

Melaleuca Heritage Documentation

Chris Tassell and Elspeth Wishart

September 1992

TECHNICAL REPORT 1992/3

**QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY
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Cover photo: Deny King at Melaleuca

MELALEUCA REPORT

Chris Tassell
Elspeth Wishart
QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

BACKGROUND

Deny King held a mining lease at Melaleuca near Bathurst Harbour in South-west Tasmania. This lease enabled him to operate a small-scale tin mining operation, develop a garden and live at this isolated part of the State.

Deny King followed his father to the South-west to mine tin. His father was mining in Cox's Bight on the south coast from 1939. After Deny returned from the war in 1945 they worked the old New Harbour Mine site at Melaleuca on Moth Creek, Bathurst Harbour and occupied the New Harbour Mine huts. With the intention of marrying and bringing up a family, Deny built himself a new house just north of the New Harbour huts modelled on the Nissen huts that he had experienced during the war. Soon afterwards, he married and his wife Margaret moved to Melaleuca to live, in the late 1940s.

At that time the only access into Melaleuca was by foot or boat. It took about 3 days to sail (depending on weather conditions) from Hobart to Bathurst Harbour. The alternative was walking for about 7 days from Maydena or from Cackle Creek.

Deny died in April, 1991. By this time he had become internationally known. His name and place of residence and his isolated lifestyle were known throughout Tasmania. During this time of living and working in the South-west, Deny worked hard at his mining operations and making a comfortable lifestyle for his family, as well as a welcoming haven for bushwalkers.

Apart from the house and mine site he was active in establishing a vegetable garden for subsistence and a rich exotic garden full of the pleasures of both an English garden and one extolling the beauty of endemic plants.

He built a boat shed and landing area on Moth Creek and in later life, built a studio where he developed his artistic talents and a birdfeeding area. These two interests he concentrated on in his latter years as he eased off from the hard labouring activities of mining. His contribution towards encouraging the survival of the orange bellied parrots, was such that the Department of Parks, Wildlife and Heritage built a bird observatory that looked down over his garden.

He also established and maintained a meteorological recording station for the Bureau of Meteorology. The combination of his artistic nature and practical outlook are exemplified throughout the buildings, and in particular, throughout his house with his ability to adapt a natural item to become a useful household device, knees from limbs were developed into drawer handles, chair legs and arms and an assorted range of goods.

Although Deny has passed away, his mark on both the landscape and the people is here to stay.

The lease of the house and adjoining land has now been taken over by Deny's daughters Janet Fenton and Mary King, who hold the lease for a further 18 years.

SITE RECORDING AND SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Three staff from the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Director Chris Tassell, Curator of History Elspeth Wishart and Photographer John Leeming, went to Melaleuca for 4 days from September 2 - September 6, 1991.

During this time, features were located, identified, sketched and described. Priority was given to areas that were threatened by ownership changes, ie the mining site and workshop area near the house, which was to be adapted to house the relocated Fergusson tractor from the mine site. This involved the widening of pathways to allow the Fergusson to shift from the airstrip to a new shed built by the workshop.

The majority of features were located, identified and assigned a feature number, measured and plotted on a base map. Black and white photographs and colour slides were taken of the features with ranging poles for scale reference. For the structures, elevations were photographed where possible, however due to thickness of vegetation in some areas, only oblique shots were possible.

A plan of the site features was made by a compass and tape survey.

CONSTRAINTS and LIMITATIONS

Time and weather restricted the amount of recording that could be done. Features that were not recorded were the Bushwalkers' huts, Departmental buildings and the Parks, Wildlife and Heritage Bird Observatory, the cutting from Moth Creek into the Derrick and the heavy landing area on Melaleuca Inlet.

The Survey did not include the buildings or mining activities of the Wilsons, the other miners currently active at Melaleuca, the Ludbrooks' mining operations. It also did not document all the features of Deny King's mine, notably the mine workings themselves and access roads. It only located the corduroy airstrip.

It should also be noted that Deny shifted the site of the mines building a number of times during the life of the mine. The earlier sites were not documented.

Through writing up this report, many questions have arisen, they can only be answered through further detailed observation and recording work and in further discussions with the family.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Deny King's lifestyle was one of a person adapting a way of life in an isolated environment, one that demonstrates an understanding of a more common way of life during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, a period of making do and doing it well although not necessarily easily.

Deny King's home, garden and mining operations are one of the last surviving examples of this in Tasmania, if not nationally.

Because of the undoubted national significance of heritage, the Department should:

1. be encouraged to provide effective support for the continuing maintenance of the site, particularly the garden and huts,
2. assess the impact of any future buildings on the site,
3. Record sites and features that are not covered by this report as listed within the project constraints.

FEATURE INDEX

F1	Workshop
F2	Orange Bellied Parrot Feeder
F3	Corinna's Hut
F4	Bird Feeding Hut
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F8	House
F9	Boatshed
F10	Woodshed
F11	Sawbench/Southern Cross Diesel
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F39	Southern Cross Shed
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F41	Platform
F42	Pump
F43	Pump Shed
F44	Concrete Platform
F45	Salisbury Pump

Feature No : F1 *Name :* WORKSHOP *Date of Visit :* 2-6 September 1991

1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 *Zone* DM *AMG grid reference* 323 919

Locality

In the house area - see plan.

To the south of the main house, east of the airstrip, north of the studio/peat shed.

A garden measuring 4,680 mm x 5,800 mm spreads out in front to the east of the workshop and is bordered by pathways. It contains roses, narcissus, forget-me-nots, wallflowers, calendulas, primulas, scillas, hibbertia, hollyhocks, cratogeomys, lupin. It is bordered by concrete paths and fenced with chickenwire and various metal and wood stakes.

The garden to the north-east between the workshop and house contains Nothofagus, japonica, bulbs - narcissus, forget-me-nots, and pot plants in former batteries.

Below the pathway is the raspberry patch with bulbs - narcissus and hollyhocks, forget-me-not, rhododendron, and roses sloping down towards Moth Creek.

Description

Corrugated iron roof, slanted, lower side at back (west)

Posts at each corner.

A skillion on the northern side, contains the fuel store.

North Wall

Tongue and groove boards.

Windows 570 mm x 390 mm high in wall at eastern end.

East Wall

Weatherboard with two windows.

An iron extension at the northern end.

The southern window is steel framed, six paned, with two opening panes.

The northern window has a wooden frame, four pane, fixed.

Door in eastern wall, a 'new' addition.

Garden in front.

South Wall

Wooden door, butted boards, two metal hinges.

West Wall

Not recorded.

Additions

Fuel store with corrugated roof at northern end.
Doorway on eastern side - no door, no windows.
Traces of redlead on exterior of building.
Addition used as a testing panel for paint colours.

Interior of Workshop

Full of timber/tools.

Historical Context

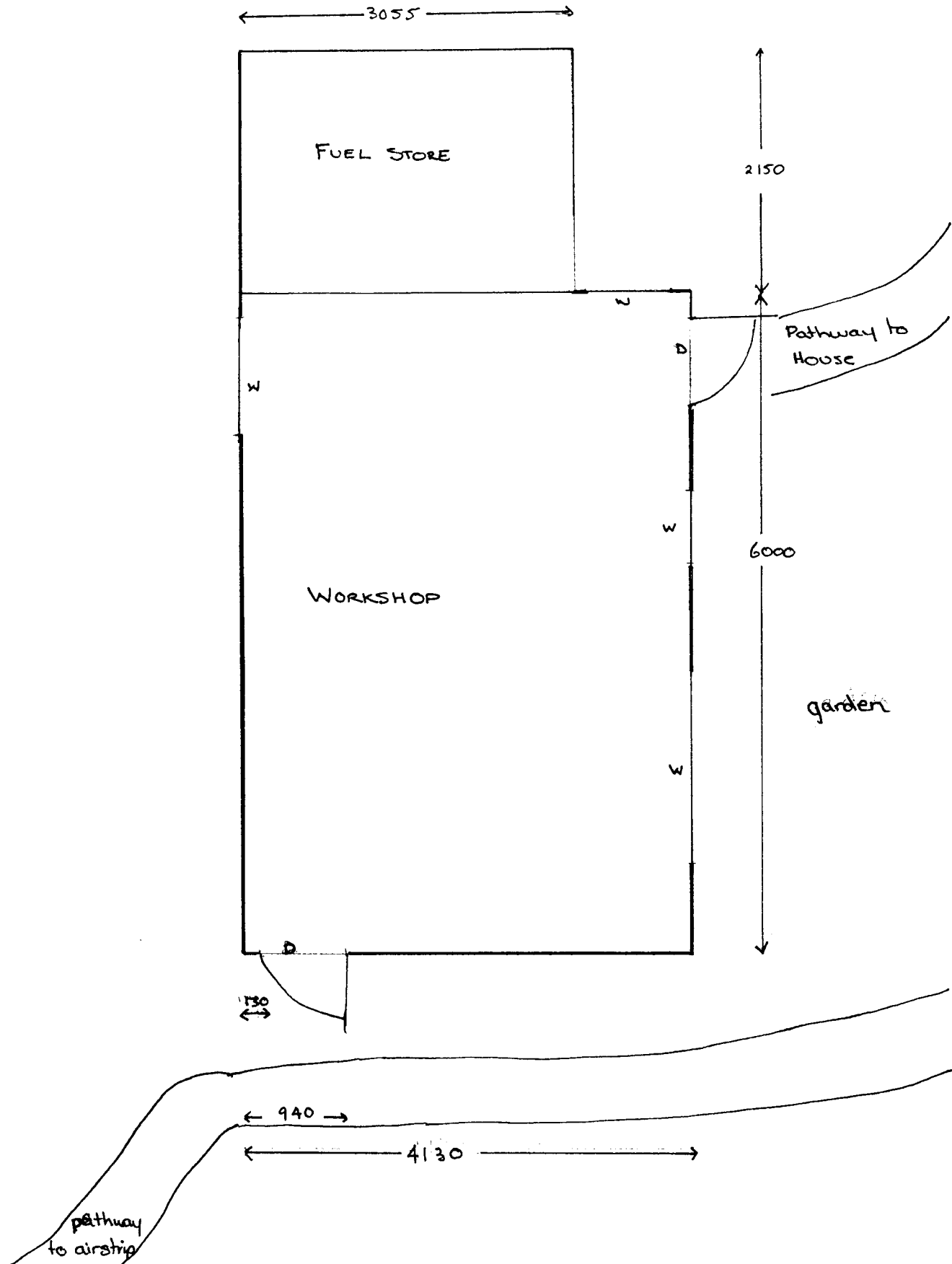
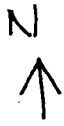
Thought to be built after the house. It was built from recycled materials from some of the New Harbour Mining Company huts which were further to the south.



