

Place No:
Minnenooka Homestead, MINNENOOKA

Management Category
2



PLACE INFORMATION		
Place Name:	Minnenooka Homestead	
Previous Place Number:	GR159	
Other Names:	Minninooka Homestead	
Place Type:	Individual Building or Group	
SITE LOCATION		
Street Address:	1586 Minnenooka Road	
Locality:	MINNENOOKA	
Location Detail:	east side	
Assessment No:	61157	
Survey:	Lot 73, P231548	
Reserve:		
GPS Coordinates	6809734mN; 295194mE	
HERITAGE LISTING		
State Heritage Office ID:	13928	Parent HCWA ID (if applied):
State Heritage Register:	No	
Other Listing:		
Local Heritage Survey:	Municipal Heritage Inventory Initial Assessment 22/09/1997 Municipal Heritage Inventory Last Assessment 05/04/2005	

SIGNIFICANCE	
Level of Significance	CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE: Very important to the heritage of the locality.
Management Category	CATEGORY 2 Conservation of the place is highly recommended. Any proposed change should not unduly impact on the heritage values of the place and should retain significant fabric wherever feasible.
Statement of Significance	- The place has aesthetic value as a good and largely intact example of a generous Victorian Georgian homestead in stone within a garden setting. - The place has historic value for its association with the establishment and development of the region for agriculture in the mid 19th century. - Minnenooka Homestead has historic value for its association with early settlers, the Readheads, Pearce Clifton, and the du Boulay family. - The place has aesthetic and historic value as a collection of buildings that demonstrate the evolution of farming practices since the mid 19th century.

PLACE USE	
Original Use	Farming/Pastoral: Homestead
Current Use	Farming/Pastoral: Homestead
Other Use	

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction Date	1879; 1953;
Walls	Limestone
Roof	Metal: Aluminium Tile
Architectural Style	Victorian Georgian
Physical Description	Minnenooka Homestead dates from the late 1800's. The house has been added to over the years with an extra wing off the rear forming an 'L' shaped plan overall. The external walls generally are dark sandstone and the original roof has been replaced by green aluminium tiles. The large perimeter verandahs have been concreted and pipe columns replace the original timber posts. In the 2011 LHS review it was noted that the interiors have been completely 'modernised' in the 1960-1970's and reflect little of the original character of the place. The gardens are surrounded by extensive stone walls approximately 1m high, in very good condition. The farm out-buildings are in more original condition with substantial shearing sheds and four stables. Information from the 2004/5 LHS Review stated that to the west of the house (across the road) is the Blacksmith's shop, a square stone building with a door on the east side and a small window on the west side. The building is roofed with corrugated iron and inside can be seen the remains of the stone forge. Just to the north of this building was a dark grey headstone surrounded with a weldmesh fence. The headstone commemorates Charlotte Houssemayne Du Boulay who died on 31 March 1865 aged 3 months 25 days. Approximately 700m further north on the side of a hill is a white marble headstone also surrounded with a weldmesh fence. This headstone commemorates Eleanor Harriet Thwaites who died on 15 October 1885 aged 20.

Condition	Good
Integrity	High
Authenticity	High

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Minnenooka, or Minninooka as it is also known, is believed to mean 'anthill' in the local Aboriginal dialect according to previous research. The property was originally part of the larger land holdings owned by the Pastoral Company associated with the du Boulay, Logue, Walcott and Menzies families.

The title to VL 73 was taken up by Julius du Boulay and Alex Menzies in 1857.

Julius and his wife Elizabeth Solly had 11 children and it is their daughter, Charlotte du Boulay aged 3 months, whose grave is at Minnenooka, indicating that the family were living at the property.

Jullius's cousin, Arthur Houssemayn Du Boulay (1843-1922) and his wife Caroline Emily Josephine Howard (1845-1919) who had married in 1867, established their home at Minnenooka probably soon after their marriage. The couple had seven children and maintained a home in Geraldton as well as the Minnenooka Homestead.

In November 1879, an item in the local press stated that the partnership Foss & Co trading as farmers and graziers at Minnenooka was dissolved. The business was henceforth to be carried on by Pearce Eliot. This timing may explain the construction of the date of the homestead as either it prompted the construction of the new homestead, or its construction may have lead to the dissolution of the partnership.

This was William Pearce Clifton Eliot (1855-1911) who was Clerk of Courts in Greenough in 1872, and Geraldton 1875. He employed 2 ticket-of-leave men between 1879 and 1880 to work at Minnenooka and Waneranooka. It is likely therefore that the Minnenooka Homestead was built, in part, by ticket-of-leave men.

Pearce Clifton was living at Minnenooka in 1885 when he reported the death of 20 year old Eleanor Thwaites. Although initially there was some suspicion about her death it was later confirmed in the local press that she died as a result of epilepsy.

It is not clear when he left the property to return to Bunbury where the majority of his family resided, however by 1884 members of the Readhead family were living of the property and by 1888 raising sheep to be sold in Perth.

The transition of occupants at the property was not uncommon as often these large properties had many staff to manage them, separate to the ownership. Further research may determine the sequence of ownership and occupancy.

In 1901, Minnenooka Homestead was described as a 'comfortable and substantial' homestead owned by Thomas Robert Readhead (1867-1942). The property was used for sheep with only enough crops for consumption of the stock.

Thomas Readhead married Edith Francis Duncan (1872-1946) in 1894 and the couple had seven children. The Readhead family had a long association with this property, one of the sons Harold Melville Readhead (1899-1956) taking a leading role in its management in the mid 20th century.

In 1953, the Readhead family engaged local contractors T.L. Jones and Son to undertake works at the homestead. The detail of the works is not known however it may include the wing to rear of the building as the total cost of the works was £6507 is a substantial sum for the period.

It is not known when the current roof cladding was installed, replacing the probable original corrugated iron or shingles.

Historic Themes:	Peopling WA: Demographic Development Economy: Rural Occupations Cultural Life: Domestic Life.	
Associations	du Boulay family Readhead family William Pearce Eliot T.L. Jones and Son	Owners and occupiers Owners and occupiers Occupant Builder
Sources:	City of Greater Geraldton Municipal Inventory of Heritage Places 2019. The West Australian, 18 Jan 1887, p. 3; 1 May 1953, p. 19.	

Twentieth century impressions of Western Australia, P.W.H. Thiel & Co. p.606.
Erickson, Rica [ed] Bicentennial Dictionary of West Australians, UWA Press, 1988.
The Daily News, 24 October 1885, p. 3.
The Inquirer and Commercial News, 28 October 1885, p. 3.
Australian Electoral Rolls, 1903-1983.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS



PREVIOUS HERITAGE SURVEYS



Municipal Heritage Inventory, 2005.



Municipal Heritage Inventory 2005



Municipal Heritage Inventory 2005

ARCHIVAL IMAGE



Minninooka (Minnenooka) Homestead, 1901. Courtesy 20th Century Impressions, p. 606.