

Area: Greenough	Place Number: 156	Category: 1
Assessment Date: 22/09/1997	Last Revision Date: 09/03/2005	
HCWA Number: 3443	Asset ID: MCH126955	

PLACE DETAILS

Name:	Newmarracarra
Other Names:	off Geraldton-Mt Magnet Road (north side)
Type of Place:	Homestead
Address:	off Geraldton-Mt Magnet Road (north side)
Suburb:	Bringo

LOCATION

Map Reference: Nanson S.W.	GPS Northing: 6821151.00 0000	GPS Easting: 287547.000 000
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Photo Description:

12/05/2004

Henkel

Front (south) elevation of Homestead

SITE DETAILS

Lot No.:	Lot 7 of VL 1296	Assess No.:	61036
Reserv No.:		Vol/Fol:	1197/970
Dia/Plan:			

USE OF PLACE

Original Use:	Residence		
Current Use:	Not in use		
Ownership:			
Public Access:	No	Occupied:	Not Occupied

DESCRIPTION

Walls:	Limestone	Roof:	Cement Tile
Condition:	Good	Integrity:	
Original fabric:			
Modifications:			

Newmarracarra Homestead is situated on a gently sloping site and was formerly surrounded by elegant fenced gardens and a tennis court. The homestead group comprises a very large residence, accommodation (staff) building to the north, shearing sheds, former barn and stables and storage sheds. The outbuildings are still in use as farm buildings other than for the stone external accommodation building which is now in ruins. The main residence is no longer occupied and is generally in a poor but sound condition despite many years of neglect.

The residence is very large (over 700m² + verandah) with an expansive 'U' shape plan forming an internalised courtyard to the rear (north). Two large turrets over octagonal rooms at the corners dominate the front façade together with a projecting timbered gable over the entry. The house is surrounded by a red painted corrugated iron bullnosed verandah attached at walls below the main roof. The turrets are roofed with a pressed metal 'fishscale' patterned sheeting whilst the main roof is red cement roof tiles. The original roofing was terra cotta coloured asbestos cement slates (or 'Marseilles' slate) some of which is still in place on the east wing together with terra cotta filigree ridge capping. Several large rendered chimneys, with mouldings, punctuate the roof which was formally capped with a viewing platform, and roof lantern, all of which has now been removed and replaced by a flat metal deck roof sheeting for weatherproofing the interior.

The external walls of the residence are of local stone with red, tuck painted, brick quoins to corners and openings. The verandahs are supported on turned timber posts and decorative brackets with the timber floors at the front which is built up above the gently sloping ground. At the rear, concrete has replaced the timber to the verandah floors and the building site is cut into the gently rising ground. A retaining wall has been built across the back of the house, just beyond the verandah. Rainwater from the roof is collected and stored in a large underground cistern with its building.

The southern section is the oldest and comprises the original homestead to which the other wings were added to form the 'U' shape. Some former roof framing including corrugated iron can still be seen within the existing roof space of the eastern wing and this may relate to the earlier structure. Some of the other wings may have been built in several stages and there is evidence of a high standard of finish to bathrooms and accommodation in the western wing, possibly related to the purported

visit of the Duke of Gloucester in 1927.

Internally the rooms are set out both sides off central passageways in the newer west and the south wings. Walls are plastered onto stone and the ceilings were generally lathe and plaster but these have been stripped back or removed (for safety) in most cases as they were collapsing. Timber floors have deep moulded skirtings, windows generally are double hung and doors are 4 & 6 panel. The entry hall and stair features moulded plastered arches and a turned timber balustrade on the stair leads up to several roof space rooms (for staff). Most fittings, finishes, paneling and fireplace surrounds have been removed but the grand scale of the place has not been diminished.

2004/05 Review: Further deterioration to the built fabric has occurred since the original inspection in 1997. This is particularly evident with the collapsed state of much of the surrounding verandah.

