



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

The place does not have the cultural heritage significance required to meet the condition for entry in the State Register under section 38 of the Heritage Act 2018

1. **DATA BASE No.** 4226
2. **NAME** Gwalla Precinct, Northampton
3. **LOCATION** Town of Northampton, features mostly adjacent to Hampton Road and Gwalla Street
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
See Schedule A.
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Shire of Northampton
6. **CURRENT OWNER**

Appleton, Denise Joanne
Arthurs, Celia Zambales
Arthurs, Graham John
Ashby, Murray Kenneth
Balaam, Gladys Ethel
Balaam, Norman Alfred
Barnden, Gwendoline Elizabeth
Bates, Anthony John
Bazergui, Jean-Pierre
Beckman, Graham Rex
Beckmann, Kevin Albany
Bendikas, Jacqueline
Bendikas, Wayne
Blight, Adelina Bordaje
Blight, Sharon Margaret
Bodey, Josephine
Briers, Lauren
Briers, Pieter Geoffrey
Brittain, Michelle Tracey
Browning, Iris Ursula
Browning, Leslie Alan
Burnham, Rowena Rose

Eccleston, Peter Andrew
Feletti, Susan Mary
Ferrell, Janelle Renee
Ferris, Rachael Leanne
Ferris, William Hugh
Flutey, Angela Jayne
Foster, Marie Dorothy
Gale, Mark Ernest
Gale, Sally Sheila
Gorton, Anthony Edward
Gorton, Karen Louise
Graham, Ronald Perry
Grantham, Shane Desmond
Gwalla Developments Pty Ltd
Harman, Louise Ann
Harris, Valerie
Hawes, John Kim
Hawes, Noelene Rae
Hawksley, David John
Hawksley, Marlene Susan
Hellmrich, Margaret Lynn
Hellmrich, Peter John

Burnham, Terence Cecil
Casley, Lynette
Claxton, Tania Marie
Clifton, Benjamin Marshall
Clifton, Denise Gae
Clifton, Marshall Norman
Colley, John Frederick
Colley, Pamela Dawn
Craggs, Kerry Leanne
Craggs, Owen Martin
Cripps, Alan John
Cripps, Jeanann
Cripps, Roslyn Gail
Cripps, Terrence Noel
Cross, Gregory Allan
Cross, Hannah May
Ct & L Woodcock & Son Pty Ltd
Dance, Marlyn Joan
De Rooy, Debra
Denney, Maureen Maud
Denney, Robert Alfred
Downes, Kim Steven
Drage, Lexi
Drage, Noelene Lilian
Drage, Simon John Allan
Drummond, Joyce
Dymock, Rodney James
Eccleston, Erica Jane

Mollyduker Pty Ltd
Morgan, Brian Rodney
Morgan, Yvonne Beryl
Morphett, Graham Peter
Morris, Anthony Phillip
Morris, Jo-Anne Elsie
Murchison Region Aboriginal
Corporation
Neilson, Geoffrey Murray
Norman, Karl James
Northampton-Kalbarri Health Service
O'keefe, Ronald William
Olman, Cathryn Winifred
Olman, Stewart James
Oxley, John Leonard
Oxley-Weelink, Maria Helena
Payne, David
Payne, Edith Mary
Pearce, Richard Stephan
Pearman, Angela Maria
Peterson, Betty Violet

Hicks, Gary Raymond
Hicks, Shane Troy
Hilzinger, Roderick James
Hooper, Peta Jane
Hose, William
Hughes, Wayne Frederick
Jobson, Angela
Jobson, Norman John
Johnson, Neville John
Jones, Kerry Joy
Latimer, Andrew Joseph Julius
Latimer, Sarah Elise
Lennard, Joyce
Leroy, Andrew Gerard
Lucev, Brock Christopher
Lumsden, Peter James
Madigan, Allan
Mahony, Matthew Kevin
Main Roads Wa
Marling, Dennis John
Marling, Joan Florence
Martin-Carabes, Amanda Nicole
Masiello, Nicole Marie
Mccracken, David James
Mccracken, Karen Ann
Mckeown, Michael John
Meagher, Kimberley Ian
Mitchell, Athol Henry

Peterson, Deborah
Peterson, Robert John
Pluschke, Mary Jean
Porter, Vivian Roy
Ralph, Frances Anne
Ramonfosse, Robert Jean Ernest
Reid, Angela
Reid, Colin
Renwick, Joanne Jillian
Reynolds, Scott Wayne
Rintoul, Scott Joseph
Rob, Colin David
Robinett, Amphai
Robinett, Brent Francis
Scott, Mark Reginald
Seeber, David Derick Maxwell
Sellers, Vivienne Anne
Shaw, Keith Lawrence
Shepherd, Guy Harvey
Shire Of Northampton
Sidebottom, Lee Marie

Simkin, Graham Keith
 Simkin, Robin Lilian
 Smith, Anthony Francis
 Smith, Bethwyn Lee
 Smith, Gail Elizabeth
 Smith, Janette Maree
 Smith, Terrence James
 Smith, Trevor Frank
 Sommer-Stinson, Heidetraut Hildegard
 Standen, Clayton Robert
 Standen, Sandra Leanne Stock
 Standen, Valerie Francis
 Starling, James Joseph
 State Of Western Australia
 Stevens, Angela Theresa
 Stevens, John Patrick
 Stinson, David Wayne
 Stone, Karen Lee-Ann
 Stone, Martin John
 Tarchini, Nicholas Mark
 Taylor, Mark
 Teakle, Haydn Kitchener

Teakle, Maria
 The State Housing Commission
 Thomason, Erica Roslyn
 Thomason, Wade Steven
 Tunbridge, Michael Brett
 Verhoeff, Glenn Ross
 Walker, Jane Ellen
 Walton-Tewes, Dennis Troy
 Ward, Susan Faye
 Water Corporation
 Watkins, Heather Amelia
 Watson, Michael
 Waugh, Debra Lee
 Waugh, Lloyd Leslie
 Williams, Cheryl Anne
 Wilson, Glenda June
 Wilson, Neville David
 Witcomb, Clasina Antoinetta Odilia
 Gemma
 Woodcock, John Desmond
 Woodcock, Wendy Rosalyn

7. HERITAGE LISTINGS

Register of Heritage Places:

| | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Individual Places | | |
| P1902 <i>Church & Cemetery, Gwalla</i> | Registered | 27 December 2002 |
| P12059 Geraldton – Northampton Railway Precinct | Assessed - Consultation | 23 July 2021 |

National Trust Classification:

Town Planning Scheme:

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| P1902 <i>Church & Cemetery, Gwalla</i> | Heritage List – Adopted | 15 May 2020 |
| P4625 Gwalla Mine Site | Heritage List – Adopted | 15 May 2020 |
| P9006 Gwalla Railway Station (fmr) | Heritage List – Adopted | 15 May 2020 |
| P9050 Horrock's Walls, Gwalla | Heritage List – Adopted | 15 May 2020 |

Municipal Inventory:

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------|---------|---------------|
| Individual Places | | |
| P1902 <i>Church & Cemetery, Gwalla</i> | Adopted | 15 May 2020 |
| P4625 Gwalla Mine Site | Adopted | 19 April 1996 |
| P9004 Gwalla Stone Ruins | Adopted | 19 April 1996 |
| P9005 Camp Hill (Southern Mine, Gwalla) | Adopted | 19 April 1996 |
| P9006 Gwalla Railway Station (fmr) | Adopted | 19 April 1996 |
| P9050 Horrock's Walls, Gwalla | Adopted | 19 April 1996 |
| P17786 Gwalla Cemetery | | |

Register of the National Estate:

Aboriginal Sites Register:

8. ORDERS UNDER SECTION OF THE ACT

9. HERITAGE AGREEMENT

10. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Gwalla Precinct, Northampton, a historic precinct comprising ruins, archaeological sites and a cemetery, including Gwalla Mine (1859), Gwalla Church and Cemetery (1861), Stone Cottages of the Gwalla Village (1860s), Stone Boundary Walls (1860s), First Railway Station Site (1879), and archaeological deposits at Camp Hill, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the historic precinct was established from 1859 by Joseph Horrocks, a former Imperial convict, later a medical practitioner and champion of the underprivileged, who played an important role in the social and economic development of the Northampton area, which was influential in the economic development of the State;

the historic precinct was built as a deliberate attempt to create a village community associated with the Gwalla Mine, and is considered to be the only one of its type in Western Australia;

Gwalla Church was the first church in Northampton, and is rare as a nineteenth century non-denominational church provided by one man for the benefit of the community;

the historic precinct contains relatively undisturbed archaeological deposits with the potential to reveal additional information about early settlement, including the spatial layout of Joseph Horrocks' unique attempt at establishing a 'mining community', and the associated mining activities;

elements of the historic precinct have aesthetic value as ruins, and the location of Gwalla Church and Cemetery on high ground is visually important in the Northampton landscape;

Gwalla Mine, a copper mine, was one of the earliest and, at the time, most profitable mines established in the district;

the historic precinct provides evidence of the first Western Australian Government Railway, which was constructed between Northampton (Gwalla) and Geraldton, opening in 1879, and of the extension of the railway to Ajana in 1913, which resulted from a revival of mining in the area at this time; and,

Gwalla Cemetery was the first to be established in the Northampton district, and is the final resting place of many of Northampton's early European settlers, including Joseph Horrocks and Samuel Mitchell.

The new housing within the fields around Gwalla Church or across the fields which give a direct view to Gwalla Mine from Gwalla Church is considered to be intrusive.



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11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Cultural heritage significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for individuals or groups within Western Australia.

In determining cultural heritage significance, the Heritage Council has had regard to the factors in the *Heritage Act 2018* and the indicators adopted on 14 June 2019.

11(a) Importance in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of Western Australia's history

The development of *Gwalla Precinct, Northampton* and Gwalla Mine, which was its centrepiece, played an important role in development of Northampton and of Western Australia's early mining industry. The development of a mining industry represented an important goal for the colony's early settlers as the export of mineral wealth was considered to be vital to the ongoing survival and success of the colony.

