



## 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.

The wording of this document has been adapted from the Statement of Significance and Values prepared in 1997 by Kelly Aris and Helen Ansell, with amendments and/or additions by Cathie Clement, Gaye Nayton, David Dolan, HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

#### PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 2.4.5 Changing the face of rural and urban Australia through migration
- 3.3.2 Fishing and whaling
- 3.13.1 Building to suit Australian conditions
- 3.18 Marketing and retailing
- 4.1.3 Learning to live with property booms and busts
- 4.5 Making towns to serve rural Australia

#### HERITAGE COUNCIL THEME(S)

- 101 Immigration, emigration and refugees
- 103 Racial contact and interaction
- 104 Land allocation and subdivision
- 305 Fishing and other maritime industry
- 308 Commercial services and industries
- 504 Depression and boom

#### 11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE

*Chinatown Conservation Area* has aesthetic value for the distinctive features that originally defined the mixed, and sometimes contiguous, architectural style of Chinatown, and continue to characterise the area. The contiguous component of this style is typified by small single and two-storey structures, symmetrical facades with small windows, vertically and horizontally lined corrugated galvanised iron wall and roof coverings, storm shutters, lattice screens, verandahs across the facade, balcony additions, and criss-cross timber balustrade infill. Some aspects of these elements are reflected in decorative treatments of newer buildings. (Criterion 1.1)

*Streeter and Male Stores*, in Short Street, has aesthetic value for the characteristic use of concrete and corrugated galvanised iron which, although utilitarian in style, typifies one of the twentieth century Broome building styles. The structure is a good example of thick concrete walls being utilised to deal with tropical heat, cyclones and termites. (Criterion 1.2)

*Old Residence Carnarvon Street*, near the corner of Gray Street, and *Hanoë's Cottage*, at the western end of Short Street, have aesthetic value for their characteristics that, in combination, are peculiar to Broome, including the extensive use of storm shutters, encircling verandah, wind scoop (*Hanoë's Cottage*) and masonry stumps that separate the building's envelope from the ground. The places are good examples of residences built for the tropical climate of Broome in the early 1900s. (Criterion 1.2)

*Streeter's Jetty* in its mangrove setting has landmark value, especially from the air. (Criterion 1.3)

*Sun Picture Gardens, Old Tang Wei Cafe & Residence, Ocean & Earth, Tack's Store, Shekki Shed Gallery, Bob's Shoe Store and Anastasia's Pearl Gallery, Kinney's, Roebuck Bay Hotel Facade, Streeter's Jetty, Motor Garage* (trading as Woody's 4WD Hire & Fuel in 2001), *Boat Yard and Slipway, Streeter and Male Stores, Old Pearler's House, Hanoë's Cottage, Napier Terrace Cottages, and Kennedy's Store*, all contribute to the formation of significant streetscapes on both sides of Carnarvon Street, the south side of Napier Terrace, both sides of Dampier Terrace, and the north side of Short Street, and collectively create a precinct in the *Chinatown Conservation Area*. (Criterion 1.4)

## 11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

*Chinatown Conservation Area* has historic importance for its relationship with Roebuck Bay's pearling operations, unique in Australia in their scale, which commenced in about 1880 and continue to take place, but on a smaller scale in 2001, in connection with the cultured pearl industry introduced in 1956. (Criterion 2.1)

*Chinatown Conservation Area* included the 'Native Quarter' of Broome, where Japanese, Chinese, Malays and Koepangers lived, worked and relaxed. Broome became closely associated with Asia and a distinctly Asian influence persists, as evidenced by the annual Shinju Matsuri Festival. (Criterion 2.1)

*Chinatown Conservation Area* includes *Streeter and Male Stores*, which were established by one of the earliest pearling families and, after the creation of a partnership in the early twentieth century, continued to be operated by the Streeter and Male families, closely identified with both traditional pearling and the introduction of the cultured pearl industry. (Criterion 2.1)

*Chinatown Conservation Area* includes *Streeter's Jetty*, which was extant by 1897 and was used to convey pearl shell from luggers to packing sheds on

shore, and is closely associated with *Streeter and Male Stores*. (Criterion 2.2)

*Chinatown Conservation Area* includes *Boat Yard and Slipway*, which has been associated with the pearling industry since at least 1902 and continues to be used in connection with the maintenance of the cultured pearl industry (introduced in 1956). (Criterion 2.2)

*Chinatown Conservation Area* also includes *Old Tang Wei Cafe & Residence*, *Ocean & Earth* (former Dampier's Chest/Mings Store & Residence), *Tack's Store*, *Shekki Shed Gallery* (former Chinese Club Store and Residence), *Bob's Shoe Store and Anastasia's Pearl Gallery* (former part of Ellies' Store), *Kinney's* (former part of Ellies' Store), *Old Residence Canarvon Street*, *Roebuck Bay Hotel Facade*, *Sun Picture Gardens*, *Old Pearler's House*, *Hanoë's Cottage*, *Napier Terrace Cottages*, and *Kennedy's Store*, a mixture of general traders, residential accommodation and service industry. General traders now supply the local and tourist industry. (Criterion 2.2)

### 11.3 SCIENTIFIC VALUE

*Chinatown Conservation Area* is a significant archaeological resource with exceptional research and teaching potential. (Criterion 3.1)

### 11.4 SOCIAL VALUE

*Chinatown Conservation Area* contributes to the community's sense of place for its continued role as the town's business and retail centre especially for pearl dealers and jewellers, restaurateurs and general traders, and the Asian community. (Criterion 4.2)

## 12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

### 12.1 RARITY

*Chinatown Conservation Area* includes *Old Residence Canarvon Street* and *Hanoë's Cottage*, which are rare for their extensive use of storm shutters, encircling verandah, wind scoop (*Hanoë's Cottage*) and masonry stumps that separate the buildings' envelope from the ground. (Criterion 5.1)

*Chinatown Conservation Area* is a rare example of a combined commercial and 'Native Quarter' in Western Australia. It contains *Streeter's Jetty* and *Boat Yard and Slipway*, both of which are reminiscent of the pearling industry and thus demonstrate a way of life of exceptional interest to the locality. *Sun Picture Gardens* is an extremely rare early outdoor cinema, still operating. *Streeter and Male Stores* is rare as an early concrete commercial building in the Northwest. (Criterion 5.2)

### 12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

*Chinatown Conservation Area* is significant for its representation of the historical development of a Western Australian pearling town, and associated social conditions and architectural improvisation of structures built to accommodate and service pearlers, divers, lugger crews and business operators. (Criterion 6.2)

### 12.3 CONDITION

There is evidence of deterioration to some building fabric, which requires repair or replacement. However, most buildings appear sound and, overall, *Chinatown Conservation Area* is in good condition.

### 12.4 INTEGRITY

The development pattern encouraged by the inclusion of elongated lots in Chinatown is evident even though the laneway development that provided the 'shanty town' character of the place no longer exists.

Comparatively few of the Chinatown buildings represent the building forms and original fabric of the early twentieth century. Individual places within *Chinatown Conservation Area* do retain their commercial and/or residential use. New infill development, which loosely mimics the original built environment of Chinatown, covers a major portion of the area. However, integrity is sustained to some degree by the continuity of commercial and retail use.

Archaeological material is believed to be preserved in a relatively intact manner that would allow for interpretation should a study be undertaken.

The curtilage was chosen to reflect the diverse cultural significance of Broome. The northern areas around Gray and Chapple Street are archaeologically significant, the eastern boundary is coastal and is associated with the establishment and development of the townsite of Broome, and the southern and western boundaries are historic street lines.

Chinatown contains elements that retain a moderate to high degree of integrity. Overall, *Chinatown Conservation Area* retains a low degree of integrity.

### 12.5 AUTHENTICITY

Much of the original fabric of Chinatown is no longer extant. There are buildings in Chinatown that reflect the original place, however. These components of *Chinatown Conservation Area* have been altered; raised timber verandahs have been removed, verandah floors have been covered in concrete, roofs and walls have been renewed, and windows have been replaced. The work is essentially replacement and repair with the exception of Kimberley Bookshop, which has a new shopfront similar in form to the original structure, and *Kennedy's Store*, which has retained its twin-gable roof and verandahs but has been modified otherwise. These structures remain in their historical location and retain a low to moderate degree of authenticity.

Parking bays with median strips and landscaping down the centre of Carnarvon Street have created a physical and visual barrier separating the east and west sides. The northernmost section of Carnarvon Street is now separated from the southern sections by a roundabout at the Short Street intersection.

Some of the new infill development, particularly where repetitious architectural elements broadly resemble the past in the ribbon development along Dampier Terrace and Carnarvon Street north, appears contrived. The infill attempts to maintain the contiguous architectural style that distinguished parts of Chinatown from the rest of Broome but it does not comprise individual buildings with additions under lean-to roofs and two-storey rear attachments that typified the original built environment. The authenticity of the area is thus diminished. The new shopping centre at the northern end of Chinatown has broken with the traditional pattern of a principal access off Carnarvon Street. The centre has extended the commercial area westward off Carnarvon Street.

The materials and colours of the new infill development are in accordance with the original. Overall, *Chinatown Conservation Area* retains a moderate degree of authenticity.

The opportunity to retain a large and completely consistent heritage precinct in Chinatown, as identified by The National Trust of Australia (WA) and Shire of Broome, has been reduced by the loss of original structures and those components of infill development that pay little respect to the original built environment, but there is a higher degree of integrity and authenticity in certain elements within the conservation area.

### 13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Cathie Clement, historian, with contributions from Gaye Nayton, based on earlier research completed by Helen Ansell, historian (1997), and edited by David Dolan. The physical evidence has been compiled by Kelly Aris, conservation architect (previous assessment 1997); Gaye Nayton, archaeologist (December 2000); and David Dolan, at the Research Institute for Cultural Heritage (March 2001).

The 'Chinatown' area of Broome and adjacent closely related portions of land; bounded by the southern and western registered curtilage of *Broome Lockup*, due north to Short Street, the adjacent section of Short Street to the western boundaries of the Paspaley Plaza carparks, *Morgan's Camp* and west along a boundary 400 metres north of Gray Street, east to a point sixty metres offshore, and along the shore of Roebuck Bay sixty metres from the high tide line (and taking in the interim listed curtilage on the water sides of *Streeter's Jetty*) to a point west of the eastern end of Frederick Street, west along the line of Frederick Street eastwards to the registered curtilage of *Broome Lockup*.

The curtilage was selected based on the variety of regions of cultural heritage significance found within the defined area. The area north of Gray Street is rich in archaeological evidence, as is the eastern coastal strip, which is also significant due to the maritime operations of Broome. The western and southern boundaries border historic streetscapes, as well as encompass areas rich in archaeological evidence.

Because so little is known regarding the construction of buildings in Broome, it is not possible to establish reliable dates for the purpose of placing them in brackets after the names of the individual buildings.

#### 13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

*Chinatown Conservation Area* was once a combined commercial centre and 'Native Quarter' where Japanese, Chinese, Malay and Koepanger people lived, worked and relaxed amongst the stores, hotels and pearling industry establishments run by Europeans. The resulting architecture exhibits distinctive styles that were in response to the unusual conditions prevailing in the area. The documentary evidence discusses the establishment of Broome, the creation of the 'Native Quarter' and the general history of the four heritage precincts and other isolated buildings of heritage significance within *Chinatown Conservation Area*.

Broome was gazetted as a town in 1883 after would-be pastoralists selected adjacent land in the wake of exploration undertaken by Alexander Forrest. Of the forty town lots surveyed in 1883, those numbered from 1 to 17 are within the southern portion of the area now known as Chinatown.<sup>1</sup> Lots 1 to 9, 14 and 15 were elongated lots that facilitated the development of a 'Native Quarter' (also known as the 'Asiatic Quarter' or 'Japtown') behind

---

<sup>1</sup> Battye Library, CN6, 211C, Townsite of Broome, Plan, [c. 1883].

other often more substantial commercial premises.<sup>2</sup> Lots 10 and 11, Lots 12 and 13, and Lots 16 and 17 were large rectangular lots that adjoined Lots 9, 14 and 15 respectively. Three of the large rectangular lots (Lots 10, 12 and 13) were adjacent to the Napier Terrace landing and were originally set apart as reserves.<sup>3</sup>

Europeans purchased Lots 1 to 9, 11 and 14 to 17 in 1886 and 1887.<sup>4</sup> The development that occurred on this land varied according to its accessibility, proximity to the Napier Terrace landing, and susceptibility to flooding. Most accessible were the Dampier Terrace frontages of Lots 1 to 9, which, as well as being on level ground adjacent to the landing, faced the section of foreshore closest to the landing.<sup>5</sup> The rear sections of Lots 1 to 9 were subject to inundation by the Spring tides and had no street frontage as Carnarvon Street had yet to be extended northward. The other readily accessible land comprised the Napier Terrace frontages of Lots 14, 15 and 16.<sup>6</sup>

Whether any development occurred on Lots 1 to 9, 11 or 14 to 17 in 1886 is unknown. By 1888, despite other lots being available for purchase further to the west, George H. Roe asked for additional lots to be surveyed to the north of the landing. The resulting survey extended Dampier Terrace and created Lots 42 to 50. Roe and his London-based employer, E.W. Streeter, purchased several of those lots in 1889.<sup>7</sup> In the same year Streeter's son described the first of the buildings erected for Streeter & Co. as a 'substantial stone building'.<sup>8</sup> As such, it contrasted sharply with Cable House, which The Eastern Extension, Australasia and China Telegraph Company Limited erected on Lot 99 in the same year. Cable House was described as 'a palatial iron structure, raised on stone pillars about four feet above the ground and surrounded by a wide verandah, double roofed, the rooms lofty and lined with wood, with a splendid billiard-room attached'.<sup>9</sup> Lot 99 is bounded by Frederick, Hamersley, Stewart and Weld Streets (to the south-west of Chinatown).

Broome had about 150 residents in August 1889.<sup>10</sup> Shortly afterwards, it was said that there were '200 boats, including about 20 schooners, carrying 1,200 men, in the Roebuck Bay fleet'.<sup>11</sup> The men from the fleet generally

---

<sup>2</sup> This observation is based on a study of the Certificates of Title issued for the lots in question.

<sup>3</sup> Battye Library, CN6, 211C, Townsite of Broome, Plan, [c. 1883].

