



**HERITAGE  
COUNCIL**  
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

### 11.0 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)

- 2.2 Adapting to diverse environments
- 3.4.2 Fishing and whaling
- 3.6 Recruiting labour
- 4.6 Remembering significant phases in the development of settlements, towns and cities
- 5.1 Working in harsh conditions
- 5.1.2 Coping with dangerous jobs and workplaces

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

- 106 Workers (including Aboriginal)
- 107 Settlements
- 305 Fishing and other maritime industry
- 306 Domestic activities
- 308 Commercial services and industries
- 504 Depression and boom

### 11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE

*Pa Norman's House, Broome* is a fine residential example of the North West vernacular style, as evidenced by the distinctive tropical characteristics of lattice screens, prominent hipped roof, storm shutters, and raised masonry stumps that separate the building envelope from the ground. (Criterion 1.1 & 1.2)

*Pa Norman's House, Broome*, together with the neighbouring Male Residence, Haynes Family Home, and Kennedy Family Home, forms a precinct of large residences built in spacious grounds for pearling masters that greatly contributes to the Broome townscape. (Criterion 1.4)

### 11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

*Pa Norman's House, Broome* is associated with the Norman family who were prominent in the pearling industry and the community life of the North West. (Criterion 2.3)

*Pa Norman's House, Broome* is significant to Broome and the wider community for its associations with the activities of Alistair, Lord McAlpine, whose Broome Preservation Society purchased and restored the building, along with several others that were saved from demolition. (Criterion 2.3)

### **11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE**

*Pa Norman's House, Broome* may contain archaeological evidence of past life style practices in the north-west with the capacity to provide information regarding labour relations, class, status, and gender relations. (Criterion 3.2)

### **11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE**

*Pa Norman's House, Broome* is significant to Broome and the wider community for its associations with the Norman family and their involvement in the pearling industry. (Criterion 4.2)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **12. 1. RARITY**

*Pa Norman's House, Broome* is a rare example of a substantial early 20<sup>th</sup> century Broome residence. (Criterion 5.2)

### **12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

*Pa Norman's House, Broome* is representative in its structural form of the large residences built in spacious grounds in Broome for the pearling masters. *Pa Norman's House, Broome* helped establish the area's social and visual character in the early 1900s. (Criterion 6.1)

*Pa Norman's House, Broome* is a fine, representative example of a residential design of the North West vernacular style common in hot, humid coastal areas of Western Australia. (Criterion 6.2)

*Pa Norman's House, Broome* is representative of the way of life of the more affluent citizens of Broome who resided in gracious residences during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. (Criterion 6.2)

### **12. 3 CONDITION**

*Pa Norman's House, Broome* has undergone extensive restoration and repair and is in excellent condition.

### **12. 4 INTEGRITY**

Although the verandahs of *Pa Norman's House, Broome* have been enclosed and structures added to the site, the layout of the original residence is clearly evident and the place retains its intended residential function. *Pa Norman's House, Broome* retains a high degree of integrity.

### **12. 5 AUTHENTICITY**

In 1984, during conservation work to upgrade the facilities of the house and conserve the fabric, some accretions were removed and original fabric replaced. Additional fixtures and fittings were installed in the bathroom and new wall linings

were introduced. Since then a new kitchen has been installed in the verandah and the previous kitchen has been converted to a pantry.

The enclosure of the verandahs to enable the place to be fully air conditioned is evidence of a changing life style. The installation of sliding windows in aluminium sections in preference to timber is evidence of the changing attitude to traditional materials and preference for modern building components that are longer lasting in tropical climate.

The work was carried out sympathetically, and *Pa Norman's House, Broome* retains a high degree of authenticity.

### 13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Helen Ansell, Historian and the physical evidence has been compiled by Kelly Aris, Conservation Architect, with additional information added in January 2011 by Office of Heritage staff, and amendments and/or additions by Office of Heritage staff and the Register Committee.