Gwalla Precinct, Northampton was built as a deliberate attempt to create a village community associated with Gwalla Mine.

Along with other mines that form the Northampton Mineral Field, *Gwalla Precinct, Northampton* contributed to the development of the Mid West Region and the economic development of the State.

Gwalla Church, established in 1861, and partly demolished in 1929, was the first church in the Northampton district, and the only non-denominational church to be constructed in Northampton. With its last regular service being held in 1913, Gwalla Church served the community for 52 years before being replaced by sectarian churches.

Gwalla Cemetery (c.1861) was the first of three cemeteries to be opened in Northampton and, like the church, is non-sectarian in nature.

The First Railway Station – opened 1879, demolished 1935 – provides evidence of the first Western Australian Government Railway, which was constructed between Northampton (Gwalla) and Geraldton, and indicated the importance the Colonial Government placed on the mineral wealth of the district.

The site of the Stone Cottages and associated archaeological deposits are the only remnants of Gwalla Village, which when constructed in the 1860s appears to have

been the catalyst that led planning authorities to lay out the more permanent centre of Northampton in its current location.

11(b) Importance in demonstrating rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of Western Australia's heritage

Gwalla Precinct, Northampton is considered to be the only nineteenth century mining town in Western Australia where the mine management deliberately set about providing social services and creating a community for its workforce.

The establishment of a non-denominational church is in itself unusual in the development of nineteenth century settlements, as religion was such a strong social value, and the development of sectarian churches was often an initial phase in the building of a town.

11(c) Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Western Australia's history;

Much of the story of the Gwalla community is obscured below the surface or scattered across it in the form of artefacts and archaeological features. These various archaeological remains over the whole of *Gwalla Precinct, Northampton* can provide information about those who lived and worked in this historic precinct during the 1860's. Artefacts and sub-surface archaeological features associated with the Stone Cottages may also be able to indicate how long the cottages remained in use after the closure of Gwalla Mine, or whether their function altered.

Gwalla Precinct, Northampton, built by Horrocks as a deliberate attempt to create a village community associated with Gwalla Mine, contains intact archaeological sites and features with the ability to provide information about the spatial layout of Horrocks 'community' ideal.

The archaeological remains at the Camp Hill site have the potential to reveal information about early mining practices in Northampton and, the cottage site remains may provide information about the lifestyles of the residents.

11(d) Its importance in demonstrating the characteristics of a broader class of places;

Gwalla Precinct, Northampton is one of several mine sites that contributes to the mining industry and development of the Northampton area and wider Mid West region.

11(e) Any strong or special meaning it may have for any group or community because of social, cultural or spiritual associations;

Gwalla Precinct, Northampton is an important remnant of the early mining history of the Northampton district, which was critical in the establishment of European settlement in the area.

Joseph Horrocks has become an important figure in the oral history of the Northampton community, and *Gwalla Precinct, Northampton* contributes to this community's sense of place for its strong associations with him.

11(f)¹ Its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by any group or community;

Elements of *Gwalla Precinct, Northampton* have aesthetic value as ruins. Gwalla Church and Cemetery occupy an elevated position above the town of Northampton and, although the diminishment of the Gwalla Church steeple has decreased the prominence of this ruin, the site retains strong visual links to the community Horrocks created at Gwalla.

The effects of the mining process on the surrounding landscape are evident in the vicinity of Gwalla Mine, in particular the form of the scree slope on the western side of the site and the barren quality of the landscape in this area.

11(g) Any special association it may have with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in Western Australia's history;

Gwalla Precinct, Northampton was established by Joseph Horrocks, a former Imperial Convict who owned and managed several mines in the district and was important in the development of Northampton. Horrocks practiced as a medical doctor, provided social facilities for his employees, and established a sustenance work scheme to provide for the unemployed, and is remembered as a champion of the sick and underprivileged.

The cemetery is the final resting place of many of Northampton's early European settlers, including Joseph Horrocks and Samuel Mitchell.

11(h) Its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement;

Gwalla Mine, which operated consistently from 1858 to 1868, and intermittently thereafter, was one of the earliest and, at the time, most profitable mines established in the district, and was considered to contain some of the best examples of copper bearing ore in the newly established Northampton Mineral Field.

¹ For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, R., Irving, R., Reynolds, P. *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture. Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus and Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

For consistency, all references to garden and landscape types and styles are taken from Ramsay, J. *Parks, Gardens and Special Trees: A Classification and Assessment Method for the Register of the National Estate*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1 CONDITION

Remaining elements of *Gwalla Precinct, Northampton* are predominantly ruins, and some elements such as the former train line are significantly overgrown with vegetation. There has been some disturbance of archaeological remains, although the deposits at Camp Hill are relatively undisturbed. The Stone Cottage remains are understood to have been significantly impacted by the construction of modern housing, however some remains may be scattered or in situ in the surrounds of these properties.

Conservation works were undertaken on Gwalla Cemetery's perimeter walls in 1998-99 and involved the stabilisation of the walls by reconstructing collapsed sections, using original materials and the replacement of sections of capping. The graves are in poor condition.

Gwalla Church has been stabilised and is in good condition as a ruin.

12.2 INTEGRITY

This section explains the extent to which the fabric is in its original state.

Gwalla Precinct, Northampton comprises ruins, archaeological sites and a cemetery. Features within the precinct range from being heavily disturbed to fairly intact.

Although Gwalla Church has been largely demolished and is not in its original state, the fabric of the building has not been added to and what does remain is original fabric used to construct the building in 1861. The church therefore has a moderate degree of integrity.

Although many of the enclosures marking burial sites at Gwalla Cemetery have either been removed or replaced, the wall and the burials themselves are intact and they are considered to have high integrity.

No structural elements remain extant at Gwalla mine, however there are remnants scattered across the site dating to the original period of construction. It is difficult to determine the original location and construction techniques of the structures and mining areas without further investigation. The Gwalla mine site has a low degree of integrity.

The integrity of archaeological deposits associated with *Gwalla Railway Station (fmr)* is low. The site has been subject to a high degree of disturbance that has removed or compromised the archaeological context. The likelihood of stratified archaeological deposits is low. The integrity of the former loading platform is high. This structure was probably built as part of the 1879 development and has remained largely as constructed since that time.

The Stone Cottages have been significantly impacted by the construction of modern housing. Some intact deposits and material may remain in the surrounds of these properties. The cottages have a low degree of integrity.

12.3 AUTHENTICITY

This section explains the extent to which the original intention is evident, and the compatibility of current use.

All of the structures associated with the sites making up *the Gwalla Precinct, Northampton* are in either a ruinous condition or they are no longer extant. Therefore, in general their heritage authenticity is considered to be low, with two exceptions.

Although Gwalla Church is a ruin, the structure has been stabilised and a church service is held there annually. The building retains its original plan and continues to be used as a church. It is therefore considered to have moderate to high authenticity.

Gwalla Cemetery is in a poor condition and the location of many of the burials is not known, but is still recognisable as a burial ground and is considered to have moderate to high authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Supporting evidence has been taken from 'Gwalla Precinct, Northampton Conservation Plan' prepared by Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd for The Shire of Northampton in April 2000, with amendments and/or additions by the Heritage Council and the Department.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the Documentary Evidence refer to 'Gwalla Precinct, Northampton Conservation Plan' prepared by Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd for The Shire of Northampton in April 2000. Additional information is available in Gibbs, M (1997) 'Landscapes of Meaning: Joseph Lucas Horrocks and the Gwalla Estate, Northampton' in *Historical Traces: Studies in Western Australian History. Vol. 17.* pp. 35-60.

The region in which Northampton is situated was inhabited by Aboriginal people for tens of thousands of years, with anthropologist Tindale identifying the language group of this area as *Nanda* (also spelt *Nhanda*), of which a small number of speakers were still alive when Linguistic Anthropologist Blevins studied the language in 2000.² The traditional language of the *Nanda* was divided into three dialects, *Nhata* to the north, *Watchandi* in the centre around Port Gregory and a dialect of *Amangu* in the south.³ A distinctive feature of the Aboriginal culture of this area was the use of large, bush timber shelters, backed with thick mud to create weatherproof huts that were arranged in family groups.⁴

In 1839 these Aboriginal groups came into contact with Captain George Grey, a British explorer who had been stranded at Gantheaume Bay after his boats and provisions were lost, who with his men trekked some 160 kilometres back to Perth.⁵ Grey made notes of his journey, including the distinctive huts, as well as giving the British names of Hutt and Bowes to the rivers of the area. On his return to Perth, Grey described the "extensive tracts of fertile country" in the area and advocated British settlement.⁶

In 1848 an expedition by Augustus Gregory of the Colonial Surveyors Department to the area resulted in the discovery of galena (lead sulphide) in the bed of the Murchison River. A group of Perth merchants formed a company named the 'Geraldine Mining Company' and mining operations began almost immediately.⁷ The establishment of the Geraldine Lead Mine provoked much excitement for the future of the struggling colony.⁸ The exploitation of minerals and expansion of agriculture were the only ways in which the Colony could develop, and the Government offered what assistance it could afford in the way of infrastructure with

2 Blevins, J, *Nhanda: An Aboriginal Language of Western Australia*, University of Hawai'i Press, Honolulu, 2001.

3 *ibid.*

4 Gratte, S, *The Aboriginal History of Geraldton (Jambinu)*, Geraldton Regional Library, 2015, pp. 2-3

5 'Grey, Sir George (1812-1898)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, website visited 13 June 2019, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/grey-sir-george-2125>

6 'Expedition to the Northward', *The Perth Gazette and Western Australian Journal*, 8 February 1840, p. 23

7 Gibbs, M, 1997, *The Technology of Colonial Ore Processing in Western Australia: The Warribanno Lead Smelter*. Australasian Historical Archaeology. Vol. 15. p.56.

