongings and bedding followed by truck. Those people who had close contact with the infected persons were also moved to *Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point*.²⁴ This procedure made the jetty redundant and it was subsequently removed around 1972.

Quarantine procedures in the 1950s were as follows. The patients were disinfected at the Hospital, which included a showering procedure at the Bathing Block where passengers stripped in cubicles in the first section, showered in the second and redressed in the third, before passing out into the clean area on the other side.²⁵ The rest of the passengers and their luggage entered the Station and a mass vaccination was carried out and recorded. Mailbags were also disinfected. Doctors would visit the station days later to see who could be released from the Station under surveillance and all relevant notes were forwarded to the Director-General in Canberra.²⁶

Nursing staff at the station ranged from five to ten but the usual number was approximately five.²⁷ From 1926 to 1956, a total of 26 ships were subjected to quarantine at the place, 24 for smallpox, one for alastrim and one for influenza. Up to 1955, precautionary disinfection against foot and mouth diseases formed a large portion of the work at the place. Records indicate that between 1949 and 1972, the number of people detained totalled 1228.

The huge increase in migration to Australia in the post war years placed a significant burden on government resources. In addition to the migrant ships checks had to be maintained on the usual sources of potential disease. In 1958, the Port of Fremantle Passenger Terminal was constructed at Victoria Quay. This facility aimed to streamline the arrival and departure of passenger ships into the Port of Fremantle.²⁸

Until 1960 only minor works were undertaken at *Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point*. New brick residences were constructed 1961.

In 1961, minor works were carried out Residence No.1, then known as the Officer-In-Charge Quarters. The Bathing Block was renovated in 1961 and jarrah benches in the waiting bays were removed.

23 'Woodman Point Recreation Camp: a history, 1886-1982'

24 Nonja Peters *Milk and Honey – but no Gold: Postwar Migration to Western Australia 1945-1964* UWA Press, 2001, pp. 102-103.

25 'Woodman Point Recreation Camp: a history, 1886-1982'.

26 'Woodman Point Recreation Camp: a history, 1886-1982'.

27 'Woodman Point Recreation Camp: a history, 1886-1982'.

28 Assessment documentation for P3363 Port of Fremantle Passenger Terminal.

The pump house was constructed circa 1963. In 1963, Residence no. 3 (Tuart) was constructed of cream brick. Residence No. 2 was constructed between 1963 and 1973.

By 1965, the Quarantine Quarters had a staff kitchen and an 'Asiatic kitchen' extending from the open verandah on the north side of the building. Other works to this building included replacement of verandah posts with steel tubular posts.

In 1965, minor works were carried out to Residence No.1 then known as Assistant Foreman's Residence.

In December 1970, the State Government asked the Commonwealth to release the place for development as a recreation and tourist centre to replace the loss of Garden Island and Point Peron to naval purposes.

In 1971, Cockburn Cement moved their sand washing facilities on a small plot on the Peninsular and built a fence along the eastern edge of the road, providing public access to the south-western shore of the peninsular.

The Guard Hut was demolished in 1973.

The Observation Ward was used as a detention block for people with invalid passports. In the 1970s, Vietnamese refugees landing on the Western Australian coast were held in the Observation Ward until cleared of possible health problems.

The place's function as a Quarantine Station terminated in 1979. In September of that year the State Government announced its intention to purchase the place from the Commonwealth for \$2.5 million. The buildings were considered suitable for a recreation camp and the area was vested in the Department of Sport and Recreation.

Between 1979 and 1982, the State Government maintained and renovated the existing facilities at *Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point* including construction of a new kitchen and renovation of the Dormitory Buildings.

In 1984, the Explosives Reserve came under the interim management of the Department of Sport and Recreation.

In 1991, a memorial Plaque for Bertie Poole, long-standing employee of the Quarantine Station, was installed between the two mature Norfolk Island Pine trees.

Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point has been used by families, schools, sporting and other groups as a holiday camp from 1979 to present (2005).

In 1997, the Department of Sport and Recreation began a programme of replacing asbestos roofs, gutters and downpipes of buildings. Ninety percent of this programme has been completed to date (2005). As part of this programme, asbestos roof, gutters and downpipes of the Observation Wards was removed and replaced.

