

Identification

Name of Place: Settlement Christmas Island
Other Names: Main Settlement, Flying Fish Cove
Database No: 018509
File No: 9/03/001/0004
Principal Group: Urban Area

Status

Legal Status: 22/06/1993 — Registered
Admin Status: 22/06/1993 — Registered

Location

Nearest Town: Settlement
Distance (km):
Direction from town:
Area (ha): 50.00
Address: Gaze Rd, Settlement EXT 6798
Local authorities: Christmas Island

Property Information

Location/Boundaries

About 50ha, comprising the whole of the township from the Community Centre (former Youth Centre) near Isabel Beach to the Chinese Cemetery, being the area bounded by a line commencing at Low Water Mark (LWM) on Isabel Beach at latitude 10deg25'26"S, then proceeding due east to the western side of Murray Road, then northerly via that side of that road to latitude 10deg25'21"S, then due east for about 120m to a road between Settlement and Silver City, then northerly via the western side of that road to 50m ASL at approximately the intersection of the latter road and Murray Road, then northerly and easterly at that altitude to longitude 105deg41'22"E, then due north to LWM, the easterly via LWM to the commencement point.

AHC Official Statement of Significance

The Main Settlement Area of Flying Fish Cove contains the main European residential precinct and the Services area and former early Chinese settlement. The buildings that make up the residential precinct are of architectural significance, relatively intact and display considerable unity in a style derived from the British experience in Singapore/Malaya (Criteria D.2 and F.1). This unity combines with consistent garden planting and ornamentation and the linear nexus of Gaze Road to create a strong streetscape (Criterion F.1). The presence of semi-detached servants' quarters are also of historic importance and are indicative of the social and economic stratification which prevailed on the island during the colonial period (Criteria A.4 and B.2). The residential area is also historically significant as a reminder of the phase of Christmas Island history when the island came under the control of the British Phosphate Commission and the mining industry and the supporting community, underwent substantial expansion (Criterion A.4). The Services precinct is of social and historic significance. It includes a number of early Chinese terraced houses as well as a range of

AHC Official Statement of Significance (continued)

structures representing each of the various phases of phosphate mining, including one of the oldest structures on the Island. It was also the Island's main meeting place where Asian workers and European staff came together through a common reliance on retail, health, recreational and other services. The precinct contains a number of buildings of special significance to the community and, along with the three cemeteries, strongly reflects the mixed racial origins of the Island (Criterion G.1).

Description

Christmas Island was named in 1643 when William Mynors, master of a ship homeward bound from the East Indies, sighted the Island on Christmas Day, although the Island was previously known to many seafarers. The first recorded landing was made in 1688 by men under the command of the British sailor William Dampier. In the 1820s John Clunies-Ross from the Shetland Islands considered the Island as the site for a plantation but instead moved onto the Cocos-Keeling Islands, although the family continued to use Christmas Island as a stopping place en route to Java. The value of the phosphate deposits on the Island was recognised in 1887 by Scottish scientist John Murray who successfully lobbied the British to annex the Island. The Island came under British control in 1888. There were no steps taken to administer the Island until 1890 when the Island was incorporated for administrative purposes into the Straits Settlement of Singapore. A District Officer was sent to the Island in 1901. Commercial mining of phosphate commenced in 1899 with the Christmas Island Phosphate Company Limited, with one third owned by Murray, one third by the Clunies-Ross family and the other third sold to raise working capital. The basic family ownership of the company did not alter significantly until December 1948 when the company was purchased by the Australian and New Zealand Governments. The Settlement was the main area in which European staff, services and administrative officers were housed. It includes two main precincts, the European residential area and early Chinese settlement and the Services precinct. The European residential precinct was originally set aside for European staff and includes several bungalows believed to date to before World War Two and mixed single and married quarters dating from after the British Phosphate Company (BPC) assumption of control of the island in 1949. Many of these residences have semi detached servants' quarters. Most of the existing structures were built after 1952 during the intensive phase of development that took place after the Australia/New Zealand/BPC assumed control of the island. This was the most important phase of mining to Australia, as the application of predominantly Christmas Island phosphate to the phosphate deficient soils of Australia, allowed agricultural expansion and supported the food production boom of the 1950s and 1960s. This precinct also includes the Manager's House built in 1952. This is marginally smaller than the Administrator's House and was designed to reflect the dominant position of the BPC Manager. The architectural qualities of the area are clearly influenced by the British experience in Singapore/Malaya with semi-detached servants' quarters indicating the social and economic stratification which prevailed on the Island. The unity of the area is strengthened by the consistent garden plantings and ornamentation and the linear nexus of Gaze Road. This precinct also includes an ammunition bunker and possible dummy gun emplacement and the Rumah Tinngi Mess, built c 1936 in the pre BPC era. This area also includes the Service Precinct. This was the Island's meeting place where Asians workers and European staff came together through their reliance on the retail, health, recreational and other services provided. Places of significance include the Mandor's House which was constructed before 1910 for Chinese foremen. This is one of the oldest structures on the island and is associated with the earlier phase of mining; it originally comprised a number of terrace style apartments with semi-detached service wing running along the rear of the building. This precinct also contains the Hospital; Government Quarters block; Police Station all stylistically related; the main Chinese Temple, still considered the most important Chinese temple on the island; Chinese Literary Association building; the Malay Kampong No 2

Description (continued)

comprising Sydney Williams style huts for the main living areas with traditional masonry service wing at the rear; the Chinese Labour quarters and Spinsters quarters. This area lacks the consistency of design and overall unity present in the European residential area.

