



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Permanent Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 3444
2. **NAME** *Old Onslow Townsite (1885→1924)*
3. **LOCATION** Reserve 35118, Onslow (north of the Ashburton River)
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
 1. The whole of Reserve 35118 comprising of Onslow Lots 2, 6-11, 15-6,18, 21-7, 31, 32, 34, 37, 39-42, 44, 45, 48, 50, 52-5, 59, 62, 64-7, 75-9, 85, 88-91, 95, 99-102, 107-9, 112-8, 134-7, 129, 131-2, 134-5, 139, 141-53, 158-9, 162-93, 196, 198-222, 235, 241, 699, 957-967, 976-988, 991 and 992 being the whole of the land contained in the respective Crown land Titles.
 2. Lot 238 on Deposited Plan 195206 being Reserve 6944 and the whole of the land contained in Crown Land Title Volume: 3118 Folio: 396.
 3. Portion of Ashburton Location 153 being part of the land contained in Crown Lease No: 330/1967
 4. Onslow Lots 223-34 being unallocated crown land; Lot 155 on Deposited Plan 106030 being the whole of the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume: 237 Folio: 55; Lot 136 on Deposited Plan 222937 being the whole of the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume: 287 Folio: 199
 5. Onslow Town Lots 110 & 111 being the whole of the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume: 191 Folio: 41
 6. Lot 70 on Deposited Plan 222936 being the whole of the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume: 30 Folio: 92; Onslow Town Lot 61 being the whole of the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume: 23 Folio: 159; Onslow Town Lot 49 being the whole of the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume: 23 Folio: 157;
 7. Lot 133 on Deposited Plan 222937 being the whole of the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume: 280 Folio: 61.
 8. Onslow Lot 71 and Lot 38 on Deposited Plan 222936 being the whole of the land contained in Certificates of Title Volume: 636 Folio: 47 and Volume: 453 Folio: 116.
 9. Lot 5 on Deposited Plan 222936, Lot 73 on Deposited Plan 222936 and Onslow Town Lots 154 & 197 being the whole of the land contained in Certificates of Title Volume: 516 Folio: 199, Volume: 43 Folio: 52 and Volume: 565 Folio: 2 respectively

10. Lot 96 on Deposited Plan 222936 being the whole of the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume: 589 Folio: 196
11. Lot 128 on Deposited Plan 222937 being the whole of the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume: 456 Folio: 74
12. Lot 195, Lot 51, and Lot 43 on Deposited Plan 222936 being the whole of the land contained in Certificates of Title Volume: 1240 Folio: 602, Volume: 442 Folio: 136, Volume: 1240 Folio: 601
13. Lot 33 on Deposited Plan 222936 being the whole of the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume: 509 Folio: 111
14. Lot 29 on Deposited Plan 222936 being the whole of the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume: 426 Folio: 165
15. Lot 92 on Deposited Plan 222936 being the whole of the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume: 646 Folio: 159
16. Onslow Lots 119, 122 and 123 being the whole of the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume: 351 Folio: 43
17. Lot 140 on Deposited Plan 222937 being the whole of the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume: 259 Folio: 87
18. Lot 47 on Deposited Plan 222936 being the whole of the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume: 266 Folio: 165
19. Lot 60 on Deposited Plan 222936 being the whole of the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume: 527 Folio: 143
20. Lot 87 on Deposited Plan 222936 and Lot 80 on Deposited Plan 222936 being the whole of the land contained in Certificates of Title Volume: 381 Folio: 163 and Volume: 381 Folio: 168
21. Lot 120 on Deposited Plan 222937 and Lot 103 on Deposited Plan 222936 being the whole of the land contained in Certificates of Title Volume: 303 Folio: 113 and Volume: 499 Folio: 63
22. Lot 98 on Deposited Plan 222936 being the whole of the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume: 121 Folio: 47
23. Lot 68 on Deposited Plan 222936 being the whole of the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume: 585 Folio: 145
24. Lot 69 on Deposited Plan 222936 being the whole of the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume: 464 Folio: 200
25. Lot 12 on Deposited Plan 222936 being the whole of the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume: 453 Folio: 118
26. Lot 82 on Deposited Plan 222936 being the whole of the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume: 39 Folio: 389
27. Lot 72 on Deposited Plan 222936 being the whole of the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume: 571 Folio: 37
28. Lot 3 on Deposited Plan 222936 being the whole of the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume: 260 Folio: 83

