

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)

- 3.5 Developing primary production
- 8.12 Living in and around Australian homes

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 301 Grazing, pastoralism and dairying

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Noongal Station Group has aesthetic value as a collection of station buildings, albeit some are in a decayed state. The c. 1919 homestead and quarters is very fine example of a station homestead with generously proportioned rooms, very finely decorated pressed metal ceilings, fireplaces, and joinery. The c. 1900 homestead contains many of the same qualities, though the scale is modest and the place is in a poorer state of repair.

The remaining buildings in the group, including the shearing shed, shearers' quarters, shearers' kitchen and mess, cook house, meat houses, and generator shed have a dishevelled charm and attractive patina. (Criterion 1.1)

The painted pressed metal ceilings to the c.1919 homestead and the fireplaces are particularly finely made and decorated and retain their original features. Similar features in the c. 1900 house are fine examples of the same genre. (Criterion 1.2)

Noongal Station Group has aesthetic value as a complete collection of station buildings in a lightly wooded landscape. (Criterion 1.3)

Noongal Station Group has aesthetic value as a collection of elements and therefore has value as a precinct. (Criterion 1.4)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Noongal Station Group is significant for its associations with the pastoral and grazing industry in Western Australia. It has been in continuous operation since the early 1900s. (Criterion 2.1)

Noongal Station Group is historically significant with its collection of station buildings including two homesteads, stables, shearing shed, shearers'

~~For consistency, all references~~ to architectural style are taken from Apperly, Richard; Irving, Robert and Reynolds, Peter *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus & Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

quarters, shearers' kitchen and mess, two meat stores, and generator shed, that reflect evidence of the continual development of the station. (Criterion 2.2)

Noongal Station Group was established by the Rodan family, who built most of the extant structures, and the Morrissey family, who held the place from 1930 until 1998. Both families were well-known in the Yalgoo District for their farming abilities and contributions to the local community. (Criterion 2.3)

Both of the homesteads at *Noongal Station Group* contain fine decoratively painted pressed metal ceilings, unusual in the construction of station buildings, installed by Harry (or Hendry) Jermy, a carpenter. (Criterion 2.4)

11.3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11.4. SOCIAL VALUE

Noongal Station Group is highly valued by the community and this is demonstrated by its inclusion on the National Trust's List of Classified Places and the Shire of Yalgoo's Municipal Heritage Inventory. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1. RARITY

Although pressed metal ceilings are not rare *per se*, the ceilings at *Noongal Station Group* are elaborately decorated and retain their original paint colours, a factor that contributes to the rarity value of the place. (Criterion 5.1)

As a collective group, the buildings at *Noongal Station Group* demonstrate farming practices from the early 1900s through to the present day and provide evidence of a way of life that has passed in many of the marginal sheep farming areas. (Criterion 5.2)

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Noongal Station Group is representative of pastoral stations in the mid-west region of Western Australia and currently reflects the practice of managed properties. In particular, its many buildings represent the continual development of the station over a period of some 100 years. (Criterion 6.2)

12.3 CONDITION

The first homestead (c. 1900) is in poor condition with some areas being in a fragile state, while the second homestead (c. 1919) is in fair to good condition in most respects, with some evidence of deterioration of the external fabric. The stables are in fair to poor condition. The meat stores are in fair condition. The construction of the shearing shed is not substantial and there is some evidence of deterioration, so that the shearing shed is in fair to poor condition also. There are two sets of shearers' quarters and both sets could be described as being in fair to poor condition. The shearers' kitchen and mess are in fair condition.

12.4 INTEGRITY

Noongal Station Group retains its longstanding use. The first homestead, though in a derelict state, is used for storage, while the elements of the second

homestead are used on an irregular basis. The generator shed appears not to be in use. The stables now function as a garage, store, and workshop facility. The shearing shed remains in use. The present uses are those originally intended, or have been adapted for current station use, and while the place remains a station, the values will be sustained and there is a possibility that the place may be effectively conserved.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

Like many stations, *Noongal Station Group* has continued to change and evolve with the changes in fortunes of the families who have worked the properties and changes in technology. These changes have added layers to the working elements of the station through time. By way of contrast, the homesteads have been subject to very little change, apart from the attrition of wear and tear and time, and the changes in practices in the kitchen, bathroom and laundry areas. There has been some fabric losses in many of the buildings, but in an overall sense, *Noongal Station Group* retains a high degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Lucy Williams, Historian and Heritage Consultant. The physical evidence has been compiled by Philip Griffiths, Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty. Ltd.

