

CRITERIA FOR THE REGISTER OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE

CRITERION A:

ITS IMPORTANCE IN THE COURSE, OR PATTERN, OF AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL OR CULTURAL HISTORY

- A.1 Importance in the evolution of Australian flora, fauna, landscapes or climate.
- A.2 Importance in maintaining existing processes or natural systems at the regional or national scale.
- **A.3** Importance in exhibiting unusual richness or diversity of flora, fauna, landscapes or cultural features.
- A.4 Importance for association with events, developments or cultural phases which have had a significant role in the human occupation and evolution of the nation, State, region or community.

CRITERION B:

ITS POSSESSION OF UNCOMMON, RARE OR ENDANGERED ASPECTS OF AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL OR CULTURAL HISTORY

- **B.1** Importance for rare, endangered or uncommon flora, fauna, communities, ecosystems, natural landscapes or phenomena, or as a wilderness.
- **B.2** Importance in demonstrating a distinctive way of life, custom, process, land-use, function or design no longer practised, in danger of being lost, or of exceptional interest.

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CRITERION C: AND LANGE TO SAMULTING MADON FOR THOSE SAMULTING

ITS POTENTIAL TO YIELD INFORMATION THAT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO AN UNDERSTANDING OF AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL OR CULTURAL HISTORY

- C.1 Importance for information contributing to a wider understanding of Australian natural history, by virtue of its use as a research site, teaching site, type locality, reference or benchmark site.
- C.2 Importance for information contributing to a wider understanding of the history of human occupation of Australia.

CRITERION D:

ITS IMPORTANCE IN DEMONSTRATING THE PRINCIPAL CHARACTERISTICS OF:

- (I) A CLASS OF AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL OR CULTURAL PLACES; OR
- (II) A CLASS OF AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL OR CULTURAL ENVIRONMENTS
- D.1 Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of the range of landscapes, environments or ecosystems, the attributes of which identify them as being characteristic of their class.
- D.2 Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of the range of human activities in the Australian environment (including way of life, philosophy, custom, process, land use, function, design or technique).

CRITERION E:

ITS IMPORTANCE IN EXHIBITING PARTICULAR AESTHETIC CHARACTERISTICS VALUED BY A COMMUNITY OR CULTURAL GROUP

E.1 Importance for a community for aesthetic characteristics held in high esteem or otherwise valued by the community.

CRITERION F:

ITS IMPORTANCE IN DEMONSTRATING A HIGH DEGREE OF CREATIVE OR TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT AT A PARTICULAR PERIOD

F.1 Importance for its technical, creative, design or artistic excellence, innovation or achievement.

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ITS STRONG OR SPECIAL ASSOCIATIONS WITH A PARTICULAR COMMUNITY OR CULTURAL GROUP FOR SOCIAL, CULTURAL OR SPIRITUAL REASONS

G.1 Importance as a place highly valued by a community for reasons of religious, spiritual, symbolic, cultural, educational, or social associations.

CRITERION H:

ITS SPECIAL ASSOCIATION WITH THE LIFE OR WORKS OF A PERSON, OR GROUP OF PERSONS, OF IMPORTANCE IN AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL OR CULTURAL HISTORY

H.1 Importance for close associations with individuals whose activities have been significant within the history of the nation, State or region.



PREPARING A NOMINATION FOR THE REGISTER

To nominate a place for the Register of the National Estate, it is necessary to complete one of the appropriate nomination forms. Separate forms are available for the natural, Aboriginal or historic environments.

Nomination forms are used by the Commission to:

- (i) compile basic information about each nominated place;and
- (ii) present the information in a format suitable for entry into a computer database.

They are designed to be used for the whole range of items covered by the definition of the National Estate. The forms are a mechanism for standardising basic information, rather than being an attempt to limit the amount of information presented on a place. All relevant information should be provided, or cited as references.

There are three elements in any nomination which are essential if the place is to be entered in the Register:

- precise identification of what is to be entered;
- precise location of the place;
 - reasons why the place should be entered in the Register (i.e. the heritage significance of the place), supported by evidence. Caution should be exercised in using superlatives.

The Commission also needs an accurate and comprehensive description of the place.