#### 13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

*Pa Norman's House, Broome* is a single-storey residence constructed c.1900 to provide residential accommodation.

Broome was gazetted as a town in 1883 after an exploration expedition led by Alexander Forrest in 1879 determined that the area had significant pastoral potential in the hinterland. Shortly after, pearling became a major activity in the area, and from this point Broome began to develop as a segregated town. At one end were the wide streets where the wealthy European citizens lived in large elegant bungalows surrounded by tropical gardens tended by servants. At the other end of town was the Native Quarter or China Town where Asiatic and Aboriginal people lived more densely on long narrow lots. The social distinctions were marked:

At the top of the social pyramid ... were the owners - the pearling masters - who were white Australians all. The lugger crews lived in camps along the foreshores. The owners built their bungalows and planted their gardens a little farther away from the mangroves, in the wide straight streets that still form the town's residential area.<sup>1</sup>

While the majority of pearling masters were of Australian or European origin, the register of pearling licences and the pearling inspector's annual report note that Yee Ah Ching and Yee Ah Chak, owned three luggers, *Southern Cross*, *Rosa* and *Swan*, while Matilda Rodriguez the wife of successful pearling fleet owner Philippine born Filomeno Rodriguez, was one of at least 45 women who held pearling licences.<sup>2</sup>

In 1886, Hugh Norman arrived in Broome from Sydney and was soon offered a one-third partnership in a pearling enterprise with William Robison and William Thomas-Kirkpatrick. Their fleet consisted of the schooner *Mist* and four 38-foot luggers. The news that rich pearl shell grounds had been found on the Western Australian coast diverted the fleet from their original destination of Thursday Island in the Torres Strait, and they arrived in Cossack in 1887 and began pearling out of Roebuck Bay. Over the following years, Robison & Norman set up off-season lay-up camps at various locations along the Western Australian coast to repair boats, including a significant operation on the Bulla Bullaman Creek at Beagle Bay.<sup>3</sup>

Over time, the company's pearling fleet grew to twenty-eight boats and at one time they employed 160 indentured men mainly from Japan and Malaysia. The company gradually diversified its operations and began to supply the ever

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<sup>1</sup> 'The Port of Pearls: a town of unique character with a fascinating history', in *Contact*, Third issue, 1978, p. 7.

<sup>2</sup> *Annual Report on the Fishing Industry for the year*, by the Chief Inspector of Fisheries (reports from 1906 to 1910). Information supplied by Norman, J. E. de B, to the Office of Heritage, 6 October 2011.

<sup>3</sup> Norman, J. E. de B and Norman, V, *A Pearling Master's Journey*, (The Authors), 2008, p. 1.

increasing number of pearlers and pastoralists, '...their turnover being larger than that of any firm in Broome...over £20,000 value of goods being kept in stock'.<sup>4</sup>

Pearling in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries was an exploitative industry. Initially Aboriginal people, mainly women who had been forcibly taken from their communities or 'blackbirded', were used to dive for the shells in the shallow pearl beds.<sup>5</sup> Despite legislation introduced throughout the late 19<sup>th</sup> century that aimed to prevent the employment of women on pearling boats, better regulate the employment of Aboriginal children in the industry, and limit the time Aboriginal men could be indentured on pearling boats and provide for them to consent to their working conditions,<sup>6</sup> the 1905 Royal Commission found that Aboriginal people continued to be poorly and unfairly treated in the pearling industry in Western Australia.<sup>7</sup>

As the industry expanded and deeper diving became necessary, Filipino, Malay, Koepanger and later Japanese divers were recruited, almost always as indentured labourers.<sup>8</sup> The work was arduous and dangerous, and many divers died. A good diver was however highly valued by pearling masters, and there was often competition for their services.<sup>9</sup>

