

## Place No. 58 Springs Station



Engraving of smithy at Springs Station, ruins of structure in rear of photo.

LOCATION	
Name of Place	Springs Station
Other Name (1)	The Springs
Other Name (2)	Lockyer's Station
Location/Address	
Street Number	
Street Name	
Suburb/Town	
Other Locational descriptor (text)	Old Roebourne-Tablelands Road between Cooya Pooya Station & Hicks Gap
	519721 mE, 7664343 mN (MGA 94, Zone 50) Longitude: 117.1896 Latitude: -21.1221

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

LISTING AND ASSESSMENT	
HCWA Reference Number	8685
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
<b>Management Category</b>	<b>A</b>

DESCRIPTION	
Construction Date (1)	1860s
Construction Date (2)	
Site Type (Place Type)	Other Structure

<b>Use(s) of Place</b>	
<i>Original</i>	FARMING\PASTORAL: Homestead
<i>Present</i>	VACANT/UNUSED: Vacant/unused - ruin
<i>Other</i>	
<b>Construction Materials:</b>	
<i>Walls</i>	9. STONE 904 Local Stone
<i>Roof</i>	
<i>Other</i>	9. STONE - Floors
<i>Condition</i>	Very poor
<i>Integrity (how much of the original fabric is intact?):</i>	The spatial organisation of the site is intact, although the buildings are ruins.
<b>Physical Description</b>	
<p>The ruins are situated on the banks of a creek and spring, a short distance from the old road. Local stone was used extensively in building the homestead, out buildings, paved areas, walls, tank stand and well. Evidence of garden beds marked out with corrugated iron is still evident at the front of the house. Small humpies or hides are located along the edge of a stone ridge, possible for itinerant workers or Aboriginal residents. They overlook the substantial ruined stone yards and paved wool shed that would have been used for shearing and possible storage of the fleece. In the river bed stone walls were used either to keep stock away from the river or to water them.</p> <p>There is a significant amount of rock art at the site on the low outcrop of stone that divides the homestead from the sheep yards. The rock surface is inferior to other rock surfaces in the region preferred for the execution of rock art, yet still hosts a large number of motifs.</p> <p>The land now falls within the water catchment area for the Harding Dam. It is used by occasional visitors being located on a track between Cooya Pooya and Hicks Gap. This is a preferred route for off-road enthusiasts who use the centre of the old homestead complex as a camping place.</p>	
<b>History</b>	
<p>The Springs Station appears to have been established as early as 1865, given a photograph of owner Horace Hicks published in that year entitled 'Horace H. Hicks of The Springs Station, Denison Plains Co.'</p> <p>The Lockyer family would take up the station, presumably after the late 1870s. Mr and Mrs A.B. Lockyer are described as leaving the Northwest in 1899 after 21 years on the station, having owned Cooya Pooya, then Springs Station. The station was then managed by their son Arnold Lockyer.<sup>1</sup></p> <p>Chief Protector of Aborigine Files suggest an ongoing presence of Aboriginal people during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.<sup>2</sup></p> <p>In the twentieth century it was part of the Cooya Pooya lease, and managed presumably as an outstation (at least the functioning yards and well etc.) by the various owners of Cooya Pooya. It appears the paving stones that once graced the verandah at Cooya Pooya were sourced from Springs Station.</p>	
<b>Archaeology</b>	
<p>The site has an excellent archaeological record of the station organisation, which appears to involve distinct areas for the homestead, different areas for types of residents, working areas, execution of rock art, and animal management.</p> <p>The rock art is important as a tool for communicating and recording the colonial-era for Aboriginal people, as happened at nearby stations like Inthanoona and Old Woodbrook stations. The art depicts horses, new European costume such as women's dresses, and the earliest known depiction of a European building in the state – of the smithy.</p>	

**SIGNIFICANCE**

<b>Historic theme (s)</b>	1. DEMOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENT & MOBILITY 107 Settlements
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**Statement of Significance:**

The homestead was on one of the early pastoral leases in the Pilbara, being taken up by Henry H Hicks in the 1860s. It was a key node in the route between the coast and the Tablelands and was also used as a stopover by mail carters and others who were travelling the road.

The archaeological remains provide well preserved information about the organisation and character of the early pastoral stations and of the beginnings of sheep farming.

The site contains the earliest known rock art depiction of a European building. The rock art is a powerful testament to Aboriginal experiences during a period of rapid dispossession.

**ASSOCIATIONS**

Architect/Designer (1)	
Architect/Designer (2)	
Other Associated Person(s)	H. Hicks Lockyer family

**OTHER****References**

Paterson, A. G. "Towards a Historical Archaeology of Western Australia's Northwest." *Australasian Historical Archaeology* 24 (2006): 91-103.

MHI 1996	Site assessed, Place Name Record created
MHI 2012	Entry updated



Rock engraving of a female figure in long dress



**Substantial stone bases possibly for water tanks in river**



**Flaked glass artefacts from alcohol bottles at Springs Station.**



**Remains of stone built homestead:  
detail of window sill with wooden frame and sill of waterworn plates of rock sourced from the Harding River**



**One of the simple stone walled residential structures overlooking shearing yards**

<sup>1</sup> *The North Public Opinion*, 18 March 1899.

<sup>2</sup> Chief Protector of Aborigine files 1989-1909, Public Records Office of Western Australia.