

Place No. 32 Market Garden Site on Bampu Pool, Harding River



Remains of stone structure at Market Garden site 2012

LOCATION	
Name of Place	Market Garden Site on Bampu Pool
Other Name (1)	Possibly: Mears & Wilkinson's Market Garden
Other Name (2)	Market Garden Site, Harding River/Woodbrook Road
	Bamba Pool
	Banpoo Pool
Location/Address	
Street Number	
Street Name	Harding River/ Woodbrook Road
Suburb/Town	
Other Locational descriptor (text)	512977 mE, 7685869 mN (MGA 94 Zone 50) Longitude: 117.1248 Latitude: -20.9275

OWNERSHIP & LAND DESCRIPTION				
<i>Owner</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Phone/fax</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Item No.</i>
<i>Reserve No.</i>	<i>Lot/Location No.</i>	<i>Plan/Diagram</i>	<i>Vol/Folio</i>	<i>Item No.</i>

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

DESCRIPTION	
Construction Date (1)	1886?
Construction Date (2)	
Site Type (Place Type)	Garden

Use(s) of Place	
<i>Original</i>	COMMERCIAL: Other - Market Garden
<i>Present</i>	VACANT/UNUSED: Vacant/Unused - Ruin
Construction Materials:	
<i>Walls</i>	9. STONE 904 Local Stone 6. METAL 606 Corrugated Iron
<i>Roof</i>	
<i>Other</i>	
Condition	Poor - Ruin
Integrity (how much original fabric intact?):	The site is a ruin with remains of two structures.

Physical Description

The site is located on a raised surface adjacent to a large water pool in the Harding River. It is on the old track between Andover and Old Woodbrook Station. The remains are located on either side of a dirt track that cuts through the site before crossing the riverbed at a natural ford.

The remains include two structures, as well as a surface scatter of archaeological material, much of which presumably relates to the market garden. One structure is a single room building, with thick stone walls standing at heights ranging between 0.30m to 1m. There is a single entrance. The second structure has several rooms, was constructed of metal with a stone footing, presumably wooden framed. The main concentration of Asian ceramic vessel remains is at this building. While fragmentary, they are derived from large stoneware vessels with an internal slip common to Asian sites at Cossack. Other material remains include remnants of structural materials and occupation.

History

Market gardens in the Pilbara would have served an important role, as suggested by the account in *The West Australian* of a market garden in 1886 (see excerpt below) on Meares and Wilkinson's station. It is conjectured that the market garden referred to in this article is the site at Bampu Pool.

Archaeology

The archaeological record of market gardens is relatively better known for eastern states than for the Pilbara, where market garden sites are rare and understudied. The archaeology at this site is highly disturbed and faces continued pressure from the occasional through traffic and visitors, as it is located close to the road.

The workings of the market garden in terms of area of land farmed, and the nature of the provision of water, may possibly be determined through future archaeological research. Importantly, unlike other colonial sites in the immediate area there is very little evidence for Aboriginal presence at the market garden.

SIGNIFICANCE**Historic theme (s)**

3. OCCUPATIONS
302 Rural industry and market gardening

Statement of Significance:

This site is significant as the sole reminder of market gardening in the Shire, and perhaps the Northwest. The clear and rare associations with Asian material culture and presumably Asian workers provides a material reminder of the important activities of the Asian population in the Northwest, now better known for Broome than for these earlier years of non-Aboriginal colonisation.

ASSOCIATIONS

Architect/Designer (1)

Other Associated Person(s)

Meares and Wilkinson

OTHER	
References	
Paterson, A. 2006, 'Towards a Historical Archaeology of Western Australia's Northwest', <i>Australasian Historical Archaeology</i> 24, pp 91-103.	
MHI 1996	Identified on Review List
MHI Review 2012	Site assessed and Place Name Record created

**A TRIP OVERLAND FROM
ROEBOURNE.**

(BY BENGALIEE.)