A survey is required to delineate the configuration of the elements of the place, to place them on the Reserve, and provide a diagram to determine sufficient curtilage to protect the significant elements of the place.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Noongal Station Group is a collection of sheep station buildings comprising a shearing shed, shearers' quarters, shearers' kitchen and mess, ablution block, meat stores, stables and two residences and related buildings built for the Rodans and then the Morrisseys in stages between c.1900 and c1950s.

The Western Australian goldrushes in the 1880s and 1890s had a significant and lasting impact on the development of the state. The Murchison Goldfield, in the state's mid-west region, was one of many goldfields declared. It was proclaimed in September 1891 and extended in February 1895. By 1900, there were around 200 people in the town of Yalgoo and another 1300 involved in mining in the Yalgoo area.¹

One of the many towns that sprang up around Yalgoo was Noongal, about 20 kilometres to the north-east. Noongal was first worked as a gold mining town in the mid-1890s. By 1895, there were over two hundred men located in the area then referred to as 'Melville'. In 1896, steps were taken to declare a townsite but as Melville was already in use elsewhere, the name Noongal was chosen. The town was gazetted in December 1897. It is believed that Noongal was the name of a nearby rockhole or spring.² The town no longer exists.³

¹ John Taylor Architect, 'Conservation Plan for the Yalgoo Railway Station (former), March 1997, p. 5.

² [http://www.dola.wa.gov.au/home.nsf/\(FrameNames\)/History+of+Country+Town+Names](http://www.dola.wa.gov.au/home.nsf/(FrameNames)/History+of+Country+Town+Names), History of Country Town Names, accessed June 2001. The Geographic Names Committee section of Department of Land Administration did not have any other information on the original of the word Noongal. Its original meaning is uncertain but may be 'water' or 'wild pear'. See Palmer, A., *Yalgoo*, Lap Industries, 1985, p. 156. According to Mrs Margaret

One of the many men to arrive at the newly established goldfields around Noongal was Charles Rodan, an Irishman who had migrated to the east coast of Australia. In the late 1880s, he moved to Western Australia and was originally employed by the contractors for the Midland Railway as a horse boss. He purchased his own carting team and began to work on the Mullewa-Cue railway line. From 1896, he purchased land within the townsite of Noongal and surrounding areas.⁴ Rodan owned a hotel in town and ran a butchering business in association with W. J. Broad. It is likely that the cattle for the butchering business were located at *Noongal Station Group*.⁵ Rodan was an active member of the community, serving on the Yalgoo Roads Board for eighteen years. His son, Jim (James), also served on the Roads Board for many years.⁶

Although Noongal was originally established around mining activities, there was a slump in the industry from the early 1900s.⁷ Other activities, such as those carried out on pastoral stations, became an important part of the town's economy.⁸ Around 1904, Rodan and his family, including some of his nieces and nephews sponsored from Ireland, moved from the town to *Noongal Station Group*.⁹ It is believed that a homestead and outbuilding, constructed of local stone, were built at *Noongal Station Group* at this time for Rodan.¹⁰

Around 1900, Rodan and his family, including some of his nieces and nephews sponsored from Ireland, moved from the town to *Noongal Station Group*.¹¹ It is believed that a homestead and outbuilding, constructed of local stone, were built at *Noongal Station Group* at this time for Rodan.¹²

The buildings were located on the portion of land that had been declared a crown reserve, for water purposes, in 1897, around Yinga Spring, about 10

