



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

11. 2. HISTORIC VALUE

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Dampier Memorial is significant as it marks the link between the Broome area and William Dampier, the first English navigator to record a visit to Australian shores and as such is held in high esteem by the local European community.
(Criterion 4.1)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

12. 3 CONDITION

Apart from some minor graffiti *Dampier Memorial* is in good condition.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

Dampier Memorial retains a high degree of integrity.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

Dampier Memorial retains a high degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Dampier Memorial was built in 1938, and was designed by Marshall Clifton. It is built in the form of a sea-chest in granite with Dampier's name and coat of arms on it. It was funded by the Commonwealth and the Western Australian Historical Society and the dedicatory oration for its unveiling was written by John Mansfield.

The wording on the chest is simple: 'this memorial chest was presented to the Town People of Broome by the Commonwealth Government and the Western Australian Historical Society and unveiled by Commander R.R. Dowling R.A.N. *HMAS Swan* on the 30th October 1938.' The inscription by John Mansfield is as follows, 'We little guess which deed a future year may mark to mortals from our passing here.' No actual wording on the chest states that it commemorates any particular historical event.

It is important to record the nature of Dampier's association with Broome. It has often been said that, 'he visited the North west coast in 1688, in the *Cygnet* and in 1699 in *Roebuck* the bay of that name on which Broome stands being one of his landing places on the second voyage.'³² Cartographers, mariners and writers have perpetuated the notion that Dampier landed at Roebuck Bay.³³

This however, is likely to be inaccurate. In a detailed study of Dampier and his explorations, Leslie Marchant points out that Roebuck Bay has been wrongly identified as Dampier's anchorage.³⁴ People have wrongly assumed that what Dampier called Deep Bay was in fact Roebuck Bay. Marchant points out that a ship can not enter Roebuck Bay when coming from Port Hedland. These places are some two hundred and fifty miles apart, and Roebuck Bay is a small indentation which has to be closely approached to enter. The head of Dampier's Deep Bay lies much to the south of Roebuck Bay.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

An unusually designed granite memorial built in the form of a sea chest, located prominently in Bedford Park.

13.3 REFERENCES

³² The notation for the entry in the Register of the National Estate notes, 'An unusually designed monument to William Dampier, the first English navigator to visit Australia in 1699. Dampier landed in Roebuck Bay (Named after his ship), at the location where Broome now stands. The granite carved sea chest, erected in 1938, commemorates this historical event.'

³³ King, P.P. *Narrative of a Survey of the Intertropical and Western Coasts of Australia performed between the years 1818 and 1822*, Vol. II, John Murray, London, 1827 (Facsimile reprint: Libraries Board of South Australia, Adelaide, 1969), pp.107, 354. King first notes, 'into the bight between Cape Villaret and Point Gantheaume, which I named Roebuck Bay, after the ship that Captain Dampier commanded when he visited this part of the coast.', when surveying the area in 1821. However, the later reference to the naming of the bay contradicts this.

³⁴ Marchant, L.R. *An Island Unto Itself: William Dampier and New Holland*, Hesperian Press, Carlisle, 1988.