



## REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES - ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

### 11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in September, 1991 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

#### 11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE

*Gallop House* is a fine example of Victorian Georgian style. (Criterion 1.1)

*Gallop House* has a landmark quality. Occupying a prime location, it is a prominent landscape element impacting on vistas from Melville Water. The proximity of the house to the river, and the vistas thereto, is important in establishing and retaining the landmark quality of the house and surroundings. (Criterion 1.3)

#### 11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

*Gallop House* has significance as the oldest private residence in the City of Nedlands, and for its strong association with the establishment of farming in the district. (Criterion 2.2)

*Gallop House* has significance for its association with James Gallop and his family, who were amongst the first European settlers who prospered and contributed to the development of Dalkeith. (Criterion 2.3)

#### 11.3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

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#### 11.4. SOCIAL VALUE

*Gallop House* contributes to the community's sense of place by demonstrating European settlement in the district, particularly through its use as a local history museum. (Criterion 4.2)

### 12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

#### 12.1. RARITY

*Gallop House* is a rare example of a colonial residence sited in its original garden setting, on a high bank overlooking Melville Water. (Criterion 5.1)

#### 12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

*Gallop House* is representative of a substantial stone residence built in the latter half of the nineteenth century, at a time when the Swan River waterway played an important role as a means of transporting produce. (Criterion 6.2)

### **12.3 CONDITION**

Like many nineteenth century buildings in Western Australia, *Gallop House* is subject to the problems of rising damp, but otherwise the building is in reasonable condition.

#### **12. 4 INTEGRITY**

Minor alterations to the building have been confined to interior linings. Although currently used as a local history museum, the original layout and function of *Gallop House* remain clearly evident, and the place retains a high degree of integrity.

#### **12. 5 AUTHENTICITY**

Apart from minor restoration work to the interior, the building remains substantially intact and therefore retains a high degree of authenticity.

## 13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

### 13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

*Gallop House* is a two-storey residential building constructed circa 1872-1877, by James Gallop, Snr.

The riverside suburb of Dalkeith derives its name from an estate of 320 acres taken up in 1831, by Adam Armstrong. He named it *Dalkeith Farm* after the district near Edinburgh from which he had migrated in 1829. Armstrong had first taken up land on the Murray River, south of Fremantle, where he established a farm. However, trouble with local Aborigines forced him to relinquish this isolated holding and establish his home on the Swan River.<sup>1</sup>

Here, with his family, he began improving the estate and built *Dalkeith Cottage*. The exact location of this first house is not known. However, following financial difficulties, Armstrong decided to return to the Murray River and, on 1 February 1839, sold *Dalkeith Farm* for £250. At sale, the property included stockyards and five acres of gardens.

The new owner was John Lewis, Commissary General and Colonial Treasurer. On Lewis' death, two years later, *Dalkeith Farm* was leased, first to William F. Cook and later to James Gallop.

James Gallop had arrived in Western Australia, in October 1829, with his two brothers.<sup>2</sup> They were indentured labourers selected by the agents of Colonel Edward Latour; however, Latour never came to Australia and the brothers were left to fend for themselves. Within a short time they found themselves 'good positions'. Through hard work, Gallop was able to lease, and later purchase, the land in Dalkeith which enabled him to prosper as a market gardener and wine maker.<sup>3</sup>

In 1847, Gallop bought out part of the lease, acquiring the cottage and sixty-five acres of land, including improvements, for £250; and, in the mid-to-late 1860s, he acquired the remainder of the 320 acres for £50. The two parcels of land Gallop bought comprised most of the present-day suburb of Dalkeith.<sup>4</sup> By this time, *Dalkeith Farm* had become a well established market garden which supplied Perth and Fremantle with much of its fresh produce.<sup>5</sup>

James Gallop had married Elizabeth Spencer in 1843, and by the late 1850s, they several children. For the sake of their children's better education, the family moved from their isolated farm in Dalkeith to reside at Fremantle. However, Gallop continued to work *Dalkeith Farm* as a fruit gardener.

It is thought that James Gallop, Snr., built the present two-storey house for his eldest son, James. The construction commenced about 1872 and was completed prior to 1877. His son James Jnr. took up residence after his

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<sup>1</sup> Harding, J. S., 'Gallop House', (brochure, 1986), p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> Erikson, R., (ed) *The Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians, 1829 - 1888*, Vol. 2, (UWA Press, Nedlands, 1988), p. 1144.

<sup>3</sup> Williams, A. E., *Nedlands: From Campsite to City*, (City of Nedlands, 1984), pp. 31-34.

<sup>4</sup> *ibid.* p. 28.

<sup>5</sup> Dalkeith Farm, at a later date, became known as Gallop Gardens, thus reinforcing the association with the Gallop family.

wedding in December 1877, to Emma Wood of Fremantle.<sup>6</sup> The stone steps leading to the river are believed to have been constructed at this time.

Over the years the Gallop family developed a thriving market garden and vineyard operation; however, the growing prosperity of the State around the turn-of-the-century was not reflected in Gallop Gardens, at least in terms of productivity. After James Gallop *Snr.* died in 1897, James Gallop *Jnr.* subdivided the land and sold off parcels of it, up until around 1911.