<sup>4</sup> Department of Land Administration (DOLA), Certificates of Title, Vol. 20, Fol. 346 (Lot 1), Vol. 23, Fol. 69 (Lot 2), Vol. 20, Fol. 347 (Lot 3), Vol. 23, Fol. 70 (Lot 4), Vol. 20, Fol. 348 (Lot 5), Vol. 23, Fol. 71 (Lot 6), Vol. 20, Fol. 174 (Lot 7), Vol. 20, Fol. 175 (Lot 8), Vol. 22, Fol. 219 (Lot 9), Vol. 20, Fol. 182 (Lot 11), Vol. 20, Fol. 183 (Lot 14), Vol. 20, Fol. 176 (Lot 15), Vol. 22, Fol. 220 (Lot 16), and Vol. 20, Fol. 177 (Lot 17).

<sup>5</sup> Battye Library, CN6, 211C, Townsite of Broome, Plan, [c. 1883]; and photographic evidence.

<sup>6</sup> Battye Library, CN6, 211C, Townsite of Broome, Plan, [c. 1883].

<sup>7</sup> State Records Office of Western Australia (SROWA), AN 3/3, Lands & Surveys Department, Acc 541, 2586/1888, File: Roe G H: Lots at Broome - For survey of additional; DOLA, Certificates of Title, Vol. 29, Fol. 20 (Lot 47), Vol. 28, Fol. 340 (Lot 48), Vol. 28, Fol. 341 (Lot 49) and Vol. 28, Fol. 342 (Lot 50).

<sup>8</sup> Broome Historical Society, Extract of diary kept by George Skelton Streeter, 1886–1890.

<sup>9</sup> *West Australian*, 6 December 1889, p. 4.

<sup>10</sup> SROWA, Colonial Secretary's Office, Acc 527, 2610/89, 1889, Report.

<sup>11</sup> *West Australian*, 6 December 1889, p. 4.

came ashore only in the 'lay-up' period when the summer cyclones were likely to occur. Some pearlers took their boats and crews to Broome while others went to sheltered inlets along the coast to the north and south of the town. Over the years, the Broome pearlers established camps along the Broome foreshore and as far away as Cape Leveque and Cygnet Bay.<sup>12</sup>

The pearling industry in Broome was both multi-cultural and dynamic. The industry went through several technical phases that changed its labour requirements. As the pearling fleet provides the main reason for Broome's existence, changes in the labour and technical requirements of the fleet affected the town population quite markedly.

In the 1880s and early 1890s pearlers employed mainly Aboriginals and Malays as divers, crewmen, shell packers, cooks and labourers.<sup>13</sup> Until 1886 the fleet used mainly skin divers but hard hat diving soon became the norm. The labour requirements of the industry were affected as skin diving was gradually phased out. By 1891 the fleet consisted of only 899 people of which only 85 males and 14 females were Aboriginal.<sup>14</sup> When compared to the population and ethnic makeup of the fleet recorded for earlier censuses it is clear that the total labour requirement of the fleet has fallen and that the requirement for Aboriginal labour in particular had fallen dramatically.

Atkinson records 30 Chinese people living in Broome in the 1890s.<sup>15</sup> Unlike the Aboriginal and Malay peoples only one Chinaman worked with the fleet. The others mainly owned or worked in shops or were tailors or cooks.

While the historical information illustrates that the main ethnic groups in Broome at this time were Aboriginal, Malay and Chinese there is very little information on where they were living. What scant information there is concerns the Malay population. They were living in foreshore camps and an area or areas known as the Malay Camp. There is one 1894 reference<sup>16</sup> to the camp being located near MacPherson Road. In the town plans of 1890-1906 a temporary camping ground is marked near MacPherson Road in a triangle of land that was later used for the municipal stables. This camping ground is probably where the Malay Camp was in the 1890s. Geographically it is located inland of the main landing place for the pearlers in Dampier Creek.

The foreshore camps and lugger areas were located along Hamersley Street north to Anne Street and along Dampier Terrace to the north of Chapple Street. At first the pearlers simply set up camps and moored their luggers nearby. They later formally leased areas of foreshore for the camps. Much of the Dampier Terrace camping and lugger area is within the present

---

<sup>12</sup> SROWA, AN 5/2, Police Department, Acc 430, 3551/07, Kimberley Police District: Actg Sub Insp McCarthy's report for the year ended 30.6.1907; SROWA, AN 1/2, Aborigines Department, Acc 255, 5/1900, F.S. Hadley, Sunday I. Re progress of mission, no pagination; and SROWA, AN 1/3, Aborigines and Fisheries Department, Acc 652, 19/1909, Boolgin native affairs, file, pp. 29-31.

<sup>13</sup> Atkinson, A., *Asian Immigration to WA 1829-1901: Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians*, vol. 5, UWA Press, Perth, 1988.

<sup>14</sup> *Census*, 1891.

<sup>15</sup> Atkinson, op. cit.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

## Chinatown Conservation Area.

Between 1889 and 1893, a period described by some as 'the fat years', fate was kind to the pearlers.<sup>17</sup> The Depression of the 1890s caused a drop in the world demand for shell. In Broome, the impact of the drop was offset by capital works that provided the town with a stock jetty and a tramway.<sup>18</sup> The jetty was off Mangrove Point, adjacent to *Broome Pioneer Cemetery* and Town Beach, and the tramway ran between the jetty and the area now known as Chinatown. The convenience afforded by the jetty and the tramway facilitated the exportation of pearl shell and the importation of building materials.<sup>19</sup>

In the later 1890s and through the early twentieth century Filipinos, Chinese and Japanese were a significant part of Broome's population. There is more information on where ethnic groups were located after the turn of the twentieth century than for the nineteenth century. The number of Malays recorded in the 1900s shows decline; of the 16 people left almost all were associated with the fleet living either in the foreshore camps or within the Chinatown Conservation Area. The foreshore camps in Chinatown spread along Dampier Terrace and north along the edge of the mangroves on both the eastern and western sides of the area now known as Morgan's Camp.

The Filipino population was also almost exclusively associated with the fleet with ex divers who had taken up fishing. They generally lived in the foreshore camps and within a small block bounded by Robertson, Weld, Frederick and Stewart Streets, which lies outside the Chinatown Conservation Area. Most of these fishermen appear to have lived at Fishermen's Bend on the other side of Dampier Creek. A few Filipino men resided in Carnarvon Street and in lodgings to the rear of the Streeter and Male store.

Chinese and Japanese people appear to have almost totally resided within the Chinatown Conservation Area except for a spur of occupation which spread along Napier Terrace to the Japanese Hospital near MacPherson Road and some mixed occupation in Hamersley, Weld and Frederick streets, and north of Frederick Street.

When the occupations recorded by Atkinson (1988) are analysed, the fleet employed about 41% of the Japanese population, mostly as hard hat divers. For the people not employed in the fleet; laundrymen, dressmakers/tailors, carpenters, cooks, servants, gardeners and labourers were listed as the main occupations. A smaller percentage (37 people) ran stores or were manufacturers while almost the same number run boarding houses. A significant number of Japanese people were women, unlike other sections of the Asian population that were mainly male. Most of the women had the stated occupation of dressmaker or tailoress. A large proportion of these women lived in the Shiba Lane 'red light district' and may have had an unrecorded occupation as prostitutes.

---

<sup>17</sup> Mary Albertus Bain, *Full Fathom Five*, Artlook Books, Perth, 1982, p. 231.

<sup>18</sup> Kevin Lawton, 'Local History: Jetty puts Broome on the path to civilisation', *Broome Advertiser*, 6 May 1998, p. 26.

<sup>19</sup> *ibid.*; and Kevin Lawton, 'Local History: Pearling affluence brought solid design trend for beating the heat', *Broome Advertiser*, 13 May 1998, p. 26.

The main occupations among the Chinese population were cooks, tailors and gardeners. Twenty-three Chinese people were business people running shops, restaurants and tailors with five others running boarding houses. Only one Chinese man was employed with the fleet.

By the 1890s, Japanese prostitutes were already working out of brothels in Broome.<sup>20</sup> Japanese and Chinese storekeepers were also establishing themselves. The earliest known tenure for a storekeeper dated from 1 August 1897 when Dan Chee Lin leased Lot 16 from James William Hope, a Fremantle physician, for five years at £26 per annum payable half yearly in advance.<sup>21</sup> Lot 16 formed the south-east corner of the intersection of Napier Terrace and Carnarvon Street and, like Lot 17 to the south, it would later contain premises that abutted Shiba Lane, a right of way along the western boundary of Lot 15.<sup>22</sup> The lane led to a Japanese boarding house situated on the southernmost portion of Lot 15 where Kamematsu Shiba leased land from Frank Biddles, a Broome pearler, between 1901 and 1905.<sup>23</sup> A photograph of Shiba Lane appeared in a 1904 publication with the caption “Native” Quarter, Broome’.<sup>24</sup> The photograph had been taken from a point inside the northern (Napier Terrace) entrance to the lane.

Within the next few years, this entrance to Shiba Lane was flanked on the west side (Lot 16) by the premises of the storekeeper Yama Guchi, who had taken over the lease of Dan Chee Lin, and on the east side (Lot 15) by the premises of George Moss, a Broome agent.<sup>25</sup> The earliest date found for Moss’s occupancy of Napier Terrace premises is 1904.<sup>26</sup> Whether these premises comprised Kennedy’s Store is unknown. Over time, the premises occupied by Moss underwent the repair and replacement usual for timber and iron buildings. He died in 1929 and photographs taken up to that time show his premises dominating the northern entrance to Shiba Lane.<sup>27</sup> Thomas Herbert Kennedy purchased the place in 1937.<sup>28</sup> He died in 1976 and the Kennedy family subsequently disposed of the store.<sup>29</sup> Today the untenanted *Kennedy’s Store* and its former right of way comprise the only remnant features of Shiba Lane.

---

<sup>20</sup> Jenny Burton, ‘History of Japanese Women in Broome’, *The Shire Of Broome 2000 Directory*, The Shire, Broome, 2000, p. 225.

<sup>21</sup> DOLA, Certificate of Title, Vol. 22, Fol. 220 (Lot 16).

<sup>22</sup> DOLA, Certificates of Title, Vol. 175, Fol. 66 (Lot 15), 506, Fol. 111 (portion of Lot 15), Vol. 22, Fol. 220 (Lot 16), and Vol. 166, Fol. 91 (Lot 17).

<sup>23</sup> DOLA, Certificate of Title, Vol. 175, Fol. 66 (Lot 15).

<sup>24</sup> Lionel v Praagh, *The Great North-West And Its Resources: The Undeveloped Heritage of Western Australia: A Description of the Country and Settlements from Carnarvon to Broome*, T Bryan, Perth, 1904, no pagination.

<sup>25</sup> DOLA, Certificates of Title, Vol. 22, Fol. 220 (Lot 16) and Vol. 175, Fol. 66 (Lot 15).

<sup>26</sup> Western Australia, Legislative Assembly, Electoral Roll, Kimberley Electoral District. 1904.

<sup>27</sup> DOLA, Certificate of Title, Vol. 461, Fol. 169 (portion of Lot 15); photographs held by Broome Historical Society. See also *Broome Heritage Trail: Settlement and Development of the North West’s Major Pearling Port*, booklet, Western Australian Heritage Committee, Perth, [c. 1988], p. 12.

<sup>28</sup> DOLA, Certificate of Title, Vol. 461, Fol. 169 (portion of Lot 15).

<sup>29</sup> DOLA, Certificate of Title, Vol. 1327, Fol. 644 (portion of Lot 15); and *Broome Heritage Trail*, p. 12.

Subsequent amalgamations and subdivisions in this area have meant that lots 15 and 16 have been re-configured as lots 70, 71 and 72.

The other well-known lane in the 'Native Quarter' carried the name of John Chi who applied for a boarding house licence there in 1911.<sup>30</sup> John Chi Lane was a right of way along the northern boundary of Lot 5, providing access to leases over the rear sections of Lots 4 and 5.<sup>31</sup> Similar rights of way also existed along the northern boundaries of Lots 3 and 8.<sup>32</sup>

The 1902 tenure on Lots 4 and 5 shows that the Dampier Terrace frontages tended to be reserved for the commercial premises of Europeans while the land behind them was leased to Chinese and Japanese tenants.<sup>33</sup> On the north side of the lane, Hugh Davis Norman, a merchant and pearler, leased the Dampier Terrace frontage (less than one quarter of Lot 4) to Sydney Capel Pigott at a rent of £18 per annum.<sup>34</sup> The Pearlery's Rest Hotel occupied this land.<sup>35</sup> Norman leased the quarter section behind the Dampier Terrace frontage to Yejiro Yamasaki, a Japanese merchant, at a more lucrative rent of £24 per annum.<sup>36</sup> On the south side of the right of way, Norman held the Dampier Terrace frontage of Lot 5 while Japanese tenants held the sections to the rear. Katsuhe Takaye held the one-eighth section immediately behind Norman; Toyosaburo Mise held the next one-eighth section; and Horo Goro Kitchi, a carpenter, held the rear half of the lot.<sup>37</sup> Norman's hold over land in this locality also extended to the foreshore opposite Lots 4 and 5 where Special Lease 242/152 covered Lot 377.<sup>38</sup>

The section of Lot 5 leased by Horo Goro Kitchi had frontage to Carnarvon Street, which had been extended northward to Short Street in 1901 to create Lots 387 to 392.<sup>39</sup> Surveyor A.J. Wells had done this work in response to a demand for additional land in the town's commercial centre. He noted that the low-lying nature of the land on the west side of Carnarvon Street had obliged him to reduce the width of the street by one third to give 'an extra chain of ground suitable for building on'.<sup>40</sup> This adjustment resulted in the "dog-leg" that is evident where Carnarvon Street intersects Napier Terrace.

Alienation of the land on the opposite (western) side of Carnarvon Street also occurred around this time. Frank Biddles purchased Lots 391 and 392 in February 1903 and immediately leased the lots to Yee Ah Chun, Jock

---

<sup>30</sup> Information provided by Broome Historical Society.

<sup>31</sup> DOLA, Certificates of Title, Vol. 20, Fol. 348 (Lot 5) and Vol. 23, Fol. 70 (Lot 4).

<sup>32</sup> DOLA, Certificates of Title, Vol. 20, Fol. 347 (Lot 3) and Vol. 20, Fol. 175 (Lot 8).