The nomination should be supported by photographs and/or slides, a sketch plan and a map of the place appropriately identifying its location and boundary. A nomination received with all the requisite data and photographic evidence can be processed more speedily.

ISSN 0812-2563 April 1990 Instructions for the completion of nomination forms are printed on the backs of the pages of the forms. The following notes provide more detailed advice. A separate note is available to assist with the completion of the nomination form for natural places.

GUIDE TO FILLING IN FORMS

NAME OF PLACE

It is preferable to use the most common name of the place. For buildings, the current name should be cited first, e.g. Historical Museum, former Police Station. For Aboriginal sites, Aboriginal names may be used and the common non-Aboriginal name also should be given on the form under 'other names'. For historic places, nominations may be made for individual buildings or sites, for groups of such places and for conservation areas. In the latter two cases, the elements of significance must be identified on the form and in sketch plans. If the place is already specially protected under State law as a gazetted 'reserve', 'Aboriginal Area' etc, this should be incorporated into the name, e.g.: Red Gorge Historic Reserve.

LOCATION OF PLACE

Sufficient information is essential to locate and identify the nominated place and to define its boundaries precisely.

Natural and Aboriginal Places

If the place is already a gazetted Reserve, the published boundaries of the Reserve will be used, unless it is considered that only a smaller area within the Reserve is of national estate significance. In this and all other cases, the area being nominated must be defined precisely, according to the following guidelines:

- use the largest scale map available;
- attach a photocopy of the relevant part of this map to the nomination, with the area being nominated clearly marked;
- describe the location and boundary of the area in words in the appropriate section of the nomination form;
- boundaries may be described using topographic features such as catchment boundaries and contours, features such as roads and power lines which are clearly marked on maps and/or cadastral information. See Diagram E for an example;

- the precise location of sites that may be endangered by visitors or are Aboriginal secret sites will not be published by the Commission. Such sites may still be nominated, but their vulnerability should be identified clearly. Precise locations are still required in order to ensure that the Commission can properly advise Federal and other decision makers about the impact of proposed actions;
- if an Aboriginal place is included in a State register, the State registration number should be given, if known;
- several sites may be included in one nomination, if they are either close together and are contained within one nominated area, or if they are sites of the same type and are in the same general area e.g. a series of engraving sites on one property. However, if the sites are far apart or of different types, it is better to complete a separate nomination form for each one.

Historic Environment

The precise address is required in Section 1. If the nomination includes several structures under a joint listing, e.g. a 'group', the components must be identified. If the place is an area, e.g. a precinct, a precise description of the boundary of the area is required. A location map should also be attached to the nomination together with a sketch plan showing any boundary and identifying all elements within the area which are of heritage significance.

When nominating a group of buildings, a list of components should be included in Section B1, e.g. 'Police Station and Court House Group' comprising: Police Station and lock-up, Court House, stone wall at rear and gateposts facing Smith Street. Any artefacts, equipment, machinery etc relevant to the significance of the place should be identified, e.g. 'and contents', 'and steam engine' etc.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE AND REGISTER CRITERIA

Concise reasons should be given for inclusion of a place in the Register. These should relate to the criteria used by the Commission for assessment of nominations. A description of the criteria follows.

Criterion A: Its importance in the course or pattern of Australia's natural or cultural history

- A.1 Importance in the evolution of Australian flora, fauna, landscapes or climate.
- A.2 Importance in maintaining existing processes or natural systems at the regional or national scale.
- A.3 Importance in exhibiting unusual richness or diversity of flora, fauna, landscapes or cultural features.

A.4 Importance for association with events, developments or cultural phases which have had a significant role in the human occupation and evolution of the nation, State, region or community.

Criterion B: Its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia's natural or cultural history

- B.1 Importance for rare, endangered or uncommon flora, fauna, communities, ecosystems, natural landscapes or phenomena, or as wilderness.
- B.2 Importance in demonstrating a distinctive way of life, custom, process, land use, function or design no longer practised, in danger of being lost, or of exceptional interest.

Criterion C: Its importance to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Australia's natural or cultural history

- C.1 Importance for information contributing to wider understanding of Australian natural history, by virtue of use as a research site, teaching site, type locality, reference or benchmark site.
- C.2 Importance for information contributing to a wider understanding of the history of human occupation of Australia.