In 2003/04, the Isolation Hospital was re-stumped, re-roofed and re-clad in colourbond and the Department of Sport and Recreation propose to remove all internal asbestos ceilings and wall-cladding.

In 2004, the Observation Wards and Changing Hut had conservation works carried out including re-roofing, external re-cladding and re-stumping.

The Laundry Building is being used as an administration building for the recreation camp.

In 2005, *Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point* is used as a recreation camp for community groups and private individuals.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the physical evidence, refer to 'An Assessment of Cultural Heritage Significance and a Conservation Plan For Woodman Point Recreation Camp (The Former Woodman Point Quarantine Station)' prepared for Department of Sport and Recreation by Ian Molyneux and Associates Architects in June 1995, pp.27-38.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

In Western Australia, quarantine stations were improved or established at Woodman Point (1886, 1914), Albany (1875), Bunbury (1915), and Broome (1927).

Quaranup Complex, Albany (1874; 1875; 1876; 1878-9; 1896-8; 1902-3; 1912; 1917; 1920-1; 1977; 1985, 1992-7, 1999) is a former quarantine station comprising 39 buildings including Victorian Georgian style stone buildings and Federation Bungalow buildings. The first building was constructed in 1874 (extant). Like *Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point* it has a fumigation building, bathhouse, tramway, morgue, cemetery but also includes original jetties. The place is located in a coastal bush setting. The place was used to quarantine soldiers from the Boer War, World War One and World War Two. *Quaranup Complex* has a cemetery with two graves dating from the World War One period. The place's function as a quarantine station ended in 1957 when it began a hostel and later, in 1978, a State run recreation camp. The buildings appear to have received regular maintenance until at least the 1940s. The change in use of the place to a recreation camp has led to minor external adaptations of the buildings, and there are only two recently constructed major buildings. The place is now used as a recreation camp like *Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point*.

29

Broome Quarantine Station (1927) comprises an administration block, isolation hospital, and Quarantine Assistant's quarters. It is a smaller complex than *Quaranup Complex* and *Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point*. It did not have quarters for different class passengers, nor did it have separate quarters for married couples or single men and women.³⁰ The buildings form a precinct of three similarly designed and constructed buildings, typical of Broome in the early 1920s. The place is included in the Shire of Broome Municipal Heritage Inventory.

Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point is rare example of a quarantine station in Western Australia.

Comparative to the quarantine complexes are the isolation complexes constructed in the northwest of Western Australia to quarantine people thought to be suffering from leprosy and venereal diseases. In the majority of cases these were indigenous people. Relatively few cases of leprosy were known in Western Australia in the 19th century. Those that were diagnosed prior to this time were held in *Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point* and deported if the sufferer was

²⁹ Conservation Plan for 'Camp Quaranup Former Quarantine Station', Prepared for CAMS, September 1996; Heritage Council Register documentation for Quaranup Complex.

³⁰ Conservation Plan for 'Camp Quaranup Former Quarantine Station'.

from another country.³¹ It became apparent to the medical authorities in Western Australia that leprosy was most common in the northwest of the state and suffered by the indigenous population or individuals of Chinese origin. While attempts were made to remove individuals to other quarantine stations in Australia by ship, transporting the sufferers was not welcomed by other passengers as fear of the disease was widespread in the 19th and early 20th century. A lazaret (a hospital for the treatment of contagious diseases) was established at Bezout Island, off Point Samson (P8661) in the Shire of Roebourne for the quarantine and treatment of leprosy patients. There are no remains of this establishment used between 1909 and 1913.³²

The Bezout Island lazaret was replaced by a facility off the coast of Cossack, which was an island only at high tide. The Cossack lazaret (P8665) had been originally established in 1909 but concerns of security had led to preference by the authorities for the Bezout Island lazaret. The Cossack lazaret was re-established in 1913 and operated until 1931.³³ No buildings remain on the site.

A leprosarium was established at Derby in 1936 and continued to operate in that function until its closure in 1986. It is on the State Register of Heritage Places as place number P2980, Bungarun (Leprosarium), Derby. The place consists of several buildings which are currently used for conference and educational purposes.³⁴

Other institutions which are comparable to the quarantine stations are the facilities known as 'Lock Hospitals'. These were government initiatives to segregate Aboriginal men and women believed to have been suffering from venereal disease. The name refers to the compound conditions at the hospitals. Between 1908 and 1918, the remote islands of Dorre and Bernier Islands off Carnarvon were used to segregate aboriginal people thought to be suffering from venereal diseases like granuloma.³⁵ There are no remains of these buildings on the sites.