<sup>33</sup> DOLA, Certificates of Title, Vol. 20, Fol. 348 (Lot 5) and Vol. 23, Fol. 70 (Lot 4).

<sup>34</sup> DOLA, Certificate of Title, Vol. 23, Fol. 70 (Lot 4).

<sup>35</sup> Information provided by Broome Historical Society, citing *Dampier Dispatch*, 30 August 1904, shows that Allan Charles Neall, who resided at the Pearlery's Rest, gave notice of his intention to apply for a license for the sale of wine, beer and other fermented liquors 'in the house and appurtenances thereto belonging situated at Lot 4 Dampier Terrace rented from Sydney Capel Pigott of Broome and occupied by myself'.

<sup>36</sup> DOLA, Certificate of Title, Vol. 23, Fol. 70 (Lot 4).

<sup>37</sup> DOLA, Certificate of Title, Vol. 20, Fol. 348 (Lot 5).

<sup>38</sup> DOLA, Register, 114: 1 to 261 [and] 152: 121 to 386, p. 57.

<sup>39</sup> SROWA, WAS 211, DOLA, Cons 3884, 4040/1901, Townsites: Broome, Shire of Broome, Vol. 1, p. 10.

<sup>40</sup> *ibid.*

Sign and Thom Fong (storekeepers) for ten years at £45 per annum.<sup>41</sup> Michael Scales Warton, the Broome Magistrate, purchased Lot 389 in March 1903 and promptly sold the land to a storekeeper named Ah Wah.<sup>42</sup> Yejiro Yamasaki, who continued to lease a rear section of Lot 4 from Norman, purchased Lot 388 in April 1903.<sup>43</sup> He later established an emporium on Lot 388.<sup>44</sup> In the meantime, Norman purchased Lots 387 and 390 and leased out a section of the former lot.<sup>45</sup>

By this time, the 'Native Quarter' or 'Asiatic Quarter' was exhibiting the exotic characteristics for which it became renowned. It was said to have twenty stores (six European, eight Japanese and six Chinese) in 1903.<sup>46</sup> Comments made in December 1902 read:

The houses, mostly built of corrugated iron, and covering a space of not more than 20 acres, were huddled together in an apparently inexplicable jumble. The narrow crooked lanes reminded one of Singapore with flags, banners and strange legends floating from bazaars, houses, stalls and shops. The windows are innocent of glass, but each is strongly protected with iron bars that would baffle a Bill Sykes.<sup>47</sup>

The 'Native Quarter' would have extended from Short Street south to Frederick Street. The land between those streets now contains two of the four heritage precincts and some of the isolated buildings with heritage significance in *Chinatown Conservation Area*. These two heritage sub-precincts comprise the south side of Napier Terrace (between Carnarvon Street and Dampier Terrace) and both sides of Carnarvon Street (between Short Street and Napier Terrace).

*Kennedy's Store* and *Napier Terrace Cottages* are the focal points of the south side of Napier Terrace. *Kennedy's Store*, which has been discussed, is situated to the west of *Napier Terrace Cottages*. The cottages, located on what was originally the western section of Lot 12, are thought to have been constructed when the lot owner leased out that section of land in about 1906.<sup>48</sup> A succession of Broome residents held the land, under both freehold and leasehold tenure. The early lessees of the land on which the cottages were built included the Ceylonese jeweller Thomas Bastian Ellies and the Filipino diver Teofilo Storres. Three more heritage buildings are situated to the south-east and south-west of *Kennedy's Store* and *Napier Terrace Cottages*. *Old Pearler's House* has frontage to Dampier Terrace, the offices known as *58 Carnarvon Street (Offices, formerly house)* have frontage to Carnarvon Terrace and, opposite those offices, *Old Police Lockup* stands facing the conservation area. *Old Pearler's House*, which

---

<sup>41</sup> DOLA, Certificates of Title, Vol. 265, Fol. 84 (Lot 391) and Vol. 265, Fol. 85 (Lot 392).

<sup>42</sup> DOLA, Certificate of Title, Vol. 269, Fol. 72 (Lot 389).

<sup>43</sup> DOLA, Certificates of Title, Vol. 23, Fol. 70 (Lot 4); and Vol. 270, Fol. 197 (Lot 388).

<sup>44</sup> Kevin Lawton, *From Shinju to Shinju: Tales from Broome*, Artlook, Perth, [c. 1980], p. 4.

<sup>45</sup> DOLA, Certificate of Title, Vol. 277, Fol. 76 (Lot 387) and Vol. 277, Fol. 77 (Lot 390).

<sup>46</sup> *National Times*, 16 November, 1971, as cited by Helen Ansell in HCWA documentation prepared for *Chinatown Conservation Area* in April 1996.

<sup>47</sup> Senator Staniforth Smith, West Australian Pearl-Shelling Industry, from articles contributed to the *Perth Morning Herald* by Senator Staniforth Smith, 31 December 1902, V K Jones & Co., Perth, 1903.

<sup>48</sup> HCWA Documentation, *Napier Terrace Cottages*, 12 May 2000, p. 4.

stands on Lot 74 (the northern portion of the original Lot 13), is said to have been constructed in about 1910 and used as a showroom by the firm Goode Durant and Murray (owners of the land from 1920). *58 Carnarvon Street (Offices, formerly house)*, which is on portion of the original Lot 17 and is now used as offices, was the home of Jim Kennedy (son of the owner of Kennedy's Store). Thomas Herbert Kennedy acquired Lot 17 in 1950. Prior to that date a succession of Chinese and Japanese storekeepers leased portions of the lot for periods of up to 15 years.<sup>49</sup> The occupancy of the last storekeepers probably ceased at the beginning of the Second World War. No date of construction has been found for *58 Carnarvon Street (Offices, formerly house)* but it is possible that the place was built during the 1950s or 1960s. To the south of *Kennedy's Store* and *Napier Terrace Cottages* are *Old Pearler's House* and *58 Carnarvon Street (Offices, formerly house)*.

*Old Pearler's House* is said to have been constructed in about 1910 and used by the firm Goode Durant and Murray as a showroom displaying all types of goods.<sup>50</sup> The place was owned by members of the Kennedy family between 1950 and 1984.<sup>51</sup> Used for storage until 1958, it was then leased to pearlery M. and W. Scott as quarters for their divers.<sup>52</sup> Lord McAlpine purchased the place in 1984 and transferred it to Broome Preservation Society in 1989.<sup>53</sup> The conservation undertaken by that Society allowed the building to be used by Broome News.<sup>54</sup> It then fell into disrepair but in 2000 underwent extensive renovation, apparently intended to adapt it for office and commercial use.<sup>55</sup>

No date of construction has been found for *58 Carnarvon Street (Offices, formerly house)* but it appears to date from the early-mid twentieth century. That place, which is on Lot 17 and now used as offices, was the home of Jim Kennedy (son of the owner of *Kennedy's Store*).<sup>56</sup> Opposite *58 Carnarvon Street (Offices, formerly house)* is *Old Police Lockup*.

*Roebuck Bay Hotel Facade*, is located on Dampier Terrace to the north of Napier Terrace. The hotel was re-built in 1904, by the early merchants and pearlery Newman Goldstein and Co., after a fire destroyed the existing hotel.<sup>57</sup> While only the facade has remained relatively unchanged, the hotel has always been a social and cultural focal point in Chinatown.<sup>58</sup> *Roebuck Bay Hotel Façade* is situated on the Dampier Terrace frontages of Lots 8 and 9. The adjacent Lots 6 and 7 contain motel units associated with the hotel (Dampier Terrace frontage) and a car park (Carnarvon Street frontage). This development replaced much earlier land use in which Asian lessees held central portions of Lots 7 and 8 with access via a right of way from

---

<sup>49</sup> DOLA, Certificate of Title, Vol. 20, Fol. 177 (Lot 17).

<sup>50</sup> *Broome Heritage Trail*, p. 12. DOLA, Certificate of Title, Vol. 757, Fol. 136 (portion of Lot 13).

<sup>51</sup> DOLA, Certificate of Title, Vol. 757, Fol. 136 (portion of Lot 13).

<sup>52</sup> *Broome Heritage Trail*, p. 12.

<sup>53</sup> DOLA, Certificate of Title, Vol. 757, Fol. 136 (portion of Lot 13).

<sup>54</sup> *Broome Heritage Trail*, p. 12.

<sup>55</sup> Personal observation; and information provided by Broome Historical Society.

<sup>56</sup> Information provided by Broome Historical Society.

<sup>57</sup> Praagh, *The Great North-West And Its Resources*, no pagination.

<sup>58</sup> National Trust Assessment Exposition, March 1983.

Carnarvon Street.<sup>59</sup> The right of way, which comprised a strip of land inside the northern boundary of Lot 8, is referred to in this documentation as Roebuck Lane. [See 14.1 in the appendices for a plan depicting the earlier land use with access from the right of way.]

*Kinney's and Anastasia's Pearl Gallery* were formerly part of T.B. Ellies' store, which occupied the western portions of Lots 3 and 4. Thomas Bastion Ellies was a jeweller and pearler who, prior to moving into Carnarvon Street, took a ten-year lease over the more eastern of the two *Napier Terrace Cottages*.<sup>60</sup> At that time (1906) a billiard saloon apparently occupied all or part of the portion of Lot 4 on which *Kinney's* now stands.<sup>61</sup> In 1919, Ellies purchased Lot 4.<sup>62</sup> The billiard saloon, which was on the corner of John Chi Lane, continued to operate, with Ellies applying for a licence for it in 1922.<sup>63</sup> Ellies expanded his holdings that year with the purchase of the western moiety of Lot 3.<sup>64</sup> He died in 1937 and his premises passed to other members of the Ellies family.<sup>65</sup> In 1976, Peter Joseph Kinney, Beverley Ann Kinney and Brian Stanley County purchased the Lot 4 property (*Kinney's*).<sup>66</sup> In 1984, a pearl dealer purchased the Lot 3 property (*Bob's Shoe Store and Anastasia's Pearl Gallery*).<sup>67</sup>

T.B. Ellies also owned the land on which *Bob's Shoe Store* now stands. It was leased to Louey Ling Tack and L.L. Tacks pearlery and general store operated there until it was destroyed by white ants during World War Two, and subsequently demolished. *Bob's Shoe Store* is believed to have been built on the site some time in the 1970s.<sup>68</sup>

*Ocean & Earth* (former Dampier's Chest/Ah Ming's Store & Residence) is situated opposite *Kinney's* and shares the street frontage of Lot 391 with the Son Ming Chinese restaurant. From 1903, and till at least 1922, the storekeepers Yee Ah Chun, Jock Sign and Thom Fong leased this land and the adjoining Lot 392 from Frank Biddles.<sup>69</sup> The store passed to Fong Joe in 1948 and to Ming Neau Yee (also known as Ah Ming) in 1954.<sup>70</sup> The latter owner died in 1965 and the property went to Kwok Cheung Yee who was described as a Carnarvon Street storekeeper at that time.<sup>71</sup>

*Old Tang Wei Cafe & Residence*, used by Kimberley Kreations as a shop in the 1990s, is situated on Lot 392 on the south side of *Ocean & Earth*. This

---

<sup>59</sup> DOLA, Certificates of Title, Vol. 20, Fol. 174 (Lot 7) and Vol. 20, Fol. 175 (Lot 8).

<sup>60</sup> DOLA, Certificate of Title, Vol. 341, Fol. 122 (Lot 12).

<sup>61</sup> DOLA, Certificate of Title, Vol. 23, Fol. 70 (Lot 4); and information provided by Broome Historical Society.

<sup>62</sup> DOLA, Certificate of Title, Vol. 720, Fol. 111 (portion of Lot 4).

<sup>63</sup> Information provided by Broome Historical Society.

<sup>64</sup> DOLA, Certificate of Title, Vol. 713, Fol. 153 (Lot 3).

<sup>65</sup> DOLA, Certificates of Title, Vol. 820, Fol. 171 (western moiety of Lot 3), and Vol. 720, Fol. 111 (portion of Lot 4).

<sup>66</sup> Vol. 720, Fol. 111 (portion of Lot 4).

<sup>67</sup> DOLA, Certificates of Title, Vol. 820, Fol. 171 (western moiety of Lot 3).

<sup>68</sup> Letter from Jacyntha Fong to Heritage Council of WA, 11 February 2002.

<sup>69</sup> DOLA, Certificate of Title, Vol. 265, Fol. 84 (Lot 391), and Vol. 265, Fol. 85 (Lot 392).

<sup>70</sup> DOLA, Certificate of Title, Vol. 265, Fol. 84 (Lot 391).

<sup>71</sup> DOLA, Certificates of Title, Vol. 265, Fol. 84 (Lot 391) and Vol. 238, Fol. 33A (Lot 391).

property, which had a history similar to that of Lot 391, passed from Fong Joe to Tang Wei, a Broome diver, in 1953.<sup>72</sup>

*Tack's Store* and residence, at 12 Carnarvon Street, is sited on the southern portion of Lot 390. Hugh Davis Norman leased Lot 390 to Ghi Twan, a boarding house keeper, in 1908, and it is known that a boarding house existed on the northern half of the lot in 1910.<sup>73</sup> San Juan, a storekeeper, leased the southern half of the lot in 1913.<sup>74</sup> Arthur Tack Fong Louey purchased the property in 1946 from the Norman family, and opened the place as a general store. The store traded as L.L. Tack's, the continuation of Arthur's father's business name.<sup>75</sup>

There have been three L.L. Tack stores in Broome since the turn of the century, which are often confused. The first, a licensed pearl dealers operated by Louey Ling Tack in the early 1900s, stood on the corner of Dampier Terrace and Napier Terrace, and is shown in a photograph dated 1924. The second, a pearl dealers and for a while also a general store, was situated on Carnarvon Street on the site now occupied by *Bob's Shoe Store*, and operated by both Louey Ling Tack and his son Arthur Tack Fong Louey prior to World War Two. Both these buildings have been demolished.<sup>76</sup>

*Shekki Shed Gallery* comprises a shop and residence on the northern portion of Lot 389. The lot appears to have hosted a variety of businesses, with Sam Sue and Ah Sue, respectively, liable for rates on Sections 2 and 3 in 1911, and Ah Chi applying for an Eating House Licence in 1912. The licence related to a timber and iron building comprising three rooms and a kitchen.<sup>77</sup> It is possible that the group of Chinese businessmen who held title to the land at this time did so on behalf of the Chinese community.<sup>78</sup> The Chinese characters visible on the roof of *Shekki Shed Gallery* may be reminiscent of the building's use by the community.