Criterion D: Its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of:

- (I) A class of Australia's natural or cultural places; or (II) A class of Australia's natural or cultural environments.
- D 1 Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics
- D.1 Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of the range of landscapes, environments, ecosystems, the attributes of which identify it as being characteristic of its class.
- D.2 Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of the range of human activities in the Australian environment (including way of life, philosophy, custom, process, land use, function, design or technique).

Criterion E: Its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group

E.1 Importance for a community for aesthetic characteristics held in high esteem or otherwise valued by the community.

Criterion F: Its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period

F.1 Importance for its technical, creative, design or artistic excellence, innovation or achievement.

Criterion G: Its strong or special associations with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

G.1 Importance as a place highly valued by a community for reasons of religious, spiritual, cultural, educational or social associations.

Criterion H: Its special assocation with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Australia's natural or cultural history

H.1 Importance for close associations with individuals whose activities have been significant within the history of the nation, State or region.

Meeting a criterion does not of itself establish the significance of the place. It is the degree to which the place exhibits characteristics which are rare, early in time, influential within its type, endangered, particularly fine in exemplifying its type, particularly valuable for research, or which mark major stages or the climactic point for its type, that confers significance. The degree to which a place satisfies these criteria should be clearly stated.

'Representativeness' (Criterion D) might be claimed as a basis for registration, but this characteristic is only meaningful in the context of other places of the same kind. Therefore, a nomination for a place representative of its type should be based on survey information which attempts to sample the range of places within the type and which identifies places which are representative of the type as a whole, major sub-groups within its type, or either of the latter within a defined geographical area (e.g. region or State). If such a survey has not been carried out, the nominator should identify other supporting material.

If a place is nominated primarily because of its association with a prominent person, the following factors should be considered:

- the person involved should be of established local or national importance or renown;
- the closeness and length of the association is important;
- the degree to which the association affects the fabric of the place (and is therefore represented by physical evidence) and the degree to which the place influenced the person or events associated with the person, is important;
- incidental or transitory association of a prominent person with a place does not confer signficance when there is little surviving evidence, little historical importance, and no association of symbolic importance.

When considering the significance of the designer of a place, the criteria given above for assessing significance should be used.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION MAPS AND PLANS

Historic Places

Plans:

Each nomination must be accompanied by a sketch plan of the place. It should:

- identify all elements;
- . distinguish those elements of heritage significance;
- show the boundary of the proposed listing where this is relevant; and
- . bear the names of the place nominated.

Samples of the minimum requirement are shown on the attached diagrams A and B. The standard to aim at is shown on diagram C.

Maps:

A map showing the location of the building(s) is required. In areas covered by street directories, a photocopy of the relevant map with the location of the place clearly marked is adequate.

For homesteads and other places outside areas covered by street directories, a copy of a suitable large scale map showing the location should be included.

Natural Places

Diagram E provides an example of how boundaries can be described and marked on a map. Maps printed by Commonwealth or State Government Authorities should be used. Both a map showing the location and boundary and a description of the latter are required. More details are contained in the background note supporting the natural form.

Aboriginal Places

For single sites, precise locations marked on the largest scale map available are required. A grid reference (AMG) is also required. For larger areas the requirements are the same as for natural areas.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Good photographs are an essential component of any nomination. The ideal photographs for a nomination would be:

(a) one or more 25 x 20cm (or 20 x 15cm) black and white glossy enlargements, displaying good contrast; and

(b) one or more 35mm colour transparencies, displaying good colour balance, of all major features of the nominated area.

The Commission would prefer good quality photographs, of publishable standard, to be supplied at the time of nomination, but the Commission recognises that this is often not possible. Any clear colour or monochrome prints or slides are therefore acceptable, but not photocopies of photographs.

The Commission is compiling a colour slide collection including at least one photograph of each place. Monochrome photographs displaying good contrast are needed for publication purposes.

Each photograph should be clearly marked with the name of the place, date of the photograph and name of the photographer (for accreditation). Slides should be marked on the border, and monochrome prints on the back, with a soft-tipped pen or pencil only.

The Commission will take due care to ensure that copyright over photographs in its possession is maintained.