The area also includes three cemeteries, Christian (1950), Malay and Chinese (both pre dating the Christian cemetery), located along Golf Course Road, south of the Settlement residential precinct. The cemeteries contain memorials to past members of the Island community and are of aesthetic interest for their diversity of design, shape and ornamentation. The grave memorials also provide historic evidence of the rate, age and causes of death on the Island.

Condition

The Mandor's House has been substantially altered with internal partitions and enclosures of the breezeway and service block. White ant attacks are evident and spalling and cracking of the masonry has occurred. The building was assessed as unsound by the Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Territories and Tourism (DASETT) in 1991. Other buildings also have structural problems. March 1989 storm damage has resulted in the demolition of a small row of shops from the gym to the police quarters, while the theatre and pool were badly damaged and are proposed for demolition. The Hospital, Police Station and Police Quarters were also damaged. Leases sold by the Commonwealth to date in the Settlement include the Spit and Chips (former Pork Butcher), the building opposite the Hospital, the old Nurses Home and the former Manager's Residence. (1993) The precinct is generally intact, with few intrusions. Rumah Tinggi is now a backpacker hostel head office and is in good-poor condition. Seaview Lodge is in generally good condition, and is being used; there are some minor unsympathetic alterations. The pre-war and post-war bungalow groups vary but are generally in sound condition. The BPC married and single quarters group is similar. The preschool is in good condition; the verandah is now painted red and there is new plasterboard panelling. The service area is very mixed, with buildings ranging from ruins to serviceable condition. The hospital was recently refurbished. Regarding the Cocos Malay building and Padang, there are upgrading proposals at hand; the rear building is sound, while the front one is poor; the roof is collapsing. The barracks group is currently leased and will be sold; condition generally sound. Also sound is the Chinese Literary Association Building, and the George Fam Centre. (Jan 2001)

Bibliographic references

Forrest, P., 1989, 'Christmas Island Cultural Heritage Study'.

Godden Mackay Heritage Consultants, July 1998, 'Christmas Island - Conservation Management Plan', Volume 1 - Industrial Mining Heritage. Volume 2 - Conservation Management Strategy, Inventory. NEGP Report.

Godden Mackay Logan, November 1998, 'Christmas Island Heritage Review', vol.3. Prepared for Department of Transport and Regional Development.

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Identification

Name of Place: Bungalow 702
Other Names: Married Quarters (MQ) 702
Database No: 018575
File No: 9/03/001/0011
Principal Group: Exploration, Survey and Places of Historical Events

Status

Legal Status: 22/06/1993 — Registered
Admin Status: 22/06/1993 — Registered

Location

Nearest Town: Drumsite
Distance (km):
Direction from town:
Area (ha):
Address: Lam Lok Loh, Drumsite EXT 6798
Local authorities: Christmas Island

Property Information

Location/Boundaries

Lam Lok Loh, Drumsite, Christmas Island.

AHC Official Statement of Significance

There is a strong oral tradition on Christmas Island that this bungalow was used by the Japanese as a radio station during the Island's occupation in World War Two. The bungalow has become a symbol of this phase of the Island's history and is of considerable social significance to the Christmas Island community (Criterion G.1).

Description

History

Bungalow 702 was erected in the mid-1930s as a residence for the Chief Mechanical Engineer in charge of the railways and mining structures. It is similar to the bungalows built in Flying Fish Cove and at Rocky Point at the same period. During World War Two, it was occupied by Japanese soldiers, acquiring the name 'Jap House' from this time. The Japanese used the building as a radio station during the war. The bungalow has come to symbolise the wartime history of the island and has acquired social significance for the Christmas Island community. After the war, the building was refurbished and occupied as European married quarters. It was occupied in 1975 by Michael Grimes and family, school teacher and prominent figure in the establishment of the Union of Christmas Island Workers. The building was damaged in the storm of 1988 and was vacant for some time afterwards.

Description

Bungalow 702 is a rendered brick masonry and timber building on rendered masonry piles with

Description (continued)

prominent concrete caps, set approximately 1.5m above ground level, accessed by concrete steps. The building has a central gable-roofed section with masonry walls surrounded by a skillion-roofed enclosed verandah of timber framing. The roof cladding is in asbestos cement sheet. Servants quarters are located at the rear of the building, connected by a covered way and roofing is corrugated asbestos cement, with newer sections in corrugated fibre-cement. This building retains its angled ventilation shutters to the verandah openings. Servants quarters are of rendered concrete masonry with a gable roof clad in corrugated asbestos cement.

Condition

The building was damaged by a storm in March 1988 during which sections of the roof were blown off and less serious damage sustained in other parts of the building. The building was re-roofed in 1991. (1993)

The building has since been sold and is in the process of being refurbished. (Jan 2001)

Bibliographic references

Forrest, P, 1989, "Christmas Island Cultural Heritage Survey".

Godden Mackay Logan, 1998, "Christmas Island Heritage Review". Prepared for Department of Transport and Regional Development.

