



**HERITAGE  
COUNCIL**  
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Assessment Documentation

### 11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Cultural heritage significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for individuals or groups within Western Australia.

In determining cultural heritage significance, the Heritage Council has had regard to the factors in the *Heritage Act 2018* and the indicators adopted on 14 June 2019.

#### PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 3.5 Developing primary production
- 3.9 Farming for commercial profit
- 3.12.2 Developing sources of fresh local produce
- 5.2 Organising workers and work places
- 5.8 Working on the land
- 7.7 Defending Australia
- 8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

#### HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 103 Racial contact & interaction
- 106 Workers (incl. Aboriginal, convict)
- 301 Grazing, pastoralism and dairying
- 302 Rural industry & market gardening
- 501 World wars & other wars
- 602 Early settlers
- 603 Local heroes and battlers

#### 11(a) Importance in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of Western Australia's history;

*Yanget Station Group, Kojarena* is associated with the beginnings of pastoral settlement in the Midwest region, being located on a lease taken up in 1850, and the resulting dispossession of Aboriginal people.

*Yanget Station Group, Kojarena* was the site of the RAAF Kojarena Satellite Aerodrome, which operated as a vital adjunct to the No. 4 Service Flying Training School based at Geraldton Aerodrome from 1941 to 1945, and with reconnaissance and search missions carried out from the region.

*Yanget Station Group, Kojarena* is associated with the employment of Chinese labour for farm work and as cooks in the first half of the twentieth century.



*Yanget Station Group, Kojarena* is associated with the Grant family, who owned and worked the property from 1878 to 1979, and who are still engaged in farming in the district.

*Yanget Station Group, Kojarena* is notable for having been a quality Merino sheep stud which was established by Alex Grant when he inherited the place.

Yanget Homestead demonstrates the use of locally available materials in the stone quarried on the property.

**11(c) Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Western Australia's history;**

*Yanget Station Group, Kojarena* is likely to contain archaeological evidence of past life style practices on a rural property during the early twentieth century.

The Aerodrome may provide some archaeological evidence of its wartime use that has survived the subsequent return of the area to cropping.

**11(d) Its importance in demonstrating the characteristics of a broader class of places;**

Yanget Homestead is a fine representative example of a Federation Bungalow style residence in a pastoral development that has undergone some change since its establishment in 1910.

The ironclad Shearing Shed and former Shearers' Quarters are representative of twentieth century farm buildings of their type.

The site of Kojarena Aerodrome is a typical example of a RAAF airfield that was established for the duration of World War II and then abandoned, with little evidence remaining to mark its wartime use.

**11(e) Any strong or special meaning it may have for any group or community because of social, cultural or spiritual associations;**

*Yanget Station Group, Kojarena* contributes to the community's sense of place because of its long association with farming in the region, and the various generations of the Grant family who continue to live and farm in the district.

**11(f)<sup>1</sup>Its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by any group or community;**

*Yanget Station Group, Kojarena* is valued for the recognisable aesthetic of a vernacular pastoral group with a fine Federation Bungalow Homestead that has developed over time since its construction in 1910.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.



*Yanget Station Group, Kojarena* comprising the Homestead and adjoining kitchen wing, tennis court, former Shearers' Quarters, Shearing Shed, and remnants of the Aerodrome, forms a diverse cultural environment associated with the early settlement and development of the Kojarena area.

**11(g) Any special association it may have with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in Western Australia's history;**

Yanget Homestead was designed by Perth architect Jack Learmonth Ochiltree who designed several rural homesteads in the district as well as residential and public buildings in Perth and other country locations.

**12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

**12.1 CONDITION**

Generally, *Yanget Station Group, Kojarena* is in fair to good condition. The Homestead is mostly in good condition, the Former Shearers' Quarters is poor, the Shearing Shed is in fair condition, and the Aerodrome is a ruin.

**12.2 INTEGRITY**

Yanget Homestead maintains its original function as a pastoral Homestead. The former Shearers' Quarters is almost in ruin, and the Aerodrome evidences the ruin of the RAAF Hut. The Homestead has had a continued residential function, with the bathroom and kitchen facilities upgraded. Overall, *Yanget Station Group, Kojarena* has a moderate to high degree of integrity.

**12.3 AUTHENTICITY**

The Homestead has undergone some intervention with a complete re-cladding of the roof and the removal of a number of chimneys and some alteration to its form including removal of the belvedere, and replacement concrete verandahs and enclosures.

It is still occupied and is generally in fair to good condition, although the kitchen wing is in poor condition with considerable damage associated with rising damp, and weathered external fabric. Internally, the Homestead has undergone minimal change over time to facilitate the ongoing residential function; mostly kitchen and bathroom fitouts. The Homestead has a moderate to high degree of authenticity.

Despite the fair condition of the Shearing Shed, the poor ruinous condition of the former Shearers' Quarters, and remnant elements of the Aerodrome, they evidence minimal intervention and a high degree of original remaining fabric. Overall the place has a moderate to high degree of authenticity.



### 13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentation for this place is based on the heritage assessment completed by Irene Sauman, Historian and Laura Gray, Heritage and Conservation Consultant, in May 2009, with additional information added in February 2010, and amendments and/or additions by, with amendments and/or additions by the Heritage Council and the Department.

#### 13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

*Yanget Station Group, Kojarena* comprises a stone and tile Homestead (1910) with adjoining kitchen wing, tennis court, iron clad former Shearers' Quarters, and iron clad Shearing Shed, all of which were constructed in the 1910s to 1920s, and remnants of a World War II RAAF Aerodrome.

The Aboriginal name for the Champion Bay district was *Wootakarra* (Utacarra) and the region is the country of the Yamatji people. This large grouping is made up of a number of former smaller language groups whose boundaries moved according to the seasons. The term Yamatji (Jamadji, Yamaidyi, Amangu) was a general term used by the people of the region to refer to themselves in contrast to Europeans. Mount Gould (Japarang) was considered to be the central place for the region.<sup>2</sup>

First contact between the indigenous inhabitants of the Victoria district and a party of European explorers in 1846 was peaceful, but a return visit with Governor Fitzgerald in 1848 resulted in three Aboriginals being killed and the Governor receiving a spear in the leg. Organised resistance against the Europeans followed and the prison on Rottnest, which had been closed in 1849, was reopened in 1855 to accommodate those fighting against European settlement as it spread through the Greenough district, but by 1870 the major resistance on the coastal areas had ended.<sup>3</sup>

The Victoria District was first explored by Europeans in 1848 by Augustus and Francis Gregory and in 1849 a military garrison was established at Champion Bay (Geraldton).<sup>4</sup> The first pastoral stations were established in the area in the 1850s and 1860s and by 1859 there were 935 settlers in the Victoria District.<sup>5</sup> In 1871 the Geraldton Road Board was gazetted and pastoral stations continued to be

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<sup>2</sup> Berndt, R. M. & Catherine (Eds) *Aborigines of the West: Their past and present*, UWA Press, 1980; Bates, D. M. *The Native Tribes of Western Australia*, Canberra, National Library of Australia, 1985; Hallam, Sylvia, J. 'The First Western Australians', In Stannage, C. T. (ed) *A New History of Western Australia*, UWA Press, Perth, 1981, pp. 35-71; Tindale, Norman B. *Aboriginal Tribes of Australia: Their terrain, environmental controls, distribution, limits, and proper names*, ANU Press, Canberra, 1974.

<sup>3</sup> Green, Neville 'Aborigines and white settlers in the nineteenth century', in Stannage, C. T. (ed) *A New History of Western Australia*, UWA Press, Perth, 1981, pp. 93-97.

<sup>4</sup> *Koogereena Homestead, Kojarena, Western Australia: Conservation Plan* prepared by Eastman Poletti Sherwood Architects with Gary Martin, Historian for the owners and the Heritage Council of Western Australia in May 2004. p. 12.

<sup>5</sup> *Shire of Greenough Municipal Inventory of Heritage Places, Volume 1, Thematic Framework*. Prepared by Tanya Henkel, Bruce Callow & Graham Grundy in 1997/98 (reviewed by Helen Buckley, Tanya Henkel, Simon Lancaster and Gary Martin 2004/05) for the Shire of Greenough.



established in the 1880s. By 1894, Perth and Geraldton were linked by rail and another railway linked Geraldton to Mullewa.<sup>6</sup>

In 1850, Thomas and Eliza Brown took up four separate and adjoining pastoral leases in the Victoria District, near the Greenough River. They named the property 'Glengarry', but this name came eventually to refer solely to the lease on the Greenough River, which developed as the residential centre of the estate, with a homestead, barn and stables. The other three leases gradually acquired their own names, based on the local water source. Newmarracarra took its name from the Newmarugura Well, and the Yanget lease was named for Yanget Spring and the nearby Yanget Hill. Moonyoonooka derived its name from the Molonoga or Moonyonugo Spring and was referred to as the shearing station or 'Woolshed'.<sup>7</sup>

Thomas Brown and his sons, Maitland, Kenneth and Aubrey ran sheep and cattle, and bred horses for the British Army remount trade in India. The sons were more interested in horses than sheep or cattle and successfully rode in race meetings, both locally and in Perth. Thomas Brown died in 1863, leaving the property to his wife Eliza and his sons, who worked the properties in partnership. Aubrey Brown withdrew from the partnership in 1870, leaving Kenneth to run the place while Maitland served two years as a nominated member of the Legislative Council. When Maitland returned to Glengarry in 1872 he bought out Kenneth's share of the land and stock and then proceeded to buy his mother's share. During the following several years, Maitland built the Glengarry stables complex and a cottage and stables at Newmarracarra. These were probably built with the assistance of some of the one hundred or so ticket-of-leave men who were employed on the property between 1862 and 1876, including stonemason, John Tetlow.<sup>8</sup>

Maitland Brown reduced the carrying capacity of sheep and cattle and increased the number of horses. His large expenditure on the place created financial problems and in 1874, he leased Glengarry to Thomas Major and Frederick Barlee, while retaining the remaining land and occupying the cottage on Newmarracarra. In 1876, Maitland's brother Kenneth shot and killed his second wife Mary Tindall. The Brown family covered Kenneth's defence costs over three trials, severely testing their financial resources. In 1882, Maitland Brown sold Newmarracarra, Moonyoonooka and Yanget to J. McKenzie Grant.<sup>9</sup>

McKenzie Grant was born in Scotland in 1834. He migrated to Victoria in 1852 and reached Western Australia in 1865. He was a pastoralist, pearler and horse breeder in partnership with the Richardson Brothers and John Edgar in the Portland Squatting Co, which developed De Grey Station, and was married to Jane Edgar, his partner's sister, with whom he had six sons and a daughter.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> *Koogereena Homestead, Kojarena, Western Australia: Conservation Plan* prepared by Eastman Poletti Sherwood Architects with Gary Martin, Historian for the owners and the Heritage Council of Western Australia in May 2004. p. 12.

<sup>7</sup> Moonyoonooka was later renamed *Windarra*, most likely to avoid confusion with the locality and with another property in the region known as 'Minnenooka'.

<sup>8</sup> Bain, Mary Albertus, *Ancient Landmarks: A social and economic history of the Victoria District of Western Australia 1839-1894*, UWA Press, 1975, p. 176; Erickson, Rica, *Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians*, Perth, UWA Press, 1988.

<sup>9</sup> Hillman, Alfred James, *The Hillman Diaries 1877-1884: the personal diaries of Alfred James Hillman from 21 December 1877 to 24 April 1884*, Applecross, F. V. Bentley Hillman, 1990, 1 November 1882, p. 755 and 2 December 1882, p. 767.

<sup>10</sup> Erickson, Rica, *Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians*, op cit, p. 1246.



The Grants occupied the Newmarracarra residence, and the property in total was known at this time as Newmarracarra.

... Mr. Grant has got rid of all the horses and is going in for sheep, he has cleared a large amount of land. He occupied it under the poison lease and pays 2/6 per 1,000 acres per annum for twenty years and at the end of the time will get 20,000 acres in fee simple provided he has rooted out the poison plant.<sup>11</sup>

In 1893, McKenzie Grant added Glengarry to his landholdings, reuniting the original four leases.<sup>12</sup> The pastoral properties of the region were described c.1901:

No part of Western Australia can boast of so many beautiful estates as the sheep stations that lie in the neighbourhood of Geraldton and Northampton, such as the Bowes, Mount Erin, Oakabella, White Peak, Narra Tarra, Sand Springs, Tibradden, Minnenooka, Newmarracarra and Glengarry, and undoubtedly the last two, known as the Newmarracarra Estate, are the finest and most valuable stations in the district, if not of Western Australia.<sup>13</sup>

McKenzie Grant was MLC for the Northern District 1880-1887 and nominated MLC 1890-1893. He died in 1897 and in his will he left Newmarracarra to be divided between his five surviving sons, but they could not inherit until the youngest had attained his majority. In the interim, the older Grant brothers leased sections of the property from their father's estate. Walter McKenzie Grant occupied Newmarracarra with his wife Constance, who was the daughter of Maitland Brown. His brothers David Edgar and John Gordon (Jack) worked Glengarry and Moonyoonooka (Windarra) while living at the original Glengarry homestead with their mother and younger brothers, Craig (14) and Alex (11). Yanget at this time was undeveloped and uncleared and used only to run horses.<sup>14</sup>

