

## Place No. 29 Mallina Station



Mallina Station homestead group buildings 2012

LOCATION	
Name of Place	Mallina Station
Other Name (1)	McCroy Station (1970s)
Other Name (2)	Milina Homestead and Kitchen
Location/Address	
Street Number	
Street Name	Off North West Coastal Highway
Suburb/Town	Shire of Roebourne
Other Locational descriptor (text)	13 km east of Whim Creek (105 km east of Roebourne), 52 km south of Port Headland mE 607150 mN 7690554 Longitude: 118.0301 Latitude: -20.8821

OWNERSHIP & LAND DESCRIPTION				
Owner	Address	Phone/fax	Status	Item No.
Pedo Pty Ltd	337 Grand Promenade DIANELLA 6062		Pastoral Lease	
Reserve No.	Lot/Location No.	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	Item No.
	Peawah Loc 51 Pastoral Lease 3114/1209	P238028		

LISTING AND ASSESSMENT	
HCWA Reference Number	4029
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)	No
<b>Management Category</b>	<b>B</b>

DESCRIPTION	
Construction Date (1)	c.1880
Construction Date (2)	
Site Type (Place Type)	Individual Building or Group
<b>Use(s) of Place</b>	

<i>Original</i>	FARMING/PASTORAL: Homestead Cottage Servants' Quarters/Shearers' Quarters Shed or Barn Kitchen Blacksmith's Shop Stockyard Other
<i>Present</i>	FARMING/PASTORAL: Homestead Cottage Servants' Quarters/Shearers' Quarters Shed or Barn Kitchen Blacksmith's Shop Stockyard Other
<i>Other</i>	MINING: Other - Goldfields OTHER: Townsite Station Stay Accommodation MONUMENT/CEMETERY: Grave
<b>Construction Materials:</b>	
<i>Walls</i>	9. STONE 904 Local Stone 6. METAL 606 Corrugated Iron
<i>Roof</i>	6. METAL 606 Corrugated Iron
<i>Other</i>	3. CONCRETE 399 Other Concrete
Condition	Fair
Integrity (how much of the original fabric is intact?):	Moderate
<b>Physical Description</b>	
<p>Mallina homestead complex includes evidence of 16 identified buildings and structures dating from a range of periods and in various states of condition. Refer to the site plan for detail; key historical structures are described below with corresponding numbers.</p> <p>Homestead (3) – The homestead is constructed of concrete walls with a curved corrugated iron vaulted roof. The concrete and tile floor covers the original flagstone floors. The roof over the living room is a double skinned corrugated iron vault roof, added in the 1920s. This serves as protection against the heat and the gap between the two skins was once filled with brushwood for insulation.</p> <p>The layout of the homestead building reflects the mode of life of Pilbara stations – there are no internal passages or formal entry. In addition, the kitchen block was originally separate from the main building and there is an extensive verandah around the building. There is a breezeway at the south, between the central part of the house and a demountable. The verandahs are constructed of rail posts and rafters, the latter placed over the verandah roof sheeting to prevent it being lifted by cyclones. The northernmost homestead block is aligned on a north-south axis. This block consists of a living room with a flat galvanised iron sheet roof and has a fireplace and chimney at the south end. At the north end of the verandah there is a modern enclosure, which provides a kitchen and dining room of timber framed construction. The walls of the living block are of concrete block work. The bedroom wing is on an east-west axis and has a corrugated iron vaulted roof of one skin.<sup>1</sup></p> <p>Cookhouse, Mess and Original Store (5) – This building is adjacent to the homestead and has a curved corrugated iron vaulted roof and a skillion roof over the 'store'. The walls are of corrugated iron and</p>	

there is a concrete floor. Corrugated iron window awning shutters open out of the store, from where meat, groceries and goods would have been purchased from the station.

Shed (6) – This structure has a corrugated iron roof with external steel post supports, corrugated iron walls and a concrete floor. Adjacent is a meat shed (11). This is constructed of mesh and corrugated iron to dado walls, with wooden and metal post frame and a concrete floor. This structure does not have a roof.

Shed (8) – This structure has a corrugated iron roof and walls, wooden and metal post frame, a concrete floor and a partially enclosed verandah.

Shearing Shed (14) – This building is the original shearing shed, but it has been converted to a garage and storage shed since the conversion from sheep to cattle. It is constructed of corrugated iron roof and walls, timber frame, concrete and earth floor with shearing pens in the south-east corner.

### **History**

Mallina Station was one of the earliest pastoral leases in the North West, with the lease being taken up by the Withnell family in the late 1870s/early 1880s.

