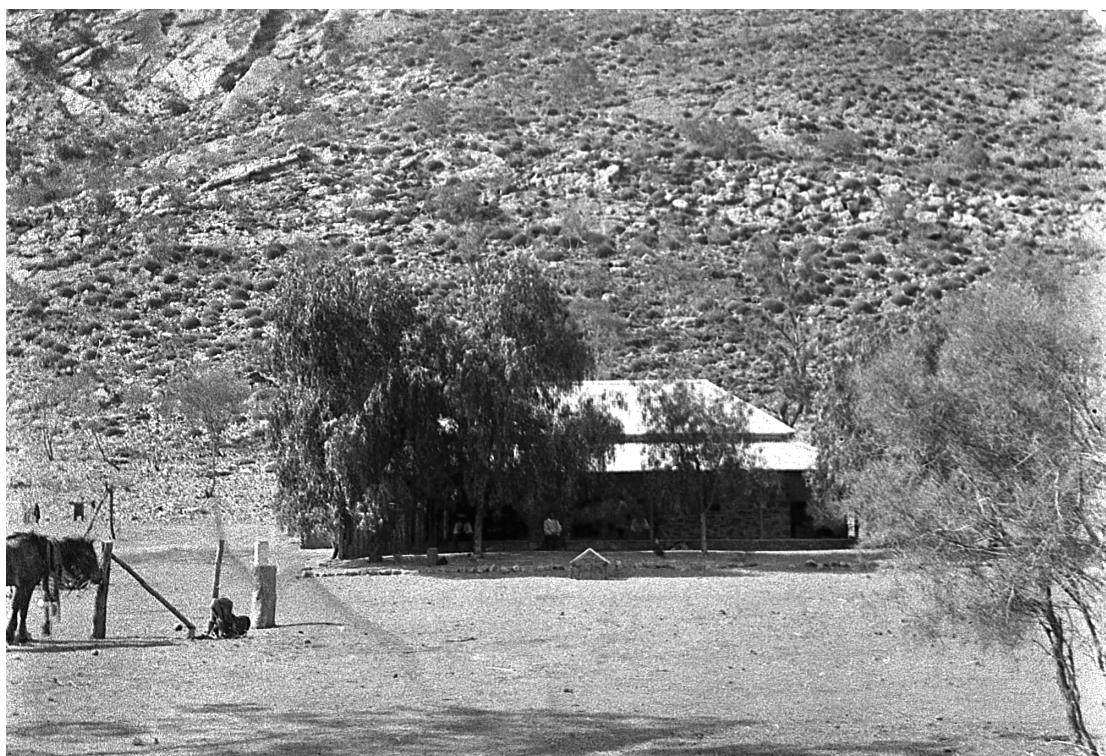




HEAVITREE GAP POLICE STATION HISTORICAL RESERVE

PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

November 1999



PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY



Northern Territory Government

Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory
P.O. Box 1046
Alice Springs NT 0871

Heavitree Gap Police Station
Historical Reserve
Draft Plan of Management

November 1999

Cover photograph:
Heavitree Gap Police Station, circa 1900
National Trust Collection (Mrs Long)
HGPS33

Foreword

The Heavitree Gap Police Station is an important heritage site in central Australia. It is listed on the Northern Territory Heritage Register, the Register of the National Estate and is also listed by the National Trust of Australia (NT).

The Plan sets guidelines for the future management of this Historical Reserve in order to conserve its cultural and natural resources.

Major management directions for the Reserve are summarised below.

- Continued conservation of the Reserve's historic resources.
- Continued use of the building as a residence to maintain security of the premises.
- Connection to a metered permanent water supply.

Acknowledgments

This Plan of Management has been prepared by the Planning & Development Unit of the Parks and Wildlife Commission's Southern Regional Office in Alice Springs.

Special acknowledgments for assistance in preparation of the Plan are due to the Heavitree Gap Police Station Historical Reserve Planning Team.

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE VALUE *

HEAVITREE GAP POLICE STATION HISTORICAL RESERVE

* Official Statement as adopted by the NT Heritage Advisory Council

The former Police Station site at Heavitree Gap, Alice Springs, has special significance to the Territory as a focal point in demonstrating a way of life of the early police and their task of applying law and order in a remote and sometimes hostile environment. Although an initial police camp had been established in 1879 at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station, the move to the site at Heavitree Gap on 21 April 1886 determined the first officially regarded permanent police presence in central Australia.

As custodians of law and order, the police duties were widely varied and involved undertaking patrols of long duration and covering large tracts of land, most of which was sparsely inhabited.

Up to this point, accommodation facilities provided for both police and prisoners were minimal, consisting of tents supplemented by bough sheds.

When constructed in 1889, the two roomed thatched dwelling became a focal point for a gradual change in living conditions for all concerned which ultimately led to its abandonment when it no longer met those requirements.

