



# 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.

### 11.1. AESTHETIC VALUE<sup>1</sup>

*McDaniel Homestead* is a fine example of the 'Broome Tropical Bungalow' style. The comfortable and generous accommodation, enhanced by climatic responsive features of lattice, louvres and shutters, and set amidst a tropical garden setting, are aesthetic characteristics valued by the community. (Criterion 1.1)

*McDaniel Homestead* demonstrates a creative achievement in the provision of aesthetic and climatically appropriate shelter in a tropical environment, which became a prototype for much of the contemporary architecture of the region. (Criterion 1.2)

*McDaniel Homestead* is a good example of one of the few surviving pearling masters' houses in the residential quarter of Broome which together form a significant cultural environment. (Criterion 1.4)

### 11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

*McDaniel Homestead* was constructed as a result of the ongoing development of Broome as the centre of the pearling industry in Western Australia. It was built at a time when Broome was segregated by race and many Europeans and their families lived lives of privilege and luxury. (Criterion 2.2)

*McDaniel Homestead* is closely associated with master pearler Daniel McDaniel, whose family occupied the place from 1922 to 1981, and with master pearler Captain Frank Biddles and Japanese boat builder and carpenter, Hori Gorokitchi, who were responsible for construction of the place. Biddles was also a prominent investor in Fremantle. (Criterion 2.3)

### 11.3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

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<sup>1</sup> For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, Richard; Irving, Robert and Reynolds, Peter *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus & Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

#### 11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

*McDaniel Homestead* is valued by the local and wider community for social and cultural associations of a way of life no longer practised. (Criterion 4.1)

*McDaniel Homestead* contributes to the local community's sense of place having stood on its large corner site since 1902. The presence of the place is enhanced by the tropical garden. (Criterion 4.2)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **12. 1. RARITY**

*McDaniel Homestead* is one of the few surviving residences established by a pearling master during an important period of Broome's development. (Criterion 5.2)

### **12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

*McDaniel Homestead* is representative of a local vernacular style of architecture displaying particular features responsive to the climate. (Criterion 6.1)

As a pearling masters' house, *McDaniel Homestead* is representative of the style of residential accommodation introduced to the Broome environment by a sector of the community significant in the development of the town. (Criterion 6.2)

Built by a Japanese carpenter, *McDaniel Homestead* is representative of the multicultural nature of Broome society at the turn of the century. (Criterion 6.2)

### **12. 3 CONDITION**

Some of the fabric at *McDaniel Homestead* is in poor condition. Some essential maintenance has been carried out by the owner in recent years and the tenants have paid some attention to the garden. A lack of consistency in fabric introduced over a period of time detracts from the condition of the place which is in a sound condition overall.

### **12. 4 INTEGRITY**

*McDaniel Homestead* has high integrity. The place retains a residential function although it currently provides accommodation for a number of individual tenants and is not a single family homestead as originally intended.

### **12. 5 AUTHENTICITY**

The second wing, added to the original form, has a compatible scale and function with the earlier structure and has not detracted from the authenticity. Although some material displays a lack of consistency and is clearly of a contemporary nature, a sufficient amount of original fabric is in existence for the place to have moderate authenticity.

### 13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Irene Sauman, Historian. The physical evidence has been compiled by Katrina Chisholm of John Taylor Architect.

Further Documentary Evidence has been compiled by Dr Cathie Clement, MPHR. See 'Notes on some of Broome's Heritage Structures and their links with the Mangrove Point Stock Jetty and Tramway', National Heritage, Mt Lawley, 1999 revision.

#### 13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

*McDaniel Homestead* is a timber and iron bungalow residence constructed in 1902. The place was built for Captain Frank Biddles by Japanese carpenter Hori Gorokitchi. Circa 1922, *McDaniel Homestead* was extended by its then owner, Daniel McDaniel. During World War Two, the place was occupied by the army as officers' quarters and mess. It is currently in use as a rented residence.

The town of Broome was gazetted in 1883, and named for Governor Sir Frederick Napier Broome. Together with Derby, it was gazetted in response to the growth of the pastoral and pearling industries in the western part of the Kimberley. By 1898, Broome had a government residency, customs shed, bond store, hospital, police station and gaol, and a long deepwater jetty. Aborigines were used as divers during the early years, but with the need for deep divers Filipinos, Malays, Koepangers, and later Japanese, were recruited, often as indentured labour.<sup>2</sup>

The pearling industry experienced two boom periods, 1889 to 1893 and 1898 to c.1910. For the most part, however, the industry struggled, dealing variously with market forces, two depressions, two World Wars, immigration restrictions, government duties, and cyclones, until the advent of the plastic button finally ended the pearl shell trade in the 1950s.<sup>3</sup> Broome has experienced a tourist boom from the 1980s to the present.

