



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES – ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in November 1996 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 3.4.3 Mining
- 3.14.2 Using Australian materials in construction
- 3.12.15 Retailing foods and beverages
- 3.22 Lodging people
- 3.23 Catering for tourists

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 110 Resource exploitation & depletion
- 308 Commercial & service industries
- 311 Hospitality industry & tourism
- 405 Sport, recreation & entertainment

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar is an excellent example of North West Vernacular style architecture, with its corrugated iron wall cladding and corrugated iron roofs with cyclone battens demonstrating a functional response to the harsh climate. (Criterion 1.1)

Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar makes a distinctive visual contribution to the townscape character of the main street of Marble Bar. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar was constructed in response to the influx of prospectors to the East Pilbara goldfield in the early 1890s, one of two such establishments erected to service the newly located gold reefs at Marble Bar. (Criteria 2.1 & 2.2)

* 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Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar is associated with several pioneering businessmen in district, in particular George James Warden Gallop Miles, Member of Parliament for the district for thirty-three years (1916-1949), and his son George John Miles, who began leasing the place in 1911 and together owned and operated the place from 1915 to 1966. (Criterion 2.3)

11.3 SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11.4 SOCIAL VALUE

Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar has significant social value to the local community as the oldest remaining hotel in Marble Bar, and as a major social venue and gathering place. (Criterion 4.1)

Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar is an icon in the town of Marble Bar and the State, and contributes significantly to a sense of place for residents and visitors to the district. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1 RARITY

Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar is one of the few remaining examples in the Pilbara region of a timber framed and corrugated iron clad building in the North West Vernacular style surviving from the gold rush period of the 1890s and early 1900s. (Criterion 5.1)

Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar is one of only two remaining 1890s timber framed corrugated iron clad hotels in the region and is the oldest remaining timber framed building in Marble Bar. (Criterion 5.1)

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar is a fair representative example of North West Vernacular style buildings constructed in the 1890s and early 1900s in the Pilbara. (Criterion 6.1)

12.3 CONDITION

Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar is generally in fair condition, although there is evidence of termite damage. The termite damage is extensive, and can be seen in the main bar area door frames and the ablution block, in particular the timber stud frames, door frames and ceiling timbers. The accommodation facilities show extensive damage to walls and ceilings, and the dwelling facility has a collapsed ceiling and extensive damaged timbers.

12.4 INTEGRITY

Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar has developed over a period of time, although the original form of the Hotel is still identifiable. The Hotel continues to operate. Overall *Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar* has retained a high degree of integrity.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

There is evidence of original fabric and subsequent changes to *Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar*, but the changes have facilitated the ongoing uses, with minimal impact on the original. *Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar* demonstrates a moderate 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 & Conservation Consultant, in August 2004, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee

Supporting evidence has been taken from *Marble Bar Liquor & General Store Conservation Plan*, April 2000, by Laura Gray in association with Irene Sauman.

Following the fire of 27 November 2004 that destroyed Marble Bar Liquor & General Store, the evidence was significantly amended by Heritage Council officers to describe only the Hotel.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar (1892, 1914, 1966) is a single storey, timber framed and corrugated iron clad building constructed in the North West Vernacular style.

The area in Western Australia known as the Pilbara was first settled by pastoralists in the 1860s, following the explorations of Augustus Gregory. The pastoralists and their shepherds were always ranging further afield in search of good land. When Nathaniel Cook saw the multi-coloured stone bar that stretched across the Coongan River, he thought he was looking at marble and named the area Marble Bar. The stone was actually jasper, but the name remained. The Pilbara Goldfield was declared on 1st October 1888 and in 1891, alluvial gold was discovered on the Coongan River, bringing miners to the district. A camp site was established near the bar but when deep gold reefs were found about five kilometres north east, the camp followed the gold.¹