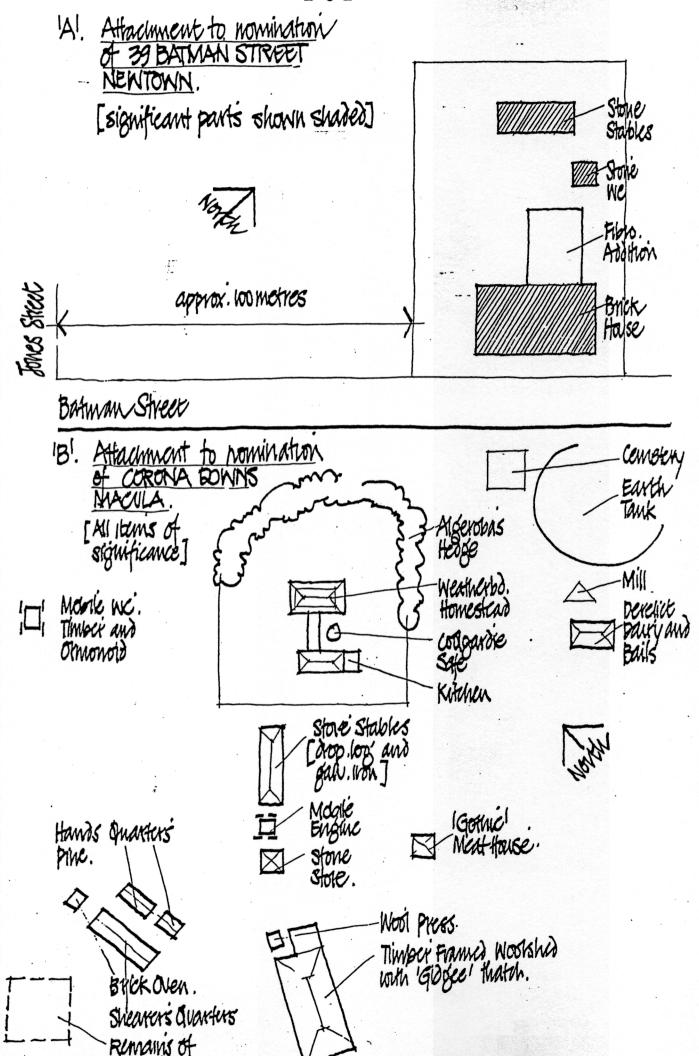
See Diagram D for instructions on the minimum photographic requirements for historic environment nominations.

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

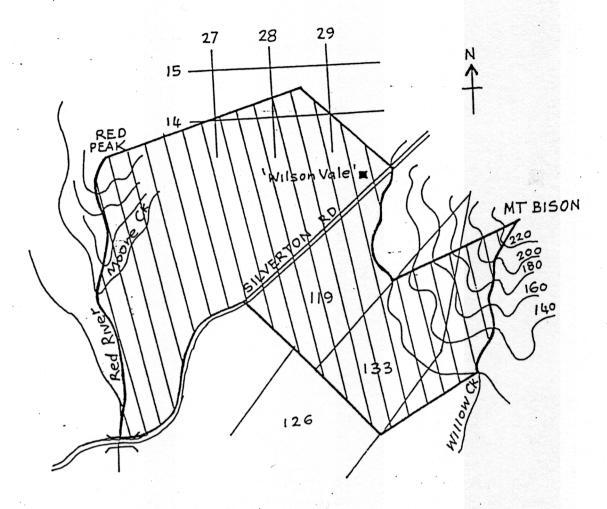
Copies of reference material should be included if possible. Other documents describing the place in more detail would also be appreciated. For example, National Trust listing sheets, site record cards for Aboriginal places and for the natural environment flora and fauna lists, geological and geomorphological history or any information on scientific or educational use of sites.

Australian Heritage Commission GPO Box 1567 CANBERRA ACT 2601

Phone (06) 271 2111 (273 2042 until mid-April 1990)



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"Bounded by lines commencing at the summit of Mt Bison; then via Willow Creek to its intersection with the 120 metre contour line; then direct to the north-east corner of section 126, Parish of Tullaroop; then north-west via the south-west boundaries of sections 133 and 119 to Silverton Road; then generally south-west via the western side of that road to Red River; then upstream via that river to its confluence with Moore Creek; then generally north via the divide between that creek and Red River to Red Peak; then direct to Australian Map Grid point: 3721 - 'Mount Magnet' - 285145; then direct to the intersection of Silverton Road and the 120 metre contour near 'Wilsonvale' homestead; then generally south via that contour to its intersection with the boundary between sections 119 and 133; then direct to the point of commencement."



