

Place No. 47 Roebourne Airport



Building and water tank at Roebourne Airport 2012

LOCATION	
Name of Place	Roebourne Airport
Other Name (1)	
Other Name (2)	
Location/Address	
Street Number	17
Street Name	Aerodrome Road
Suburb/Town	Roebourne WA 6718
Other Locational descriptor (text)	516335 mE, 7704410 mN (MGA94 Zone 50) Longitude: 117.1569 Latitude: -20.76

OWNERSHIP & LAND DESCRIPTION				
Owner	Address	Phone/fax	Status	Item No.
Shire of Roebourne				
Reserve No.	Lot/Location No.	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	Item No.
	17	P205908	1381/810	

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)	
Construction Date (2)	
Site Type (Place Type)	Other built type

Use(s) of Place	
<i>Original</i>	TRANSPORT/COMMUNICATION Air: Office or Admin building Air: Terminal Air: Hangar
<i>Present</i>	TRANSPORT/COMMUNICATION Air: Office or Admin building Air: Terminal
<i>Other</i>	
Construction Materials:	
<i>Walls</i>	6. METAL 606 Corrugated iron
<i>Roof</i>	6. METAL 606 Corrugated iron
<i>Other</i>	
Condition	Good
Integrity (how much of the original fabric is intact?):	The surviving buildings are intact and secure.
Physical Description	
<p>The site includes the airstrips, fencing, navigation equipment, arrival shed and storage sheds. There is an asbestos risk in one of the structures, which is no longer in use. The earlier terminal has been removed and today the main arrival point is a corrugated iron hanger.</p> <p>There is a large metal water tank, and tank on a stand, presumably for use by the fire service.</p>	
History	
<p>The first scheduled airline service to the Northwest was initiated in 1921, although the first flight of 'WA Airlines' ended with a plane crashing near Murchison House Station, killing two occupants. The service was initiated again in early 1922, between Geraldton and Port Hedland, stopping at Carnarvon, Onslow, and Roebourne. This ended the reliance on sea or overland travel.</p> <p>Roebourne airport served as the primary arrival point for air travel until the development of Karratha Airport, which resulted from the growth of that town. For many workers, travellers, health services such as the RFDS, and immigrants, Roebourne Airport was the first experience of the Northwest.</p> <p>The airport is still a functioning airport and represents almost a century of air travel to the Pilbara.</p>	
Archaeology	
<p>The airport runways are still in use in 2012, although changes over time to accommodate changing patterns of aviation may be reflected in the physical evidence. The associated structures are possible sources of artefactual material of earlier use and one shed contains old kerosene-type lamps used to mark out the runways at night for emergency landings in the era before power, or during power failures.</p>	

SIGNIFICANCE	
Historic theme (s)	2. TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATIONS 205 Air transport
Statement of Significance:	
<p>Roebourne Airport is a significant reminder of almost a century of air travel to the Northwest and the origins of the important relationship between air transport and the regional area now typified by a 'Fly In Fly Out' workforce.</p>	

ASSOCIATIONS	
Architect/Designer (1)	
Architect/Designer (2)	
Other Associated Person(s)	

OTHER**References**

Images

Roebourne Airport, 1968, from Evan Luly tour of Western Australia collection of slides, 1965-1966, 1968 ; BA1831/118. <http://innopac.slwa.wa.gov.au/record=b2818235~S1#.UUOeVY5GYwA>

2012	Site identified on Review List by public consultation
MHI Review 2012	Site assessed and Place Name Record created



Mrs Mary Hold carries luggage from a light aircraft to her taxi at the Roebourne airport, 1967, A12111,1/1967/16/369, National Archives, Canberra.