The lifestyle of the Grant brothers was reputed to be one of extravagant living. Horse breeding was revived on the properties, and polo and horse racing were pursued. The Victoria District polo team, of which the Grant brothers were all members, played and defeated teams in Perth and Fremantle. Various reports of the properties detail the breeding lines of the horses, including the Clydesdales, and the horses bred for polo, racing and general working.<sup>15</sup>

Craig Grant died in 1900, at the age of seventeen and the surviving brothers eventually took full possession of their portions of the estate in 1908 when the youngest, Alex, turned twenty-one. Alex inherited Yanget, comprising about 20,000 acres.<sup>16</sup> It was reported that 'Alex Grant's share of the property was slightly larger than the others, owing to there being fewer improvements thereon'.<sup>17</sup>

The Grant brothers built new homesteads on their properties between 1910 and 1913. Yanget was the second to be built, shortly after Newmarracarra, and like Newmarracarra was designed by architect Jack Ochiltree. In July 1910 a

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<sup>11</sup> Hillman, Alfred James, op cit, 3 April 1884, p. 1043.

<sup>12</sup> Notes presumed to be by Mary Albertus Bain, in Jacobs family papers, referenced in Considine & Griffiths Architects, *Glengarry Station Stables Complex Conservation Plan*, 1999, p. 17.

<sup>13</sup> *Twentieth Century Impressions of Western Australia*, Facsimile of 1901 edition, Perth, Hesperian Press, 2000, pp. 610.

<sup>14</sup> Jane Grant notes, Flavel Family papers, referenced in Considine & Griffiths Architects, op cit, p. 19.

<sup>15</sup> *The Western Mail*, 21 February 1912, p. 43; Grant, Alexander David (son of Alex Grant, born 1927), oral history interview by Carol Cahill, 9 October 1998, OH2957.

<sup>16</sup> *Western Mail*, 'Newmarracarra and surroundings', 24 February 1912.

<sup>17</sup> *Geraldton Guardian*, Christmas Issue, December 1928, pp. 25-27.



newspaper item noted: 'J. Ochiltree calls tenders for the erection of Yanget homestead, stabling, etc, at Kojarena for Alex E Grant'.<sup>18</sup> The following week it was reported that 'Mr Huckle, the contractor for the Newmarracarra homestead is the lowest tenderer for the homestead to be erected at Yanget for Mr Alex E. Grant'.<sup>19</sup>

Jack Learmonth Ochiltree completed his articles under Alfred Dunn, one of Melbourne's leading architects. In 1893, he joined the architectural branch of the West Australian Government Railways, and three years later moved to the Goldfields and opened in practice at Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie, where he enjoyed 'marked success'. In 1900 he served in the Boer War, obtaining the rank of Captain and on his return in 1902 he established his architectural practice in Perth. Ochiltree was active in public affairs, being a Perth City councillor and Chairman of the Works Committee.<sup>20</sup>

Victoria Location 2859 of 239 acres was the site of the Yanget Homestead and farm buildings.<sup>21</sup> The Homestead was built with stone quarried on the property and roofed with Bell's asbestos tiles.<sup>22</sup> The Homestead was briefly described in February 1912 as 'situated on a hill about 1,000 feet above sea level, and is built on somewhat similar lines to the one at Newmarracarra, though not on such a big scale'.<sup>23</sup> Like Newmarracarra, Yanget Homestead had a lookout on the roof and both had the same diagonally laid asbestos roof tiles.<sup>24</sup> Tennis was a popular pastime post World War II and many properties in the district had a tennis court. Yanget was no exception, with a clay court located adjacent to the Homestead.<sup>25</sup>

In 1912, Yanget was described as carrying 9,000 sheep, about 60 horses, and over 100 head of cattle. About 2,000 acres had been let out for cultivation.<sup>26</sup>

The Grant brothers were gentleman farmers who did not undertake the farming work themselves but employed an overseer to instruct the farm workers on their tasks. About forty men were employed at Yanget, each with their own particular task, such as blacksmith, carpenter, horse driver, 'windmill man', dairyman, and jackaroo. Bill Bunter of Nabawa was a blacksmith at Yanget for many years in the 1920s and 1930s, while Gus Johanson was the 'windmill man', the carpenter was Norwegian and an English lad by the name of John Round Turner was a dairyman who eventually went farming at Harvey. There was a big staff at the Homestead including a cook, housemaids, gardeners and yardmen. Yanget was described as having magnificent vegetable and flower gardens.<sup>27</sup>

The cooks at Yanget prior to World War II were mainly Chinese. Following the cessation of convict labour in Australia in 1869, the scarcity of a male workforce in the colony led Parliament to examine new recruitment policies, one of which was to recruit Chinese workers from the eastern colonies of Hong Kong and Singapore.

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<sup>18</sup> *Geraldton Guardian*, 28 July 1910, p. 3.

<sup>19</sup> *Geraldton Guardian*, 4 August, 1910, p. 2.

<sup>20</sup> Battye J. S. *Cyclopedia of Western Australia*, Hussey & Gillingham, Adelaide, 1912-13, Vol. 2 pp. 542-543.

<sup>21</sup> Certificate of Title, Vol. 874 Fol. 199.

<sup>22</sup> Grant, Alexander David, OH2957, op cit, pp. 6-7.

<sup>23</sup> *Western Mail*, 'Newmarracarra and surroundings', op cit.

<sup>24</sup> *Western Mail*, 'Newmarracarra and surroundings', op cit & Photograph from *Pastoral Review* article, c.1927-28, provided courtesy of the owner.

<sup>25</sup> Grant, Alexander David, OH2957, op cit, p. 12.

<sup>26</sup> *Western Mail*, 'Newmarracarra and surroundings', op cit.

<sup>27</sup> Grant, Alexander David, OH2957, op cit, pp. 3, 9, 25-26.



Pastoralists in the north west of Australia, who had difficulty attracting labour, also requested government subsidies for Chinese recruitment.<sup>28</sup> By 1881, the Government census recorded 145 Chinese in Western Australia, although this figure did not include the number of Chinese workers brought into the colony under private contract to service the vast expanses of the north west, a practice that the Government had little knowledge or control over.<sup>29</sup>

By 1901, employment of Chinese indentured labour was prohibited. However, the *Imported Labour Registry Act 1897*, although precluding Asian settlement, still ensured continued Asian labour supplies in pearling and pastoral industries. Chinese workers were predominantly employed as cooks, labourers and domestic servants but they were also required to ride horses, muster cattle and fix fences, tasks for which they often did not possess the necessary skills. Despite policies put in place to protect Chinese workers, conditions were poor, rates of pay were low and some of the recruitment methods suspect.<sup>30</sup> They also worked in some of the harshest and most remote areas of the State, more often than not just in ones or twos and less commonly in small groups.<sup>31</sup> Thousands of acres were cleared of natural timber:

All with the axe, mostly with Chinese labour, all still paddocks out there named after Chinamen who did the clearing, Tommy Yung, Ars Ands, Fongs... it was all cleared by Chinamen.<sup>32</sup>

Chinese labourers were paid slightly higher wages than Aboriginal workers, but still below European's wages. However, because they were cheaper they were often unpopular with Europeans seeking work and suffered racial discrimination.<sup>33</sup> Also as a consequence of the contracts that they were operating under, being of a fixed duration after which they would return, there was never a sense that the Chinese would become permanent settlers in Western Australia.