*Sun Picture Gardens* on Lot 388 was built for the pearler Edmund Harold Hunter on the site of the former Yamasaki dry goods store in 1916. Architect Claude Hawkes was responsible for the construction of the building, which catered for the town's tropical climate.<sup>79</sup> One of the people recalled in the early days of *Sun Picture Gardens* was "Fairy" Errington who played piano accompaniment for the silent films.<sup>80</sup> The woman known as "Fairy" was probably Henrietta Errington who operated as a storekeeper in premises on

---

<sup>72</sup> DOLA, Certificates of Title, Vol. 265, Fol. 85 (Lot 392).

<sup>73</sup> DOLA, Certificate of Title, Vol. 277, Fol. 77 (Lot 390); and information provided by Broome Historical Society.

<sup>74</sup> DOLA, Certificate of Title, Vol. 277, Fol. 77 (Lot 390).

<sup>75</sup> Letter from Jacynta Fong to Heritage Council of WA, 11 February 2002.

<sup>76</sup> Ibid.

<sup>77</sup> Information provided by Broome Historical Society.

<sup>78</sup> DOLA, Certificate of Title, Vol. 269, Fol. 72 (Lot 389).

<sup>79</sup> Maria Mann, *Reflections of the Sun: A Short History of the Sun Picture Gardens*, Sun Pictures WA Pty Ltd, Broome, 1991, pp. 4–5.

<sup>80</sup> Maria Mann, *Reflections of the Sun: A Short History of the Sun Picture Gardens*, Sun Pictures WA Pty Ltd, Broome, 1991, p.10.

Napier Terrace from 1917 or earlier.<sup>81</sup> It is likely that those premises were situated on the corner of Carnarvon Terrace, on portion of Lot 11, where she is known to have had a store in later years.<sup>82</sup> The electoral rolls continued to list Henrietta Errington until 1936, when her name was struck off.<sup>83</sup>

Adjacent to the rear of *Sun Picture Gardens* is *Hanoe's Cottage*. Located on the rear section of Lot 387, it was adjacent to Ah Fat's cottage, which was included in the National Trust conservation area but is no longer extant. Ah Fat's cottage stood on Lot 481. *Hanoe's Cottage* takes its name from that of Donggi Hanoe, a Broome engineer, who acquired the land from Adam Snait, a seaman, in 1954, but it is not known who built the house.<sup>84</sup> The cottage probably existed at that time and, like some of the other places discussed in this documentation, became known by a name associated with one of its succession of occupants.

To the north of Carnarvon Street is *Old Residence Carnarvon Street*. Located on portion of Lot 42, near the corner of Gray Street, *Old Residence Carnarvon Street* stands on one of the lots purchased by E.W. Streeter when his family was establishing its mercantile, pearling and pastoral interests in Broome.<sup>85</sup> The land between the old residence and Gray Street was subdivided into two small lots and transferred in 1896.<sup>86</sup> It was around this time that Arthur Male was admitted as a partner in Streeter & Co., precipitating the change of the firm's name to Streeter and Male.<sup>87</sup> Research to date has not established when *Old Residence Carnarvon Street* was constructed. The newer residential accommodation situated between the old residence and *Streeter and Male Stores* was erected as staff housing by the Male family in about the 1950s.<sup>88</sup>

In the block bounded by Gray Street, Dampier Terrace, Short Street and Carnarvon Street, the only land not acquired by the Streeter and Male families in the early years was Lot 43.<sup>89</sup> Situated on the corner of Gray Street and Dampier Terrace, Lot 43 was purchased by George Smith, a Broome pearler, in 1889, transferred to Hugh Davis Norman in 1910, and surrendered to the Crown in 1950.<sup>90</sup> Lot 43 was purchased by Streeter &

---

<sup>81</sup> Western Australia, Legislative Assembly, Electoral Roll, Kimberley Electoral District, 30 August 1917.

<sup>82</sup> Personal comment, Val Burton to Cathie Clement, July 2001.

<sup>83</sup> Western Australia, Legislative Assembly, Electoral Roll, Kimberley Electoral District, 31 December 1920, 30 June 1923, 17 March 1925, 21 February 1927 and 7 January 1930; and Western Australia, Legislative Council, Electoral Roll, North Electoral Province, 9 April 1936, Supplementary No. 1.

<sup>84</sup> DOLA, Certificate of Title, Vol. 1111, Fol. 671 (Lot 387).

<sup>85</sup> DOLA, Certificate of Title, Vol. 29, Fol. 253 (Lot 42).

<sup>86</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>87</sup> Jas S Battye, (ed.), *The History of the North West of Australia embracing Kimberley, Gascoyne and Murchison Districts*, V.K. Jones & Co., Perth, 1915, facsimile edition, Hesperian Press, Carlisle, 1985, p. 141.

<sup>88</sup> Information provided by Broome Historical Society.

<sup>89</sup> DOLA, Certificates of Title, Vol. 29, Fol. 253 (Lot 42), Vol. 30, Fol. 69 (Lot 43), Vol. 29, Fol. 254 (Lot 44), Vol. 30, Fol. 63 (Lot 45), Vol. 190, Fol. 140 (Lot 45), Vol. 29, Fol. 19 (Lot 46), Vol. 29, Fol. 20 (Lot 47), Vol. 28, Fol. 340 (Lot 48), Vol. 28, Fol. 341 (Lot 49) and Vol. 28, Fol. 342 (Lot 50).

<sup>90</sup> DOLA, Certificates of Title, Vol. 30, Fol. 69 (Lot 43) and Vol. 476, Fol. 48 (Lot 43).

Male Pty Ltd in 1975. A large shed with no side cladding or wall ends, and a storeroom at the Gray Street end, was erected in 1979. It was used to shelter Shell Co. fuel delivery trucks for about ten years and then by Arrow Pearling as bulk storage space through the 1990s. Arrow Pearling in latter years enclosed the storage space and extended the storeroom into an office.<sup>91</sup>

Diagonally opposite the Lot 43 shed is *Boat Yard and Slipway*. Situated at the northern extremity of Dampier Terrace, *Boat Yard and Slipway* stands on the portion of Lot 3067 that formerly comprised Lots 456 and 471.<sup>92</sup> Pearlery used this land from at least 1902, with Special Lease 414/152 (over Lot 456) and Special Lease 421/152 (over Lot 457 immediately to the north of Lot 456) changing hands at intervals between 1902 and 1930.<sup>93</sup> Robison & Norman Limited held Special Lease 3116/431, granted for the purpose of 'Camping and Boat Repairing' on Lots 456 and 457, from 1934.<sup>94</sup> The firm also held Lease 3116/699, for 'Repairing Vessels, Keeping Ship Stores, Garage & Repair Shop' on Lot 471 (immediately to the south) from 1938.<sup>95</sup> That lease gave way to Lease 3116/1342, which was transferred, with Lease 3116/431, to Arthur Streeter Male on 19 December 1946.<sup>96</sup> At this time he started a new firm known as Male & Co. in 1945 and began the post-war re-establishment of the Broome pearling industry with five of the seven luggers that put to sea in 1946.<sup>97</sup> The last two leases mentioned above expired on 30 June 1958.<sup>98</sup>

Male & Co. became involved in establishing a cultured pearl industry in Australia's north-west in 1956.<sup>99</sup> In 1974, the company was operating five luggers and reported production for the year as '117,140 kilos of M.O.P. Pearl Shell and 49,529 kilos of Live for Culture Pearl Shell'.<sup>100</sup>

The tenure that existed over the land containing *Boat Yard and Slipway* between 1958 and 1981 is unknown. From 1981, Kimberley Ancel Streeter Male held a 21-year lease over Lots 374, 382, 835, 386, 430, 456, 457, 471 and 639 for the purpose of light industry associated with pearling.<sup>101</sup> The lease, which extended along the foreshore from *Boat Yard and Slipway* to *Streeter's Jetty*, was transferred to Pearls Pty Limited in April 1983 and

---

<sup>91</sup> Kim Male, Director, Streeter & Male Pty Ltd, letter to HCWA, 15 July 2003, on HCWA file P0291.

<sup>92</sup> DOLA, Certificate of Title, Vol. 2036, Fol. 315 (Lot 3067); and Battye Library, CN6, 211C, Townsite of Broome, Plan, 1964.

<sup>93</sup> DOLA, Register, 152/387-1804, Special Leases, pp. 4 and 5.

<sup>94</sup> DOLA, Register, 152/1805-1876 [and] 3116/401-1954, Special Leases, p. 30.

<sup>95</sup> DOLA, Register, 152/1805-1876 [and] 3116/401-1954, Special Leases, p. 68.

<sup>96</sup> DOLA, Register, 152/1805-1876 [and] 3116/401-1954, Special Leases, pp. 30 and 140.

<sup>97</sup> SROWA, AN 108/3, Fisheries Department, Acc 477, 13/20, Pearl - Miscellaneous Correspondence File, Vol. 1, p. [between 205 and 206]; and SROWA, AN 108/4, Fisheries Department, Acc 477, 40/45, file, Pearling - Post War Re-establishment of Industry in W.A., p.176.

<sup>98</sup> DOLA, Register, 152/1805-1876 [and] 3116/401-1954, Special Leases, pp. 30 and 140.

<sup>99</sup> Bain, *Full Fathom Five*, pp. 297-8.

<sup>100</sup> SROWA, AN 108/20, Fisheries and Wildlife, Acc 1759, 88/46/1 Part 1, Fisheries: Pearling: Male and Company - General Correspondence, file, p. 1.

<sup>101</sup> DOLA, Special Lease 3116/8138, C.L. No. 89/1982.

surrendered in November 1994.<sup>102</sup> That company received title to the land, as Lot 3067, in May 1995.<sup>103</sup> Pearls Pty Limited had taken over Male & Co. in 1976, and Kimberley A.S. Male had become one of its five directors.<sup>104</sup>

The late twentieth century demolition of the pearling industry structures between *Boat Yard and Slipway* and *Streeter's Jetty*, and the pearl shell packing sheds on the other side of *Streeter's Jetty*, has had a significant impact on this area. Until the 1990s, pearling industry structures on Lots 374, 382, 385 and 386 formed a visual link between *Boat Yard and Slipway* and *Streeter's Jetty*. The pearl shell packing shed, which stood on Lot 382 adjacent to *Streeter's Jetty*, was described as a framed wood building covered with corrugated iron, complete with a gable roof and a floored verandah along one side. On the northern side of the jetty a similarly constructed building, which was augmented by a bough shed, served as crew quarters while one with 'Ventilated doors all along front and back, lean to roof, 9 feet high in front 7 feet high at Back' served as a timber store. All three buildings were set on concrete blocks.<sup>105</sup>

In 2001 *Boat Yard and Slipway* is used for cleaning and repairing nets used in the cultured pearl industry, and for the occasional slipping of a vessel.<sup>106</sup> *Streeter's Jetty* was undergoing conservation when inspected in March 2001. Both are rare heritage structures reminiscent of the Broome pearling industry.

*Streeter's Jetty* was in existence by 1897.<sup>107</sup> In the following year, the pearlery began to formalise their occupation of foreshore land. The Lands Department received eight applications for special leases at Broome in the period March to November 1898. One came from Streeter & Co., seeking a right to use 28 perches of foreshore land opposite Lots 48 and 50 for boat building purposes.<sup>108</sup> The approved lease gave the firm tenure over Lot 374 for the period 1 January 1899 to 31 December 1918 at an annual rent of £2.10.0.<sup>109</sup> Access to *Streeter's Jetty* was across Lot 374, which is now part of Lot 3067.<sup>110</sup>

*Streeter and Male Stores* occupy Lot 50 and a portion of Lot 49. It has been noted that the one of the earliest Streeter buildings was described by E.W.

---

<sup>102</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>103</sup> DOLA, Certificate of Title, Vol. 2036, Fol. 315 (Lot 3067).

<sup>104</sup> SROWA, AN 108/17, Department of Fisheries and Fauna, 97/46, file, Pearling. General Correspondence re Pearling Industry, vol. 1, p. 209.

<sup>105</sup> SROWA, AN 39/1, Department of the North-West, Acc 251, 187/1922, Broome Foreshore Lots 382 & 374 leased to Streeter & Male, p. 6.

<sup>106</sup> Personal observation, and information provided by a local resident.

<sup>107</sup> *Minutes and Votes and Proceedings of the Parliament (WA)*, 1897, Vol. 2, Paper No. 26, p. 33, cited in D A Cumming, D Garratt, M McCarthy and A Wolfe, *Port Related Structures on the Coast of Western Australia*, Department of Maritime Archaeology, Western Australian Maritime Museum, Report No. 98, 1995, p. 52.

<sup>108</sup> SROWA, Cons 5000, Lands & Surveys Department, Red No. 940, Applications Clause 114; and DOLA, Register, 114: 1 to 261 [and] 152: 121 to 386, p. 41.

<sup>109</sup> DOLA, Register, 114: 1 to 261 [and] 152: 121 to 386, p. 41.

<sup>110</sup> Battye Library, CN6, 211C, Townsite of Broome, Plan, 1964; and DOLA, Certificate of Title, Vol. 2036, Fol. 315 (Lot 3067).

Streeter's son as a 'substantial stone building' in 1889.<sup>111</sup> A 1904 publication showed Streeter & Co.'s premises extending from Dampier Terrace westward along Short Street.<sup>112</sup> With regard to one of the two buildings facing Short Street, the author wrote:

That the firm are satisfied regarding the prospects of the locality is substantially instanced by the building of solid concrete they have recently had erected in the town as an office containing one of the best strongrooms in the State outside Perth and Fremantle'.<sup>113</sup>

The pre-1904 concrete building and strongroom, which form part of *Streeter and Male Stores*, are reminiscent of the early days of Broome. The adjacent store that comprises the corner component of *Streeter and Male Stores*, although refurbished c1990 when the tramlines were removed, retains the form of the corner structure visible on Lots 49 and 50 in the 1904 photograph.<sup>114</sup> As a group of buildings, Streeter and Male Stores has an unbroken association with the pearl fishing and commercial enterprises of, firstly, Streeter & Co., and secondly, Streeter and Male. The signage visible of the street frontage in 2001 publicises the latter association. The Male family remains active in local business.