A two-room hotel, known variously as Walter's Hotel, Osborn's Parlour or Osborn's Hotel was established at the camp by Henry Osborn, licensee of the Jubilee Hotel in Roebourne, in partnership with Thomas Walters. The structure had a low roof with bush poles supporting the verandah. It was one of two drinking establishments erected at the camp. The other was known as Hardie's Hotel, later the Marble Bar Hotel. Both are understood to have been in existence in 1892, although no licences are recorded at that time.²

In 1893, a large room, complete with piano, was added to Osborn's hotel, the addition encouraged perhaps by the gazettal of the Marble Bar townsite on 13 July 1893.³ In November of that year, both hotels in Marble Bar were licensed, with H. Osborn & Co being issued a general publican's licence for their premises under the name of the Ironclad Hotel.⁴ It may have been named for the Ironclad mining lease that was operating in the district at the time, or simply because the building was clad in corrugated iron. The 1893

1 Edwards, Hugh, *Gold Dust and Iron Mountains: Marble Bar and Beyond, The story of the Eastern Pilbara*, East Pilbara Shire, 1993, p. 25.

2 Mallett, Kathleen, *To the Bar Bonded: A history of early Marble Bar*, East Pilbara Shire & Hesperian Press, 1992, pp. 27-29, including photo, c. 1912; *Western Australia Police Gazette*, index of licences issued for 1891-1893.

3 Mallett, Kathleen, op cit, p. 27; Edwards, Hugh, op cit, p. 25.

4 *Western Australia Police Gazette*, 28 February 1894, p. 38.

addition was likely the venue of the meeting held on the 6 January 1894, when 'nearly all the residents of Marble Bar and the Big Schist [met] at the Ironclad Hotel Marble Bar... to discuss the representation of the Pilbara Goldfields in the new Parliament'.⁵

Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar and Marble Bar Hotel were established before the town was surveyed, and the survey had to incorporate them. *Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar* was located on Lot 15, a large lot on the corner of Francis and General streets, while the Marble Bar Hotel was located directly across Francis Street on Lot 1. Henry Osborn and Thomas Walters were issued the title to Lot 15 on 9 August 1894.⁶

After the town was surveyed, Henry Osborn & Co leased the 1893 store and butcher shop, adjacent to *Ironclad Hotel* on Lot 14, from owners Angus Duncan MacKinnon and brothers Thomas and George Hardie. In November 1893, the owners were granted a wine and spirit licence for this premises.⁷ Like *Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar* and the majority of other buildings on the goldfields at this time, the store and butcher shop were also timber framed and corrugated iron clad structures.

Marble Bar grew rapidly, in the typical way of gold rush towns. In 1895, it was selected as the site of local government for the region and impressive stone government buildings were constructed, comprising Post and Telegraph Office and Quarters, Mining Registrar and Warden's Court, and Police Station and Sergeant's Quarters.⁸

Henry Osborn and Thomas Walters left Marble Bar in 1895, and John Mathew Walker took over the licence of *Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar*.⁹ He did not remain in Marble Bar for long, leaving the following year to establish his own business in nearby Nullagine. William Hellyar (Billy) Cooper and Frederick Blanton leased *Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar* in 1896, with Cooper acting as licensee. They added a stone aerated water factory at the rear of the premises (not extant). The factory used imported clear glass bottles embossed with the words 'Cooper & Blanton Ironclad Hotel Marble Bar'. By 1896, the Hotel had been enlarged to seven rooms, with a detached two-room accommodation cottage, consisting of timber-framed hessian walls and iron roof.¹⁰ It advertised first class accommodation, a billiard table and the best attention and stabling for guests' horses.¹¹

In 1898, Mines Department statistics recorded 180 mine workers on 73 leases at Marble Bar and nearby Nullagine. The population of the district probably peaked at 500-750 in the 1895-1898 period.¹² When tin deposits were discovered at Moolyella in April 1899, McDonald Fisher & Co, who by then owned and operated the store adjacent to *Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar*, established a store there, with a gallon licence and a post office agency.

5 *The Nor'-West Times*, 6 January 1894, p. 2.