Leaving Roebourne, to the eastward is a magnificent piece of open country, well grassed, excellent soil though somewhat gravelly in places. The eastward road runs along the foot of a stony, volcanic range of hills, covered with spinifex for a few miles, and then passes over fine open country to Mr. Fisher's station, Mt. Fisher, a distance of 25 miles from Roebourne. Water is easily obtainable on this run at a shallow depth. From Mr. Fisher's pleasant little homestead, the distance to the Pyramid station, owned by Mr. Richardson, is about eleven miles. The Pyramid is a peculiarly shaped hill, rising like a perfect cone, and surmounted by what appears in the distance to be an immense barrel. This conical formation is not uncommon in the same range of hills and occurs in other places. Another curious feature of the hills, near the Pyramid is that some of them look as if a race of giants had started making embankments and knocked off in a hurry, without finishing their contract. This is a well managed and valuable property and the improvements are of a substantial nature, and all the stock I saw looked well. Woodbrook the property of Mr. Edwards is prettily situated at the base of a stony ridge. Mr. Edwards appears to turn his attention to horse breeding. I had the pleasure of being introduced to "Strike," a big useful looking horse for getting a superior class of hacks. Flemington a game looking and bloodlike little horse, who I believe has left his mark in West Australian turf records, was also in the same stable. There are several other homesteads—Messrs Mears and Wilkinson's, Lockyer Bros', Lorenzen's etc., on all of which grass was fairly plentiful, although the whole district was suffering from want of rain. Water is easily procurable in most places at no great depth, but no one seems to make any attempt at storing surface water, either by means of tanks or dams. A market garden has I believe been started on Messrs. Mears and Wilkinson's place, and ought to prove a profitable investment, as there is soil in the district capable of growing anything under the sun. Grape vines flourish, in Queensland in about the same

flourish, in Queensland in about the same latitude, and in a similar soil. On Messrs. Lockyer Bros' Station I was shown a very useful looking draught stallion, not out of the way big, but still compact and well put together. There ought to be a grand opening for horse breeding on a large scale in this district, provided good sires were used, as well as attention given to providing well bred roomy mares. There is without a doubt, an intense love of the race horse implanted in nearly every British breast, and if a more sturdy saleable class of horse were bred, racing itself would not suffer, but the breeders would find a balance on the right side of the ledger. There is an increasing demand for both draught horses and good looking upstanding hacks; one has only to visit any sale yard in Sydney, Melbourne, or Perth, and he will see that all horses with style and action are eagerly sought after, and will bring a fair price.

Westward of Roebourne on the overland road to the Ashburton, the first station reached is Karratha, a distance of 35 miles. About 18 miles from Roebourne the formation of the country changes, and presents the appearance of country likely to prove auriferous, in fact there is a tradition about Roebourne that gold had been found in the same line of country. Karratha home station is romantically situated in a gorge among some low granite hills. This fine station is managed by Mr. Marsfield and the improvements are on a liberal scale, the fencing, woolshed etc., would be a credit to any place. There is a Government well about half way to Roebourne, and also another 25 miles on the road to Balmoral, a distance of fifty miles. Balmoral is owned by Mr. D. Stewart and is a station which should well repay the owner for any outlay in improvements. The country to the westward of Roebourne appears to me to be even better than the eastern country, there being more top feed. The Fortesque River on which Balmoral station is formed, must drain a large extent of country, and looks as if in a rainy season a considerable body of water would flow down its channel. Mr. Stewart kindly showed me some colts and fillies he was getting broken. They were in good condition and likely to make useful animals for general work. I did not happen to see the sire of these youngsters but his progeny did him no discredit. Near Balmoral is a Post and Telegraph Station and about 14 miles from the homestead is a landing where small boats can come with supplies and take

Excerpt from *The West Australian* describing a market garden (3 May 1886, p3)



Remains of metal structure with stone footings at Market Garden site 2012