HISTORY

Construction Date:	1860	Source:	Taylor & Suba
Architect:	J.L. Ochiltree		
Builder:	Mr Huckle		

A full history of Newmarracarra is contained in Taylor, J., & Suba, T., "Conservation Plan for the Newmarracarra Homestead", 1996. Below is a brief summary:

The land encompassing Newmarracarra, Glengarry and Moonyoonooka was taken up by Mr Thomas Brown in 1852. Brown, who was briefly the

Resident Magistrate for the Champion Bay district, was a keen horse breeder and used Newmarracarra as a horse station. Following his death in 1863, Brown's sons, Ken and Maitland Brown, took over the substantial pastoral leases and continued to build on the successful horse trade business, particularly with India. In 1882 both Newmarracarra and Glengarry were acquired by wealthy pastoralist, Mr J.P. McKenzie Grant. Newspaper reports of 1887 describe a large elegant stone homestead with a corrugated iron roof, along with substantial outbuildings. This original homestead is believed to be incorporated in the building which exists today. When the railway line was built between Geraldton and Mullewa, there was a siding on the Newmarracarra property which was referred to as 'Grant's siding'. When Mr Grant died in 1897 the property was divided between his four sons. Walter McKenzie Grant took up Newmarracarra, David Edgar Grant inherited Moonyoonooka, John Gordon Grant gained Glengarry [Place No. 165], and Alec Edgar Grant became the owner of Yanget. [Place No. 164] In April 1910 tenders were called for the construction of a brick and stone homestead at Newmarracarra, designed by noted Perth architect, J.L. Ochiltree. The successful tenderer was Mr Huckle for a sum of £4049. The Homestead and property were well known in the district and the centre of much socialising. Following a severe drought and depression in the 1930s Walter McKenzie Grant lost Newmarracarra to the Union Bank. His son, Walter Grant managed the property for a while. During World War II the Homestead was used by the Army as a hospital. In 1945 Jeremiah James Clune purchased the property. J.J. Clune, who was a member of the Geraldton Roads Board and later the Greenough Shire, lived at Newmarracarra until his death in 1967. At this time the Homestead was vacated owing to its large size and extensive ongoing maintenance. It stood empty until the late 1970s when it was used for retreats and training camps for catholic school children.

HISTORIC THEMES

HCWA:	100 Demographic settlement and mobility 301 Grazing, pastoralism and dairying 605 Famous and infamous people
AHC:	8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements 3.5 Developing primary production 3.5.1 Grazing stock

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Newmarracarra is of State significance both as an example of a substantial pastoral homestead, and also as one of few such fine, large

scale residences that can be found out of Perth. In addition to its aesthetic significance, it has historic and social significance for its association with the Brown, Grant and Clune families, the pastoral industry, its role with the armed forces during World War II and as a camp school for Catholic church schools based in Geraldton. Newmarracarra is an essential part of the built heritage of the Greenough Shire.

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY

Management Category:	1
Level of Significance:	EXCEPTIONAL SIGNIFICANCE: Essential to the heritage of the locality.
Management Recommendation:	Conservation of the place is considered essential. Any proposed change should not unduly impact on the significance of the place and be in accordance with either a Conservation Plan or Heritage Impact Statement.

OTHER LISTINGS

National Trust of WA - Classified, 01/01/1970 Heritage Council of WA - Register, 01/01/1970
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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

<p>Bibliography: HCWA Database No. 3443. Halley, E.M. & Wilson, H.H., "Roundabout Geraldton and the Victoria District", reprinted 1978. Wells, J.H., "Here-There-Not-Everywhere", 1986, pp.24-28. "Historical Greenough landmark faces an uncertain future", Midwest Times, 26/07/1995, p.7. Taylor, J., & Suba, T., "Conservation Plan for the Newmarracarra Homestead", 1996. Lloyd, M., "Mid West Heritage", 1999, p. 52.</p> <p>Photographs: GHS0499 homestead (n.d.), GHS0500 homestead (n.d.), GHS0501 old cottage (n.d.), GHS0845 homestead (1975), GHS 2473 homestead turret (n.d.), GHS2474 homestead (1975), GHS2475 homestead (1975), GHS6206 homestead (1981).</p>
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OTHER PHOTOS



Photo Description:

22/09/1997

Suba, Callow and Grundy

Stone ruins to rear of homestead



Photo Description:

22/09/1997

Suba, Callow and Grundy

Main entrance hall with staircase



Photo Description:

12/05/2004

Henkel

View of South-West corner with turret



Photo Description:

12/05/2004

Henkel

Rear courtyard looking South