6 *Certificate of Title*, Vol. 60 Fol. 140 9 August 1894.

7 Mallett, Kathleen, op cit, pp. 32-33.

8 Edwards, Hugh, op cit, p. 26.

9 Mallett, Kathleen, op cit, p. 29; *Western Australia Police Gazette*, 5 June 1895, p. 103.

10 Mallett, Kathleen, op cit, p. 28 with photo of cottage.

11 Mallett, Kathleen, op cit, p. 29.

12 Edwards, Hugh, op cit, p. 26.

Stores on the fields also operated as tin buyers. As well as operating tin mine leases of his own, McDonald purchased and transported tin ore produced by other miners. He brought in sixty camels to move the loads to Port Hedland, from where they were sent to Singapore.¹³

Fred Blanton took over as licensee of *Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar* in 1899, and the following year, he and Billy Cooper acquired the title to the place from Osborn and Walters.¹⁴ In 1902, they added a store, known as Cooper & Co, on the western side of the Hotel.¹⁵

Development of the mines in the Pilbara goldfield was hampered by cost of transport and the scarcity of timber and fuel.¹⁶ Construction of the 200 kilometre Port Hedland-Marble Bar railway began in 1909 and the line was officially opened on 15 July 1911.¹⁷ The following year the North-West telegraph line, connecting Perth with Wyndham via Marble Bar, was opened.¹⁸

The opening of the railway caused a flurry of business expansion within the town. In 1911, George Miles leased *Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar* and the Cooper & Co store to add to his extensive business empire in the Pilbara. The annual lease payment was £676, a not inconsiderable sum and indicative of the profits to be made by astute businessmen on the goldfields.¹⁹ George James Gallop Warden Miles had been born in Fremantle in 1873. He worked with William Sandover & Co, and the Canning Jarrah Timber Company, before spending five years on the Eastern Goldfields. He then spent some time as storekeeper to the Jarrah Wood and Sawmills Co in Busselton, before arriving in Marble Bar in 1903, to work as accountant for Charles McDonald at the Marble Bar Liquor and General Store.²⁰

By 1904, Miles had established himself as a commission agent, skin, hide and tin buyer and auctioneer and had purchased the principal interest in the Marble Bar Butchering Co. He then became the managing partner in the firm of Mayer & Miles, general storekeepers and hotel owners in Moolyella. By 1907, the operations of the partnership had expanded to the point where a division of assets allowed George Miles to set up on his own as G. W. Miles & Co.²¹ In 1910, Miles purchased the Thomas R. Byass & Co store on Lot 17, Marble Bar, on the eastern side of *Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar*. Included in the purchase were the Byass stores at Googlegong, Lallarook and Warrawoona. By 1911, he was also the proprietor of the Marble Bar Hotel, as well as the hotels in Moolyella and Warrawoona.²²

13 Mallett, Kathleen, op cit, pp. 104-107.

14 Certificate of Title, Vol. 200 Fol. 136, 5 September 1900.

15 Mallett, Kathleen, op cit, p. 41.

16 Mines Department Annual report, 1902, in *Votes & Proceedings of the Western Australian Parliament*, 1903-04, Paper 7, p. 44.

17 Gunzberg, Adrian & Austin, Jeff, *Rails Through the Bush*, Melbourne, Light Railway Research Society of Australia, 1997, p. 207.

18 'Marble Bar: Australia's Hottest Town', tourist brochure, [199?], p. 4.

19 Certificate of Title, Vol. 200 Fol. 136, 13 May 1911.

20 Battye, J. S. *The History of the North West of Australia: embracing Kimberley, Gascoyne and Murchison districts*, V. K. Jones & Co, Perth, 1915, p. 198.

21 Battye, J. S., *The History of the North West*, op cit, p. 198; *The Pilbara Goldfield News*, 1 June 1911, advertisement, p. 1.