The pearling industry experienced two boom periods, 1889 to 1893 and 1898 to c.1910. Nevertheless, the overall income generated was comparatively modest. In 1899, for example, the pearl shell industry generated £90,647 (£20,000 of which was from pearls) for Western Australia, compared to the £5,451,368 million generated from gold mining exports, the £423,296 from the wool clip, and the £553,198 from timber.<sup>10</sup> Overall the industry struggled in response to changing market forces, a depression, two World Wars, immigration restrictions, government duties, cyclones and finally the advent of plastic buttons, which saw the end of widespread trading in pearl shell in the 1950s.<sup>11</sup>

Hugh Norman (nicknamed 'Pa' – but never to his face: his friends knew him as Hugh) married Margaret Mary Stephen, (later Robison), the step-daughter of one of his partners, William Robison, and they raised six children, who were educated in Sydney and Perth. Norman was a prominent Broome citizen and was President of the Western Australian Pearlers Association on several occasions, Mayor of Broome 1909-11, a Commissioner of the Peace, and patron of the local race club.<sup>12</sup>

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4 Battye, J.S.(ed), *History of North West Australia: embracing Kimberley, Gascoyne and Murchison Districts*, (Perth: Jones) 1915 [Facimilie Edition 1985 (Hesperian Press, Carlisle, 1985)] p. 134.

5 Edwards, Hugh *Port of Pearls*, (Rigby, Adelaide, S.A.), 1983, pp. 1-65

6 *An Act to regulate the hiring and service of Aboriginal Natives engaged in the Pearl Shell Fishery; and to prohibit the employment of women therein 1871, The Pearl Shell Fishery Regulation Act 1873, and The Pearl Shell Fisheries Regulations 1881*, all of which aimed to better regulate and protect the conditions of employment of Aboriginal people in the industry.

7 *Royal Commission on the Condition of Natives: Report*, 1905

8 Edwards, Hugh *Port of Pearls*, pp 1-65.

9 Norman, J. E. de B and Norman, V, *A Pearling Master's Journey*, p. 36.

10 *Statistical Register of Western Australia for 1923-24 and previous years* (Fred Wm Simpson, Government Printer: Perth) 1925: Statistical Summary Appendix 4, cited in Norman, J. E. de B and Norman, V, *A Pearling Master's Journey*, p. 35.

11 Clement, Cathie 'Notes on some of Broome's heritage structures and their links with the Mangrove Point Stock Jetty and Tramway' p. 4.

12 *Broome Chronicle*, 13 June 1908.

By the turn-of-the-century a change occurred in the ownership of the pearling fleets in Broome. "It was this English influence and commercial affluence, that established the social structure of Old Broome," which developed all the characteristics of a plantation settlement in a community that was "...elegant and cosmopolitan in the top strata of the white quarter, with stark poverty in the cramped conditions of the corrugated iron buildings in the Asian section of the town and foreshore."<sup>13</sup>

*Pa Norman's House, Broome* is located in what was the wealthy part of the town. The first owner of Lot 202 on which the house stands was William Paterson, a gaoler in 1902. The lot was then sold in 1909, to H.W. Higgins, customs officer. In 1912, the property was bought by Walter Clarke Hall, a prominent and successful solicitor and barrister in Broome.<sup>14</sup> Walter Clarke Hall also held licences for several pearling luggers during the 1920s, including *Oberon*, *Neptune* and *Retreat*,<sup>15</sup> as well as *Rex* and *Nollie*.<sup>16</sup> His wife, Una May Clarke Hall, also held several licences, including those for *Zephyr* and *Eric*.<sup>17</sup> Walter Clarke Hall died after a short illness in Broome in August 1923.<sup>18</sup>

It is not known when the house on Lot 202 (popularly known as *Pa Norman's House, Broome*) was built or for who.<sup>19</sup> It is nevertheless in a similar North West Vernacular style to other pearling master houses, and built to a similar high standard. The house is raised on stumps and has large spacious central rooms surrounded by a wide enclosed verandah that allowed cooling breezes through the building, all set under a high pitched roof to further assist cooling and rapidly shed water.