1. Pathway leading to workshop from airstrip.

SKETCH PLAN

FI WORKSHOP





2. Garden to the east of workshop.

Feature No : F2 *Name :* ORANGE BELLIED PARROT FEEDER

Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991

1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 *Zone* DM *AMG grid reference* 323 918

Locality

Southern end of the New Harbour Mine Garden area, just south of Corinna's Hut and east of the recently built Parks and Wildlife Bird Observatory which is over the fence.

Description

Tanalized pine timber construction built on two supporting posts with a gabled roof over the seed trays. It measures 1,370 x .515 mm and stands approximately 1.5 m high.

Historical Context

Built by Department of Parks, Wildlife & Heritage in the late 1980s and demolished in 1992.

Feature No : F3 Name : CORINNA'S HUT

Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991

1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 Zone DM AMG grid reference 323 918

Locality

Southern end of the New Harbour Mine Garden Area.
Situated near a large sequoia tree.

Description

North Wall

Horizontal corrugated iron, painted green, laid over weatherboards.
Four pane central window, opening, with wooden surround.

East Wall

Weatherboard, painted mission brown.
Window at northern end, wooden frame with tin eave and flashing.
Vertical timber door.
Two smaller windows above.
At south end a lean-to.

South Wall

Window on western side, yellow wooden frame with tin flashing.
South wall of lean-to northern exterior side weatherboard.
Western wall top half horizontal corrugated iron with a space below.

West Wall

Horizontal corrugated iron laid over weatherboards.

Verandah

On eastern side, the roof is corrugated iron and fibreglass.
Verandah and lean-to paved with pre-cambrian quartzite and a small amount of granite.

Interior

Redone by Corinna with masonite and pine lining - circa 1983
On the southern wall hessian attached onto the masonite.
'Grant' metal stove on the south wall.

Historical Context

Corinna Mankels worked with Deny King for about 5 years at the mine in more recent years.

Structural Development

In 1936 the New Harbour Company set up a sluicing plant at Melaleuca and operated until 1939. During this time 5 huts were built. Three of these remain. During the late 1940s after the war Deny and his father did some of the huts up including taking up the roofs.

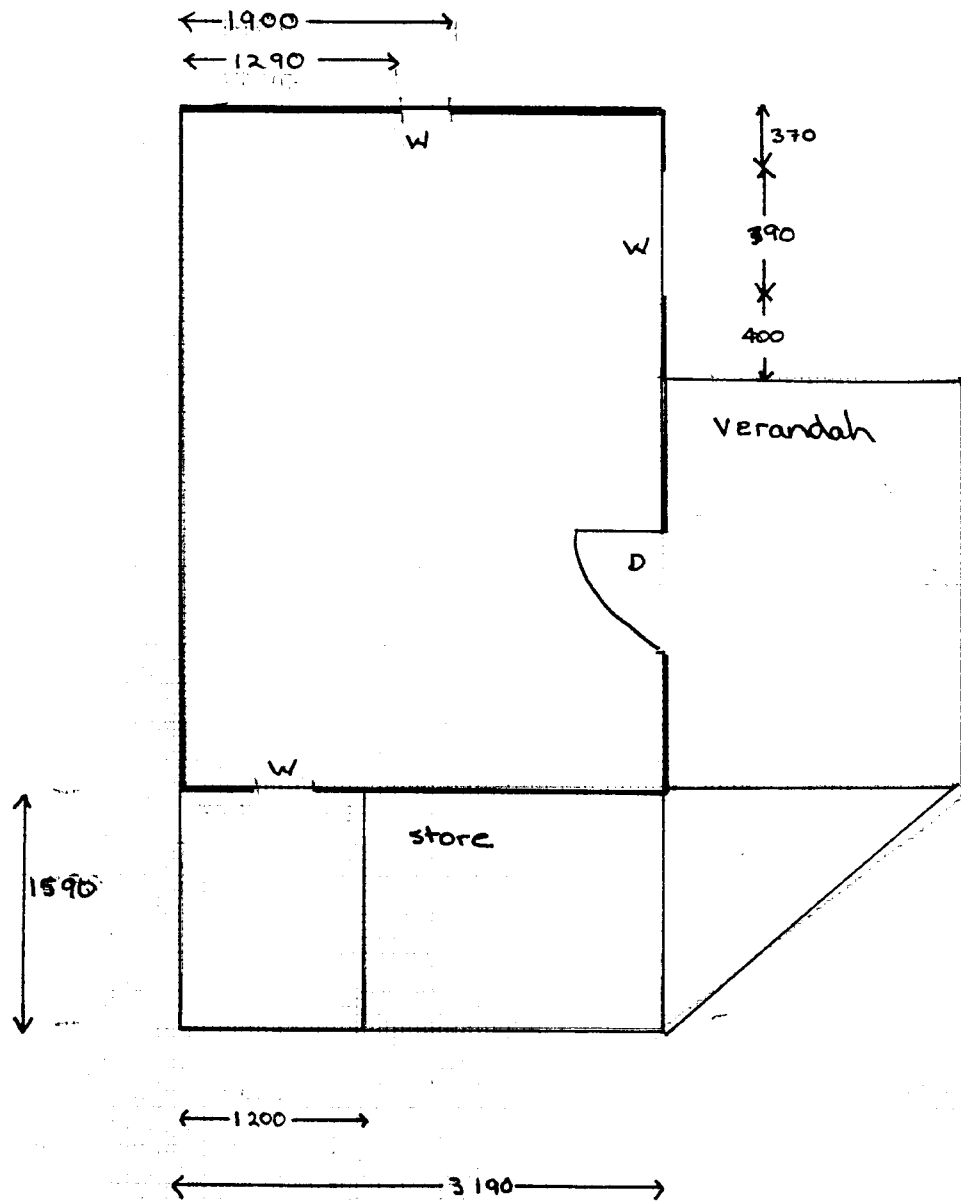
Corinna moved into this hut and completed the renovations as they were when recorded. Corinna left Melaleuca c 1985/86.



3. Corinna's Hut - 3/4 view looking south west.

SKETCH PLAN

F3 CORINNAS HUT



Feature No : F4 *Name :* BIRD FEEDING HUT

Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991

1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 *Zone* DM *AMG grid reference* 323 918

Locality

One of the three remaining huts built by the New Harbour Company. Situated in the New Harbour garden area immediately south of the studio and main house area. To the north of Corinna's Hut.

Description

Pole construction.
Corrugated iron roof.

North Wall

Vertical weatherboards.

East Wall

Weatherboard, northern half with large window cut into wall.
Slatted ramp leading to open doorway.

South Wall

Weatherboards laid vertically, with patches of corrugated iron.

West Wall

Horizontal corrugated iron.

Interior

Contains Orange Bellied Parrot feeder made of wire on a drum and drums of bird seed and garden equipment.

Historical context

With Deny's love of birds the remains of this New Harbour Hut became a convenient place to store bird seed and gardening tools, as well as providing a place to feed birds, particularly Fire Tail Finches (*Emblema bella*).

Structural Development

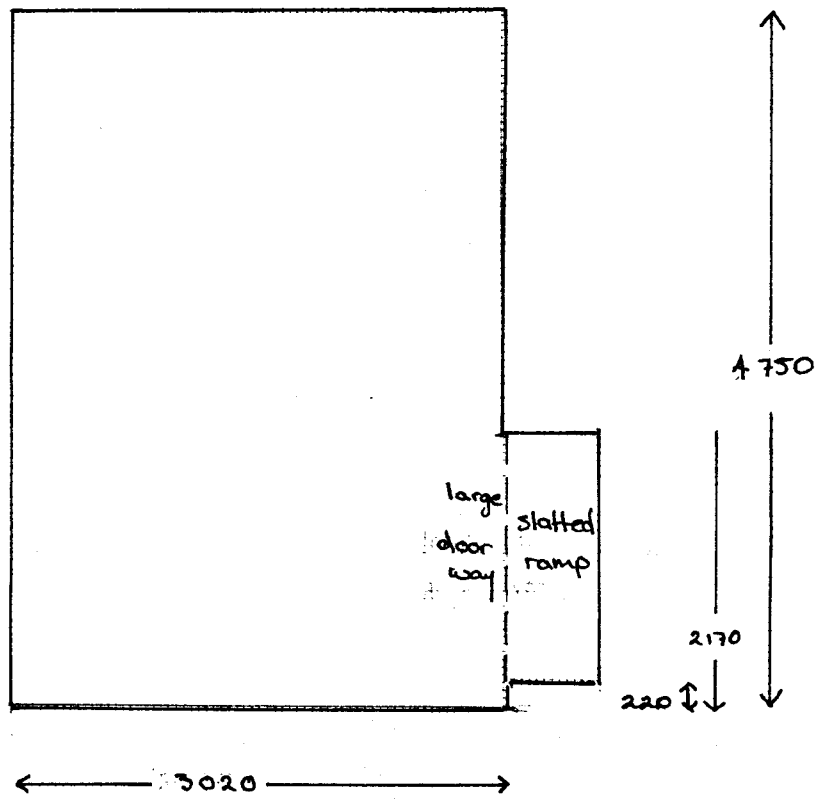
In 1936, the New Harbour Company set up a sluicing plant at Melaleuca and operated until 1939. During this time 5 huts were built. Three of these remain. During the late 1940s after the war Deny and his father did some huts up including taking up the roofs.



4. Bird Feeding Hut - easterly aspect.
Note Deny's early Orange Bellied Parrot feeder

SKETCH PLAN

F4 BIRD FEEDING HUT



Feature No : F5 Name : CDK HUT Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991

1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 Zone DM AMG grid reference 323 918

Locality

Most northerly of the three remaining huts built by the New Harbour Company. Situated in the New Harbour Company garden immediately south of the studio and main house area.

Description

Weatherboard hut on stumps.
Ridged corrugated roof.

North Wall

Weatherboard - rotting.
Central four-pane window with wooden frame.

East Wall

Weatherboard with central door of vertical timber boards, door secured with string.
Window at northern end with fixed wooden surround primed.
'CDK' stencilled to south of door.
Metal bird silhouette attached above and to the left of the stencil.
Traces of redlead on boards.
Stone steps.

South Wall

Corrugated chimney on stone base.
Small two-paned window.

West Wall

Rotting weatherboards, with many missing.

Interior

Lined with masonite.
Painted yellow floorboards.
Open fireplace.
No ceiling.
Used as a store for camping equipment.

Historical Context

Lived in by Deny King's father (Charles Denison King) from 1939-1956.

Structural Development

In 1936 the New Harbour Company set up a sluicing plant at Melaleuca and operated until 1939. During this time 5 huts were built. Three of these remain. During the late 1940s after the war Deny and his father did some of the huts up including taking up the roofs.



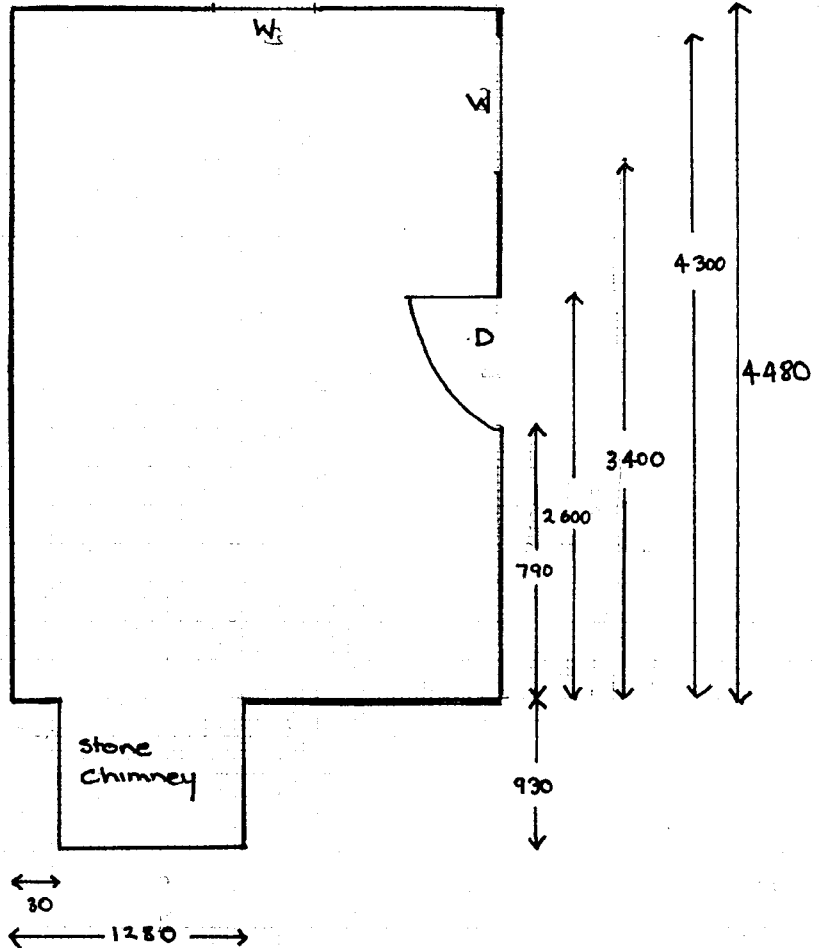
5. CDK Hut - easterly aspect.

SKETCH PLAN

F5 CDK HUT



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Feature No : F6 Name : STUDIO Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991
1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 Zone DM AMG grid reference 323 919

Locality

To the south of the workshop and main house area.
Adjoins the Peat Shed which is immediately north.
North of the New Harbour Company Garden area.

Description

Easterly aspect.
Pole frame building.
Built above ground back into the hillside.
Corrugated iron sloping roof.

North Wall

Weatherboards in shiplap style. Refer to photo 6.

East Wall

Lower half Masonite finish, with open upper half, entrance through eastern wall via ramp which extends across east side of Peat Shed.

South Wall

Corrugated iron, laid horizontally.

West Wall

Vertical corrugated iron.

Interior

Interior lined with masonite.
Contains art equipment - paintings and materials.

Historical Context

Built with re-used materials from chook shed. (pers comm Janet Fenton.)

Structural Development

Built by Deny King with the help of Julie Donaghue - circa 1987.

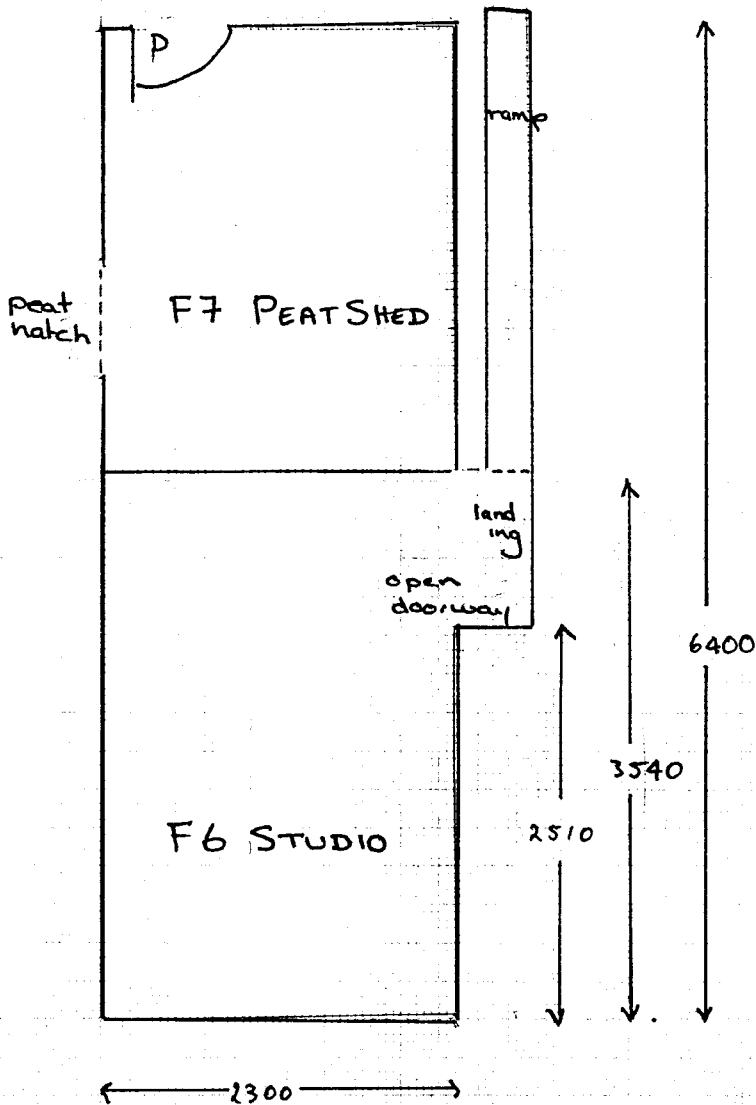


6. Easterly aspect of studio and part peat shed - looking south west.

SKETCH PLAN

F 6 STUDIO

F 7 PEAT STORE



Feature No : F7 Name : PEAT SHED Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991
1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 Zone DM AMG grid reference 323 919

Locality

To the south of the workshop and main house area. Adjoins the studio which is immediately south. North of the New Harbour Company Garden Area.

Description

Easterly aspect.
Pole Frame.
Built above ground back into hillside.
Corrugated iron sloping roof.

North Wall

Sheet steel.
Doorway at western side.

East Wall

Lower section of walls horizontal weatherboards, upper 2/3 open.

South Wall

Masonite dividing wall.

West Wall

Corrugated iron, horizontal at north end, vertical at southern end continuing along studio to south. Peat hatch at southern end.

Interior

Interior contains peat and *Defender* fridge.

Historical Context

Peat cut from near the airstrip was used for fuel.

Structural Development

Built by Deny King.

Feature No : F8 Name : HOUSE Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991
1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 Zone DM AMG grid reference 323 919

Locality

South of Melaleuca Lagoon and west of Moth Creek. North-east of the landing strip.

Description

Nissen Hut with corrugated iron roofing - painted red. Runs in roughly east/west direction. The lower walls of the hut are fibro panels. A small post and fibro porch built to the southern side of the kitchen. The hut stretches back from a raised end at the east into the dug-out section of the slope of the land.

North Wall

Curved corrugated roof with 3 windows and a plastic corrugated panel towards eastern end.

East Wall

Northern section protrudes, fibro-construction with metal framed windows. Southern section is set back and of vertical boards with a wooden framed window.

South Wall

Two windows towards eastern end , a small post and fibro porch near kitchen door towards eastern end. This porch contains the battery store and also hooks for coats. Another door is at the northern end which protrudes at the end of the house. Dug into the slope of the landscape.