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Register of the National Estate Database Place Report

Item 1

Page 1

Identification

Name of Place: Industrial and Administrative Group
Other Names:
Database No: 018572
File No: 9/03/001/0007
Principal Group: Mining and Mineral Processing

Status

Legal Status: 22/06/1993 — Registered
Admin Status: 22/06/1993 — Registered

Location

Nearest Town: Settlement
Distance (km):
Direction from town:
Area (ha):
Address: Murray Rd, Settlement EXT 6798
Local authorities: Christmas Island

Property Information

Location/Boundaries

Comprising Christmas Island Club, ruins of former Manager's house west of club, the cemetery adjacent to these ruins, the Bulk Storage and Dust Storage Sheds, carpentry shop, the Padang, Administration Office, Wireless Operator's house, the remains of the Shinto Shrine near the tennis court, the Asian Clerks' quarters, the inscription to the completion of the first road in 1894 on the rockface behind the Asian Clerks' quarters, the bases of the pre 1915 and the 1935 phosphate chutes respectively behind the Asian Clerks' quarters and behind the Malay School, the Christian Centre (former library), fuel tank in No. 1 Tank Farm displaying strafe marks, the Hardware Store, the Down Hill Conveyer from Drumsite to the Dry Storage Bins, and the phosphate loading cantilevers at the wharf, Murray Road, west of Settlement, Christmas Island.

AHC Official Statement of Significance

This area has been the focus of industrial and administrative activity on the island since its earliest occupation and includes evidence of each successive phase of settlement and mining on the island. Some of the oldest structures are located in this area as well as rare evidence of World War ii strafing and the subsequent Japanese occupation (Criteria A.4 And B.2). This area contains a number of individual structures of historical or technical significance including the Clunies Ross era road inscription, the 1903 gaol, the storage shed with overhead rail system and the remains of the Japanese shinto shrine (Criteria A.4 And F.1). The Wireless Operator's House is of architectural significance and illustrates many features of south east Asian colonial architecture including features designed to improve ventilation (Criterion F.1). The phosphate conveyor and large loading cantilevers are of special significance as they form a strong visual focus for the area and along with other large industrial structures, such as the Bulk and Transit Shed, are a constant reminder of the

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AHC Official Statement of Significance (continued)

long term importance of mining to Christmas Island (Criterion A.4).

Description

This area has been the focus of industrial and administrative activity on the Island since its earliest occupation and includes evidence of each phase of settlement on the island. The site of Clunies Ross's original plantation settlement has been the subject of intensive redevelopment and no above-ground evidence of it is apparent today. The one remaining indication of this phase of occupation is an inscription on the rockface, near the Asian Clerk's Quarters, which commemorates the completion of the first road on the island in 1894. The second phase of mining and settlement on the island is represented by the Christmas Island Club, the main recreational and social focus for the Europeans on the Island; the former Manager's House which is now a ruin with only the foundations to indicate its layout; the Christian cemetery, near the Manager's House, with burials dating from 1907; the bases of the pre.1915 and 1935 phosphate chutes, the Dry Storage and Bulk Storage Sheds with overhead rail system designed to allow wagons to enter the shed on tracks elevated about 6m above the floor and dump the loose phosphate down onto the floor below; the carpentry shop which includes original sections of the island gaol built c.1903 and one of the oldest structures on the island; the padang which was used for sporting activities since the first days of mining and as a parade ground during the Second World War; the Administration Office which formerly featured a timber balustraded upper verandah and which occupied a dominant position in keeping with the central role of mining on the island; and the Wireless Operator's House, built c.1938, arguably the finest architectural expression on the island which illustrates some of the best design features of south east Asian colonial architecture with much attention given to ventilation and decorative detail. Despite the efficiency of the incline it appears that a second attempt to construct a chute system was undertaken in the 1930's. This chute ran from Drumsite near the cliff face to a point behind the present Malay Kampong. A lower level rail loading facilities were constructed for movement of the ore to the shore was constructed in conjunction with the chute, however, it appears this system was not successful and the incline remained the main system for moving the ore from the plateau to the lower terrace. Ore bins and the remnants of the cable and pulley system at the base of the 1935 chute still survive. Later structures of historical value include the Japanese Shinto shrine remains of which only the steps survive as it was destroyed, at the request of the Islanders, by returning British troops in 1945; the Asian Clerk's Quarters as they represent an early attempt by the bpc to provide a higher standard of accommodation for senior Asian staff and contribute to the streetscape, and the Christian Centre as it incorporates part of the COCOS Malay Kampong built to accommodate the group of COCOS people who came to Christmas Island after World War Two. More recent structures of interest include the storage tanks and Hardware Store with their evidence of Japanese straffing, and the down hill conveyer and phosphate loading cantilevers which form a strong visual focus for the area and are a constant reminder of the long term importance of phosphate mining to Christmas Island.

Condition

The Christmas Island Club was partially destroyed by fire in recent years but retains its essential character as a 'refuge' or retreat for the island's managerial personnel. The former Manager's House is in ruins but foundations remain to indicate its layout. (1993)

The use of buildings in the precinct is constantly changing, with some vacant buildings likely to be utilized. The decline of the mechanical and workshop activities has lessened the area's services aspect. The Administration Building is in generally good condition. The former Asian Staff Quarters are in good condition but have poor ventilation and interiors. The former Wireless Operator's Building has recently been sold and is now privately owned; there has been some stabilisation work, though more work is required. The Christmas Island Club is in fair condition, though the interior shows signs of lack of use. Houses near the Roundabout are in good condition;

Condition (continued)

painting is needed. Some conservation work is required on a number of headstones in the European cemetery. (Jan. 2001)

Bibliographic references

Forrest, P., 1989, 'Christmas Island Cultural Heritage Survey'.

