Waterview Mill

Location

At the end of the access road leading to Custom-built Furnishers, across a small park from Bundaberg Foundry. GPS 24 deg 51 min 40 sec S 152 deg 21 min 12 sec E.

Recommended Heritage Boundaries

Boundaries five metres in each direction from wall may suffice for the visible remains. An archaeological study of a wider area may reveal other significant areas.

History

The Steuarts moved into cane growing and it was Sam Johnston who established the Waterview sawmills in 1868, having previous experience at Rockhampton on the Fitzroy River with his brother John. 1

The mill was severely damaged in the 1875 flood but was rebuilt. By 1888 it was substantially expanded with 70 horsepower engine, two storeys, and planing room and 50 employees and supplied Rockhampton as well as local needs. 2 The importance of the mill was sufficient for the government to extend the railway linking North Bundaberg with Mount Perry, eastward to the Waterview Mill. Log timber generated more traffic on the line than the copper mine at Mount Perry which was expected to have been the line's mainstay. 3

Waterview also operated as one of the more important sugar mills in the Bundaberg district for many years. The sawmill closed around 1903. Little remains of either enterprise but with its pioneering role in the establishment of Bundaberg makes it an important site which may repay archaeological investigation. 4

Site Description and Condition

The principal visible remains of sawmill and sugar mill is a stone wall about 450 mm thick and 13 metres long in the side of a terrace parallel to the river bank. The area surrounding it is grass but there is lantana growing against much of the wall and a tree growing against the wall. The wall has one or more drains or pipe outlets. The Johnston residence at Waterview was shifted a few years ago a distance of a few hundred metres downstream. On a flat grassed area closed to the river are the remains of an old small boiler. This could be flood debris or it could be associated with the Waterview site.

Assessment of Significance

Almost nothing remains of what was Bundaberg's first sawmill and first industry. Logging and milling timber were the principal reasons for the establishment of Bundaberg; the sugar industry came a few years later. It is unclear whether this is part of the sugar mill or foundations which may have been common to both sugar mill and sawmill. Given the role of the saw mill in the establishment of Bundaberg this site, if confirmed, is significant under Criterion (a) for importance in determining cultural history of the region.

Recommendations

The site needs further investigation to establish what the remains are. The surrounding area needs archaeological investigation to determine if there are other remains of sawmill or sugar mill.

References

2. W.F. Morrison, Volume 2, unpaged.
Waterview Sawmill / Sugarmill Site

View of stone wall

View of remains of boiler of uncertain origin
Report on Site Visits

Custombuilt Furnishers

"shipping container"
to Waterview House (moved
100 metres
downstream
in 1989)

old cane
bin (semi-recent)

direction of
Bundaberg Foundry

edge of terrace

STONE WALL

Loose chain and hook

lantana

drain or
pipe outlet
tree growing
on side of wall

Wall c 450 mm
thick

Tree

edge of river flat

river flat

small old boiler

(910 mm or 36 inch diameter
2.1 metres long. Flood debris?)

two trees

WATERVIEW MILL
Sawmill / Sugar Mill Site
Scale 3 mm = 1 metre
3 : 1000

land slopes down to river level
(some scattered piles of rubble)

Mangrove Area

BURNETT RIVER
Monto Forestry District

Fleming's Mill, Builyan

Location

The site is reached from a short access road leading off the road from Builyan to Many Peaks as it leads out of Builyan. GPS 24 deg 32 min 2 sec S 151 deg 22 min 58 sec E.

Recommended Heritage Boundaries

Recommended boundaries are a those of a rectangle extending five metres in each direction from the remains of the former cypress mill. The existing mill is not included.

History

Builyan has been a sawmilling centre since the opening of the district with the Many Peaks mine and the building of the railway to Builyan and Many Peaks. Builyan was originally known as Nevertire and was to be the terminus of the line until it was decided to extend it across the ridge to Many Peaks where it opened later in 1910. Since the closure of the mine, sawmilling at Builyan at various mills has been the main local industry with the Parkside mill, a major mill, still in operation. Little is known of the history of this mill which, like the existing mill on this site, chiefly mills cypress pine for roofing trusses.

Site Description and Condition

The closed mill has only the remains of a roof structure and the mill was a simple one with breaking down saw and tramway and skids leading to a second tramway of narrower gauge and circular saw for cutting into the required dimensions and staging to store the product. Both saws were power by belt drive from a Leyland (6 cylinder) engine which is also still on site.