29. Lot 4, Lot 13, Lot 104, Lot 105, Lot 20, Lot 36 and Lot 17 on Deposited Plan 222936 being the whole of the land contained in Certificates of Title Volume: 351 Folio: 42, Volume: 564 Folio: 78, Volume: 1033 Folio: 688 Volume: 428 Folio: 9, Volume: 565 Folio: 89, Volume: 381 Folio: 167 and Volume: 436 Folio: 128
30. Lot 1 on Deposited Plan 222936, Onslow Town Lot 111, Onslow Town Lot 110, Lot 138 on Deposited Plan 222937 and Lot 157 on Deposited Plan 106030 being the whole of the land contained in Certificates of Title Volume: 81 Folio: 36, Volume: 33 Folio: 332, Volume: 27 Folio: 7 Volume: 287 Folio: 200, Volume: 286 Folio: 189.

together with seabed land as is defined in Heritage Council of Western Australia Survey Drawing No 3444 prepared by Steffanoni Ewing and Cruickshank Pty Ltd.

5. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA Shire of Ashburton

6. OWNER

1. State of Western Australia (vested with the Shire of Ashburton)
2. State of Western Australia (vested with Waters & Rivers Commission).
3. State of Western Australia (Leased to Harold William Cullen & Dora May Cullen).
4. State of Western Australia
5. Emmeline Colliar Clark
6. Mary Forrest, John Forrest & Robert Mervyn Forrest
7. Arthur Lascelles Farrant & John Lascelles Farrant
8. Frederick John Laphorn
9. Richard John Hancock
10. John Francis Burkett
11. Sibero Montono
12. Arthur Clarence Whittaker
13. Samuel Clark
14. Charles Ernest Campbell
15. Council of War Relief Funds
16. Minami
17. Letitia Amelia Wallgren
18. George Gallop
19. Bosisto Thomson
20. Daniell McDaniell
21. Walter Scarff
22. William Morgan
23. Edward Macpherson

24. Herbert Parkes
25. Myrtle Prior
26. Walther Redmond
27. John O'Donnell
28. James Clark & John Mackenzie
29. Robert Francis Hope
30. James Clark

7. HERITAGE LISTINGS

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| • Register of Heritage Places: | Interim Entry | 18/02/2005 |
| | Permanent Entry | 17/02/2006 |
| • National Trust Classification: | | ----- |
| • Town Planning Scheme: | | ----- |
| • Municipal Inventory: | Adopted | 17/08/1999 |
| • Register of the National Estate: | | ----- |

8. CONSERVATION ORDER

9. HERITAGE AGREEMENT

10. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Old Onslow Townsite, an archaeological site comprising various structures and features, including the Police Station Complex (1893; 1906/1907), located in a natural setting on the banks of the Ashburton River, in the Pilbara region of Western Australia, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place is a rare example of an historical archaeological site of a former 'frontier' settlement in a very remote area of the North West of the State;

the remaining fabric and archaeological material of the place is important for its ability to reveal information about the history of the town from its establishment in 1885 up to its abandonment in 1925;

the plan of the town, with its centre, residential area and labourers' camps, is representative of social planning characteristic of eighteenth and nineteenth century European colonial attitudes towards Aboriginal, Japanese, Chinese, Malay, Filipino, Afghan and Italian workers and their families, demonstrating the frontier mentality of the era and the private enterprise ethic which exploited natural resources, including indigenous people;

the place was established to service the local pearling and pastoral industries in the late nineteenth century, and as such has associations with the development of the North West of the State;

the Police Station Complex has landmark value as it is the most substantial structure remaining within the townsite;

the place is of significance to the local Aboriginal community, who have strong memories of Old Onslow, in particular with regard to conflict between local Aboriginal people and European settlers and the exploitation of Aboriginal workers in the pearling and pastoral industries;

the natural setting of the place, with its native vegetation and location on the bank flats of the Ashburton River, together with the ruins and archaeological remains of the individual buildings lends the place high aesthetic qualities;

the place is associated with a number of prominent Western Australians who took up leases in the area and were engaged in the pearling and pastoral industries, including the Forrest family; and,

the place has associations with J. Clark, who established the port at the Ashburton River in 1882/1883 and who, through the construction of such enterprises as the jetty, the first general store and the Rob Roy Hotel, was largely responsible for the development of the town in the 1880s through to the early 1900s.