22 Battye, J. S., *The History of the North West*, op cit, p. 198; Mallett, K. op cit, p. 41.

In 1914, *Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar* was undergoing reconstruction. At that time, the population of the Marble Bar township was only about 150, but there were estimated to be 400 miners within a fifty mile radius.²³

George Miles brother in law, Claude Rendell Martin, had taken over as licensee of *Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar* in 1912. The licence was conditional on the original two-room part of the building being removed not later than April 1913.²⁴ The demolition took place and new additions and improvements made in 1914.

The rebuilding of portion of the Ironclad Hotel has been completed by Mr. W. H. Cooper, and a more modern bar and appointments it would be difficult to find in the whole Nor'-West.²⁵

J. H. T. Wightman was the licensee of the newly restored *Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar*. In 1915, George Miles purchased the Hotel.²⁶ The Marble Bar Hotel, which he also owned, was de-licensed that year. Circa 1916, Miles took over properties belonging to J. M. Walker & Co (controlled by John Fawcett), which included the Conglomerate Hotel and General Store in Nullagine, a store in Moolyella, and the Marble Bar Liquor and General Store on Lot 14, adjacent to *Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar*.²⁷ The following year, he bought and demolished the Cooper and Co store, on the western side of *Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar*.²⁸

The frequent change of business ownership reflected the itinerant nature of goldfield populations during the boom years. It must have caused some confusion with customers at times but the purchases by G. W. Miles & Co in the 1910s effectively brought an end to the rapid changeover. George Miles did not remain in Marble Bar, however, as in 1916 he was elected to Parliament for the North Province Seat, which he held until 1949. He left Marble Bar in 1919, leaving his brother-in-law, Claude Martin, as general manager of G. W. Miles & Co.²⁹

In 1941, George Miles transferred a two thirds share of G. W. Miles & Co to his son, George John Miles (Jr).³⁰ Three years later, George Miles (Jr) took control of the business and its holdings and, in 1949, he moved to Marble Bar to take over the running of the business from Claude Martin.³¹ George Miles (Sr) died in Perth the following year.

Over the years, the land associated with *Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar* had been increased to include Lots 16 and 17 on the east side and Lots 26 and 27 at the rear on Excelsior Street.³² Later publicans included A. D. Criddle and C.

23 Battye, J. S., *The History of the North West*, op cit, p. 190.

24 Mallett, K. op cit, pp. 33-34.

25 *The Pilbara Goldfield News*, 9 June 1914, p. 2.

26 Mallett, K. op cit, pp. 32; Certificate of Title Vol. 200 Fol. 136, 4 February 1915.

27 Mallett, K. op cit, pp. 40.; Certificate of Title Vol. 132 Fol. 127 & Vol. 508 Fol 46, 11 December 1914.

28 Mallett, K. op cit, pp. 33-34, 42.

29 Mallett, K. op cit, p. 44; Battye, J. S., *The History of the North West*, op cit, p. 198.

30 Certificates of Title Vol. 132 Fol. 127 & Vol. 508 Fol 46, 9 April 1941.

31 Mallett, K. op cit, pp. 149-150; *Wise's Post Office Directories*; 1940s; Certificates of Title Vol. 508 Fol. 46, 3 May 1944, Vol. 611 Fol. 39 & Vol. 1109 Fol 539, 31 May 1948.

32 Certificate of Title, Vol. 1223 Fol. 080.

H. Cameron.³³ *Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar*, as with other North West towns, was not listed in the 'West Australian Tourist, Hotel & Boarding House Directory' in the 1920s and 1930s.³⁴ The Port Hedland-Marble Bar railway line was closed in 1951.

Ownership of G. W. Miles & Co was transferred to the Ironclad Hotel Pty Ltd on 1 July 1966.³⁵

Outstanding at Marble Bar recently was the change of ownership of one of the oldest firms in the district, Geo. W. Miles & Co., store and hotel. The new owners are J. A. Johnston and Sons Pty Ltd of Shaw River.

The Johnston family is far from being newcomers to the district and we are glad to see that they have enough faith in the future of this town and district to lay out a considerable sum of money. As far as we know now Cam Duffy will be manager of the store. Smokey Dawson is still running the hotel and ...Wally Nichols [will] still be working away at the books at the store.