One Chinese man employed on Yanget, Ah Louey, was reported missing from the station in December 1919. He was about 60 years old and had not been feeling well. The Overseer at Yanget was arranging to take him to catch the train to Geraldton for medical attention when he disappeared. A search by farm staff failed to find him and the police were notified. Ah Louey was sighted several times walking in the direction of Geraldton through the bush and the farms but he did not reach his destination. Enquiries in Geraldton and later in Perth and Narrogin, where he had once lived, failed to locate any trace of him over the next two years and it was the general impression that he had perished en route in the bush.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> Ryan, Jan, *Ancestors: Chinese in Colonial Australia*, Fremantle Arts Centre Press, Fremantle, 1995, pp 41-50.

<sup>29</sup> *ibid.* p. 53.

<sup>30</sup> Ryan, Jan, *Ancestors: Chinese in Colonial Australia*, Fremantle Arts Centre Press, Fremantle, 1995, p. 15.

<sup>31</sup> Atkinson, Anne, *Asian Immigrants to Western Australia, 1829-1901*, Nedlands, W.A, University of Western Australia Press, 1988; & Pearson, Michael, *Tracking the Dragon: a guide for finding and assessing Chinese Australian heritage places*, Australian Heritage Commission, Canberra, 2002.

<sup>32</sup> Grant, Alexander David, OH2957, *op cit*, p. 4.

<sup>33</sup> Laurie, Maxine, *Tracks through the Midlands: a history of the Moora District*, Shire of Moora, 1995.

<sup>34</sup> Ah Louey alias Pee Pee (Chinese) missing from Yanget Station, SROWA, WAS 76 CONS 430 Item 1919/6899.



A description of shearers' accommodation at Yanget, which was undertaken in October 1918 by Constable G. H. Joel under the *Shearers' Accommodation Act of 1912*, noted that there were eight shearers, nine shed-hands, a cook and cook's mate employed in relation to the shearing at the time. They occupied an iron-clad building containing five bedrooms, kitchen, dining room and bathroom, all of which was comfortable and well equipped.<sup>35</sup> The Homestead had several domestic staff rooms in the roof space and in the separate kitchen building.

Alex Grant married Lucy Erla Evelyn Rowan in 1922. Mrs Jane Grant, Alex's mother, had lived at Yanget since at least 1912, having moved from Glengarry when her son Jack married. Following Alex's marriage, Mrs Grant moved to Newmarracarra to the home of her oldest son Walter.<sup>36</sup> Alex and Erla Grant had three children, Roma Catherine (1924), Alexander David, known as David (1927), and John Anthony (c.1932).<sup>37</sup>

In 1928, a description of the property included the comment:

Besides a well constructed woolshed and modern yards, and the usual array of buildings, the station has one of the most beautiful homesteads in Western Australia. Of stone and brick, the house contains many large rooms tastefully furnished and fitted up with electric light.

The most famous feature of the Yanget property operation was the Merino sheep stud, established by Alex Grant when he inherited the place. Rams and breeding ewes were imported from Koonoona stud in South Australia. A breeding flock of 3,500 ewes was kept and this was added to by annual importations, while a rigid culling of progeny ensured that the breed standards were maintained. About 1,000 head of high grade rams were sold annually. The Yanget stud was listed in the Register for Stud Merino Flocks of Australia as flock no. 207. Welsh Mountain ponies and Clydesdales were also bred, and the property ran Illawarra Shorthorn cattle, produced a good wool clip, and grew wheat and oat crops.<sup>38</sup>

Stock was entered each year at the Geraldton Royal Show, with a special train from the Kojarena siding to transport dairy cows, horses, ponies and sheep to the showgrounds.<sup>39</sup>

An assisted school operated at *Yanget Station Group, Kojarena* for a short period in the early 1930s. A large room was provided for a classroom and board was provided for a teacher free of charge. The school opened in February 1931 with six pupils, one being seven-year old Roma Grant, while five other pupils aged up to fifteen, travelled up to five miles to attend, and were most likely other Grant family children. The school only functioned until June 1932, due to the difficulty of getting a suitable teacher, and it was the parents' responsibility to source a teacher for an assisted school. The Education Department would only subsidise a properly qualified teacher, but a teacher with good qualifications could be transferred away at any time to a school of a higher grade, as happened at Yanget.<sup>40</sup> Alex and Erla's

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<sup>35</sup> Shearer's Accommodation Act 1912 - Yanget Station, SROWA, WAS 321 CONS 749 Item 1926/0322.

<sup>36</sup> Jane Grant notes, Flavel Family papers, op cit, p. 19; Erickson, Rica, op cit, p. 1246; *Geraldton Guardian*, Christmas Issue, December 1928, p. 25.

<sup>37</sup> Grant, Alexander David, OH2957, op cit, p. 4.

<sup>38</sup> *Geraldton Guardian*, Christmas Issue, December 1928, pp. 25-27.

<sup>39</sup> Grant, Alexander David, OH2957, op cit, pp. 1-2.

<sup>40</sup> Education Dept file, Yanget Station - establishment of assisted school, SROWA, WAS 24 CONS 1497 Item 1931/1971.



children then rode seven miles to school at Bringo and finished their education in Perth.<sup>41</sup>

During World War II, the district was occupied by various defence facilities and service personnel. In 1942 a RAAF training school was established at Bootenal.<sup>42</sup> Newmarracarra, which had been taken over by the Union Bank in the late 1930s, was occupied as an army hospital and barracks.<sup>43</sup> In 1941, relief or satellite landing grounds were established at Georgina and Kojarena in association with the No. 4 Service Flying Training School (4 SFTS) at Geraldton Aerodrome.