Godden Mackay Logan, November 1998, 'Christmas Island Heritage Review', vol.3. Prepared for Department of Transport and Regional Development.

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Identification

Name of Place: Malay Kampong Group
Other Names: Malay Kampong Area
Database No: 018573
File No: 9/03/001/0008
Principal Group: Exploration, Survey and Places of Historical Events

Status

Legal Status: 22/06/1993 — Registered
Admin Status: 22/06/1993 — Registered

Location

Nearest Town: Settlement
Distance (km): 0.50
Direction from town: S
Area (ha):
Address: Jalan Panyai, Settlement EXT 6798
Local authorities: Christmas Island

Property Information

Location/Boundaries

Jalan Panyai, Flying Fish Cove, 0.5km south of Settlement, Christmas Island, comprising: Malay Club, Mosque, Malay Quarters and adjacent Malay School, sheep pens to north of Malay Club and original Malay Cemetery 300m south-west of Mosque.

AHC Official Statement of Significance

The places that make up the Malay Kampong area are of special significance to the Malay community of Christmas Island and reflect the ways of life of a cultural minority in Australia (Criterion G.1). The Kampong Area represents one of the main cultural groups on Christmas Island and their endeavours to maintain their religious laws and traditions in a remote setting.

Description

Chinese labourers provided most of the manual labour during the early phase of mining on Christmas Island, although later Singapore and Malaya became increasingly important sources of indentured labourers. Malays, from both Cocos-Keeling and Malaya, currently comprise approximately one fifth of the Island's population. The buildings in the Malay Kampong area collectively represent the cultural diversity of this group and their endeavours to keep their religious laws and traditions living in a remote, alien setting. The sites of special significance to the Malay community include the former Malay quarters (Buildings 404, 405, 406 and 407), the Islamic School behind this group of buildings, the Mosque and Malay Club and the sheep pens and slaughter house and an early and possibly the first, Malay cemetery on the Island whose exact location is uncertain.

Condition

The Malay Club sustained damage during a storm in March 1988. (1993)

The precinct has a relative degree of intactness. Recently there have been some major changes nearby, with some demolition and new construction. The Mosque is generally sound, but showing cracks and rotting timber. The Malay School is in good condition and has been painted recently. The former Malay quarters are in good condition. Other buildings are in poor to average condition. The Malay Club is in fair condition, but shows some seaside corrosion affects, rotting timbers and holes in walling. (Jan. 2001)

Bibliographic references

Forrest, P., 1989, 'Christmas Island Cultural Heritage Survey'.

Godden Mackay Logan, November 1998, 'Christmas Island Heritage Review', vol.3. Prepared for Department of Transport and Regional Development.

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Identification

Name of Place: Administrators House Precinct
Other Names:
Database No: 013658
File No: 9/03/001/0002
Principal Group: Government and Administration

Status

Legal Status: 22/06/1993 — Registered
Admin Status: 22/06/1993 — Registered

Location

Nearest Town: Settlement
Distance (km): 1.50
Direction from town: SW
Area (ha):
Address: , Settlement EXT 6798
Local authorities: Christmas Island

Property Information

Location/Boundaries

Comprising Administrators House and former ammunition bunkers, gun emplacement and observation post and ranging station which lie just to the north of the house, Flying Fish Cove, 1.5km south-west of Settlement, Christmas Island.

AHC Official Statement of Significance

The Administrator's House is a historic reminder and symbol of colonial rule of Christmas Island, when it was incorporated into the Straits Settlement of Singapore and has been the focus for official duties and functions (Criterion A.4). The imposing scale of the residence and its location in a prominent position looking across Flying Fish Cove emphasises the previous social importance of the Administrator and provides an important visual focal point from several other parts of the settlement (Criterion E.1). The gun emplacement and ammunition bunkers have historical significance as a reminder of earlier military threats to the Island and through their direct association with the 1942 mutiny and the subsequent Japanese invasion of the Island (Criterion A.4).

Description

History

The Administrator's House was constructed in c 1936-38. It replaces an earlier building on this site, which was originally known as the District Officers Quarters (built in 1903). This was two storey (like the present building) with the ground floor being used for official purposes and the upper level for living. The present building embraces the same design. The downstairs area was originally used for official duties and housed the office and courtroom of the District Officer, Interpreter and other

Description (continued)

staff, while the upstairs room was the residential area. The downstairs area is currently used for entertaining. From 1900-57, Christmas Island was part of the Straits Settlement of Singapore and the District Officer reported to Singapore. From January to September 1957 the Island was a separate British colony before becoming a Territory of the Commonwealth of Australia in 1958. The Head of Government on the Island, the Administrator, was then appointed by the Governor General and was responsible to the Australian Federal Minister for Territories and Local Government.

Description

The building is a substantial, two storey residence, with a semi-detached service and servants wing, surrounded by a well developed garden. The residence is sited in a prominent location looking across Flying Fish Cove and can be seen from various vantage points on the higher terraces. The style and location of the residence appears to have been designed to emphasise the eminence of the Administrator. In 1965 the ground floor exterior doorways which had timber arches and lattice work infill were altered, the arches were bricked and the lattice work replaced by glass with etched patterns resembling the earlier lattice work. A portico was also added with a balcony above it. Upstairs windows, which were wood shuttered, were glazed.

