

Place No. 24 Inthanoona Stations Homestead Group (fmr)



Stone stockyards at Inthanoona Station

LOCATION	
Name of Place	Inthanoona Station Homestead Group (fmr)
Other Name (1)	Viveash's Hole
Other Name (2)	Viveash Station
	Warambie Station (original site)
	Indernoona, Inthanuna, Inthanunna
Location/Address	
Street Number	
Street Name	Roebourne to Wittenoom Road
Suburb/Town	Jones River, on Warambie Station
Other Locational descriptor (text)	537216 mE, 7679258 mN (MGA 94 Zone 50) Longitude 117.3581 Latitude: -20.9869

OWNERSHIP & LAND DESCRIPTION				
Owner	Address	Phone/fax	Status	Item No.
Warambie Station	PO Box 28, Roebourne	08 91764934		
Reserve No.	Lot/Location No.	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	Item No.
Native Title held by Ngarluma people				

Listing and Assessment	
HCWA Reference Number	8688
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	A

DESCRIPTION	
Construction Date (1)	1860s

Construction Date (2)	
Site Type (Place Type)	Individual Building or Group Other Aboriginal Site
Use(s) of Place	
<i>Original</i>	FARMING/PASTORAL: Homestead Quarters Sheds Stable Kitchen Blacksmiths Stockyard Other
<i>Present</i>	VACANT/UNUSED: Vacant/Unused - Ruin
<i>Other</i>	Other: Aboriginal Occupation
Construction Materials:	
<i>Walls</i>	9. STONE 904 Local Stone
<i>Roof</i>	11. TIMBER 1199 Other Timber
<i>Other</i>	
Condition	Ruins
Integrity (how much of the original fabric is intact?):	Much of the original building material and fences has been removed. The rock art is in excellent condition.
Physical Description	
<p>The Inthanoona Station Homestead Group (fmr) is located in a pool in the Jones River. The complex includes the archaeological remains of the former station homestead and associated structures on the northern banks of the river, and the stockyards, woolshed, Aboriginal camp and rock art gallery on the southern bank. In the river bed are substantial remains of stone walls presumably designed to control the flow of water and passage of stock. The rock art includes a significant number of historical motifs depicting the station residents, animals and activities and represents one of the most significant assemblages of contact rock art in the nation.</p>	
History	
<p>The Inthanoona pastoral station was one of the earliest in the Northwest, being established by Samuel Viveash, who travelled overland to the region with other early pastoralists Wilkerson and Middleton in 1865. He remained in partnership for at least two decades. Viveash married Ellen Vittora, the daughter of Seymour Meares, in 1880. ¹</p> <p>The station was established on a pool in the Jones River, with neighbours upstream at Old Woodbrook Station and downstream at Pyramid, Mount Fisher and Sherlock stations. In this early colonial pastoral landscape, Inthanoona appears to have been a smaller player, although two separate leases (the other being Tambrey) were used in combination for stock agistment.</p> <p>Viveash and colleagues were also active in the early pearling industry, building one of the first vessels in the Pilbara, a small pearling vessel named <i>Amateur</i>. Aboriginal people at Inthanoona appear to have worked the pearling fleet, as suggested by rock art images of seven boats at Inthanoona, including one showing a person diving/hanging under a boat.</p> <p>The cross-cultural nature of Inthanoona station is revealed most strongly in rock art. Historical sources also reveal the presence of Aboriginal people, including three decades after the station was established.²</p> <p>The property was amalgamated with Tambrey Station in the late 19th century, as indicted in an 1896 newspaper article describing a bankruptcy hearing for Samuel Henry Viveash that stated: "there is no Innanuna now; it had been sold".</p> <p>Today the site is part of Warambie station, a small property on 70,000 hectares on the Jones and</p>	

George Rivers. Five kilometres from the present homestead are the remains of the original homestead. The Sambell family purchased it from the Stove family in 1980.

Archaeology

Homestead remains

The building remains are largely reduced to foundations and collapsed stone walls and associated surface deposits of cultural materials. The spatial organisation of the station is clearly demonstrated in the archaeological record.

The innovations in yard construction, and the stone structures in the Jones River, reveal a substantial amount of labour. The yards are, like many early yards in the region, unique in design and reveal vernacular yard construction.

Rock art and historical engravings

The site was clearly a focus for Aboriginal occupation well prior to the arrival of Viveash and company, as suggested by archaeological remains of camps and the rock art at the site.

The historical corpus of rock art is extraordinary, being well executed and preserved and of a scale that is very rare in Australia. The rock art shows people, clothing, boats, animals, pastoral activities, hunting and shorting. There are also names depicted at the station including that of Meares (Ellen Viveash's family name).

The engravings site is a Registered Aboriginal Site (DAA site ID 7975, Warambie Engraving).

SIGNIFICANCE

Historic theme (s)

3. OCCUPATIONS
301 Grazing, pastoralism and dairying

6. PEOPLE
601 Aboriginal people
604 Early settlers

Statement of Significance:

Inthanoona Station Homestead Group is very significant historically as having physical evidence for the establishment of an early pastoral station in the Northwest, and for having the artistic depictions of those events by Aboriginal people in a substantial rock art gallery adjacent to the station. This type of rock art site is extremely rare for the region and the nation. Importantly, the station remains include the ruins of the homestead group as well as the unique stone yards in a double circular form revealing innovations by early sheep farmers. The material remains represent a significant location for research in terms of early stations and cultural contact, particularly the Aboriginal contribution to the pastoral industry.

ASSOCIATIONS

Architect/Designer (1)

Samuel Henry Viveash

Architect/Designer (2)

Other Associated Person(s)

OTHER

References

Alistair Paterson and Andrew Wilson, 'Indigenous Perceptions of Contact at Inthanoona, Northwest Western Australia', *Archaeology in Oceania* 44, 2009, pp 99-111.
Robert Reynolds, 'The Indenoona Contact Site: A Preliminary Report of an Engraving Site in the Pilbara Region of Western Australia', *Australian Archaeology* 25, 1987, pp 80-87.

MHI 1996

Identified on the Review List

MHI 2012

Place Name Record created on the basis of previous site visits and research by consultants



Stone stockyards at Inthanoona Station



Engravings at Inthanoona Station (DIA site ID 7975, Warambie Engraving)



Detail of engravings at Inthanoona Station (DAA site ID 7975, Warambie Engraving)

¹ reported in *The West Australian* 18 March 1880.

² The Aborigines Protection Board visited the station, reported in *The West Australian* 4 July 1893 and Viveash was appointed to witness contracts as reported in *The West Australian* 25 July 1890.