Following the outbreak of World War II in September 1939, Great Britain made an appeal to its colonies and Dominions for the training of aircrew (pilots, observers, wireless air gunners) to serve with the Royal Air Force. Consequently, in 1940, the Empire Air Training Scheme was established. Two schools were established in Western Australia: No. 9 Elementary Flying Training School at Cunderdin to handle basic flying training utilising Tiger Moths and the 4 SFTS at Geraldton to provide Intermediate and Advanced flying training on twin-engine Avro Anson aircraft.<sup>44</sup>

The 4 SFTS was initially to be located at Southern Cross, but flying conditions there were considered 'very bad' so the facility was transferred to Geraldton. The Geraldton base was still under construction when flying commenced on 10 March 1941. Because of the dusty conditions caused by many aircraft operating from the unsealed landing strips, the satellite fields were established. There were generally 100 aircraft based at Geraldton, with a maximum of 121 in June 1944, and personnel reached a peak of 1714 in September 1942.<sup>45</sup>

The Georgina aerodrome - Satellite no. 1 - was located beside the railway line on Edward Road, about 13 miles from Geraldton. The Kojarena Aerodrome was located on Victoria Location 2860, at Yanget and was the No. 2 Satellite. The No. 2 Satellite had originally been surveyed at Waggrakine, immediately north of Geraldton, but the ground there was described as comprising 'loose drift sand', and the '487 acres of cleared ironstone country' at Yanget were considered far more suitable and less costly to prepare.<sup>46</sup> Three other landing grounds associated

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<sup>41</sup> Grant, Alexander David, OH2957, op cit, pp. 1-2.

<sup>42</sup> *Shire of Greenough Municipal Inventory of Heritage Places, Volume 1, Thematic Framework*. Prepared by Tanya Henkel, Bruce Callow & Graham Grundy in 1997/98 (reviewed by Helen Buckley, Tanya Henkel, Simon Lancaster and Gary Martin 2004/05) for the Shire of Greenough.

<sup>43</sup> John Taylor Architect, *Conservation plan for Newmarracarra Homestead*, 1996, p. 12; physical evidence.

<sup>44</sup> Peet, Lindsay, HCWA assessment for Cunderdin Airfield, P4570; Brenkley, D. J., (comp.) *RAAF historical record of No. 4 Service Flying School, Geraldton, WA*, [Perth], D. J. Brenkley, 2007, p. 5; Jubbs, Leslie R., *No. 4 Service Flying Training School, Geraldton Western Australia: Pilot Training Base 1941-1945, Reflections of WAAAF and RAAF personnel who served on this war time station and a personal memoir of a WW 2 pilot who trained there*, Kingsley, WA, L.R. Jubbs with the assistance of the Dept. of Veterans Affairs, 2005, pp. 46-60; Peet, Lindsay J., *World War II military aviation sites survey Western Australia*, prepared for the Aviation Heritage Museum of WA, RAAF Assoc, WA Division, June 1996, p. 24; 'Geraldton – preparation of Kojarena Relief Landing Ground', National Archives, Perth, Series K1141/1 Item 1940/41/221, 1941-1942.

<sup>45</sup> Brenkley, D. J., (comp.), op cit, p. 5; Jubbs, Leslie R., op cit, pp. 46-60; 'Geraldton – preparation of Kojarena Relief Landing Ground', National Archives, Perth, Item 1940/41/221, op cit.

<sup>46</sup> 'Geraldton – preparation of Kojarena Relief Landing Ground', correspondence 24 January 1941, National Archives, Item 1940/41/221, op cit.



with Geraldton were located at Mingenew, Tenindewa and Yuen, but it was Georgina and Kojarena satellite aerodromes that were used on a regular basis, being closer to Geraldton.<sup>47</sup>

Construction of the satellite aerodromes was undertaken by the Main Roads Department. Work at the Kojarena ground involved clearing roots and stones and eliminating rabbit warrens from 380 acres of landing area; removal of internal fences, windmill and isolated trees; grading; netting existing boundary fences to be rabbit proof and erecting new fencing; provision of 10 double and 16 single boundary marks and 2 wind indicators; and, to harrow and seed the 380 acres of landing area. This latter was to provide grass to keep down the dust. A plan of the site shows that four runways, between 1300 and 1750 yards in length were established.<sup>48</sup> Georgina Aerodrome commenced operation on 31 August 1941. The Hut at Kojarena Aerodrome was completed in October and the Aerodrome was in use by late November 1941 at least, as 'it was from here sea patrols were carried out as well for the search for HMAS Sydney and her survivors'.<sup>49</sup> These patrols commenced from the Geraldton region on 24 November 1941.<sup>50</sup>

The two satellite aerodromes were used for regular training sessions. Day and night flying training was done at Kojarena while Georgina was used for 'bumps and circuits' and parachute testing. An ambulance was always in attendance at Kojarena and Georgina when there was flying. For Kojarena, the ambulance driver went out on the first plane with the Chief Flying instructor (CFI), and came back with the last plane home, again with the CFI.<sup>51</sup>

We mainly did our training out at a satellite aerodrome at Kojarena sheep property. Our training of the students incorporated general flying ability with circuits and landings, and night flying was done at Geraldton airfield [initially]. We taught formation flying, bombing with practise bombs, and across country flights to practise their navigation... Instructors were based on Kojarena...

When the war with the Japanese finally brought havoc on Darwin and sped the exodus south of civilians and the following air raids on Broome, Geraldton became the first safety haven for fleeing Netherlands and American aircraft in front of "the yellow horde." To actually see with your own eyes, so close to home, these aircraft, all shot up and landing amongst the dispersed Ansons at Kojarena and Georgina brought the reality of war to us.<sup>52</sup>

Following the attack on Broome in March 1942 by Japanese fighter pilots, the training school pilots were immediately dispersed to the Georgina and Kojarena aerodromes. Everyone occupied tents until flight huts, water supplies, conveniences and cooking arrangements were established.<sup>53</sup> A 10,000 gallon

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<sup>47</sup> Jubbs, Leslie R., op cit, p. 14.

<sup>48</sup> 'Geraldton – preparation of Kojarena Relief Landing Ground', correspondence and site plan 'No. 2 relief landing ground Geraldton', National Archives, Item 1940/41/221, op cit; Brenkley, D. J., (comp.), op cit, p. 84, Operations Record Book, Sheet 16.

<sup>49</sup> Jubbs, Leslie R., op cit, pp. 55-56.

<sup>50</sup> Brenkley, D. J., (comp.), op cit, p. 96, Operations Record Book, Sheet 21.

<sup>51</sup> Brenkley, D. J., (comp.), op cit, p. 273.

<sup>52</sup> Jubbs, Leslie R., op cit, pp. 55-56, 60.