In 1911, John Scaddan's Labor Government bought the balance of Location 85 and the house for £11,000. The house had become dilapidated and the surrounds overgrown and neglected. In 1911, the State Gardens Board, which now controlled the foreshore as an 'A' Class Reserve, appointed Mr B. V. Brooks, a former Gallop employee, as tenant-caretaker and he eked out a living from the land.<sup>7</sup>

In the 1920s and 1930s, amid the extensive clearing of bushland in Nedlands and Dalkeith for residential development, the conservation of *Gallop House* become doubtful as it was in a run-down condition.

As early as October 1959, the W.A. Historical Society had expressed its concern over the condition of the building. However, no work was able to be undertaken immediately and the Nedlands City Council resolved that the place be condemned as unfit for human habitation and a demolition notice was issued on 21 January 1963. Despite this, action was being taken by the Historical Society to organise its possible restoration. After much negotiation, an agreement was reached whereby the City Council agreed to offer the house on a 21 year rent- free lease, in exchange for its occupation, its proper repair and effective maintenance. *Gallop House* was subsequently leased to Mr and Mrs Anderson and the restoration completed, at their expense, during 1963 and 1964.<sup>8</sup>

A memorial erected at the front of *Gallop House* in 1971, by the Royal Western Australian Historical Society, commemorates the contributions made to the early settlement of Dalkeith by Adam Armstrong, Thomas Peel and James Gallop.

The house was further restored after the 21 year lease ended in the mid-1980s. In 1985, *Gallop House* was opened to the public as an 'Historical Museum and Old Colonial Home'. The rooms left of the passage contain sitting, dining and bedroom displays. The rooms to the right of the passage are for private use by the tenant. The furniture on display has been collected over the years. A Bible encased in glass, on display in the sitting room, is believed to be the only surviving remnant of the Gallops' life in Dalkeith.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> *West Australian*, (West Suburbs Supp.) 28 June 1962, p. 3. states that "Mr James Gallop. son of the founder of the house, wrote to Mr Williams that the house was built as a wedding present for his mother, about 1875."

<sup>7</sup> Williams, p. 57.

<sup>8</sup> *ibid.*, pp. 220-230.

<sup>9</sup> Interview conducted by Kelly Aris with Janette Barrett, caretaker Gallop House, 6 September 1994.

## 13. 2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

*Gallop House* is a two-storey residence built in Victorian Georgian style.<sup>10</sup>

*Gallop House* is situated, in isolation, on a high bank with steps leading down the grassed hill to the Swan River. The place is set in a garden environment, landscaped by lawn and trees. The rear of the residence is tiered with retaining walls that encase gardens and are connected by paths. The building is surrounded by paving on three sides and bounded by a stone wall. The building can be accessed from the river by a large stone and timber staircase, cruciform in plan, with a solid stone balustrade, lined either side by garden.

The residence is built of local limestone with stucco finish, lined to resemble stone blocks.<sup>11</sup> The building is covered by a double hip roof of corrugated iron with a central box gutter and simple chimneys. A balcony and verandah extend across the front and rear facades. The main roof extends to cover the front balcony, while the rear balcony has a separate roof. Both balconies are supported by stop-chamfered timber posts with imported cast-iron infill panels.<sup>12</sup> The underside of the front verandah beam is decorated by a cast-iron frieze and cast-iron brackets adorn its posts. A timber valance decorates the underside of the rear verandah beam.

The front and rear facades are symmetrical with a central doorway and windows either side. The windows have stone lintels and sills except for the lower level windows on the side and rear facades which have timber sills. All windows are double-hung sashes, twelve paned with slim glazing bars.

The residence comprises a central passage with three rooms either side. The plan is repeated on the upper level. The two front rooms on the lower level feature stone fireplaces with plaster finish and carved timber mantles.

Floors to the interior are pit-swan timber throughout - saw marks can be seen on the boards. The verandah floors and drive-way are brick paved - carried out during the early 1960s.

The interior features high ceilings with simple ceiling roses. An oak staircase, in a colonial style with slender balusters and a continuous rounded balustrade, is located in the passage. An archway supported on square pilasters is located mid-way down the passage on both levels.

Although the interior was originally wall-papered, it is now painted.

In 1963-64, the building was restored. Works included: the installation of new ceilings and timber trims; repair to cracks in the plasterwork in the interior and the stucco to the exterior; the bathroom and kitchen were modernised; and the garden was removed from the building walls to ease the problem of rising damp. The building was repainted with colours chosen from paint scrapes to be as close to the original as possible.

General maintenance was carried out in the 1980s prior to the place being opened to the public in 1985.

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<sup>10</sup> Apperly, R., Irving, R., Reynolds, P., *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, (Angus & Robertson, North Ryde, 1989), pp. 28-31.

<sup>11</sup> Williams, p. 33.

<sup>12</sup> *ibid.*, p. 34.

In January 1995, work was completed to strengthen the garage roof beams and replace the corrugated iron sheeting of the garage roof at *Gallop House*.

### **13.3 REFERENCES**

Australian Heritage Commission Data Sheet.