



**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)

- 4.5 Making settlements to serve rural Australia

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 107 Settlements
- 301 Grazing, pastoralism and dairying
- 303 Mining (including mineral processing)

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Dalgety House, Roebourne is significant as an example of a residence displaying characteristic Northwest Vernacular style, which has been designed, built and adapted to address the regional climatic demands. (Criterion 1.1)

Dalgety House, Roebourne is a landmark defining the southern end of Roe Street, the town's main street, and makes a positive contribution to the streetscape. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Dalgety House, Roebourne demonstrates the expansion of Roebourne in the late nineteenth century due to pastoral settlement in the region. (Criterion 2.2)

Dalgety House, Roebourne has associations with Dalgety & Co., and thus provides a reminder of the early development of the region. Dalgety's personnel based in the region provided essential shipping, stock and merchandise to the northwest, which were all necessary for the development of the pastoral and mining industries. (Criterion 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Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Until recently, the front yard of *Dalgety House, Roebourne* featured a Tamarind tree which was highly valued by the Indigenous population in Roebourne. (Criterion 4.1)

Dalgety House, Roebourne is valued by the community of Roebourne, as evidenced by the reuse of the property as a community centre. (Criterion 4.1)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Dalgety House, Roebourne is an uncommon example in Roebourne, and the northwest more generally, of a mostly intact residence from the late nineteenth century, constructed in response to regional climatic conditions. (Criterion 5.1)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Dalgety House, Roebourne is representative of residential buildings that predate the major growth of northwest towns as a result of iron ore development in the 1960s. (Criterion 6.1)

Dalgety House, Roebourne is representative of a northwest lifestyle in which companies such as Dalgety's played an important role in providing commodities to sustain the development of the region. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

Dalgety House, Roebourne is in fair condition. Lack of maintenance has resulted in some deterioration to the fabric over time, but the damage is gradually being repaired by the Shire of Roebourne, in accordance with policies in the Conservation Plan (2002).

12. 4 INTEGRITY

Dalgety House, Roebourne is no longer used as a residence, but is currently a community centre. However, it was a residence until fairly recently, so it has a moderate degree of integrity.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

Dalgety House, Roebourne appears to have remained largely unchanged since the c.1935-38 modifications. It therefore has a moderate to high degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

This document has been based on 'Dalgety House, Roebourne: Conservation Plan' prepared by Palassis Architects with Lyrus Weightman, Historian, for the Shire of Roebourne in January 2002, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of documentary evidence refer to 'Dalgety House, Roebourne: Conservation Plan' prepared by Palassis Architects with Lyrus Weightman, Historian, for the Shire of Roebourne in January 2002, pp. 7-20.

The construction date of Dalgety House, Roebourne is not known. According to the Conservation Plan (2002, p.41) its construction date is estimated to be between 1892, when William Dalgety Moore purchased the land, and c.1899 when it appears in a photograph.

Since the Conservation Plan was written in 2002, the Shire of Roebourne has undertaken some repair works to the deteriorated fabric of the place, as per the policies of the Conservation Plan. This has involved replacing damaged fabric as necessary and increasing the security to minimize risks.

The Tamarind tree (*Tamarindus indicus*) in front of the property was in an unstable condition at the time of writing the Conservation Plan. It has since been removed, after it was blown over in a storm and irreparably damaged.¹

Tamarind trees are native to Indonesia and tamarind is an ingredient in much Southeast Asian cooking. Archaeologists consider Tamarinds as 'botanical site markers' in Australia's north, indicating the presence of an Indonesian/ Malay contact site.² The history of a Tamarind tree at the site indicates the Asian history of the Roebourne area.

A Tamarind Tree at the primary school in Port Hedland marks the site of a former Afghan campsite, but a report on Asian archaeological sites in the Pilbara notes Date palms rather than Tamarind trees as characteristic of Afghan camps.³

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of physical evidence refer to 'Dalgety House, Roebourne: Conservation Plan' prepared by Palassis Architects with Lyrus Weightman, Historian, for the Shire of Roebourne in January 2002, pp. 21-40.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

For a discussion of comparative information refer to 'Dalgety House, Roebourne: Conservation Plan' prepared by Palassis Architects with Lyrus Weightman, Historian, for the Shire of Roebourne in January 2002, pp. 42-44.

