



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Register Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 526
2. **NAME** Oliver Hill Battery, Wadjemup/Rottnest Island
FORMER NAME (or OTHER NAMES) Oliver Hill
3. **LOCATION** Oliver Hill, Wadjemup/Rottnest Island
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
Part of Reserve 16713 comprising portion of Lot 10976 on Deposited Plan 216860 being part of the land contained in Crown Land Title Volume LR3096 Folio 976 as shown on Heritage Curtilage Map P526-0.
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** City of Cockburn
6. **OWNER AT REGISTRATION**
State of WA (Responsible Agency: Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions; Management order: Rottnest Island Authority)
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**

• Register of Heritage Places:	Interim	03/07/1992
	Registered	14/06/2021
• National Trust Classification:	Classified	08/02/1980
• Town Planning Scheme:		-----
• Municipal Inventory:		-----
• Register of the National Estate:	Permanent	28/09/1982
• Aboriginal Sites Register		-----
8. **ORDERS UNDER SECTION OF THE ACT**

9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**

10. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Oliver Hill Battery, Wadjemup/Rottnest Island, comprising two 9.2 inch breech loading guns, H1 (installed 1937) and H2 (installed 1938), and their emplacements (1937), and underground facilities; Engine Room; Fortress and Battery Plotting Room (1938); railway lines and paths; remnant structures; and archaeological elements associated with the 1936 to 1944 operation of the battery, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the two 9.2 inch guns, manufactured in 1901 and 1902, are the last of this type remaining in position in Australia, and the place is one of only five locations in the world where 9.2 inch guns remain in position;

the place was a site of strategic importance in Australia's coastal defences during World War II, and is representative of the military defence initiatives considered necessary to adequately defend the Port of Fremantle leading up to and during the War;

the place is representative of the breech-loading gun batteries established to protect strategic defence positions during World War II in Commonwealth countries. As part of the Rottnest Fortress, *Oliver Hill Battery, Wadjemup/Rottnest Island*, is representative of places commandeered by the military during wartime and adapted for the purposes of national defence and was an integral component of the network of Fremantle Fortress coastal defence batteries developed to protect the Port of Fremantle and Western Australia during World War II;

the place is a relatively intact and distinct cultural precinct and is a prominent landmark within the natural landscape of Wadjemup/ Rottnest Island. The two H1 and H2 9.2 inch guns at Oliver Hill are significant landmarks;

the place displays considerable technical accomplishment, and remains an engineering feat due to its large size and inaccessible location. The transportation of equipment from the harbour to Oliver Hill, the construction of the facility and the successful installation of high precision artillery equipment demonstrates a considerable technical innovation at the time;

the place has scientific value in its potential for demonstrating the complexity of a military defence establishment and the range of technology and military specialities necessary to adequately carry out the artillery defence role, as well as contributing information and archaeological material leading to a wider understanding of the military history of the place, Wadjemup/ Rottnest Island and Western Australia;

the site is highly valued by the community of war veterans, engineers and the broader community because of its major role in the defence of Western Australia and because of the men and women who worked there as evidenced by the continuing support for its preservation by the existing service and retired military associations and the community at large; and

as the World War II workplace of the members of the Australian Women's Army Service, who operated the plotting rooms the place is important in demonstrating the role of women in World War II.

The toilets; lookouts; modern train station, shading and picnic structure; and signage; and site furniture are of little significance.