Gold was discovered at Mallina homestead in January 1888; Jimmy Withnell and his brother Harding were carrying out work on the station and on returning from the bush, where they had been to get timber, they noticed a crow sitting on their lunch box. Jimmy picked up a stone to shy at it and noticed something shining in it which proved to be gold. This was one of the earliest reported discoveries of gold in the North West.

Two deposits were worked close to the homestead; one 100 m to the north of the homestead and another 500 m east-northeast of the homestead. At the peak of production, in approximately 1890, there were up to 150 miners working on Millina station. Indeed in 1892, arrangements were being made for the flotation of the Mallina mine 'considered one of the finest properties in the district.'<sup>2</sup>

A number of other mining companies started up the Mallina area, with two of the more substantial sites being the Station Peak gold mine and Towerana gold mine. Following the establishment of gold mining at Mallina, the township came into existence to cater for the growing needs of the district. Mallina was gazetted as a Townsite in 1896; street names included Roe St, Davis St, Hester St, Kerr St and Withnell St.<sup>3</sup> Little evidence remains of the townsite and it is likely that the built structures were minimal.

Mr S. P. McKay took over the lease of the station from the Withnells and in 1900 subsequently sold it to Milton and Frank Murray and Archie Campell, who managed the station for the syndicate. Archie Capell's son, Noble, inherited a portion of Sherlock station in 1900 and a piece of Balla Balla country was acquired from J. G. Mears and these were added to the Mallina lease.

The homestead building was remodelled in the 1920s to deal with the harsh climatic conditions. These modifications included the construction of a double skinned corrugated iron vault over the living room as protection against heat, and also the use of railway line rafters fixed over the verandah roof sheeting to protect the sheeting being lifted by cyclones.

There is an old grave at Mallina station which dates back to the gold rush days. The headstone is constructed of cast iron.

Mallina Station is described in 1920 as 'one of the best of the spinifex properties... a comparatively small proportion of worthless country, abundance of shade, safe in flood time.' The station is described as carrying a 'fair herbage for a few months after heavy rains.'<sup>4</sup> The station had about 20,000 sheep and 180 horses, with 30 mills and 2 permanent wells. Wool was carted to Whim Creek and then by tram to Balla Balla landing.

Today Mallina Station is a working cattle station comprising 300,000 hectares of vast spinifex plains, mountain ranges and gorges running from the Chichester Ranges to the Indian Ocean. The property, traversed by the Sherlock River, also provides a home for a myriad of bird and wildlife.

<b>Archaeology</b>
<p>There is the potential for archaeology in locating the remains of the old Mallina townsite.</p> <p>The station buildings also provide insights into the working of the pastoral station over time. There is also clear evidence of adaptation to the conditions and the nature of station life, especially with the use of materials to protect against heat and cyclones.</p>

<b>SIGNIFICANCE</b>	
<b>Historic theme (s)</b>	<p>1. DEMOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENT &amp; MOBILITY 106 Workers (including Aboriginal, convict) 107 Settlement 110 Resource Exploitation and Depletion 113 Natural disasters</p> <p>2. TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS 201 River and sea transport 203 Road transport</p> <p>3. OCCUPATIONS 301 Grazing, pastoralism and dairying 303 Mining (including mineral processing)</p> <p>6. PEOPLE 601 Aboriginal people 602 Early settlers</p>
<b>Statement of Significance:</b>	
<p>Mallina Station is of significance as one of the earliest pastoral stations in the region.</p> <p>Mallina Station is the site one of the earliest gold discoveries in the North West. The original windmill still operates and reminders of the gold rush era remain.</p> <p>The station complex is also of research significance for the way it represents changes in pastoral life over the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.</p>	

<b>ASSOCIATIONS</b>	
Architect/Designer (1)	
Architect/Designer (2)	
Other Associated Person(s)	<p>James Withnell S. P. McKay Milton and Frank Murray Archie Campell</p>

<b>OTHER</b>	
<b>References</b>	
<p>See endnotes. Owen, W. Lambden 1945, 'Pilbara Gold Miners and Others', held by Karratha Library. Owen, W. Lambden 1945, <i>Cossack Gold: the chronicles of an early goldfields warden</i>, Carlisle W.A., Hesperian Press.</p>	

MHI 1996	Identified on Review List
MHI 2012	Site assessment undertaken, Place Name Record created