In the time honoured way, free beer was put on at the hotel last Saturday. There are improvements in the offing, but as much as we hope they all will be fulfilled within reasonable time, we will keep reporting on them as they take place...

We shall most definitely miss George and Gladys Miles as they have always spent a couple of months with us around race time and George was a regular visitor.³⁶

Despite the promise, the *Northern Times*, did not provide any further report on the renovations to the Hotel. J. A. Johnston & Sons were touted as 'pioneers of the tin mining revival in the Marble Bar district'.³⁷ They were planning to spend \$60,000 on the first stage of a modernisation programme for *Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar*.

This includes the installation of three air conditioned bars - said to be the first in any North West hotel. The lounge will be air conditioned, guest rooms will be improved and two air conditioned motel units will be added. The new owners also plan to build more air conditioned motel units across the street from the main building.

The mainly corrugated iron exterior of the hotel, which has been seen by thousands of people in documentary films on the North, will not be changed, but will be painted. Mr R. Johnson, general manager of the Johnson family company, said the family wanted to preserve the hotel's character. More than 20 men are working to finish some of the improvements by this weekend in time for the races.³⁸

Early television advertisements featured *Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar* as a symbol of extreme heat.³⁹

The 1979 RAC 'Touring & Accommodation Guide' listed *Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar* with five double and two family accommodation units, five with shower and toilets and all air conditioned. The place boasted hot and cold water, bedside lights, power points and child facilities. The only other

33 *Wise's Post Office Directory*, 1930-1949.

34 *The West Australian Tourist, Hotel & Boarding House Guide*, 1921-1929, & *West Australian Tourist & Accommodation Guide to Principal Cities*, 1933-1942, Battye Library.

35 Certificates of Title Vol. 1223 Fol. 080, 1 July 1966.

36 *Northern Times*, 17 July 1966, p. 10. The spelling of the name Johnston is as it appears in the article.

37 *The West Australian*, 12 August 1966, p. 14. The spelling of the name Johnson is as it appears in the article.

38 *The West Australian*, 12 August 1966, p. 14.

39 Philip Griffiths, conversation with HCWA staff, 27 August 2004.

accommodation in town was the Marble Bar caravan park.⁴⁰ In 1979, the title to the Hotel was transferred to the Swanson family, comprising Alexandre John, Hilma Berit Katherine and Alan James Swanson, farmers.⁴¹

In 1999, *Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar* was entered in the Shire of East Pilbara Municipal Heritage Inventory.⁴² In 2000, a conservation plan for the adjacent Marble Bar Liquor and General Store was commissioned by the owners. In October 2003, the Store and Hotel were entered in the assessment programme as a group.⁴³ On 27 November 2004, the Store was completely destroyed by fire, and subsequently the site was cleared.

In 2004, *Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar* is owned by members of the Swanson family and continues to operate as a hotel. It has undergone change over the years.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar is located at the north west end of Francis Street, in the town of Marble Bar, on the north east side, at the base of the hill in Francis Street. A central grassed island highlights the expansive width of the road that has angled parking in front of the building. The hotel also terminates the east view in General Street, at the Francis Street juncture. It is built to the front boundary with front verandahs that extend over the public footpath, beyond which are grassed verges. The hotel verge is raised above the footpath level, with concrete retaining and a pipe railing. The hotel site slopes down with the slope of Francis Street, and is bounded by General Street on the north east and Excelsior Street to the north east.

Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar comprises a group of single storey buildings; the main hotel building, manager's dwelling that also fronts the street, four transportable accommodation facilities at the rear, an ablution block, a set of six rammed earth motel units along the north east side of the site and a small asbestos shed. The configuration of the buildings forms an open centre area in which there is a steel framed and shade cloth clad covered area with a concrete floor, adjacent to an open grassed area. There is a row of white gums (*Eucalyptus wandoo*) along the north west side of the open area, and some cabbage tree palms (*Livistona*). These trees are in poor condition and do not contribute to the cultural heritage significance of the place. The remainder of the site is undeveloped, with a few trees but predominantly sloping gravelled ground.

Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar does not display any characteristics of a particular architectural style. It is predominantly North West Vernacular in style, and demonstrates a functional response to the climate through corrugated iron wall cladding and corrugated iron roofs with cyclone battens. Corrugated iron was used because it doesn't absorb and hold the heat, having less mass than tile and brick and being more reflective, and it cools faster. It also has less

40 RAC, *Touring and Accommodation Guide*, 1979, pp. 186-188.

41 Certificate of Title, Vol. 1401 Fol. 336, 11 September 1979.

42 O'Brien Planning Consultants, *Shire of East Pilbara Heritage Inventory*, Entries 11 & 24.

43 Gray, Laura & Sauman, Irene, *Marble Bar Liquor & General Store Conservation Plan*, April 2000.

weight and bulk for transport to remote areas, of particular concern where transport was by camels.⁴⁴

The hotel building comprises two separate pavilions with rear and side extensions, and a separate front skillion verandah supported by steel posts. The roof forms demonstrate the incremental nature of the ongoing development of the hotel building. The north west pavilion has a gable roof, with skillion extension (toilets), hipped roof with hipped separate extended eaves in the dining room extension. The gable roof extends through to the kitchen that also has a skillion extension at the rear. There are two flat iron clad chimneys on the north west exterior wall of the kitchen, but no interior evidence of the associated stoves. The pavilion comprising the main bar has a hipped roof with a gable extension behind it, and flat roofed ablutions at the rear. The hotel building is timber framed and clad internally and externally with ripple iron, except the dining room that has been recently refurbished with pine dado wall and compressed sheeting, and the rear room adjacent to the pool room that has been clad with sheets of flat galvanised sheeting. The ceilings have recently been relined; the ceiling in the main bar is coved entirely and clad with ripple iron, similarly the other bar ceiling is coved along the sides and, the pool room ceiling is coved and clad with ripple iron, with patterned pressed metal in the flat section. The kitchen ceiling is coved and lined with battened masonite. With the exception of the c. 1950s kitchen ceiling, the remaining ceilings are recent linings with pre-used iron sheeting. The original windows across the front of the building are timber framed double hung sash windows. Most of the windows are boarded over. The floors throughout the hotel building are timber; however, each room varies in floor level with ramps between. The bar areas and pool room floors have been boarded over and laid with ceramic tiles; the floor in the main service area is unsound with stump subsidence obvious throughout.

There are two street front entries into the main building of the hotel, one into each section, interconnected on the interior. The south west entry opens into the main bar area, connected through a doorway to the adjacent front bar and bottle shop, which includes a large cool room, and toilet facilities are located on the north west. At the rear of the main bar is the pool room with another room and toilet facilities behind. Connected to the pool room, running behind the bars, is a large service area that connects to the dining room at the north west end, and the kitchen on the north east side (rear). The wall of the kitchen, within the service area, is clearly an original external wall, clad with horizontal corrugated iron, with double hung sash windows, door opening and hatched openings. The kitchen is an expansive space with some timber shelving along the walls, tie rods across the ceiling space, a large pantry and a rear skillion extension.

⁴⁴ Although not technically an architectural style, and not represented in Apperly, R., Irving, R., Reynolds, P. *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture. Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, 'North West Vernacular' has been used in this assessment to signify those vernacular style places with a distinctive character that is derived from their response to the harsh climate, isolation and transient population of the North West, often resulting in simple buildings constructed utilising local skills and light-weight materials.

