

6.10 Heritage

According to the Shire's Municipal Inventory there are 2 heritage listed buildings/structures on and associated with the property none of which are on the State Register. These include:

- Rest Point Jetty; and
- Rest Point Guesthouse.

The historic notes for the site are as follows:

"Located on the Nornalup Inlet, the Rest Point Guest House and Jetty are significant in the history of Walpole and in the appreciation of the rich environmental assets of the area. The history of the Walpole area provides an interesting backdrop for the history of the Guest House. In 1910 a large area of land (920 acres) was gazetted as National Park, and was called the Walpole-Nornalup National Park. This was indicative of a strong environmental interest in the area. Agriculturally, over the years the area has developed into a rich dairy and beef farming district. Rest Point Guest House and Jetty were built on Nornalup Inlet by the Swarbricks in the 1930s, close to the site of the mill."

The jetty is considered to be in original condition, reflecting the character and heritage of the area. The Guesthouse however has significantly changed overtime, and no photo is provided in the Municipal Inventory. According to historical records including interviews with the Swarbrick children, the Guesthouse has been altered overtime. This includes lifting the building up onto stilts and cladding the under section. The original verandah has been filled in and additional rooms added. This has resulted in the appearance being significantly different and therefore no longer reflects the original character and design of the building. It is considered that the historical value is more linked to the history of the use of the building and how this linked to environmental assets of the area including the National Park and Inlet.

The photographs below show the contrast between the original building and what is there today.

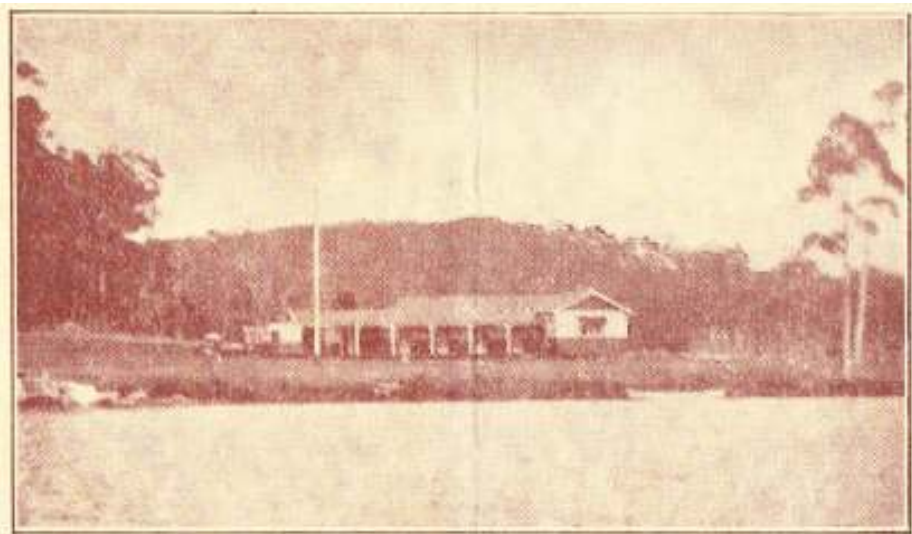


Photo Taken 2017



The proposal is to remove the modified guesthouse to make better use of the park, provide new accommodation in a prime location and improve road networks. The landowner is committed to capturing the history of this area by recording the history of the building and photographing it. Also, including a plaque at the Jetty outlining the history of the guesthouse, jetty and how this links to the broader area. A plaque will also be placed close to the original position of the Guesthouse again outlining when the guesthouse was constructed and its significance in the context of Walpole. It is considered that this will adequately capture and retain the history of the area which is currently not well known as the guesthouse no longer resembles what was originally constructed.

Under the Municipal Inventory the category of significance is Historic, Social, Aesthetic and Representativeness and under the Management C category. Level A means “worthy of the highest level of protection”. Level B is described as worthy of high level of protection. Level C as applicable to the Guesthouse states “Retain and conserve if possible: endeavour to conserve the significance of the place through the provisions of the Shire of Manjimup Town Planning Scheme; a more detailed Heritage Assessment may be required prior to approval being given for any major redevelopment or demolition; photographically record the place prior to any major redevelopment or demolition. The proposal would be inhibited by retention of the guesthouse as it would not be in keeping with the improvements, would inhibit access and inhibits a prime location of the site to be developed with accommodation. The listing acknowledges demolition can occur and suggests a photographic record should be taken in such circumstances. The Guesthouse is not indicated as a place of high importance such as category A and B. As mentioned above, the proposed plaques and photographic record will capture the historic and social elements. The aesthetic and representiveness will be retained through the Jetty and natural assets surrounding the park that will not change as part of this proposal. The existing guesthouse no longer represents the original design and character of the original building.

To compliment the historical record of the Guesthouse and the history of the site, the proposal intends to also include an area within the hall or other central building with a museum area showing a history of the site and displaying artefacts relevant to the site with pictorial information about the site and the original use. When removing the old effluent system an old hand made boat was found and this is to be restored and made a centrepiece in the museum display proposed. A photograph of this is below.



The Jetty is an important heritage feature which is the subject of a lease to the owners of the park. The owners are also proposing to upgrade the Jetty as aspects of it are dilapidated and in need of repair. Investment in the asset and repairs and improvements will ensure it is protected and enhanced as a key heritage feature of the site. This will continue to showcase the history of the site at a focal location.

The history of the site is therefore to be respected by:

- photographic record of the guesthouse,
- upgrade and retention of the Jetty,
- installation of plaques depicting previous history and explaining about the original guesthouse and;
- development of a museum for further interpretation.