Immediately to the north of the Administrator's House stand a number of ammunition bunkers and a gun emplacement which still contains a 6inch naval gun. The complex also contains accommodation and support buildings including a gaol. On the cliff, approximately 10m above the gun, is an observation post and ranging station. The ruins of a Japanese washhouse is reported to be beyond the gun emplacement. The gun emplacement was built before World War Two for the installation of the 6inch naval gun and a detachment of troops was stationed there. In March 1942 the detachment mutinied on the eve of the Japanese occupation of the island and several officers were killed. The occupying Japanese later took control of the site for the duration of the war.

Condition

The Administrator's House was extensively remodelled in 1965 although the service area is little altered from its original form. The gun emplacement complex is intact despite the post war conversion of the ammunition bunkers to provide servants' quarters and other support functions for the Administrator's House. (1993)

Currently the house is not being used and it will possibly be transferred to the shire. (Jan. 2001)

Bibliographic references

Forrest, P., 1989, "Christmas Island Cultural Heritage Survey".

Godden Mackay Logan, 1998, "Christmas Island Heritage Review". Prepared for Department of Transport and Regional Development.

Paterson, Christopher, July 1996, "Christmas Island Gun Battery - Conservation & Management Plan & Final Report on Urgent Works". For Christmas Island Administration.

Paterson, Christopher, June 1996, "Christmas Island Naval Gun & Associated Buildings". For Christmas Island Shire Council. NEGP Report.

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Identification

Name of Place: Drumsite Industrial Area
Other Names: Incline Railway
Database No: 018571
File No: 9/03/001/0005
Principal Group: Mining and Mineral Processing

Status

Legal Status: 22/06/1993 — Registered
Admin Status: 22/06/1993 — Registered

Location

Nearest Town: Drumsite
Distance (km):
Direction from town:
Area (ha):
Address: , Drumsite EXT 6798
Local authorities: Christmas Island

Property Information

Location/Boundaries

Comprising remnants of incline railway between Drumsite and the power house in Settlement, the Spray Painting Shop at the top of the railway and the Sample Shed, now located near the Laboratory, Drumsite, Christmas Island.

AHC Official Statement of Significance

The incline railway, 1930s chute and winding gear sheds are historically and scientifically significant as evidence of previous phases of the mining industry on Christmas Island and earlier industrial technology (Criteria A.4 and B.2). The incline railway is of particular significance as it was fundamental to the success and expansion of the phosphate mining operation on Christmas Island and therefore the development of the Island community, as well as being an outstanding technical and engineering achievement (Criteria A.4 and F.1).

Description

The Drumsite industrial area has played an important role in the history of phosphate mining on Christmas Island, however, most of the site is now a modern industrial site. The main area of heritage interest is the remains of the incline railway and 1930s ore chute system although other elements have value to segments of the current island community. The Drumsite industrial area includes the remnants of the incline railway, constructed in 1914. The railway was the main means of transport between the cove settlement and the upper terrace until construction of the modern road to Poon Saan from 1958. The incline railway began at Drumsite and terminated near the old power station in the main settlement precinct. The average gradient of the line was 1 in 6.5. The permanent way comprises two standard gauge tracks, with a concrete strip between. One track was for rail

Description (continued)

traffic going up, the other for rail cars going down. Motor vehicles could use the strip in between. At Drumsite, loaded rail wagons were attached to a cable while empty wagons at the bottom of the incline were similarly attached. The empty wagons provided some counterbalance to the full wagons, but the essential power and control was supplied by winding gear which wound the cables over drums at Drumsite. Goods and people were also raised and lowered on the incline. The incline railway system was fundamental to the success and expansion of the mining operation permitting large volumes of ore to be moved from the mining site to the lower terrace for export. It was also a considerable technical achievement. The industrial area also includes the sample shed and paint shed which both apparently housed part of the incline winding gear. The roof of the sample shed includes an unusual arrangement of curving steel struts and is of architectural and technical interest.

Condition

The Drumsite industrial area is now generally a modern industrial site with only a limited number of early historic remains. One half of the incline track is currently used to channel storm water down to the lower terrace, which keeps this half of the track clear. The other half of the incline track is heavily overgrown. The sample shed has been moved from its original position to a location near the laboratory. It is currently used to house phosphate samples, and appears to be in fair and structurally sound condition. (1998)

Bibliographic references

Forrest, P, 1989, "Christmas Island Cultural Heritage Survey".
Godden Mackay Heritage Consultants, July 1998, " Christmas Island Conservation Management Plan. Volume 1 - Industrial Mining Heritage. Volume 2 - Conservation Management Strategy, Inventory". NEGP report.

••• End Of Report •••

Identification

Name of Place: Poon Saan Group
Other Names:
Database No: 018574
File No: 9/03/001/0006
Principal Group: Exploration, Survey and Places of Historical Events

Status

Legal Status: 22/06/1993 — Registered
Admin Status: 22/06/1993 — Registered

Location

Nearest Town: Poon Saan
Distance (km):
Direction from town:
Area (ha):
Address: Poon Saan Rd, Poon Saan EXT 6798
Local authorities: Christmas Island

Property Information

Location/Boundaries

Comprising Poon Saan Residential Blocks 514, 515 and 550 to 561, Poon Saan Club and adjacent restaurants, UCIW Office and Cinema (Poon Saan Road); and House 665 (Jalan Perak), Poon Saan, Christmas Island.