Becoming, in 1904, the first official gaol, prison and house of correction in central Australia until closed in 1909, the site has had a chequered history degenerating to an abandoned ruin until its complete restoration as an historic building in 1971.

CONTENTS	Page
FOREWORD	i
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	i
STATEMENT OF HERITAGE VALUE	ii
CONTENTS	iii
1. INTRODUCTION TO THE PLAN	1
1.1 Location and Values	1
1.2 History of the Police Station	3
1.3 The Concept of the Reserve and its Purposes	5
1.4 The Intent of this Plan	5
2. MANAGEMENT OF THE RESERVE'S HISTORICAL RESOURCES	6
Objectives	6
2.1 Historical Resources	6
2.2 The Police Station building	6
3. NATURAL RESOURCES	9
3.1 Geology	9
3.2 Native Flora and Fauna	9
3.3 Introduced Flora and Fauna	9
3.4 Fire	9
4. MANAGEMENT FOR VISITORS	10
4.1 Visitor Access	10
4.2 Visitor Facilities	10
4.3 Information and Interpretation	10
5. FUTURE USE OF THE RESERVE	11
5.1 Current Use of the Reserve	11
5.2 Potential Use of the Reserve	11
6. RESERVE ADMINISTRATION	12
Objectives	12
6.1 Staffing and Management	12
6.2 Research and Monitoring	12
6.3 Legal Requirements	12
6.4 Services	13

7. MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS	14
-------------------------------	----

8. SOURCES AND REFERENCES	16
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FIGURES

Figure 1 -	The Reserve and Locality	2
Figure 2 -	South elevation, Old Police Station	8
Figure3 -	Floor plan, Old Police Station	8

1. INTRODUCTION TO THE PLAN

1.1 Location and Values

Heavitree Gap Police Station Historical Reserve is located on the southwestern side of Heavitree Gap within the town boundary of Alice Springs. The Reserve comprises Lot No 1044, with an area of 4046m² as shown on survey plan A 36 (Figure 1).

The area was proclaimed a reserve under section 103 of the *Crown Lands Act* as a site for a historical building on 23 January 1958 (CG No. 8 of 6 February 1958) and subsequently declared a Conservation Reserve under Section 12 of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* (NT Gazette No. 26A of 30 June 1978). The Reserve was named the Heavitree Gap Police Station Historical Reserve by notification appearing in the NT Gazette No 38 of 21 September 1979.

The Heavitree Gap Police Station Historical Reserve is listed on the Register of the National Estate as No 000169 and is also listed by the National Trust of Australia (NT) on the Register of Significant Places.

The Reserve was declared a Heritage Place under section 26 (1a) of the *Heritage Conservation Act* on 13 February 1994 primarily for its historic values. A Statement of Heritage Value for the Reserve is given on page (ii).

The Reserve's prime focus and **historical significance** is the heritage listed Police Station and the associated history of early policing in central Australia. The Heavitree Gap Police Station also contributed to European settlement of central Australia and early contact between Aboriginal and European people.