West Wall

Vertical boards with a window on the northern side. A door towards the southern side adjacent to a small porch which protrudes westwards.

Interior

Interior still occupied by lessees.

Historical Context

Deny King built the house after the war in 1945.

Structural Development

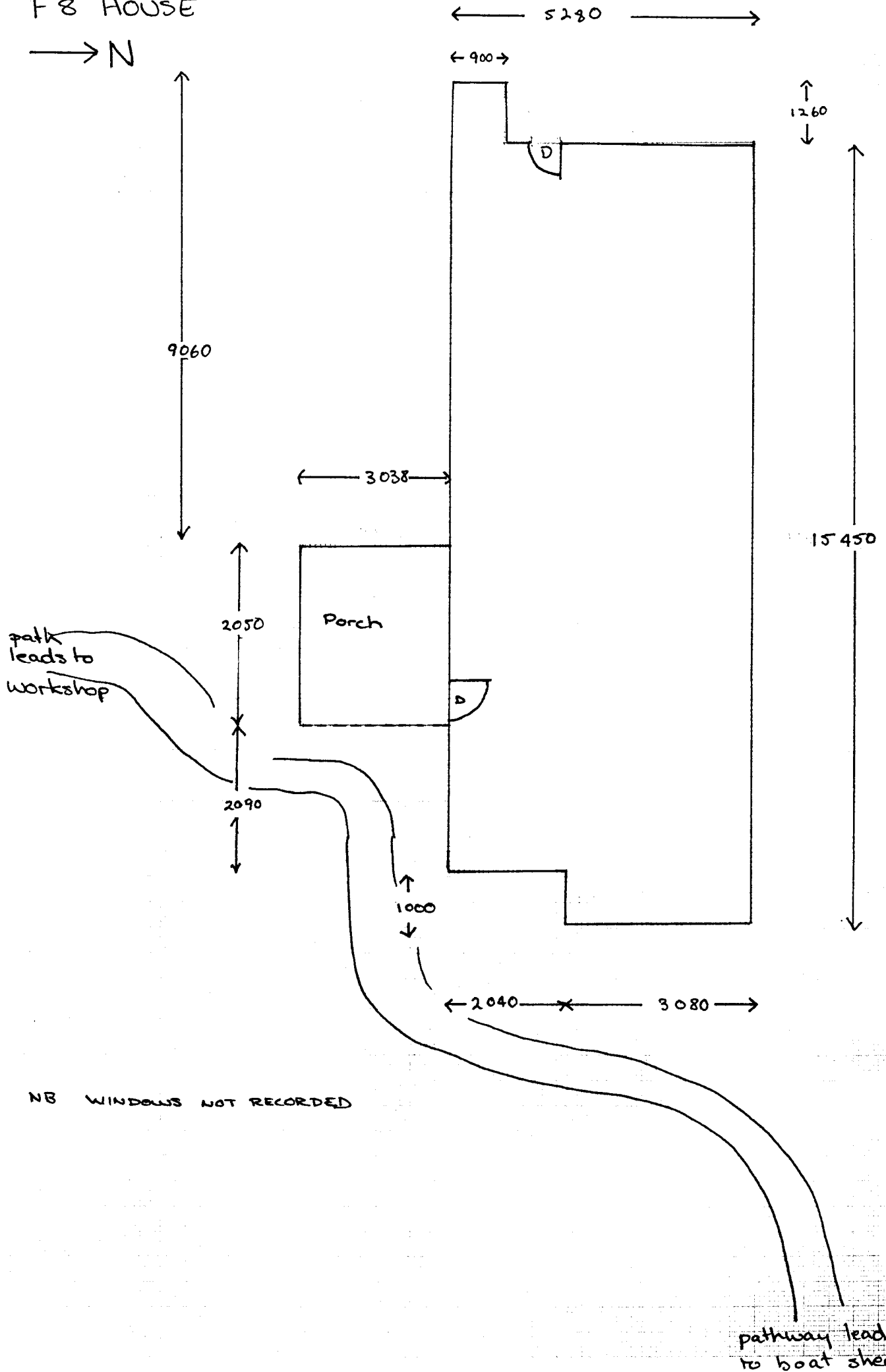
The big bedroom measuring 16 feet by 20 feet was added in 1951/2 after the birth of Mary and Janet King. (pers comm D King - Oral History Tape 1/DK/AI 0620E Aug 1990).



7. General view of house - looking south east across bulb garden.

SKETCH PLAN
F8 HOUSE

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Feature No : F9 Name : BOATSHED Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991
1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 Zone DM AMG grid reference 323 919

Locality

To the north-east of the main house on the edge of Moth Creek. Adjoins wood shed.

Description

Walls - flat plate iron, gabled corrugated roof, open eastern side into creek.
Western side also open into wood store.
Wood and log planking slipway.

Historical Context

Built in 1949/50/

Structural Development

Built by Deny King.

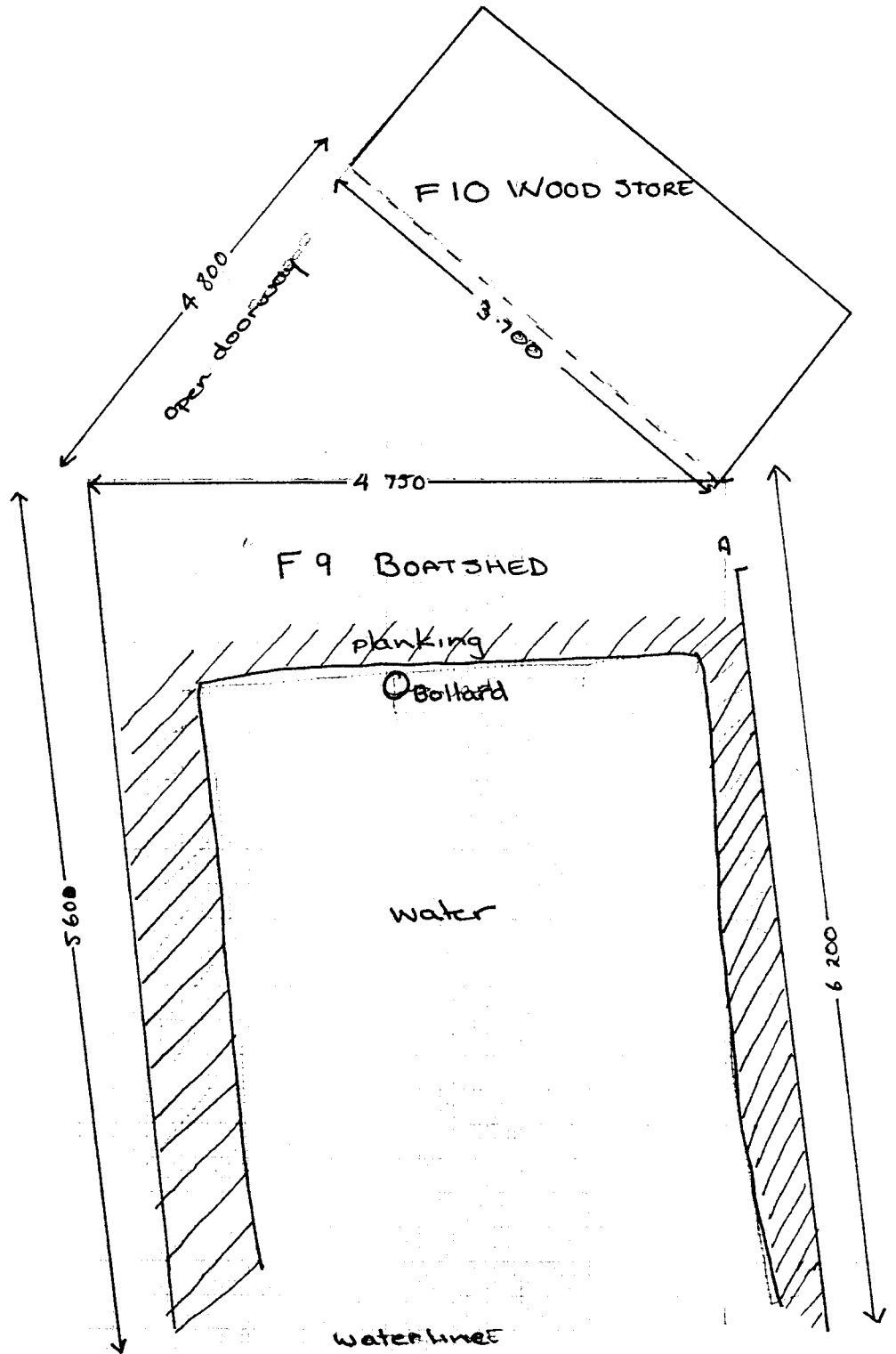
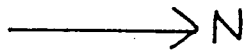


8. Boat Shed - southerly aspect. Log planking slipway in foreground.

SKETCH PLAN

F9 BOATSHED

F10 WOOD STORE



Moth Creek

Feature No : F10 Name : WOODSHED Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991

1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 Zone DM AMG grid reference 323 919

Locality

To the north-east of the main house on the edge of Moth Creek. Adjoins boat shed.

Description

Back section of boat shed, post construction, on south side with whitewash, circular sawn, back (western side) horizontal corrugated iron, northern side possibly flat plate iron, eastern side open shared space with boat shed. See sketch plan boat shed. Corrugated iron flat roof.

Historical Context

Built 1949/50.

Structural Development

Built by Deny King.



9. Wood shed interior - viewed from interior of boat shed.

Feature No : F11 Name : SAW BENCH/SOUTHERN CROSS DIESEL

Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991

1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 Zone DM AMG grid reference 323 919

Locality

South of the opening into the the wood shed and boat shed near the boat landing area.

Description

Southern Cross diesel engine and saw bench with stockpile of logs. Covered with tarpaulins for storage.