The strength and diversity of the Streeter and Male business interests reduced the impact of the Second World War on *Streeter and Male Stores*, *Streeter's Jetty*, and *Boat Yard and Slipway*. Other property owners were not so fortunate. A fire destroyed seven houses and six shops in John Chi Lane in 1943. With one exception the buildings were unoccupied because the mainly Japanese owners had left or been sent away when Japan entered into the war.<sup>115</sup>

When post-war reconstruction took place in Broome, one of the buildings erected was *Motor Garage*, which appears to straddle the frontage portions of Lots 383 and 623. The government granted leases for boat building and repairing over those lots at intervals from the late 1890s. The early lessees included the pearlmen G.J. Buddivent and F.A. Everett. Leo Guger, a pearler and engineer, then leased both lots for pearling and boat repairing from 1947 to 1952.<sup>116</sup> In about 1947 Guger built the structure that now comprises the long northern portion of *Motor Garage*<sup>117</sup> using left-over Department of Defence buildings and materials.<sup>118</sup> He used a jinker to bring lugger engines ashore from the vessels, replacing a system under which engines had been dismantled on board and taken ashore in pieces. After the dismantling, the engine pieces were boiled in a caustic solution on the

---

<sup>111</sup> Broome Historical Society, Extract of diary kept by George Skelton Streeter, 1886–1890.

<sup>112</sup> Praagh, *The Great North-West And Its Resources*, no pagination.

<sup>113</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>114</sup> See the photograph in Praagh, *The Great North-West And Its Resources*, no pagination.

<sup>115</sup> SROWA, AN 5/3, Police Department, Acc 430, 2653/43, Annual Report for the year ending June 30th, 1943.

<sup>116</sup> DOLA, Register, 114: 1 to 261 [and] 152: 121 to 386, pp.41, 76 and 130; and DOLA, Register, 152/1805-1876 [and] 3116/401-1954, Special Leases, pp. 58 and 153.

<sup>117</sup> Personal comment, Michael Guger to Cathie Clement, July 2001.

<sup>118</sup> Kim Male, Director, Streeter & Male Pty Ltd, letter to HCWA, 15 July 2003, on HCWA file P0291.

foreshore in preparation for refurbishment.<sup>119</sup> This work took place in the vicinity of other pre-war structures.<sup>120</sup> Guger's Marine and Motor Works sold petrol for a while and the premises carried signs for International trucks and Defender refrigerators. He left Broome in about 1949 and moved to Derby.<sup>121</sup> The premises continued to operate in a service capacity and underwent repairs after the 1957 cyclone damaged the southern end of the *Motor Garage* roof.<sup>122</sup>

*Chinatown Conservation Area* includes the Aboriginal site known as *Undanda*, which is entered in the Department of Indigenous Affairs permanent Site Register as 12793. *Undanda* is a significant mythological, ceremonial and archaeological site.

While no attempt has been made to ascertain the fate of the other 'Native Quarter' buildings, it can be said that some of the places on the west side of Carnarvon Street are typical of such buildings. Those places contribute to the character of Chinatown, which, in 2001, continues to provide shops, offices, eating places, a hotel, residences, entertainment and other service and pearling industry facilities for the Broome community and tourists. With the exception of the large scale Paspaley shopping centre at the northern end of Carnarvon Street, the buildings continue to display the mix of large and small buildings characteristic of the locality. The presence of *Streeter's Jetty* and *Boat Yard and Slipway* are reminiscent of the days when the foreshore, Dampier Creek and the adjacent segment of Roebuck Bay were used by pearlers. The Broome community nurtures awareness of the town's close association with Asia and continues the celebration of that association with such annual events as the Shinju Matsuri Festival.

## 13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

### 13.2.1 STRUCTURES

Chinatown is in the north-eastern sector of the Broome townsite, which is situated on a peninsular. Tidal flats and the shores of Roebuck Bay are to the east, mangroves are to the north, and Male Oval is to the west. Frederick Street and Broome Road, which connects with Hamersley Street, separate Chinatown from the remainder of the townsite.

*Chinatown Conservation Area* extends from Gray Street and the adjacent foreshore southward to Frederick Street, and from Roebuck Bay to the western side of Carnarvon Street.

The area is generally flat with the exception of Lookout Hill, which is at the southern end and overlooks Chinatown and Roebuck Bay.

---

<sup>119</sup> Personal comment, Michael Guger to Cathie Clement, July 2001.

<sup>120</sup> Personal comment, Val Burton to Cathie Clement, July 2001.

<sup>121</sup> Personal comments, Michael Guger and Val Burton to Cathie Clement, July 2001.

<sup>122</sup> Personal comment, Val Burton to Cathie Clement, July 2001.

The development pattern of Chinatown is in contrast to the remainder of Broome. Chinatown was set on a different street pattern with some lots more elongated than the spacious lot sizes used elsewhere. Buildings were positioned closer together and closer to the street alignment than elsewhere in Broome. The leasing of rear sections of some lots also led to the creation of rights of way for access purposes, for example, Shiba Lane (which ran between Napier Terrace and Frederick Street) and John Chi Lane (which ran between Dampier Terrace and Carnarvon Street). The rights of way no longer exist. In 1943, the buildings in John Chi Lane were burned down and the entrance to the lane was boarded over.

Chinatown has been described as having a 'shanty town' character that is in contrast to the remainder of the Broome townsite.<sup>123</sup> The most distinctive feature that contributed to this character was the contiguous architectural style. This style is typified by small single and two-storey structures, symmetrical facades with small windows, vertically and horizontally lined corrugated galvanised iron wall and roof coverings, storm shutters, lattice screens, verandahs across the facade, balcony additions, criss-cross timber balustrade infill, and timber steps to raised verandahs. The use of wind scoops appears to have been introduced in the early-mid twentieth century to adapt the buildings to suit the tropical climate.<sup>124</sup> Few original wind scoops remain in Broome.

The buildings were simply constructed and raised on masonry stumps. The timber framing, including verandah roof supports, are without embellishment, with the exception of *Kennedy's Store* which had decorative brackets that are no longer extant. The roofs of the buildings feature a combination of hips and gables.

Buildings were extended under lean-to roofs, with second storey additions, and two-storey rear attachments. The streetscapes generally comprised of similar sized and similar shaped buildings. The regularity of building materials, forms, and sizes, and the closeness of the buildings created an intense and consistent pattern. The buildings were often whitewashed, contributing to the uniformity of the streetscapes. It is believed that joinery and roof gutters were highlighted in coloured paint; green timber preservative paint used on the pearling luggers, or red anti-fouling paint used in the pearling work areas.<sup>125</sup> Signs were painted on roofs or on sign boards fixed high on facades or on verandahs. Only the sign on *Shekki Shed Gallery* remains in 2001 as an example of a sign painted on a roof face.

Much of the original fabric is no longer extant. However, there are buildings in Chinatown that reflect the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

---

<sup>123</sup> ERM Mitchell McCotter, Landscan, Heritage Conservation Professionals, Chinatown Development Strategy, unpublished report prepared for the Shire of Broome, April 1995.

<sup>124</sup> The wind scoops are wedged-shaped projections above the roof about 1.2 metres high, with one side hinged for opening which is controlled by a system of cords and pulleys. In an open position, the trap door lies flat on the roof surface. This enables air to be scooped and directed to the room below. The wind scoop is built and clad in the same material as the roof.

<sup>125</sup> ERM Mitchell McCotter, et al, Chinatown Development Strategy; and photographic evidence, Broome Historical Society.

On the west side of Carnarvon Street is *Old Tang Wei Cafe & Residence*, *Ocean & Earth* (former Dampier's Chest/Mings Store & Residence), *Tack's Store*, *Shekki Shed Gallery* (former Chinese Club Store and Residence), and *Sun Picture Gardens*.

On the east side of Carnarvon Street is *Bob's Shoe Store and Anastasia's Pearl Gallery* (former part of Ellies' Store), *Kinney's* (former part of Ellies' Store), and *Old Residence Carnarvon Street* (near the corner of Gray Street). Further south is *58 Carnarvon Street (Offices, formerly house)*.

On Dampier Terrace is *Old Pearler's House*, *Roebuck Bay Hotel Facade*, *Motor Garage*, *Streeter's Jetty*, and *Boat Yard and Slipway*.

On Short Street is *Streeter and Male Stores*, and *Hanoe's Cottage*.

On Napier Terrace is *Napier Terrace Cottages* and *Kennedy's Store*. Further west, adjacent to the conservation area in Carnarvon Street, is *Old Police Lockup*.

The conservation areas defined by The National Trust of Australia (WA) and the Shire of Broome do not identify *Old Residence Carnarvon Street*, *Hanoe's Cottage*, *Old Pearler's House*, or *Old Police Lockup*. These structures are in an altered state and much of their fabric has been repaired or replaced. The structures were considered individually and a description of alterations to their facades follow.

*Old Tang Wei Cafe & Residence*, used by Kimberley Kreations as a shop in the 1990s, comprises a single-storey gabled roof structure and a two-storey structure behind with a rear extension under a lean-to roof. The verandah floor has been brick paved, and the main roof and the verandah roof of the front structure has been recovered. The verandah roof supports have been replaced, and the windows have been replaced with large sliding windows in aluminium frames. The walls have been reclad in horizontally lined corrugated iron. The criss-cross bracing to the balustrade infill is an addition. Commercial premises are at street level and a residence is at the rear.

*Ocean & Earth* is a single-storey structure with a two-storey addition at the rear with further additions under lean-to roofs. The window and doors are replacements as are the verandah supports, which are galvanised, iron columns. The verandah floor across the facade has been covered in concrete. Timber shutters have been added to part of the facade and the corrugated iron wall cladding across the facade has been painted. In 2001 the street premises is a souvenir and crafts centre, and a residence is at the rear.

*Tack's Store* is a two-storey structure, with the upper balcony enclosed with full-height lattice work. The verandah and balcony floors have been rebuilt in timber, and the balcony has new stop-chamfered timber post supports. The corrugated iron wall cladding across the facade has been painted. New metal fascias, gutters and down pipes have been installed. New louvred windows and air conditioning units have been added to the side elevations. A paved path now extends the length of the south side of the building. The building comprises a travel agency at the street, commercial offices on the

upper level and a residence at the rear. The plan is believed to be close to the original.

The café on the northern side of the block, although very similar to an original storage room in this location, is a 1990s construction.<sup>126</sup>

*Shekki Shed Gallery* is a single-storey gabled roof structure with a verandah across the facade covered with a lean-to roof. The verandah roof is supported by square timber posts. The front face of the main roof retains a painted sign in Chinese characters. The verandah floor has been covered in concrete, the corrugated iron wall cladding across the facade has been painted, and the entrance doors are additions as are the timber window shutters. The form of the building is relatively intact. In 2001 the place functions for use as a souvenir store and gallery.

*Sun Picture Gardens* is a three-sided timber framed structure, clad with corrugated iron, and a high, twin-peaked roof. The fourth side of the building is completely open to the movie-screen and the elements. The facade is protected by a verandah with a lean-to roof, and has two recessed entrances. The southern recess forms the entrance to the theatre, through a foyer. The northern recess forms an entrance to an office, now used by the owners as commercial premises. The two entrances are separated by an enclosure that houses the theatre's bio-box. An illuminated sign, 'Sun Pictures', created with light globes, crowns the building. In 1992, the existing office and kiosk were extended. Conservation work was undertaken in 1999.

*Bob's Shoe Store and Anastasia's Pearl Gallery* is within a single-storey former residence, which has a hipped roof, and a verandah that extends across the front elevation. The building has been adapted to accommodate retail premises. The corrugated wall and roof cladding have been replaced. The windows have been replaced with sliding sashes in aluminium frames, and the interior linings are new. The verandah has been extended around the corner along the north side of the building. The verandah supports are new and the verandah floor has been covered in concrete and paved on the north elevation. A laneway now extends along the north elevation to Dampier Terrace. Structures have been built behind the store and gallery with access from the laneway.

*Kinney's* has a single-storey section to the facade with a hipped roof that features original metal roof vents. The building originally had an encircling verandah. The side verandahs have been enclosed. A two-storey addition is located at the rear with a hipped roof secured with storm battens and which also features metal roof vents. The two-storey section at the rear retains metal window awnings. The walls have been recovered in corrugated cladding and the double-hung sash windows are protected by iron bars. The verandah floor has been recovered in concrete. The lower level accommodates a general store and a residence is on the upper level. The original internal staircase to the residence has been removed and a new access created. The interior has new wall and ceiling linings.

---

<sup>126</sup> *Broome Heritage Trail*, p. 13; Letter to Heritage Council of WA from Jacyntha Fong, 11 February 2002.

*Roebuck Bay Hotel Facade*, constructed in 1904, replaced an earlier hotel (1890) that was destroyed by fire. A wide, raised verandah extends the length of the facade. The building has a gable roof that extends to cover the verandah. The verandah roof supports have been replaced, the verandah floor has been rebuilt, and lattice screens have been removed. The verandah retains its simple construction with a timber balustrade and mid-rail. The roof and wall linings have been recovered with corrugated iron to match the existing, and the double-hung sash windows have been replaced with sliding aluminium sashes. The doors are replacements and the wall of the raised verandah floor has been clad in ripple-iron. The southern end of the verandah has been enclosed.

The pavement in front of the facade has been widened and paved. The street tapers as it extends north and the new development has been constructed forward of the building line of the *Roebuck Bay Hotel*. The interior of the hotel has been extensively altered and additions surround the hotel on three sides.

*Motor Garage* (trading as Woody's 4WD Hire & Fuel in 2001) is long and rectangular in plan with a gable roof and a lean-to roof across the rear and front facade. A change in roof height suggests that two buildings were joined and adapted for use as a garage and workshop. The front facade has large sliding doors, the forecourt of the building has been resurfaced in concrete to create a driveway, and petrol bowsers have been installed on raised concrete platforms.