AHC Official Statement of Significance

The Poon Saan area is of special significance to the Chinese population and symbolises the Chinese presence on the island and the conditions in which they lived. The whole area exhibits architectural styles imported from Singapore and rarely found in other parts of Australia. Poon Saan's high living densities were also unusual in Australia and probably indicate an attempt to create housing which was thought to reflect the traditional Chinese mix of residential, communal cooking and eating, commercial, religious and recreational functions within one building (Criteria A.4, B.2 and G.1). This area also includes a number of structures associated with the inception and development of the Union movement on Christmas Island, a movement which resulted in a vast improvement in social, economic and industrial conditions for the Christmas Island workers. The Poon Saan cinema is also of significance, not only as the venue for the mass meetings concerning industrial and social issues, but as an uncommon example of a relatively intact outdoor cinema (Criteria A.4, F.1 and G.1).

Description

This area has been the place of residence of most of the Island's Chinese people since closure of the South Point Settlement. This area is of significance to the Chinese population and symbolises the Chinese presence on the Island and the conditions in which they lived. The whole area exhibits architectural styles imported from Singapore and rarely found in other parts of Australia. Poon

Description (continued)

Saan's high living densities were also unusual in Australia and probably reflect an attempt to create housing which was thought to reflect the traditional Chinese mix of residential, communal cooking and eating, commercial, religious and recreational functions within one building. Other locations of importance to the Chinese include the Poon Saan Club and adjacent restaurants. Places which are associated with the Union and recent major changes to the social and economic system on the Island, include the former United Credit Union Office, now the UCIW Office and an outlying site, House 665, located below Poon Saan. This house was used for early clandestine meeting preliminary to the formation of the UCIW. In 1974. Union action was to result in improved conditions for the Christmas Island workers and a narrowing of the previously massive gap between Island conditions and those on the Australian mainland. Prior to Union action, wages were approximately one quarter of those paid on the mainland, there was discrimination against the Asian workers in both industrial and social areas and housing conditions for many were considerably below average mainland standards. The Poon Saan cinema is also of interest, not only as the venue for the mass meetings concerning industrial and social issues, but as an uncommon example of a relatively intact outdoor cinema.

Condition

The precinct is generally in good, intact condition, though the older apartment buildings are abandoned and overgrown. The adaptations to early barracks for temple and cultural uses are generally in character with the area. The Poon Saan Club appears to be in sound condition, as does the Poon Saan Cinema. Some buildings in the group have been demolished and new construction has occurred. (Jan 2001)

Bibliographic references

Godden Mackay Logan, 1998, "Christmas Island Heritage Review". Prepared for Department of Transport and Regional Development.

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Identification

Name of Place: Phosphate Hill Historic Area
Other Names:
Database No: 018577
File No: 9/03/001/0009
Principal Group: Mining and Mineral Processing

Status

Legal Status: 22/06/1993 — Registered
Admin Status: 22/06/1993 — Registered

Location

Nearest Town: Poon Saan
Distance (km): 1.00
Direction from town: E
Area (ha): 18.00
Address: , Poon Saan EXT 6798
Local authorities: Christmas Island

Property Information

Location/Boundaries

About 18ha, on the eastern slopes of Phosphate Hill, 1km east of Poon Saan, Christmas Island, comprising:

- 1) an area bounded on the north and east by the southern and western sides of the road linking Poon Saan and Headridge Hill and on the western and southern sides by straight lines joining the following points consecutively: the intersection of the southern side of the above road and longitude 105deg41'31"E, 10deg25'40"S 105deg41'30"E and the intersection of the western side of the above road with latitude 10deg25'39"S; and
- 2) an area bounded on the west by the above road and by straight lines joining the following points consecutively: the intersection of the eastern side of the above road and latitude 10deg25'29"S, 10deg25'28"S 105deg41'45"E, 10deg25'22"S 105deg41'50"E, 10deg25'30"S 105deg41'52"E and the intersection of the eastern side of the above road with latitude 10deg25'32"S.

AHC Official Statement of Significance

The Phosphate Hill area is historically significant as the location of the first commercial mining of phosphate on the Island and the first phase of an industry that was to determine the history of the Island and the development of the Christmas Island community (Criterion A.4). The current landscape of exposed limestone pinnacles and industrial remains is an uncommon and evocative reminder of the extent and efficiency and methodology of manual mining techniques (Criterion B.2). The historic burial ground, which contains many of the early labourers who died of beri beri or dietary deficiencies, is a significant reminder of the hardships endured by the early indentured Asian labourers and a reflection of the multi-racial basis for the current community (Criteria A.4 and G.1).

