



REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Interim Entry

1. **NUMBER** 0305
2. **NAME** *Wallal Downs Station Group*
3. **DESCRIPTION OF ELEMENTS INCLUDED IN THE ENTRY (GENERAL)**

The first lease of Wallal Downs Station, with its homestead, less than 5kms from the 80 mile beach, was taken up about 1900 by Messrs Piper and Galbraith who were joined in partnership by Charles Somerset, an Englishman then working at Pardoo, and were eventually bought out by him in 1910. Somerset remained until early in the 1920s when a syndicate of ten returned soldiers bought the property, the active partners being the two Lacey brothers and Reg King, who were responsible for much of the early stone work. The stone section of the house dates from c. 1922, as do the shearers' kitchen/dining room and two of the tanks. Roof structures were often replaced following cyclone damage.

The Register entry comprises the house, stone tanks, stone wall, and the former shearers' kitchen, and the land on which they stand, being part of Reserve 9697 as defined in Heritage Council drawing number P 8906.

4. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Broome
5. **LOCATION** Wallal Downs Road, Broome
Reserve 9697 (part)
6. **OWNER**

7. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF PLACE (ASSESSMENT IN DETAIL)**

The place has been assessed by the National Trust of Australia (WA) and has been entered in the Register held by that body as a classified building with the following statement of significance:

Taken up early in the century Wallal was the first station on the 80 mile beach. It is of interest that about 1920 it was purchased by a group of 1914-1918 war veterans under the Returned Soldiers Settlement Scheme (not generally applied to pastoral leases) and was bought by the present owner (after the death of Reg King) in 1973 from the remaining members of that syndicate. The structures from local limestone are of interest.

The place has also been assessed by the Australian Heritage Commission and has been entered in the Register of the National Estate with the following statement of significance:

Wallal Downs is historically significant as the first station established on the 80 mile beach in northern Western Australia at about the turn of the century. The homestead group is significant because it was built as part of the Soldier Settlement Scheme purchase of the property in about 1922. The house, stone

tanks, stone wall and shearers' kitchen/dining room are of architectural interest, being built of limestone/coral rock.

**8. REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES
(DATE OF GAZETTAL)**

Interim Entry 19/5/1992

9. CONSERVATION ORDER

10. HERITAGE AGREEMENT

11. REFERENCES

National Trust Assessment Exposition
Register of the National Estate