### MALLINA HEAD STATION

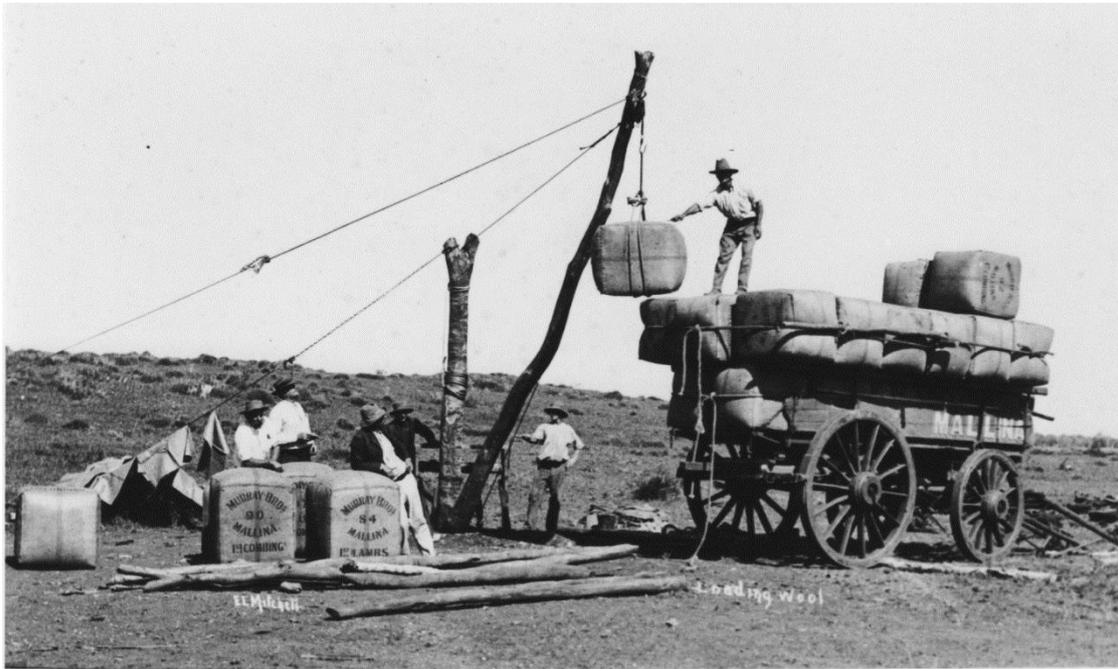
1. Holding yards
2. Tank and windmill (modern poly tank in metal tank) at site of white rock outcrop
3. Homestead (Roof structure: CI roof [1980s]; massive steel posts and roof beam running N-S; earlier central CI roof running E-W. Original house concrete walls with original CI roof; concrete and tiles floors. Breezeway at S between central part of house and demountable.)
4. Residence: Late 20th century structure (metal roof, fibro panel walls)
5. Cookhouse, mess and original store (CI roof and walls, concrete floor)
6. Shed (CI roof with steel post external support; CI walls; concrete floor) and Meatroom (CI roof [lost], mesh and CI walls; wooden and metal post frame; CI to dado; concrete floor)
7. Late 20th century demountable residence (metal roof, fibro panel walls)
8. Shed (CI roof and walls; wooden and metal post frame; concrete floor; partially enclosed verandah to N and W)
9. Late 20th century demountable residence (metal roof, faux weatherboard walls)
10. Residence (modern)
11. Meatshed
12. Shed (Possible used as stable: CI roof and walls; metal post and railway rail frame; roof sheets attached with fencing wire to plate; concrete floor) adjacent to horse yard
13. Shed (CI skillion roof; CI walls) and cattle drafting yards
14. Original shearing shed (converted to garage and storage shed: CI roof and walls; iron water pipes and timber as frame; concrete and earth floor). Shearing pens in SE corner.
15. Garage and shed (CI roof and walls; concrete floor)
16. Site of sheep yards



**Cookhouse, Mess and Original Store 2012**



**Mallina Station manager's residence before 1898 cyclone  
Courtesy Shire of Roebourne Local History Office, 2005.504**



Loading wool at Mallina Station, 1925 (bales stamped with Murray Bros, Mallina)  
Courtesy Shire of Roebourne Local History Office, 2005.835



<sup>1</sup> Mallina Station, Built Environment Committee Assessment Exposition, National Trust of Australia (WA) July 1982

<sup>2</sup> 'News from the Nor-West' *West Australian*, 8 October 1892, p 4.

<sup>3</sup> Townsite of Mallina Survey Map 504662, cancelled 20/2/76, copy held at Mallina Station.

<sup>4</sup> Mallina Station Inspector's Report on Classification of Pastoral Leases, Inspection on 31 August 1920.