-
- Morrissey, although the official name recognised on land records is Noongal she and her husband often used 'Noongall', conversation with Mrs Margaret Morrissey, 9 July 2001
- 3 Philip Griffiths site inspection 11 July 2001.
 - 4 Palmer, op. cit., p. 156.
 - 5 Conversation with Mrs Margaret Morrissey, 9 July 2001.
 - 6 Palmer, op. cit., p. 157.
 - 7 Palmer, op. cit., p. 105.
 - 8 John Taylor Architect, 'Conservation Plan for Melangata Homestead', May 1998, p. 12.
 - 9 Dead Names Index for Charles Rodan, State Records Office. The dates of correspondence files suggest that Rodan's first pastoral lease in the area was registered in 1904. His occupation may pre-date the registration date by a few years. Conversation with Mrs Margaret Morrissey, 9 July 2001. Palmer, op. cit., p. 157. Note: Palmer suggests that the Rodans moved to the station in 1913 but pastoral lease correspondence files and oral history from the Morrissey family would suggest that Rodan moved onto the station earlier than 1913. Cancelled Public Plans available at the State Records Office date from 1916 — 1974 and do not confirm when Rodan occupied the area, WAS 981 Cons. 5386, Item 736 (163 / 80 Sheet 1, no. 501695), Item 737 (163 / 80 Sheet 2, no. 501696) and Item 738 (163 / 80 Sheet 3, no. 501697).
 - 10 Conversation with Mrs Margaret Morrissey, 9 July 2001. Improving the infrastructure was always a condition of a pastoral lease. Further research on the pastoral leases may provide more information about when the homestead and outbuildings were likely to have been constructed.
 - 11 Conversation with Mrs Margaret Morrissey, 9 July 2001. Palmer, op. cit., p. 157. Note: Palmer suggests that the Rodans moved to the station in 1913 but the existence of earlier structures and oral history from the Morrissey family would suggest that Rodan moved onto the station earlier than 1913. Further examination of pastoral leases around this time may confirm this.
 - 12 Conversation with Mrs Margaret Morrissey, 9 July 2001. Improving the land was often a condition of a pastoral lease. Further research on the pastoral leases may provide more information about when the homestead and outbuildings were likely to have been constructed.

kilometres north-east of the townsite.¹³ Under the terms of the reservation, '...the Pastoral Lessee will still have the right to use the water at these springs until Public requirements would demand their being used exclusively for Public purposes'.¹⁴

There are two groups of structures built of stone in the same style and manner that are likely to have been part of the first group of buildings. Both are built of random coursed stone and have pitched corrugated iron roofs. The first is the homestead group comprising a four room gambrel roof cottage with verandahs and a separate two room store building to its north and the second is the stone construction hipped roof stables complex to the west of the cottage. A feature of the cottage is its pressed metal ceilings.¹⁵ A photograph taken in the 1910s indicates that corrugated iron additions were made to the homestead.¹⁶

From 1904 onwards, Rodan began consolidating his various land holdings.¹⁷ By April 1918 he held four adjoining pastoral leases with a combined total area of 180,556 acres.¹⁸ By October 1926, Charles Rodan also held a pastoral lease on an adjoining area of 4,549 acres.¹⁹

When Charles Rodan's eldest son, Jim married in the early 1920s, he and his bride moved into a new homestead a short distance from the original homestead. One of the notable features of the new homestead was its pressed metal ceilings, hand-painted by carpenter Harry (or Hendry) Jermy.²⁰ The homestead was finished in 1919, probably to a design by Jermy but constructed by Sidney Ponds. As Jim's wife and the owner's wife at Carlaminda were sisters, it is likely that this is why pressed metal was used in both homesteads.²¹

The homestead was a single storey building with a central corridor and four large rooms, surrounded by a verandah, with a single room quarters and kitchen block to the rear or east of the main house.²²

In July 1922, a portion of 9,208 acres was subleased to Arthur Charles Gillam of the Esplanade Hotel, Perth.²³ A further portion of 4,865 acres was

13 Heritage Council Place File, #2787, information on Reserve 4275; information from the Government Property Register, Department of Land Administration, obtained 6 July 2001.

14 DOLA file 8101/1897 held at State Records Office, Acc. 541. Letter from Surveyor-General dated 4 September 1897.

15 Philip Griffiths site inspection 11 July 2001.

16 Conversation with Mrs Margaret Morrissey, 9 July 2001. Photographs provided courtesy of Mrs Margaret Morrissey. The corrugated iron additions were later removed and recycled c.1948 for the construction of the kitchen block.

17 The dates of correspondence files in the Dead Names Index at State Records Office indicate that Rodan took up or renewed fourteen leases between 1904 and 1910.

18 Pastoral Lease Certificates, Nos. 1202/1922, 2204/1922, 2205/1922 and 2253/1922.

19 Pastoral Lease Certificate, No. 1972/1926.

20 Palmer, op. cit., p. 157. Taylor, J., *Between Devotion and Design: The Architecture of John Cyril Hawes, 1876—1956*, UWA Press, Nedlands, 2000, pp. 80-82.

21 Conversation with Mrs Margaret Morrissey, 9 July 2001.

22 Philip Griffiths site visit 11 July 2001.

23 The place is currently partially owned by Gillams. It has not been determined if the current owners are Arthur's descendants.

transferred to Henry Frederick Broad in September 1926.²⁴ Two road excisions further reduced the size of Rodan's holdings to 170,974 acres.²⁵

In February 1930, Rodan sold his land holdings to Thomas Patrick Morrissey, John Francis Morrissey, William Henry Morrissey, Michael Joseph Morrissey and Peter Moris Morrissey. Thomas, John and William are listed as residing at Bunnawarra Station, Yalgoo and Michael and Peter as listed as residing at Anketell Station, via Mount Magnet.²⁶ It is believed that Rodan did not wish to leave the property to his sons and daughters. As William Morrissey had married Charles' niece, Margaret, this is likely to have influenced his decision to sell to the Morrisseys. William and Margaret had four children, Grace, Harry (Henry), Catherine and Eileen²⁷

In January 1934, the pastoral lease was renewed for a term of 49 years at a yearly rental of £206, or as otherwise reviewed under the provisions of the Land Act, 1933. The lease was granted on the standard conditions that the land be improved within five years (a condition that had been previously met) and to abide by the provisions of the Mining Act, 1904 and the Forests Act, 1918.²⁸

William Henry Morrissey died in August 1938 and probate of his will was granted to The West Australian Trustee Executor and Agency Company Limited. In April 1939, the portion of land, a fifth of the 170,974 acres, was transferred to Margaret Elizabeth Morrissey, William's widow. A mortgage was taken out over this portion of land in April 1939.²⁹

The years during World War Two were tough with a series of droughts and economic restrictions. The number of sheep in the early war years was around 800 although immediately prior to the war several thousand were being run at *Noongal Station Group*.

With the end of the war, the wool price rose dramatically in the late 1940s. The increased income provided the funds to construct further additions to the homestead. As building materials were subject to restrictions, the corrugated iron additions to the original homestead were used to construct a 'kitchen block'. The new wing consisted of a kitchen, store room and two bedrooms and was completed c.1948.³⁰ The building abuts the north verandah and is offset to its eastern side.³¹

In 1955, *Noongal Station Group* was divided into twelve portions with Harry and Margaret obtaining three undivided shares each and Grace Agnes Smith, Eileen Mary Morrissey and Catherine Gallagher obtaining two undivided shares each.³² Margaret Elizabeth Morrissey died in March 1956 and the executors of her will were Harry and Grace. Of the three shares, three fourth shares were transferred to Harry and one-fourth share was transferred to

-
- 24 Pastoral Lease Certificate, CL No. 1202/1922: DOLA. Gillam's lease number was CL2945 / 96 and Broad's lease number was CL 2224/ 96.
- 25 Pastoral Lease Certificates, Nos. 1202/1922 and 2204/1922: DOLA.
- 26 Pastoral Lease Certificates, CL 1202/ 1922, 2204/1922, 2205/1922, 2253/1922 and 1972/1926. Palmer, op. cit., p. 107. Rodan spent about one year in Perth before returning to Noongal and died in 1934.
- 27 Conversation with Mrs Margaret Morrissey, 9 July 2001.
- 28 Pastoral Lease Certificate, CL No. 674/1937: DOLA.
- 29 *ibid*.
- 30 Conversation with Mrs Margaret Morrissey, 9 July 2001.
- 31 Philip Griffiths site visit 11 July 2001.
- 32 Pastoral Lease Certificate, CL No. 674/1937; DOLA. Grace and Catherine had married in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

Eileen Mary Durack in November 1964. The new share allocations meant that Harry had 21 of the 48 shares, Eileen had 11 shares and Grace and Catherine both had eight shares each.³³

Harry had married Margaret Townsend in October 1950. Their five children, (Elizabeth) Anne, Michael, Damian, Jill and Maura, grew up on *Noongal Station Group*. Margaret taught the children by correspondence conducting lessons on the verandah of the homestead.³⁴

In April 1968, the lease was renewed for a further 47 years. The conditions of the lease were standard and included an obligation to take part in any vermin control programmes and to abide by the conditions of the Soil Conservation Act, 1945, the Noxious Weeds Act, 1950, the Mining Act, 1904 and the Forests Act, 1918.³⁵

Photographs taken in the late 1960s and late 1970s show a garden at the front of the homestead. The garden beds are marked out with local stones and the garden consisted largely of native shrubs.³⁶

In November 1973, Henry Morrissey died and probate of his will was granted to his widow, Margaret. The 21 shares were formally transferred to Margaret Morrissey in March 1977. The 27 shares belonging to Smith, Gallagher and Durack were transferred to Damian Patrick Morrissey in September 1978.³⁷ Damian and his mother, Margaret, acquired an additional area of 1,878 acres in December 1982 on a 32-year lease.³⁸ The additional land was always worked as part of *Noongal Station Group*. The odd shape of the land meant that it had been fenced as part of *Noongal Station Group* and the transfer was merely a formality to recognise the commonly believed boundaries of the station.³⁹

In April 1992, *Noongal Station Group* was entered in the Register of Heritage Places. It appears that this prompted the decision to examine the water reserve on which the homestead is located, Reserve 4275. Discussions between the Heritage Council and the Department of Land Administration resulted in examining cancellation of the reserve to integrate it within the boundaries of the station although the cancellation did not proceed.^o

In January 1998, the Morrisseys sold *Noongal Station Group* to J. W. and E. J. Kellock and R. J. and R. J. Gillam. The Kellocks owned six of the sixteen shares and the Gillams owned the remaining ten shares. In January 1999, a further sublease was made allowing E.J. Kellock six of the sixteen shares and the Gillams the remaining ten shares.⁴¹

33 Pastoral Lease Certificate, CL No. 674/1937: DOLA. Eileen Mary had married Gerald Bryce Durack in November 1955.

34 Margaret Townsend was christened Jessie but she later changed it to Margaret, her second name. Conversation with Mrs Margaret Morrissey, 9 July 2001.

35 Pastoral Lease Certificate, CL No. 164/1968: DOLA.

36 Photographs courtesy of Mrs Margaret Morrissey.

37 Pastoral Lease Certificate, CL No. 164/1968: DOLA.

38 Pastoral Lease Certificate, CL No. 294/1983 and CL 244/ 1987: DOLA.

39 Conversation with Mrs Margaret Morrissey, 9 July 2001.

40 Heritage Council Place File, #2787, letters: Heritage Council to Mr. and Mrs Morrissey, dated 2 June 1992 and Department of Land Administration to the Heritage Council, dated 7 March 1995. Information from the Government Property Register, Department of Land Administration, obtained 6 July 2001.

41 Certificate of Crown Land Title, vol. 3071, fol. 882 and Crown Lease 244/ 1987: DOLA.

In July 2001, *Noongal Station Group* continues to be a working pastoral station and is owned by the Kellocks and the Gillams.⁴²

13. 2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Noongal Station Group is a collection of sheep station buildings comprising a shearing shed, shearers' quarters, shearers' kitchen and mess, ablution block, meat stores, stables and two residences and related buildings built for the Rodans and then the Morrisseys in stages between c.1900 and c1950s. The buildings are made of local stone, brick, and clad framed construction, and roofed with corrugated iron sheeting.