Separated from the main hotel building by a pedestrian access way through to the street is the manager's dwelling. It is an off-form concrete construction, with a low pitched break pitch gambrel hipped corrugated iron roof, and a custom orb skillion enclosure on the south east end. The roof is parallel to the street unlike the main hotel roofs that are at right angles to the street. The front windows have been infilled with boards and security screens. The interior was inaccessible, except for a small service area with off-form interior walls, ripple iron ceiling lined on the rake and concrete floors. The ablution facility is timber framed, gable roofed and clad with corrugated iron and has a verandah along the north east 'frontage' facing the central grassed courtyard. The interior walls are lined with asbestos; the ceilings linings have been removed. The fittings are still in use. The accommodation facilities are steel clad on predominantly timber frames, supported on concrete stumps. There are 4 separate facilities: two facilities comprising rooms and ensuites, are aligned south west north east, adjacent to each other with the central access way between leading to a rear unit that has rooms only. The fourth facility is a self-contained dwelling that faces the open grassed courtyard. The motel is a rammed earth construction with concrete floors and corrugated iron roof, and a verandah along the north west 'frontage'.

Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar is generally in fair condition, although there is extensive evidence of termite damage. Visually the damage is identifiable in the main bar area door frames and the ablution block, where the timber stud frames, door frames and ceiling timbers all evidence extensive damage. The accommodation facilities show extensive damage to walls and ceilings, and the dwelling facility has a collapsed ceiling and extensive damaged timbers.

Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar has developed over a period of time, although the original form is still identifiable. The Hotel continues to operate. Overall, *Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar* has retained a high degree of integrity.

There is evidence of original fabric and interventions to *Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar*, but the interventions have facilitated the ongoing uses of the place, with minimal impact on the original. *Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar* has a moderate degree of authenticity.

The four accommodation facilities and the motel at *Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar* are of no heritage significance.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

There are sixteen hotels and inns listed in the Heritage Council database for the Pilbara and Kimberley regions of the State.⁴⁵ Comparable places in these regions are Whim Creek Pub, The Conglomerate Pub (Nullagine) and the Roebuck Bay Hotel.

P2349 Whim Creek Pub in Whim Creek, constructed in 1891, is a collection of steel and timber frames buildings clad in corrugated iron. The group consists of the hotel, two blocks of motel units, a house (on the hill behind the hotel), a fuel station, dongas (transportable sleeping quarters), toilets, an outdoor

⁴⁵ Heritage Council online Database. A search for hotels clad in corrugated iron listed all those hundreds with iron roofs.

stage and campground. It is on the Municipal Inventory and is in the HCWA assessment programme.

P0819 The Conglomerate Pub, Nullagine is not only a corrugated iron hotel building, but is located in the East Pilbara goldfields in the same district as *Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar* and was also owned by George W. Miles & Co for many years. It would date from around the same time (c.1892) as *Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar*. The place is entered on the Register of the National Estate as an indicative place and is described as an unpretentious, somewhat shabby, timber framed and corrugated iron clad building, with hipped roof, gabled vents and cyclone battens.⁴⁶

P0295 The Roebuck Bay Hotel, Broome was rebuilt in 1904 after the original structure, built in 1888, was destroyed by fire. It is a large building, timber framed and clad with corrugated iron, and has undergone extensive additions and modifications over the years to suit the tourist trade. It is in good condition.⁴⁷

P2788 The Wurarga Hotel in the Murchison, on the former Mullewa-Murchison Railway, is a ruin with little of the structure remaining.

P15409 Junction Hotel is known to be an iron-clad building and is still in operation in Gascoyne Junction. Constructed in 1909, it is a single-storey timber-framed corrugated-iron clad hotel building with a hipped corrugated iron roof that extends to partly cover surrounding verandahs.⁴⁸

Ironclad Hotel, Marble Bar is rare as an extant nineteenth century timber-framed corrugated iron-clad hotel in the Pilbara, and a representative example of a North West Vernacular style building.

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

No key references.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

⁴⁶ Register of the National Estate website, place 17402; Mallett, K., op cit.

⁴⁷ Gray, Laura & Sauman, Irene, *Shire of Broome Municipal Heritage Inventory Review*, 2002.

⁴⁸ Heritage Council Database, 1 September 2004.