

Place No. 40 Old Sherlock Station (fmr)



Aerial view of Old Sherlock Station location beside a ford in the Little Sherlock River

LOCATION	
Name of Place	Old Sherlock Station
Other Name (1)	Brooklyn
Location/Address	
Street Number	Little Sherlock River
Street Name	
Suburb/Town	
Other Locational descriptor (text)	556512 mE, 7686132 mN (MGA94, Zone 50) Longitude 117.5435 Latitude -20.9243

OWNERSHIP & LAND DESCRIPTION				
<i>Owner</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Phone/fax</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Item No.</i>
<i>Reserve No.</i>	<i>Lot/Location No.</i>	<i>Plan/Diagram</i>	<i>Vol/Folio</i>	<i>Item No.</i>

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	B

DESCRIPTION	
Construction Date (1)	
Construction Date (2)	
Site Type (Place Type)	Individual Building or Group
Use(s) of Place	

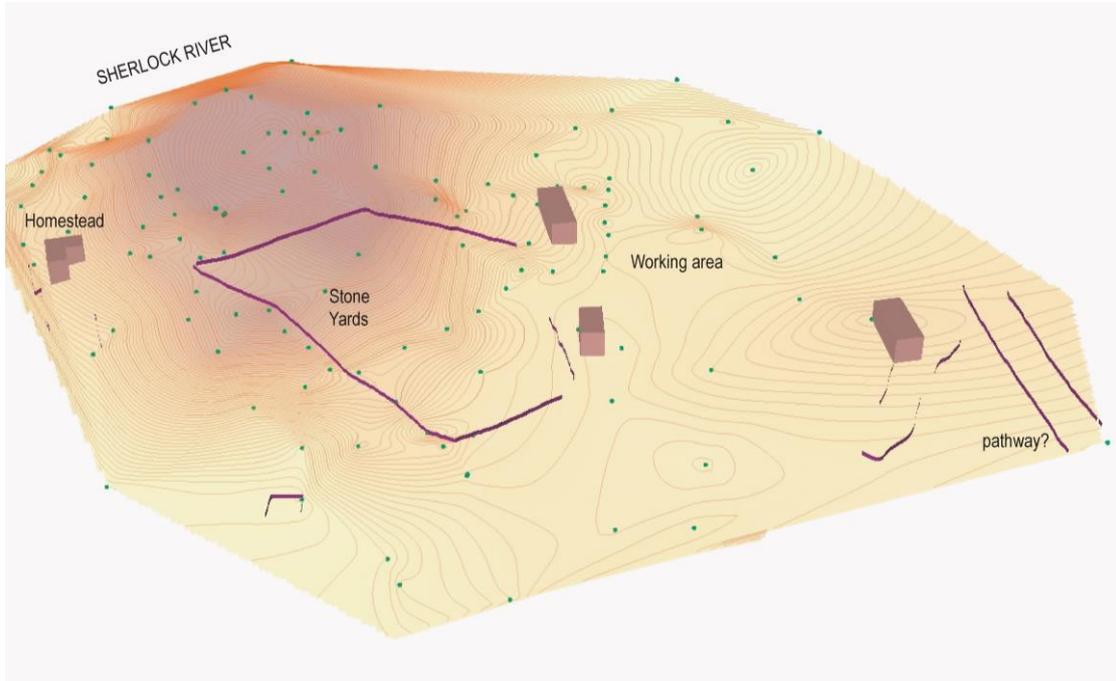
<i>Original</i>	FARMING/PASTORAL: Homestead Servants' Quarters/Shearers' Quarters Shed Kitchen Stockyard Other
<i>Present</i>	VACANT/UNUSED: Vacant/Unused
<i>Other</i>	
Construction Materials:	
<i>Walls</i>	9. STONE 904 Local Stone
<i>Roof</i>	
<i>Other</i>	
Condition	Ruin
Integrity (how much of the original fabric is intact?):	Foundations and wall bases only
Physical Description	
<p>The head station complex is an archaeological site on a low hill overlooking the Little Sherlock River, located at a ford in the river and on the road towards the later Sherlock Station complex. While no standing structures survive, the archaeological record was used to provide an interpretation of the complex (see isometric reconstruction below).</p>	
History	
<p>Sherlock Station was once owned by noted European colonists John and Emma Withnell. It appears they moved from Mt Welcome to the station in the 1870s, and knew the place as Brooklyn. They left in late 1888. Their children sold the lease to Emily and John Goldsworthy.¹ At some stage in the late 1800s the station was abandoned or destroyed, and the current head station location was in place by 1898. For Aboriginal people this is a site with historical records of Aboriginal people being present as visitors and station residents.</p>	
Archaeology	
<p>The analysis of the archaeology at the site revealed the remains of the various buildings and activity areas at this site.² Surface archaeological materials were found in varying concentrations across the site. The greatest range of ceramic shards (range measured in different wares) was at the ruin presumed to be the remains of the main residence. This structure reflected how the occupants expressed their taste and indeed status in the Northwest. The buildings were once decorated with cast iron decorative lace, one fireplace was faced with white marble, the other with a black slate. One or more rooms were decorated with painted tiles. These are all expensive materials, given transport costs in colonial times.</p> <p>The other structures at the head station were located 'behind' the main residence, which faced the river. Other buildings contained artefacts that indicated functions as men's quarters, kitchen, and working buildings. In the centre of the complex were low stone walls to hold sheep, probably for shearing.</p>	
SIGNIFICANCE	
Historic theme (s)	1.DEMOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENT & MOBILITY 107 Settlements
Statement of Significance:	
<p>Old Sherlock Station has historic significance as one of the earliest pastoral stations in the Shire of Roebourne (c1870s, the lease being older) with evidence of the early phase of station life in the Northwest over time. The station buildings are the ruins of the original homestead buildings. The archaeological remains reveal the organization and material culture of the site. The station also has historic significance for its association with the Withnell family. The station precinct has aesthetic</p>	