*Streeter's Jetty* extends to Dampier Creek from the shoreline at Short Street east and Dampier Terrace. The jetty marks the entrance of Dampier Creek at Roebuck Bay. The original jetty was constructed of bush timber. *Streeter's Jetty* is constructed of cadjebut piles with jarrah decking, iron rail lines (since removed) and a 'T' platform at the end. The rail lines conveyed pearl shells from the luggers to the pearl shell sheds (no longer extant) and the shore. The jetty was constructed over mudflats and is surrounded by mangroves. In 1966, the jetty was realigned, reconstructed to original form and shortened. Six original piles remain on the south side, five metres from the shoreline.<sup>127</sup>

During the wet season, or lay-up season, the luggers were stripped and lain on the foreground for maintenance, where they were protected by mangroves in the event of a cyclone. After the luggers became obsolete the jetty was used as a diving platform. By 1983, the jetty was in ruins. In 1992, the jetty was closed to the public and a three metre high fence erected along the foreshore. Major conservation work was done on the jetty in early 2001.

*Boat Yard and Slipway* are steel framed structures with gable roofs covered in corrugated iron. The structures have been modernised. The slipway is in working order and the site is now protected by a security fence.

*Streeter and Male Stores* comprise a group of three adjacent, single-storey structures built to accommodate stores and commercial offices. The central

---

<sup>127</sup> See Heritage Council File P0291 for Site Particulars Form prepared by the Broome Historical Society.

concrete building was constructed prior to 1904 and is typical of one of the early architectural styles of Broome, and contains an early strongroom. Both this building and the other timber framed buildings have been extensively altered.

*Napier Terrace Cottages* are single-storeyed with gable roofs and front verandahs covered by lean-to roofs. The cottage on the east (Kimberley Bookshop, previously Joybelle's) has a new shop front with a reconstructed verandah and verandah roof. The side elevations have been recovered in corrugated iron and sliding windows in aluminium frames have been installed. The cottage on the west (Sheba Lane Garden Restaurant) is more intact. It has a two-storey rear section and retains its shutters and doorways. A separate freestanding two-storey addition was constructed at the rear of the west cottage in 1992.

*Kennedy's Store* is a long rectangular-shaped building on sloping ground. The building is on masonry stumps that vary in height depending on the slope of the ground. The building has a twin-gable roof and an encircling verandah with lattice screens on the western elevation. The verandahs are now enclosed and the sub-floor area is screened with lattice work. The rear section of the western elevation, which once faced Shiba Lane, was converted for use as a drive-in bottle shop. The front section of that elevation, despite alterations, still marks the entrance to land that serves as a lane. *Kennedy's Store* was vacant in early 2001, with the rear section open to vandals and the elements. The interior of the store has been vandalised.

*Old Pearler's House* at the southern end of Chinatown close to Lookout Hill is said to have been built around 1910 and used as a showroom, but was later used for storage and then as accommodation for pearl divers. It became known as the Old Divers' Quarters and then, after conservation by the Broome Preservation Society, as the Broome News building. It has undergone further extensive renovation circa 2000. The original building is believed to be intact, and has been documented and listed on the Register of Heritage Places.

Ah Fat's Cottage, identified in The National Trust of Australia (WA) conservation area, is no longer extant. The neighbouring *Hanoë's Cottage* on the western end of Short Street (on the south side of the road) consists of a central room and shuttered verandahs, and retains an original wind scoop and shutters. An art outlet now occupies this building.

*Old Residence Carnarvon Street* (on the east side of the street near Gray Street) exhibits characteristics that identify it as early Broome architecture. Although the walls have been reclad on the south elevation and the dado lining on the verandahs replaced, the place retains its original fabric and is representative of early Broome cottages. In late 2000, consideration was being given to relocating the building to Dampier Terrace.

Masonry stumps still exist beneath some of the buildings in Chinatown. The roads were originally of sand or gravel, with some featuring tram tracks, and the buildings were constructed to the building line with verandahs across their facades. These verandahs now extend over the street verge. The footpaths are recent additions. The verandah floors are at different levels

above the road surface. In 1974, Shire of Broome built a levee bank across the marsh to stop the flooding of streets at high tide.<sup>128</sup>

With the exception of the infill development along Carnarvon Street south, the buildings recently constructed within the precinct give a false impression of the original built environment. The new building forms are of a different width and size to the earlier buildings and their detailing is not authentic. No attempt has been made to give the elevations the appearance of small buildings with different gable sizes and orientation. Paspaley Pearls Chinatown Centre and the ribbon development along Dampier Terrace are examples.

The streetscape is now dominated by bituminised roads and designated parking bays. As a consequence, the streetscape of Carnarvon Street is now segmented. A roundabout at the Short Street intersection visually separates the northern and southern ends. The southern end is landscaped at both entry points with Boab and palm trees with three landscaped median strips in between. The northern end of Carnarvon Street has a central medium strip with angled car parking either side.

### **13.2.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE**

A combination of archaeological survey and aerial photographic analysis was used to determine what might remain of Broome's archaeological heritage of Chinatown. Enlargements of aerial photographs taken in 2000, 1968 and 1943 were studied for evidence of archaeological sites. The 2000 aerial was also used to produce a site plan of the area.

The archaeological survey covered all the lots within the conservation area. Also the lots bounded by Napier Terrace, Carnarvon, Frederick and Hamersley streets, the oval, the beach and mangrove edges and the area north of Short Street known as Morgan's Camp. Lots where access permission was granted were inspected and metal detector surveys undertaken where appropriate. Lots where permission to access had not been gained were inspected from the street.

The physical inspection in December 2000 found four main conditions within the study area. These were:

- Areas of massive disturbance where archaeological remains were unlikely to have survived.
- Areas where a thick layer of fill had been added to the site before the construction of new buildings. This practice does not greatly disturb the archaeological heritage and in fact tends to protect it from disturbance. However, in such cases the archaeological heritage is not available for research and interpretation.
- Buildings where the heritage fabric of the structure has been greatly altered or removed without altering or disturbing the stumps and underground archaeological deposits.

---

<sup>128</sup> Mann, *Reflections of the Sun*, p. 14.

- Areas which are largely undisturbed.

The areas where massive disturbance has occurred were identified and removed from consideration. Survey results and aerial photographic analysis of the remaining areas were used to determine where sites are likely to exist. The results were then divided into archaeological site areas based on historical, architectural and archaeological evidence.

## Archaeological Sites

### Archaeological Area 1 - Main Commercial Area

This archaeological site comprises the central part of Chinatown and lies between Dampier Terrace, Napier Terrace and Short Street and comprises both sides of Carnarvon Street and the street itself. It includes the land along Short Street enclosed by the oval drain and the Carnarvon Street edge of the oval. It does not include Lots 1 and 2 Dampier Terrace and the eastern halves of Lots 3 to 7 Dampier Terrace.

The area includes the standing heritage buildings of:

*Kinney's and Bob's Shoe Store and Anastasia's Pearl Gallery*, all formerly part of T.B. Ellies' store.

*Ocean & Earth* (former Dampier's Chest/Ah Ming's Store & Residence)

*Old Tang Wei Cafe & Residence*

*Tack's Store*

*Shekki Shed Gallery*

*Sun Picture Gardens*

*Hanoë's Cottage*

*Roebuck Bay Hotel Facade*

The lots between Carnarvon Street and Dampier Terrace were part of the original survey of the town in 1883 with the lots to the west of Carnarvon Street being created in 1901. The archaeological and architectural surveys indicate that there are several buildings with significant heritage fabric within the area and disturbance to others is mainly to the fabric of buildings rather than to the archaeological heritage.

The historical evidence suggests that the areas of the lots fronting Dampier and Napier Terraces were largely occupied by European owned businesses. Of this occupation the archaeological investigation suggests that there is evidence associated with:

- Under the *Roebuck Bay Hotel* and around it to the east and south. The metal detector survey indicated the area around the building in these areas is largely undisturbed. As the building is on piles part of the underneath could be inspected revealing that this area is undisturbed and is rich in artifacts.
- An 1890s Customs Shed which apparently consisted of two building sites and a well now lying under the *Roebuck Bay Hotel* beer garden. Most of the garden has had soil added protecting the sites lying underneath.

- A series of buildings fronting Dampier and Napier Terraces most of which were still standing in 1943. The sites are lying under the *Roebuck Bay Hotel's* beer garden and partly under the bottle shop, backpacker's accommodation and the building to the west of it. These newer buildings would have disturbed the archaeological sites but the metal detector survey indicated that areas of deposits associated with them might have survived between the back packers and the bottle shop, and in front of the bottle shop.
- Under the forecourt of the Challenge Bank, which is approximately one metre higher than the surrounding areas, is the site of the former 'Fairy' Eddington house.

The historical evidence suggests that buildings fronting Carnarvon Street and lying within the centre of the lots were more likely to be Asian and to have a 'shanty town' appearance. The archaeological investigation indicates that there is evidence of this occupation in:

- The car park and gardens behind the *Roebuck Bay Hotel* between the hotel and Carnarvon Street and the end of the present day John Chi Lane. The metal detector survey indicated the presence of artifacts throughout this area, with the exception of the garden area behind the back packer's accommodation. The sites are associated with occupation fronting onto Carnarvon Street and associated with Roebuck Lane.
- Under the Challenge Bank which has been built on a raised foundation of added soil.
- In the vacant lot next to the Challenge Bank at the western end of Lot 9. This area had pearl shell and older artifacts visible on the surface indicating that some disturbance occurred when the houses were demolished approximately 10 years ago, but this disturbance does not appear to have been extensive. A butcher shop is believed to have operated from this site from 1946 to 1950, after which is provided accommodation to 'bachelor builders' until its removal some time prior to 1970.<sup>129</sup>
- In the lot areas to the west of Carnarvon Street. Much of the heritage fabric of this area is still intact and the 'shanty town' layout of narrow buildings with others added on the back can still be partly seen. Areas behind the buildings are currently either yards or gardens, neither of which appears to be graded, or otherwise substantially disturbed therefore much of the archaeology within this area is thought to be still intact. This includes that within the area (being built on in early 2001) enclosed by the oval drain. The builders have laid approximately one metre of soil on the site and are building their foundations into this soil level not the underlying historical layers. A layer of historic artifacts can be seen in the side of the drain channel well underneath the new building foundations.

Two areas of unknown sites were also located. These were in:

---

<sup>129</sup> Kim Male, Director, Streeter & Male Pty Ltd, letter to HCWA, 15 July 2003, on HCWA file P0291.

- The southeastern corner of the oval reserve. Aerial photographic analysis of the 2000 aerial indicated the presence of sites and the metal detector survey indicated the presence of scattered metal artifacts within the same area. Historical information indicates that this area was always reserve and indeed the archaeological patterning does not suggest a structured occupation. The nature of these sites remains unknown. The area is reported to have been bordered by railway embankments, and contained the sump of a tidal flood marsh into which rubbish was dumped as landfill during the 1960s.<sup>130</sup> The nature of these sites remains unknown.
- Down the centre of Carnarvon Street. This site was again suggested by analysis of the 1943 aerial photograph. The 1943 aerial suggests that in practical usage Carnarvon Street was split into two mainly parallel roads. The eastern road ran straight along the back of the Dampier Terrace lots to Napier Terrace. The western road ran straight along the front of the lots to the west of Carnarvon Street then curved to the west before joining Napier Terrace. An alternate reading of the evidence is that the western 'road' was in fact a railway.<sup>131</sup>

The patterning visible in the 1943 aerial photograph suggests the areas between the two roads was once utilized and divided into lots with buildings on at least some of them. The sites were aligned with the eastern part of Carnarvon Street, which ran straight along the back of the Dampier Terrace lots. Although no documentary evidence of buildings was found, the metal detector survey indicated the presence of sites under the central car parking bays from approximately *Tack's Store* south to where Carnarvon Street now curves in an approximation of the earlier western alignment. The sites are now occupied by car parking bays on the present road.

#### Archaeological Area 2 - The Shiba Lane Area

This archaeological area is also a commercial zone comprised of pearler's offices, stores and the Asian area of Shiba Lane. Lot 16 on the northwestern corner of the area was the subject of the earliest known tenure, dated 1897, for a Chinese storekeeper. The site comprises the land bounded by Napier and Dampier Terraces and Carnarvon and Frederick streets. It does not contain Lots 101 and 102 on the northeastern corner of the block.

The area includes the standing heritage buildings of:

*Kennedy's Store*  
*Napier Terrace Cottages*  
*Old Pearler's House*  
*58 Carnarvon Street (Offices, formerly house)*

Historical information suggests the occupation of the lots was quite mixed but the main pattern appears to be for European owned offices or stores

<sup>130</sup> Kim Male, Director, Streeter & Male Pty Ltd, letter to HCWA, 15 July 2003, on HCWA file P0291.

<sup>131</sup> Kim Male, Director, Streeter & Male Pty Ltd, letter to HCWA, 15 July 2003, on HCWA file P0291.

along the street frontages with Asian owned occupation in the centre of the lots and off Frederick Street. The European owned occupation appears to be largely a pattern of freestanding cottages or stores fronting onto a street. The 1943 aerial suggests that a vehicle track ran across the front of 58 *Carnarvon Street (Offices, formerly house)* and connected with a slight dogleg to the northern part of Carnarvon Street. A second parallel vehicle track ran to the west past the *Old Lockup*. The present sealed roadway in Carnarvon Street is located between these two extremes. The 1943 aerial suggests that the area between the two vehicle tracks was once utilized in the same manner as that within the two parts of Carnarvon Street in Area 1. The patterning suggests lots with buildings along both street frontages.

Analysis of aerial photographs suggests the Asian occupation was quite mixed in character. There is some evidence for the long narrow 'shanty town' type occupation seen in Area 1 fronting onto Napier Terrace and the northern part of Shiba Lane. The Napier Terrace Cottages are extant examples of this type of development, which seems confined to the cottages and the adjacent parts of Lots 14 and 15. The main pattern for the rest of the 'Native Quarter' appears to be for small cottages with large out-houses to the rear, or for larger rectangular free standing houses.

The historical and archaeological evidence suggests that evidence for European owned and occupied settlement is located in:

- The Dampier Terrace frontage of Lots 73 and 74. Both lots have been disturbed by recent building modifications still underway in early 2001. The yard to the north of the *Old Pearler's House* on Lot 74 has been subjected to some grading but the disturbance does not appear to be extensive. The residence itself is undergoing extensive modifications and has been extended on the southern side. The extension is on piles and therefore while it would have disturbed the site of the building which was next to the house it would not have completely removed it. The modifications to *Old Pearler's House* itself have not affected the stumps and underfloor deposits associated with the house.

Lot 73 was also being affected by building activity in early 2001. The activity appears to be concentrated in the same eastern half of the block as the archaeological sites. Although the builder has added soil to this part of the block that will partly protect the sites, it would be better if more soil was added to the depth of any new foundations.

