

Gallop House

Nanulgarup, Dalkeith Farm, Gallop Gardens

The National Trust of Australia (WA), through the vision and generosity of the Feilman Foundation and a partnership with the Peggy Glanville-Hicks Composers' House Trust has established a composer in residence program at Gallop House. The Australia Council for the Arts, APRA, the Bundanon Trust and the Commonwealth Office for the Arts have made generous contributions to make this vision a reality.

The expansive views from Gallop House are a reminder of the changing and vital role Derbarl Yerrigan/the Swan River has played in the landscape known as *Nanulgarup*, named Dalkeith Farm in 1831 by Captain Adam Armstrong. The riverscape's changing moods now inspire and sustain creative practices through the Composer in Residence Program.





Captain Adam Armstrong and his sons took up Swan Location 85, 320 acres of land on a peninsula on the northern side of Melville Waters on the Swan River in 1831. He called it Dalkeith Farm after his birth place in Scotland. The riverside suburb of Dalkeith derives its name from the estate.

Armstrong established a farm including a five acre garden next to the five room limestone cottage he built. Grapes, figs and a variety of vegetables were planted. Thirty-five acres were also fenced, probably for livestock including goats.

“THE OLDEST PRIVATE RESIDENCE IN THE CITY OF NEDLANDS.”

“PEOPLE REMEMBER IT AS A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE SAILED DOWN THE RIVER AND PICKED UP THEIR VEGETABLES BY BOAT.”

In 1834 his eldest son was appointed as the colony's first 'native interpreter' reflecting his expertise with the Noongar language and relationship to the local people.

Financial difficulties forced Armstrong to sell the estate for 250 pounds in 1839. It was leased by James Gallop I who eventually bought it in two lots – the cottage and 65 acres in 1847 and the balance of the 320 acres in the mid 1860s.

Originally an indentured labourer, James Gallop I farmed the land extending production and the variety of fruit and vegetables – plantains, grapes, quinces, apples, figs, mulberries, peaches, pomegranates, black and white currants, water and rock melon and even sugar cane. His enterprise flourished thanks to an influx of convicts and an increase in Perth's population.

Gallop I was one of few in the area who had Aboriginal people working with him. One of their tasks was to shoot the tiny but troublesome silver-eyes that attacked the luscious grapes and other fruit. More than 4,500 were shot in one year alone.





“WELL HE HAD ABORIGINALS WORKING FOR HIM. EVERY SUNDAY HE WOULD HAVE THESE CHAPS ALL SPRUCED UP AND OFF HE'D DRIVE TO THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN HIS OPEN AIR TRAVELLING PHAETON.”

The house that stands today replaced the cottage in the 1870s and was home to James Gallop II and his wife. Lots began to be sold off in the 1890s. Rosalind Fox, the wife of Gallop's head gardener, was brutally murdered nearby in 1899.

The map of the crime scene is now a valuable document giving evidence of the location of various buildings and other structures. The case remains unsolved.

By 1911 the place had fallen into disrepair and the government bought the remaining lots and installed a caretaker. It was lived in over the next decades but deteriorated and fortunately was saved

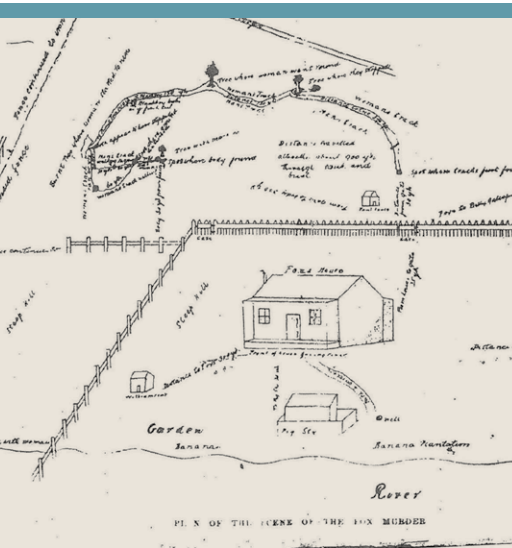
from demolition by the Royal Western Australian Historical Society in the late 1950s. A 21 year lease was signed and Leslie and Bill Anderson moved in, undertaking restoration works in the 1960s. The National Trust took over its management in 2009.