Indigenous People and Wilderness

'The Guiding Principle for country is that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have the continuing right to use, protect, maintain and manage country'. (Indigenous Workshop, Adelaide 1996)

The Wilderness and Wild Rivers Unit, Australian and World Heritage Group

is mapping:

- areas of Australia which are considered 'wilderness',
- rivers which are considered 'wild', and
- writing guidelines for looking after them.

Indigenous Peoples' Concerns about 'Wilderness'

- 'Wilderness' has been used by some people to mean land without people and cultural associations.
- Will 'wilderness' be used to reduce Indigenous peoples' rights to country?
- Will 'wilderness' be used to reduce Indigenous peoples' rights to cultural and spiritual sites?

Definition of Wilderness

(as used by the Australian Heritage Commission and the Wilderness and Wild Rivers Unit)

'Wilderness' is large areas of country that have not been disturbed by modern development. It is recognised that 'wilderness' and 'wild rivers' have been occupied, managed and used by Indigenous people for many thousands of years and that Indigenous people have had very long cultural and spiritual associations with these places.

Indigenous Reference Group

An Indigenous Reference Group is being formed to help draft and carry out a strategy addressing concerns about the use of the term 'wilderness'. The Indigenous Reference Group will meet in the first half of 1997. The Group will regularly advise the Australian Heritage Commission and the Wilderness and Wild Rivers Unit.

The Wilderness and Wild Rivers Unit and members of the Indigenous Reference Group would welcome your views and questions.

For more information and details of members of the Indigenous Reference Group phone (06) 217–2054 (Reverse the Charges) and ask for the Wilderness and Wild Rivers Unit, or write to: Wilderness and Wild Rivers Unit, Australian and World Heritage Group, GPO Box 1567, Canberra ACT 2600.

REGISTER OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE

NOMINATION FORM

The National Estate is defined under the Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975 as "those places being components of the natural environment of Australia or the cultural environment of Australia, that have aesthetic, historic, scientific or social significance or other special value for future generations as well as for the present community".

Under the Act, a primary function of the Commission is to identify places which are part of the National Estate and to prepare a Register of those places. The purpose of this form is to seek nominations for the register and sufficient information on the nominated place to allow the Commission to identify them and assess their National Estate significance. A paper on criteria for assessment of significance is available from the Commission on request.

A properly completed nomination form, supported by maps, plans and photographs, is the minimum requirement for the presentation of the nomination to the Commission. The nomination form should summarise the case to be presented. It must be supported by location and boundary maps, photographs and a site plan or sketch in the case of structures including buildings. Additional photographs, reports, written notes, expansions on answers given on the form, etc., should be included with the nomination, where possible, to assist the Commission to reach a decision.

It is essential that the information presented is sufficient to accurately locate the place, and its extent (area) and for the Commission to assess its significance as part of the National Estate. The information should be entered in the appropriate spaces on the form. Description of the place, condition and integrity, bibliography and the statement of significance may be substituted by similar data forms with the approval of the Commission.

The nomination should, as nearly as possible, be able to stand alone. Reference to other documents should be in addition to the information on the form, or confined to the bibliography.

An effort should be made to complete all the appropriate lines and to include as much additional information as possible, as attachments, to allow the Commission to make a full assessment.

Notes to assist in completing each page of the form are provided opposite the page to be completed and in a separate Background Note. <u>IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE RELEVANT NOTES BE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE COMPLETING ANY SECTION</u>.

It should be noted that, in general, the Commission will retain maps, photographs or documents submitted with the nomination form.