significance as it is located on a picturesque ford across the Little Sherlock River. The associations for local Aboriginal people involved with this station are of clear historical significance.

ASSOCIATIONS

Architect/Designer (1)	John Withnell
Other Associated Person(s)	

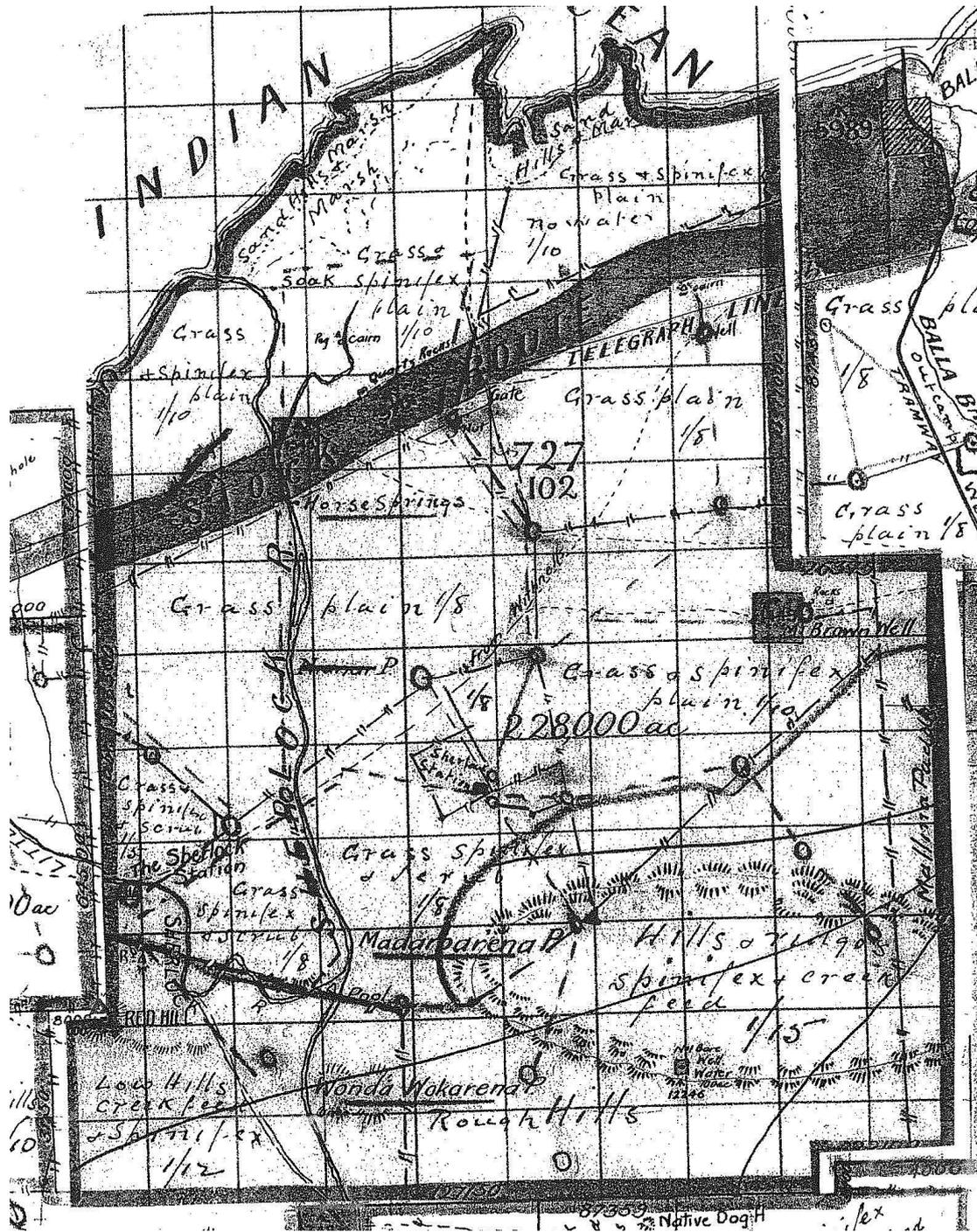
MHI 1996	Site identified on Review List
MHI Review 2012	Site assessed and Place Name Record created



Old Sherlock Station isometric reconstruction



Old Sherlock Station ornate cast iron (2004)



Old Sherlock Station lease map

¹ Nancy Withnell Taylor, *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*, Victoria Park, Hesperian Press, 2002.

² Paterson, A. 2006, 'Towards a historical archaeology of Western Australia's Northwest', *Australian Historical Archaeology*, 24, p 103