- *Kennedy's Store* has archaeological deposits associated with its occupation underneath the building. It also is likely to have surviving deposits underneath the 1960s extension at the back and within the adjacent part of Shiba Lane. This part of the lane has been graded and widened, however the disturbance is not thought to have been severe enough to remove all artifacts.
- The Carnarvon Street frontage of Lots 70, 16 and 17 including areas now within the street verge. The two modern or recent buildings on Lots 70 and 16 both have the front part of the buildings raised above ground height. This arrangement would have minimized disturbance to the archaeological sites in this area.

Permission to access the lots was unable to be obtained therefore a metal detector survey was not carried out. However visual inspection revealed that the car park to the west of the National Bank has been slightly raised while that to the north has not been graded or levelled. Both actions would have helped minimize impact on the archaeological sites, which appear to relate to occupation on both sides of a narrow road.

*58 Carnarvon Street (Offices, formerly house)* was also built raised off the ground and artifacts associated with its occupation are visible underneath the house. The part of the lot in front of the house was cut down and graded when the house was first built. This may be why there are no older archaeological sites visible in the aerial photographs in front of the building as there are in the front of Lots 70 and 16. The parking area in front of the house appears to have been cut and graded again more recently and this may have removed deposits associated with the house in this area.

The car park to the south of the house however has had soil added to raise it to a height level with Frederick Street and this would have preserved sites in this area. The southwestern corner of Lot 17 has been levelled with the soil being pushed eastwards to form a level area to the south of the car park. This has left an area of disturbance with artifacts visible on the surface and an area where older sites are protected under new layers of soil. The visible artifacts appear to relate to approximately 1915 to 1925, which suggests that not all the archaeological record within the disturbed area has been removed.

The historical and archaeological evidence suggests that evidence for 'Shanty town' type occupation (narrow buildings built in long thin lines) is located in:

- *Napier Terrace Cottages* have artifacts relating to their occupation underneath and between the buildings. The area behind *Kinney's* has been disturbed and it is not expected that any archaeological deposits survive in this area.
- Behind the buildings on Lot 14 and the historic part of *Kennedy's Store*. The 1943 aerial photograph indicates that there was a 'shanty town' type development in this area (similar to the *Napier Terrace Cottages*) on Lot 14 and was orientated off a laneway at right angles to Shiba Lane behind *Kennedy's Store*. The 1960s extension to *Kennedy's Store* covers part of this area. The extension is on concrete footings and is not thought to have done extensive damage to the earlier sites. Much of the rest of the area lies under a driveway turnaround on Lot 14. This area was not surveyed with the metal detector but visible inspection suggested the driveway at least has had soil added to it rather than being cut into the ground. The turnaround also appeared not to be excessively levelled. Some of the sites visible in the 1943 aerial are still visible at the edge of the turnaround in the 2000 aerial suggesting that many of these sites have survived.

The archaeological evidence suggests that there was a second pattern of

small square cottages with rectangular outhouses and larger rectangular buildings associated with Asian occupation within this area. Evidence for this type of occupation lies:

- Along Shiba Lane. On the western side of the lane evidence for this type of occupation starts from a point immediately to the south of the rear of the National Bank and continues southward to Frederick Street. On the other side of the lane the evidence starts at the south of the house set in the centre of Lot 15. However the aerial photographic analysis suggests that the pattern in this area extended eastwards from Shiba Lane with another block of occupation running off a laneway at right angles to Frederick Street. Occupation of this area had ceased before 1943 and it is only visible as archaeological sites.

The newer building and its gardens in the centre of Lot 15 are thought to have removed archaeological evidence from this area. However, part of the 1943 buildings are visible as archaeological sites around the edges of the garden in the 2000 aerial. To the south of the garden boundary additional soil has been added to the area burying and protecting the Shiba Lane sites. The area of occupation off the Frederick Street laneway is also visible in the 2000 aerial, particularly near the driveway on Lot 14. This area is largely undisturbed except for one area that has been bulldozed into a heap.

#### Archaeological Area 3 - The Streeter and Male Precinct

This archaeological area is closely linked to pearling activities and in particular to the activities of the pearling company of Streeter and Male. The archaeological area comprises the land bounded by Carnarvon, Short and Gray streets. Along the foreshore it includes Lot 3067 and extends 60 metres eastward to areas associated with luggers located just within the mangrove fringe.

It does not include the relatively new concrete wharf adjacent to the boat yard and the disturbed ground immediately around it. It also does not include the large disturbed area on Lot 3067 where the crew accommodation used to stand. It does not include lots 43, 8 and 9 and parts of lot 42, 3 and 4 as these areas do not appear historically to be areas of major activity.

The area includes the standing heritage structures of:

*Old Residence Carnarvon Street.*

*Boat Yard and Slipway*

*Streeter's Jetty*

*Streeter and Male Stores*

Historical information shows that the occupation of the area bounded by the four roads was closely associated with Streeter and Male and to a lesser extent to other Broome pearlery such as Smith, Norman and Robinson. Streeter and Co purchased all of Lots 42 to 50 when they were created in 1889 except for Lot 43 which was purchased by Smith. This lot was later sold to Norman and never became part of the Streeter and Male complex. Streeter's originally purchased Lot 42 but part of the lot on the corner of Gray and Carnarvon Streets was re-sold in 1896. The rest of the

area bounded by the four roads was owned and used by Streeter & Co, which became Streeter and Male sometime around 1896.

The 1943 aerial shows a pattern of development associated which mainly forms an L shape running along Short Street and Dampier Terrace. There is also a pattern of small buildings traceable along the Carnarvon Street frontage.

The foreshore area was used for pearlers camps, crew accommodation, unloading and sorting pearl shell and lugger building and repair. *Streeter's Jetty* and its adjacent foreshore area have a strong association with Streeter and Male since the jetty was built. Other areas of the foreshore however had a more diverse ownership pattern connected to several pearlers. The *Boat Yard and Slipway* area has a long association with lugger building and repair but it did not become associated with Streeter's and Male until brought by Male & Co in 1946. While there is currently only one slipway, in 1943 a fan of slipways were associated with the area. The luggers entered the area via one channel through the mangroves which then split into several smaller channels fanning out to various points along the *Boat Yard* foreshore.

The historical and archaeological evidence suggests that evidence for the Streeter and Male and Male & Co complex is located in:

- Lots 50 and 21 which are dominated by the Streeter and Male store which is still extant. The extent of possible archaeological deposits under the store was unable to be determined from the street.
- In Lots 1, 48 and 12 located behind the main store buildings. In 1943 there was a small building on the corner of Short and Carnarvon streets with a larger building beside it fronting onto Carnarvon Street but running slightly behind the store buildings. There was a yard in the area behind this group of buildings fenced on the eastern side by an another building oriented in a north south direction. On the Dampier street frontage was another small building located directly behind the store.

Much of this area remains the same with only the two buildings on the corner and the Dampier Terrace building having been removed. Both the present buildings on Lots 1 and 20 are set on a thick layer of fill, which is likely to have preserved the sites of the two older buildings underneath them. The present building on Dampier Terrace may have impacted on the older site but is thought unlikely to have removed it. Much of the open area behind and beside the buildings does not appear to have been graded or substantially altered and it is thought likely that the archaeological record of activities within this area is largely intact.

- Lots 46 and 47 that contain the site of the Male house orientated with its long axis running parallel to Dampier Terrace. There was a second building nearby in the middle of the lots oriented mainly east west with an outhouse beside it. Aerial photographic analysis of the 2000 aerial suggests other smaller sites around the Male house but as one impinges on the house site they may be quite recent. Pindan has been added to most of the site, which will help protect it from disturbance.

Two other buildings that were probably toilets were all that lay to the north except along the Carnarvon Street frontage.

The historical and archaeological evidence suggests that evidence for the work areas associated with the luggers is located in:

- *Streeter's Jetty* and the adjacent foreshore. The jetty is still extant but the sorting shed has been removed. The site of the building and the area around it however appear undisturbed with thick layers of pearl shell visible particularly between the shed site and the jetty. Evidence for four other small buildings in the area was also noted in the aerial photographic analysis.
- *Boat yard and slipway*. The buildings within this complex date to after 1943 with the central shed over the present slipway being the oldest of the present buildings. The yard was levelled in the 1980s by filling the eastern part of the yard and holding it in place with a retaining wall. The western side of the yard has been cut down slightly but this grading may have occurred when the yard was first constructed. The construction of the new buildings is not thought to have impacted on the sites of older buildings and features associated with the use of the area before Male & Co brought it. The concrete wharf, also built in the 1980s, has impacted on the area around it and older metal and glass have been re-deposited on either side of the channel.

The historical and archaeological evidence suggests that evidence for house and yard complexes, which were probably the homes of pearlers, is located:

- Along the Carnarvon Street frontage. There are three buildings present in 1943 which appear to be small houses with yards around them. The *Old Residence Carnarvon Street*, which is not present in 1943, appears to be a continuation of this settlement type. The sites are located under the yard between the ANZ Bank and Liberty Liquor, on the front portion of Lot 4 between Liberty Liquor and *The Old Residence Carnarvon Street*, and on the portion of Lot 42 sold in 1896. Analysis of the 2000 aerial photograph suggests two additional sites around the site of the middle house that may represent housing built after 1943.

Much of the evidence of the pearling camps and crew accommodation not associated with Streeter and Male has been removed. Some evidence was located in:

- Lot 3067 next to the *Boat Yard and Slipway*. This area has been partly graded disturbing the archaeological deposits, which are visible as a scatter across a surface of added Pindan. Aerial photographic analysis suggest sites in this area were large mainly square buildings which were no longer extant by 1943. They suggest sheds and a work area rather than accommodation.
- Lot 3067 Dampier Terrace Frontage. There is surviving evidence of a linear 'shanty town' type settlement parallel to Dampier Terrace. Three separate clusters of linear sites could be detected as crop marks in aerial photographs and on the ground. The sites were not strongly

associated with metal, which suggests that the buildings were either bough type huts utilizing little metal in their construction or that they were removed rather than demolished on site. Again they are from an earlier phase of settlement than that shown in the 1943 aerial.

- Sub division of Lot 42. Two lines of the small linear sites were detected behind the 1943 house site. These features are older than the house site.

Evidence was found of the lugger areas and features associated with them. These were:

- Scatters of buried and visible artifacts in the fringes of the mangroves identified by the metal detector. The concentration closest to the Male wharf was mainly of 19<sup>th</sup> century glass.
- Concentrations of industrial metal located on the sand bar and at the end of the sand bar, on both sides of the 1980s retaining wall.
- A cluster of built features to the north of *Streeter's Jetty*. The first of these features, located in the mangroves near the sand bar was visible only as a crop mark and noticeable as a concentration of metal and glass. To the south was a large concrete pad, which was not noticeably associated with metal. Lying in the mangroves to the east of both sites was a concrete and wooden structure consisting of parallel lines of wood topped concrete walls approximately 40 cm high (Plate 1). There were four lines of wall, three of which were divided into three separate segments. The western wall was divided in two segments.

#### Archaeological Area 4 - The Foreshore

This archaeological area contains Chinatown's main area of pearling camps and lugger areas. It stretches from Stewart St to Lot 582 and extends eastward 60 metres from the eastern lot boundaries to include the area of the mangrove fringe to the east. Dampier Terrace forms the western boundary. It therefore contains a ribbon of higher ground fronting Dampier Terrace where the camps were located, an upper beach area and the mangrove fringe where the luggers were berthed. It contains several standing structures on the higher ground, none of which are heritage listed. These newer buildings are all on lots 437 to 582. These lots have all had a considerable amount of fill added to the sites before the buildings were constructed protecting the older sites from destruction.

The historical and archaeological evidence suggests that evidence for the pearling camps in this area is located:

- On the higher ground fronting Dampier Terrace. For much of this area the evidence is buried under a thick layer of fill underlying buildings and car parks fronting Dampier Terrace. The fill extends for approximately 10 metres from the back fences of the lots. At this point older artifacts can be found eroding out of the edge of the sand dune and deposits of metal pipes, (Photo 2) tramlines and concrete were found around the foot of the dune. The fill is approximately 1 metre thick near the back fence line but its depth may vary across the filled area. Part of Lot 437 has been

deeply excavated to provide a berth for two restored pearling luggers. This excavation would have removed any evidence of older occupation in much of the affected area.

Between Napier Terrace and Stewart Street the fill lies only under the car parks fronting Dampier Terrace. South of the car parks a thick layer of mainly 20<sup>th</sup> century artifacts can be seen eroding out of the foot of the sand dune. This layer is too thick to be the result of artifacts washing down from camping activities taking place at the top of the hill and the dune appears to have prograded westward covering older activities at its foot.

- On the high ground between Frederick and Stewart Streets located between the housing estate and the upper beach. Aerial photographic analysis has identified several sites in this area several of which are pre 1943. The sites are not aligned to street frontages and appear to be scattered almost randomly across the lower slopes of the dune.
- On the vegetated upper beach area. Three groups of sites were identified in this area. They all pre date 1943.

The historical and archaeological evidence suggests that evidence for the lugger areas will lie mainly in the mangrove fringe.

The position of the mangroves has changed since 1943 and there is evidence in the 1943 photograph that this position had also changed from that in the hey day of pearling. The mangroves have grown eastwards towards the town in the area between Streeter's Jetty and Scot's creek. The present mouth of Scot's creek lies further west than in 1943 and the edge of the mangroves to the south is also further west. However, opposite Frederick Street the mangroves have again grown eastward. The archaeological survey only penetrated the current fringe of mangroves for approximately one metre. The survey indicated the presence of buried metal all along the fringe and noted various areas of surface scatters of artifacts. The mangrove fringe contains:

- Evidence of an almost continuous spread of buried artifacts.
- Evidence of activities in the form of surface glass and sites detected through aerial photographic analysis.
- Two areas of glass were noted. The first, near the landing was of 19<sup>th</sup> century glass. It was in an area where aerial photographic analysis indicated the presence of two small pre 1943 buildings. The second was in the mangroves close to drainage reserve 40119 1857 and consisted of both concrete and 20<sup>th</sup> century glass (Photo 3).