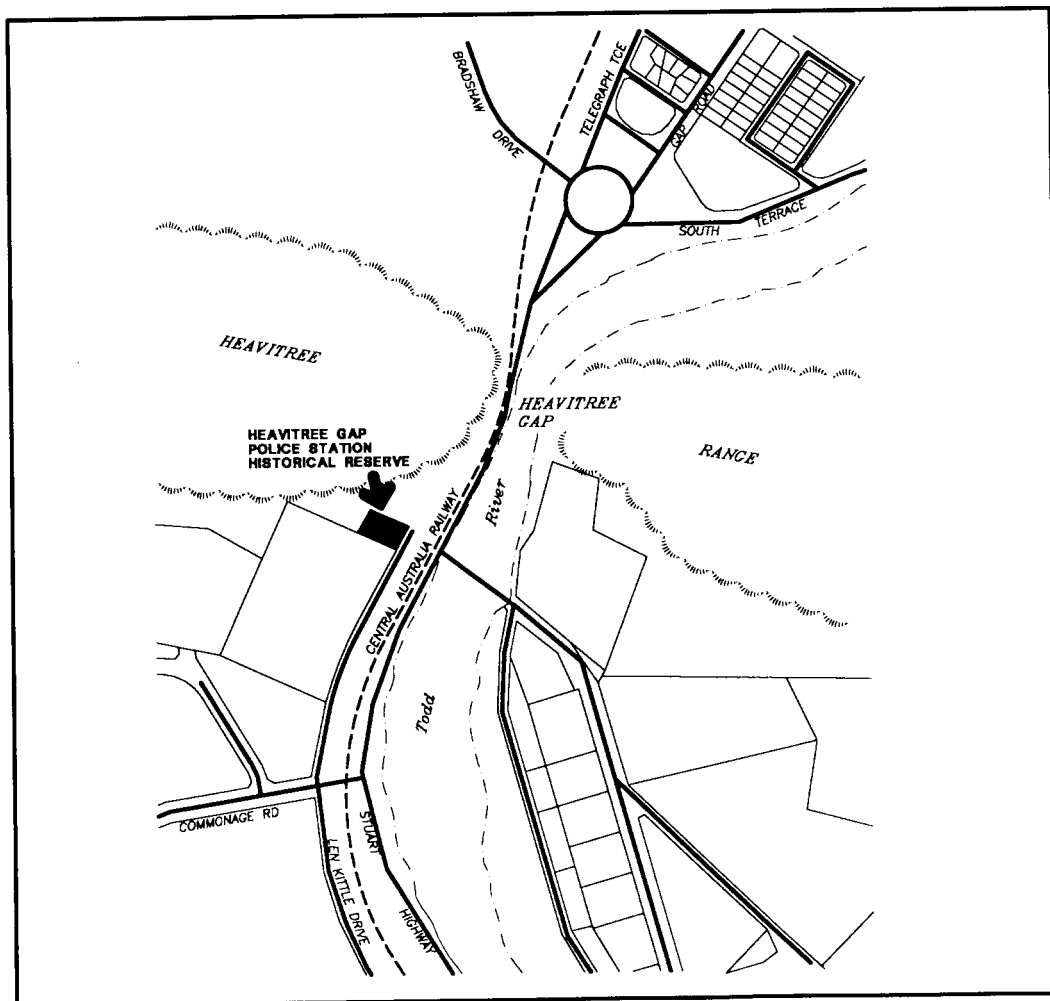
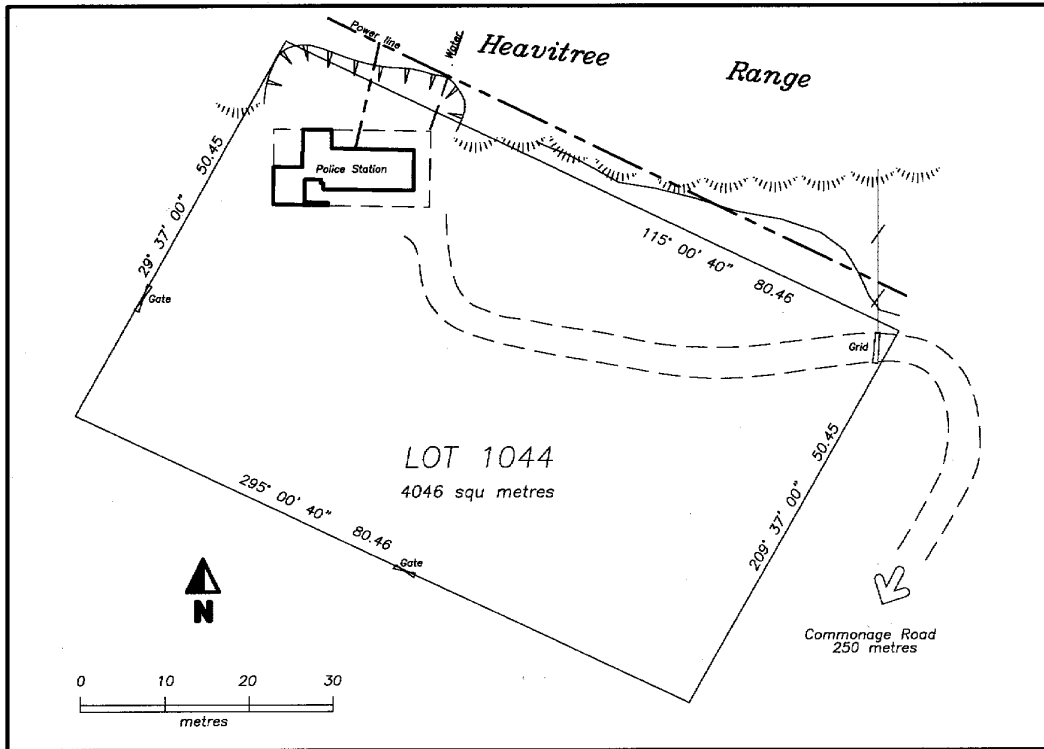
The **natural values** of the Reserve are limited but related primarily to the Heavitree Gap and the section of range sheltering the old Police Station.

The **Aboriginal values** of the Reserve area are also limited. Heavitree Gap (registered sacred site 5650-8), known as Ntaripe to Arrernte people is part of the Caterpillar Dreaming and in Aboriginal mythology it is linked with other major sites at Emily Gap, Jessie Gap and a small hill in the Alice Springs town area. In pre-European times and, to a considerable extent through to the early decades of the twentieth century, only mature men and young initiated men under ritual instruction, were permitted to visit and use the immediate Heavitree Gap area. Arrernte women were obliged to cross the range via a route to the east of Heavitree Gap. Heavitree Gap is still perceived by local Arrernte people to be the home of mythological life-forces (Kimber, 1999).