The *Broome Court House* (1889), formerly the Cable Station, is considered to have been a major influence on the development of the Broome rendering of the North West Vernacular style of architecture. The influence was restricted to the form of the building, rather than the construction method, with its simple rectangular form, prominent roofs, and encircling verandahs.<sup>20</sup>

There is no information however about whether *Pa Norman's House, Broome* was built by Japanese carpenters as other buildings in Broome were, such as *St John of God's Convent* and *Captain Gregory's House*.<sup>21</sup> The external framing of *Pa Norman's House, Broome* indicates that it may have been built using

<sup>13</sup> Bain, M. A., *Full Fathom Five* (Artlook Books, Perth, 1982) p. 231.

<sup>14</sup> Certificate of Title, CCLXII/34.

<sup>15</sup> *Register of Ships Licensed at Port of Broome 1913-1925*.

<sup>16</sup> Correspondence received from Norman, J. E. de B and V, A Norman to the Office of Heritage, 22 November 2011

<sup>17</sup> *Register of Ships Licensed at Port of Broome 1913-1925* ), Extracts supplied by Norman, J. E. de B, to the Office of Heritage, 22 November 2011.

<sup>18</sup> Births, Deaths and Marriages, *The West Australian*, Wednesday 15 August 1923, TROVE Digitised Newspapers, Downloaded from <http://trove.nla.gov.au> on 27/ April 2012.

<sup>19</sup> The Shire of Broome have indicated that rate books only date back to 1933, so this source has not been able help establish an accurate date of construction.

<sup>20</sup> As discussed in Heritage and Conservation Professionals, 'Broome Court House' (Unpublished Conservation Plan prepared for the Western Australian Building Management Authority, 1996) p. 41. *Broome Court House* has an elaborate roof ventilation system with double layers of heavy gauge corrugated iron roof sheeting on iron trusses. The building is raised on rendered stumps and the floor sits on a series of iron girders.

<sup>21</sup> Heritage Council Assessment Documentation for P5307 *St John of God's Convent, Broome* and P209 *Matso's Store and Captain Gregory's House*.

Japanese principles, however further research would be necessary to confirm this.

It is known that the house had already been built in 1925, when it was purchased (presumably from Mr Walter Clarke Hall's estate) by Edgar de Burgh (Ted) Norman, master pearler.<sup>22</sup> Ted Norman had arrived in Broome with his father on 16 May 1910 at the age of 18 and lived and worked on the pearling boats until 1915 when he joined the army to fight in WWI.<sup>23</sup> He fought at Gallipoli and later Egypt and the Sinai, France and Belgium. He returned to Broome in 1919 and rejoined the family business, again spending a significant amount of time working on the pearling boats, and was one of the early pearlers to fit engines to the boats. Ted managed Robison & Norman from the mid-1920s until his father left Broome c.1934 and moved to a farm in Beverley.<sup>24</sup>

Ted Norman later established a pearling business on his own and held several pearling licences. He was one of the first pearlers to fit pumping engines to the schooners, after these had been introduced to the pearling industry by James Clarke.<sup>25</sup> He was the Chief Pearling Officer of the Commonwealth and was actively involved in the post-war reconstruction of the pearling industry. He was also a member of the Pearlers Association and prominent in many areas of sport.<sup>26</sup>

Ted Norman married Catherin Mary Nicholson (who was known as Rene) in 1925 and the couple moved into *Pa Norman's House, Broome*. and his family lived in the house continuously from 1925-1942. The association of the home with the Norman family dates from this period. It is not clear why the place has an enduring popular association with 'Pa' Norman as Ted's Father, Hugh ('Pa') Norman, did not live here, nor did he even have a house in Broome as his wife and family lived in Sydney. On the two occasions his family visited him in Broome they stayed at the Presbyterian Manse.<sup>27</sup> At other times, 'Pa' Norman lived either on the pearling boats, or at the Governor Broome or Continental Hotels.<sup>28</sup>

Rene Norman was a founding member of the Girl Guide movement in Broome, and the club used to meet in the gardens of *Pa Norman's House, Broome*. She was Guide Commissioner for the North West until 1942. She firmly believed that all girls should be able to join, including Aboriginal girls, but was advised by the Bishop that it was not appropriate at that time to include Aboriginal girls.<sup>29</sup>

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22 Certificate of Title, CCLXII/34, and Norman, J. E. de B and Norman, V, *A Pearling Master's Journey*, p. 224.