Assessment of Significance

Cypress mills are typical of western Queensland rather than south east Queensland as defined for this study. The cypress mills in the study zone are generally on the western fringes. Cypress mills were generally small operations, both because of the smaller log size and the lower density of trees which also made heavy investment at a fixed site less warranted, especially before modern motor transport. This mill being largely intact is a good example of the small cypress mill operation, which is also rapidly disappearing as milling is concentrated in fewer larger mills. The mill is a good example of its class (Criterion d) and a surviving almost intact example of what is rapidly becoming rare (criterion b).

Recommendations

The proximity of the working mill helps protect the site from theft and vandalism. There is no protection from the elements. Such protection is needed to permit this site to retain its heritage significance, and with suitable signage, convey the role of the cypress mill in this timber township.
Fleming’s Cypress Truss Mill, Builyan

General View of Operating Mill

General View of old mill with only truss of roof, resting on machinery
Fleming’s Cypress Truss Mill, Builyan

View of main saw, part of bench, power drive and one of skids

View of log carriage
FLEMING'S CYPRESS TRUSS MILL

BUILYAN

Layout sketch - not to scale

- Power pole and transformer

Working Cypress Truss Mill

Old Cypress Truss Mill

BUILYAN TOWNSHIP & to Bundaberg, Gladstone

N to Many Peaks
Report on Site Visits 305 John Kerr, January 1998

FLEWIN'S CYPRESS TRUSS MILL
(based)

B U I L D A N
Scale 3:200
(30mm=2metres)

Leyland engine
belt drive
to saws
6-cylinder

Radiator

760 mm gauge tramline

Saw
hoop (no saw)

Rollers
4-wheel carriage

Logs used as skids,
top of lofa 900 mm
above ground

Rail, about
42 pound per
yard as post to
support roof truss
(now half collapsed
roof gone)

Logs kept
sawn timber
off ground

Posts to
support roof trusses
Kalpowar Sawmill

Location

The sawmill site is at the junction of the Kalpowar-Many Peaks and Kalpowar-Bundaberg road, being the land in the north-east corner block formed by the road junction. GPS 24 deg 41 min 37 sec S, 151 deg 18 min 24 sec E.

Recommended Heritage Boundaries

The road frontages of the Kalpowar-Many Peaks and Kalpowar-Bundaberg roads, the creek and a line parallel to the Kalpowar-Bundaberg road 10 metres north of the machinery area included the portable boiler remains.

History

The sawmill as Kalpowar was an important part of the Kalpowar community for about three decades. The other main component was the Forestry Department. The proprietor was listed in 1949 as C.A. Purlds, and it had closed by 1982. It largely cut plantation pine thinnings for case timber. The mill was apparently powered by portable steam engine and was not modernised which led to its demise. The land on which it stood is now owned by Mrs Joan Price.

Site Description and Condition

The site is a collection of what was not found to be worth removing. There are posts, remains of boiler and engine foundations, wooden posts and fittings, in various stages of decay, and limited remains of machinery including the derelict and raided remains of a portable boiler and disused motor vehicles which may have been part of the enterprise.

Assessment of Significance

The sawmill was the principal enterprise of Kalpowar which was and is largely dependant on the timber industry for its existence. The mill was an example of the class of sawmills which were the mainstays of country communities and the derelict state of the remains shows greater evidence of the role of sawmilling and the nature of the enterprise than is commonly the case where sites have been cleaned up. The site has significance under Criterion (a) as sawmilling was a major determinant of the course of history in this district and under Criterion (d) as the remains of the class of country sawmill. The remains may reach the level required for significance given the rarity of more intact sites.

Recommendations

The site is in an advance stage of demolition and decay. Conservation work that helped control the decay process is probably the most that effectively could be done in conjunction with signs to explain the site and process of milling logs.

References

Kalpowar Sawmill

General view of sawmill site apparently showing sawdust pipe supports

General view of central section of sawmill looking south towards road

View of remains of portable boiler and engine apparently used to power sawmill
Ship's tank
old car
≈ c.1950
truck ruins
Portable steam boiler with cylinder housings on top of boiler (heavily scavenged)

Stumps of former building

Remains, concrete foundations, difficult to determine mill layout

Line of fence posts

KALPOWAR SAWMILL SITE

to Gin Gin

series of rising supports (rising towards creek) for sawdust pipe?

railway to Gladstone

to Many Peaks, Gladstone

to Gladstone

to town