8 For more details see, HCWA Assessment 03455 *Geraldine Lead Mine*.

the provision of soldiers for protection and the establishment of a port at Port Gregory.⁹

Further mineral discoveries in the area took place in 1855, when a shepherd working for Champion Bay pastoralist, James Drummond, discovered copper near Wanerenooka Spring.¹⁰ Having already attempted to mine at White Peak, Drummond took another chance with the financial backing of successful merchant, George Shenton, and opened the Wanerenooka Mining Company. Shenton established himself as the first chemist in Perth and invested in a number of mining ventures in the Geraldton area.¹¹ Within a year, mining operations had commenced.

Concurrent with the development of mining in the area was the growth and consolidation of pastoralism and the opening up of the Victoria District. It was recognised early that the success of both the mining and pastoral industries, and in particular the construction of transportation routes, was dependent on the provision of labour and in 1853 a convict hiring depot was established at Lynton near Port Gregory.¹² Between 1853 and 1857 numerous ticket-of-leave men were distributed to various employers as miners, shepherds, and farm hands. Others were involved in public works and once they had earned their pardons many former convicts settled in the Northampton district.¹³

Joseph Horrocks, who had received his ticket-of-leave in June 1853 took up the post of Superintendent at the newly opened Wanerenooka Mine in 1856.¹⁴ Whilst at Wanerenooka, Horrocks established a general store and in December 1859, took on the role of postmaster of the district. Horrocks also acted as an agent for George Shenton and appears to have also worked with him in purchasing other land portions in the Victoria District with mining potential.¹⁵

Cornish-born, Joseph Horrocks, was transported to Western Australia in 1852 after being convicted of forgery. Before his conviction, he owned a merchandising business and served in the Royal Navy as a sick berth attendant.¹⁶ He was considered to have some medical knowledge because of this and was soon sent northward as the medical attendant at the Convict Hiring Depot at Port Gregory, then sent back to Fremantle before his ticket-of-leave when he returned to the Mid West.¹⁷

- 9 Appleyard, R.T., 'Western Australia: Economic and Demographic Growth, 1850-1914', in Stannage, op. cit., pp. 227-33.
- 10 Gibbs, M., 1997, 'Landscapes of Meaning: Joseph Lucas Horrocks and the Gwalla Estate, Northampton' in J. Gregory (ed), *Historical Traces*, University of Western Australia Press, Nedlands, p. 39.
- 11 J. H. M. Honniball, 'Shenton, George (1811-1867)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/shenton-george-2654/text3703>, published first in hardcopy 1967, accessed online 1 June 2021.
- 12 Considine and Griffiths Architects, 1995, *Warribanno Lead Smelter Complex Conservation Plan*, p.3.
- 13 Bruce Callow & Associates Pty Ltd & T. Suba, 1996, *Shire of Northampton Municipal Inventory*, for the Shire of Northampton. p. 24.
- 14 Government Gazette, 14 March 1856 as cited in Considine and Griffiths Architects, 2000, 'Gwalla Precinct, Northampton Conservation Plan', p. 8.
- 15 Gibbs, M., 1994, 'An archaeological survey and assessment of the Gwalla and Wanerenooka Mine Precincts, Northampton, Western Australia, prepared for the Shire of Northampton, p. 14, as cited in Considine and Griffiths Architects, 2000, op cit., p.11.
- 16 Gibbs, M., 1997, op cit., p. 39.
- 17 *ibid.*

In 1858, an Aboriginal man reported a discovery of copper to Horrocks, roughly three kilometres south of the Wanerenooka mine.¹⁸ After inspecting the lode and realising the potential, Horrocks laid claim to the area and established a new mine, which he named 'Gwalla'. It was not long before production commenced in April 1859.¹⁹

Gwalla Mine was spread over six locations in the Victoria District; Locations 140, 141, 250, 315 and 359. While Horrocks was recognised as the owner of the mine, George Shenton also owned portions, having initially purchased Location 315 on 6 January 1858, where the centre of the mine was located.²⁰ Shortly after this purchase, it was noted in the *Government Gazette* that Gwalla mine had opened.²¹ Horrocks, who was initially unsuccessful in the purchase of Location 331, acquired it later by March 1861 where a mining area, known as 'Camp Hill', was established. The first reference to 'Camp Hill' comes from R.D. Hutchinson in his 1897 publication, where he reports that the mine operated on the 'south-west portion of the block'.²² While rich ore was recovered in some areas of the Camp Hill Mine, the quantity was not sufficient enough to warrant focusing work here. Horrocks also purchased Location 315 from Shenton prior to 1863, together with Locations 140, 141 and 359.²³

During its limited period of operation, between 1858 and 1868, the Gwalla Mine was one of the richest copper mines in the Northampton Mineral Field. It was noted that the quality of ore was very high and was so pure that it could be bagged and shipped out without having to be dressed. The mine returned good profits, despite the presence of water in the shafts which slowed worked down as time was spent bailing it out.²⁴

Horrocks was known and well regarded by the local community.²⁵ Due to his medical knowledge, he continued to practice medicine at Wanerenooka and later Gwalla, where he established a mining settlement for his miners. He was colloquially known as 'Dr Horrocks'. Horrocks appeared to care about the miners in his employ and the people in his community. Horrocks is considered 'the first person to transport skilled Cornish miners and their families to Western Australia'.²⁶ At that time, they were considered to be the best hard-rock miners in the world and presumably being Cornish himself was further reason Horrocks sought to transport such workers over.

- 18 Suba, T., 1993, 'The Thematic History of the Town of Northampton', prepared for the Shire of Northampton.
- 19 CSO; letters received, December 1860, Acc. 36, CSR Vol. 494/184, SROWA, as cited in Considine and Griffiths Architects, 2000, op cit., p. 8.
- 20 Applications to purchase Crown Lands, Cons. 5,000 Item 35/5, WAS 1837, SROWA, as cited in Considine and Griffiths Architects, 2000, op cit., p. 11.
- 21 *Government Gazette*, 18 June 1858, as cited in Considine and Griffiths Architects, 2000, op cit., p. 11.
- 22 Hutchinson, R.D., 1897, 'The Great Lead and Copper District of Westralia' in G. Hope, *The Murchison Goldfields*, Pt. 1, p.29 as cited in Considine and Griffiths Architects, 2000, op cit., p. 30.
- 23 Certificate of Title Vol. 356 Fol. 60. Issued to Sir George Shenton and Ernest Chawner Shenton, trustees for the estate of George Shenton, on 18 December 1909; DOLA; Memorial VI/1510, dated 8 September 1863. All of his Gwalla lands were mortgaged to Shenton at this time. As cited in Considine and Griffiths Architects, 2000, op cit., p. 11.
- 24 Hutchinson, R.D., 1897, op cit., p. 13.
- 25 Pike, D., 1972, *Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol. 4 (1851-1890)*, University Press, Melbourne, p. 426 as cited in Considine and Griffiths Architects, 2000, op cit., p. 8.
- 26 Kelly, G.J., 1962, 'The History of Mining in the Geraldton District', *Early Days: Journal and Proceedings of the Western Australian Historical Society*, Vol. 8, No. 1, pp. 78-96 as cited in Gibbs, M, 1997, op cit., p. 42.

Gwalla Estate, as it was known, had surveyed streets and whitewashed walls lining and defining avenues.²⁷ Many of the walls were constructed from field stone by unemployed miners that were hired as part of sustenance schemes that Horrocks had established during slow mining periods.²⁸ Portions of the whitewashed walls remain along the corner of Gwalla Street and Third Avenue as well as Seventh Avenue at Camp Hill. As noted by Drew,

[Horrocks] laid out areas for settlement, had streets surveyed and in process of time whitewashed walls 3ft. 9in. in height on both sides of these avenues of traffic defined their course. Also for nearly a mile before entering Gwalla the traveller from Champion Bay would pass along a thoroughfare similarly walled except that in this case there was a coating of plaster instead of whitewash. These white walls with the indigenous jam and wattle and eucalyptus tree left undisturbed in the immediate background as part of the plan of beautification producing a lasting impression of the picturesqueness of the scene on the mind of the visiting stranger.²⁹

For his workers, Horrocks constructed two-roomed cottages, made of stone and pug (clay). The cottages were evenly spaced across the ridge and into the valleys of the northern part of the estate on Locations 315 and 141.³⁰ A barracks complex to house single men was constructed away from the married cottages, which were leased to miners. The mine captain and foreman were located adjacent to the main mine operations. Several small cottages were also marked at Camp Hill, Location 331, in a c.1907 plan of the estate.³¹ This area remains largely undeveloped today and has archaeological potential to reveal information about the construction and use of these cottages.

Early histories suggest Horrocks intended his mining settlement to resemble an English town with housing, communal gardens and orchards provided for his workers. Archaeological surveys carried out in the mid to late 1990s uncovered several irrigation and drainage ditches leading down-slope from the mine for channelling water out of the shafts and into the gardens and orchards.³² Documentary evidence indicates Horrocks and his townspeople were also experimenting with crops such as tobacco, hops, wheat, fruit and sugar cane at both Wanerenooka and later Gwalla.³³ A 1930s memoir indicates many of the cottages had small gardens attached as well as the larger communal garden to the west.³⁴

It is not clear how many miners Horrocks employed at Gwalla and how many families moved to the settlement. Secondary sources suggest that between the

27 Suba, T., 1993, op cit., p. 52.

28 Gibbs, M., 2010, *Landscapes of Redemption: Tracing the Path of a Convict Miner in Western Australia*, *International Journal of Historical Archaeology*, Vol. 14, p. 601.

29 Drew, J.M., 1932, *Early Northampton: an undenominational church in Early Days*, *Journal of Royal Western Australian Historical Society*, Vol. 2, pt. 11, p. 33.

30 Gibbs, M., 2010, op cit., p. 600.

31 The plan was produced by an English syndicate that considered re-opening the mine, Gibbs, M., 1997, op cit., p. 45.

32 *ibid.*

33 Hutchinson, R.D., 1896?, 'The Murchison Goldfields: Northampton', supplement to the *Geraldton Guardian* (From the archives of the Northampton Historical Society) as cited in Gibbs, M, 1997, op cit., p. 44.