<sup>53</sup> Jubbs, Leslie R., op cit, p. 46; Brenkley, D. J. (comp.), op cit, Operations Record Book sheets for March 1942. There is no mention of these facilities in recorded personal accounts, but as trainees were only located at the 4 SFTS for two to three months, their experience covered only a specific period.



reserve fuel tank was installed at both satellite aerodromes in March.<sup>54</sup> The two Reconnaissance Squadrons, Nos. 68 and 69, operated from Kojarena and Georgina respectively, with twenty Anson aircraft.<sup>55</sup> In April, two army motor transports were taken over by the 4 SFTS, one each for the two aerodromes.<sup>56</sup>

The dispersal of personnel to the satellite aerodromes had ended by late 1942, when the threat of Japanese attacks down the coast had receded. Monthly reports of the 4 SFTS for 1943 and 1944 record the ongoing flying training from Georgina and Kojarena, with the aircraft returning to the main aerodrome at Geraldton at the conclusion of the days flying.<sup>57</sup>

The Avro Ansons used by the training schools were 'aging' aircraft provided from various RAAF units. In February 1943 it was reported that of the 98 Ansons stationed at Geraldton, 55 were serviceable, 35 were unserviceable and eight were at Maylands undergoing a complete overhaul. The training schools were not without accidents and death. Four airmen were killed in one incident at Georgina, and the deaths of approximately 31 airmen – instructors and trainees included, resulted from crashes, some of which were probably caused by mechanical failure. The last report of flying training from the satellite aerodromes was recorded for November 1944. The 4 SFTS ceased to exist on 31 May 1945.<sup>58</sup>

At the end of World War II, the RAAF had 317 mainland and regional airfields under its control. Within a short period of time the greater majority were disposed of.<sup>59</sup> The Kojarena Aerodrome reverted back to Yanget as part of the pastoral property.

David Grant spent two years as a jackaroo in South Australia after finishing school and then worked at the stock and station agency of Elders Smith, in Perth. In the late 1940s, following the death of the Yanget Overseer, David took over management of the property for his parents. In 1955, he married Rosemary Krug, and Yanget was divided between him and his brother John. John and their parents remained at Yanget while David and Rosemary took the new property, which was named 'Warrine'. The Yanget Overseer's timber house was relocated to Warrine as the homestead. Following Alex Grant's death in 1961, his widow Erla Grant and son John remained at Yanget.

The Kojarena Aerodrome was unused for many years until 1968 when the Geraldton Parachuting Club began making regular flights and parachuting jumps from the field.<sup>60</sup> Lack of maintenance for the runways eventually resulted in them becoming unserviceable and the land was returned to cropping.

In the 1970s, John Grant leased Yanget to his brother David for six years. David worked the property in conjunction with Warrine, continuing to breed Koonoona sheep, stud cattle, dairy cows and draught horses. In 1979, Yanget was sold. David

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<sup>54</sup> Jubbs, Leslie R., op cit, p. 46; Brenkley, D. J., (comp.), op cit, Operations Record Book sheets for March 1942.

<sup>55</sup> Jubbs, Leslie R., op cit, p. 46.

<sup>56</sup> Brenkley, D. J., (comp.), op cit, p. 142 Operations Record Book, Sheet 39.

<sup>57</sup> Brenkley, D. J. (comp), op cit, Operations Record Book sheets for February 1943 to November 1944.

<sup>58</sup> Brenkley, D. J., (comp.), op cit, p. 445.

<sup>59</sup> Peter Dunn's WWII website, <http://home.st.net.au/~dunn/ozatwar>.

<sup>60</sup> '[Civil Aviation] Yanget Aerodrome', National Archives, Perth, Series PP477/1 Item 1968/938, 1968-1968; Alex Elliot's website, [aluminiumviolins.com.au/skydiving\\_photos.htm](http://aluminiumviolins.com.au/skydiving_photos.htm).



Grant purchased 800 acres of the northern end of Yanget for his son Ian, while the Homestead location was purchased by Ian and Sandra Creagh of Nungarin.<sup>61</sup>

The Homestead was damaged during Cyclone Hazel in 1979, and one of the distinctive double chimneys collapsed. Most of the remaining chimneys were removed and the place was fully restored. Works included a new cement tile roof to replace the original Bell's asbestos tiles. While the asbestos tiles were considered to be too heavy for the stone walls, the cement tiles proved heavier still, and the extra weight is reputed to have caused the walls to spread. The bullnose verandah roofs are clad with corrugated iron, which gives the impression that the main roof was also originally ironclad, but information provided by David Grant and a c.1928 newspaper photograph of the Homestead both confirm that the main roof was originally tiled.<sup>62</sup>

The Kitchen block was brought under the main roof during the restoration work. The stairway that accessed the lookout from the roof space has been removed. Some of the verandah floors have been concreted, contributing to a rising damp problem.<sup>63</sup>

In 1998, Yanget Homestead was entered on the Shire of Greenough Municipal Heritage Inventory with a Management Category 1 and recommendation for inclusion on the State Register.<sup>64</sup>

In 2019, the Homestead remains occupied. The Aerodrome runways are barely discernible on the ground, which has been returned to crop, and only some broken corrugated asbestos sheeting indicates the location of the 1941 RAAF Hut.

## 13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

*Yanget Station Group, Kojarena* comprises the Homestead and adjoining kitchen wing and tennis court, former Shearers' Quarters, Shearing Shed, and remnants of an RAAF aerodrome.

*Yanget Station Group, Kojarena* is situated several kilometres north along Yanget Road approximately 15 kilometres south east of Kojarena on the Geraldton-Mt Magnet Road, 45 kilometres east of Geraldton in the Greenough district. Located on the east side of the road, the entry access road is along the south frontage of the Homestead. The track continues south to the former Shearers' Quarters a few hundred metres away, past machinery sheds and swings around to the north approximately a kilometre over rolling hills of pastured landscape to the Shearing Shed. The Aerodrome is several kilometres southeast of the Homestead on a different gravel track, running over creek crossings and rolling hills of pastured landscape.

The Homestead is approximately 500 metres set back from the road and faces south. On the Yanget Road frontage of the Homestead, immediately adjacent, is the asphalt tennis court. On the east side of the Homestead, a large gravelled forecourt is enclosed by garage and sheds to the north and the expansive farm

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<sup>61</sup> Grant, Alexander David, OH2957, op cit, pp. 17-20; Certificates of Title, Vol. 874 Fol. 199, 24 February 1955; Vol. 439 Fol. 165A, 27 March 1979; Vol. 1913 Fol. 956, 20 September 1991.

<sup>62</sup> Grant, Alexander David, OH2957, op cit, pp. 6-7; Photograph from *Pastoral Review* article c.1927-28, provided by owner.

<sup>63</sup> City of Geraldton-Greenough, *Municipal Heritage Inventory*, [www.cgg.wa.gov.au/Documents/Municipal\\_Inventory](http://www.cgg.wa.gov.au/Documents/Municipal_Inventory), Place 162.