Southern Cross Diesel

Mark BFC

No 24959

20BHP 1200 RPM

Mark BE-C/BG-C Diesel Engine

Historical Development

Brought in by Deny King.

Structural Development

Feature No : F12 Name : SCAMP Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991

1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 Zone DM AMG grid reference 323 919

Locality

Variable. At the time of recording Scamp was tied up at the boat landing area on Moth Creek.

Description

Painted, small wooden dinghy with oars and a tin dish for bailing.
Still in working order.

Historical Context

Used by Deny's children (and now grandchildren) c 1950-60s to ply the waterways of Moth Creek.

Feature No : F13 Name : NIFTY Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991

1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 Zone DM AMG grid reference 323 919

Locality

To the immediate east of the fuel store, west of the boat landing area.

Description

Nifty, sister boat of Scamp, laid upside down to rest.

Historical Context

Used by Deny's children. c 1950s-60s to ply the waterways of Moth Creek.

Feature No : F14 Name : FUEL STORE Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991

1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 Zone DM AMG grid reference 323 919

Locality

South of the saw bench, Southern Cross diesel and boat shed/wood shed. To the west of Moth Creek and the boat landing area.

Description

Collapsed construction of split palings and corrugated iron. Overgrown by shrub. Containing fuel cans and assorted containers.

Historical Context

Structural Development

Feature No : F15 Name : DUG OUT CANOE

Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991

1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 Zone DM AMG grid reference 323 919

Locality

In boat landing area adjacent to fuel store, near Nifty.

Description

Extremely fragile, weathered dugout canoe, overgrown and rapidly collapsing.

Historical Context

Used by tin miners on the Ray River circa 1930s.

Feature No : F16 Name : WIND VANE Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991
1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 Zone DM AMG grid reference 322 919

Locality

In the area immediately behind the main house to the west. Associated with the other measuring apparatus, the Stevenson screen, wind generator, anemometer.

Description

A wind vane attached to a tree post.

Historical Context

Deny King in his time at Melaleuca was responsible for recording the weather observations for Melaleuca and reporting them to the Bureau of Meteorology, from February 1946.

Feature No : F17 Name : CLOTHESLINE

Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991

1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 Zone DM AMG grid reference 322 920

Locality

To the north west of the main house and north east of the meterological area.

Description

The remnants of the clothesline consist of 3 weathered poles in a triangular formation near the rain gauge area.

Historical Context

Structural Development

Feature No : F18 *Name* : CHILDREN'S SWING FRAME

Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991

1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 *Zone* DM *AMG grid reference* 322 920

Locality

North west of the main house, to the east of the rain guages.

Description

Two wooden poles with an iron bar suspended between to support the no longer existent swing.

Historical Context

Built in the 1950s-60s for Deny's children.

Structural Development

Feature No : F19 Name : RAIN GAUGES

Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991

1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 Zone DM AMG grid reference 322 920

Locality

North west of the main house and north east of the wind generator.

Description

Two metal rain gauges placed at a distance of approximately 1-1/2 metres.

Historical Context

Structural Development

Feature No : F20 Name : STEVENSON SCREEN

Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991

1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 Zone DM AMG grid reference 322 919

Locality

West of the main house, east of the airstrip.

In the vicinity of other meteorological equipment, eg wind vane, anemometer and wind generator.

Description

A white painted louvred box, raised on four legs.
Standard meteorological recording equipment.

Historical Context

Structural Development

Feature No : F21 Name : CORDUROY AIRSTRIP

Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991

1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 Zone DM AMG grid reference 323 920

Locality

The first airstrip appears to have run in more of a north-south direction than the present one. Traces of the original strip can be seen along the current track from the airstrip to the bushwalkers huts.

Description

Levelled section of ground with strips of narrow tree trunks laid horizontally.

Historical Context

Built by Deny King in the late 1940s to allow an aircraft which had force-landed to take off.

Structural Development

Extended over 800 feet in length.



10. Detail of corduroy airstrip.

Feature No : F22 Name : ANENOMETER Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991
1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 Zone DM AMG grid reference 322 919

Locality

Between the main house and the current airstrip, to the west of the wind generator.

Description

Anemometer device to measure wind speed placed on a tall wooden post (trunk) with a home made wooden ladder leaning against the post to provide access.

Historical Context

Structural Development

Feature No : F23 Name : WIND GENERATOR

Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991

1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 Zone DM AMG grid reference 322 919

Locality

Between main house and current airstrip. Near meteorological items.

Description

Timber construction, pyramidal shape with counterweight hanging down in centre. Arms attached at top. Timber construction provides ladder framework to access arms.

Historical Context

Constructed in 1953.

Structural Development

Relates to Battery charge monitor in kitchen of main house.

Feature No : F24 Name : CHOOKHOUSE

Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991

1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 Zone DM AMG grid reference 322 919

Locality

West of the workshop and south east of the wind generator.

Description

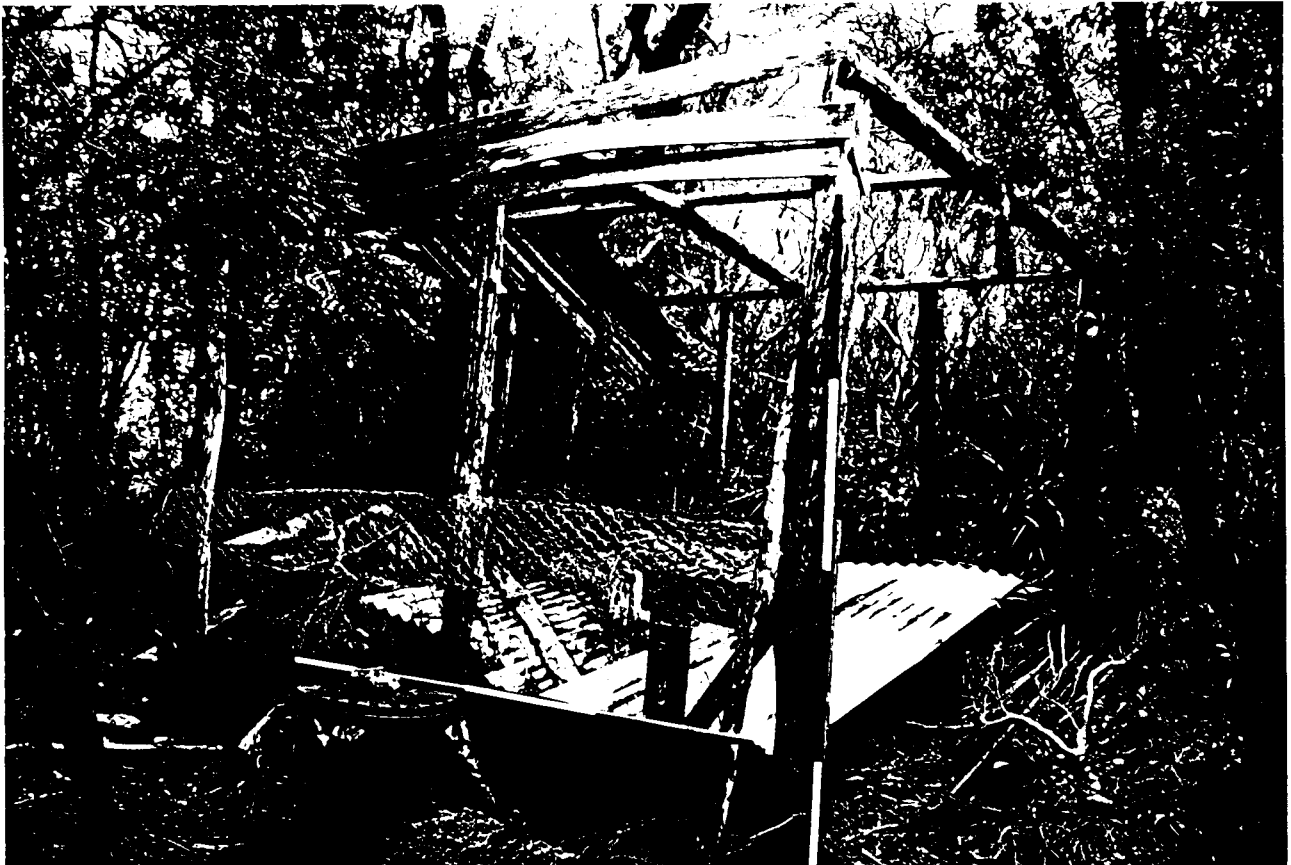
Partially dismantled chookhouse. Timber post structure remains with a small amount of chicken wire and corrugated iron. The adjacent chook run is still evident. Built within a grove of trees.

Historical Context

Deny planted Nothofagus, Celery Top and Broom in this area.

Structural Development

The building was pulled down by Deny King and some of the material was used to build the Studio F6.



Feature No : F25 Name : TOILET - MODERN

Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991

1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 Zone DM AMG grid reference 322 919

Locality

Directly east of the chookhouse, enclosed by trees, south of a large gum tree.

Description

Basic necessities of a toilet, bucket, toilet seat and stick used as toilet roll holder. A canopy of vegetation has been formed over the toilet area.

Historical Context

Structural Development



12. Toilet, contemporary under a canopy of vegetation.

Feature No :
1991

Name : MINE SITE

Date of Visit : 2-6 September

1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 Zone DM AMG grid reference 321 913

Locality

To the south west of the airstrip and to the west of Moth Creek.

Description

A large area consisting of a number of features.

The processing area including equipment such as trommel, ramp, conveyor, jig, and separator.

Associated buildings include the welding shed, vehicle shed, caterpillar shed, D2 shed and Amenities.

Other features in the vicinity include the strawberry patch, weir, Southern Cross shed, and pumps.



13. General view of processing area of mine site.

Feature No : F26 Name : WELDING SHED

Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991

1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 Zone DM AMG grid reference 321 913

Locality

In Mine Area, northern most of a group of post and iron joined sheds to the north of the processing area.