23 Norman, J. E. de B and Norman, V, *A Pearling Master's Journey*.

24 Correspondence received from Norman, J. E. de B and V, A Norman to the Office of Heritage, 22 November 2011

25 Correspondence received from Norman, J. E. de B and V, A Norman to the Office of Heritage, 22 November 2011

26 Haynes, Jean, 'Nostalgic visit by Renee Norman'.

27 Norman, J. E. de B and Norman, V, *A Pearling Master's Journey*, p. 20.

28 Ted Norman's son, John E de Burgh Norman believes that the place only became known as Captain Norman's House after WWII, and later again still as Pa Norman's House. Correspondence received from Norman, J. E. de B and Norman to Office of Heritage, V, A 22 November 2011.

29 Correspondence received from Norman, J. E. de B and V, A Norman to the Office of Heritage, 22 November 2011

However, Aboriginal girls were eventually able to join a Scout and Guide group at the at the Presbyterian Mission at Kunmunya.<sup>30</sup>

The Norman's lived at the house with their son John until just before the first air raid on Broome on 3 March 1942 during WWII, when Rene and John were evacuated along with other women and children.<sup>31</sup> Ted Norman remained at the house until after the fourth air-raid and then he returned to the army.<sup>32</sup>

Images of *Pa Norman's House, Broome* during the 20s<sup>33</sup> show the internal walls of the central rooms were clad and battened, while the external walls to the verandah were unlined. The internal and verandah floors were all bare timber. Sections of the verandah were enclosed with lattice and fine mesh to exclude insects. The photographs show glimpses of panelled timber with glazing above similar to what is present in 2010. The kitchen and Metters wood stove were located on the Roebuck Bay side of the house, facing Louis Street, with a door to the vernadah. The wash house (separate from the laundry) had a large copper and two concrete wash tubs, a small mangle over the tubs and another larger mangle to the right.<sup>34</sup> The bathroom was partially lined with vertical corrugated iron. Display shelves are set into the stud work at various locations. Water was collected from the roof and stored in a tank. It was used sparingly – the taps were locked and only one was used at a time.<sup>35</sup>

The family did not sleep in the house but on the surrounding verandah to take advantage of the prevailing breezes. The internal rooms were a sitting room, dining room and dressing room. Meals were also eaten on the verandah. In bad weather the verandah would be secured with storm shutters.<sup>36</sup>

After the war the family moved to Perth and they sold the house to Mr and Mrs Derm Farrell who were connected with the Broome meatworks.<sup>37</sup>

It is not known when the cottage or the other outbuildings were constructed at *Pa Norman's House, Broome*. They contain detailing that indicates they could have been constructed before the 1950s or as early as the 1920s in the case of the core of the cottage. It is known that the cottage sometimes referred to by the Norman family as the 'Virgin's Cottage', was extant in some form in the 1930s.<sup>38</sup>

In 1984, Australian Cities Properties Trust Pty Ltd purchased *Pa Norman's House, Broome*. The Director of Cities Properties Trust is Lord Alistair McAlpine. McAlpine formed the Broome Preservation Society in an attempt to conserve some of the unique architecture of Broome. He purchased and restored several buildings of which *Pa Norman's House, Broome* is an example. *Pa Norman's House, Broome* was used as a company guesthouse by Australian Cities Properties Trust.<sup>39</sup> Alterations to the building were carried out in 1984.