<sup>64</sup> City of Geraldton-Greenough, *Municipal Heritage Inventory*, op cit.



machinery shed along the east boundary. On the north side of the Homestead, the site is fenced to form a Homestead yard that includes a steel framed and clad shed, a fenced below ground swimming pool, and steel framed water tower and tank. There are various mature Date palms (*Phoenix dactylifera*) in the yard to the south (front), and east, and a row along the west side of the tennis courts. The area south of the main entry (south elevation) has a small grassed area with recent pathways aligned with the main entry, although there are no mature plantings except for the informal layout of date palms.

#### Homestead

The Homestead is a predominantly single-storey random face stone dwelling that shows influences of the Federation Bungalow style of architecture. Typical of the style, the Homestead, with rooms in the roof space, has simple massing and broad roof planes, masonry walls and timber posts. The expansive hipped roof features a double gable frontage (south) symmetrical about the central main entry. The gables are detailed in timbers with roughcast render panels. The central enclosed entry has a flat arched detail that responds to the bullnose verandah form and has a finial on the apex. The main roof is clad with Marseilles pattern clay tiles that are not original. The surrounding perimeter verandahs have corrugated iron bullnose roofs. Most chimneys have been removed from the roof although the remaining chimney at the north has tall corbelled rendered elements.

The majority of the original verandah floors and posts have been replaced with concrete floors, although some timber posts have been retained. There are pairs of turned posts to the front and south end of the west frontage, with simple timber arched bracket details. Elsewhere the posts are square timber on steel stirrups. The verandahs have been enclosed in various locations around the perimeter, with timber battened fibrocement panels to dado height around the south-west front corner, extending to, and including the main entry enclosure on the south, and along the west side. Above the dado, timber framed vertical windows are infilled with stained glass. The pattern is simple geometrical except for decorative infills in the enclosed entry area. The entry area features decorative stylised floral elements flanking the corners and the remainder of the entry has a vertical rectangular grid pattern with gold glazed external border, green glazed central sections and decorative dark pink oval shape centre top. The remainder of the patterning to the south west corner verandah enclosure is a more recent response to the entry detail, with smaller vertical rectangles alternating in yellow/green and blue glazing with a simple pink oval central top to every window. Fibrocement cladding encloses the verandah on the east side with aluminium framed windows. On the north side the verandah is also enclosed at the western end with fibrocement cladding. The main walls of the Homestead are random face stone with a dado line below sill height. The front walls are painted below dado line and the dado is a moulded element. The remainder of the walls are random face stone below a simple rendered dado line. The openings and corners are quoined, detailed in tuck-pointed red brick with two courses of flat arched headers. The windows are timber framed double hung, and French doors open from various rooms. Most external doors have fanlights above.

The plan of the building is 'T' in form. The Homestead comprises a central front entrance enclosure that opens into the entry and central corridor, which extends through to the rear (north) vestibule on the rear verandah and has two decorative arches. The interior has original 0.150 metre floorboards, hard plaster walls and



plaster ceilings in simple geometric battened patterns. Most rooms have fireplaces with decorative timber mantelpieces, many of which are painted. The south-west corner front room and the living room have particularly decorative mantelpieces. No fireplaces remain. Although the bathroom has tessellated tiles, the fitout is contemporary, as is the ensuite bathroom in the south-west verandah enclosure. Similarly, the kitchen fitout located in the eastern verandah enclosure, is c.1980. There are remains of several rooms evident in the roof space above bedrooms 3 and 4. The rooms are lined with plasterboard with contrasting timber battens.

Immediately adjacent to the Homestead, on the north-west corner, is the original kitchen with a c.1920s fitout and an extension on the north end. The breezeway (Homestead verandah) connection between the Homestead and the kitchen has been mostly enclosed to form a meat locker (c.1950s) extending to the west end of the verandah. The kitchen building is a single storey stone structure with brick quoins and a hipped roof tiled as for the Homestead. The windows are timber framed double hung. The lean-to extension along the north side is similarly a stone and brick quoined structure, although it has a corrugated iron skillion roof. The north-east corner of the kitchen wing is clad with painted vertical tongue and groove boards. The interior comprises the main kitchen area, two rooms on the east side, two rooms at the north end and the extension also on the north. The walls are hard plaster with stretcher bond white glazed ceramic tiles in the main kitchen on the north wall. There are c.1980s kitchen benches. The floors are the original timber boards with linoleum over, and the ceilings are painted ripple iron.

#### Former Shearers' Quarters

Located east of the Homestead, with machinery sheds between, the former Shearers' Quarters is aligned east-west. It is a single-storey timber framed corrugated iron clad rectangular pavilion with a gambrel hipped corrugated iron roof that shows evidence of having been painted. The large opening at the west end leads into a space that held machinery. The flagstone floor has a timber lined cover over a pit. The predominantly unlined interior corrugated iron walls have various timber shelves around the walls. Some sections have horizontal boards lining the walls and provide hanging space for tools. The room connects to the next room (east) with a drop some 0.450 metres to natural ground level. The walls are lined with plasterboard except the wall against the west room that is lined with tongue and groove unpainted timber. The ceiling is lined with plasterboard although much has collapsed. There is evidence of a former ad hoc stove assembly, with remaining chimney to the north wall. On the south side of the room there is access to the lean-to ablution facilities. The two rooms and east verandah across the width of the building are clearly residential with pressed metal dado walls and battened plasterboard above and battened plaster board ceilings. A simple timber mantelpiece remains insitu on the fireplace that has a stone chimney with brick quoins. The reminder of the east wall, enclosed by the verandah, is unpainted weatherboards. The east verandah is fully enclosed with fibrocement sheeting.

The former Shearers' Quarters is in very poor condition with rusted roof sheeting, collapsed gutters, and rusted and damaged wall cladding. All interior plasterboard walls and the ceiling sheet is damaged and are in poor condition. Walls have serious intrusions and window frames have weathered to ruinous condition. The adjacent machinery sheds are of no significance.

#### Shearing Shed



Located approximately one kilometre north of the homestead in a pasture, the Shearing Shed is aligned approximately east-west with the access from the south-east. The expansive building is rectangular in form with a hipped roof that has been painted red and has skylights at the south end. Clad entirely in corrugated iron, the original building has skillion extensions at the east and west ends. The openings along the side of the original rectangular form building have corrugated iron shutters over the timber-framed openings that are mostly infilled with corrugated iron. The north side has louvered windows at regular intervals along the entire side and between the windows at floor level, are framed openings. The interior is timber framed and the extensive floor is lined with open spaced 0.175 metre hardwood timber boards. The original timber framed corrugated iron lined pens and timber rails remain insitu throughout the shed as well as remnants of machinery and shearing mechanisms along the north wall. The east skillion extension at a lower floor level provides storage space for wool bales and there are timber benches installed at the north end.