Broome developed as a segregated town, with wealthy pearlers and Europeans living at one end in elegant bungalows surrounded by tropical gardens and tended by servants, and Chinatown at the other end, where the Asian and coloured populations lived, and some of the commercial and pearling activities took place. Captain Frank Biddles, a master pearler, purchased Lot 92 on the corner of Weld and Barker streets, at the European end of town, in 1902.

Biddles bought the land from diver Fabian Brillante, who had purchased it two years earlier.<sup>4</sup> Japanese carpenter Hori Gorokitchi is credited with building *McDaniel Homestead* for Frank Biddles. Hori Gorokitchi had arrived in Western Australia in May 1891, at the age of twenty three. He worked as a builder and contractor in Broome, employing Japanese

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<sup>2</sup> Edwards, Hugh *Port of Pearls: A History of Broome*, Rigby, 1983, pp. 1-65.

<sup>3</sup> Clement, Cathie 'Notes on some of Broome's heritage structures and their links with the Mangrove Point Stock Jetty and Tramway', 4p.

<sup>4</sup> Certificate of Title Vol. 192 Fol. 5, 13 April 1900 & 26 February 1902.

carpenters and constructing many buildings, including the Convent.<sup>5</sup> He worked for Gregory & Co as a boat builder, and is credited with building Captain Ancell Gregory's house (extant).<sup>6</sup>

*McDaniel Homestead* featured verandahs all round, fitted with flat metal storm shutters, a common feature of Broome homes. The rooms were lined with oregon timber panelling, and the exterior clad in corrugated iron with an iron roof. The garden was planted with mango trees, coconut and date palms, paw paw, frangipani and tropical shrubs. These are typical of the exotic plantings favoured in Broome. Another small building, with a lattice panelled verandah, probably served as servants quarters.<sup>7</sup>

Frank Biddles was born in South Australia in 1851. He went to Queensland in 1869 to try his luck on the Gympie goldfield, and was later active in the sugar industry. In 1886, he took up pearling with three luggers, and later invested in pastoral stations in the Kimberley. Biddles was also a prominent investor in Fremantle and is recorded as having retired to 'semi-private life at Fremantle', in 1902, but in May that year he was elected to the first Road Board for the District of Broome, to serve for the remainder of the year.<sup>8</sup> He was not re-elected in February 1903, however, so his retirement appears to have stood.<sup>9</sup> In 1909, *McDaniel Homestead* came under the control of the West Australian Trustee Executor and Agency, suggesting they may have managed the place, as Frank Biddles lived until 1932.<sup>10</sup>

In the meantime, *McDaniel Homestead* was rented out to Graham Blick, District Medical Officer for Broome from 1900 to 1907, and Acting Resident Magistrate for part of this period. On the Electoral Rolls for the Kimberley District, Blick is recorded as residing in Weld Street.<sup>11</sup> He was also elected to serve on Broome's first Road Board in 1902 but, like Biddles, was not re-elected the following year.<sup>12</sup> Blick Avenue in Broome is named for him.<sup>13</sup> He does not appear to have remained in Broome after 1910, and is shown as 'struck off' on the Supplementary Roll of 31 March 1911. Also listed as residing in Weld Street at this time was pearler Penn Blick.<sup>14</sup>

Graham Blick's occupation of *McDaniel Homestead* has been confirmed by Phyllis McDaniel, whose husband bought the place in 1922.<sup>15</sup>

We bought Dr Blick's house and we named it Blick House. Of course we rebuilt it and made quite a lovely home... I grew everything myself, huge mango trees, and

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5 Atkinson, Anne *Asian Immigrants to Western Australia 1829-1901*, Vol 5, Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians, UWA Press, 1979, p. 340.

6 National Trust information on the places.

7 Auction Notice for 8 August [1992], HCWA File 2910.

8 Batty, J. S. (ed) *The History of the North West of Australia: embracing Kimberley, Gascoyne & Murchison Districts*, V. K. Jones & Co, Perth, 1915, p. 137-140.

9 *West Australian Government Gazette*, 13 February 1903, p. 261.

10 Certificate of Title Vol. 192 Fol. 5, 26 February 1909.

11 *Western Australian Blue Book 1900-1905; Legislative Assembly Electoral Roll. Kimberley District, 1904-1911; Wise's Post Office Directories, 1900-1920. Note:* Wise's Post Office Directories do not give street addresses for Broome residents. Occupation only is listed

12 *West Australian Government Gazette*, 13 February 1903, op cit.