Description

Post construction with a concrete slab floor.
Corrugated iron walls and roof, eastern wall open.
Roof joists 4 x 2.
Rough timber shelves along southern side, turning along western side.
Tall shelves in north west corner.
Forge on northern side near entrance.
Under bench Kero tin drawers with horizontal wood knobs.

Historical Context

Structural Development

Built 1980s.

Note : To the rear of the welding workshop, a gate valve with a stork/crane and '7' mark.



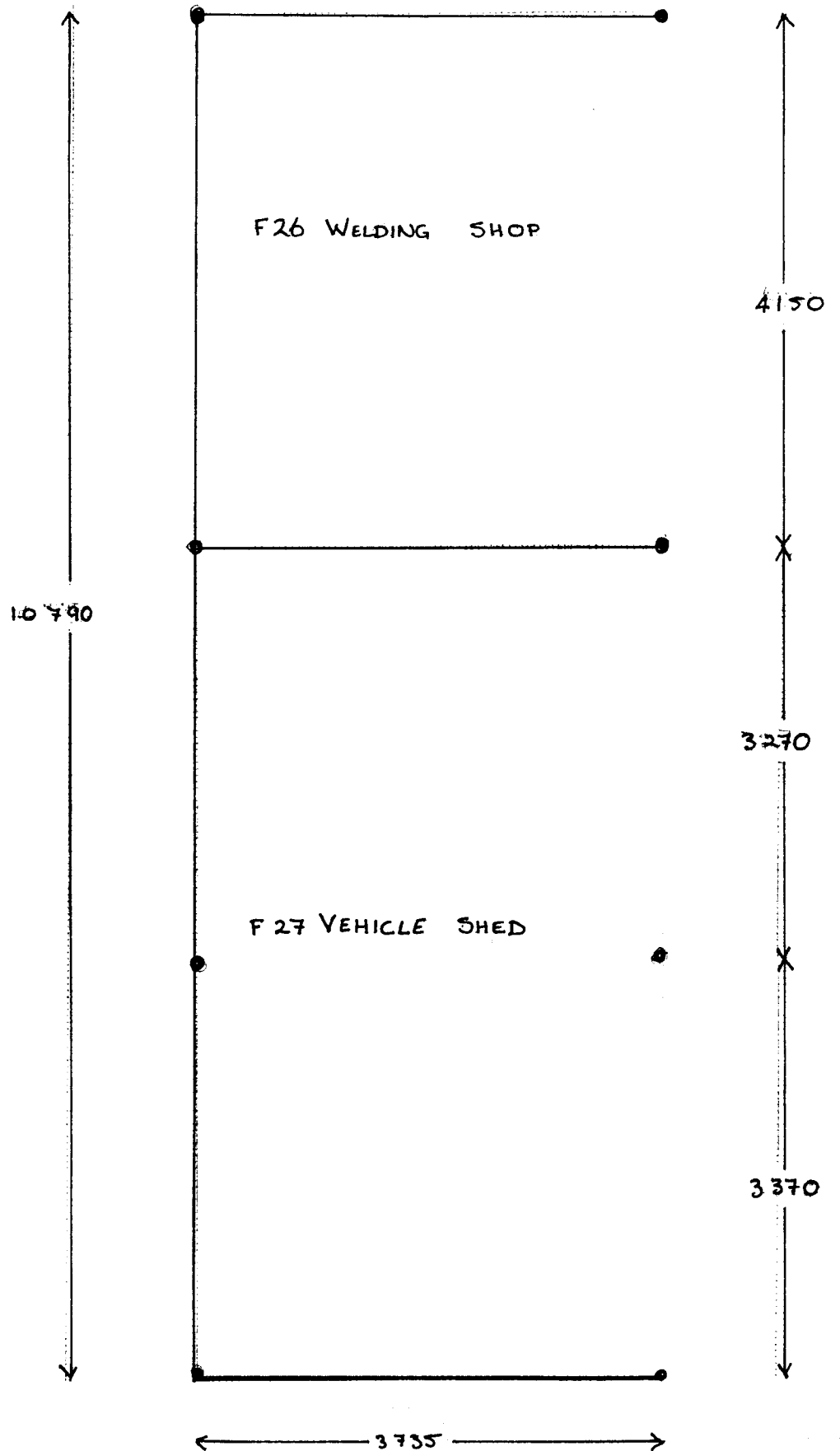
14. Welding shed - easterly aspect.

SKETCH PLAN

F 26 WELDING SHED

F 27 VEHICLE SHED

N
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Feature No : F27 *Name* : VEHICLE SHED

Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991

1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 *Zone* DM *AMG grid reference* 321 913

Locality

In mine area, southern section of a group of post and iron joined sheds to the north of the processing area. The two sections to the south of the welding shed.

Description

Post construction with a gravel floor.

Corrugated iron walls on the north, western and south.

Open on eastern side.

Northern section contains a trailer, diaphragm pump.

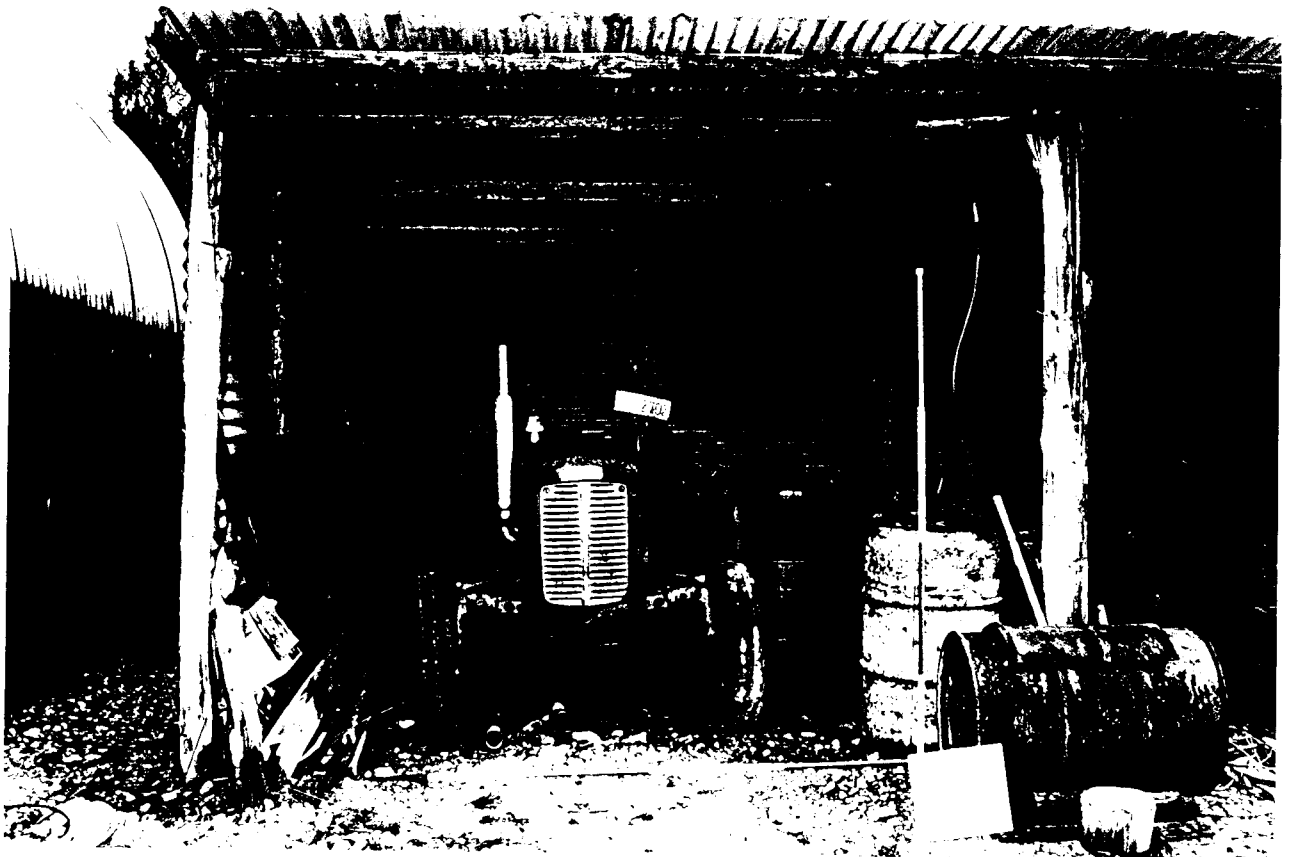
Powerlite generator with Ducati fuel tank and pulley wheels.

The southern end contains the Fergusson Tractor 35 MHF 182 840 M1 marked on the gearbox.

Historical Context

The Fergusson tractor was acquired in 1976.

Structural Development



15. Southern section of the vehicle shed containing the Fergusson Tractor.

Feature No : F28 Name : CATERPILLAR SHED

Date of Visit : 2-6 Sept 1991

1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 Zone DM AMG grid reference 321 913

Locality

Tin Mine area to the south of the welding and vehicle shed, to the north of the Amenities Shed and Processing site.

Description

Wooden log footings with a framework of steel tube and 2 x 1 to form a curved building as in a Nissen Hut.

Framework supports sheets of corrugated iron.

At the back, on the western side are two clear corrugated plastic panels.

The building faces east and has no wall on that side.

The lower iron is colourbond, with the top sections painted Taubmans All Weather Gloss Acrylic Bronze Olive K & D tinted colour.

It has an earth floor.

Contains Silent Night fridge, fuel and other equipment.

Historical Context

Built 1971-74 to house the Caterpillar 922 loader/grader.

