

Place No. 34 Miller's Well, Karratha



Miller's Well 2012

LOCATION	
Name of Place	Miller's Well, Karratha
Other Name (1)	
Location/Address	
Street Number	
Street Name	Nature reserve off Edgar Place
Suburb/Town	Millars Well, Karratha
Other Locational descriptor (text)	Near Millars Well Oval (Kevin Richards Memorial) mE 481132 mN 7706577 Longitude 116.8188 Latitude: -20.7404

OWNERSHIP & LAND DESCRIPTION				
Owner	Address	Phone/fax	Status	Item No.
Shire of Roebourne				
Reserve No.	Lot/Location No.	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	Item No.
37659	3805	184602	LR3150/ 98	

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)	c.1930
Construction Date (2)	
Site Type (Place Type)	Other Built Type
Use(s) of Place	

<i>Original</i>	FARMING/PASTORAL: Other - Well (watering point for stock)
<i>Present</i>	VACANT/UNUSED: Vacant/Unused
<i>Other</i>	
Construction Materials:	
<i>Walls</i>	3. CONCRETE 399 Other Concrete
<i>Roof</i>	
<i>Other</i>	6. METAL 699 Other Metal
Condition	Fair
Integrity (how much of the original fabric is intact?):	Some
Physical Description	
<p>Miller's Well is a former stock watering well located on land that was part of Karratha Station. It is situated close to Miller's Well oval in Karratha (now the Kevin Richards Memorial Oval) and to the west of Peg's Well. The well is constructed from concrete pieces held together with iron bolts and wire on a concrete base. There is evidence of metal sheets which once encased the exterior walls of the well.</p>	
History	
<p>There was good availability of sub-artesian water and an average aquifer depth of approximately 9m on the land comprising Karratha station. This, along with the natural pools, provided good watering facilities for stock.¹</p> <p>Mr William Allen (Bill) Leslie, owner of Karratha Station from 1929-1966, sank 20 extra wells on the station and built troughs connected to each well in all the adjoining paddocks (eg Peg's Well). Wells were used as watering points for stock. Miller's Well is believed to have been built by and named after Frank Miller, a well sinker who spent a lot of time in the area "well sinking". His name can be seen on many wells and tanks in the area.</p> <p>The well now lies within the Karratha townsite, a little to the west of Peg's Well. The name of the well has been given to the suburb located in this vicinity.</p> <p>Prior to the development of Karratha Townsite in this area, a moderately dense spread of artefacts was recorded approximately 300 m south of the well. This was thought to number approximately 200 plus artefacts, primarily of fine grained silicified sandstone. Solomon James demonstrated knapping in this location.²</p>	
Archaeology	
There is little potential for archaeological evidence of the use of the well as a part of Karratha Station.	

SIGNIFICANCE	
Historic theme (s)	1. DEMOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENT AND MOBILITY 104 Land allocation and subdivision 106 Workers (including Aboriginal, convict) 3. OCCUPATIONS 301 Grazing, pastoralism & dairying
Statement of Significance:	
<p>Miller's Well, together with Peg's Well, are all that remain in the town of the pastoral activities on Karratha Station. It provides an important visual connection with the origins of the town as a pastoral sheep station.</p>	
ASSOCIATIONS	
Architect/Designer (1)	Frank Miller

Architect/Designer (2)	
Other Associated Person(s)	William and Normana Leslie Tish Lees (daughter of William and Normana Leslie) The Cosmos family

OTHER	
References	
See endnotes. Karratha Station 1934-1950, Collection of Photographs, BA1883, Battye Library Karratha Station records 1929-1967 including account books, diaries and record books. MN 750, Battye Library	

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



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¹ Tish Lees, *Lonely for my Land: Tales of Karratha Station and the Nor' West*, Sid Harta Publishers, Glen Waverley, 2010, p 62

² Robert Reynolds, *The West Pilbara Site documentation Project*, 1989