The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) has several other sacred sites recorded in the vicinity of the Reserve.

The **tourism and recreational values** of the Reserve relate to the considerable historical significance of the old Police Station.

Figure 1. The Reserve and locality.



1.2 History of the Police Station

Mounted Constable Shirley established the first police camp in Alice Springs in 1879 at the Telegraph Station.

On 21 April 1886, Mounted Constables Willshire and Wurmbrand with Native Constables Peter, Willie, Wilkie, Collins and Fred loaded all Police property on a wagon and moved to Heavitree Gap. Bough wurleys and a tent for stores were erected thereby constituting what is now regarded as the first permanent police presence to be established in central Australia.

A thatched log hut had been added by 1887 and by the following year an old hut from the Telegraph Station was erected for use as living quarters. These structures were sited east of present Reserve in the adjacent rail and road corridor. No substantive evidence of their existence remains due to flooding of the Todd River, railway and road construction and major use of the area for telecommunication cabling.

In 1889 an amount of 125 Pounds was allocated in the Government Estimates for provision of staff quarters which by then consisted of two Mounted Constables and six Native Constables.

In 1888/89 John Fleming and Thomas Pope built a store and a two roomed thatched dwelling with a verandah all round. These two rooms form the nucleus of the present day reconstructed building. Fencing for a horse paddock was also completed.

The buildings were roofed with corrugated iron by 1893. At this time Mounted Constable South claimed that an office, kitchen, two store rooms, a log hut used as a cell, a horse yard, camel yard and a garden had been added at an estimated cost of 100 Pounds but at no cost to Government.

On 14 December 1904, the buildings and premises at the Police Station were proclaimed to be a public gaol, prison and house of correction under the *Prison Act* of 1869.

Early in 1905, Mounted Constable South reported the buildings were all in a dilapidated condition with no adequate provision for the accommodation of prisoners evidenced the following year when seven prisoners escaped from custody.

The Executive Council on 2 September 1909 ordered the closure of the Police Station and gaol and the prisoners confined therein removed to Stuart (Alice Springs) where a new Police Station and gaol had been constructed in 1909.

Although intended to be demolished with the other buildings when the police moved to Stuart, the two-roomed stone building, small kitchen and store room were retained as quarters for the Junior Constable who, amongst his other duties, attended the station's plant of horses and camels.

It is unclear how long this situation remained but evidence indicates that it was used for quite a few years during the period 1920 to the mid 1930s by the District Stock Inspector as well as being a distribution point for rations to the local Aboriginal population.

In August 1956, at the first meeting of the newly constituted Northern Territory Reserves Board, the site was first suggested for acquisition and by June 1957 the necessary actions had been put in place. It was dedicated to the Reserves Board by notification in NT Gazette No 12 of 19 March 1958.

A report was prepared on the condition of the buildings on 10 November 1959 which indicated that the quality of the initial construction had been poor and that subsequent crumbling of walls and plaster, rotting of timbers and theft of materials made it an unviable proposition to restore.

Notwithstanding such advice and the estimated high costs involved, by 1966 the Reserves Board had resolved to proceed with reconstruction and was seeking ways in which it could be achieved. Work commenced in 1967, being undertaken by local builder, John Taylor, who worked on a wage basis with materials supplied. It was reported as being completed and occupied by a staff member in the Board's Annual Report of 1971, a situation which remains to the present.

As well as conveniences such as power, water, kitchen and bathroom facilities that are not part of its heritage significance of the building several extensions were added in 1979, that are also not part of the heritage fabric.

On 21 April 1986 the Alice Springs Police Club in conjunction with the NT Police Force and the Conservation Commission erected a commemorative cairn at the Reserve. This cairn was to commemorate the centenary and establishment of the first permanent police station in central Australia.

Mounted Constables associated with the Heavitree Gap Police Station

SHIRLEY	John Charles	M/C 2/c	1879	1882
WURMBRAND	Erwein	M/C 2/c	1881	1888
WILLSHIRE	William Henry	M/C 2/c	1882	1890
HILLIER	Robert	M/C 2/c	1887	1889
SOUTH	William Garnet	M/C 1/c	1888	1895
CHANCE	Harry	M/C 3/c	1889	1892
KEAN	William Bernard	M/C 3/c	1894	1895
KELLY	Alfred	M/C 1/c	1895	1898
JOHNSON	Charles Patrick	M/C 3/c	1898	1899
BROOKES	Charles Edward	M/C 2/c	1898	1905
FRENCH	Isaac Thomas	M/C 2/c	1901	1906
PFLAUM	Frederick Conrad	M/C 2/c	1905	1905
McLEOD	Frederick John	M/C 3/c	1905	1910
NALTY	Charles	Corporal	1906	1908
DOW	John Graham	M/C 2/c	1908	1912
MACKAY	John Clow	M/C 3/c	1910	1911

1.3 The Concept of the Reserve and its Purposes

The principal purpose of the Reserve is to;

conserve the heritage Police Station building and associated artefacts. In addition the Reserve has the potential to allow an opportunity to appreciate the history associated with early European settlement of central Australia.