34 *ibid.*

years 1862 and 1865 Horrocks employed 60 Ticket-of-Leave men, including 27 miners, five carpenters, three cooks, an engineer, a blacksmith and a bootmaker.³⁵

In 1861, Horrocks established the first church in what would become Northampton on Lot 315 in Gwalla. 'Gwalla Church' was unique as a non-denominational church open to every sect and creed; something rare in the late nineteenth century.³⁶ To emphasise this, inscribed on a tablet displayed on the west wall on the building were the words from Isaiah, 'My house shall be called a house of Prayer for All People'.³⁷ The church was instantly recognisable and impactful within the landscape being positioned high on a hill overlooking the town and mine site. Horrocks donated the church and the land to provide for the spiritual needs of the town's community.

Located adjacent to the church was the Gwalla Cemetery, the earliest in Northampton. Like the church, the cemetery was also non-denominational and contains the graves of many Northampton pioneers, including Horrocks who died shortly after its construction on 7 October 1865 and Samuel Mitchell, who was the Mine Captain for the Geraldine Lead Mine and a Member of the Legislative Council of Western Australia from October 1884 to May 1885.

In 1863, Horrocks was given permission by the Colonial Secretary to establish a small school for the children of Gwalla that was financed by George Shenton.³⁸ There is little information about the school, but a 1916 plan of Northampton shows a school reserve and playground on the corner of West Street and Gwalla Street. It is unclear though whether this is the same original school location.³⁹

As Gibbs outlines, '[Gwalla] was a sort of model community, going beyond being a simple mining venture and including in its scheme both agricultural and pastoral development and the establishment of a village community.'⁴⁰ Furthermore, 'Gwalla can also be seen as an expression of Horrocks' manipulation of environment... [meaning that] by attempting to recreate a more familiar type of landscape, of stone walls, church, village, fields and orchard, he was probably intuitively attempting to recreate an associated sense of order... As [an] employer, and a man with a sense of social responsibility, Horrocks obviously felt it was his role to ensure not only a steady, reliable and trouble-free workforce, but a functioning community which provide for their physical, social and moral needs.'⁴¹

As the Wanerenooka and Gwalla towns developed in close proximity, in 1863 it was decided that instead of having the two small towns, they should be combined to form one larger town as a centre to the district. Neither town wanted to give up their status, so a site in between the two was chosen. In February 1864, Northampton was proclaimed in the Government Gazette as the combined town and administrative centre of the district.⁴²

35 Birman, W., 1966, 'Joseph Lucas Horrocks' in D. Pike (ed.) Australian Dictionary of Biography, Melbourne, pp. 425-426, as cited in Gibbs, M., 1997, op cit., p. 42.

36 Drew, J.M., 1932, op cit., p. 30.

37 ibid.

38 Gibbs, M., 1997, op cit., pp. 35-60.

39 Considine and Griffiths Architects, 2000, op cit., p. 29.

40 ibid, p. 55.

41 ibid.

42 Suba, T., 1993, op cit., p. 55.

Prior to his death, Horrocks appears to have borrowed from Shenton and was forced to mortgage the Gwalla Mine (together with Locations 331, 140, 141 and 359) to him in September 1863.⁴³ In the mortgage document, Horrocks estimated that he owed Shenton at least £7,000. No doubt a large proportion of this money would have been used to purchase the Gwalla Mine and possibly mining equipment, as sometime between 1860 and 1862 Horrocks had installed a steam engine at the mine.⁴⁴ Part of the mortgage agreement was that he would continue to mine ore from Gwalla but would deal exclusively through Shenton. At the time of the agreement, he estimated that he had ore worth at least £3,000 awaiting shipment from Geraldton.⁴⁵

In January 1865, despite their initial agreement, the Gwalla Mine was sold to Shenton; Horrocks either lost his financial battle or decided to sell out as the better financial option.⁴⁶ Shenton, however, had little time to benefit from his re-purchase of Gwalla as he drowned in Mandurah on 25 March 1867.⁴⁷ The Gwalla Mine passed into the hands of his executors, his sons Sir George Shenton and Ernest Shenton. Possibly as a result of complications proceeding from the deceased estate, the mine closed in 1868. Sir George and Ernest Shenton did not receive clear title to the property until December 1905.⁴⁸ Two transactions were made prior to the final settlement of the estate. A small lot was excised from Location 315 in July 1881 (2 roods and 16 perches) and conveyed to the trustees of the Wesleyan Church for £10. It is unclear why this land was excised, as it later became Lot 56 and lies to the south west of the Church and Cemetery.⁴⁹

Before Horrocks' death he was a keen supporter of the development of a railway line running from the Northampton mineral field southwards. However, it was not until 1872 that the Government surveyed a proposed route between Geraldton and Northampton and not until 1874 when work began on the railway.⁵⁰ According to the contract, the railway was to be completed by March 1876. However, owing to a multitude of factors, including the adoption of the 3' 6" gauge, considerable alterations to bridges and culverts, deviations and subsidiary works not originally provided for, the line was not opened until 26 July 1879.⁵¹ The location of the railway station in Northampton was the subject of much debate and several locations were suggested before a site was chosen in Gwalla.⁵²

43 Memorial VI/1510, DOLA, as cited in Considine and Griffiths Architects, 2000, op cite., p. 12.

44 CSO, letters received 17 October 1862, Acc. 36, No. 494/183, SROWA, as cited in Considine and Griffiths Architects, 2000, op. cit., p. 12.

45 ibid.

46 Memorial VI/1814, DOLA, as cited in Considine and Griffiths Architects, 2000, op cit., p. 12.

47 Sometime between 1865 and 1867 Shenton acquired Location 250 as it is included in the title deeds issued to his executors. Erickson, R., *The Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians pre 1829 -1888*, UWA Press, Nedlands, 1988, p.2793, as cited in Considine and Griffiths Architects, 2000, op cit., p. 12.

48 Certificate of Titles Vol. 356, Fol. 60 and Vol 362, Fol 95 (Mineral Rights only), as cited in Considine and Griffiths Architects, 2000, op. cit., p. 12.

49 Memorial VIII/1043, DOLA, as cited in Considine and Griffiths Architects, 2000, op. cit., p. 12.

50 Joyce, J. (Ed), *Western Australia's First Government Railway 1879-1957*, Australian Railway Historical Society WA Division (Inc.), 1979, p. 3 as cited in Considine and Griffiths Architects, 2000, op. cit., p. 24.

51 Carson, A., 1939, 'The Champion Bay County', *Early Days*, Vol. 3, Is. 2, pp. 16-17 as cited in Heritage Council of Western Australia, 2014, P12059 *Geraldton – Northampton Railway Precinct Assessment Documentation*, p. 10.

52 Votes and Proceedings of Legislative Council of Western Australia, 1878, A.2., p.8 as cited in Considine and Griffiths Architects, 2000, op. cit., p. 26.

By the completion of the railway the price of lead had fallen by half and as a result there was a lull in the mining industry in Northampton.⁵³ In December 1886, the Commissioner for Railways resumed portions of land across five of the Gwalla locations (Location 250 was not included) for the purposes of a public road and the Northern Railway.⁵⁴

From 1910 to 1927 there was a revival in lead mining in Northampton. When the price of lead rose, many mines left dormant were reopened.⁵⁵ As several lead mines were located north of Northampton, in 1911 the railway line was extended from Northampton to Ajana. A new railway station in Northampton was constructed as part of the extension, moving it from its original terminus in Gwalla. The original Gwalla station building and platform were abandoned, and in 1935 the buildings were demolished. Foundations remain at the railway station site, where interpretative signage and displays have been erected telling the story of the railway.

By 1913, after fifty years of continuous service the Gwalla Church held its last regular service in 1913. The church bell was moved to Perth's Wesley Church soon after, and the church furniture and artwork were distributed amongst the local denominations that worshipped there.⁵⁶ In 1921, Northampton experienced a late wet season, with heavy rainfall and high winds that caused the Gwalla Church spire and a portion of the tower to fall in.⁵⁷ Little maintenance work had been carried out on the church over the years, and once the spire had fallen, the Church was left in a ruinous state. Despite local residents urging for the building to be saved, money for its conservation was not a priority during the war years.⁵⁸ The timber and iron were removed from the structure in 1926.

The building was declared a hazard in the 1950s and was partially demolished using explosives. As Gibbs notes, 'the resulting mound of rubble, surrounded by the original low stone churchyard wall, survived relatively undisturbed until a 1980s local community project to remove the debris revealed that the lower metre or more of the walls survived in good condition'.⁵⁹ The walls were stabilised soon after.

In 1959, the Government Water Supply was opened by Premier, the Hon. A. R. G. Hawke. As part of the scheme, the Water Authority constructed a plant and pump houses on the Gwalla mine site to pump water from the old mine shafts into storage tanks to supply the town of Northampton.⁶⁰ Up until this time residents relied on water tanks and private bores. To make way for the new buildings the former mine Engine House, Office and Workshops were destroyed, along with much of the other evidence of mining operations and ore processing.⁶¹ The Water Authority buildings and the enclosing cyclone mesh fence were removed in 1998.⁶²

53 Woodward, H.P., 1895, *Mining Handbook to the Colony of Western Australia*, Perth, p. 118 as cited in Considine and Griffiths Architects, 2000, op. cit., p. 26.

54 Memorial X/640, as cited in Considine and Griffiths Architects, 2000, op. cit., p. 12.

55 Woodward, H.P., 1895, op. cit., p.118, as cited in Considine and Griffiths Architects, 2000, op. cit., p. 26.

56 Bruce Callow & Associates Pty Ltd & T. Suba, 1996, op. cit.

57 'A Historic Landmark', *The Geraldton Express*, 27 August 1923, p. 2.

58 *ibid.*

59 Gibbs, M., 1997, op. cit., p. 50..

60 Eastman, Poletti, Sherwood Architects, 2005, 'Shire of Northampton Municipal Inventory', p. 144.

61 Gibbs, M., 1997, op. cit., p. 51..

62 Considine and Griffiths Architects, 2000, op. cit., p. 13.

In the late 1990s, shortly after an archaeological survey of the precinct was carried out, the stone cottage remnants towards the northern end were destroyed to make way for new housing. Rubble from the stone cottages may remain, albeit dispersed amongst the garden beds of lots 63, 64 and 65.