13 DOLA Geographic names.

14 *Legislative Assembly Electoral Roll. Kimberley District, 1904-1920.*

15 Certificate of Title Vol. 192 Fol. 5, 21 March 1922.

coconut palms... I had a fernery and all tropical fruits... a grove of pawpaws, bananas and pineapples.<sup>16</sup>

The reference to rebuilding may refer to the addition made to the place, which is credited to McDaniel.<sup>17</sup> The addition comprised a separate wing with kitchen, bathroom, and bedroom or living room.<sup>18</sup>

Daniel McDaniel was born at Busselton in 1879. At the age of seventeen he took up employment in the postal department and was eventually transferred to Onslow where he held the position of Post Master. He resigned from this position in 1902, and purchased a pearling boat, the lugger 'Karri'. McDaniel initially operated from Onslow, and is first recorded at Broome in 1909. His fleet of pearling luggers grew until it 'became known as one of the largest in the State' (a claim made for more than one pearling master, however).<sup>19</sup> According to Phyllis McDaniel he had six or eight small boats.<sup>20</sup>

Phyllis McDaniel (nee Bardwell) was born in Victoria in 1889 and came to Western Australia with her family in 1896. She was involved in swimming and life-saving, and taught both to school children in Geraldton. She met her future husband while visiting her brother Bernard and his wife in Broome. Bernard Bardwell was also a pearler. His first boat was called *Phyllis*. The McDaniels were married in 1915.<sup>21</sup> Phyllis McDaniel described living conditions in Broome as very primitive, with few facilities. Two of her four children were born on the verandah of *McDaniel Homestead*. During the storms the house would be full of leaves, sand and water. There was no electricity, or fans, only lamps and wood fires, but in later years the house was lit with gas.<sup>22</sup>

*McDaniel Homestead* is typical of the homes of wealthy Europeans in Broome, however. Servants were plentiful and cheap, their availability probably making up for the lack of other facilities. Life in Broome was more reminiscent of the British in India than of life in other Western Australian towns for the most part.

Each master pearler's home had a Chinese or Japanese cook; an Aborigine was employed for garden work, Koepanger boys supervised the children at play, did housework and polished the silver. An Aboriginal woman trained by the Sisters at the local convent, was given some flour and tobacco in return for doing the daily washing, another Chinese young man did the ironing, while the valet-waiter-general factotum was either a Japanese or a Koepanger.<sup>23</sup>

Homes were decorated with silk wall-hangings, pottery and carved furniture imported from Asia. Many families had a second home in Perth or Melbourne.<sup>24</sup> The McDaniels had a home in West Perth, known as

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16 Phyllis McDaniel, Battye Oral History 212, 1977, p. 6. She was 88 years old when interviewed.

17 National Trust information on the place.

18 Auction Notice for 8 August [1992], HCWA File 2910.

19 Battye, J. S. op cit, p. 150-1.

20 Phyllis McDaniel, op cit, p. 7.

21 ibid, pp. 1-6.

22 ibid, pp. 7 & 24.

23 Bain, Mary Albertus, *Full Fathom Five*, Artlook, Perth, 1982, p. 235.

24 Francis, Iris *Broome: A Pictorial History*, self published, 1992. Iris Francis is the granddaughter of pearling captain George Francis.

'Restormel'.<sup>25</sup> According to Phyllis McDaniel, she and her husband took it in turns, year about, to spend two months in Perth while the other one looked after business in Broome. Once their sons were old enough to manage the business they were then able to get away together.<sup>26</sup>

During World War Two, Broome was taken over as a military base and most of the population was evacuated. The army occupied *McDaniel Homestead* as officers' quarters and mess from 1942 to about 1945.<sup>27</sup> Daniel McDaniel was one of the pearlers who attempted to re-establish the industry after the war. In 1947, Phyllis McDaniel purchased part of Lot 12, on Napier Terrace in Chinatown, with five buildings. One of these, 4 Napier Terrace, was occupied as McDaniel crew quarters from 1953 to 1965.<sup>28</sup> Daniel McDaniel died in 1956, and Phyllis and their two surviving sons, Terence and Nolan, carried on the pearling business until the late 1960s. They did not get involved in the cultured pearl industry and it is not clear if they were diving for pearl shell or for pearls at this late date.<sup>29</sup>

*McDaniel Homestead* was transferred to the ownership of Nolan and Terence after their father's death.<sup>30</sup> Phyllis McDaniel continued to live in the place. She owned an extensive shell collection which was viewed by Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh on their visit to Western Australia in March 1963.<sup>31</sup>

When Terence McDaniel died, his brother Nolan was appointed sole executor of Daniel McDaniel's estate, and on Nolan's death in 1978, executorship passed to his son, Daniel Nolan McDaniel.<sup>32</sup> The McDaniel family's association with *McDaniel Homestead* finally ended in December 1981 when, following Phyllis McDaniel's death, the place was sold to Paul Anthony Sasche, farmer of Bencubbin, and Susan Lavinia Hartley, schoolteacher of Cottesloe.<sup>33</sup>

In 1988, Paul Sasche became the sole owner.<sup>34</sup> He attempted to sell the place at auction on 8 August 1992, but no sale eventuated. *McDaniel Homestead* has been rented out for many years. Rental at time of auction was noted as \$400 a week.<sup>35</sup> In 1999, the place continues to be rented, the occupants a group of young people.

