



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Register Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 305
2. **NAME** Wallal Downs Station Group
3. **LOCATION** 56 Great Northern Highway, Eighty Mile Beach
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
Part of Reserve 9697 comprising portion of Lot 56 on Deposited Plan 240321 being part of the land contained in Crown Land Title Volume LR3127 Folio 125 as defined in HC Curtilage Map P305-1.
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Shire of Broome
6. **OWNER AT REGISTRATION**
Nyangumarta People (Indigenous Land User Agreement: Registered 24/01/2011)
State of Western Australia (Responsible Agency: Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage)
Grenleigh Pty Ltd (Pastoral Lease)
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**

• Register of Heritage Places:	Interim	09/05/1992
	Registered	08/01/2021
• National Trust Classification:	Classified	05/06/1984
• Town Planning Scheme:		-----
• Municipal Inventory:	Adopted	27/06/2019
• Register of the National Estate:	Indicative	-----
• Aboriginal Sites Register		-----
8. **ORDERS UNDER SECTION OF THE ACT**

9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**

10. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Wallal Downs Station Group, comprising the limestone, weatherboard and iron Homestead (1900, 1929), Cottage (former Married Quarters) (c. 1952), three Stone Water Tanks (1922) and a stone Aqueduct (1922), Grave of pastoralist Geoffrey Wyndham, at least four known Burial Sites of Nyangumarta people, as well as archaeological remnants associated with earlier stone buildings and single quarters (c.1900, 1920), has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place was the site of an internationally important scientific expedition to observe the 1922 total solar eclipse. The data recorded at *Wallal Downs Station* was at that time the most accurate measured and was pivotal in confirming Albert Einstein's General Theory of Relativity;

the Homestead, Stone Tanks, Aqueduct and the ruins of the old stone house were built by a successful syndicate of World War I ex-servicemen as part of the Soldier Settlement Scheme;

the place reflects the fear of Japanese invasion during World War II, particularly in the isolated North-West;

the place hosted Dutch refugees who landed in Dornier Flying Boats at Eighty Mile Beach having fled the Japanese invasion of Java;

the place has the potential to contain archaeological deposits or artefacts that can provide information that can contribute to the understanding of rural life during the 20th century;

the place was home to many *Nyangumarta* people who lived and worked at the Station over many years, and has social value for their families and descendants for whom the station is located on Native Title land;

the place is a representative example of the transition of farming stations from running sheep to cattle in the state's north-west during the mid-twentieth century;

The swimming pool, Kitchen/Office, ablutions block, new single quarters, generator shed and ancillary metal sheds are of little cultural heritage significance.