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- 30 Correspondence received from Norman, J. E. de B and V, A Norman to the Office of Heritage, 22 November 2011
- 31 Norman, J. E. de B and Norman, V, *A Pearling Master's Journey*, p. 220.
- 32 Correspondence received from Norman, J. E. de B and Norman to Office of Heritage, V, A, 16 May 2011.
- 33 Norman, J. E. de B and Norman, V, *A Pearling Master's Journey, The Pearle's Wife*.
- 34 Correspondence received from Norman, J. E. de B and Norman to Office of Heritage, V, A, 16 May 2011.
- 35 Norman, J. E. de B and Norman, V, *A Pearling Master's Journey*, p. 227
- 36 Norman, J. E. de B and Norman, V, *A Pearling Master's Journey*, p 228.
- 37 Norman, J. E. de B and Norman, V, *A Pearling Master's Journey*, p 224.
- 38 Correspondence received from Norman, J. E. de B and Norman to Office of Heritage, V, A, 22 Nov 2011.
- 39 *Broome News*, 12 August 1986.



The 1984 alterations and additions were carried out under the direction of architects, Oldham Boas Ednie-Brown. The works included: replacement of the fibro-cement and plain galvanised iron wall panels to the verandah with lattice; removal of the partitions across the verandah thereby returning the verandah to its original condition; enclosure of the verandah above the balustrade with windows in sliding aluminium frames; and, lining the interior face of the lattice work with ripple-iron. Enclosing the verandahs enabled the place to be air-conditioned. The tendency to install aluminium window frames in preference to timber was becoming popular in Broome as this time as timber joinery is susceptible to rotting due to the tropical conditions.

The rooms on the east side of the house were converted for use as a bathroom and small kitchen. A wall on the north side of the new kitchen was demolished and a ripple-iron clad stud wall installed with a small servery. An open dining area was created between the new bathroom and the kitchen. Physical evidence remains on the verandah floorboards that suggest the original bathroom was located on the verandah. The original verandah is sealed from the weather, and the storm shutters remain. The interior is fully air-conditioned. The interior walls were lined with ripple-iron at this time, as were the ceilings. The original pressed metal ceilings were restored and some were replaced.

Also in 1984, a lean-to roof across the rear elevation was removed. The roof of the building was re-covered and extended, strutted off the main structural frame to cover the rear entrance. Existing steps on the rear elevation were renewed to form a new entrance to the house. New chamfered newel posts were installed to the new entrance and to the original entrance off Walcott Street and secondary entrance off Louis Street. Other works included: the renewal of floorboards; installation of a swimming pool in the rear yard; upgrading of the existing laundry; demolition of the freezer room leaving the floor slab; alteration of the bathroom in the cottage to accommodate an adjoining kitchenette; and the erection of a security fence to the boundaries of the property. A carport has also been constructed off Walcott Street; however, the date of the construction is unknown.

In about 1988, the then owner extended the rear verandah. The verandah is now covered with a lean-to roof supported by recycled timbers. Other works undertaken to the place include: new paving; new landscaping treatment; construction of an outside kitchen under a pyramidal roof; the upgrading of the laundry to include a toilet and basin; construction of a shed clad in fibro-cement lining erected over an existing concrete floor slab; a self-contained flat in a timber framed, corrugated iron clad structure constructed over the concrete floor slab of the former freezer room; and, construction of a small shed at the east boundary near the far end of the swimming pool. Alterations to the cottage have also been carried out including: a verandah with a lean-to roof was added across the front elevation; and, the cottage was extended westwards to accommodate an office and bedroom. A gable covered porch was added to the east elevation with brick steps that lead to the new exterior kitchen. The gable porch was recycled from the rear doorway of the main house.<sup>40</sup>

More recently, the current owners have installed a new kitchen in the south west corner of the verandah and the previous adjacent kitchen has been converted to a pantry.

