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Name: Convict Coal Mines - Ruins

THR ID Number: 5,618

Address: 181 COAL MINE RD SALTWATER RIVER TAS 7186

Status: Permanently Registered

Municipality: Tasman Council

Tier: State

Listed: Yes

Locations:

| <u>Location Id</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Address</u> | |
|--------------------|--------------------|--|-----------------|
| 8,823 | PLANNO: CPR6037 | 181 COAL MINE RD SALTWATER RIVER 7186 TAS | |
| <u>Title Ref</u> | <u>Pid</u> | <u>Easting</u> | <u>Northing</u> |
| | 7339701 | 558,311.48 | 5,240,735.96 |



Title:
Untitled

Copyright:
None on file

Setting: Contributes significant layers to the landscape.



Title:
Untitled

Copyright:
None on file

Description: Archival plans illustrate a simple design of separate structures. The site measures approximately 60 x 75m and is today represented by a complex of stone and brick ruins, paths, ditches and a water hole.

Feature Type
Integrity:

No Data Recorded
The buildings at the convict coal mine site are in ruins.

Condition: No Data Recorded

Use:
Original or Significant Use(s): Governmental, Other
Current Use(s):

History:
Slopen Island housed a guard station since the opening of the Coal Mines in 1833. In mid 1841 the station changed its function to a probation station, thus representing one of the earliest probation stations on the Tasman Peninsula (Thompson 2003). The station was described as having a 'good and substantial cottage' for the Assistant Superintendent, but 'little or no attention had been paid to the cleanliness or comfort of the men' (Director of Probation Services quoted in Thompson 2003). In September 1843 the blacksmiths and carpenters bark shop were burnt down.
In mid 1844 convict numbers on the island had peaked to 176 men and the superintendent requested permission to abandon the station due to lack of water and remove the men to Wedge Bay. They were transferred in October of the same year. In September 1853, 151 men are recorded as still clearing, cultivating and building barracks on the island, presumably in brick and stone (Thompson 2003).

In 1862 there was a push to develop more government land. Mr Shoobridge, the agriculturist consultant appointed to inspect and report on the various convict farms, visited the island. He found about half 'in the possession of the government and half included in the land rented by the Coal Company'. The Coal Company had bought the Coal Mines from the government in 1848. According to Smith (1941) there was also a semaphore station on the island.

References:

| Author: | Publication Date: | Title: | Pages: |
|---------|-------------------|--------|--------|
|---------|-------------------|--------|--------|

ASSESSED HISTORICAL CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Statement of Significance: *(non-statutory summary)*

The Heritage Council may enter a place in the Heritage Register if it meets one or more of the following criteria from the Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995:

- a) **"It is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of Tasmania's history"**
- b) **"It demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of Tasmania's heritage"**
The Coal Mines Ruins are of historic heritage significance as a remnant from a rare process associated with the convict period, it therefore demonstrates a rare aspect of Tasmania's heritage.
- c) **"It has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Tasmania's history"**
These ruins are part of the Saltwater River Convict Coal Mines. They therefore have the potential to contribute to a greater understanding of Tasmania's history.
- d) **"It is important as a representative in demonstrating the characteristics of a broader class of cultural places"**
- e) **"It is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement"**
- f) **"It has strong or special meaning for any group or community because of social, cultural or spiritual associations"**
This site is of historic heritage significance because its landscape associations are regarded as important to the community's sense of place.
- g) **"It has a special association with the life or work of a person, a group or an organisation that was important in Tasmania's history"**

PLEASE NOTE This datasheet is intended to provide sufficient information and justification for listing the place on the Heritage Register. It is not intended to be a comprehensive historical record or inventory of the heritage values of the place.

Assessed by: Pre-2007 THR legacy data 12 June 2008

Cleared by: DS / DR [date]