There are 63 single-storey residences on the HCWA database located in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions, only ten of which date from the nineteenth century. Twenty-one of the 63 are a combination of timber and corrugated iron (including one from the 19th century).⁴

¹ Discussion between HCWA staff and Jackie Shaw, Ngarluma Yindibarndi Foundation, 06/11/2006.

² Mulvaney, Derek John, *Encounters in place: outsiders and Aboriginal Australians 1606-1985*, Queensland University Press, St Lucia, 1989, p.25; Mulvaney, D.J. & Kamminga, Johan, *Prehistory of Australia*, Allen & Unwin, St Leonards NSW, 1999, p.414. Both books refer to Tamarinds as an indication of Macassan contact. 'Macassan' is used to refer to indigenous peoples from what is now Indonesia or Malaysia.

³ Yates, Amanda, 'Archaeology of Asian Sites in the Pilbara', research for PhD Thesis in Department of Geography, UWA, 1993, pp. 40, 44 and cover. Mulvaney (*Encounters*, pp.179-82) confirms that Date palms are considered the indicators of Afghan sites in Australia.

⁴ It is not possible to search for timber-framed buildings or to clearly identify only those with iron-clad walls.

There are four single-storey, timber-walled dwellings in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions on the State Register of Heritage Places:

Dalgety House, 1901, Port Hedland (P03357): A single storey timber and corrugated iron residence in the north-west vernacular style. The place is a rare extant example of a relatively intact residence in the north of Western Australia dating from the early 20th century, designed in response to local climatic influences. It represents a type of vernacular architecture, fast disappearing, which had an influence on the development of contemporary building styles in the region.

McDaniel Homestead, 1902, Broome (P02910): A timber and iron bungalow in the vernacular Broome tropical style. The place was constructed as a result of the ongoing development of Broome as the centre of the pearling industry in Western Australia. It was built at a time when Broome was segregated by race and many Europeans and their families lived lives of privilege and luxury.

Maurice Lyon's House, 1903, Broome (P02913): A timber and iron bungalow constructed in 1903 and extended in 1984/5 in the vernacular Broome tropical style.

Napier Terrace Cottages, 1906 & 1952, Broome (P14007): Comprising 4 Napier Terrace (1952), a single-storey timber and steel framed, corrugated iron clad cottage, and 6 Napier Terrace (1906), a single-storey timber frame and iron cottage with a two-storey rear section. The place was constructed as a result of the initial development of Broome as the centre of the pearling industry in Western Australia. The Sheba Lane Café, the business occupying 6 Napier Terrace, has been so named to reflect the history of the place.

Comparable dwellings within Roebourne include *Mount Welcome House*, 1864 (P02343): A group of single-storey timber-framed, corrugated iron buildings with barrel-vaulted roofs comprising a homestead and associated outbuildings. The place has associations with the local Aboriginal community, initially as one of the first sites of contact with European settlers and later as a meeting place for the Lerajmugadu Aboriginal Corporation.

The HCWA database contains four places on the Register associated with William Dalgety Moore or Dalgety & Co.:

Dalgety House, 1901, Port Hedland (P03357), described above.

Moore's Building, 1869, Fremantle (P00890): The buildings demonstrate the architectural form of the earlier colonial settlement, as well as the gold boom, which largely replaced it. Of considerable significance as an example of the mixed residential, warehousing and merchandising economic base of the West End of Fremantle, in the nineteenth century.

Woodside Hospital, 1897, East Fremantle (P00792): Originally an imposing Federation Free Classical style single and two-storey brick and rendered town house, is now converted into a maternity hospital.

Wilhelmsen House, 1902, Fremantle (P00854): A two-storey stone and brick Federation Free Classical style commercial building. Has particularly fine detailing and rich decoration throughout its interior spaces, which is uncommon in extant commercial buildings of this age. The place is representative of late nineteenth century shipping offices with the grand business hall and separately tenanted offices upstairs.

Therefore, *Dalgety House, Roebourne* is uncommon as a surviving example of Northwest Vernacular architecture from the late 19th to early 20th centuries in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions.

13. 4 KEY REFERENCES

‘Dalgety House, Roebourne: Conservation Plan’ prepared by Palassis Architects with Lyrus Weightman, Historian, for the Shire of Roebourne in January 2002.

13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH
