



**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)

- 3.5.1 Grazing stock
- 3.9 Farming for commercial profit
- 5.8 Working on the land

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 301 Grazing, pastoralism and dairying
- 601 Aboriginal people
- 602 Early settlers

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

The homestead at *Mundabullangana Station* is a good example of Victorian Georgian style architecture, notwithstanding the later adaptations. Other bluestone construction buildings in the homestead group setting, including the windmill room, store, old kitchen, and grave, together with some of the more utilitarian structures such as the garage, equipment shed, and stockyards, have pleasing aesthetic characteristics also. (Criterion 1.1)

The shearing shed at *Mundabullangana Station* was a good example of Inter-War vernacular farm architecture and contained some unusual planning elements that contributed to the visual complexity of its architecture. The combination of a large ground floor, a mezzanine level sorting floor and first floor level baling area gave the building a rich sculptural articulation. (Criterion 1.1)

In its original form, the homestead at *Mundabullangana Station* employed some creative devices to make a comfortable house in a hostile environment. The architectural resolution of environmental devices, such as high and low level ventilation, and capacious living spaces, resulted in architecturally pleasing spaces that integrated innovative devices to induce effective ventilation. Though some of these elements have since been removed, the house retains the generous spaces and evidence of the ventilation devices, and these remaining elements retain visual harmony. (Criterion 1.2)

* 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.

The homestead group buildings at *Mundabullangana Station* including the homestead, the windmill room, store, old kitchen, grave, and other more utilitarian structures such as the garage, equipment shed and stockyards also have pleasing aesthetic characteristics as a collection of elements in the culturally modified landscape. (Criterion 1.3)

The shearing shed in its partly ruined state, together with the substantial collection of retained ruins, contributed to a pastoral landscape setting comprising gardens and pastoral landscape. (Criterion 1.3)

The homestead group is a good example of a Victorian Georgian style homestead and related supporting buildings, spaces, and setting that make up a distinctive cultural environment. (Criterion 1.4)

Similarly the remaining evidence of supporting structures in the shearing group make up a distinctive cultural environment that provides important evidence of shearing and associated functions in the Inter-War period. (Criterion 1.4)

11. 2. HISTORIC VALUE

Mundabullangana Station is significant in the occupation of the North-West of Western Australia as the first pastoral lease taken up by European settlers in the Yule and Turner River areas, in the 1870s. It became one of the largest and most successful enterprises of its kind in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and its pastoral use continued through the twentieth century, and into the twenty-first century. The latter period is significant in relation to changes in the pastoral industry with the decline of wool growing and the economic ascendancy of raising beef. (Criteria 2.1)

Mundabullangana Station is significant in the development of the pearling industry in the region in the 1870s and 1880s, and for the horse stud established by Roderick MacKay in 1875, and continued by his successors, his brothers and, in particular, his nephew, Samuel Peter MacKay, one of the most renowned horse studs in Western Australia in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. (Criterion 2.1)

Messrs. MacKay Bros. developed *Mundabullangana Station* from the early 1870s, during a period of expansion and development of pastoral and pearling activities in the North-West of Western Australia. (Criterion 2.2)

Mundabullangana Station, in common with many pastoral properties through to the 1960s, was heavily reliant on Aboriginal workers from its inception. The place has significance as a notable example of post-contact interaction between European settlers and the indigenous population, which was not always happy, as was also the case elsewhere. The place is significant for the documentation dating from the 1880s and continuing into the post World War Two period, which recognised the contributions made by Aboriginal workers and the development of particular skills including shearing under the tutelage of the MacKay brothers. In the mid 1940s, under the management of Lukis, the place was the first station in the Pilbara to introduce the payment of award wages for Aboriginal workers. (Criterion 2.2)

The place is significant for the employment of Asian indentured labourers, mainly Malays and Cantonese Chinese, which was not a widespread practice in the pastoral industry. (Criterion 2.2)

The shearing shed was built during a period of rapidly increasing sheep numbers

in Western Australia in the late 1920s and early 1930s, and probably before or during the dramatic fall in wool prices of 1930-31. (Criterion 2.2)

The place was initially taken up by Roderick Loudon MacKay, who was joined by his brothers, Donald and Donald McDonald MacKay, collectively known as MacKay Bros. and also as Messrs. MacKay. The latter name continued in use after Roderick's death, and also through the individual ownership of the lease by his nephew, Samuel Peter MacKay from the early 1900s, until his death in 1923. From the mid 1920s through to 1964, the place was owned by Mundabullangana Limited, whose principal shareholders were members of the well known Craig family. From 1945 to 1964, the place was managed by Robert Fellowes Lukis, firstly for the Craigs, and from c. 1947, for the Adelaide based Barr-Smith. From the early 1960s until the early 1990s, the place was owned by a company owned by I. R. McTaggart & Sons, a well known South Australian pastoral family, who also held other pastoral interests in Western Australia. (Criterion 2.3)

The homestead is constructed of bluestone, an uncommon building material in the North-West and in Western Australia in general. The place demonstrates a high quality of design, materials, and workmanship, which is superior to that found in most station homesteads in the North-West, and in particular, in those built in the 1870s and 1880s. (Criterion 2.4)

In the 1920s, *Mundabullangana Station* was the first pastoral station in the North-West of Western Australia at which Birdwood Grass was sown; and, following its success there, the grass became widely used in the region. In the late 1940s, *Mundabullangana Station* was used for experiments in reclamation and the use of various grasses in coastal areas, and agricultural field days were held at the place in this period. (Criterion 2.4)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

The remaining evidence at the homestead group and shearing shed group of places at *Mundabullangana Station* provides an important indication of a way of life on a large and successful wool growing pastoral lease between the 1880s and 1990s. (Criterion 3.2)

The shearing shed at *Mundabullangana Station* with its ground floor, mezzanine level sorting floor and first floor level baling area displayed an innovative approach to the organisation and flow of work in shearing, classing, baling, storage, and dispatching of wool. (Criterion 3.3)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

The place is highly valued by the community for its associations with the MacKay family and the establishment of the pastoral industry in the region. It has continuing significance for Aboriginal people, as recognised by the Registration of a number of sites. (Criterion 4.1)

The place contributes to the community's sense of place as the first station established in the Yule and Turner River region, and formerly one of the largest and most successful pastoral operations in the State. It was and continues to be esteemed in the Pilbara. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1. RARITY

The shearing shed at *Mundabullangana Station* had rarity value as the only two storey shearing shed in Western Australia, and as the only purpose built timber and iron two storey shearing shed in Australia, where both levels of the shed were designed for shearing purposes (Criterion 5.1)

Generally shearing sheds are located in close proximity to homesteads, though separations up to 10kms occur at stations such as Glengarry in the Mid-west. The large separation between the shearing shed and homestead groups is unusual in Western Australia. (Criterion 5.1)

The main elements of the historic homestead group and shearing shed group represent design practices that ceased to be common after World War One and World War Two respectively. (Criterion 5.2)

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

The stone structures of the homestead group at *Mundabullangana Station* provide physical evidence of well-designed Victorian Georgian style architecture applied to rural buildings. (Criterion 6.1)

The shearing shed at *Mundabullangana Station* was a good and visually distinctive example of Inter-War vernacular farm architecture. (Criterion 6.1)

In combination, the homestead and shearing shed groups provide important evidence of a way of life on a successful wool growing pastoral lease, with the majority of the physical evidence indicating the periods between the late nineteenth to mid twentieth century. (Criterion 6.2)

12.3 CONDITION

Mundabullangana Station shearing shed group of structures has not been in use since 1985. Since there has been no use for the building group, no maintenance has been done, and successive cyclones in 1999 and 2000 have caused severe damage. The shearing shed which was in fair to poor condition at the time of the assessment, was irreparably damaged in a cyclone and demolished. The quarters, cookhouse, ablutions, and other minor elements have sustained considerable cyclone damage and are in poor to very poor condition. Most of the damaged buildings are beyond repair.

Mundabullangana Station homestead group is well maintained. The garden setting around the homestead is very well maintained and verdant. The homestead and other stone structures are in fair to good condition, while the older iron framed structures are in fair condition. Most of the transportable structures are in fair to good condition. The metal construction men's quarters near the equipment are in poor condition.

12.4 INTEGRITY

Mundabullangana Station shearing group has not been in use since 1985. The original intentions can be clearly read. Sheep are no longer farmed on the station due to falling wool prices, and beef raising has replaced sheep successfully. It is unlikely that the complex would be used again. The complex is in poor condition and needs conservation action if it is to survive. The integrity of this group is

moderate.

By way of contrast *Mundabullangana Station* homestead group is in active use. The uses of individual buildings have changed to suit changing circumstances. Buildings such as the homestead and jackaroos' quarters retain their original use, while the kitchen, windmill room, and the post office/store are now used for different purposes. The surviving buildings in the group are capable of conservation. All historic buildings in the group require maintenance, remain in active use, and are likely to be retained with good long-term prospects of effective conservation. The integrity of the majority of the homestead group of structures is high.

Overall the integrity of the place is moderate to high.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

Mundabullangana Station shearing shed and related structures have been adapted through time to suit circumstances. The shearing shed has been demolished. Other structures have undergone minor adaptations and some have been severely damaged. Additional quarters have been added to the group. Overall the group retains a high degree of authenticity.

Mundabullangana Station homestead group has continued to evolve and change through time, such that all original and early buildings have undergone change and adaptation. Almost all stone buildings have been re-roofed in formats that are quite different to the original formats. There has been loss of detail in all structures. The homestead retains its original plan form and some additions attached to the rear. In addition to these works, architraves and jam linings have been removed, floors tiled, the roof simplified and the front door assembly has been modified. As a whole the group retains a moderate degree of authenticity.

Overall the place retains a moderate to high degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Robin Chinnery, Historian, and the physical evidence has been compiled by Philip Griffiths, Architect. Additional comparative information has been compiled by Lynley Forgiome, Heritage Council staff.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Mundabullangana Station comprises a homestead, and complex of 10 associated buildings, the site of the former shearing shed (now demolished) and woolshed and six associated buildings.¹ The two groups are some 10 kilometres apart on either side of the Yule River. The single storey homestead in the Victorian Georgian style was built of bluestone for the MacKay Brothers in c. 1878-79. The associated buildings were constructed at various periods for the respective owners of the station. Jacoby Brothers built the two storey shearing shed for Mundabullangana Limited in c. 1930-3.

In the early 1860s, the first pastoral leases were taken up in the North-West of Western Australia. In 1864, the Camden Harbour Pastoral Association, floated in Melbourne, Victoria, made a failed attempt to establish a pastoral operation in the North-West. In mid 1865, the first group representing the Denison Plains Squatting Company, also formed in Melbourne, arrived at Nickol Bay per *Warrior*. Land was obtained and exploration parties, including Roderick MacKay and Harry Whitall Venn, searched for good pastoral country, during which they traced the Fortescue and Ashburton Rivers, and discovered and named the Cane and Robe Rivers. Although this second large undertaking also failed, private individuals and private groups still continued to go to the North-West, as the overall outlook was promising.²

Roderick MacKays family had immigrated to South Australia from Benmore, Portree, Isle of Skye, in 1852. His father, Samuel MacKay, obtained employment as a station hand on a sheep run in the south-east of South Australia. Following his death, his wife, Marion, and the children, including Roderick, went to Narracoorte in the south-east, where the boys worked to support the family.³

Roderick MacKay returned to South Australia, where he organised a second venture with others, chartering the Dutch ship *Johanna Maria* to transport a shipment of stock to the North-West, where they were landed at Cossack (known at that period as Tsien Tsin or Tientsin Harbour, and thence travelled to the Ashburton. This attempt also failed as the stock were not well treated on the voyage; however, Roderick MacKay returned again to South Australia, still

¹ Most primary evidence of the place in the nineteenth century and early twentieth century records the spelling as 'Mundabullanganna', whilst in the subsequent period it has been most often recorded as 'Mundabullangana'. The Documentary Evidence will use the current spelling, other than where a reference is quoted, where the name will be quoted as it appears in the source. In oral language, the place continues to be referred to most often as 'Munda'.

² Kimberly, W. B. *History of West Australia: A Narrative of her Past together with Biographies of her Leading Men* (F. W. Niven, Melbourne, 1897) p. 209; and *Mundabullangana, Western Australia, Melville Park, Victoria: The Properties of Mr. S. P. Mackay* (The Pastoralists' Review, Sydney, 1910) p. 2. Note: the spelling of MacKay is maintained throughout the Documentary Evidence as it is that found in most of the early primary sources and the earlier secondary sources. A number of later secondary sources, including the latter use Mackay, and others, including Hardy (1981), use McKay.

³ Kimberly, W. B. *ibid*, p. 44.

determined to establish himself in the North-West.⁴

Roderick MacKays brother, Donald McDonald (Dodie) MacKay, agreed to invest his limited means in a further attempt.⁵ In 1867, Roderick travelled once more to the North-West, where he selected pastoral land on the lower Maitland River. He brought with him from South Australia 200 sheep, of which only 27 were to survive.⁶ In 1868, another brother, Alec (also Alick) R. MacKay joined Roderick in the North-West.⁷ Donald McDonald realised on his properties in South Australia, and duly sailed on the barque *Freebridge*, reaching Tsien Tsin on 17 March 1869, to join Roderick on the lease at the Maitland River. It was agreed that Roderick would take care of the stock, and Donald McDonald would take on contracts for road making to augment their meagre finances.⁸ Roderick was recorded as stockowner at Maitland River from 1869 to 1872.⁹

The brothers imported 2,000 breeding ewes 'merinos from Moy Hall', near Narracoorte, 150 rams, 22 cattle, 20 horses, and one thoroughbred stallion, *Cocky*, and one thoroughbred mare, *Prairie Flower*.¹⁰ This selection of stock reflected the brothers' interests at that period. It formed the foundation for their pastoral business in the remainder of the nineteenth century and through to the early 1920s, and for one of the most famous horse studs in Western Australia in the same period, and also in Victoria in the early twentieth century. When pearl fisheries boomed, Donald McDonald MacKay became involved in that industry. The MacKay brothers were amongst the earliest pioneers of the North-West, and the family proved to be among the most successful in the North-West in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.¹¹

By 1872, the MacKay brothers' flock had grown considerably. On 20 March, a disastrous willy-willy devastated the area, and most of their sheep perished.¹² After a failed attempt to sell, Roderick travelled east in search of new land, and eventually, on the recommendation of A. R. Richardson of *Pyramid Station*, decided to take up a tract of country on the Yule River, where there was a good pool of permanent water, bearing the Aboriginal name 'Mundabullangana',

⁴ ibid,

⁵ ibid; and *Nor'Westers of the Pilbara Breed: The story of brave ancestors who pioneered the outback Pilbara in Western Australia* (Town of Port Hedland, 1981) p. 38.

⁶ Kimberly, W. B. ibid; and *The West Australian* 6 December 1889, p. 3.

⁷ Erickson, Rica (Ed.) *The Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians pre-1829-1888* (University of Western Australia Press, Nedlands, 1988) p. 1993.

⁸ Kimberly, W. B. op. cit.

⁹ *Western Australian Almanac and Directory 1869-1872*.

¹⁰ MacKay, R. L. 'Early Pastoralists in North-West Western Australia' in *Early Days WAHS* Vol. 3 Part 7, December 1945, p. 21.

¹¹ Kimberly, W. B. op. cit.

¹² CSO 5/725, 26 April 1872; Kimberly, W. B. op. cit., p. 44; and MacKay, R. L. 'Early Pastoralists in North-West Western Australia' op. cit. Note: R. L. MacKay gives the numbers as 8,000 of which all but 1,100 drowned, whilst Kimberly (op. cit.) gives the year as 1871, and the numbers as 2,500 sheep of which 1,700 drowned; and *The West Australian* (op. cit.) gives the year as 1872, and the numbers as over 2,000 of which 1,400 drowned.

meaning 'the end of the stone.'¹³ The remaining sheep from the Maitland River were brought to the new land, along with 2,000 ewes from the Geraldton district.¹⁴ Whilst Roderick saw to the running of the pastoral business, Donald McDonald became involved in pearling.¹⁵ In 1874, R. L. and D. MacKay were recorded as graziers and pearlmen at Yule River, the only address recorded at the Yule River, and Alec was recorded as one of a number of pearlmen without fixed address.¹⁶

In 1875, Roderick MacKay began importing more blood stock to establish a horse stud at the place.¹⁷ In June 1876, a third brother, Donald MacKay, came from South Australia to join his brothers in their enterprise in the North-West.¹⁸ In that year, Roderick married Emily Armit Manning (b.1853) at Fremantle. She was the daughter of James Manning, formerly the Clerk of Works at the Convict Establishment (1850), Clerk of Public Works (1862) and Chairman of the Fremantle Town Trust.¹⁹

By 1875-76, when Julius Brockman first visited the station, a homestead had been built, a neat cottage with a glorious pool of fresh water nearby.²⁰ Brockman, who became the most well known pastoralist in the North-West, managed the station when Roderick MacKay went to Melbourne to bring back a vessel for pearling. In September, John Shea and a part Aboriginal man named Cooper were killed on the station, their bodies being found in the bed of the Turner River. They were buried nearby.²¹

On 12 January 1878, a property at Nickol Bay was advertised for sale, with inquiries to be directed to W. D. Moore & Co. at Fremantle or MacKay Bros. at *Mundabullangana Station*. It comprised 160,000 acres of 'splendid pastoral leases country with 200 head of well-bred cattle', located 'within 20 miles of an excellent shipping port (the mouth of the Fortescue River)' with two permanent water holes on the run, the River Robe runs through seven miles of it', capable of carrying 50,000 sheep.²²

¹³ MacKay, R. L. 'Early Pastoralists in North-West Western Australia' op. cit.; and R. F. Lukis Oral History with Chris Jeffery, Battye Library OH 262, December 1977, transcript, p. 166. Note: The meaning is given in Hardie (1981) as 'the end of the stony country', whilst the General Index at Battye Library gives it as 'the start of the stones', i.e. the beginning of the rocky outcrop, with the source recorded as from 'Elders'. Richardson arrived at Tsien Tsin (1865), and after a period in partnership with McKenzie Grant, and at *George River* (1866), he had moved on to manage *Pyramid Station*. (Erickson, Rica (Ed.) op.cit., p. 2615.)

¹⁴ MacKay R. L. *ibid.*

¹⁵ Kimberly, W. B. op. cit.

¹⁶ *Western Australian Almanac and Directory* 1874.

¹⁷ Kimberly, W. B. op. cit., p. 46.

¹⁸ Roderick Loudon MacKay, Private Archives Battye Library Acc. 1469A; and Erickson, Rica (Ed.) *The Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians pre-1829-1888* (University of Western Australia Press, Nedlands, 1988) p. 1994.

¹⁹ Erickson, Rica (Ed.) op.cit., p.1997 and p 2065.

²⁰ Brockman, John, *He Rode Alone*, (Artlook Press, Perth 1987) p.52. This building was not located in 2001 and it is not known whether any physical evidence survives.

²¹ *ibid.*, pp. 55-62, including map p. 60, showing location of bodies when found. Note: Brockman only recorded these two deaths and graves. However, some later accounts mention a third man, Miller. The creek was subsequently named Shea's Creek (now Shay's Creek). Coates, Yvonne and Kevin *More Lonely Graves of Western Australia* Hesperian Press, Victoria Park 2000) p. 81 and p 253.

²² *The Herald* 12 January 1878, p. 2. The General Index at Battye Library states that this refers to the place, and that the advertisement referred to the wrong river. The place to which this refers has not been verified, but may be *Mundabullangana Station*.

By 1879, the flock had grown to 18,000 sheep. There was no fencing other than one large horse paddock, 640 acres in area. Aborigines worked as shepherds, and provided most of the labour on the lease. The MacKay brothers had taught them how to shear and they were said to do a good job of it.²³ Once a year, the MacKays chartered a ship in Geelong, which brought them a year's supplies of fencing, foodstuffs etc., and returned to Victoria with the wool clip to be sold.²⁴ In 1879, Donald McDonald's wife and five children came to join him at *Mundabullangana Station*.²⁵ It is likely that the building of a substantial homestead at the place was undertaken around the late 1870s, to provide a suitable residence for Roderick's and Donald McDonald's families, as Roderick and Emily by this period had two young children, Jessie (b. 1878) and Amy (b. 1879).²⁶ The homestead was built of bluestone²⁷. Secondary sources state that the MacKay brothers brought stonemasons from the Isle of Skye to build it, and that a sealed bottle containing a history of the property is said to have been built into a corner of the foundations.²⁸

In 1879, a start was made on fencing, and Messrs. Fred and John Wedge were contracted to fence an eight-mile paddock, enclosing around 50,000 acres, with three sides of fencing and on the fourth side the marsh and the ocean.²⁹ Between 1879 and 1890, by which date there were 516 miles of fencing, the majority of fencing was carried out by Aboriginal labour under the supervision of Europeans, with only one fence in addition to the eight mile being erected under contract.³⁰

In July 1879, the homestead was shown as 'MacKays Homestead' on the Public Plan North 7; and it continued to be shown on subsequent plans.³¹

In 1880, R. L. and D. MacKay were recorded as pearlers and graziers, whilst D. MacKay was recorded as station overseer.³² This is the first year in which there was a second listing for the Yule River, being for F. Wedge, another early pioneer of this region, who is commemorated in Wedge Street, Port Hedland.³³

In 1883, Roderick MacKay perished in a cyclone while trying to reach his brother, Donald, who was ill on board the pearling schooner *Myra*, which was lying off Broome.³⁴ Subsequently, Donald McDonald MacKay curtailed his pearling activities, purchased Roderick's interests in *Mundabullangana Station*, and admitted their brother, Donald, into partnership.³⁵ By 1884, there were five others recorded at Yule River in addition to the MacKays, all of whom were recorded as

²³ Roderick Loudon MacKay op. cit.

²⁴ R. F. Lukis op. cit., p. 187.

²⁵ Roderick Loudon MacKay op. cit.

²⁶ Erickson, Rica (Ed.) op. cit.

²⁷ It has been suggested that the bluestone the homestead was built with was brought as ballast from Scotland. Andrew Patterson, Shire of Port Hedland in discussion with station manager Scott Mills, as conveyed to HCWA staff in February 2008.

²⁸ Hardie, Jenny op. cit., pp. 39-40.

²⁹ Roderick Loudon MacKay op. cit.

³⁰ *ibid.*

³¹ GEONOMA Inquiry Details, HCWA File 4003, 29 May 2001.

³² *Western Australian Almanac and Directory* 1880.

³³ *ibid.*

³⁴ *The West Australian* op. cit.; Note: Kimberly, W. B. (op. cit., p. 46) gives the date as 1882, whilst later secondary sources vary further, and as late as 1890. (Battye, J. S. (1915) p. 220; and Erickson, Rica (Ed.) op. cit., p. 1997.)

³⁵ *The West Australian* *ibid.*

graziers and/or pearlers.³⁶

Through the 1880s, the place was recorded both as '*Mundabullangana*' and also as Yule River Station.³⁷ A plan showing lands held at De Grey and Yule at 1 October 1886 shows '*Mundabullanganna*'. The plan shows the place and the various pastoral leases held by E. A. McKay (sic), widow of Roderick MacKay; also the pastoral leases held by Donald McDonald MacKay, and MacKay Bros.³⁸

In the 1880s, pastoralists in the North-West of Western Australia became heavily reliant on Aboriginal labour. The assignment system whereby Aborigines were assigned into the workforce of the stations, effectively becoming part of the property of the pastoralist, on occasion resulted in coercion, and rough and brutal treatment. Consequently, in the period 1881-85, several reports were authorised by the Legislative Council, resulting in the Aborigines Protection Act (1886).³⁹ In 1886, a report by Lieutenant Colonel E. F. Angelo, government Resident at Roebourne, made allegations of slavery and murder, implicating pearlers and European settlers.⁴⁰ In 1887, Donald MacKay and his eldest son, Samuel Peter, were accused of 'shocking treatment of natives on their luggers and the station'.⁴¹

During the 1880s, large-scale improvements were undertaken at *Mundabullangana Station*. In late 1888, Messrs. MacKay Bros. successfully applied for the lease of one acre of land on East Forrestier Island 'to be from the High Water Mark and extend back to as to include a large wool warehouse erected on the said island'.⁴² The area of mainland leases was increased to over one million acres, and the numbers of stock rose to 50,000 sheep, 1,600 cattle, and 350 horses by December 1889.⁴³ By this date, about 200,000 acres were enclosed with sheep proof wire fencing, sub-divided into 10 paddocks, with 27 wells established in addition to the pools in the rivers and billabongs. All the water was drawn by hand power at this period, by Aboriginal workers stationed at the wells, and most of the water troughs were hand hewn from river timber.⁴⁴ In addition to the Aboriginal work force, there were also some indentured labourers, who were mostly Malays and Cantonese Chinese, and also a few Indians, Japanese and 'Manilla-men'.⁴⁵

The northern pastoral industry was well established by the late 1880s, when wool was the main export from the colony and *Mundabullangana Station* was regarded

³⁶ *Western Australian Almanac and Directory* 1884.

³⁷ *ibid*, 1884-89; and invoices and accounts to Messrs. MacKay Bros. in Mackay Family Papers, Battye Library Acc. 2554A.

³⁸ De Grey and Yule Cancelled Public Plans Series SROWA Cons. 4564 WAS 979 Item 1.

³⁹ Green, Neville 'Aborigines and White Settlers in the Nineteenth Century' in Stannage, C. T. (Ed.) *A New History of Western Australia* (University of Western Australia Press, Nedlands, 1981) pp. 100-106.

⁴⁰ *ibid*, pp. 107-108.

⁴¹ Erickson, Rica (Ed.) *op. cit.* Note: Erickson does not give a reference for this statement.

⁴² Letter from Morrison and Crossland to Crown Lands, Perth, in Leases: Pastoral Lease. *Mundabullangana Station*, Forrest and Peawah District, North-West Division, *Mundabullangana Ltd.*, SROWA Acc. 1657 An 3/13 Box 1, Item 3532/88, 6 November 1888.

⁴³ MacKay, R. L. 'Early Pastoralists in North-West Western Australia' *op. cit.*; and *The West Australian* *op. cit.* Note: where figures vary, those from the latter source have been given.

⁴⁴ *Australia's Western Third: A History of Western Australia from the first settlements to modern times* (Macmillan & Co. Ltd., London, 1960) p. 105.; *The West Australian* *op. cit.*

⁴⁵ MacKay, R. L. 'Early Pastoralists in North-West Western Australia' *op. cit.*; and Roderick Loudon MacKay *op. cit.*

as 'one of the best stations in the colony.'⁴⁶

In December 1889, the homestead was described as follows:

The homestead stands on a level plain on the eastern bank of the Western Yule, and consists of a comfortable dwelling house, offices, kitchen, store-room, stable, and a short distance away is an extensive shearing shed. Near the house is a small garden, enclosed with galvanised iron, where cauliflour (sic), cabbages, lettuces, tomatoes, and pumpkins are growing luxuriantly, and the vines of the latter have climbed the walls of an adjacent shed ... A well was sunk in the garden for irrigation purposes, but the water proved unsuitable owing to the presence of some mineral, which killed the plants. So that now water is carried from the river by native women for the growing plants.⁴⁷

The homestead, former kitchen, and storeroom are extant in 2001. It was not possible to ascertain whether other structures noted such as the stables, and office are part of the remaining fabric. The shearing shed is not extant.⁴⁸

The team of shearers at this period date comprised '35 able-bodied natives one white man, and two Chinamen shear-sharpening.'⁴⁹ The reporter commented 'The shearing is done quite as well as by average white men, and the sheep get better treatment.'⁵⁰ In addition to the shearers, 'a great many old men and boys' were employed making up the wool and pressing.⁵¹ The wool was carted to the coast, six miles away, where it was lightered across to Forrestier Island by Donald MacDonald's ex pearling schooner, *Myra*, and then stored in a large iron warehouse building to await shipment to London.⁵² Whilst there was no mention in this report of a blacksmith's shop in proximity to the shearing shed, it is known that such a building had been constructed by c. 1891, and 'behind' it was the camp of Ah Tie, who was working as the blacksmith at this period, and Lee Ling, a Malay, who sailed the lugger around to Port Hedland when stores were required.⁵³ Ah Tie (b. Canton, i.e. Guangzhou, 1867) worked at the place from 1891, until his death in 1961.⁵⁴ He was the longest serving Chinese indentured labourer in Western Australia.⁵⁵

MacKays' horse stud was well established, and among those they had bred was *Fishmonger* 'one of our best colonial thoroughbreds.'⁵⁶ Messrs. MacKay Bros. periodically sold drafts of fat stock in Roebourne and at the Goldfields, and the surplus horses found a ready market locally and for export.⁵⁷ They imported donkeys and subsequently bred both donkeys and mules for work on the station, finding them hardy and well suited to the work.⁵⁸

In the late 1880s and early 1890s, the North-West suffered a prolonged nine-year drought, in which many stations lost everything. *Mundabullangana Station* was

46 *The West Australian* op. cit.

47 *The West Australian* op. cit.

48 Site visit by Philip Griffiths 30 October 2001.

49 *The West Australian* op. cit.

50 *ibid.*

51 *ibid.*

52 *ibid.*

53 R. F. Lukis op. cit., p. 188.

54 *ibid.*; and Atkinson, Anne (Compiler) *Asian Immigrants to Western Australia 1829-1901: The Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians* Vol. V (University of Western Australia Press, Nedlands, 1988) p. 86.

55 Su Tien Shang (ed) *Chung Wah Association 1910-1995, 85th Anniversary Promotional Publication*, p. 13.

56 *The West Australian* op. cit.

57 *ibid.*

58 R. F. Lukis op. cit., p. 124; and *Mundabullangana, Western Australia ... op. cit.*, p. 5-7.

more fortunate than most thanks to the Yule River, and lost comparatively less than most other stations, shearing 66,000 sheep after the drought broke.⁵⁹ In 1892-93, Donald McDonald MacKay sold his share in the place to his brother, Donald MacKay, and Donald's eldest son, Samuel Peter. Donald McDonald MacKay settled in Fremantle, where he married Emily Charlotte Vincent in 1893. He was elected to the Legislative Council as the member for the Northern Province (1896), and continued to maintain his interest in the North-West until his death in 1904.⁶⁰

Whilst the slump in wool prices between 1886 and 1894 severely affected the colony's export income, the Western Australian Gold Boom of the 1890s opened up a new market for the pastoralists, as the demand for meat in the colony increased considerably.⁶¹ In the early 1890s, *Mundabullangana Station* sold sheep for up to 20s. per head to the Goldfields.⁶²

The active management of *Mundabullangana Station* was entrusted to Samuel Peter MacKay.⁶³ In July 1892, Samuel Peter married Florence Gertrude Taylor and so far as is known, they and their growing family lived at the place for much of the 1890s and early 1900s.⁶⁴ The births of their two daughters, Elsie Gertrude and Marjorie, were registered at Roebourne in 1893 and 1895 respectively.⁶⁵ In 1895, Marjorie died at the age of eight months. As her death was registered at Roebourne, it is most probable that she died at *Mundabullangana Station*, and was buried there.⁶⁶ In 2001, c. 100 metres from the homestead dwelling group, there is a gravesite extant. Its physical details indicate a date of construction in the late nineteenth century, which corresponds with the date of Marjorie's death.⁶⁷

The MacKay family continued to hold extensive pastoral leases in the North-West in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, including *Roy Hill*, *Croydon*, *Sherlock*, *Mallina*, and *Balmoral* stations.⁶⁸ In total, together they held an area of over three million acres, all of which was run from *Mundabullangana*.⁶⁹

In 1896, the town site of Port Hedland was surveyed by E. W. Geyer, who named

⁵⁹ MacKay, R. L. 'Early Pastoralists in North-West Western Australia' op. cit. Note: this is extraordinary, given that more than 800,000 sheep died, one third of the colony's total 2,400,000 in 1890, in the two year period. (Crowley, F. K. *ibid* p. 105.)

⁶⁰ Kimberly, W. B. op. cit.

⁶¹ Crowley, F. K. op. cit.

⁶² Roderick Loudon MacKay op. cit.

⁶³ Kimberly, W. B. op. cit.

⁶⁴ Erickson, Rica (Ed.) op. cit. Note: The births of their two daughters were registered at Roebourne in 1893 and 1895. (Western Australian Pioneers Index, Battye Library.); and Rate Books, Port Hedland Roads Board SROWA Acc. 4534 Was 1013 Item 1, 1906-12.

⁶⁵ Erickson, Rica (Ed.) op. cit.; Western Australian Pioneers Index, Battye Library; and Rate Books, Port Hedland Roads Board SROWA Acc. 4534 Was 1013 Item 1, 1906-12.

⁶⁶ Index of Deaths, microfiche at Battye Library, 1895. Note: The Western Australian Pioneers Index records parents and place as unknown.

⁶⁷ Site visit by Philip Griffiths, 30 October 2001.

⁶⁸ Leases: Pastoral Lease. *Mundabullangana Station*, Forrest and Peawah District, North-West Division, *Mundabullangana Ltd.* SROWA Acc. 1657 AN 3/13 Box 1 item 3532/88; and R. F. Lukis op. cit., p. 78. Note: details of the various amendments to the leases for *Mundabullangana Station* have not been included in the Documentary Evidence, as they did not have any recorded effect on the buildings that are the subject of the Assessment.

⁶⁹ Taylor, Nancy E. Withnell *A Saga of the North-West Yerra-Muk-A-Doo: The First Settlement of North-West Australia told through the Withnell and Hancock Families 1861-1890* (Fremantle Arts Press, 1980; revised and reprinted, Hesperian Press, 1987) p. 163.

the grid of streets after the pastoral pioneers including Richardson, Withnell, Wedge and McKay streets.⁷⁰

In December 1898, photographs show the homestead constructed of bluestone, with a galvanised iron roof, with three vents, and a surrounding verandah under a separate roof, supported by simple cast iron columns. Three pairs of timber framed French doors with glass sidelights open to the verandah. In the background, another building of stone construction with an iron roof is visible. Only one mature shrub is shown growing adjacent to the residence.⁷¹ Another photograph shows Aboriginal people assembled on Christmas Day in front of a timber building with an iron roof; and a third photograph shows a row of three timber buildings with iron roofs.⁷² Five Aboriginal housemaids are in another photograph, and it may be assumed that this and the preceding photographs of Aboriginal people were taken in the vicinity of the homestead, as was a photograph showing an Aboriginal polo team in front of the homestead on Christmas Day, the match between them and an European team being part of the Christmas celebrations.⁷³

A photograph taken around the same period shows the 1880s shearing sheds, two large adjacent shed of timber construction with iron roofs, with fencing and a large paddock in the foreground.⁷⁴ Another photograph shows one of the wells at the station, with six young Aboriginal women drawing water.⁷⁵

On his death in 1902, Donald MacKay left his 'estate or interest' in *Mundabullangana Station* and Upper Yule 'and their appurtenances subject to any then subsisting Deed of Partnership between myself and any of my sons' to the Trustees of his Estate 'to realise and convert into money.'⁷⁶ Subsequently, *Roy Hill* was transferred to his youngest son, John (Jack) Shaw MacKay, who worked it until his death in 1916; and Samuel Peter MacKay, Donald's eldest son, became sole owner of *Mundabullangana Station*, which he owned until his death in 1923.⁷⁷ He was bequeathed his father's interest in the stud and thoroughbred horses at Melville Park Farm, near Brunswick, Victoria, and divided his time between the two properties.⁷⁸

In May 1907, a visitor to the homestead at *Mundabullangana Station* noted

The homestead is a mansion, built mostly of a kind of bluestone, and is so constructed as to provide the most comfort during all seasons. The station hands are quartered in good buildings, provided with baths, water etc.....On approaching the homestead the visitor imagines he has discovered a miniature town, so numerous are the buildings.⁷⁹

In 1910, Samuel MacKay resided at his *Melville Park* property, leaving his overseer of nine years, Archibald Campbell, to manage *Mundabullangana Station*, which was considered 'one of the most valuable' properties in Western

⁷⁰ *ibid*, p. 82.

⁷¹ Battye Library Photographic Collection, Nos. 3011P- 3012P, and 3014P.

⁷² *ibid*, Nos. 3016P and 3000P.

⁷³ *ibid*, Nos. 3015P and 3011P.

⁷⁴ *ibid*, No. 3008P.

⁷⁵ *ibid*, No. 3001P.

⁷⁶ Last Will and Testament of Donald MacKay, SROWA Cons. 3436 WAA 56 WAS 44, on microfilm, 8/02, 24 February 1900.

⁷⁷ MacKay, R. L. 'Early Pastoralists in North-West Western Australia' *op. cit.*; and Probate Index, Battye Library.

⁷⁸ *ibid*; and R. L. MacKay 'Early Pastoralists in North-West Western Australia' *op. cit.*

⁷⁹ *The Hedland Advocate* 25 May 1907, p. 2.

Australia at that date.⁸⁰ The area of the property at that period was 'about 400,000 acres', some 50,000 sheep were shorn annually, and there were around 250 head of cattle and a similar number of horses on the run.⁸¹ It was also 'usually regarded' as being 'one of the best stocked properties in the north-west' of the State.⁸² The homestead and other improvements were 'planned on elaborate and substantial lines. The house is of solid masonry', and surrounded by a 10' wide concrete verandah.⁸³ The rooms were 'large and comfortable', with water laid on to the buildings and 'about the grounds. The living accommodation is of a kind not often found on outback country stations in Western Australia.'⁸⁴ Also located at the place were the men's quarters, stables and outbuildings, and the aforementioned 22 stand woolshed, which were 'fully up to the standard of most of the highly improved properties in even the longest settled parts of the Commonwealth.'⁸⁵ In 1910, a photograph shows a shearing shed that may be the end of one of the sheds photographed in 1898.⁸⁶ Samuel Peter MacKay had further improved the horse stud at the place in the period 1903-10, and, in 1910, it was said to have produced 'some of the best horses that have sported silk over Western Australian courses' in the early twentieth century.⁸⁷

In 1915, J.S. Battye recorded the major contribution of the MacKays to the history of the North-West, and referred to the shearing of 50,000 sheep 'in ordinary seasons', and the valuable horse stud established by Roderick MacKay, 'considered one of the best horse judges in Western Australia.'⁸⁸ Battye observed that at this period 'The whole homestead area evidences a thoroughly flourishing proposition'.⁸⁹ In July 1916, the place was added to Public Plan 110/300 as *Mundabullanga Station*, and continued to be recorded under this misspelt name until 1958.⁹⁰

In 1918, the Pastoral Lease, under The Land Act Amendment Act, 1917, by which Samuel Peter Mackay (sic) was granted the lease of the place for 30 years nine months from 1 April 1918, at an annual rental of £563. 4s., shows the area of the station as about 511,807 acres.⁹¹ Under this lease, a number of prior leases were amalgamated: 539/102, 542/102, 543/102, 544/102, 546/102, 548/102, and 549/102.⁹² In 1918, the buildings at the place were valued at £5,000.⁹³

On 11 May 1923, Samuel Peter MacKay died; and on 16 July 1924, his son, Samuel Keith (known as Keith) MacKay died in an aeroplane crash on a

80 Battye, J. S. (Ed.) *The History of the North West of Western Australia embracing Kimberly, Gascoigne and Murchison Districts* (V. K. Jones & Co., Perth, 1915) p. 218; and *Mundabullangana, Western Australia*, op. cit.

81 *Mundabullangana, Western Australia*, *ibid.*

82 *ibid.*, p. 7.

83 *ibid.*, p. 5.

84 *ibid.*

85 *ibid.*

86 *ibid.*, p. 4.

87 *ibid.*, p. 8-11.

88 Battye, J. S. *The History of the North West of Western Australia* (V. K. Jones & Co., Perth, 1915) p. 220.

89 *ibid.*

90 GEONOMA Inquiry Details op. cit.

91 Pastoral Lease 2180/96, Crown Lease 1287/1924.

92 *ibid.*

93 Lands & Surveys Mundabullangana Station North-West Division SROWA Acc. 4496 WAS 211 Item 1123/1918, 10 January 1918.

chartered flight home to *Mundabullangana Station*.⁹⁴

A photograph from the early 1920s shows the homestead complex with the stone blacksmith's shop at the extreme left, the store, men's quarters, and the homestead and the chimney of the homestead is visible.⁹⁵

In November 1925, the buildings at the place were valued at £8,000, and in this month the transfer of the leases to Mundabullangana Limited was approved.⁹⁶ In March 1926, *Mundabullangana Station* was transferred to, the shareholders in the company being John Samuel Craig, Gladys Lavinia Craig, Gordon Smale Craig, Leslie Craig, Frances Ellen Craig, Frank Colin Craig, Constance Jean Gonville Craig, Francis Craig, Hannah Elford Craig, Cecil Hedley Salmon, Rachel Mary Anne Salmon, and James Wiley Paterson, Secretary of the company.⁹⁷ The Craig family had owned other pastoral interests since the early twentieth century, including neighbouring *Portree* station.⁹⁸ It has been presumed that this station had been named by the MacKays, as the name Portree originated from their birthplace on the Isle of Skye.⁹⁹

Frank Craig (b. York, 1852) had gone to the North-West after completing his education at Bishop's School, Perth, and by the early twentieth century he had invested capital in hotels, pearling, and various other ventures, including *Portree*.¹⁰⁰

By the mid 1920s, after decades of grazing, much of the most nutritious grasses on the lease had been eaten out. Lord Birdwood, whose daughter was married to Colin Craig, supplied some grass seeds, which proved suitable to the area. The first area sown was the river flats that were in need of stabilising, and thereafter the grass spread quickly. Other stations followed suit, and Birdwood Grass, as it became known, was used widely.¹⁰¹

The National Trust of Australia (WA) Assessment of the place and other secondary sources state that c. 1927, a new two storey shearing shed designed by Gordon Craig was built at the place by J. Jacoby and his sons, Darby and Harry. It was Oregon pine timber framed and corrugated iron clad, supported on stumps constructed of concrete, approximately 1200mm above ground, with access from ground level via a series of timber ramps. The centre section under a gable transverse to the main axis of the building was 5.3 m from the floor line to plate height. A mezzanine floor was located in this section of the building.¹⁰² It may be assumed that associated buildings were constructed at the same period, including shearers' quarters, kitchen and dining facilities, and a blacksmith's shop, all of which were extant into at least the mid 1960s.¹⁰³ However, the Rate

⁹⁴ Hardie, Jenny op. cit., pp. 141-142.

⁹⁵ In *ibid*, photograph 83. (No details of source.)

⁹⁶ Statutory Declaration; and memo appended to letter from Executors of Samuel Peter MacKay in Lands and Surveys Mundabullangana Station op. cit., 12 and 23 November 1925, pp. 30-31.

⁹⁷ Statement, in Leases: Pastoral Lease ... op. cit., 12 April 1926, pp. 122-123.

⁹⁸ R. F. Lukis, op. cit., p. 89; and Pastoral Lease 2180/96 op. cit.

⁹⁹ R. F. Lukis, *ibid*.

¹⁰⁰ Kimberly, W. B. op. cit., p. 222; and Rate Books, Port Hedland Roads Board, op. cit., 1906, p. 7. Note: Craig was listed as owner with Roberts.

¹⁰¹ Hardie, Jenny op. cit., p. 230.

¹⁰² National Trust of Australia (WA) Assessment Mundabullangana Station - Woolshed, shearers' quarters, dining room & kitchen, November 1983; and LGA Place No. 18, Town of Port Hedland Municipal Heritage Inventory.

¹⁰³ R. F. Lukis op. cit., p. 147.

Books do not provide any evidence of these improvements having been carried out in 1927, as the capital value of the place remained at £5,786, as in 1926 when owned by MacKay.¹⁰⁴ On the other hand, in August 1932, a Statutory Declaration recorded the value of buildings at £14,599, which probably indicates that the two- storey shearing shed and other improvements were constructed c. 1930-31.¹⁰⁵ The late 1920s and early 1930s was a period of rapidly increasing sheep numbers in Western Australia, and it is likely that the new shearing shed and associated buildings were built before or during the dramatic fall in wool prices of 1930-31, when prices fell by 60%.¹⁰⁶ The employment of Aboriginal shearers continued into the early 1930s, when there were 'twenty stands for 10 natives and 10 whites' at the shearing shed at *Mundabullangana*.¹⁰⁷

Further improvements may have been carried out in the period 1932-35, as the value of the buildings had increased to £14,985 in 1935.¹⁰⁸ The peak period for pastoral properties in the district was 1934, when numbers of sheep peaked at 630,000, before declining gradually until 1940, when numbers plunged due to fly strike, which had never been known before in that area, and also due to bad pasture husbandry, and bad management methods.¹⁰⁹

In c. 1945, having sacked the manager and temporarily taken over management of the place, Gordon Craig invited Robert Fellowes Lukis to manage the place. Before taking up the offer, Lukis inspected the property. He recollected that whilst the country was 'beautiful', the formerly 'first class' improvements had been sorely neglected:

The buildings were in disrepair and the main homestead, a beautiful building, all the ceiling was eaten with white ants. The wells were falling in and fences were bad and it was dilapidation wherever I looked.¹¹⁰

Lukis accepted Craig's offer, and he and his family moved to the place. They carried out the necessary repairs to the homestead, and resided there until they left the place in October 1964. In this period, the overseer's 'cottage' was located 'about 400-500 yards' from the homestead.¹¹¹ It has not been possible to establish at what period this cottage was built.

In the mid 1940s, under Lukis, there were 14 to 15 Aboriginal men employed at the station, and around 32 women on rations, some of whom helped in the house with ironing, washing etc. Lukis, as manager at *Mundabullangana Station*, was the first person in the Pilbara to pay Award wages to Aboriginal workers.¹¹² This was a highly significant event in the history of Aboriginal pastoral employment, for it pre-dated the strike of Aboriginal pastoral workers in the Pilbara in May 1946, when strikers demanded a wage of 30s. per week, which was met by most pastoralists. By 1950, most pastoralists in the Kimberley were also paying a wage to Aboriginal workers. However, the payment of award wages to Aboriginal

¹⁰⁴ Rate Books, Port Hedland Roads Board, op. cit., Item 7, 1925-30.

¹⁰⁵ Statutory Declaration in Lands and Surveys Mundabullangana Station op. cit., August 1932, p. 33.

¹⁰⁶ Snooks, G. D. 'Development in Adversity 1913 to 1946' in Stannage, C. T. (Ed.) *A New History of Western Australia* (University of Western Australia Press, Nedlands, 1981) p. 252.

¹⁰⁷ R. F. Lukis op. cit., p. 42.

¹⁰⁸ Statutory Declaration in Lands and Surveys Mundabullangana Station op. cit., 29 January 1935, p. 52.

¹⁰⁹ R. Lukis, evidence to Pastoral Leases Committee, in Pastoral Leases Committee - Transcripts of Evidence (1962) SROWA Cons. 4983 WAS 1438 Item 9, pp. 1-5.

¹¹⁰ R. F. Lukis op. cit., p. 74.

¹¹¹ *ibid*, pp. 89- 92.

¹¹² *ibid*, pp. 156-157.

workers did not become widespread until the late 1960s, after a federal court handed down an award prescribing that all Aboriginal people employed in the pastoral industry must receive the same payment as other workers by the end of 1968.¹¹³

In 1946, the State Government purchased two stations in the North-West for use as research stations, *Abydos* and *Woodstock*.¹¹⁴ Around 1947, the *Mundabullangana Station* was transferred from the Craigs to the Barr-Smith interests in Adelaide for £74,000, with 30,000 sheep, 'a hundred odd head of horses' and 'a few head of cattle.'¹¹⁵ The ownership continued to be recorded as Mundabullangana Limited.¹¹⁶ In 1948, Lukis requested assistance from the Agricultural Department to advise on problems with pasturage. Subsequently, in the late 1940s, *Mundabullangana Station* was used for experiments in reclamation and the use of various grasses in coastal areas. Agricultural field days were held at the station in this period.¹¹⁷ In November 1953, the total area held by Mundabullangana Limited was 761,848 acres, and among the improvements were 14 buildings valued at £15,000, and 11 stockyards valued at £2,000.¹¹⁸

In 1958, an investigation regarding nomenclature revealed the mis-recording of the name of the place on plans since July 1916, and the name was thenceforth adopted as 'Mundabullangana Homestead'.¹¹⁹

In 1960, approximately 530 acres were resumed for the property for the purpose of reserves for water.¹²⁰ During 1963, an aerial survey was carried out, following which the boundaries of the place were amended as they were more accurately defined.¹²¹

In December 1963, the homestead, quarters, woolshed and outbuildings, house yard, one cattle yard and 11 sheep yards were valued at a total of £27,842, and other improvements included electric light plants valued at £1,700, and sheep dips valued at £430.¹²²

An aerial photograph taken in 1964 shows the homestead complex. The extant buildings shown are the homestead, with the adjacent jackaroos' quarters and adjacent kitchen building, store, garage, windmill room, hangar, and some unidentified buildings, including a number at the rear of the homestead. There are a number of tree plantings in this area; and there is a fenced garden at the front and sides of the homestead, with lawns planted, and a path leading from a central front gate to the front entrance to the residence. A short distance away are shown two separate buildings for the men's quarters, near the equipment shed, and a stockyard. There is a tennis court with some adjacent plantings near

¹¹³ Stannage, C. T. (Ed.) *A New History of Western Australia* (University of Western Australia Press, Nedlands, 1981) pp. 151-166. Note: Subsequently, many stations reduced the number of Aborigines in their employ, displacing them from the land, leading to increased unemployment in the towns of the Pilbara and the Kimberley, and associated problems.

¹¹⁴ *ibid*, p. 77; and Hardie, Jenny *op. cit.*, p. 231.

¹¹⁵ *ibid*, R. F. Lukis.

¹¹⁶ *Leases: Pastoral Lease ... op. cit.* pp. 154-174.

¹¹⁷ Hardie, Jenny *op. cit.*, p. 231; and R. F. Lukis *op. cit.*, p. 77 and p. 101.

¹¹⁸ *Statement in Leases: Pastoral Lease ... op. cit.*, 11 November 1953, p. 154.

¹¹⁹ *GEONOMA Inquiry Details op. cit.*

¹²⁰ *Government Gazette* 21 October 1960; and *Lands and Surveys Mundabullangana Station op. cit.*, p. 90.

¹²¹ *Memo. in Lands and Surveys Mundabullangana Station op. cit.* pp. 79a-80.

¹²² *Statutory Declaration in Leases: Pastoral Lease ... op. cit.*, 19 December 1953, p. 181.

the airstrip. The foreman's (overseer's) house is shown at a distance from the aforementioned, with tree plantings by this house also.¹²³

In February 1964, I. R. McTaggart & Sons Pty. Ltd. of South Australia successfully applied to the Under Secretary of Lands for the transfer of the leases to *Mundabullangana Station*.¹²⁴ Directly and through related shareholdings, the company already held interests in *Lyons River* and *Bidgemia* stations in the Gascoyne region in Western Australia.¹²⁵ The purchase price for *Mundabullangana Station* was £123,472.¹²⁶ The company name was changed from Mundabullangana Limited to Auchendarroch Pty. Ltd.¹²⁷ In October 1964, Lukis left *Mundabullangana Station*, having managed the place for nearly 20 years.¹²⁸

The place was leased to I. R. McTaggart & Sons Pty. Ltd. from 22 August 1966 for 48 years 10 months 10 days until 30 August 2015, at an annual rental of \$1,818.30 for the period to 30 June 1967, and thereafter subject to the rent being determined from time to time on re-appraisal under the provisions of Part IV of The Land Act, 1933, and Amendments.¹²⁹ At this period, Pastoral Lease No. 3114/517 comprised Peawah Location 44 and Forrest Location 206, 761,518 acres in area.¹³⁰ The former is located in the Shire of Roebourne and the latter in the Town of Port Hedland.¹³¹

On 26 May 1967, Alan Richard McTaggart died at the station and was buried there.¹³²

After the departure of the Lukis family, the condition of the homestead complex deteriorated, as the pastoral industry declined over the next 20 years. Extant buildings in this period comprised the homestead, overseer's house, single men's quarters, cottages for married men, a store, blacksmith's shop, garages, kitchen, wages and staff dining room, ablution blocks for 'whites' and Aboriginals etc.¹³³

On 7 December 1975, Cyclone Joan carried away most of the shearing quarters and associated facilities, and damaged the shearing shed, leaving only the shearing shed and the caretaker's building remaining of the shearing shed complex; and the homestead was subject to severe flooding.¹³⁴

A photograph taken in 1964 shows the homestead and jackaroos' quarters, with some of the buildings unidentified in 1964, still extant. A galvanised pipe and wire fence surrounds the homestead garden, with a single entry gate to the path leading to the front entrance to the residence. There are trees and shrubs, and lawns planted in the garden, and other mature tree plantings in the vicinity.¹³⁵ A

¹²³ Photograph 86 in Hardie, Jenny op. cit.

¹²⁴ Robinson, Cox & Co. to U/Sec. for Lands in Leases: Pastoral Lease ... op. cit., 17 February 1964.

¹²⁵ *ibid.*

¹²⁶ Memo. to Mr. de Luca in *ibid.*, 26 February 1964.

¹²⁷ Memo. in Lands and Surveys Mundabullangana Station op. cit., 21 August 1963, p. 99.

¹²⁸ R. F. Lukis op. cit., p. 89.

¹²⁹ Pastoral Lease 3114/517, C.L. No. 526/1966.

¹³⁰ *ibid.*

¹³¹ Plan in *ibid.*

¹³² Coates, Yvonne and Kevin, *ibid.* p 104 and p.210.

¹³³ National Trust of Australia (WA) op. cit.

¹³⁴ Roger Richardson, telephone conversation with Robin Chinnery, 16 August 2001; and Client Services, Bureau of Meteorology, telephone conversation with Robin Chinnery, 20 August 2001.

¹³⁵ Photograph 87 in Hardie, Jenny op.cit.

photograph around the same period shows the two storey-shearing shed, with timber post and rail fences in the foreground.¹³⁶

In 1983, the place was assessed, and was classified by National Trust of Australia (WA) on 5 December. The assessment recorded the date of construction of the homestead as c. 1900, and the original owners of the place as 'Brothers Donald and R. L. McKay'. The homestead complex was classified as a group, as was the complex of buildings around the shearing shed, which were incorrectly recorded as being 'about 19kms' from the homestead.¹³⁷ At this period, the station manager occupied the homestead. At the east side of the house, there was an enclosed lean-to section, which accommodated the existing kitchen and dining room. In that section, the bluestone walls that previously faced onto the verandah had been painted. The internal walls of the homestead were plastered. The decorative cast iron columns supporting the verandah were extant. The rendered quoins around the French doors were painted black and white in an alternating pattern, the painting being of recent origin. The Assessment commented upon the unusually high quality of workmanship and materials used in the homestead, for example, the aforementioned columns, the quality of the stone work, pointing and cement quoins. Also noted was 'the sophistication' displayed in the planning of the place, in the large entry hall entered via a formal front door.¹³⁸

Other extant buildings at the homestead complex included jackaroos' quarters; the former kitchen block, timber framed, clad in galvanised iron, and in part of white washed stone, with a section of in-fill clad in asbestos; a stone outbuilding, like the homestead of bluestone, the exterior of which was painted with silver roof paint; a hangar, with corrugated galvanised walls, open at the western side; a small galvanised iron clad room with a verandah on all sides; recently erected quarters, clad in galvanised sheeting; a large open sided steel framed structure, roofed with galvanised iron on which was painted 'Munda'; a store, with a galvanised hump backed (vaulted) roof; a workshop, and another galvanised iron clad building.¹³⁹

The shearing shed, and the shearers' quarters comprising bedroom block and kitchen block (galvanised iron clad) were all recorded as being extant, although this conflicts with oral evidence regarding the damage by Cyclone Joan in 1975. Also on this site, were 'a tumble down galvanised iron clad structure' and some recent transportable units.¹⁴⁰ No other alterations to the complex were recorded. It was noted that the woolshed was 'one of few two storey woolsheds' in the State; however, the location of the others was not recorded.¹⁴¹

Photographs taken in the early 1980s show the shearing shed with the single storey section at one side with the ramp leading into the building, and the two-storey section of the building in the centre. Stockyards are shown in the foreground.¹⁴² Photographs of the homestead show the original roof has been replaced, and the verandah included under the single roof. The homestead garden is enclosed by a galvanised pipe and wire fence with a single gate leading

¹³⁶ Photograph 88 in *ibid*.

¹³⁷ National Trust of Australia (WA) Assessment op. cit.

¹³⁸ National Trust of Australia (WA) Assessment op. cit.

¹³⁹ National Trust of Australia (WA) Assessment op. cit.

¹⁴⁰ National Trust of Australia (WA) Assessment op. cit.

¹⁴¹ National Trust of Australia (WA) Assessment op. cit.

¹⁴² National Trust of Australia (WA) Assessment op. cit.

to the path to the front entrance. The garden is planted with lawns and shrubs by the front of the house.¹⁴³

On 2 March 1984, the place was entered on the Register of the National Estate.¹⁴⁴ However, as nothing was done within a twelve-month period, the nomination fell through, and the place was removed from the Register on 14 May 1991.¹⁴⁵

On 29 January 1985, the lessee changed its name from I. R. McTaggart & Sons Pty. Ltd. to Munda Pastoral Company Pty. Ltd.¹⁴⁶ According to a chalked note in the shearing shed, the last shearing took place in November 1985.¹⁴⁷ Subsequently, the shearing shed was not used and fell into a state of disrepair. In the late twentieth century, falling wool prices led many pastoralists such as the McTaggarts to abandon sheep farming in favour of raising beef, which provided a better return. Following the fall of wool prices, beef raising became a common substitute for wool farming in the Gascoyne and Pilbara.

On 19 May 1994, the transfer of the lease to Accordia Nominees Pty. Ltd. was registered.¹⁴⁸

On 8 November 1995, the transfer of the place to Fourseasons Corporation Pty Ltd was registered.¹⁴⁹ This company has continued in ownership into 2001.

On 31 December 1996, the place was included in the Municipal Heritage Inventory for the Town of Port Hedland. The MHI noted that it had been recorded that a sealed history of the homestead was stored in a bottle and built into a corner.¹⁵⁰

In July 1999, application was made to erect a new Durabuilt workers' quarters building at the place. The works required demolition of an existing outbuilding of asbestos construction that was reported to be in a run down condition, which was not specifically listed in the Municipal Heritage Inventory.¹⁵¹ These works were implemented.¹⁵²

At the time of the assessment (2001) the homestead continued to be occupied as a residence. The shearing shed was no longer in use. The shearing shed group is no longer in use. Raising beef cattle had replaced sheep farming at *Mundabullangana Station*.

In 2007, after on-going cyclone damage had made it irreparable, demolition of the shearing shed commenced¹⁵³. In 2008, the homestead is still in use and is undergoing repair and maintenance work.

¹⁴³ ibid.

¹⁴⁴ HCWA File 4003.

¹⁴⁵ HCWA Correspondence File 4003.

¹⁴⁶ Pastoral Lease 3114/517, C.L. No. 526/1966.

¹⁴⁷ Site visit by Philip Griffiths 30 October 2001.

¹⁴⁸ Pastoral Lease 3114/517, C.L. No. 526/1966.

¹⁴⁹ Pastoral Lease 3114/517, C.L. No. 526/1966.

¹⁵⁰ Place nos. 17 and 18, Municipal Heritage Inventory Town of Port Hedland; and p. vi. Note: the date of construction is given as late 1800s and also as 1900 at LGA Place No. 17, p. 2, and as 1880s on p. vi.

¹⁵¹ Memoranda and correspondence, HCWA File 4003, July 1999.

¹⁵² Site visit by Philip Griffiths 30 October 2001.

¹⁵³ Emails and conversations between HCWA staff and Andrew Patterson, Shire of Port Hedland, February 20008. Mr Patterson advised he had not been able to visit the site of the former shearing shed to confirm it has been demolished, but was informed of its removal by the station manager, Scott Mills. He did visit the homestead, and was able to report on the repair work being done.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

According to the documentary evidence, *Mundabullangana Station* comprises Pastoral Lease No. 3114/517 comprising Peawah Location 44 and Forrest Location 206, 761,518 acres in area. *Mundabullangana Station* built improvements comprise a homestead, and complex of 10 associated buildings, and a shearing shed and woolshed and 6 associated buildings. The two groups are some 10 kilometres apart on either side of the Yule River. The single storey homestead in the Victorian Georgian style¹⁵⁴ was built of bluestone, purportedly by builders from the Isle of Skye, for the MacKay Brothers in the 1880s. The associated buildings were constructed at various periods for the respective owners of the station. Jacoby Brothers built the two storey shearing shed for Mundabullangana Limited in c. 1930-31.

The Homestead Group

The homestead group is located to the 4 kilometres west of the Yule River Bridge and 34 kilometres north of the North West Coastal Highway, also known as the Wedgefield Coast Road. The homestead is group is set in cleared and fenced land, with cultivated gardens immediately around the homestead. The group of buildings includes the homestead (Building 1), the former kitchen, now an amenities room (Building 2), former post room and store, now a store (Building 3), windmill room, now a store (Building 4), garage and workshop (Building 5), water tanks and stand (Building 6), jackaroos' quarters (Building 7), equipment store (Building 8), men's quarters (Building 9), site of men's quarters (Location 10), site of the hangar (Location 11), stockyards (Building 12), solar array compound and generator shed (Building 13), prefabricated amenities (Building 14), prefabricated quarters (Building 15), prefabricated kitchen and dining block (Building 16), masonry and prefabricated quarters (Building 17), swimming pool and enclosure (Building 18), shade house (Building 19), vegetable patch (Location 20), citrus orchard (Location 21), avocado trees (Location 22), MacKays gravesite (Building 23), and old killing shed, now pig pen and chicken run (Building 24).

With the exception of the prefabricated amenities (Building 14), the remaining structures are all oriented to the cardinal points, with the main organising element being the north-south axis. The homestead (Building 1) is the largest and most impressive structure of the group in its lawn and garden setting. Buildings 2,3,7, 15,16,13 and 17 share the lawned setting. There are some concrete paths, some stone pavings, a number of small aviaries, with main plantings comprising Poinciana, Rain Tree, Avocado, Banana, Bougainvillea, Palms, Jasmine, Frangipani, and a large number of Oleander, one or two Eucalypts and Vincas, together with Citrus trees. The garden is surrounded by a steel section fence, with steel stanchion posts and top rails, and cable midrails.

The homestead (Building 1). (See figures 2 and 3; historic photographs 1,2,4 and 6; and, photographs 4-19)

The homestead is a large single storey bluestone residence with a corrugated zincalume roof, designed in the Victorian Georgian style. It is simply designed and symmetrically planned, with rear additions constructed at a later period in a utilitarian style of concrete and framed construction and an iron roof.

The building uses classical proportions and the elevations are symmetrically arranged, with a main entrance to the west, flanked by pairs of glazed doors

¹⁵⁴ Apperly, Richard et al., *ibid* pp 42-45.

covered with timber storm shutters. Three sides of the house are surrounded by a wide concrete floor verandah and the unlined verandah is carried on simple cast iron columns, with several replacement steel columns. The roof has been re-framed, so that the form is much simplified, with a simple hipped form replacing the original gambrel form. The original verandah roof was pitched off the house walls, whereas the whole of the roof is now a single piece of construction. The 2'0" (600mm) thick external walls are made of bluestone, laid in random coursing, with wide raised white tuck-pointed joints. There are vents in the walls at high level, almost all of the vent grilles have been removed. A single tall stone construction chimney rises from the northern roof slope and it is constructed in bluestone also. Internal walls are 1'6" (450 mm) thick and are plastered. The minor rooms constructed on the north and south verandahs have casement windows. Windows to the bathroom and office are casements with painted storm shutters, while the remaining rooms have glazed and panelled doors with storm shutters. The front door is set under a low concrete voussoir block arch, and has louvred sidelights, with an iron sign suspended over the door that reads 'Mundabullangana'. Concrete flowerpots are arranged either side of the doors.

The plan is arranged around a central corridor (Room 2) almost 10'0" (1.9m) wide, with four generous rooms (Rooms 1, 3, 4 and 5), now all used as bedrooms, arranged around the corridor. Two further rooms, the office (Room 7) and bathroom (Room 8) are located on the eastern side of the house and these rooms span the full width of the north and south verandahs and enclose the ends of the eastern verandah (Room 6), which is essentially a circulation space. The addition comprises a dining and sitting area (Room 9) and kitchen (Room 10).

The rooms of the original house have tiled floors throughout, plain run skirtings, plastered walls with high level wall vents, 3 pane and single panel external French doors, and four panel internal doors, except in two locations where flush doors have replaced them. The ceilings are lined with flat asbestos cement sheets with cover battens. There are intact fireplaces in Rooms 1 and 4 and sheet metal corner vents in Rooms 1, 3, 4 and 5, though these have been blocked in. The main feature of the hall is the arch at the mid point with a bead-moulded architrave.

The kitchen addition is part concrete and framed and fitted out with late twentieth century equipment and 1960s bench work. The floors are concrete, soffits unlined lined with shade cloth and plywood faced wall claddings, the latter as temporary storm damage repairs.

Alterations include the re-formatting of the roof, removal of the roof-mounted vents, replacement of some columns, the removal of architraves and jamb linings, replacement of ceilings and tiling of floors. It is not clear whether the internal floors were concrete in the first instance and no tiles were removed to investigate the authenticity of the floors. Other changes include the introduction of electric power, lighting, and sweep fans. The bathroom has been completely refitted with a new basin, claw foot bath, shower and tiling up to dado height.

There is some evidence of damp, but the place is generally well maintained and in good condition.

Former kitchen, now an amenities room (Building 2). (See figures 2 and 4; and, photographs 21-23)

The former kitchen is a small single storey bluestone and painted corrugated iron

roof building, designed in a utilitarian style. It is a simply designed single room building with a sprung corrugated iron vaulted roof and plan corrugated iron gable spandrels. There is a pergola made of steel tube fitted to the western side of the building, with concrete paving under the pergola. The walls are made of tuck-pointed random course rubble that has been painted over.

It has thick stone walls with three doors in the east and west walls, one window with a timber shutter fitted to it in the west wall, a closed in oven on the east wall and a range recess on the southern wall. The doors have iron door frames.

The plan is a simple rectangle some 10'6" (3.5m) x 24'4" (8m). It has plastered and painted internal walls, with the arch of the oven opening still visible in the eastern wall. The floors are concrete and the range recess has been cleaned out and shelving constructed in the opening. The ceilings are lined with flat asbestos cement sheets with cover battens.

Alterations include the fitting of an asbestos cement ceiling, removal of the oven, range and flues, together with all other evidence of kitchen fittings.

The place is generally well maintained and in good condition.

Former post room and store, now a store (Building 3). (See figures 2 and 5; and, photographs 24-27)

The former post room and store is a single storey bluestone and painted corrugated iron roof building, designed in a utilitarian style. It comprises two rooms with a mono pitch roof and a lean-to timber construction carport on the northern wall. The walls are made of tuck-pointed random course rubble that have been painted over, with the top section of the walls being insitu concrete, which would appear to be associated with the removal of a gabled or hipped roof to form the current mono pitched roof.

It has thick stone walls with a pair of framed, ledged and braced doors in the western wall, and single doors in the northern and eastern walls, one window frame in the southern wall is fitted with louvres. Openings have the same concrete block lintels as the house.

The plan is a simple two room rectangle some 32'0" (17m) x 21'0" (7m). It has plastered and painted internal walls, with evidence of cracking in a number of locations. The floors are concrete and the soffits are unlined in the western section and asbestos lined in the eastern section. There is timber shelving throughout the western section and a large counter. There is a metal mail board on the northern wall of the eastern room, together with the remains of an electrical or telegraph board on the southern wall.

Alterations include the re-pitching of the main roof, addition of the carport, fitting of an asbestos cement ceiling to the eastern room, and the replacement of the original windows with metal-framed louvres.

The place is in fair condition.

Windmill room, now a store (Building 4). (See figures 2 and 4; and, photographs 28 and 29)

The windmill room is a single storey bluestone and painted corrugated iron roof building, designed in a utilitarian style. It comprises a single space with a mono pitch roof. The walls are made of tuck-pointed random course rubble that has been painted over, with the top section of the walls being insitu concrete, which would appear to be associated with the removal of a gabled or hipped roof to

form a mono pitched roof.

It has thick stone walls with single doors in the western and eastern walls, and windows openings in the northern and southern walls.

It has a rectangular plan approximately 27'0" (9m) x 18'0" (6m). It has plastered internal walls, with evidence of cracking in a number of locations. There is some brick quoining on the interior of wall openings. The floors are concrete and the soffits are unlined. There is steel racking to the northern and southern walls.

Alterations include the re-pitching of the roof fitting, and the loss of windows and doors.

The place is in fair to poor condition.

Garage and workshop (Building 5). (See figure 2; and, photographs 30 and 31)

The garage and workshop is a single storey steel framed and corrugated iron clad building, designed in a utilitarian style. It comprises a single space with a curved steel angle and tie rod trussed roof, with steel purlins and limewashed corrugated iron roofing. The walls are made of steel framing 'T' section columns and able girts and the walls are clad with corrugated iron, with the western side completely open and shutters to the eastern side of the building. There is a small framed oil store addition to the south-east corner.

It has a rectangular plan approximately 51'0" (17m) x 30'0" (10m). It has a concrete floor with a lubrication pit and steel racking and benches on the northern, eastern, and southern walls.

Alterations include the small store to the south-east corner.

The place is in fair to poor condition.

Water tanks and stand (Building 6). (See figure 2)

This structure is steel framed with a pair of galvanised steel water tanks. The stand is in good condition, but the tanks have reached the end of their serviceable lives.

Jackaroos' quarters (Building 7). (See figures 2 and 6; and, photograph 32)

The jackeroos' quarters is a single storey concrete block construction and corrugated iron roof building, designed in a simple utilitarian style. It has a rectangular plan of three major rooms and utility rooms with verandahs on eastern and western sides.

The building uses classical proportions and the elevations are near symmetrically arranged. It has a gambrel corrugated iron roof, complete with storm battens, skillions roof verandahs and the walls are constructed of a single leaf of concrete blocks. Some windows retain their original double hung sashes, while others have been replaced with louvres. The doors are panelled. Most windows have storm shutters or shade cloth over them.

The plan comprises three quarters rooms, two toilets and a bathroom cum utility room.

The internal walls are painted blockwork, the floors concrete, and the ceilings lined with flat asbestos cement sheeting with cover battens.

Alterations include the replacement of fittings and roof sheeting.

The roof is in very poor condition and some of the joinery requires maintenance. Generally the place is in fair condition.

Equipment store (Building 8). (See figure 2 and photograph 33)

The equipment store is a single storey steel framed open sided gabled roof shelter. It comprises a single space with steel trussed roof, with steel purlins and corrugated iron roofing. It has an earth floor.

It has a rectangular plan approximately 100'0" (30m) x 30'0" (10m).

The place is in fair to poor condition.

Men's quarters (Building 9). (See figure 2 and photograph 34)

This structure consists of a concrete floor slab and prefabricated metal framed and clad quarters and ablutions. The building has been damaged and is in poor condition.

Site of men's quarters (Location 10). (See figure 2)

Although the 1964 aerial photograph suggests that there was a similar building to Building 9 located to its south, no surface evidence of this structure was found during the inspection.

Site of the hangar (Location 11). (See figure 2)

Although the 1964 aerial photograph suggests that the hangar was located further south of the above site, no surface evidence of this structure was found during the inspection

Stockyards (Location 12). (See figure 2)

The stockyards are located to the north of the complex and comprise masonry construction loading ramps with steel construction pen fences and gates. The stockyards are in use and are in good condition.

Solar array compound and generator shed (Building 13). (See figure 2 and photograph 35)

This group comprises an earth mound, steel perimeter barrier fence, six photovoltaic solar panels, and a prefabricated battery and generator shed. All elements are well maintained and in good condition.

Prefabricated amenities (Building 14). (See figure 2 and photograph 36)

This is an older prefabricated metal clad building with a low-pitched gabled roof. It has been altered extensively internally and is in poor condition.

Prefabricated quarters (Building 15), and prefabricated kitchen and dining block (Building 16). (See figure 2 and photograph 37)

These two blocks are comparatively recent and are metal clad with metal-framed windows, wide verandahs and modern finishes throughout. They provide quarters, ablutions, dining, kitchen, coolroom and dry storage facilities. Both structures are in good condition.

Masonry and prefabricated quarters (Building 17).

This building is located close to the homestead and comprises a masonry construction bathroom and prefabricated metal quarters building that has two bedrooms and a sitting room. The building is in fair condition.

Swimming pool and enclosure (Building 18). (See figure 2 and photograph 20)

The below ground swimming pool is an 18'0" (6 metre) deep concrete construction pool with a shade structure over it. The pool is unusually deep and set well below ground level.

Shade house (Building 19). (See figure 2)

A simple structure with shade cloth roof and sides constructed for the cultivation of vegetables.

Vegetable patch (Location 20), citrus orchard (Location 21), avocado trees (Location 22). (See figure 2)

There are no structures associated with these locations.

Marjorie MacKays gravesite 1895 (Building 23). (See figure 2 and photograph 38 and 39)

This structure is believed to be Marjorie MacKays grave and is located some distance away from the dwelling group, perhaps 100metres away, and comprises a rectangular plan random rubble blue stone walled enclosure with stucco cappings and a well crafted wrought iron gate. The wall has been breached in two locations and there are no headstones or markers.

Old killing shed, now pigpen and chicken run (Building 24).

This is simply a framed shed with pens attached.

The Shearing Shed Group (See figure 7)

The shearing shed group is located 5 kilometres to the east of the Yule River Bridge, or some 58 kilometres west of Port Hedland and 21 kilometres north of the North West Coastal Highway. The road passes through a water reserve with a pump station at the 10-kilometre mark. The shearing shed group is set in cleared and partly fenced land, with little evidence of a cultivated landscape apart from trees planted in the vicinity of the buildings. The group of buildings includes the shearing shed and holding pens (Building 1), the sheep dip (Building 2), water closets (Building 3), quarters (Building 4), ablutions (Building 5), water tank and windmill stand (Building 6), old quarters concrete slab (Building 7), toilets and showers (Building 8), quarters and mess (Building 9), and quarters (Building 10).

Shearing shed and holding pens (Building 1). (See figures 7 and 8; and photographs 40-54)

The shearing shed is at the western end of the complex and is the dominant structure in the group. The remaining parts lie to the east and are roughly arranged along an east west axis with buildings oriented to the cardinal points.

The shearing shed comprises single and two storey sections with hipped and ridge vented roofs clad with corrugated iron and corrugated iron walls. The centre section of the building is two-storeyed and is flanked by single storey elements. There is a loading ramp to the west, yards to the south, holding pens to the east and open ground to the north. There are the remains of ramps to the east of the building in the form of concrete blocks, but the timber ramps have been removed. There is a substantial pair of concrete ramps to the south that lead up from the sheep-dip further south. There are galvanized steel tube and mesh stock fences and pens on all but the west side of the building.

The shed is a utilitarian design with square precast concrete stumps raising the building some 4'0" (1.2 metres) above the ground. The shed itself has concrete perimeter columns with timber girts, and the walls are clad with corrugated galvanized iron. Roof and wall sheeting is held in place by fixings to purlins and storm battens. The walls have large Oregon timber roller doors to the south, ledge and braced doors to the east, access traps to the east also, vent traps, and fixed metal louvres to the western wall. The roof follows a gable format, with curved ventilator ridges either side of the main east west direction gabled roof. There is a simple steel construction derrick on the western roof over the loading bay.

The shed is planned symmetrically, with a central engine house and workshop to the east, with a central sorting area set at a mezzanine level, and storage bins with a wool press at first floor level. The ground floor level comprises seven-stations either side of the sorting floor with seven pens to the rear of the stands and then the remains of holding pens.

The internal structure comprises 6" x 6" (150 x 150 mm) timber columns with floors on 6" x 4" (150 x 100 mm) bearers, 5" x 3" (125 x 75 mm) joists, and 5" (125mm) tongue and grooved boards on working floors and open timber grid floors in stock holding areas. The upper floors are carried on 19" x 2" (200 x 50mm) joists. Grids have been removed from the centre of the ground floor and both lofts at first floor. The interior of the corrugated iron would appear to have been limewashed throughout.

The engine house has a concrete floor, concrete engine mounts, and a workbench. The engines have been removed. There is a set of access steps into the shearing shed and openings for the drive shaft belts. There is a tally card pigeonhole between the stand area and the engine house, a common arrangement.

There are seven shearing stands on each shearing floor and the drive shaft serving both areas is intact. A shearing stand is located in the southern stand area. The holding pens are timber framed with white washed corrugated iron east walls and timber gates. A long drive shaft runs the entire length of the shed to serve all stands. There are traps to ramps to the east of the stands and timber wicker gates to the holding pens.

The central sorting area is raised slightly above the shearing floor and is accessible by ramp. There is a balustrade to the eastern edge of the floor, a sorting table behind the balustrade and a pair of steps up to the press area. There are two manually operated tray hoists to take fleeces up to the first floor level. On the baling floor, there are corrugated iron construction fleece bins in the centre of the room and on the western side, with a single timber and iron construction wool press. There is a ramp to the south, which leads down to the loading bay at ground floor level.

There are two storage areas either side of the baling area with all floorboards removed.

The roofs are simply formed with common rafters, strapped at the apex on smaller spans, and strutted at the mid point of each rafter on larger spans.

There are sheets of roofing missing, the gutters have all fallen off and wall sheeting has been torn off a number of wall areas. Several doors have been ripped off hinges or are missing altogether. There is little evidence of planned change, but much evidence of attrition due to the place not being used or

maintained and the consequent impact of several cyclones. Overall the frame of the building is sound, but the cladding material is in very poor condition.

Sheep dip (Building 2). (See figure 7 and photograph 55)

This is a simple linear plan metal-framed structure with a concrete floor. The whole arrangement is above ground and sprays applied the chemicals.

Water closets (Building 3). (See figure 7 and photograph 56)

The building is a metal construction cubicle with three toilets. It is in poor condition.

Quarters (Building 4). (See figure 7 and photograph 57)

The quarters are metal-framed and metal clad, with a store set to the rear and the building is in fair to poor condition. The walls are clad with limewashed corrugated iron and the curved roof is clad in the same manner. There are no windows, but corrugated iron shutters provide openings.

Ablutions (Building 5). (See figure 7)

This is a framed metal clad structure and is in poor condition.

Water tank and windmill stand (Building 6). (See figure 7 and photograph 58)

There is a windmill stand without sails, a bore and a corrugated iron tank with a soak to the south. The pump is driven by solar power. The tank is in poor condition.

Old quarters concrete slab (Building 7).

Only the concrete slab remains.

Toilets and showers (Building 8).

A metal construction building in poor condition.

Quarters and mess (Building 9). (See figure 7 and photograph 59-62)

A metal clad building on a concrete slab, comprising kitchen, mess, and quarters. The building is more than half demolished by cyclonic winds. The kitchen, mess, and one bunkroom remain upright, but in poor condition.

Quarters (Building 10). (See figure 7 and photograph 63)

This group comprises two principal elements, a five room asbestos cement clad bungalow, and a metal clad prefabricated quarters building. Both elements are in very poor condition with severe cyclone damage.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

Bidgiemia on the Gascoyne River, which was also one the McTaggarts' interests, provides some interesting comparisons. The McTaggarts owned *Mundabullangana Station* between 1964 and 1985. In 1999, the last sheep were shorn at *Bidgiemia*, leaving a large complex of structures unused. The place includes a 16 stand shearing shed, quarters, meat houses, a free-standing oven, two homesteads and other outbuildings. The complex is in better condition than *Mundabullangana Station*.¹⁵⁵

Noongal Station Group (Data base No. 2787) near Yalgoo was built later than

¹⁵⁵ Site visit to by Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths 1999

Mundabullangana Station and is a collection of sheep station buildings including shearing shed, shearers' quarters, shearers' kitchen and mess, ablution block, and meat stores, together with stables, two residences and related structures. It has high aesthetic value as a precinct of station buildings, and the c. 1919 homestead and quarters is a very fine example of a station homestead, the c. 1900 homestead, containing many of the same qualities on a more modest scale, and remaining buildings in the group, including the shearing shed, shearers' quarters, shearers' kitchen and mess, cook house, meat houses, and generator shed having a dishevelled charm and attractive patina, all of which reinforce the high collective aesthetic value of the place. A particular feature of the place is the painted pressed metal ceilings in the c.1919 homestead and fireplaces, with similar features in the c. 1900 house being fine examples of the same genre.

The *Arthur Woolshed* (Database No. 8804) is a prominently located building on the Albany Highway. It has a random stone foundation, timber framed superstructure and is clad with timber weatherboards. It is a single storey structure and is designed in the Australian woolshed vernacular style. It is much smaller than the shearing shed at *Mundabullangana Station*.

The woolshed at *Willow Gully Homestead and Outbuildings* (Data base No. 1914) is located close to the house on the Horrocks Beach Road. It is much smaller than *Mundabullangana Station* shearing shed and is a timber framed shed clad with corrugated iron. It is a single storey building built on a sloping site and it is designed in the woolshed vernacular.

This group of places share similar characteristics with respect to the size of the buildings and location, but they differ from *Mundabullangana Station* in several important respects. The working and homestead buildings are closely grouped, and the shearing sheds follow conventional patterns. *Mundabullangana Station* shearing is located at a greater distance from the homestead than these shearing sheds, it is a much larger shed, and has two operation floors.

No other examples of two storey shearing sheds have been found in Western Australia. The following woolsheds are Australia wide examples and provide comparisons in relation to building fabric and design intent.

Acacia Downs, in Aramac, Queensland, is a timber and corrugated iron two storey woolshed, having been built initially as a meatworks at Hughenden in 1898, and relocated to its present location during the 1920s after having operated for only one season as a meatworks. Shearing is carried out on the upper level only.¹⁵⁶

Cunningham Plains in Harden, ACT is a timber clad purpose built two storey shearing shed, 200 feet long and 60 feet across, constructed during the 1860s for 45 shearers. *Cunningham Plains* differs in that it was not designed for both levels to be used for shearing purposes. The lower level was operational primarily as the manager's residence, although the wool room was on the lower level and the wool thrown down from above.¹⁵⁷

Vale View Woolshed, constructed in brick at Murrumbateman between Yass and Canberra c.1916 has two storeys, resulting from the woolshed being constructed on sloping ground. Other woolsheds in all areas may be seen as two storey if the sub level between the ground and the working floor is taken into account, in the

¹⁵⁶ Sowden, Harry. 1972, *Australian Woolsheds*, Cassell Australia, North Melbourne, Victoria P.234-5

¹⁵⁷ Freeman, Peter. 1980, *The Woolshed: A Riverina Anthology*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne. pp 92-97.

case of those sheds raised on piers. These sub levels may be used for sweating pens, although the level is not utilised as a working floor for shearing purposes.¹⁵⁸

13.4 REFERENCES

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Mundabullangana Limited SROWA Acc. 1657 AN 3/13 Box 1 Item 3532/88

National Trust of Australia (WA) Assessment by J. Pidgeon, R. McK. Campbell, I. Crawford, G. Palmyra, O. Smith, M. Hardman, and M. Lukis (Convenor) November 1983.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

Further research may reveal additional information about the construction of the homestead and shearing shed and woolshed in particular, and also regarding the associated buildings. There are possibly archaeological sites, which should be investigated if and when the opportunity is presented.

13.6 APPENDIX

Amendments to Leases per most recent leases.

In 1971, the area of the lease was reduced by 46 acres 25 perches, from 761,518 acres to 761,472 acres, due to the resumption of said portion. In 1973, additional small portions of the lease were resumed, reducing the total area to 308,157 hectares.¹⁵⁹ In the mid 1970s, the area was further amended, and it was reduced to 303,609 hectares.¹⁶⁰

In 1977, another resumption occurred for the purpose of Yule River Bores Reserve, and the area was reduced to 297,694 hectares.¹⁶¹ Further amendments reduced the area to 297,680 hectares, and then to 292,921 hectares.¹⁶²

In 1982, a portion of the lease was transferred to Colin Brierley, Pastoralist of Indee Station via Port Hedland, reducing the area of the lease to 208,109 hectares.¹⁶³ In the same year, the Commonwealth of Australia as the proprietor of Peawah Location 15 acquired a right of carriageway over a portion of the land.¹⁶⁴

In 1985, 643 hectares were transferred to Walter Richard John Stickney, Sheila Findlay Stickney of Croydon Station, reducing the area of Pastoral Lease 3314/517 to 207,665 hectares.¹⁶⁵

In 1988, 9880 hectares of the lease were transferred to Mundeena Pty. Ltd., reducing the area to 197,585 hectares.¹⁶⁶ In 1989, the area was amended to

¹⁵⁸ Email from Roger Hobbs at the Australian Heritage Commission, 11 January 2002. This data has been accessed from the Register of the National Estate database.

¹⁵⁹ Pastoral Lease 3114/517, C.L. No. 526/1966.

¹⁶⁰ Pastoral Lease 3114/517, C.L. No. 526/1966.

¹⁶¹ Pastoral Lease 3114/517, C.L. No. 526/1966.

¹⁶² Pastoral Lease 3114/517, C.L. No. 526/1966.

¹⁶³ Pastoral Lease 3114/517, C.L. No. 526/1966.

¹⁶⁴ Pastoral Lease 3114/517, C.L. No. 526/1966.

¹⁶⁵ Pastoral Lease 3114/517, C.L. No. 526/1966.

¹⁶⁶ Pastoral Lease 3114/517, C.L. No. 526/1966.

197,767 hectares.¹⁶⁷

In 1989, four hectares was surrendered to the Crown, and consequently the area reduced to 197,673 hectares.¹⁶⁸

In June 1993, the State Energy Commission of Western Australia was granted the right to enter upon a portion of the lease for the purpose of using and operating the Installation for the transmission of high voltage electricity.¹⁶⁹

In late 1995, a portion 1306 square metres in area, was surrendered to the Crown; however, the area of the lease remained unchanged.¹⁷⁰ In 1996, pursuant to section 19(4) of the Petroleum Pipelines Act 1969, as amended by the Pilbara Energy Project Agreement Act 1994, two easements were granted. From September 1998, the grantee of the easements has been Epic Energy (Pilbara Pipeline) Pty. Ltd.¹⁷¹

¹⁶⁷ Pastoral Lease 3114/517, C.L. No. 526/1966.
¹⁶⁸ Pastoral Lease 3114/517, C.L. No. 526/1966.
¹⁶⁹ Pastoral Lease 3114/517, C.L. No. 526/1966.
¹⁷⁰ Pastoral Lease 3114/517, C.L. No. 526/1966.
¹⁷¹ Pastoral Lease 3114/517, C.L. No. 526/1966.