After the Gwalla Mine closed, the land, including the church and cemetery passed into private ownership and was farmed. Hilda Williams eventually came into possession of the property where she donated the land where the church and cemetery were located to the Shire of Northampton. The church and cemetery were included on the State Register of Heritage Places in August 2002 and have since become local tourist attractions.

In mid-1968, the Main Roads Department used the Gwalla Railway Station site as a works depot and it continued to be used up to the early 2000s.⁶³ At this time, Main Roads identified the property as surplus to its needs.⁶⁴ Northampton Friends of the Railway Incorporated, a local historical group, researched and recreated a section of the line in 2010.⁶⁵ Interpretive signage indicating the history and construction of the railway were erected. In more recent times the site was not being maintained and vegetation had grown over the signage and displays.

The Camp Hill site was disbanded likely around the time the main mine was closed. It later became the Gwalla Town Park for a period. It is currently used for grazing with modern housing and agricultural buildings located within the curtilage of the site.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

The physical evidence section of the assessment is based on a site visit to the area in August 2021, and the physical evidence section of '*Gwalla Precinct, Northampton Conservation Plan*' prepared by Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd for The Shire of Northampton in April 2000.

Gwalla Precinct, Northampton includes a number of associated albeit discontinuous elements including Gwalla Mine (1859), Gwalla Church and Cemetery (1861), Stone Cottages of the Gwalla Village (1860s), Stone Boundary Walls (1860s), First Railway Station Site (1879), and archaeological deposits at Camp Hill. Modern housing has been constructed throughout the precinct.

The precinct is located at the southern end of what is now known as Northampton, largely contained within original Gwalla Estate Locations, 315, 141, 359 and 331 as outlined in Figure 1. The North West Coastal Highway is the main thoroughfare through Northampton, and this road runs through the centre of the *Gwalla Precinct*. John Street and the Bowes River bound the precinct to the north, Seventh Avenue and Forrest Street bound the east of the precinct and West Street demarcates the western side.

The topography of the area is characterised by small hills and valleys, and Horrocks took advantage of this in positioning various elements within the estate. Based on both documentary evidence and archaeology, it is understood the core area of the

⁶³ *Government Gazette*, 21/6/1968; 'Conservation Plan for Gwalla Precinct, Northampton', op. cit., p. 55.

⁶⁴ Copies of various correspondence provided by G. Walmsley, Landcorp, 15/5/2006.

⁶⁵ Kennedy, J., 10 March 2011, 'WA's railway heritage breathes new life', ABC Local, <https://www.abc.net.au/local/photos/2011/03/10/3160515.htm>, Accessed 21 June 2022.

former estate was divided into four sections.⁶⁶ Miner's cottages curved across a ridge at the northern area; to the eastern side, in the middle and atop a hill was the church and cemetery; to the southern side, in the valley running along the southern ridge was the mine shafts and associated buildings; and to the west were the orchards and gardens.⁶⁷ The landscape design for the town demonstrates the nature of Gwalla and the importance of community surrounding the mine.

As indicated by Rubertone, 'landscapes and communities were often idealisations of their creators'. Gwalla can 'be seen as an expression of Horrocks' manipulation of environment...By attempting to recreate a more familiar type of landscape, of stone walls, church, village, fields and orchard, he was probably intuitively attempting to recreate an associated sense of order.'⁶⁸

The positioning of P1902 *Church & Cemetery, Gwalla* (RHP) sitting atop one of the larger hills to the east of the town is an important element within the precinct, a focal point for those visiting or returning home. As indicated by Gibbs, 'By constructing a church at the heart of his estate and acting as the lay preacher for his mining communities, Horrocks extended his influence into the spiritual realm. The visual prominence of the Gwalla church, with its solid architecture and tall spire looming over both the home and workplace, provided a constant visual reminder to the workers and their families.'⁶⁹

After the mine closed, the railway and Gwalla station buildings ran along the west side of the estate replacing the orchards and gardens. Little remains of the northern sections, with modern housing having been built over archaeological remains of the miners' cottages in most sections, however portions of stone wall within this section remain intact.

Much of the landscape surrounding the precinct is a mixture of open pastures with modern housing encroaching upon the open farmland in some areas. There are pockets scattered around the precinct of revegetated bushland, which were often originally cleared to fuel mine machinery. As a result, it is a predominantly culturally modified landscape.

66 Gibbs, M., 1997, op cit., p. 46.

67 ibid.

68 Rubertone, P., 1989, 'Landscape as Artefact: Comments on 'The Archaeological use of Landscape Treatment in Social, Economic and Ideological Analysis'', *Historical Archaeology*, Vol. 23, No.1, pp. 51-54 as cited in in Considine and Griffiths Architects, 2000, op. cit., p. 55.

69 Gibbs, M., 1997, op cit.

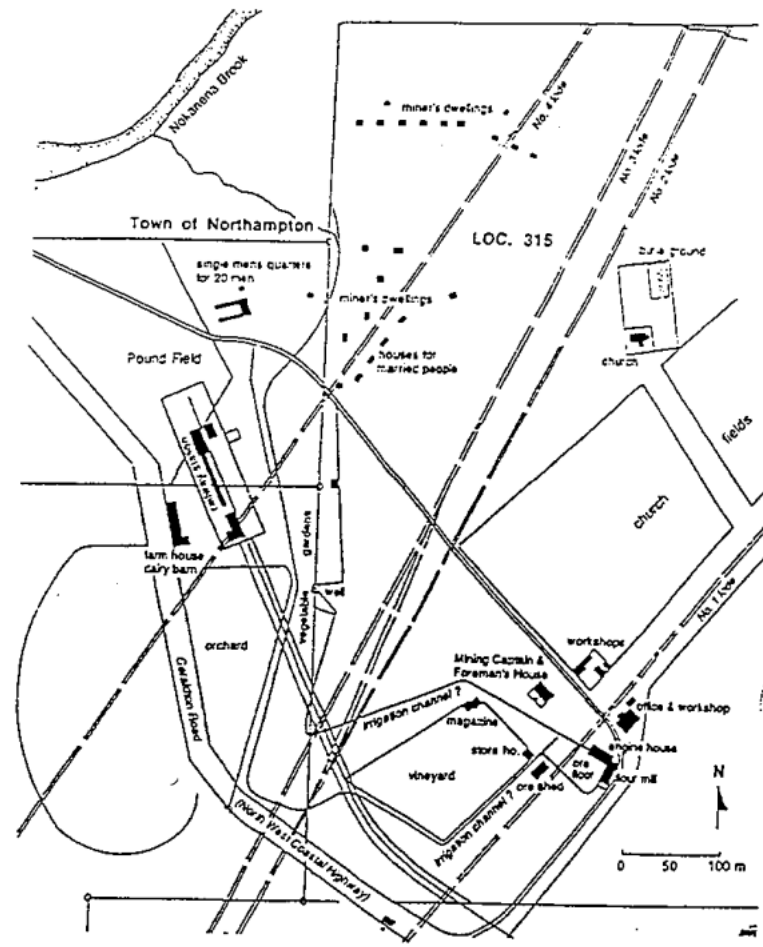


Figure 1 - Gwalla Estate (Victoria Location 315. Based on a c.1907 plan⁷⁰

Gwalla Mine Site

For Further information see 'Archaeological Survey Report of Lot 71 Second Ave Northampton', 2009 prepared by Fiona Bush Heritage and Archaeology for Humfrey Land Developments, Geraldton and, 2018, 'Report on a Historical Archaeological Survey of Two Areas as Part of the Northampton Lead Tailings Remediation Project, Northampton, Western Australia', 2018, prepared by Archaeaus Pty Ltd for the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage

The Gwalla Mine complex is roughly 52 acres and located at the southern end of the Gwalla Estate, bounded roughly by Second Avenue, Seventh Avenue, Hampton Road and First Avenue. The site lies on the side of a hill and comprises Lots 2, 70 and 9000. The positioning of the mine buildings was based on the location of the No.1 lode, as it is referred to on the c.1907 plan (Figure1), which was the original lode discovered at Gwalla. Mine structures which were centred around No.1 lode included the Engine House, Office & Workshops, Flour Mill, Ore Shed, Ore Floors, Magazine, Store House and accommodation for the Mining Captain and Foreman. There were three other lodes crossing through Gwalla on Horrocks' land all located north of No. 1 lode.

⁷⁰ Gibbs, M., 1997, op cit., p. 46.

As noted by Gibbs, 'the Engine House was situated adjacent to the former 'A' shaft (also known as Main Shaft) and presumably contained a steam engine which powered the winding gear, which moved people, ore and water up and down the main shaft... The headframe would have been mounted above 'A' shaft, which was originally sunk to a depth of 180 ft (55m). The Ore Floor where the copper was 'dressed', that is, reduced by hand hammering to extract the high-quality copper ore, was situated immediately adjacent to the shaft, reducing transport of the heavy material. This surface was probably a flagged stone floor, such as still seen at the Geraldine Mine, although no evidence survives beyond traces of green-tinged copper ore spread throughout the vicinity.

The 'A' shaft has since been filled with rubble up to the stone collar at surface level. It is marked by the large mound of rubble and although it has been filled, 'there is some slumping around the margins exposing masonry edges to the shaft'.⁷¹ There is no structural evidence of the Engine House, which was demolished to make way for the construction of the Water Corporation's new pump houses and plant. Brick and rubble are scattered through the area and much of the Engine House material appears to have been used to fill 'A' Shaft.⁷² There is no evidence of 'B' shaft, or 'C' shaft, however this may be located beneath a Water Corporation water tank. 'D' shaft (possibly known as Mill shaft) has been capped by the Water Corporation and is housed within a large shed on the northeast end of the 58 Seventh Avenue. Several of the minor shafts were still open in the late 1990s and visible across the adjacent paddocks.⁷³ The positioning of some of the shafts and other features is outlined in (Figures 2 and 3), taken from Gibbs' 1994 archaeological survey.

