

Place No. 66 Watering Cove



Aerial image of Watering Cove, Nearmap

LOCATION	
Name of Place	Watering Cove
Other Name (1)	Murujuga
Location/Address	
Street Number	
Street Name	
Suburb/Town	Burrup Peninsula
Other Locational descriptor (text)	481198 mE, 7724055 mN (MGA94 Zone 50) Longitude: 116.8196 Latitude: -20.5824

OWNERSHIP & LAND DESCRIPTION				
Owner	Address	Phone/fax	Status	Item No.
Crown Land	c/o DOLA			
Reserve No.	Lot/Location No.	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	Item No.
	VCL			

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	C

DESCRIPTION	
Construction Date (1)	
Construction Date (2)	

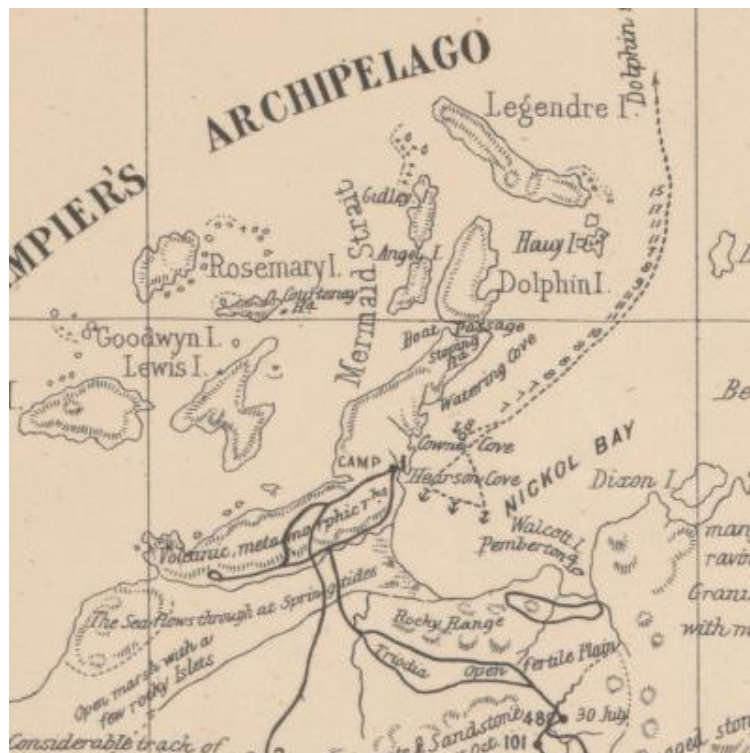
Site Type (Place Type)	Historic Site
Use(s) of Place	
<i>Original</i>	TRANSPORT/COMMUNICATION: Other (Water)
<i>Present</i>	PARK/RESERVE
<i>Other</i>	OTHER: Monument
Construction Materials:	
<i>Walls</i>	
<i>Roof</i>	
<i>Other</i>	
Condition	
Integrity (how much of the original fabric is intact?):	None
Physical Description	
<p>Watering Cove is a small cove on the western side of the Burrup Peninsula, located directly north of Hearsons and Cowrie coves. It has a rounded bay lined with mangroves and a small beach and steep rugged hills at its northern end. A low rivulet extends east to west across the peninsula to meet the cove. The cove is accessed by Nickol Bay, or by a track that runs from the LPG plant.</p>	
History	
<p>Hearson Cove, at the south east corner of Nickol Bay, was the landing place and base camp of the 1861 North West exploration party led by F T Gregory. Watering Cove was also important to this expedition as several natural water sources were found here as well as grazing areas for the horses.</p> <p>The expedition was fuelled by growing interest in the colony for pastoral land and mineral resources and preceded by the colonisation of the Murchison River region. Francis Gregory was keen to explore the North West regions of the state, until then only known through descriptions of the coast and offshore islands through the Admiralty survey under Captain Phillip Parker King in 1817. Gregory found backers willing to supply horses and men: the Royal Geographic Society and the Legislative Council.</p> <p>Gregory led the expedition, which included J. Turner, E. Brockman, W. Shakespeare Hall, J. Harding, J. Maitland Brown, P. Walcott and A. James. They travelled on the barque <i>Dolphin</i> and arrived at Nickol Bay on May 10, 1861.</p> <p>The expedition party would leave on 25th May and would return on 17th October to rejoin with the <i>Dolphin</i>, having travelled over 2000 miles. Cross-cultural engagement between the crew of the <i>Dolphin</i> and local Aboriginal people during the months waiting for the expedition to return extended to assisting in locating water and wood for the vessel, according to the expedition account, which stated that Aboriginal people would not prove a major barrier to European colonisation of the Northwest. Pearlshell collected in Nickol Bay by the crew of the <i>Dolphin</i> may have involved Aboriginal people as well. The name of nearby Cowrie Cove may reflect this.</p> <p>The expedition determined that Nickol Bay and the Dampier Archipelago were suited for possible future use as a harbour. However, they ended their voyage with a survey for other more suitable landing sites and future town sites.</p> <p>The report by Gregory laid the basis for the immediate colonisation of the Northwest with an emphasis on pearling and sheep pastoralism.</p>	
Archaeology	
<p>There is no described physical evidence of the historical events for which this site is listed. There is evidence of continued use of the site for occupation and camping by Aboriginal people and in the period since European colonisation.</p>	
SIGNIFICANCE	

Historic theme (s)	1. DEMOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENT & MOBILITY 102 Aboriginal Occupation 105 Exploration & surveying
Statement of Significance:	
Watering Cove is significant as a historic site of importance to the Northwest Exploring Expedition led by F.T. Gregory. Backed by colonial authority, the expedition laid the basis for the colonisation of the Pilbara in the 1860s and the rapid development of pastoral and pearling industries across the region. The cross-cultural engagement between local Aboriginal people and the crew of the <i>Dolphin</i> and expedition members marks the beginning of the eventual dispossession of traditional lands.	

ASSOCIATIONS	
Architect/Designer (1)	
Architect/Designer (2)	
Other Associated Person(s)	F.T. Gregory

OTHER	
References	
Francis Thomas. Gregory, 'Expedition to the North-West Coast of Australia', <i>The Journal of the Royal Geographical Society</i> 32 (1862).	
Jack Macilroy, 'Dampier Archipelago Historic Sites Surveys.' Canberra: Unpublished report for Australian Heritage Commission, Department of Environment and Heritage, 1979.	
Withnell Taylor, Nancy E. <i>A Saga of the North-West Yeera-Muk-a-Doo: The First Settlement of North-West Australia Told through the Withnell and Hancock Families 1861 to 1890</i> , Victoria Park, Hesperian Press, 2002.	

MHI 1996	Identified on the Review List
MHI Review 2012	Site assessed and Place Name Record created



Detail from Gregory's map showing Watering Cove: (Gregory, Francis Thomas, Explorations in North-Western Australia...April to November 1861, 1862, National Library of Australia MAP RM 1190)