



HERITAGE
COUNCIL
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Interim Entry

1. **Data Base No.** 0302
2. **Name** *Broome Pioneer Cemetery* (1890)
3. **Description of elements included in this entry** Broome Pioneer Cemetery and the land on which it stands, being Reserve 1643.
4. **Local Government Area** Shire of Broome
5. **Location** Robinson Street, Mangrove Point, Broome
6. **Owner** Shire of Broome
7. **Statement of Significance of Place (Assessment in Detail)**

DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

The official gazettal of the cemetery in Broome is recorded in the *Government Gazette* of 29 April 1890.¹ At this time, two reserves were set aside for the purpose of cemeteries. One is now the *Broome Pioneer Cemetery* and the other is the *Broome Cemetery* (Port Drive) which includes a large Japanese section.

Although the *Broome Pioneer Cemetery* was not gazetted until 1890, there are headstones marked before that date. Three men in particular, associated with the establishment of the north-west Australian pearl-shell fishing industry, have graves marked earlier than this date in the cemetery. Pemberton Walcott buried in 1883, Matthew Forrest in 1884 and Edward Chippindall in 1886.²

Little information regarding Pemberton Walcott is recorded on the *Cemetery Index* and it does not provide a date of death.³ However, information about the headstone and railings, designed by George Temple-Poole in January 1887, is provided in Oldham, *George Temple-Poole: Architect of the Golden Years 1885 - 1897*.⁴

Inspector of Pearl Fisheries and Commander of the Revenue Cutter *Gertrude*, Walcott died on 14 June 1883, whilst discharging his duties on the coast. His body was interred at Roebuck Bay. This is mentioned in the *Government Gazette*, "Have

¹ *Government Gazette* 29 April 1890, pp.290-91.

² *Western Australian Cemetery Index*. Series 5, part 10 of 10, register of headstones. (Battye Library).

³ *ibid.*

⁴ Oldham, R. and J., *George Temple-Poole: Architect of the Golden Years 1885-1897*, (UWA Press, Nedlands, 1980) pp.23, 160-61.

gone to La Grange Bay to pick up Mr. Forrest. Buried Captain Walcott this morning, who died yesterday morning on board. [Date 15th June, 1883]"⁵ This information was contained in a note left for the captain of the arriving mail steamer by the mate of the cutter. A Post Script to the report states that, "Captain Walcott buried in Roebuck Bay, and we shall mark the spot as well as our resources will permit." Thus the grave was marked temporarily until 1887, when Temple-Poole designed the head-stone, which was carved in Roman lettering.

The headstone of Matthew Forrest reads simply, "In Memory of Matthew Forrest, son of William Forrest, Seventh son of William Forrest of Leschenault near Bunbury, Born 14th January 1867. Died at Roebuck Bay 14 December 1884."⁶ Forrest died while accompanying the 1884 survey expedition led by J.F. Johnstone. Also in this party was the geologist, E.T. Hardman, whose optimistic reports on the auriferous nature of the country led to prospecting parties penetrating the area, and the first payable gold was discovered at Hall's Creek the following year.⁷

According to the *Cemetery Index*, the most recent burials in the *Broome Pioneer Cemetery* were those of Arthur Streeter Male (25/01/1901-26/07/1976), Jack Cryer (28/10/1899-04/09/1976), and Phyllis Everett McDaniel (19/05/1889-09/03/1979). However, discussion with the Shire of Broome revealed that the cemetery is still used on an occasional basis to inter people from 'pioneering' families.⁸

The place was classified by the National Trust of Australia (WA) in June 1983. The place was entered into the Register of the National Estate by the Australian Heritage Commission in April 1989. The place is listed under Schedule C of the Shire of Broome Town Planning Scheme, which recognises buildings and places of historic and architectural importance.

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Broome Pioneer Cemetery is located on a small, isolated, grassed promontory overlooking Roebuck Bay and near the site of the Old Jetty. The actual cemetery area is surrounded by a number of well established trees that help delineate the area of the cemetery.

There appears to be 13 graves, the majority of which are marked by some form of headstone or memorial. The graves appear to be laid out randomly, creating an informal and unstructured setting.

ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in September, 1991 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

1. AESTHETIC VALUE

Situated on a small grassed promontory overlooking Roebuck Bay, *Broome Pioneer Cemetery* has a landmark quality. (Criterion 1.3)

⁵ *Government Gazette* 1883, p.300.

⁶ *WA Cemetery Records* Vol. 2, Broome Section (PR 2640 Battye Library)

⁷ Oldham, R. and J., p.162.

⁸ Telephone conversation with Roger Stein, Broome Shire Planner, 24 March 1994.

2. HISTORIC VALUE

Broome Pioneer Cemetery is significant for its connection with a number of well known people associated with the early history of Broome and in the history of the North, such as Matthew Forrest and Pemberton Walcott. The cemetery is also significant as the resting place of the ordinary people who also contributed to the establishment and early development of the Broome area. (Criterion 2.2)

3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

4. SOCIAL VALUE

Broome Pioneer Cemetery has social significance when viewed in association with the main Broome cemetery which has a significant number of burials from different ethnic backgrounds. Seen as a group, the headstones in these cemeteries are a visual reminder of the contribution that a range of ethnic people made to the development of the Broome region. (Criterion 4.1)

The *Broome Pioneer Cemetery* contributes to the Broome community's sense of place, as a reminder of the early settlement of the area, as is illustrated by its listings and classifications with the National Trust of Australia (WA), Australian Heritage Commission and its inclusion on Broome's Heritage Trail. (Criterion 4.2)

5. RARITY

6. REPRESENTATIVENESS

Broome Pioneer Cemetery is representative of many small town cemeteries, where local communities place importance on the preservation of their links with the early settlement of their district. (Criterion 6.2)

CONDITION

Broome Pioneer Cemetery is maintained by Broome Shire Council on a regular basis, and as such it is in good condition.

INTEGRITY

The *Broome Pioneer Cemetery* retains a high degree of integrity as a pioneer cemetery due to the small number of people buried there, the majority of whom contributed to the early development of the Broome region.

AUTHENTICITY

A sufficient number of headstones and memorials have been retained in *Broome Pioneer Cemetery* to display a high degree of authenticity.

7. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Broome Pioneer Cemetery has cultural heritage significance for the following:

connection with a number of well known people associated with the early history and development of Broome and the north-west;

contributes to the Broome community's sense of place; as a reminder of the early European settlement of the area;

its location on a promontory landmark demonstrates a landmark quality that contributes to the surrounding vista; and,

seen in conjunction with other cemeteries in Broome it has social value as it demonstrates the range of people with ethnic backgrounds that have contributed to the establishment and development of Broome.

8. Register of Heritage Places

Interim entry 10/06/1994

9. Conservation Order

10. Heritage Agreement

11. References

National Trust Assessment Exposition

Australian Heritage Commission Data Sheet