A portion of the stone foundations thought to be the Workshops is located east of the Captain's and Foreman's Cottages. On the 1907 plan the Flour Mill is shown at the rear of the engine house, suggesting it powered the mine's steam engine. These structures were demolished alongside the Engine House during the period when Northampton's water supply was pumped from the mine shafts.⁷⁴

The remains of the Captain's and Foreman's Cottages lie on the western side of a boundary fence at the edge of a cultivated field. The remains consist of a wide spread of loose stone strewn between two trees and some glass artefacts. As outlined by Gibbs after his 1994 archaeological survey, the 1994 survey team considered that the wide spread of debris indicated the building had possibly been bulldozed.⁷⁵ Rubble ruins of the Magazine building are located to the west of the Captain and Foreman's Cottages in an area of cultivated field. 'A mound marks the site, with one section of stone wall visible along the southwest side of the rubble.'⁷⁶

The Conservation Management Plan for Gwalla Precinct compiled in 2000, indicated the most definitive area that marks the mine site is the large scree slope, that lies to the west of the main shafts. 'The use of the site by the Water [Corporation] has meant that a large proportion of the site has been cleared and

71 Archae-aus Pty Ltd, 2018, 'Report on a Historical Archaeological Survey of Two Areas as Part of the Northampton Lead Tailings Remediation Project, Northampton, Western Australia', prepared for the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, p. 11.

72 *ibid.*

73 *ibid.*, pp. 51-52.

74 Gibbs, M., 1997, *op cit.*, p. 52.

75 Gibbs, M., 1994, *op cit.*, p.26 as cited in Considine and Griffiths Architects, 2000, *op cit.*, p. 34.

76 Archae-aus Pty Ltd, *op cit.*, p. 11.

almost all evidence of mining activity removed. [However], the presence of the scree slope, which has resisted the efforts of local vegetation, is evidence of and reinforces the presence of the mine and is an important feature in the Gwalla Precinct'.⁷⁷

No archaeological evidence of the Ore Shed or Store House located to the north could be found, which is located within 58 Seventh Avenue.⁷⁸

Two concrete tanks and a concrete building pad relating to the Water Corporation's use of the site are still present, and while their presence is considered to be intrusive, they represent the later use of the mine as a water source.⁷⁹

The Gwalla Mine Site was not visited during the 2021 site visit.

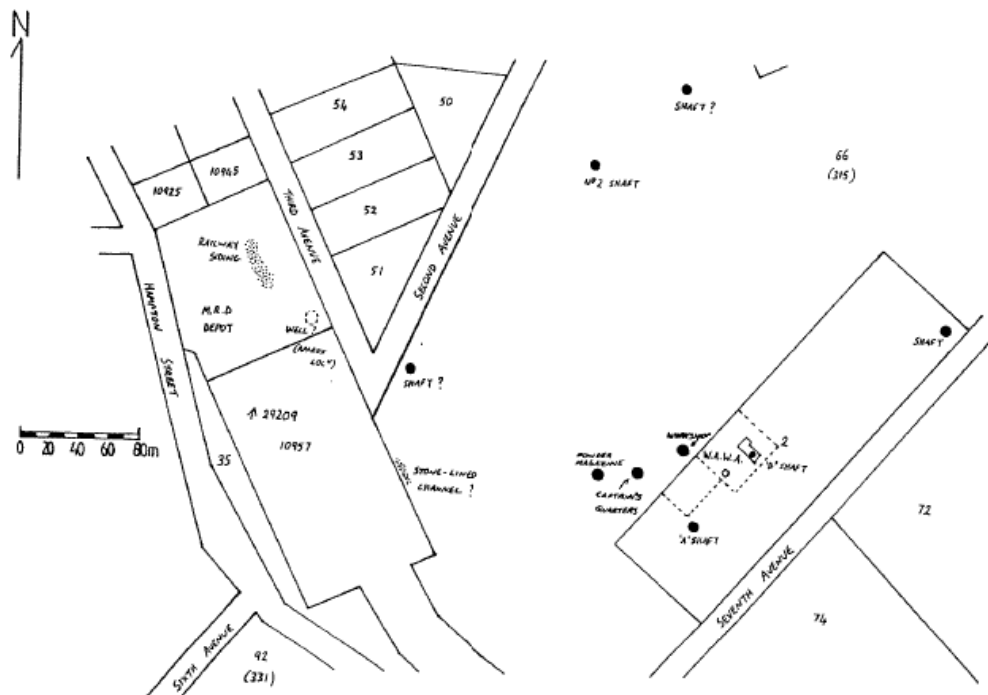


Figure 2 - 1994 Archaeological Survey of Gwalla Mine⁸⁰

77 Considine and Griffiths Architects, 2000, op cit., p. 34.

78 Gibbs, M., 1994, op cit., p. 25.

79 Considine and Griffiths Architects, 2000, op cit., p. 35.

80 Gibbs, M., 1994, op cit., p. 25.

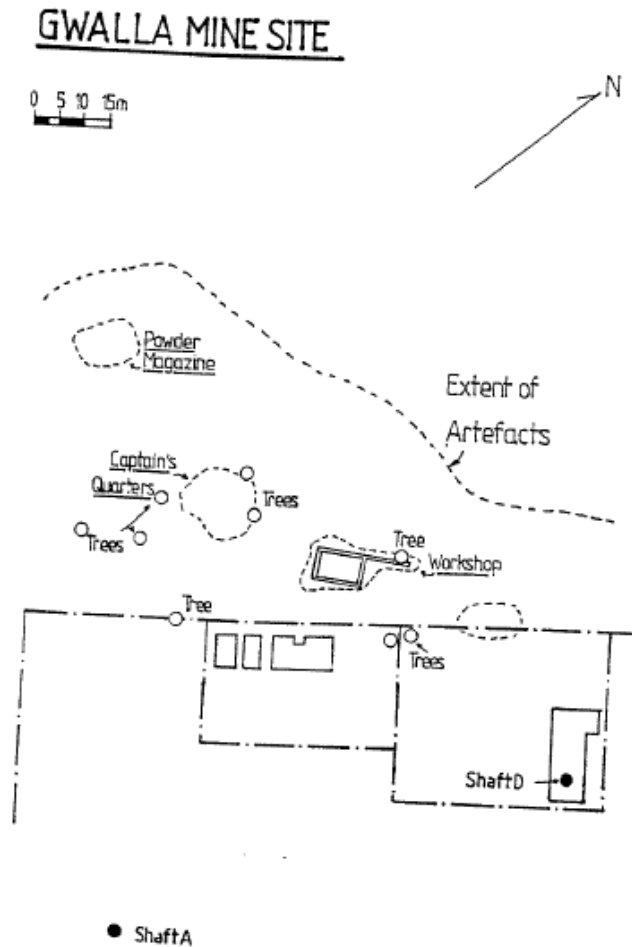


Figure 3 - 1994 Archaeological Survey of Gwalla Mine⁸¹

Church & Cemetery

P1902 *Church & Cemetery, Gwalla* (RHP) is located at the western end of Gwalla Street comprising the whole of Reserve 31064.

Horrocks positioned the Gwalla church on a hill to the east of the settlement. The tall spire acted as a landmark within the landscape, easily seen by those travelling to the area. The elevated site gives views across the mine site, towards the cottages and the Gwalla Railway Station, as well as Wanerenooka Hill. There has been little development around the site resulting in these views remaining, enabling visitors to appreciate the 'extent of the Gwalla mining operation' and get a sense of 'Horrocks' vision of a model 'English Village'.⁸²

An early undated photograph of the Church shows a simple building measuring approximately 14.5m x 6.5m with arched windows to the nave (14.5 x 6.5m) and a small porch (2.5m x 3m) on the south side. The tower was located at the eastern end of the building and has a round window on the southern side. The steeply pitched spire is clad with shingles. The eastern side of the tower has a small arched opening near the top and opening on the ground floor on the southern and eastern

81 Gibbs, M., 1994, op cit., p. 26.

82 Considine and Griffiths Architects, 2000, op cit., p. 37.

sides. A small entry room below the tower measures 3m x 4m. The steeply pitched roof covering the nave and porch was covered with corrugated galvanised iron.⁸³

The church was constructed of double skinned stone walls which had been coated both on the exterior and interior in a lime plaster. The stones used in construction are undressed and randomly laid, showing evidence of modern repairs and including capping with a layer of modern lime and cement mortar to slow the rate of weathering to the walls. The height of the walls is generally 1.2 metres, with a small section rising to just over 2 metres near the stair to the lower tower. The church floor is a concrete slab divided into sections with expansion joints.⁸⁴

After the mine ceased operations, the church remained in use until 1913 when the structure began to deteriorate. The church was partially demolished in the 1950s after a storm and was declared a hazard. The original stone base of the church walls and a large pile of rubble remain, which indicate the size and layout of the church. A church wall, constructed with local undressed stone and mud mortar, measuring approximately 36m x 25m, surrounds the ruin. There is interpretive signage located under a gazebo next to the church that provides information for tourists who visit the site.

The original 1860s cemetery remains adjacent to the church. Like the church yard, the cemetery is surrounded by a 1.2m high stone perimeter wall, measuring approximately 27.5m x 47.25m in width and length. The walls are also constructed from local undressed stone, laid randomly in a simple mud mortar. They are capped with a smooth render. A gate opens to the cemetery on the southern side with a brick pier at either side. While many monuments and headstones have deteriorated, many remain in reasonable condition. Graves vary from being unmarked to having marble headstones and plaques. Wooden headstones and monuments have vanished. Graves have been dug in a 'linear east-west organisation with a central pathway passing along the north-south axis'⁸⁵. As the cemetery slopes down towards the northern end, winter rains run along this central pathway weathering the area and possibly the graves.

Horrocks' grave is located near the entry at the south of the cemetery and is amongst at least 55 other graves dating from as early as 1861 to 1921. A pioneer, obelisk monument, to the east of Horrocks' grave, stands within the entrance of the cemetery and a cypress tree grows outside the entrance.