The completed form should be sent to, and more information may be obtained from:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COMMISSION
GPO BOX 787
CANBERRA ACT 2601
PHONE: (02) 6274 2111

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DO NOT FILL OUT HISGHLIGHTED AREAS THIS IS FOR AHC USE ONLY

1. IDENTIFICATION

- (a) Current Name: the name of the place in current use (Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal).
- (b) Former or Other Names: any other names used for the place.
- (c) Area: in hectares. Need only be approximate. (1 hectare = 2.5 acres, 1 acre = 0.4 hectares)

2. ADDRESS

Use if located in a settlement or on a rural holding or lease, or give the name of the nearest significant town, the distance of the place from that town in kilometres, and the direction (abbreviated) of the place from that town, eg. 71SW for a place 71 km south west of the town.

Conurbation: if a suburb is in a City name the City.

3. LGA

If the place overlaps boundaries give all States and Local Government areas in which it occurs.

4. LOCATION & BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

For all nominations location and boundary information in words and on sketches/maps is essential.

(See Background Note) Site sketches must show elements of significance.

PROPERTY INFORMATION

If available list title information, block/section, etc.

5. NOMINATOR

This is required to allow the Commission to respond to nominators. The names of nominators are not made public by the Commission without consent of the Nominator.

NAME OF OWNERS OF LESSEES

It is important that the Commission is aware of the current owner and/or lessee so they may be advised about the Commission's decision regarding their property.

ABORIGINAL INTEREST

Consultation is required with the Aboriginal community or individuals associated with the place prior to nomination. Any comments, suggested amendments and further information are to be attached.

6. ADMIN CATEGORY

Current Ownership of nominated place.

7. PREVIOUS HERITAGE ASSESSMENTS OR LISTINGS

This section is to be used when the rlace has been entered on another list (eg on a State Heritage Register), declared a National Park or similar reserve or designated as a significant place in a survey. Give the result of the assessment(s) and the name of the agencies that carried out the assessment(s). If insufficient space, attach separate sheet.

8. DESCRIPTION

A detailed written description of the place must be given. This description should include the

nature of the different sites included in the nominated area, and documentation concerning them.

Information which is to be kept confidential should be submitted separately from the nomination

form and marked 'confidential'.

Information about the age of site, where available should be included. Dates before 1788 should be expressed in years B.P. = Before the present (The 'Present' equals 1950) and laboratory reference numbers should be given. A list of other radiocarbon dates for the site(s) where available should be attached.

9. CONDITION AND INTEGRITY

The <u>present</u> condition and integrity of the place is asked for. This refers to the condition of the <u>significant fabric</u> of the place, and to its completeness or degree of alteration, damage or disturbance. Where possible the alterations to a place should be briefly described (e.g. additions to a building, or alteration to an industrial working area), and imminent or potential threats to the place listed. Any current legal protection of the place should be indicated.

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

In the bibliography the name of the author should be given first, followed by the year compublication, the name of the book or article, the publisher or name of the journal and volume number, and finally the relevant page numbers.

11. PERIOD

Date of site: tick box for oldest date or range of dates in years AD or BP (ie before the present = 1950) eg. 1850; 20,000 BP.

PROMINENT ASSOCIATED PERSONS, TRIBAL GROUP, TRIBAL TERRITORY

Cultural Group/Tribal Territory: include the names of the modern Aboriginal community associated

with the place, as well as known tribal names (giving the bibliographic reference where appropriate).

12. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

It is <u>very important</u> that this section be completed for each nomination. If the nominate place lies within another large nominated area, it is not sufficient to merely refeto the nomination for the large area. If the place is worthy of nomination, it must have intrinsic significance and this must be entered under this question.

Please indicate all the reasons why this place should be in the Register of the National Estate.

A place may be significant because of its archaeological, historical, scientific, social, technological, aesthetic or other specified values. Often it is significant in more than one category.

The categories of significance and the criteria for the Australian Heritage Commission which must be applied to the assessment of a place's significance will be found in the Background Notes.

Description of the place should <u>not</u> be included in this section.

13. ATTACHMENTS

This serves as a checklist of the mandatory attachments required. See background note fo details. The source of all plans and photographs, included with the form should by identified on them. Photographs are essential except when taking photographs is forbidden by the Aboriginal traditional owners of a site.

