

Place No. 17 Fisher's House



Fisher's House

LOCATION	
Name of Place	Fisher's House (fmr)
Other Name (1)	Jager's House (fmr)
Other Name (2)	
Location/Address	
Street Number	17-19
Street Name	Withnell Street
Suburb/Town	Roebourne
Other Locational descriptor (text)	mE 514900 mN 7702697 Longitude: 117.1432 Latitude - 20.7754

OWNERSHIP & LAND DESCRIPTION				
Owner	Address	Phone/fax	Status	Item No.
Marina Fabian	PO Box 108, Roebourne 6718	08 9182 1197		
Reserve No.	Lot/Location No.	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	Item No.
	49	75483	610 193A 486 44A	

LISTING AND ASSESSMENT	
HCWA Reference Number	2331
State Register of Heritage Places:(Y/N)	No
Classified by the National Trust (Y/N)	Yes
Register of the National Estate (Y/N)	Yes
Local Town Planning Scheme (Y/N)	Yes
Management Category	B

DESCRIPTION	
Construction Date (1)	1880s

Construction Date (2)	
Site Type (Place Type)	Individual Building or Group
Use(s) of Place	
<i>Original</i>	RESIDENTIAL: Single storey residence
<i>Present</i>	RESIDENTIAL: Single storey residence
<i>Other</i>	
Construction Materials:	
<i>Walls</i>	9. STONE 904 Local Stone
<i>Roof</i>	6. METAL 606 Corrugated Iron
Condition	Good
Integrity (how much of the original fabric is intact?):	Moderate
Physical Description	
<p>The House is an imposing stone dwelling. The building has a stone central core with rendered quoins to the door and window openings. It is topped with a vaulted roof surrounded by skillioned roofed verandahs. The stone work is in fair condition.</p>	
History	
<p>The house has remained a private dwelling since its construction. It has been owned by a number of important local families and is still used as a residence. It was built by James Fisher, probably in the 1880s. James Fisher was a member of the early pastoral community in Roebourne, taking up a lease of one thousand acres on the George River with his brother George, and naming the station Mt Fisher. The brothers were amongst the first to follow ET Hooley's stock route north in 1866, leaving their home in Beverly to drive a flock of two thousand sheep to their pastoral lease. At the Ashburton River they encountered a group of Aborigines, allegedly 'preparing to attack James Fisher as he slept' resulting in George firing a gun and wounding one of the Aboriginal men.¹</p> <p>James married Eliza Strange in 1878. Eliza had arrived on the schooner <i>Mary</i> in 1875 to visit her sister Mary Hancock. James and Eliza lived at Andover Station and at Mt Fisher Station at different periods. They had nine children, three of whom died in infancy. James developed pleurisy in 1899 and died. He is buried at Mt Fisher station in the family graveyard.² After James's death, Eliza moved to Roebourne with her family, living in this house on the corner of Withnell and Stephen Streets.³</p> <p>The house was sold to Traverton F. Sholl in 1929/30. T.F. Sholl was chairman of the Roebourne Road Board in 1933.⁴ He was a descendent of the first Government Resident of the North West, Robert John Sholl, who had arrived in Roebourne in 1865.⁵</p> <p>The house was sold to Mrs E W Jager in 1967/68. Mrs Jager replaced the original pitched roof with a corrugated galvanised iron vault in the late 1960s or 1970s. The Jager's owned several businesses in Roebourne. In April 1983 it was sold to W.L. and M. Fabian.</p>	
Archaeology	
<p>There is potential for there to be material evidence at the dwelling related to its use since the 1880s and the lives of those who lived there in that period. .</p>	

SIGNIFICANCE	
Historic theme (s)	<p>1. DEMOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENT AND MOBILITY 104 Land allocation and subdivision</p> <p>3. OCCUPATIONS 301 Grazing, pastoralism and dairying 306 Domestic activities</p> <p>6. PEOPLE</p>

	602 Early settlers
Statement of Significance:	
Fisher's House has historical significance as it has remained a private dwelling over the course of its history, its solid construction surviving many cyclones. The place is associated with one of the earliest pastoral families, the Fishers, and with the Sholl family who were closely tied to the civic life of Roebourne over several generations. The house reflects established domestic life in Roebourne, early pastoral wealth and design adaptation to the harsh environmental conditions of the Northwest.	
ASSOCIATIONS	
Architect/Designer (1)	James Fisher
Other Associated Person(s)	James Fisher Eliza Fisher Traverton F Sholl Mrs EW Jager
MHI 1996	Assessment undertaken and Place Name Record created as "Jager's House"
MHI Review - 2012	Entry updated and renamed "Fisher's House"



Fisher's House/Jager's House 1970s, Courtesy National Trust of Australia (WA)

¹ Interview with the late Mrs James Fisher of Nedlands 'Women's Interests' *West Australian*, 1932, undated, in Nancy E. Withnell Taylor, *Yeera-Kuk-A-Doo a Saga of the North West*, Fremantle Arts Centre Press, Fremantle, 1980 p 110

² Withnell Taylor, p 199

³ Withnell Taylor, p 200

⁴ 'Roebourne and Cossack News', *Northern Times*, 16 August 1933

⁵ It is likely that Traverton was named after Traverton Charles Sholl, the son of Robert John who died aged 21, lost on the *Emma* which was sunk on the voyage from Nichol Bay to Fremantle in 1867. Traverton kept a diary of the early settlement in 1865 and 1866 which is now in Batye Library Traverton Sholl Diary 1865-66, Acc 193, SRO