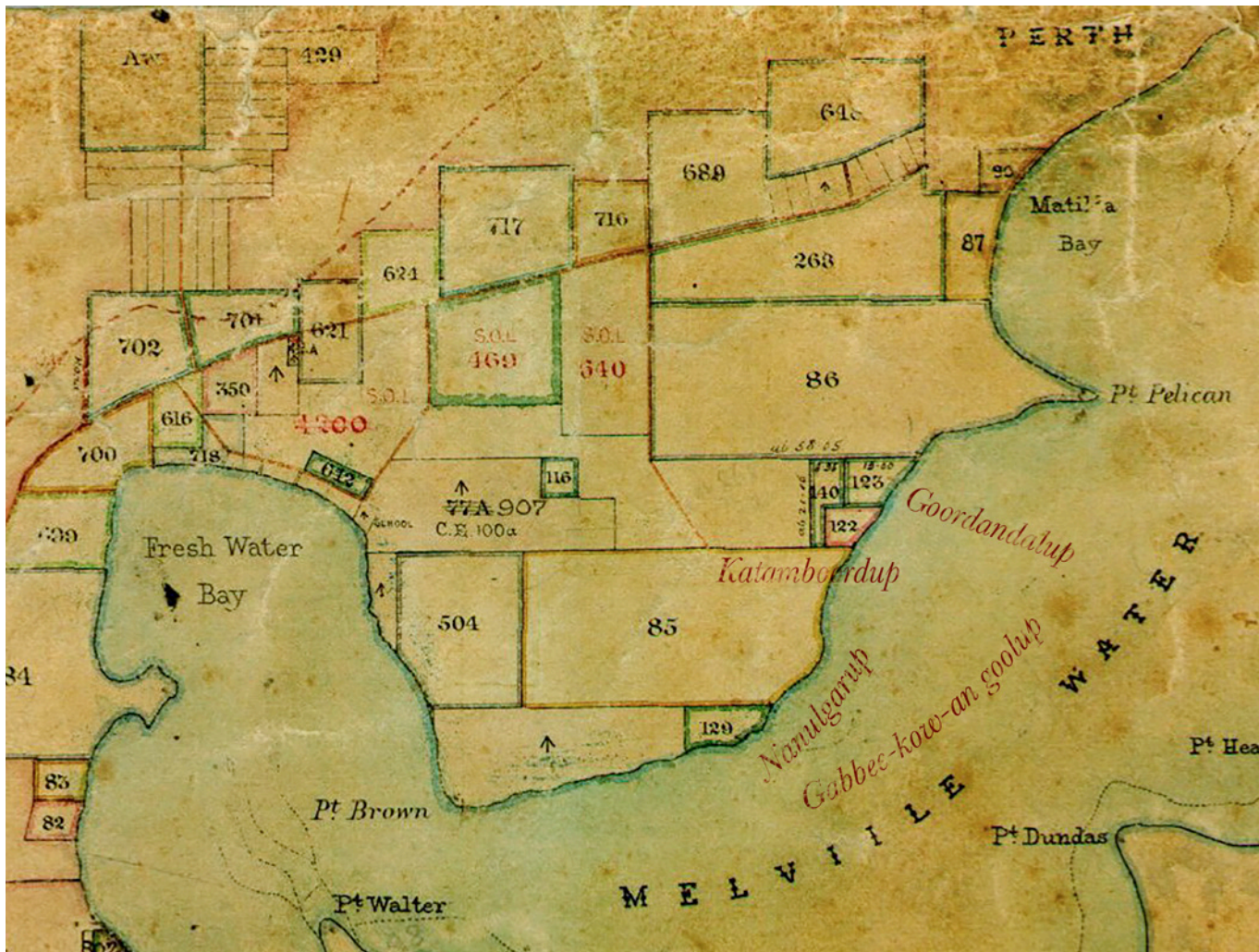
In 2015, archaeology students from UWA discovered the foundations of a store building, remnants of a chimney and

more than 6,000 artefacts during a field school. Their research and findings have informed conservation, interpretation and landscaping works associated with the conservation of the place for the composer in residence program.

Gallop House is one of a number of adaptive reuse projects the National Trust has undertaken over the past decade. The reuse of heritage places ensures their significant values continue to have a place within the community.

“I REMEMBER THE OLD CHINESE MARKET GARDENS, NEAR THE BOTTOM OF THE STEPS, THO' THE CHINESE HAD LONG GONE.”





**Peggy Glanville-Hicks
Composers' House Trust**

**FEILMAN
FOUNDATION**

Australia Council
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Bundanon Trust

Images courtesy:

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 **NATIONAL TRUST**
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For information on the National Trust's Composer in Residence program go to www.nationaltrust.org.au

Gallop House is managed by the National Trust of Australia (WA) on behalf of the community and Government of Western Australia

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