Description

Phosphate Hill was the site of the first phosphate mining on the island. Labourer's barracks and European staff quarters were also constructed on Phosphate Hill. Phosphate Hill was originally mined by hand using wheelbarrow and broom techniques. Oral tradition on the Island has it that labourers (originally Chinese) scraped and brushed the ore into baskets, which were then tipped into wheelbarrows or directly into skip railway hoppers. These hoppers were then moved along the lines by hand. There are remnants of this skip railway system on the hill in the form of embankments and a light gauge railway line along which the hoppers were moved. The ore was taken to the edge of the upper terrace to be transported to the bottom terrace at the Cove. Oral tradition suggests the phosphate was packed in drums at the upper level and rolled down the hill to the lower terrace. Remains of an early chute system suggests that this method was soon replaced with a more efficient system in which the loose ore was tipped into a chute at the top and then allowed to run down to the bottom terrace. Shovelling may have been necessary to maintain the flow at places and it seems the sides of the chute had provision for cable operated scoops that dragged the ore downwards. Manual mining techniques resulted in a moonscape of limestone pinnacles as all phosphate was removed from around the limestone pinnacles and there was little soil left to support regrowth. This contrasts with more recently mined areas where machines have left a much more level surface and enough phosphate and soil to allow limited regrowth. One physical remnant of this early period is the Phosphate Hill cemetery and the marker for the cemetery which is located on the main road. This cemetery contains a large number of headstones including colourful Chinese memorials. In 1901, nearly a third of the population of Christmas Island died from beri beri or dietary deficiencies.

Condition

Manual mining techniques resulted in the removal of all phosphate and soil and therefore there has been little regrowth. (1993)

The Phosphate Hill mining area is abandoned and has not been altered since mining finished. There is moderate to heavy vegetation regrowth, and there has been some weathering and erosion of the limestone pinnacles. There has also been some erosion of the embankments and cuttings of dry-stone walling. Regardless, the mining areas remain quite distinct and discernible. (Jan 2001)

Bibliographic references

Forrest, P., 1989, "Christmas Island Cultural Heritage Survey".

Godden Mackay Heritage Consultants, July 1998, "Christmas Island Conservation Management Plan", vol 1 Industrial Mining Heritage, vol 2 Conservation Management Strategy, Inventory.

NEGP report.

••• End Of Report •••

Identification

Name of Place: Malay Kampong Precinct
Other Names:
Database No: 102524
File No: 9/03/001/0008
Principal Group: Exploration, Survey and Places of Historical Events

Status

Legal Status: 24/09/2002 — Registered
Admin Status: 24/09/2002 — Registered

Location

Nearest Town: Settlement
Distance (km): 1.00
Direction from town: S
Area (ha): 8.00
Address: Jalan Pantai, Settlement EXT 6798
Local authorities: Christmas Island

Property Information

Location/Boundaries

About 8ha, 1km south of Settlement, off Jalan Pantai, being an area bounded by Jalan Pantai in the north-west, 30m ASL in the south-east, latitude 10deg 25' 48"S in the south, and latitude 10deg 25' 37"S in the north.

AHC Official Statement of Significance

The Malay Kampong is historically significant as the area of original residential settlement on Christmas Island and it has been the residential area occupied by the Malay community since the beginning of phosphate mining on the island (Criterion A.4).

The Kampong is socially and culturally important as the traditional residential area of the Malay community and it houses the religious and social facilities, as seen in the Mosque, the Islamic School and the Malay Club, used by this group (Criterion G.1).

The precinct demonstrates the integration of building design in the post-war era with international trends, illustrating a conscious intention by the British Phosphate Commission to create a physical environment relevant to the particular community being housed, as seen in the Singapore-style apartment blocks and their contrast with earlier accommodation blocks (Criteria B.2 and F.1).

The area has important aesthetic qualities which define it as a Malay community and the partly enclosed central area has a village-like ambience which is not reproduced in any other residential area. These qualities are highlighted by the presence of the School, Mosque and Malay Club (Criterion E.1).

(This record is an extension of the Malay Kampong Area already on the RNE, no. 18573.)

Description

History

The Malay Kampong Precinct was, until the advent of the British Phosphate Commission (BPC) on the island, the main European residential area for Christmas Island and was referred to as Edinburgh Settlement. Mining had begun on the island in the late 1800s. The settlement, comprising timber houses with thatched atape roofs, was located in a crescent around the foreshore of Flying Fish Cove, with Europeans living in bungalows which had Asian servants quarters at the rear. The Malay section of the population lived at the north end of the Cove, in a group of larger, communal houses, (though early maps suggest a previous location at the south end).

The European settlement was expanded in the 1930s, with additional new houses built around Rocky Point. In the 1950s, under BPC control, the Rocky Point area became the primary European residential area, with the older bungalow housing removed from Flying Fish Cove. The 1950s saw the designation of the Kampong area as a marine precinct, with the boat jetty and marine buildings constructed and the erection of Singapore-style apartment buildings as residences for the Malay community. Cultural facilities for this community were provided by the construction of the Mosque and the Malay Club in prominent locations in the 1960s. The Mosque has functioned as a religious centre for the Muslim Malays from that time till the present. The building was refurbished in the early 1990s, with a new rear (east) section added. The Malay Club has operated as a social and recreational centre for the residents of the Kampong from construction up to the present. The building was damaged in the 1988 storm and has subsequently been repaired.

The beach and boat ramp at Flying Fish Cove, which have always been a focus of recreational activities, were supported by recreational facilities at the Boat Club and the Satay Club. These were both damaged, as were several of the residential buildings, by rock falls from the cliff in the 1980s and the Satay Club building was subsequently demolished.