1.4 The Intent of this Plan

The aim of this Plan is to ensure the protection and conservation of the values stated above.

The Plan states the intent of the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory with respect to the management and conservation of the Heavitree Gap Police Station Historical Reserve. The Plan provides management objectives, addresses current management issues and proposes appropriate measures to guide future management and development on the Reserve.

The Reserve was listed on the N T Heritage Register under the *Heritage Conservation Act* on 6 January 1994 in recognition of its historic values.

This Plan has been prepared and processed in pursuance of sections 18 and 19 of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* and will fulfil the function of a Plan of Management.

The PWCNT is obliged under section 21 of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* to manage the Reserve in accordance with this Plan once it has come into operation.

The Plan will be submitted for approval under section 39J(1) of the *Heritage Conservation Act*. This will ensure that actions outlined in this Plan are approved in accordance with that *Act*.

The Plan will be in force for a minimum of five years and a maximum of ten years, unless revoked by a new plan, or amended in accordance with section 20 of the *Territory Parks Wildlife Conservation Act*.

2. MANAGEMENT OF THE RESERVE'S HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Objectives

- To conserve the historic Police Station building and associated artefacts in the Reserve.

2.1 Historical Resources

The Heavitree Gap Police Station demonstrates a way of life experienced by the early police in Alice Springs and their task of applying law and order in a remote and sometimes hostile environment.

Although an initial police camp had been established in 1879 at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station, the move to the site at Heavitree Gap on 21 April 1886 marked the first officially regarded permanent police presence in central Australia.

The Police Station building within the Reserve is highly significant due to its association with early European settlement of central Australia.

2.2 The Police Station building

Reconstruction work to the Heavitree Gap Police Station building commenced in 1967 by local builder John Taylor and was completed in 1971

Measured drawings of the Police Station were produced in June 1980 and more detailed drawings by the mid 1980s. These drawings were extremely thorough and provide a good basis for future conservation of the building.

Conveniences such as power, water, kitchen and bathroom facilities that are not part of the heritage significance of the building were added at the time of reconstruction. Several extensions, built around 1979 also do not contribute to the heritage significance of the building. They are the log walling on the front verandah and the outdoor-prefabricated bedroom/storeroom, located on the rear verandah.

Since reconstruction, a PWCNT caretaker has continually occupied the building.

A conservation architect undertook an assessment of the condition of the Police Station Building in October 1994, recommended conservation works were then approved under section 33 of the *Heritage Conservation Act* and undertaken.

Management Guidelines

- 2.2.1** *The historical building and associated artefacts will be managed in such a way as to protect and conserve the heritage value of the building.*
- 2.2.2** *Management staff will ensure that an annual assessment of the condition of the historic Police Station building and any associated artefacts is conducted.*
- 2.2.3** *Any works undertaken at the site to conserve the historic building will be carried out in accordance with the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) principals and recommended procedures established in the Burra Charter and will follow recommendations prepared by suitably qualified persons or agencies.*
- 2.2.4** *Any works will follow the following guidelines:*

Roofing

Extreme care must be taken during inspections when walking on the roof. As required clean all debris and foreign matter from the roof and clean with approved cleaning agent. Hammer in all loose and projecting nails taking care not to dent fluting. If nails remain loose replace with longer or thicker shank roofing nails.

Chimney

Annually check existing silicone seals to chimney flashing and install new watertight silicone seal if required.

Paintwork

Inspect all paintwork at approximately five yearly periods and paint as required. Remove any cracking or flaking paintwork and sand back before painting.
External. *Repaint as necessary all verandah posts, fascias, verandah purlins and rafters, timber windowpanes and frames (internally and externally) timber doors and frames (internally and externally) and fibre cement wall linings.*
Internal. *Repaint as necessary all ceilings and walls, doors and door frames, windows and window frames throughout. Refix ripple iron ceiling with fittings to match existing where required prior to painting.*

Plumbing

Annually check for leaks and service tap-ware and plumbing throughout.

Electrical

All electrical work must comply with the electrical code, electrical cables should be hidden where possible and contained in conduits located on the outside of the building fabric. Care should be taken not to require holes to be made in walls or ceilings unless required for safety reasons.

Drainage

All water runoff from the building and the Heavitree Range behind the building should be channelled away from the building.