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25 Battye, J. S. op cit, p. 151.

26 Phyllis McDaniel, op cit, p. 34.

27 ibid, p.25.

28 Broome Shire Rate Books, 1931-1965, researched by Broome Historical Society, June 1999. See also HCWA assessments for 4 and 6 Napier Terrace.

29 Phyllis McDaniel, op cit, p. 26.

30 Certificate of Title Vol. 192 Fol. 5, 12 November 1959.

31 Phyllis McDaniel, op cit.

32 Certificate of Title Vol. 192 Fol. 5, 22 January 1975 and 4 December 1978.

33 Certificates of Title Vol. 192 Fol. 5 & Vol. 1608 Fol. 701, 23 December 1981.

34 Certificates of Title Vol. 1608 Fol. 701, 17 November 1988.

35 Auction Notice, op cit.

## 13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

*McDaniel Homestead* is located at the north-west corner of Barker and Weld streets, diagonally across from the shire council offices. This is the northern end of the original residential quarter of the town in which many of the bungalows of the pearling masters were situated. The single-storey building is situated towards the centre of the block with a hut and shed occupying the north-west corner. The house and adjacent structures are well screened from the street by the mature tropical planting typical of Broome. The house and gardens are surrounded by a timber picket fence of recent construction. Openings in the fence give pedestrian access to the house from Weld Street and vehicular access from Barker Street.

Broome and other Kimberley Region towns in Western Australia have developed a climate responsive architecture with narrow linear planning to facilitate cross ventilation, extensive shady outdoor spaces surrounded by dense planting, ventilating ridges to release hot air from in the roof, and roofs generously extended to shelter verandahs and breezeways. Adjustable louvres and large insect screened areas of living and sleeping accommodation under the verandahs with buildings often raised above flat sites, permit maximum air-flow. *McDaniel Homestead* is built in the 'Broome Tropical Bungalow' style.

The main portion of *McDaniel Homestead* is a rectangular form orientated along a north-south axis. A secondary rectangular form with a similar orientation, added at a later date, abuts the main portion of the house and is distinguished by its smaller scale and lower roof level but otherwise retains similar materials and style of construction. The hipped roof has a small gable over the main pedestrian entrance from Weld Street, although this is no longer used for access to the house.

Concrete stumps, topped with metal caps which assist in termite prevention, raise the building above the ground level with stairs located at the major entrances. Construction materials feature a variety of cladding materials including corrugated iron, fibre cement boards; flyscreens; timber lattice and louvres to the lower portions of the timber framed walls beneath the verandah balustrade. External storm shutters, hinged along the top horizontal edge, have been employed around the house forming the upper part of the walls when closed. These are propped out with timber struts from the verandah balustrade in the open position. The storm shutters to the south elevation are the full height of the wall.

A wide verandah with varnished timber floorboards encircles a central core of accommodation which includes a kitchen, bathroom and two bedrooms. These rooms have corrugated iron cladding externally and weather boards as internal cladding to the walls and ceiling. The consistency and style of the joinery employed in the timber door and window frames, skirting and wall panelling is indicative of material from the first era of construction and therefore likely to be original. Door and window openings feature four panel doors and six pane casement windows. Some lightweight cladding materials have been used to partition off sections of the verandah providing further accommodation spaces for rental purposes. The verandah which has a number of external

entrance points, links the two wings of the house with the secondary unit comprising a living area, kitchen and a bathroom. Access between the two wings is through a bathroom although separate external access exists to the north.

Maintenance work in recent years has included partial restumping; replacement of the main roof cladding; installation of a new boundary fence and provision of some new storm shutters. The building displays some lack of consistency in cladding materials which is indicative of fabric being introduced at different periods but overall the building is in sound condition.

The hut located at the north east corner of the site is clad with corrugated iron around the northern half. A diagonal lattice screened verandah to the southern portion completes the rectangular form of the structure. The corrugated iron roof with no guttering has gable ends to the east and west and a lower pitch over the verandah. The building is entered by timber stairs located centrally along the verandah elevation. The adjacent hut, close to the intersection of north and west boundaries, is attached to the shed by an extension of the roof, creating a small sheltered area between the two structures. The interior of the hut and shed were not accessible on the day of inspection but both appear in sound condition.

### **13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION**

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### **13.4 REFERENCES**

No key references.

### **13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH**

Papers relating to the purchase of the place by Mr Paul Saches, details of works carried out during his ownership together with a 1992 condition report have been supplied by Mr Saches and are contained in HCWA File P 2910.