Register of the National Estate Database Place Report

Item 1 Page 1

Identification

Name of Place:

Peel Island

Other Names:

Quarantine Station Lazaret Leprosiorum Quarantine Cemetery SS Platypus (w

Database No:

018822

File No:

4/01/078/0018

Principal Group:

Health Services

Status

Legal Status:

22/06/1993 — Registered

Admin Status:

02/12/1995 — Subarea of registered place - individually significant

Location

Nearest Town:

Dunwich

Distance (km):

2.40

Direction from town:

w

Area (ha):

378.00

Address:

, Dunwich QLD 4183

Local authorities:

Redland Shire

Property Information

Special Lease 0632680, Registered Plan S15314, Registered Plan S16487, Parish Stradbroke, County Stanley.

Location/Boundaries

378ha, Moreton Bay, 2.4km west of Dunwich.

AHC Official Statement of Significance

Peel Island is important as the site of several Queensland government institutions where people could be easily isolated and detained. The remains of the Quarantine Station and Lazaret are evidence of the late nineteenth/early twentieth century government approach of reform, discipline and social control via various institutions. The site's sense of remoteness and isolation reflect the government's policies for dealing with contagious diseases, the general attitudes towards leprosy in the community and the government's ideology of white supremacy and its associated policies to remove and control all those perceived as racially, morally or physically inferior (Criterion A.4) (Theme7 Governing; 7.5.3 Controlling entry of persons and disease).

Peel Island was one of the few lazarets established in Australia, the only purpose built lazaret and the first multiracial lazaret in Australia. It was the first to be designed and constructed on the principles of isolation. It is the only surviving example of a substantially intact lazaret site where the most complete evidence remains of the practice of isolating leprosy patients from the general public, and racially segregating sufferers of the disease (Criterion B.2).

Apart from its historic value the Lazaret site has striking and unusual aesthetic qualities. The abandoned, decaying state of many of the buildings, together with many artefacts scattered throughout the site, give an acute sense of the past. The Lazaret's sense of remoteness and isolation is hightened by the surrounding tall native forest, mango tree grove and shoreline mangroves, as well as attenuated access along tracks through native forest from the other side of the island. The

AHC Official Statement of Significance (continued)

qualities of the place are further enhanced by the picturesque elements of carefully maintained lawns in the centre of the Lazaret; gardens and trees around the superintendent's quarters; and seascape views to Moreton Bay (Criterion E.1).

The Lazaret remains are an example of at a type of government institution used as a means of disease control and isolation. It demonstrates European use of the Moreton Bay Islands for these purposes, their proximity to, yet seclusion from, Brisbane making them particularly convenient and suitable (Criterion D.2).

Description

It is likely that Indigenous cultural values of National Estate significance may exist in this place. As yet the AHC has not identified, documented nor assessed these values.

History: Peel Island was proclaimed a reserve for quarantine purposes in 1873. A quarantine station established on the south-eastern corner of the island was in regular use through the 1870s and 1780s catering to immigrant ships. With the decline in immigration in the 1890s the site fell into disuse and quarantine services were relocated to Lytton in 1906. The site was used from 1910 to 1916 for inebriates from the Benevolent Asylum at Dunwich.

Evidence of the quarantine station survives in ruins, equipment, graves and plantings. The cleared headland is now overgrown. A stone jetty, with a rusting hulk, the Platypus, sunk as a breakwater at its end, are the most visible sign of the former settlement. In the bush to the west of the jetty is a brick cell block. It is partially demolished and without a roof, but the walls of one section, complete with iron grilles, still stands. Adjacent to the cell block is a bottle shaped well. To the north is the overgrown Quarantine Cemetery marked by timber fence posts, coral gravestones and a large fragile timber cross.

The remains of the Lazaret in the north-west corner of the island provides more substantial evidence of European use of Peel Island. The Lazaret operated from 1907 until 1959. Leprosy in Queensland was first recorded in 1855 with isolated cases apparently confined to Chinese and Pacific Islanders. However a spread to the European population in the 1880s caused panic in the government and in 1892 a Draconian Act was passed for the Treatment and Detention and Isolation of Lepers providing for their removal and indefinite detention in a lazaret. The first lazarets established on Stradbroke Island and Friday Island in the Torres Strait housed white and non white patients in separate institutions. The alarmingly high death rate of inmates, and increasing complaints from patients and their families, resulted in the establishment of the multiracial lazaret on Peel Island.