2.2.5 Any vegetation posing a fire or structural hazard to the historical fabric will be cleared using chemical and physical techniques that will cause minimal interference to the fabric of the building.

2.2.6 The PWCNT will endeavour to have the building continuously occupied to prevent intrusion and vandalism.

Figure 2. South Elevation, Old Police Station building

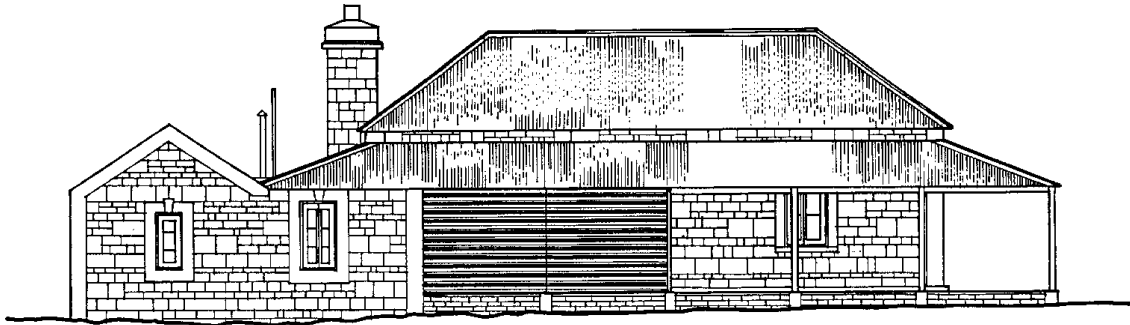
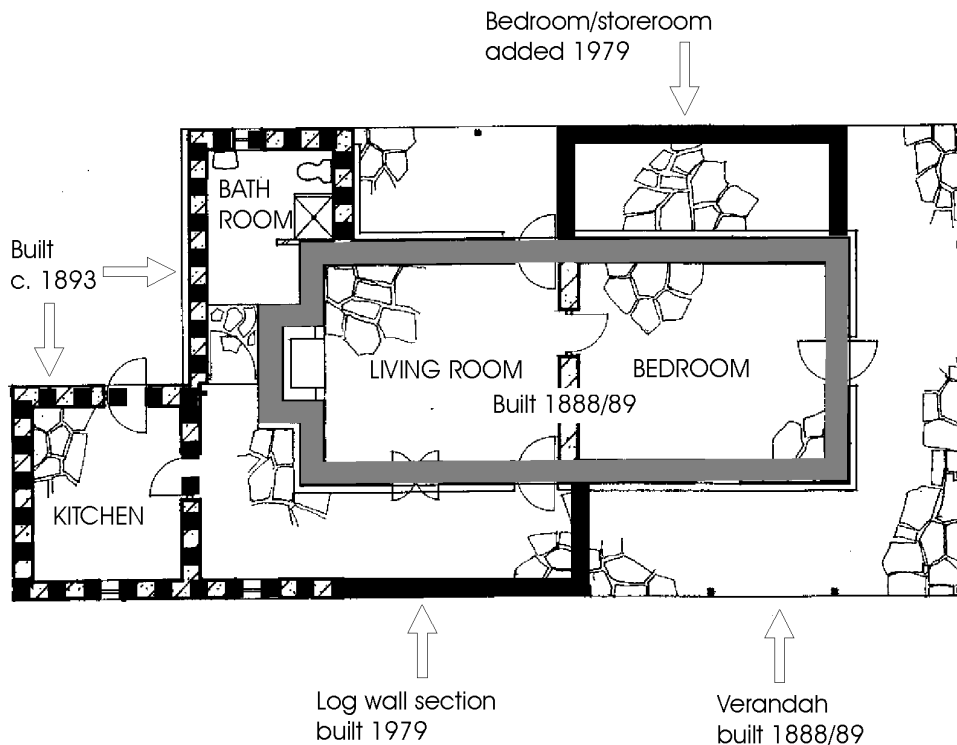


Figure 3. Floor Plan, Old Police Station Building



3. NATURAL RESOURCES

3.1 Geology

The Reserve is located at the foot of the Heavitree Range, a section of the MacDonnell Ranges, on the south west side of Heavitree Gap. The Range is predominantly Heavitree Quartzite, siltstone, shale, slate and sandstone conglomerate. The Reserve area is on the border of the Bitter Springs Formation, (dolomite, siltstone and sandstone) and the Precambrian Arunta Complex, (partly soil covered orthogneiss). (Alice Springs 1:100,000 Geological series, sheet 5650).

The entire Alice Springs town area, which includes the Reserve, is covered by MR 328, a mining reserve created to preclude mining operations within the town area.

3.2 Native Flora and Fauna

The native flora and fauna of the Reserve has not been surveyed and given the size and proximity of the Reserve, within the Alice Springs town boundary, there is no reason to believe it is botanically or biologically significant.