Lock Hospital and Burial Ground P5948 in Port Hedland constructed in 1918-19 took over the function of the Dorre and Bernier island facilities which were closed in 1918.³⁶ In 1996, A nursing home, shed and doctor's house remain from the Lock Hospital complex.

In the remainder of Australia there are several quarantine stations recognised for their heritage value. *North Head*, North Head Scenic Dr, Manly, NSW, registered by the National Estate, includes a quarantine station established in 1837. It is noted as being an area of great cultural and natural interest. The Quarantine Station is the first site designated as a place of quarantine for people entering Australia and is the oldest example of its type in Australia. The Station includes, amongst other buildings, fumigation chamber, shower blocks, three cemeteries, auto-claves, carvings and memorials at Quarantine Beach. Over 13,000 persons

³¹ W.S. Davidson, *Havens of Refuge: A History of Leprosy in Western Australia* UWA Press, 1978, pp. 5-6.

³² W.S. Davidson, *Havens of Refuge: A History of Leprosy in Western Australia*, p. 6; Shire of Roebourne Municipal Inventory, place number 4; HCWA database P8661.

³³ D. Hutchison and T. Suba, *The Cultural Significance of the Lazaret* Perth WA 1992, pp. 6-7.

³⁴ HCWA documentation P2980, Bungarun (Leprosarium), Derby.

³⁵ Mary Anne Jebb 'The Lock Hospitals Experiment: Europeans, Aborigines and Venereal Disease' in *Studies in West Australian History* No. 8 December 1984, pp 68-87. Refer also to Mary Anne Jebb, 'Isolating the "Problem": Venereal disease and Aborigines in Western Australia 1898 – 1924', Vols 1 & 2, BA(Hons) dissertation, Murdoch University, 1987.

³⁶ Shire of Roebourne Municipal Inventory, place number 13 – Lock Hospital and Burial Ground.

including convicts and free migrants passed through the Station before its closure in 1977. Troops returning from the First and Second World Wars were quarantined at North Head in addition to Prisoners of War arriving in Australia.³⁷

Quarantine Wards, Kitchens and Heatons Monument Group, Portsea, Victoria is registered by the National Estate. The ward buildings are noted as being architecturally unusual in their two-storey limestone construction as they are quite unlike those at the other major quarantine stations of this period. The site displays a high level of integrity and intactness in buildings and structures from the 1850s to the 1970s. The quarantine station changed little after 1921, due to a gradual decline in Australia's quarantine requirements, brought about partly by the increased availability of inoculation and treatment for many diseases. After 1957 the quarantine station was used infrequently, mainly in relation to arriving passengers not vaccinated against smallpox.³⁸

Peel Island Queensland quarantine station, now in a ruinous state, was constructed in 1874. *Torrens Island*, South Australia contains one timber quarantine building dating to the 1870s. *Torrens Island* is the only one of these facilities still in quarantine use, being used for animal quarantine.³⁹

Other extant quarantine stations in Australia include Bruny Island Quarantine station, Chanel Island (Port Darwin) Leprosarium and Quarantine Station, Quarantine and Cascade/Philipsburg site, Norfolk Island, Port Adelaide Telegraph Station, Customs and Quarantine Offices and Pell Island Quarantine Station.

In general, quarantine stations in Australia were located close to major ports in isolated coastal areas such as islands or peninsulas. The lack of development in the vicinity of the stations has meant that natural flora and fauna has been preserved in these areas. The isolated coastal locality of quarantine stations has also meant that the stations and areas close to the stations were used for military purposes at some point in their history.

Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point is a good, intact representative example of a quarantine station in Australia.

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

'An Assessment of Cultural Heritage Significance and a Conservation Plan For Woodman Point Recreation Camp (The Former Woodman Point Quarantine Station)' prepared for the Department of Sport and Recreation by Ian Molyneux and Associates Architects in June 1995.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

Further investigation may reveal more details about the use of the place as an explosives reserve.

³⁷ Australian Heritage Database www.deh.gov.au

³⁸ Australian Heritage Database www.deh.gov.au

³⁹ Australian Heritage Database www.deh.gov.au