The *Noongal Station Group* is located on the Water Reserve 4275, which lies to the north east of the old Noongal mine and townsite and some 30 kilometres north north east of Yalgoo, on the east side of the Yalgoo North Road. It is set in open lightly wooded country. The station group is spread over wide area, with the shearing shed and quarters to the west and the homestead and stables buildings to the east.

The first homestead group (c.1900).

The first homestead constructed (c.1900) comprises three built elements; the four-room homestead, a two-room quarters block, and a meat store. The house is constructed of stone, with one wall constructed in timber framing, clad with sheets of corrugated iron. The house is a simply planned Federation Bungalow style residence.⁴³ A two-room kitchen block adjoins it to the south-east and meat store to the north-west.

The masonry walls and chimneys of the house are constructed in random rubble set in pug beds with wide lime mortar joints. The roof is a hip and gable format, covered with unpainted corrugated iron, with fascia mounted ogee gutters. Many of the roof sheets are damaged and some sections of roofing are missing. There have been verandahs across the front and down both sides of the house, but only the front and western verandah remain, both in a poor state. The floors of the remaining verandahs are still in evidence. Part of one of the verandahs is enclosed in framed and corrugated iron construction to form a room and there is a corrugated iron water tank alongside this room. The windows are two-pane double hung sashes, though most are in poor condition and some are missing. The doors are four-panel and the front door has a hopper light over it.

The house is asymmetrically planned around a central corridor with each of the rooms having timber floors, plastered external walls, and lath and plaster internal walls. The walls are generally in good condition, but the external walls of lath and plaster are in poor condition. The rooms all have pressed metal ceilings and ceiling roses and the details are individually picked out in a variety of colours. Most of the ceilings are in good condition, though some sections are damaged. There are timber cornices, picture rails and plaster wall vents. There are complete fireplaces in the main rooms and most walls have painted dados, with dado and pin lining. The place is used for storage. There is a wood stove with timber surround and mantle in the kitchen.

It would appear that some accommodation has been removed from the rear of the house, with the present rear wall appearing to be in make-do construction, and that the present external wall was once an internal wall. The documentary evidence indicates that the rear section of the house was

⁴² Certificate of Crown Land Title, vol. 3071, fol. 882: DOLA.

⁴³ Apperly, R., et. Al., op. cit.. 144-147.

demolished to provide material for the then new kitchen block in c. 1948, and the material used in the latter suggests that this is correct.

The quarters block (c.1900).

The quarters block is in the same construction as the first homestead c.1900. It is constructed in random rubble set in pug beds with wide lime mortar joints. There is some loss of pointing and jointing at low level in the external walls. The roof is a hip format, covered with unpainted corrugated iron, with fascia mounted ogee gutters. There were verandahs across the front of the quarters and a verandah between the quarters and house, but only the floors remain as evidence of these verandahs. The windows and doors match the main house.

The rooms have timber floors, plastered walls, pressed metal ceilings and ceiling roses. The place is used for storage.

The meat room (n.d.).

This is a simply constructed timber framed building constructed on a concrete slab floor with a pyramid roof. The roof and walls are clad in corrugated iron, with the wall cladding stopped short of the eaves to provide through ventilation. The only door is a timber-framed door that has been clad externally with pressed metal.

Stables and buggy shed (c. 1900).

The stables and buggy shed are constructed in the same manner as the first house and were probably constructed at the same time.

The stables and buggy shed are constructed in random rubble set in pug beds with wide lime mortar joints, with quoins of squared stone. There is some loss of pointing and jointing at low level in the external walls. Some of the open sides of the building have been filled in with framed walling, clad with corrugated iron to form storage spaces. The roof is a gable format over the main stable section of the building, with skillions at each end of the block, covered with unpainted corrugated iron over the tack and saddle rooms. There are traces of ledge and braced doors to the end rooms. The long gabled roof section of the building is divided along its length with a stone wall. The end rooms run the full width of the stable building. Some substantial sections of plaster remain and this is coloured with a stained limewash. There are gimlet pegs in the wall of the former tack room and some feed troughs remain in place in the stables.

There are the remains of some timber construction yard fences around the stables.

The second homestead group (c. 1919, c.1948, and c1950s).