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<sup>40</sup> Conversation with B. Kinney, 9 March 1996.

In 2010, *Pa Norman's House, Broome* continues to be used as a residence.

### 13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

*Pa Norman's House, Broome* is a single-storey residence on the north-east corner of Louis and Walcott streets. The building is sited on flat ground surrounded by lush tropical vegetation with established palm trees, a garden typical of Broome. Visibility of the house from the street is restricted due to the dense foliage.

*Pa Norman's House, Broome*, together with the adjoining Male Residence, Haynes Family Home (c.1900), and Kennedy Family Home, form a precinct of large residences built in spacious grounds.

The building is built in the North West Vernacular style suitable for the hot, humid coastal areas of northern Australia. The features of *Pa Norman's House, Broome* are similar to the bungalows that the pearling masters began to build for their families in the early 1900s in Broome. The buildings were set in spacious grounds with trees and gardens that relieved the monotony of the flat surrounds.<sup>41</sup> The buildings are timber framed, raised on concrete stumps, with encircling verandahs with lattice-work, storm shutters and prominent roofs.

*Pa Norman's House, Broome* is rectangular in plan, approximately 9 metres long x 6.5 metres wide. The building is timber framed, raised on concrete stumps with an encircling verandah nearly 2.5 metres wide. The 'M' formed roof is a dominant feature of the building. The roof has a single hipped section across the front of the house and a twin hipped section, separated by a box gutter, at the rear. The roof is covered with corrugated iron and features louvred, vented gablets.

The roof extends to cover the encircling verandah and is supported by square timber posts. The verandah has been completely enclosed by modern windows with cladding below to dado height. Metal storm shutters can be let down to cover the windows on three sides of the house. The shutters are held open by timber stays. The verandah floors slope away from the building as it was originally designed to shed storm water.

The timber structure of the building commences at the floor level and is independent of the supporting masonry stumps. The construction is typical of Broome where timber supports do not extend to the ground. The framework of the building is separated from the masonry stumps by ant caps for protection against termite infestation. The method is used in other areas of the Kimberley, but the method is considered to have originated in Broome and is considered a Broome style. The former Old Hospital and former Post Office in Derby (both demolished), and *Liveringa* are other early examples.<sup>42</sup>

The exterior walls of the building have partly exposed braced timbers revealing internal ripple-iron linings.<sup>43</sup> There are French doors on the west elevation, and double-hung sash windows and doors on the north and south elevations.

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<sup>41</sup> R. McK. Campbell, 'The Broome Cable Station Courthouse' (unpublished Interim Conservation Report, n.d.) p. 4.

<sup>42</sup> Conversation with Rosemary Rosario, 29 April 1996; part author of Municipal Inventory for Shire of Derby/West Kimberley.

<sup>43</sup> The ripple-iron linings were installed in 1984, when the building was upgraded by Lord McAlpine. The weatherboards are likely to be additions.

The building comprises a bathroom, bedroom, living area and dining area. The original entrance to the building is on the west elevation and is approached by five timber steps.

The interior has timber floors throughout, lined ceilings with the exception of most of the eastern side of the building, which is lined with pressed metal. In 1984, ripple-iron was used to line the interior walls. The decorative skirtings and picture rails are believed to be additions.

Outbuildings comprised a laundry, freezer room and, in the north-east corner of the site, a timber framed cottage in matching style to the house, the date of construction of which is unknown.

At some stage, fibro-cement and plain galvanised iron wall panels were installed in place of the lattice work to the verandah, and seven stud wall partitions were erected across the verandahs.

In 2010 *Pa Norman's House, Broome* is striking in a picturesque setting of green tropical plantings. The place is a colouring of strong contrasts with the bold brownness of the stained timber framework with shutters, lattice dado and roofing in a stark white colour, and brightly coloured sheds surrounded by red paving. The place makes a valuable contribution to the townscape.