#### Aerodrome

Located several kilometres south-east of the homestead, an expansive level area informs of the site of the aerodrome that is identified by the remnants of a shed. Formerly a rectangular pavilion, the timber framed building has collapsed with the remains of the gable corrugated asbestos roof evident over the collapsed structure in the paddock. The area is cropped, although some earth in the vicinity has a compacted finish that indicates the remains of a runway. No other evidence remains of the occupation by the RAAF training school.

### 13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

#### Homesteads

*Yanget Station Group, Kojarena* is one of a number of station residences built in the Mid West region in the early 1900s. There are over 800 places on the historic heritage database that comprise a Homestead. The following 5 registered places include individual Homesteads or Homestead Groups that were constructed after 1900 in the Mid West region, some of which contain a number of elements dating to an earlier occupation period:

- P3443 *Newmarracarra Homestead* is a large Federation Queen Anne style residence designed by architect Jack Learmonth Ochiltree for Walter McKenzie Grant in 1910. The army used the place as a hospital in WWII. A modern residence was built on the property in the 1950s and the Homestead was used in the 1970s by Geraldton Catholic schools for retreats.
- P2785 *Melangata*, Yalgoo is a homestead with associated outbuildings and is part of a larger working station. The homestead was designed for Caleb Charles Williamson by the Catholic Priest and Architect John Cyril Hawes c.1916. The style of the building can be described as Inter-War Romanesque.
- P3726 *Glengarry Station Complex* includes Glengarry Homestead designed in 1912 for John (Jack) Grant by Tom Roberts in the Federation Bungalow style. The homestead has a significant 1860s stone stables complex, including a barn and shearing shed.



- P2787 *Noongal Station Group*, Yalgoo - comprises a shearing shed, shearers' quarters, shearers' kitchen and mess, ablution block, meat stores, stables and two residences and related buildings built between c.1900 and c.1950s. Both main houses are Federation Bungalow style residences made of local stone and brick, with corrugated iron roofs.
- P13900 *Belay Farm Group, Walkaway* comprises a group of stone buildings constructed 1858-1860 including the homestead (enlarged c.1900 & c.1920s), dairy, barn and groom's room, stables, original blacksmith's shop (incorporated into a more recent shearing shed shepherd's cottage) and a 1882 two-storey stone mill.
- P13930 *Koogereena Homestead* was designed by Jack Ochiltree in 1911 for Lionel Richard Davis, and comprises a Federation Queen Anne style residence set in a remnant Edwardian garden.

Two other Homesteads constructed after 1900 in the Mid West are in the Heritage Council's Assessment Program:

- P1700 Mt. Narryer Station comprises the homestead (c.1918), and a detached building containing the office/store, cook's quarters and laundry, meat house, new workshops, and a magazine and shearing shed. Only the foundations remain of the original homestead. Designed by the architectural firm Eales and Cohen, the current homestead is a large building of local stone construction which forms an incomplete 'U' with a central courtyard. The place has a steeply pitched corrugated iron Dutch gable roof with surrounding verandahs supported on wide pillars of stone and brick construction.
- P1702 *Meeberrie Station Homestead* (c.1916) comprises the homestead and linked outbuildings, including Jackaroos' quarters, laundry and store, meat house, stables/carriage house and shearing shed. Designed by architect JH Eales of the firm Eales & Cohen, the homestead is a large building of local stone construction which forms a 'U' around a central flagstone courtyard with a corrugated iron hipped and gabled room with vented gablets with rendered brick corbelled chimneys.

Jack Ochiltree Architect

There are eleven buildings on the State Register designed, or with additions by, Jack Ochiltree, including P3443 *Newmarracarra Homestead* and P13930 *Koogereena Homestead*. However, the majority of his work comprises commercial or government buildings and a number of residences throughout the metropolitan area, including P5959 Bona Vista, 35 Glenroyd Street, Mt Lawley (removed from the Register in 2008).

Federation Bungalow style

The Federation Bungalow style is a common style for residential buildings on the historic heritage database. Comparable places in the Mid West region that have a farming/pastoral association include P2787 *Noongal Station Group*, and P3726 *Glengarry Station Complex* (discussed above) The others are P1215 *The Grange*, Yardino, which includes a Federation Bungalow style Homestead (1881, 1920s, 1940s), and P8922 *Brookside, Hillview & Surrounds*, Northampton, which includes a Federation Bungalow style residence constructed of random coursed rubble (1890)



## World War II

The Kojarena Aerodrome was one of a number established during World War II for defence purposes. The majority of these, including Kojarena, were returned to their original use at the end of the War and the existence and location of many have been forgotten during the intervening years. A search of the database for 'aerodrome' or 'airstrip' or 'airfield' or 'airport' returns 42 places but from the available information it is difficult to determine if some of these places were in use during World War II or specifically constructed during this period. However, from the dates and descriptions that are available a large proportion appear to date to this period and have associations with World War II. Two of these places are on the State Register but neither place is a World War II airstrip or aerodrome:

- P2412 Maylands Aerodrome (fmr)
- P11738 Air Beef Abattoir and Aerodrome (ruins) and Glenroy Homestead Group

Those places that can be identified as small WWII regional aerodromes and airstrips, that are probably comparable to the aerodrome at Yanget are listed below. However, none are noted as being adjacent to or associated with a homestead and none are on the State Register:

- P3109 World War II Airfield, Pinjarra
- P5569 Beverley Air Strip
- P10626 Operation Potshot – Site, Lyndon
- P13517 Aircraft Hangers, Merredin
- P14253 Airstrip – War Time, Muchea
- P15133 World War Two Airfield and Bunkers, Springfield, Capel
- P18666 Kalumburu Airfield

Three other potentially comparable sites on the database associated with Kojarena Aerodrome and the 4 SFTS at Geraldton are:

- P4570 *Cunderdin Airfield*, which was the location of the No. 9 Elementary Flying Training School, retains a number of its wartime buildings. This airfield is a larger complex than Kojarena and is now used by civil aviation and is entered on the State Register.
- P17685 Aerial Bombing Range located at Walkaway, where trainee pilots carried out bombing practice.
- P16887 Geraldton Airport - is now used by civil aviation and is a larger complex than Kojarena.

*Yanget Station Group, Kojarena* includes a fine example of a rural Homestead in the Mid West in the Federation Bungalow style. The Shearing Shed and former Shearers' Quarters are representative examples of twentieth-century farm structures of their type.

The site of Kojarena Aerodrome is a typical example of a RAAF airfield that was established for the duration of World War II and then abandoned, with little evidence remaining to mark its wartime use.



#### **13.4 KEY REFERENCES**

No key references.

#### **13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH**

If possible, the origins of Chinese workers who worked for McKenzie Grant could be further explored.

If possible, further research about the splinter shelters (that were present in 1994 on the perimeter of the former airfield) could be undertaken. In 2019, it was not possible to locate these structures using desk top mapping.