As some of the earlier housing in the precinct became vacant, it was converted to house the Islamic School which provided religious instruction. The main school building was altered by the addition of an Islamic architectural facade in the early 1990s.

Description

The Malay Kampong Precinct forms the northern portion of the foreshore land fronting Flying Fish Cove, between the water and the escarpment, and lies at a lower level than the Industrial and Administrative Group (RNE 18572), with a short cliff defining the boundary between the two areas. The roadway, Jalan Pantai, traverses this boundary as a steep incline and runs along the foreshore of Flying Fish Cove between the waterfront and the buildings of the Kampong. It continues past the Marine Buildings and the Boat Jetty to Smith Point. The precinct is dominated by the large, three-storey apartment blocks that form the majority of the residential buildings, with an almost continuous wall of buildings along the landward side of Jalan Pantai, broken at the centre by the single-storey Mosque, Malay Club building, and School buildings, with the roadways adjacent to these being the access into the partly enclosed central courtyard. This courtyard, towards the escarpment side, again has multi-storey buildings, with a small group of single-storey buildings in the vicinity of the Mosque. These single storey buildings are the earlier labourers' barracks buildings, built prior to the apartment buildings, and have been re-used as storage and as part of the Islamic School. The central courtyard created by the 'Singapore' style apartment buildings forms a communal space which is overlooked from the verandahs of the apartments and is one of the defining elements of the precinct. The location of the Mosque is an important indicator of the Malay character of the Kampong, as is the location of the Kampong itself at the foreshore of the Cove, the waterfront being an important aspect of the lifestyles of the Malay community. The Mosque is a single storey building, built of rendered masonry. It has a hipped roof, formerly clad in corrugated asbestos cement (now re-clad in colourbond), and there is a central square-hipped roof monitor with glazed side walls. The building has an octagonal concrete minaret with an onion-domed roof attached to its north-east corner and a rectangular, rendered projecting

Description (continued)

bay in the centre of the west wall. A single-storey, skillion-roofed extension has been made to the eastern side which features half onion-domed rain hoods and semi-circular arched windows. The Islamic School and former Malay Quarters (labourers' barracks) comprise five single-storey buildings constructed of rendered masonry. They have gable roofs formerly clad in corrugated asbestos cement (the School is now colourbond roofed). The buildings are essentially similar and built to standard designs, each building consisting of three attached residential units, with an overhanging verandah to the front elevation carried on steel posts. Four of the buildings are oriented longitudinally to the slope of land and have a step down of approximately 0.5m between the western unit and the two closest to the escarpment. The Islamic School occupies the three southernmost buildings of the group and these buildings have been refurbished and painted in an Islamic motif. A gable-roofed pergola carried on steel framing and clad with corrugated metal sheeting has been erected between the two westernmost units of the two parallel buildings. The Malay Club is a timber-framed, single storey building. It is clad with asbestos cement sheeting, and has a gable roof formerly clad in corrugated asbestos cement and now clad in colourbond. It stands on short rendered masonry piers with concrete ant caps (which may predate the building) and features a glazed recessed verandah in its southwest corner. The glazing here is in aluminium frames, but the rest of the building has timber-framed louvre windows and double five-pane glazed timber-framed doors.

Block 412 was built as one of the multi-storey Singapore style residential blocks. It was three-storeys, of linear form, with a flat metal deck roof and blonde face brick walls. The structure was concrete-framed with painted, rendered access balconies and individual balconies, and access stairs at each end of the block. Block 408 was similar, but in red brick. (Note that, as per the condition statement, these two blocks have now been demolished.) Block 409 is another Singapore-style building, of three storeys, built of red brick. Block 413 is three storeys, in red brick. Block 411 is three storeys, with red brick end walls, and rendered and painted east and west walls; the roof has a large satellite dish. Block 410 is similarly Singaporean, of three storeys built in red face brick. Blocks 401, 402 and 403 were also Singapore style, of three storeys; 401 and 402 had brick and rendered walls (but have since been demolished), while 403 has been altered and has weatherboard walls to east and west. The padang is an open grassed area in the centre of the precinct, and contains childrens play equipment. Blocks 404 and 405 are among the oldest accommodation blocks in the Kampong. They are single storey and have gable roofs (with skillion roofed sections) and timber verandah posts.

Condition

The precinct as a whole is fairly intact. Four of the Singapore style buildings have been demolished. The Mosque is in good condition although there are some signs of seaside corrosion, including cracking and rotting timbers. It has been re-roofed (as above) and re-painted. In good condition is the recently painted Islamic School and former Malay Quarters, although the northern pair of buildings is dilapidated and used for storage (they are in the rockfall zone). The Malay Club is in fair condition, showing some affects of seaside corrosion, rotting timbers and holes in walling; a community grant is available for refurbishment. The Malay Club and Islamic School have been re-roofed (as above). Block 403 is in average condition and needs maintenance; the stores to the rear are in poor condition. Block 409 is in poor condition. Blocks 410, 411 and 413 have recently been repainted. As mentioned above, Blocks 408 and 412 have now been demolished, due to rockfall danger. Blocks 401 and 402 have been demolished too, in order to make way for new buildings to accommodate Malay community needs. (January 2001)

Bibliographic references

Godden Mackay Logan, November 1998, 'Christmas Island Heritage Review', vols 1-3. Prepared for Department of Transport and Regional Development.