### 13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

#### North West Vernacular Style

The North West Vernacular bungalow style features narrow linear planning to facilitate cross ventilation, extensive shady outdoor spaces surrounded by dense planting, ventilating ridges to release hot air from in the roof, roofs generously extended to shelter verandahs and breezeways, adjustable louvres or lattice for maximum cross-ventilation, and buildings raised to permit maximum airflow. Most of these features are present in *Pa Norman's House, Broome*. The date of construction is not relevant to buildings in the North West vernacular bungalow style, as they owe their style to the climate and not the period.

There are four Broome houses in the same North West Vernacular style as *Pa Norman's House, Broome* on the State Register: P02910 *McDaniel Homestead* (1902), P02913 *Maurice Lyon's House* (1903), P04854 *House, 57 Dampier Terrace* (1900), and *Captain Gregory's House (fmr)* (1911) (registered as part of P290 *Matso's Store & Captain Gregory's House*).

There are also houses from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century in the North West Vernacular style located near *Pa Norman's House, Broome* that are that are not on the Register: P2911 *The Male Residence* (c.1910), P2908 *The Haynes Family Home* (c.1900), and P2909 *The Kennedy Family Home* (c.1910). All underwent sympathetic conservation work during the 1980 that reduced their authenticity somewhat.

*Pa Norman's House, Broome* is a fine representative example of a residence in the North West Vernacular style.

#### External Timber Framing

There are four buildings in Broome that are known to have been constructed by Japanese carpenters, two of which have external timber framing.

*McDaniel Homestead* and *Captain Gregory's House (fmr)* are credited with having been built by Japanese carpenter Hori Gorokitchi, although the former does not feature the external framing. It is possible that it did when first built, but the place may have since been clad externally.

05307 *St John of God Convent* was also built by Hori Gorokitchi, and features external timber framing, although in a different configuration to *Captain Gregory's House*. This shows that the arrangements of timbers was not consistent across all buildings constructed to Japanese methods.

*Broome State School Music Room* (1925) also has external framing. The place is a PWD building but lack of records have meant that no one has been credited with the construction. The assessment documentation notes an unexpectedly small number of noggins in the framing and the close spacing of the uprights, both of which are features of *Captain Gregory's House* and *St John of God Convent (fmr)*, indicating that the Music Room was likely built by Japanese carpenters, and possibly by Gorokitchi.

It has not been possible to confirm if the external framing at *Pa Norman's House, Broome* is evidence of the work of Japanese carpenters.

#### 13.4 KEY REFERENCES

Norman, G. V, Norman, J. E, de Burgh, *A pearling master's journey; in the wake of the schooner*, John Edgar de Burgh Norman, 2008.

#### 13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

Further research may reveal the date of construction, who the place was built for and whether the place was constructed by Japanese carpenters.

It is not clear why the association with the Norman family has been so enduring in view of the comparatively short period that Ted and Rene Norman lived at the house, or why it continues to be associated with "Pa" Norman, who never lived at the house.

Further research may reveal when the cottage was constructed and for what purpose.

The following references may prove useful for further research:

- *Pearl-shelling industry in Port Darwin and Northern Territory: report by His Honour Judge Dashwood, Government Resident, Palmerston*. Melbourne: Government Printer, 1905.
- *Western Australia: Royal Commission on the Condition of the Natives*, W.E Roth, Perth: Government Printer, 1905.
- *Australia Parliament: Pearl-shelling Industry in North-West Australia*. Report by M.S. Warton (Melbourne) Government Printer, 1901-2.
- Gracey M, Spargo RM. *Deaths in Broome, Western Australia, 1883 to 1994*. Aust N J Public Health, 1996;20, pp. 505-511.
- Haynes, J, *Profiles from Broome*. In Weller, H (ed). *North of the 26<sup>th</sup>; a collection of writings, paintings, drawings and photographs from the Kimberley, Pilbara and Gascoyne regions*. East Perth, WA, Nine Club, 1979, pp 221 & 225.