3.3 Introduced Flora & Fauna

The Reserve contains several introduced plants common to the Alice Springs area, Buffel Grass (*Chenchrus ciliaris*), Ruby Dock (*Acetosa vesicaria*) and Couch Grass (*Cynodon dactylon*). A large proportion of the Reserve has been planted with Australian native trees and shrubs, several species are non endemic to central Australia. Several existing large Peppercorn trees (*Schinus molle*) near the building have been identified in a photograph dated 1901 (Heavitree Gap Police Station Collection, photograph No 15) and have historic value, however these trees may also pose a threat to the structural integrity of the building. Greening Australia (NT) in partnership with the National Trust of Australia (NT) has listed one of these large Peppercorn trees on the Register of Significant Trees.

The caretaker has observed introduced animals such as dogs, cats, rabbits and mice at the Reserve.

Management Guidelines

3.3.1 *The PWCNT will regularly inspect the health of the Peppercorn trees near the building. Any requirement for tree surgery to maintain the health of these trees or to remove limbs that may damage the building will be undertaken as soon as possible after inspection.*

3.3.2 *The tenancy agreement will continue to require the caretaker to maintain the grounds in a neat, clean and tidy condition to ensure the risk of fire is minimised and the Reserve is presented in an attractive manner.*

3.4 Fire

The caretaker is expected to maintain the grounds in a neat, clean and tidy condition.

Management Guidelines

3.4.1 *The risk of fire damage to the building will be kept to a minimum by regular mowing of grasses within the boundaries of the Reserve.*

4. MANAGEMENT OF VISITORS

4.1 Visitor Access

General access to the Reserve, at present, is via a gravel road off Commonage Road. No directional signage is provided. The PWCNT does not actively encourage visitors to the old Police Station building as it is used as a residence and occupied by a caretaker. Visitors wishing to inspect the old Police Station may contact the PWCNT and make an appointment to do so.

Management Guidelines

4.1.1 *The PWCNT will not promote visitation to the Reserve and the existing arrangement will continue whereby appointments are necessary for anybody wishing to inspect the old Police Station building.*

4.2 Visitors Facilities

There are no visitor facilities provided at the Reserve and at this stage, plans to develop visitor facilities are not proposed.

4.3 Information and Interpretation

There is presently no PWCNT information or interpretation provided at the Reserve. The National Trust of Australia (NT) have produced an information sheet (No 28), one of a series describing historic places in Alice Springs.

Management Guidelines

4.3.1 *A Park Fact Sheet will be prepared by the PWCNT and made available through the Alice Springs office on request only. This will aim to provide information on the history of the Reserve, not a guide for visitation.*

5. FUTURE USE OF THE RESERVE

5.1 Current Use of the Reserve

Since completing reconstruction of the building in 1971 the PWCNT has used the old Police Station building as a residence and occupied by a caretaker. This situation has helped in the protection of the building by deterring vandalism, use by squatters, and ensuring ongoing maintenance is carried out.

The Reserve is located south-west of Heavitree Gap, the southern gateway to Alice Springs. The area south and east of the Reserve is often littered and untidy. General anti social behaviour at the entrance of the Reserve is a deterrent to visitors.

The formed gravel access road to the Reserve comes directly off Commonage Road (the road to the Alice Springs town garbage dump. Both of these roads are often littered and generally untidy.

Many visitors gather in this immediate area to photograph the Ghan passing through Heavitree Gap.

Management Guidelines

5.1.1 *The old Police Station will continue to be used as residence and occupied by a caretaker.*

5.2 Potential use of the Reserve

The Heavitree Gap Police Station is an important heritage site and is one of the oldest buildings in central Australia (established in 1888/9).

Other viable options may arise for use of the Reserve that will ensure conservation of the values for which it was declared. The PWCNT would support this alternative use providing the building was made available to the public and the conservation and security of the building was maintained.

Management Guidelines

5.2.1 *Consideration may be given to the use of the Reserve for purposes other than a caretaker residence should the need arise.*

6. RESERVE ADMINISTRATION

Objectives

- To ensure that management procedures and practices achieve the objectives of this Plan by adhering to the management guidelines.
- To administer the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*, its By-Laws, the *Heritage Conservation Act*, and other relevant legislation.
- To ensure works on the Reserve meet heritage requirements and requirements under the *Heritage Conservation Act* and are consistent with this Plan.
- To provide sufficient resources for the efficient management and administration of the Reserve.

6.1 Staffing and Management

The Reserve is currently administered and randomly patrolled by Parks and Wildlife Commission Central District based at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve. The Old Police Station building is occupied by a PWCNT caretaker who is expected keep the building and grounds in good condition in accordance with the PWCNT tenancy agreement.