Two other possible sites were noted to the north of Scot's Creek. Both show in the 1943 aerial as disturbed areas of mangroves. The larger appears to have been either a building or a square enclosure while the other is smaller and round in shape. Oral information supplied by Richard Baillieu of Pearl Luggers suggests there was a well at Scot's Creek that was filled in during 1942 using among other things, old diving equipment. These features may be associated with this well if it did indeed exist.

- Evidence of luggers in the form of a wreck lying near Scot's Creek (Photo 4).

## Archaeological Area 5 - Morgan's Camp

This archaeological area contains several pearling camps, what appears to be a boat repair area, former wells and an area of rubbish that may have been an early town rubbish dump. It comprises all the area between Gray Street and the mangrove fringe including the foreshore area associated with the boat yard to the north of the concrete wharf. The northern boundary of the area is 400 metres north of Gray Street. The eastern boundary is located 30 metres east of Lot 3067 and 40 metres northeast of Lot 435. The rest of the eastern boundary is placed at five metres inside the line of the mangrove fringe. For most of its length the western boundary is in line with the western end of Gray Street however the northwestern portion of the boundary is located five metres inside the mangrove fringe.

The archaeological area also contains the rubbish area, which is west of Paspaley's Shopping Centre. The area starts 30 metres south of the northern end of Lot 105 and extends SWW for 140 metres to a creek line. It then follows the creek line south for 60 metres then follows it east to meet Lot 105 at a large storm water outlet which feeds the creek.

It does not contain Lot 2213. While it contains some buildings none are heritage listed. It does however contain a site listed under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972.

Much of the area has not been disturbed and areas of fill are confined to the house and gardens fronting Chapple Street. Historical information shows that the area also contained the early town wells. It is not known if early pearling camps extended this far north but when pearlers initially started leasing areas of foreshore only the foreshore around and north of the *Boatyard and Slipway* was leased. This area and that around the town wells is therefore likely to contain the earliest evidence of historical activity within this archaeological area.

Evidence of activity in the area was found to cluster and therefore these clusters have been numbered and are listed below:

- Camp 1 - This area contains some former structures that were still standing in 1968. The area has been partly bulldozed into a heap but even in the area affected by this artifact removal has not been total. The rest of the area including the mangrove fringe contained relatively undisturbed deposits of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century artifacts including glass and metal.
- Camp 2 - This area contains some former structures that were still standing in 1943 as well as some aerial photograph evidence of earlier structures. The sites were not discernable but the area appears undisturbed.
- Camp 3- This area contains two more heaps of earth and artifacts bulldozed from the surrounding area. However this affected only part of the area of former structures, most noticeably that to the south of the main area of former buildings running in a southwesterly direction from Camp 1 to a mound of mainly metal artifacts on the site of a former

building near Chapple Street. The main area of former structures was covered with morning glory vine.

- Camp 4 - The mangrove fringe in this area has been used as a modern dump however to the west of the modern artifacts was a dump of 19<sup>th</sup> material. The line of early sites in this area is discernable as a low mound covered with morning glory. The metal detector survey indicated the presence of some metal but not a profusion of buried metal suggesting the sites either were structures such as bough sheds utilizing little metal or they were dismantled rather than demolished on site. Morning glory also covered the site of the 1943 structure in this area.
- Camp 5 - This area is a large area which may contain more than one cluster of occupation much of which is more recent than 1943. Certainly the main features of metal slipway, (Plate 5) dug out boat channel and scatters of large rails and glass are all post 1943. These post 1943 sites appear to relate to a boat repair area
- Camp 6 - This area is noticeable as a mounded area with 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century artifacts including Asian artifacts visible on the surface. There is also quite a bit of visible metal. The sites have a 'shanty town' appearance being relatively small and attached together in rows. The site of a 1943 house slightly to the west appears largely undisturbed and is covered by morning glory vine.
- Camp 7 - This area is currently occupied and there is a caravan on site. The area appears to have a history of continuous occupation with a complex of ten buildings in 1968 and three in 1943. There is also evidence of other sites in 1943 that could have been gardens or the former sites of older buildings.

The area of the 1960s complex has been graded and this may have affected some deposits in the area. Along the northern side of the graded area is a rubbish heap, which has been partly formed by bulldozing the area immediately to the east. Between this area and Camp 6 a scatter of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century artifacts are visible on the surface and more are visible in the rubbish heap. This suggests the grading has not removed all the evidence from the disturbed area.

Along the western edge of the disturbed area is a low wall. Deposits to the west of the wall and in the mangrove fringe do not appear to have been substantially disturbed. There are scatters of industrial metal in the mangroves and evidence of former buildings including a foundation. There appears to have been some reuse of concrete from a 1943 building that was located adjacent to the wall but there is no visible evidence of two other pre 1943 sites in the same area.

To the south of the disturbed area is a large rectangular flat earth mound covered with morning glory and containing a garden enclosure near its western end. This mound dates to sometime after 1968 therefore the former structures located on its eastern half are also quite recent. It partly overlies the site of a 1943 building and the features that may be gardens or pre 1943 structures. This complex is at the western end of the mound and extends past it to the west. In this area beyond the large mound is another smaller

rectangular mounded area where evidence for extensive metal deposits was discovered. This may be one of the features noted in the 1943 aerial photograph or it could be the result of later clearance operations dumping the material all in one place.

- Camp 8 - This area lies between the large rectangular mound and the garden of Lot 2213. Aerial photographic analysis indicates several sites of unknown date in this area at least some of which appear to be pre 1943. The sites have a 'shanty town' appearance being small and attached to each other in row like clusters. Most of the sites could not be seen by a surface survey but Asian ceramics were visible in an area that had been disturbed.
- Camp 9 - This area contains the four town wells and a scatter of features that could be former buildings or animal enclosures. Three of the wells were relatively short lived but the most southerly well was a main water source for quite some time. There is no surface evidence for any of these features however the 2000 aerial photograph shows a square crop mark in the location of the main well. Sites could not be visually defined in the field but there was a scatter of 19<sup>th</sup> century glass and metal across the lots.
- Camp 10 - This area contained a building in the 1960s and aerial photographic evidence for smaller shanty type structures. The shanty type structures were only noted around the edges of the area with none found near the site of the 1968 building. That part of the site is relatively flat and may have been graded before the 1960s structure was built. Some metal pipes and poles found on site are thought to be from this later structure. The areas suspected of containing older sites appeared undisturbed.
- Camp 11 - To the east of the Chapple Street houses is an overgrown area between the back fence of the house lots and the mangrove fringe. It contained low mounds covered with morning glory vines in the approximate positions of some of the sites noted in the aerial photographic analysis.
- Camp 12 - This area is an area of foreshore to the northeast of the *Boat Yard and Slipway*. Photographic analysis noted a 1943 structure and others of unknown date to the north of the *Boat Yard* fence. This area contained 20<sup>th</sup> century glass, lumps of concrete which appear to have been used as a moorings for boats and industrial metal (Photo 6). The area to the east of the fence in the mangrove fringe contained 19<sup>th</sup> century artifacts exposed on the surface (Photo 6).
- Camp 13 - Aerial photographic analysis indicated a group of six sites to the west of Lot 2213. Some of these sites were discernable in particular the site furthest to the west was situated on an earth mound in the mangrove fringe. All the sites were associated with 19<sup>th</sup> century glass, shell and metal.
- Camp 14 - Aerial photographic analysis indicated a concentration of sites in the area to the west of the Paspaley Shopping centre. In the area where sites were indicated Asian ceramics, pre 1925 glass and both

industrial and non industrial metal were found exposed on the surface. The industrial metal and Asian ceramics were confined to this area but older glass and metal were found scattered across a wide area. It is thought the artifact patterning reflects two different uses, the first as a pearling camp and the second as a town rubbish tip.

#### Archaeological Area 6 - Mixed Use Precinct

This archaeological area contained the old courthouse and lockup fronting Carnarvon Street. On Napier Terrace were the Japanese club and hot baths, and both Asian and white run retail outlets. The Hamersley and Frederick street frontages of the archaeological area are likely to have contained housing for white, Japanese and Chinese people. Modern buildings within this archaeological area, except for those on lots 18 and 25 have removed older sites within their vicinity. However they appear to be set further back from the street than the sites they replaced leaving a skirt of sites around the block in what is now forecourts and verge areas. The archaeological area therefore contains Lots 18, 52 and 20 and the forecourt area of lots 51, 22 and 23.

The area includes the standing heritage building of:

##### *Old Police Lockup*

The archaeological evidence suggests that sites associated with the police presence other than the Old Police Lockup still exist in Lot 18. These are:

- A square building which was to the northeast of the lockup which was still standing in 1943
- There is less defined evidence for pre 1943 structures to the east of the 1943 complex immediately in front of the current building on Lot 18 and in the Carnarvon Street driveway to the buildings on Lot 19.

The archaeological evidence also suggests that sites associated with the Japanese Club and the Napier Terrace retail outlets may still exist. The sites are:

- A long thin building on Lot 52 still standing in 1943 and a series of four small buildings associated with it which were no longer standing in 1943. These buildings have been tentatively identified as the Japanese Club but verification of this identification is required.
- A large site on Lot 20 (currently vacant) which is possibly the Japanese hot baths. This site may extend under the side of the front part of the Absolutely Fringe Arts building.
- Three sites in the forecourts of lots 51 and 22, which were no longer standing by 1943. These could possibly be the Misi Store, Tom Grimwood's "Hop Beer" shop and Bunces Tearooms.

Evidence for housing appears to be confined to the southwestern corner of the archaeological area. The sites are:

- Aerial photographic analysis suggests the presence of two pre 1943 sites in front of Lot 23 between the footpath and Hamersley Street.

- It also suggests a third site on the corner spanning the current footpath. This site would have faced Frederick Street.

### 13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

*Chinatown Conservation Area* Broome is unique as a large precinct associated with the Australian pearling industry for several reasons. It is not closely comparable with other relics of that industry because there was never another pearling centre of comparable importance to Broome.

There are other areas in Australia now called Chinatowns; however those in Melbourne, Sydney (and now even Adelaide) consisting chiefly of Asian specialty shops and American-style “Chinese” restaurants (usually in quite ordinary city buildings) are late 20th century developments specifically for tourism purposes; whereas *Chinatown Conservation Area* Broome (although “discovered” and expanded for tourism since the 1980s) began a century earlier as a working port and commercial zone, thus creating an entirely different significance. Lord McAlpine’s interest in and international promotion of Broome in the 1980s was based on recognition of its uniqueness and cultural heritage significance in world terms. One notable indicator of Broome’s status in the Australian imagination and memory is the “exotic” internationally-published literature it inspired in the early-mid 20th century, e.g.: the novels *The Pearlers* by J. M. Harcourt and *The Widows of Broome* by Arthur Upfield, not to mention the recent controversial “non-fiction novel” *Broome Days* (2001).

*Streeeter and Male Stores, Broome Historical Museum and Old Police Lockup*, within the precinct are, together with Registered place P0298 *Broome Bowling Club* (former OTC Station), the only known pre-World War one concrete buildings in Broome.

A search of the HCWA database<sup>132</sup> identified 10 pre-World War One concrete buildings in the Gascoyne, Pilbara and Kimberley regions (the ‘Northwest’), consisting of two gaols, two lighthouses, two houses, two hotels, one hall and one church.

The HCWA database lists 60 commercial constructed prior to World War One, of which 5 are precincts, 28 are shops or retail premises and 4 are shopping complexes. Outside of those already noted in Chinatown, none of the shops listed are of concrete construction.<sup>133</sup> Esplanade Hotel, Port Hedland, was originally constructed in 1904, with later major reconstructions in 1939 and the 1970s following cyclone damage. While the Municipal Inventory record is not clear, it appears that the 1904 building was of brick, and it is later additions that are concrete. Newman War Memorial, Newman Club, Newman, is listed as a concrete construction including a hotel, but no information is available as to whether the hotel or the memorial use concrete.

<sup>132</sup> HCWA database, 2 April 2004.

<sup>133</sup> Municipal Inventory records and HCWA place files were accessed to identify construction materials for places without a construction material listed in the database.

*Streeeter and Male Stores* is rare as an early concrete commercial building in the Northwest.

#### **14 PRINCIPLES RELATING TO THE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

*Chinatown Conservation Area* Broome, should be entered as a precinct in the Register of Heritage Places. The information in this documentation is designed to provide the first part of a conservation plan for the area, and a conservation plan should be completed.

There should be no demolition of any significant places within the precinct. The character of the precinct can be not merely retained, but significantly enhanced and retrieved. Development guidelines should be improved. When possible, recent alterations which have diminished the authenticity of the precinct, such as removal of rail lines, inappropriate statuary and tourist attractions, and other developments associated with “streetscaping” should be reversed. When the opportunity arises for redevelopment of sites which have been subjected to late 20th century building infill, new structures should be sympathetic in scale and texture, unlike almost all these latter structures and places. Improving the quality of the precinct through future control over redevelopment of areas infilled in the late 20th century is a major reason for registering the whole precinct including subsections which are currently of low heritage value. This does not amount to a brake on economic development, as the traditional texture of the precinct was dense and there was previously a high level of commercial activity, and furthermore sympathetic development will enhance long-term tourist appeal.

The Local Government Authority and HCWA should adopt a policy that whenever a development application is made for any place within the precinct other than those specifically identified and italicised in this documentation, an assessment should be commissioned to ascertain whether the place is of some significance or is intrusive. The replacement of intrusive elements with more sympathetic structures should be encouraged, subject to consideration of preserving archaeological potential and resources.

#### **15. AREAS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH**

Detailed information on occupations of landowners and tenants could possibly be ascertained by further research.

It may be possible, through further research, to establish construction dates for some of the buildings which are not on already individually registered places. It was beyond the scope of this study to identify all the (potentially, hundreds of) places of low significance or intrusive aspect. Unless a comprehensive study can be commissioned, this issue should be addressed by researching and assessing places within the precinct one-at-a-time in the context of development proposals (see 14. above).

Archaeological research could be continued, particularly to investigate structures no longer extant, eg. Former Customs Shed and houses.

*Hanoë's Cottage, Old Tang Wei Café & Residence, Shekki Shed Gallery, Male Sheds & Jetty*, as part of the Chinatown Conservation Area, should be the subject of further research subsequent to receipt of any development application.

## **16. REFERENCES**

National Trust Assessment Exposition, July 1982.

ERM Mitchell McCotter, Landscan and Heritage Conservation Professionals, Chinatown Development Strategy, unpublished report prepared for the Shire of Broome, April 1995.