The second homestead constructed in stages between 1919 and the 1950s comprises three main built elements and a generator shed; the generously proportioned four-room homestead, a two-room quarters block, and a kitchen block, with generous verandahs around almost all sides of all building. This house group is set in the remains of a fenced garden with below ground swimming pool, dirt paths, a windmill, garden beds with stone edges, and plantings that include *Schinus spp.* (Pepper Trees), *Bougainvillea spp.* (Bougainvillea), Mother-in-law's Tongue, Japanese Jade, *Acacia spp.* (Wattle), and Eucalypts. The buildings are constructed in close proximity so that the verandahs of each of the buildings abuts its neighbour's verandah.

Main house (c. 1919).

The main c. 1919 house is constructed of stone. Although strictly speaking the place was built after the Federation period, it is a simply planned Federation Bungalow style residence.⁴⁴

The masonry walls and chimneys of the house are constructed in random coursed stone set in pug beds with wide lime mortar joints finished with black tuck pointing. Lintels and sills are stucco finished. The roof is a hip 'M' format, covered with ox-blood red painted corrugated iron, with fascia mounted plastic gutters. There is a concrete floor verandah around the entire perimeter of the house and the main roof of the house extends over the verandah without a break. The perimeter roof is supported on a verandah beam and stop chamfered posts. Part of the verandah has been filled in with timber framing and asbestos cement cladding to form an additional room, the bathroom.

The windows across the front of the house are single pane double hung sashes and the front door is set in an assembly comprising a four panel door, sidelights and panels, and a hopper light over the door. The side elevation has pairs of three-pane and one panel French doors.

The house is symmetrically planned around a generous central corridor with each of the rooms having timber floors, plastered walls that are generally in good condition. The rooms all have high pressed metal ceilings, pressed metal cornices, and ceiling roses and the details are individually picked out in a variety of colours. Some of the ceilings are quite elaborate and painted in rich colours and all ceilings are in very good condition. The walls and joinery are simply painted and there are plaster wall vents in all rooms. There are complete fireplaces in two rooms, with carved timber surrounds and mantles. The floors are timber with deep moulded skirtings and have been carpeted.

Quarters (c. 1919 and later perhaps 1940s).

The quarters building c. 1919 constructed of stone, with a single framed construction addition, clad with corrugated iron. The quarters building is stylistically identical to the house and matches the house in its detail.

The masonry walls and chimney are constructed in random coursed stone set in pug beds with wide lime mortar joints finished with black tuck pointing. Lintels and sills are very simply treated and are not emphasised like those in the main house. The roof is a gambrel format, covered with ox-blood red painted corrugated iron, with fascia mounted plastic gutters. There is a concrete floor verandah around the entire perimeter of the house. The perimeter roof is supported on a verandah beam and stop chamfered posts. Part of the verandah has been filled in with timber framing and asbestos cement cladding together with metal framed louvres to form a laundry area.

There is a double hung sash window and two four panel doors. It has a timber floor, plastered walls that are generally in good condition. The main room has a high pressed metal ceiling, pressed metal cornices, and ceiling rose. The internal walls and joinery are simply painted and there are plaster wall vents. There is complete fireplace, with carved timber surround and mantle.

Kitchen Block (c. 1948).

The kitchen block c. 1948 is a timber framed construction addition to the group, clad with corrugated iron fixed horizontally across the studwork. It is stylistically sympathetic to the main house.

44 Ibid pp. 144-147.

It has a brick hearth and chimney, corrugated iron walls, gambrel format, ox-blood red painted corrugated iron roof, with fascia mounted plastic gutters. There is a concrete floor verandah around the three sides of the block. The perimeter roof is supported on a verandah beam and square timber posts. A section of the verandah is filled in with studwork and corrugated iron cladding, with metal-framed louvres above balustrade height. A large rain water tank is located on one corner of the building.

There are two-pane double hung sash windows and two four panel doors. It has a limber floor, plastered walls that are generally in good condition. The plan comprises four rooms, each with external doors, with the kitchen and pantry being inter-connected. It is lined with plasterboard and fitted out with shelving and cupboards that are consistent with a late 1940s or early 1950s construction dates.