Two lepers had already been isolated on Peel Island in the mid 1890s and in 1906 an area of 160 acres was gazetted as a reserve for lazaret purposes with the remainder of the island proclaimed a reserve for the Benevolent Asylum. In 1907, seventy one patients were admitted to the Lazaret. In total there were approximately 400 individuals who were inmates of the Lazaret, of whom 250 were to die on the island. There were always substantially more male than female patients, and more coloured patients than white. Up until the termination of indentured labour in 1906 the majority of inmates were Melanesian labourers while in the 1930s the coloured compound comprised solely Aboriginal patients. In January 1940 the coloured compound was closed and patients transferred to a newly constructed Aboriginal lazaret at Fantome Island near Townsville. White patients remained at the Lazaret until it was closed in 1959.

Description: The Lazaret remains are situated in the north-western corner of the island on a rise overlooking Moreton Bay with a steep embankment falling away to mangrove covered tidal flats to the north and west. The Lazaret site is enclosed by native forest (predominantly eucalyptus and callitris pines) to the east and south-west with large mango trees to the south.

The buildings of the Lazaret are arranged in groups around a large grassed quadrangle. These

Description (continued)

segregated groups of male, female and coloured compounds, administrative, treatment, recreational and perimeter zones, reflect the social organization and management of the Lazaret. In addition to racial segregation the design of the individual buildings was based on the isolation principle that the more effectively patients could be isolated from each other the greater the possibility was of controlling the disease. The divisions within the Lazaret evident in the building types and spatial relationships were reinforced by fences and paths.

The site today consists of separate compounds for white and coloured patients (the different compounds having different qualities of accommodation), quarters for the superintendent and nurses quarters, and communal service buildings. The buildings, timber frames structures on stumps, vary according to their size, type and age. The oldest buildings have corrugated iron roofs and weatherboard walls while more recent additions employ asbestos cement wall and roof sheeting. Most of the buildings have verandahs.

The white male patients huts, organized in rows on the eastern side of the quadrangle are the predominant building type. Twenty huts survive relatively intact and there are remains of at least eight more. These one room buildings are entered via their northern verandahs through french doors. They have corrugated iron hip roofs with metal ventilators mounted at the peak. The doctors house, a more recent building adapted from relocated army huts, is positioned to the east of these huts, overlooking the bay. The superintendents quarters, the matrons quarters and the nurses quarters form the western edge of the quadrangle behind which are the white female patients huts. These slightly larger huts consist of a kitchen and bedroom accessed from the verandah. A single room communal bathhouse, located amongst the white women's huts, still contains a cast iron claw foot bath. On the northern boundary of the quadrangle is a long gable roofed hall with a verandah on the southern side. Used for recreation purposes, this building dating from 1945 has a stage at one end and a projection box at the other. Access is through french doors that open onto the verandah. The complex of buildings on the southern edge of the quadrangle includes the relatively intact surgery and the remains of the kitchen and the 1937 hospital. Remnants of the staff accommodation building are located to the south of this group. Only stumps remain of the church built in 1908 to the east of the surgery, but the adjacent carved and painted timber totems survive. To the south of the main complex, built under mango trees, are a number of corrugated iron huts. These former residences of the Aborigines and Islanders detained at the Lazaret consist of an unlined room with one door, one window and a gable roof. Some have been converted into animal sheds. The Lazaret cemetery, located to the east of the compound, contains graves with headstones constructed of materials as varying as timber, stone and beer bottles. Cast iron numbers are also used to mark the graves. The natural significance of Peel Island is documented in the southern and eastern Moreton Bay Area listing in the Register of the National Estate.

Condition

Little survives of the Quarantine Station and that which remains is in a fragile condition. The buildings of the Lazaret, with the exception of the recreation hall, the superintendents' quaters, the matrons' quarters and the nurses quarters which have been used and maintained, are to varying extents showing the effects of neglect and deliberate vandalism.

Bibliographic references

LUDLOW, Peter,

Peel Island, Paradise of Prison, Brisbane, 1988.

RIDDEL, Robert,

Peel Island Lazaret Conservation Plan, A report for the Department of Environment and Heritage, May 1993.