Structural Development



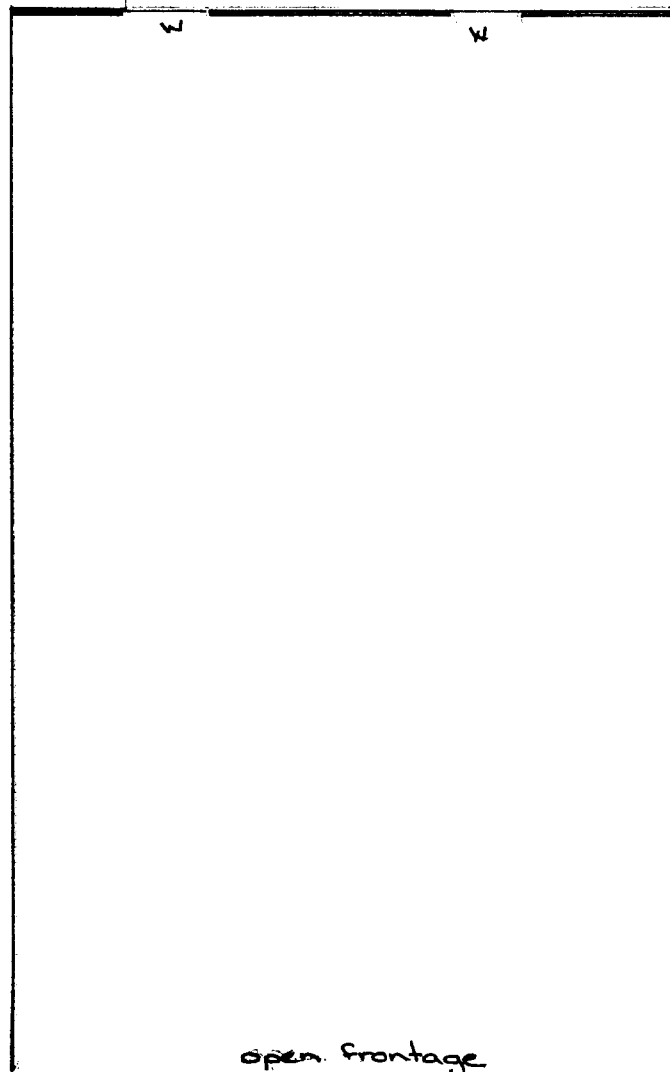
16. Caterpillar Shed - easterly aspect.

SKETCH PLAN

F 28 CATERPILLAR SHED

→ N

← 4380 →



6900

open frontage

Feature No : F29 Name : AMENITIES SHED

Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991

1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 Zone DM AMG grid reference 321 913

Locality

In Mine area to the south of the Caterpillar shed and the north of the mining separator.

Description

Timber beam construction, corrugated iron walls.

Exterior painted red - Dulux roof paint, high gloss enamel - lead free suitable for collection of drinking water - Waratah colour.

Gutter at rear drops into a cut down drum 580 mm diameter 550 mm high.

Shed open on eastern side contains telephone and numerous tools and containers.

Historical Context

Structural Development



17. Amenities Shed - 3/4 view showing easterly aspect.

Feature No : F30 Name : TROMMEL Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991

1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 Zone DM AMG grid reference 321 913

Locality

Centre of processing area.

Runs in an east/west direction connecting the conveyor belt to the ramp and mullock heap.

Description

Rotating perforated metal cylinder used to separate the larger alluvial waste from the fine tin bearing gravels.

Historical Context

During 1962, the hand separation of tin by streaming was replaced by a mechanised system which involved the pay dirt being placed on the ramp and then washed with high pressure water into the trommel to separate the larger alluvial waste from the fine tin-bearing gravels. The fines fell to the sump beneath the trommel where a gravel pump passed them to the jig to separate the tin. Final concentration of tin continued to be done by hand streaming in the wooden flume.

Structural Development



18. General view of mine site. Trommel middle ground right hand side, Caterpillar Shed on left hand side behind tree. Jig with gravel pump above sump middle with wooden tin streaming flume in foreground.

Feature No : F31 Name : RAMP Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991

1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 Zone DM AMG grid reference 321 913

Locality

Directly east of the trommel.

Description

Earth and timber construction with gravel surface. Used as access to trommel for unloading of ore bearing gravels which were then fed by a metal chute into the trommel.

Historical Context

Structural Development

Feature No : F32 Name : CONVEYOR Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991
1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 Zone DM AMG grid reference 321 913

Locality

Directly west of the trommel.

Description

Conveyor used to remove oversized gravel waste from trommel to spoil heap.

Historical Context

Structural Development

Feature No : F33 Name : JIG Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991

1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 Zone DM AMG grid reference 321 913

Locality

West of the Separator.

Description

Steel hoppers mounted on a stand. Ore was pumped into the jig from the sump beneath it by a gravel pump.

Historical Context

During 1962 the tin separation process was mechanized by the installation of a trommel and jig which replaced the hand separation of the tin.

Structural Development

Feature No : F34 Name : STREAMING FLUME

Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991

1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 Zone DM AMG grid reference 321 913

Locality

East of the jig and west of outflow shute, directly north of the switch room.

Description

Wooden flume into which tin from the jig was passed to be further concentrated by hand streaming.

Historical Context

Deny continued to concentrate tin ore by hand streaming after he mechanized the tin extraction process in 1962. Prior to this, the entire tin ore separation and concentration was done by hand.

Structural Development

Feature No : F35 Name : D2 SHED Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991

1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 Zone DM AMG grid reference 321 913

Locality

South of the Processing area and north-west of the strawberry patch.

Description

Skeletal framework of a Nissen-type hut.
Contains corrugated iron, timber and a tree puller.

Historical Context

Housed the D2 Dozer, used to make the Corduroy Airstrip.
The D2 was acquired in 1952/53.

Structural Development



19. D2 Shed framework.

Feature No : F36 Name : STRAWBERRY PATCH

Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991

1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 Zone DM AMG grid reference 321 913

Locality

South of the mine processing area and south-east of the D2 Shed.

Description

Roughly rectangular piece of ground fenced in and was used by Deny King to grow strawberries there. Remnants of strawberry plants were evident.

Historical Context

Possibly established by Deny's father, C D King, after slugs were introduced at the house. Another strawberry patch existed near the Wilson's when Deny's mine was located near there in the 1950s.

Structural Development

Feature No : F37 Name : SWITCH ROOM

Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991

1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 Zone DM AMG grid reference 321 913

Locality

Adjacent to mining separator, to the south-eastern side.

Description

Corrugated iron building with large door on south-eastern side. Contains powerboard and switches, to distribute power to pumps to separator and other equipment.

Historical Context

Built when the mine was mechanised in 1962.

Structural Development

*Feature No : F38 Name : SLUICE GATE Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991
1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 Zone DM AMG grid reference 323 914*

Locality

To the west of the processing area.

Description

A sluice gate was placed into an embankment on the south east side of the weir. On lifting the concrete sluice gate water would be channelled into the wooden boxed flumes leading to the processing site.

Historical Context

Structural Development

Constructed circa 1945. Deny King Oral History 1/DK/AI 0620E Aug 1990.



Feature No : F39 *Name* : SOUTHERN CROSS SHED

Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991

1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 *Zone* DM *AMG grid reference* 323 915

Locality

North-east of Processing Area, just west of Moth Creek and to the south of the current airstrip.

Description

Steel framed with 4 x 2's.
Corrugated iron.
Nissen-type hut.
Large doorway.

North Wall

Poles mark large doorway.
Remainder of wall open leaving exposed 4 x 2's.

East and West Walls

Corrugated iron, one clear alconite panel.

Interior

Contains Southern Cross Diesel engine, circular saws.
Concrete floor in south-east corner.

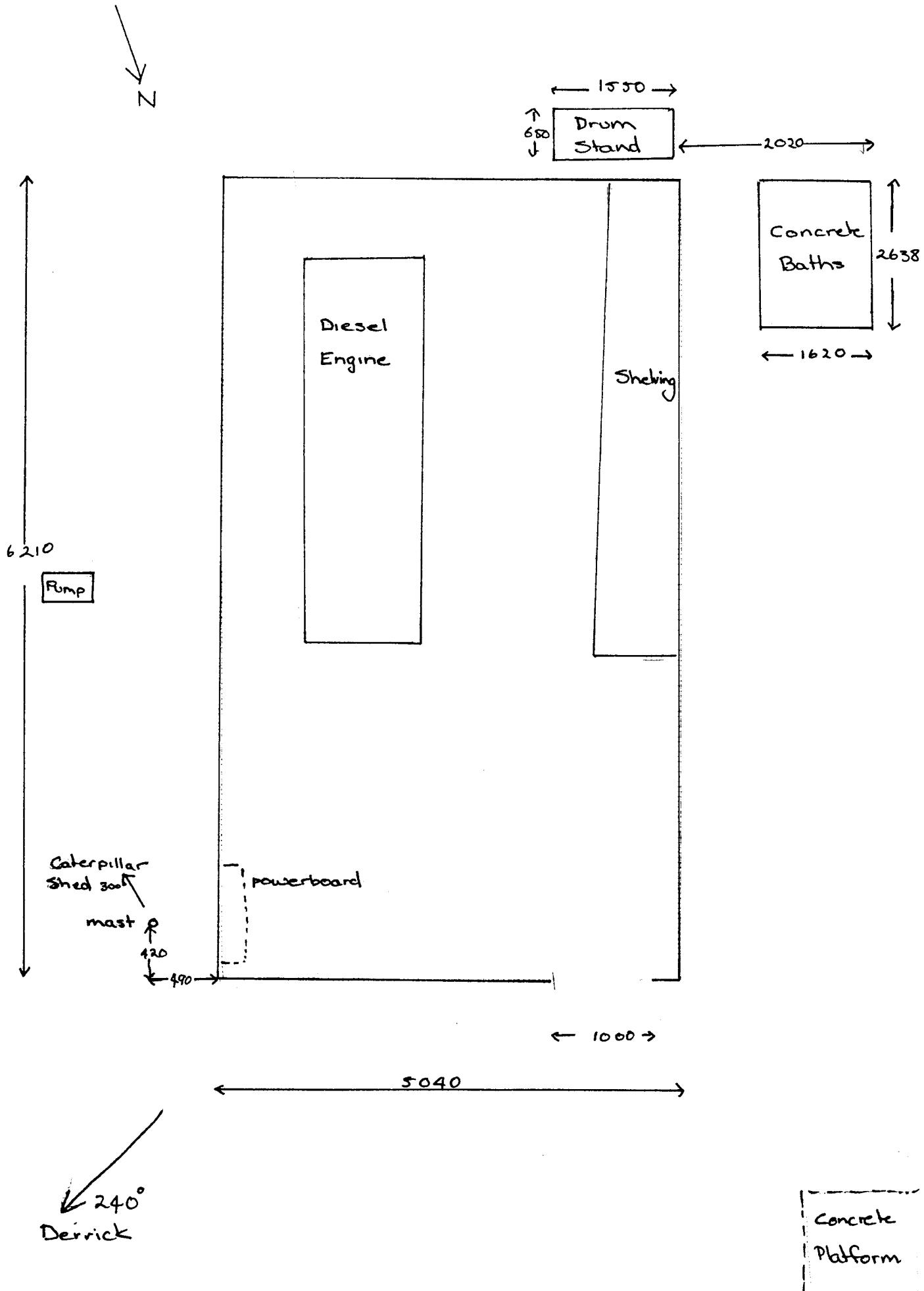
Historical Context

Built by New Harbour Mine Company to house the Southern Cross Diesel brought to the site by Deny King to provide power .