Generator Shed (c. 1948).

The generator shed c. 1948 is constructed of timber framed construction addition, clad with corrugated iron fixed vertically over the studwork.

Shearing Shed and Quarters (n.d.).

The group comprises a two-room kitchen and mess in framed construction, a quarters in the same construction as the first house and stables, a timber framed quarters building adjoining the stone construction quarters, and the shearing shed and yards, together with a small ablution block. This group is located about one hundred and fifty metres from the homestead group.

Shearers Quarters (n.d.).

The stone section of the quarters comprises two rooms with doors on one side, and windows on the other. It has a hip format roof covered with corrugated iron, ledge and boarded doors and a verandah over the door side of the building. There is a single fireplace. The framed quarters abut the stone quarters and have a gable roof, vertically clad-framed walls, ledge and boarded doors, and four pane windows. This building has a verandah that runs through in the same line as the masonry construction quarters.

Kitchen and Mess (n.d.).

The kitchen and mess are located opposite the quarters and comprise two principal rooms, the kitchen and the mess, with a breeze-way between them, and a third room under the verandah roof. This is a hip form roofed building, with a lean to verandah. It has a corrugated iron room and corrugated iron walls fixed to the studs horizontally. The windows are two pane double hung sashes and the doors ledge and boarded. The interior is unlined and there is no ceiling. The kitchen has a large cast iron cooking range set into a brick hob, with a plain galvanized iron recess and flue. The kitchen fittings appear to be from the Inter-War period. The mess has a long refectory table and bench seats arranged along the long sides.

Meat House (n.d.).

There is a small meat house adjacent to the kitchen and this is constructed in concrete blocks to dado height with steel framed structure over this arrangement and a corrugated iron gable roof set at a very low pitch. This would appear to be post war construction.

Ablution Block (n.d.).

The ablution block is constructed in concrete blocks with a corrugated iron gable roof and an extension in framed construction. It provides shower and toilet facilities. This would appear to be post war construction also.

Shearing Shed (n.d.)

The shed area comprises holding pens and the shed, with shearing, sorting, engine room, and baling areas. The pens are made in a variety of materials that indicate that they have evolved over a long period of time. The fences include driven bushpoles, and several types of steel tube and mesh panel types.

The shed is a large structure with a gable roof over the main areas, and a lean to roof over the engine room and over the sheep races. The whole shed is roofed and clad with corrugated iron, with ledge and boarded doors to most openings, except for two large doors that are framed and clad with corrugated iron.

Structural components comprise bushpoles, sawn and dressed timber. The whole of the structure appears lightly framed.

The interior is arranged on two floor levels with the shearing floor being raised well above ground level. The holding pens have timber grated floors and the shearing floor has a timber board floor. There is an engine house with a motor mounted on a large concrete block. The belt to the drive shaft has been removed.

The drive shaft extends almost the full length of the shed and provides connections for shearing at four stands. The holding pens behind the shearing stands are timber slat construction with a combination of cyclone gates and guillotine action timber gates. Most of the wall between the holding yards and internal holding pens has been removed.

In the sorting area, there is a sorting table of steel and mesh construction, wool storage areas, some of which are made of pressed metal.

The wool press has been dismantled, but the concrete base and guide steels are still in place and the main elements of the press are located nearby.

The shearing shed appears to have undergone a number of changes and repairs in response to changing conditions. On the whole it is in fair to poor condition and would appear to be at risk in high winds.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

National Trust Assessment Exposition, 2 September 1985.

Heritage Council Place File #2787.

Pastoral Leases.

Interview with Mrs Margaret Morrissey, 9 July 2001.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

Further details on ownership of the pastoral leases prior to 1918 could be undertaken.

The focus of the assessment was intended to be the homestead as the place that has been the subject of previous assessments. The site investigation revealed many extant elements for which little documentary evidence has been located. Further research on the outbuildings could be undertaken to assist with evaluating their intrinsic value as individual items and to assist with their conservation.

Further research may establish the importance of the place to the Rodan, Morrissey and, since 1998, the Gillam and Kellock families and their descendants.