Within the church and cemetery complex, in an undefined car parking area. Native vegetation has regrown around the Church and Flinders Range wattles (*Acacia iteaphylla*) and small mallees have been planted to the north of the church boundary wall, particularly concentrated around the gazebo and interpretive signage area next to the church.

Gwalla Railway Station Site

P9006 Gwalla Railway Station (fmr) comprises an area of degraded bushland with trees, shrubs and a remnant structure (the Loading Platform) believed to date from the development of the station in 1879/80. Interpretive signage indicating the

83 Photograph held by the Northampton Historical Society & Battye Library Pictorial Collection, Number 21220P as cited in as cited in Considine and Griffiths Architects, 2000, op. cit., p. 18.

84 Considine and Griffiths Architects, 2000, op. cit., p. 37.

85 *ibid*, p. 50.

history and construction of the railway were erected in 2010 by a local historical group. At the time of the site visit the site was not being maintained, and vegetation had grown over the signage and displays.

The station site is located on the south-eastern portion of the area of land bounded by Hampton Road (Great Northern Highway) on the west, Third Avenue to the east Gwalla Street to the north and private agricultural land to the south. The site comprises the whole of Reserve 49932, the eastern portion of Reserve 29209 and the eastern portion of Lot 10925.

The line of the former railway track is evident in some areas of the site running from north to south along the length of the site. At approximately the centre of the site, and towards the northern boundary of Reserve 29209, is a culvert with an earth embankment of the eastern side and a stone retaining wall on the western side. This is believed to be a remnant of the original Loading Platform that formed part of the 1879/80 railway station. The culvert is 1.9m high at the central point and approximately 15m wide. The stone retaining wall is constructed of random rubble comprising both sandstone and granite in a sand lime mortar mix. The surface of the some of the sandstone is eroded. The wall slopes down on both the northern and western sides and the top of the wall is sealed by concrete capping that is broken in some areas. On the top of the culvert there are four tracks of broken bitumen indicating that the area has probably been used as an access road for loading railway trucks. On either side of the retaining wall are earth embankments. Documentary evidence suggests that the former railway station structures were located along the western alignment of the track in approximately this location. No extant railway station structures remain having been demolished in 1935.

To the west of the site is the fenced former Main Roads Department depot. This area comprises cleared open ground, part of which has been terraced by the construction of a concrete retaining wall. The depot contains a contemporary corrugated iron clad shed adjacent to the fence line in the north-eastern corner of the station site. The fence is approximately 2m high cyclone mesh on steel posts.

To the east the site is bounded by Third Avenue, an unsealed road with elevated ground on the eastern side occupied by rural residences on large lots overlooking the site of Gwalla Railway Station. There is a low cyclone mesh fence along the eastern boundary with a padlocked gate.

The area to the south of Gwalla Railway Station has been disturbed by excavation with earth moving equipment. It is difficult to discern the alignment of the former railway from this point.

Stone Walls

The Gibbs' report notes that the stone walls at Gwalla 'form an important part of the story of Horrocks' philanthropic ideals and the heritage of the Estate'⁸⁶. As indicated in the documentary evidence, the walls defined a thoroughfare into the town as well as streets within the precinct and paddock areas. It is understood the stone walls remained a recognisable feature of the town until at least the early 20th century.⁸⁷ Gibbs further suggests that 'the stone fencing was a visible expression of prosperity and Horrocks' success in bringing order to the 'wild' Australian bush.

⁸⁶ Gibbs, M., 1997, op cit., p. 54.

⁸⁷ *ibid.*

They also visually linked and provided a unifying agent for the different elements of the estate.’⁸⁸

In 2021, portions of the original whitewashed walls remained along the corner of Gwalla Street and Third Avenue, Seventh Avenue at Camp Hill and the boundaries of the church and cemetery.

The wall along Gwalla Street measures approximately 36.5 metres. Some stone is missing along the wall, causing the top to have a jagged edge. It is approximately one metre high and constructed of random, horizontal courses of stone set with mud or lime mortar. The white-wash has deteriorated over time and the walls have discoloured.

The wall along Seventh Avenue runs approximately 100 metres southwest before shifting orientation south for another 120 metres. The walls break at two points to allow for driveways. This portion of wall is in a poorer condition than that along Gwalla Street. More stone is missing, which causes the wall to have a jagged appearance. The white-wash has also deteriorated over time and the walls are brown in colour indicating the initial colour of the stone.

Camp Hill Mine

Camp Hill Mine comprises the eastern portion of Location 331 (now Lots 2, 3, 88, 303 and 304) as indicated in Figure 4. The site is bounded by Hampton Road, Sixth Avenue and Seventh Avenue. The land slopes to a sharp point, which has been referred to as ‘Camp Hill’. Most of the area has been left relatively undisturbed from development aside from several buildings which have been constructed over portions of each of the lots. It is probable sub-surface archaeological material in these areas has been impacted by the later development.

The Gibbs report indicates that ‘the slope [was] studded with the foundations of small buildings, similar in size and construction to those of the Gwalla cottages, although not organised along the same relatively neat alignments. There are also lines of shafts passing southwest to northeast. These are depicted on the c.1907 plan. [At the time of the survey in DATE], nineteenth century artefacts [were] scattered across the area.’⁸⁹

The Camp Hill site was not visited during the 2021 site visit.

⁸⁸ *ibid*, p. 59.

⁸⁹ Gibbs, M., 1994, *op cit.*, p. 31.

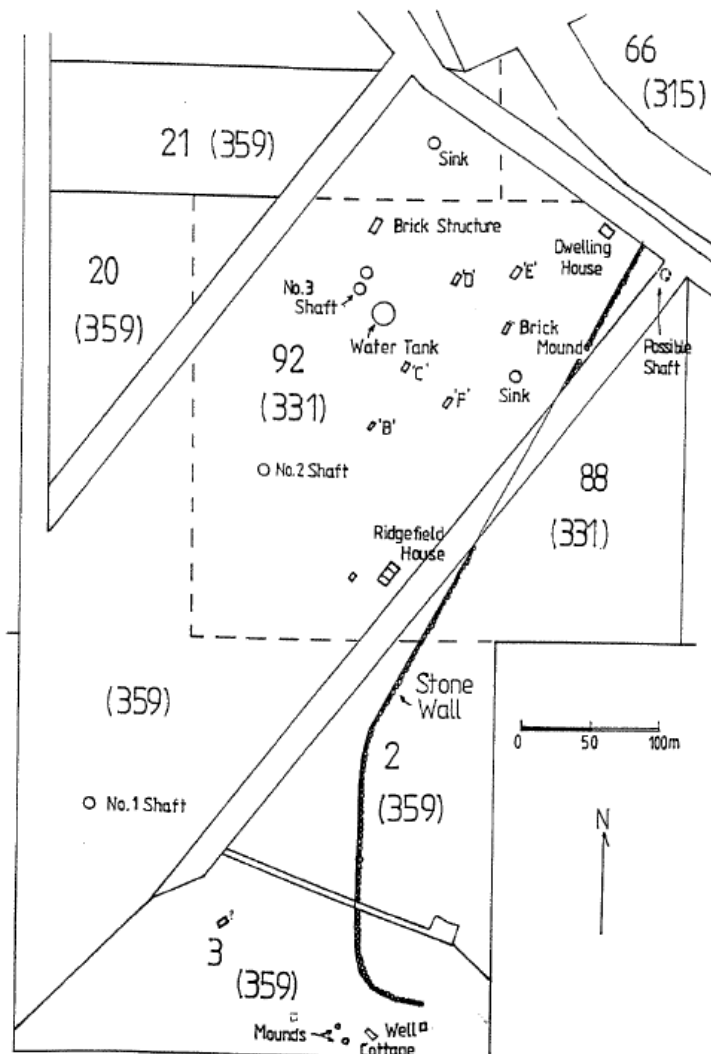


Figure 4 -1994 Archaeological Survey of Camp Hill⁹⁰

Cottages

The Gwalla settlement was located several hundred metres north of the mine. Within the settlement were small cottages for families and as well as a barracks-style single men's quarters. Foundations of six cottages, labelled on the 1907 plan as 'miner's dwellings' were identified by Martin Gibbs during his 1994 Archaeological survey over lots 63, 64 and 65 on the corner of Brook and First Streets (Figure 5). The cottages were located in the northern section of the precinct consistent with the location of the Gwalla settlement and were visible as 'low, largely featureless mounds, each about a metre high and with varying amounts of the foundation or plan visible from the surface'.⁹¹

Shortly after the 1994 survey, the cottages were destroyed as modern housing was constructed over the cottages.

⁹⁰ ibid, p. 32.

⁹¹ Gibbs, M., 1997, op cit., p. 49.

The Gibbs report notes that 'It is probable that as much as a half metre of the lower portion of the walls, the foundations/floor and the immediate surrounding several metres of land surface would have been intact beneath the rubble resulting from the eventual collapse of the buildings.⁹² The cottages were oriented on greater north-east to south-west angle than what was indicated on the c.1907 plan. Each building was separated about 13 metres from the next, following the line of a ridge sloping southwards.⁹³ Archaeological evidence indicated the cottages were identical in size, design and construction, measuring internally approximately 6.5m by 3.9m and constructed of brick. A seventh possible structural feature, depicted on the 1907 plan north of the cottages was identified during the 1994 survey as a small pile of rubble. It is possible this structure was a privy.

There is some potential for rubble from the stone cottages to remain albeit dispersed through the surrounds of the properties constructed on lots 63, 64 and 65.