Management Guidelines

6.1.1 *Ranger staff from the Alice Springs Telegraph Station will periodically check with the caretaker and assist if necessary with repairs to fencing and the removal of any dead trees or shrubs.*

6.2 Research and Monitoring

A considerable amount of research has been conducted into the Police Station with material gathered stored in the Natural Resources and Environment Library, Arid Zone Research Institute, Alice Springs. This material includes day to day running of the Police Station and details of police patrols of surrounding areas. A photograph collection also exists in the library.

Management Guidelines

6.2.1 *An assessment of the condition of the Reserve's historical fabric will be undertaken on an annual basis to determine the impacts of occupancy and natural deterioration.*

6.2.2 *Any proposal for further research on the history and significance of the old Police Station will be encouraged provided it is in accordance with the PWCNT Scientific Licences policy.*

6.3 Legal Requirements

The Parks and Wildlife Commission is obliged, under section 21 of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* to manage the Reserve in accordance with this Plan once it has been gazetted and is operational.

The management of the Reserve will follow the guidelines outlined in this Plan. The Plan may be amended at any time in accordance with the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* .

Caretakers of the old Police Station are expected to sign the PWCNT's Memorandum of Agreement (the tenancy agreement between the PWCNT and the caretaker) before taking up residence. This agreement covers the house and land and stipulates conditions, which must be met by the caretaker.

Several sacred sites either overlap or adjoin the Reserve area. AAPA clearances should be obtained before carrying out works in the vicinity of these sites.

Management Guidelines

6.3.1 *The Reserve's ongoing management will be periodically reviewed to ensure that it complies with the guidelines of this Plan.*

6.3.2 *The guidelines of this Plan will be periodically reviewed to ensure the most appropriate management is provided and the relevant issues addressed.*

6.3.3 *The Memorandum of Agreement will be reviewed and amended as necessary, and all caretakers will be expected to sign this agreement before taking up residence at the old Police Station.*

6.3.4 *Clearance from AAPA will be obtained for any new works or major management actions proposed for the Reserve.*

6.4 Services

The Reserve is connected to electricity, telephone and water. The water connection however is taken off the supply line to the neighbouring property and is not metered. Following a disruption to the water supply in March 1993 when the water supply line was disconnected a verbal arrangement was reached with the neighbouring property whereby the water would be reconnected on a temporary basis only. This was to continue until the PWCNT made some permanent arrangement regarding supply. This temporary situation still exists today.

The old Police Station is not connected to the sewage main and relies on a septic system. The septic tank has to be periodically pumped by contractors.

Management Guidelines

6.4.1 *The PWCNT will seek funds for a metered permanent water supply and liaise with the Power and Water Authority to find an economical solution to providing water for the Reserve.*

7. MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

Listed below are Management Guidelines stated in earlier sections of the Plan which are to be implemented systematically as Management Programs. Actions in these Programs are referred back to the Management Guidelines by page numbers.

Priorities are assigned as follows:

- High** - imperative to achieve the Plan's stated objective;
- Medium** - very important to achieve the Plan's stated objectives but subject to the availability of resources;
- Low** - desirable but will be undertaken only if necessary resources are available or other conditions stated in the Management Guidelines are fulfilled; and
- Ongoing** - must be implemented on an ongoing basis in order to achieve the objectives of the Plan.

Guideline	Page	Priority
2. Management of Historical Resources		
2.2.1 Management of the historical sites & artefacts	7	high
2.2.2 Annual assessment of the historic building	7,12	ongoing
2.2.3 Conservation works carried out in accordance with ICOMOS and Burra Charter	7	high
2.2.4 Maintenance guidelines	7	ongoing
2.2.5 Removal of vegetation causing fire or structural hazards	8	ongoing
2.2.6 Maintain occupancy of building	8, 11	high
3. Natural Resources		
3.3.1 Inspection of Peppercorn trees near building	9	ongoing
3.3.2 Continue tenancy agreement	9	ongoing
3.4.1 Regularly mow grass to prevent fire hazard	9	ongoing
4.0 Management of Visitors		
4.1.1 Promotion of visitation	10	ongoing
4.3.1 Prepare fact sheet for the Reserve	10	low
5. Future Use of the Reserve		
5.2.1 Consider other purposes for the Reserve	11	low
6. Reserve Administration		
6.1.1 Ranger staff to periodically assist caretaker	12	ongoing
6.2.1 Ongoing assessment of the Reserve's historic fabric	12	ongoing
6.2.2 PWCNT encouragement for further research	12	ongoing

6.3 1 Review of guidelines in plan and management	13	ongoing
6.3.2 Review Reserve management	13	ongoing
6.3.3 Review tenancy agreement	13	low
6.3.4 Obtain AAPA clearance for new works at the Reserve	13	ongoing
6.4.1 Connect to metered permanent water supply	13	high

8. SOURCES AND REFERENCES

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