Structural Development

SKETCH PLAN

F 39 SOUTHERN CROSS SHED



Feature No : F40 Name : DERRICK & WINCH

Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991

1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 Zone DM AMG grid reference 323 915

Locality

To the north-east of the Southern Cross Shed on the edge of canal cut from Moth Creek.

Description

Wooden post with cable supporting a swinging wooden arm. Winch adjacent to it.

Historical Context

Located on side of canal cut by New Harbour Tin Mining Company to allow the Southern Cross generator to be transported by barge from Melaleuca Inlet via Moth Creek to close proximity to the tin deposit.

Structural Development



21. Southern Cross Shed - northern aspect.

Feature No : F41 Name : LIFT PLATFORM Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991

1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 Zone DM AMG grid reference 323 915

Locality

North of the Southern Cross Shed

Description

Rectangular platform post construction with two tree trunks, one on either side, supporting a cross piece with a cable wound around it. The platform is raised approximately a metre above the ground. It has corrugated iron floor. Timber and iron stored beneath. Fuel drums lying around it.

Historical Context

Built by Deny King to enable large objects to be winched up for repair or to be loaded for transport.

Structural Development



Feature No : F42 Name : PUMP Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991
1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 Zone DM AMG grid reference 323 915

Locality

West of the Southern Cross Shed and south-west of the small shed.

Description

Pump manufactured by Kershaw and Thompson of Castlemaine, Victoria.

Historical Context

Structural Development

Feature No : F43 Name : PUMP SHED Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991
1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 Zone DM AMG grid reference 323 915

Locality

West of the Southern Cross Shed and south-west of the platform.

Description

Small plywood shed. Housing for wheelbarrow and pump. An engine sits adjacent to the north.

Historical Context

Construction by New Harbour Company.

Structural Development

Feature No : F44 Name : CONCRETE PLATFORM

Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991

1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 Zone DM AMG grid reference 323 915

Locality

To the north-west of the Southern Cross Shed.

Description

Concrete remnants of mounting or structure measuring approximately 5.4 x 9 metres.

Historical Context

Constructed by New Harbour Company.

Structural Development

Feature No : F45 Name : SALISBURY NOZZLE

Date of Visit : 2-6 September 1991

1:100,000 map Old River Sheet 8111 Zone DM AMG grid reference 323 916

Locality

East of the track between the mine area and the current airstrip.

Description

Sluicing nozzle made by Salisbury's Launceston.

Historical Context

Structural Development

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD SHEET

MELALEUCA

Film: 10 Format: 35 mm Exps: 24 ASA: 100 Camera: Pentax

B & W/CN/CS Film Name Kodak TMX Processing: D76 QVM

Exposure	Description
1	D2 shed
2	Strawberry patch with D2 in background
3	Tree puller in D2 shed
4	Weir wall
5	General View mine equipment
6	Southern Cross shed - northern aspect
7	Southern Cross shed - southern aspect
8	Southern Cross shed - western aspect
9	Southern Cross shed - eastern aspect
10	General view of derrick, Southern Cross shed
11-12	Winch - Johnson Hobart
13	Platform for drums - towards north
14	Valve as counterweight
15	Pump, Thompsons of Castlemaine Engineering and Pipe Co
16	Wheelbarrow/pump shed
17	Southern Cross shed interior, towards south-eastern corner
18	Southern Cross shed interior, towards south-western corner
19	Southern Cross shed engine with switchbox in background
20	Kershaw & Thompson Pump of Castlemaine Victoria
21	detail
22	Concrete platform North-west of Southern Cross shed
23	Salisbury Pump

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD SHEET

MELALEUCA

Film: 9 Format: 35 mm Exps: 24 ASA: 100 Camera: Pentax

B & W/CN/CS Film Name **Kodak TMX** Processing: **D76 QVM**

Exposure	Description
1	Windvane Stevenson screen etc
2	View of corduroy strip
3	Anemometer
4	Wind generator
5	Detail Wind Generator
6	Chookhouse - green on upper boards, 3/4 view from north
7-8	Toilet modern
9	Ramp and trommel looking 300 degrees west
10	Conveyor
11	Longitudinal of trommel and conveyor 30 degrees
12	Elevation of trommel east
13	Trommel looking 110 degrees
14	Mining equipment - jig 50 degrees
15	Jig eastern
16	Conveyor belt - outflow area
18-19	Separator - looking into it
20	Along length of conveyor belt over jig
21	Loading platform feeder
22	View over mining equipment to D2 shed and strawberry patch
23	Switch room
24	End section of jig

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD SHEET

MELALEUCA

Film: 6 Format: 35 mm Exps: 24 ASA: 100 Camera: Pentax

B & W/CN/CS Film Processing: D76 QVM
Name Kodak TMX

Exposure	Description
1	Corinna's Hut - exterior (chimney flue and door) south-west corner looking east
2	Corinna's Hut - interior, south west corner looking north east
3	Corinna's Hut - interior, south west corner looking north
4	Corinna's Hut - interior clothes rack
5	Studio/Peat Shed - exterior, southerly aspect looking 330 degrees
6	Studio/Peat Shed - exterior, easterly aspect looking west
7	Studio/Peat Shed - easterly aspect looking 150 degrees
8	Studio/Peat Shed - northerly aspect looking south
9	Studio/Peat Shed - westerly aspect looking north
10-11	Studio - interior looking south from doorway vertical/horizontal
12	Detail, studio
13	Peat Shed - interior towards door
14-15	Peat Shed - interior from door
16-17	Workshop - exterior, south-westerly aspect looking north-east
18	Path towards Studio - looking 160 degrees
19	Path towards house - looking north
20	House - eastern exterior to door, southerly aspect, northern view
21	House - southerly aspect exterior including verandah 3/4 view looking 290 degrees
22	House - interior verandah looking 230 degrees
23	House - detail of doorway looking 330 degrees
24	House - verandah exterior southerly aspect, looking north
25	House - verandah exterior, south-westerly aspect 220 degrees, looking 20 degrees

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD SHEET

MELALEUCA

Film: 3 Format: 35 mm Exps: 24 ASA: 100 Camera: Pentax

B & W/CN/CS Film Name **Kodak TMX** Processing: **D76 QVM**

Exposure	Description
2-3	Welding Shed - easterly aspect, 80 degrees interior/exterior
4	Welding Shed - work bench
5	Detail of two drawers - Welding Shed
6-7	Forge - Welding Shed
8	Vehicle Shed - northern end with trailer
9	Vehicle Shed - southern end, Fergusson <MHF> F35, 182 840 M1 gearbox
10-11	Vehicle Shed - 3/4 view, Ducati Powerlite Pty Ltd 23A Gordon Road Chipping Norton, NSW Davey F W Davey & Co Pty Ltd Victoria
12	Welding Shed - northern aspect
13-14	Welding Shed - 3/4 north-west aspect
15	Gate valve
16	Forks - next to welding shed
17	Fergusson - 3/4 view
18	Caterpillar Shed - easterly aspect, front on
19	Caterpillar Shed - easterly aspect 3/4 view north
20	Caterpillar Shed - easterly aspect 3/4 view south
21	Caterpillar Shed - fridge open, Silent Night
22-23	Amenities Shed - easterly aspect interior 3/4 view
24	Amenities Shed - easterly aspect, straight on

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD SHEET

MELALEUCA

Film: 1 Format: 35 mm Exps: 24 ASA: 100 Camera: Pentax

B & W/CN/CS Film Kodak TMX Processing: D76 QVM
Name

Exposure	Description
4	Pathway to house from airstrip
5	Pathway from house to airstrip
6	Workshop 130 degrees aspect from pathway 3/4 view
7	Workshop - 130 degrees aspect square on - southern corner
8	Workshop - 130 degrees square on - middle
9-10	Workshop - 50 degree aspect - square on wooden window to doorway
11	Workshop - 50 degree aspect - steel window frame
12	Workshop - 3/4 view 50 degree aspect
13	Workshop - 320 degree aspect - lower part of wall
14	Workshop - 320 degree aspect - upper part of wall
15	Interior of fuel store - addition to workshop - view from doorway
16	Workshop Interior - 130 degree aspect
17	Workshop Interior - 130 degree aspect - view from doorway
18-20	Workshop Interior - view towards doorway
21-23	Postdrill Workshop
24	Workshop Garden
25	Mine - General View 3/4 - Easterly aspect
26	Welding Shed - easterly aspect - Interior/Exterior