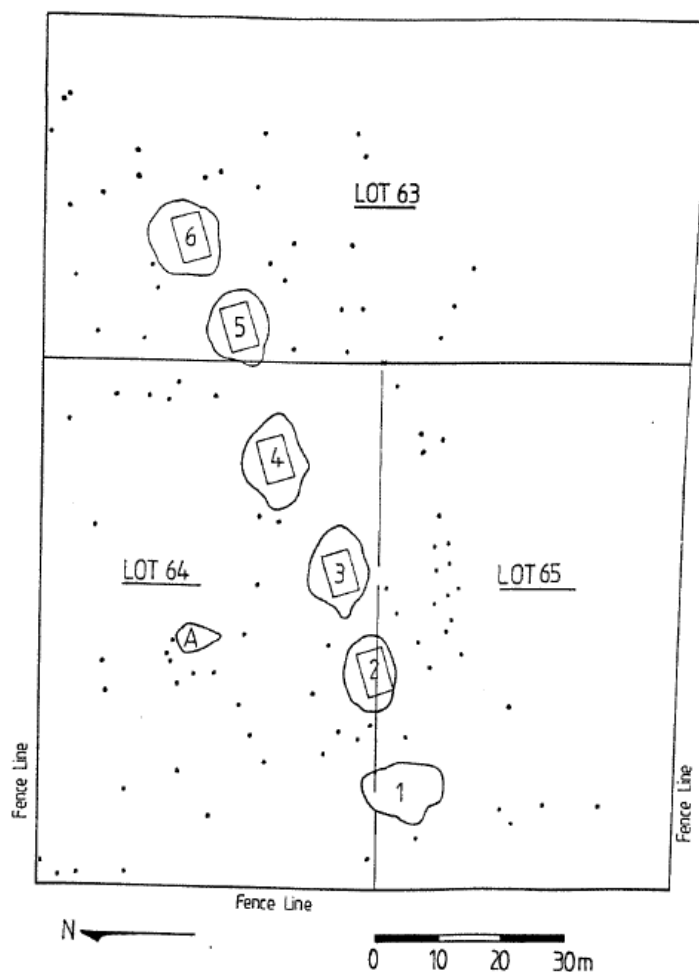


Figure 5 - 1994 Archaeological Survey of Cottage Mounds, location of mounds prior to construction of housing⁹⁴

92 ibid.
 93 ibid.
 94 Gibbs, M., 1994, op cit., p. 21.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

Principal Australian Historic Theme(s)

- 2.5 Promoting settlement
- 3.4.3 Mining
- 3.8.6 Building and maintaining railways
- 3.12.2 Developing sources of fresh local produce
- 4.5 Making settlements to serve rural Australia
- 5.2 Organising workers and work places
- 6.2 Establishing schools
- 8.6.4 Making places for worship
- 8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements
- 9.7.1 Dealing with human remains

Heritage Council of Western Australia Theme(s)

- 107 Settlements
- 202 Rail and light rail transport
- 303 Mining
- 404 Community services and utilities
- 406 Religion
- 602 Early settlers

Comparative Analysis

Some further Comparative Analysis can be found in 'Gwalla Precinct, Northampton Conservation Plan' prepared by Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd for The Shire of Northampton in April 2000.

A search of the Historic Heritage database indicates that the following places are most comparable to Gwalla Precinct, two of which are entered in the State Register, and the other is included in the Heritage Council's Assessment Program:

- P4658 *Wanerenooka Mine Site*, (RHP) Northampton (1855) - the first commercially successful copper mine in Western Australia, operating irregularly between 1855 and 1958. The place is an archaeological site as, with the exception of two powder magazines on the valley floor, the remaining structures are in ruinous condition. Despite its ruinous condition, the place comprises intact archaeological deposits and features, and has a high degree of significance as the earliest copper mine in the Northampton area and the second copper mine in the State, preceded only by the short-lived White Peak Mine. The place is associated with Joseph Horrocks who was the storekeeper there.
- P1902 *Church & Cemetery, Gwalla* (RHP) (1861) - the first church and only non-denominational one constructed in Northampton. The cemetery was the first to be established in the Northampton district. Once the centrepiece of the Gwalla mining precinct, and important amongst Joseph Horrocks' well-remembered philanthropic work, the place was an important part of the mine community at Gwalla, foreshadowing the eventual development of the town of Northampton. The place comprises the only remaining visible elements of the Gwalla Precinct.

- P12059 Geraldton to Northampton Railway Precinct (1874) (Assessment Program) – the original terminus of the first Government railway in the State, constructed to service the Northampton mining industry. The extant fabric has the potential to provide information about the construction of the line.

Mining and Development

Northampton has a long, rich history of mining and is particularly important as the first area in the State where commercial mining occurred. The industry opened up the Mid West and initiated development both in the region and further north. Furthermore, it began Western Australia's long association with mining, which is recognised as inherent to its identity.

A search of the Historic Heritage database indicates that the following places, associated with mining in the Northampton mining district, are comparable to *Gwalla Precinct, Northampton*, all of which are entered in the State Register or Heritage Council's Assessment Program:

- P3455 *Geraldine Lead Mine Site* (RHP) (1849): The place, comprising remnants of mine shafts, machinery, engine houses, knapping or ore-breaking floor, mine manager's house, cemetery and ore processing remains, was the first commercial mining venture in Western Australia. The mine, together with early pastoral activity was responsible for opening up the Murchison and Victoria districts and led to the establishment of Geraldton and Port Gregory.
- P5114 *Northampton State Battery* (RHP) (1954): a lead battery complex consisting of crushing mill, offices, workshop, manager's house, weighbridge and a large gravity dam. The place is the only gravity separation plant for the treatment of heavy minerals in the Western Australian State Battery complex.
- P8924 *Baddera Mines* (RHP) (1874, 1906): The mine was the State's largest lead producer in the early decades of the twentieth century and was closely linked with early attempts to establish a works to smelt Kalgoorlie gold ores. Due to the state of preservation of their evidence the mines are important reference sites for understanding other sites on the Northampton Mineral Field.
- P15875 Galena Heritage Area (Assessment Program): The place comprises an extensive archaeological mining site on the north and south sides of the lower Murchison River in the Northampton Mineral Field including P3455 *Geraldine Lead Mine Site*, P1900 *Warribanno Smelter Complex Ruin* (1849), P8902 Galena Mine (Assessment Program) (1867), Galena townsite (1920), Galena Dam (1927), Murchison Bridge (1950) and Weir (1948). The site has been worked during various periods from 1848 to c.1960.
- P5524 *Wheal Fortune Mine (Ruins)* (1860) (Assessment Program): The place comprises the remains of several stone buildings of industrial/mining, and residential origins and some excellent stonework. There are also many excavations and mine shafts of old lead or copper mines.

Of the large number of mining sites in the Goldfields, many have limited significant remains due to the use of temporary building materials and ongoing workings including open cut mining. Those that have extant infrastructure dating from the Gold Rush period include:

- P1459 *Gwalia Townsite Precinct* (RHP) (1896): is a collection of miners' houses and associated infrastructure dating from the late 1890s to the mid twentieth century. It is illustrative of the development of the goldfields and the associated social conditions for miners.
- P1465 *Gwalia Museum Group* (RHP) (1898+): is a collection of single-storey brick and corrugated iron buildings, including Mine Manager's House, Mine Office, Assay Building and timber Headframe and Winder. The buildings were associated with the operation of the Sons of Gwalia mine until its closure in December 1963.
- P14198 *Halley's Comet Gold Mine, Marble Bar* (RHP) (1936): The place includes an office, store, assay room, fitting shop, crushing shop, power house, gold room and various treatment elements including carbon columns, cyanide tanks, copper processing, roasters, stack, machinery and equipment. Together the elements form a landmark gold mining industrial environment associated with the history of the industry in the Pilbara.
- P3311 *King Battery, Kalgoorlie* (RHP) (1901): an industrial archaeological site containing the remnants of a rare 20-head gold processing battery and cyanide plant. This type of processing plant has virtually disappeared from mining sites. It was a major entrepreneurial venture which, although it failed, foreshadowed the centralized processing of ore from multiple sources that characterizes mining in the modern mining era, and is unusual as a stand-alone private processing plant built to serve several mines in the area rather than being connected to a specific mine site.
- P7255 *Hannan's North Heritage Mine* (1905) (Assessment Program): The area claimed by Paddy Hannan, which influenced the gold rush of the late 1800s, later became this mine. The place comprises the steel framed headframe, a timber connection and timber ore bin, a small tourist office and steel platform within the steel frame at ground level, giving access to the shaft below ground. The steel caged lift gives access to tourists at the 36-metre level of the mine shaft.

Other comparable mining related places include:

- P3690 *Old Stone Huts & associated mine shafts & workings, Cue* (1895) (Assessment Program): The place comprises several buildings of ironstone construction with numerous mine shafts and workings around.

Philanthropic Ventures

The following places were established through or associated with philanthropic ventures so are somewhat comparable to *Gwalia Precinct, Northampton*:

- P2429 *Albany Bell Castle* (RHP) (1919): The place comprises a red brick building of the Federation Romanesque Style. The siting of the attractive factory buildings in a landscaped setting has historic and social significance

as a reflection of the philanthropic desire of Albany Bell to provide an amenable working environment for his employees.

- P3471 Roelands Village (1930) (Assessment Program): The place is rare as an example of a non-denominational, privately owned place, established through philanthropic means for the care of Aboriginal children. It is representative of the philanthropic vision of Peter Albany Bell, and of a working mission farm, with some original mud huts remaining on the property.

The above suggests that places associated with mining are well represented on the State Register, both broadly and those on the Northampton Mineral Fields. *Gwalla Precinct, Northampton* is a representative example of an early mining landscape containing intact archaeological sites and some structural remains....The associations of the place with Joseph Horrocks, and his vision for a mining community, does make the place a rare example of a settlement established as a philanthropic venture where his staff were provided housing, gardens and a place of worship, creating a defined community.

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

Gibbs, M., 1997, 'Landscapes of Meaning: Joseph Lucas Horrocks and the Gwalla Estate, Northampton' in J. Gregory (ed), *Historical Traces*, University of Western Australia Press, Nedlands.

'*Gwalla Precinct, Northampton* Conservation Plan' prepared by Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd for The Shire of Northampton in April 2000.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

At present it is not known when the school opened or when it closed, further research may clarify the location.

Further research may identify the exact position of those graves whose location has been lost.

Further research may establish the exact nature of archaeological deposits at Camp Hill.