



103 Macquarie Street (GPO Box 618)

Hobart Tasmania 7001

Phone: 1300 850 332 (local call cost) | 6233 2037

Fax: 6233 3186 | Email: enquiries@heritage.tas.gov.au

Web: www.heritage.tas.gov.au

Name: Maria Island

THR ID Number: 1,531

Address:

Status: Permanently Registered

Municipality: Glamorgan-Spring Bay Council

Tier: State

Listed: Yes

Locations:



Title:

Untitled

Copyright:

None on file

Setting: Maria Island is located off the east coast of Tasmania. The whole island is declared a National Park, and is covered largely by dry sclerophyll coastal forest. The island comprises of two areas of land joined by a narrow isthmus vegetated by low coastal shrub. Maria Island National Park has a total area of approximately 11,500 hectares which includes the marine reserved area of 1878 ha surrounding the north-eastern portion of the island. The northern area of Maria Island is the more mountainous, with prominent peaks including Mount Maria and Bishop and Clerk. Most built elements on Maria Island are situated at either Darlington or Point Lesueur and present as both ruins and complete buildings within the largely natural landscape. The Darlington Precinct comprises a large area of cleared land, on the north-eastern point of the island. Some mature exotic plantings survive within this area, including macrocarpa and radiata pines and fig trees. Point Lesueur which contains the ruins of a probation station is located on the south-western tip of the northern part of the island. The whaling remains at Whalers Cove are situated on the banks of Montgomerys Creek. Ile du Nord is located 0.6 km north of Maria Island, and is largely a cleared island of native grasses. The remaining historic features are scattered across the island and include farm houses, sheds, fences and ruins associated with all phases of the islands occupation.



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Untitled

Copyright:

None on file

Description: Maria Island demonstrates multiple historical themes with a rich layering of activity and history. Evidence of each layer dating from early European settlement is evident in the remaining elements of the place today. Features of heritage significance on Maria Island vary from footings to complete structures, archaeological features and planted elements. A large proportion of elements date from the convict period, with some dating from subsequent phases of the islands history, including the industrial activities of the Bernacchi family, and later free occupation of the island. Evidence of early exploration - The burial place of Rene Mauge is located at the southern end of Shoal Bay, at Point Mauge. Known areas of interactions between Aboriginal inhabitants and the European visitors in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries include the coastal margin of Shoal Bay, from Goldings Reef to Point Mauge. First Convict Phase - Darlington: At Darlington existing structures are set among pasture and exotic plantings. These include: The Commissariat Store - the oldest remaining building, Old Colonial Georgian style, two-storey dolerite and limestone, with a medium pitched hipped roof clad with AC tiles. The building has a symmetrical faade, with large entrance doors in both the west and eastern faades; Penitentiary a single-storey brick building with a post convict addition verandah. The building has 12 main rooms. Also remaining from this period are the elements of cemetery, duck pond, dam, mill lead and reservoir and footings of the first Commandants residence. The cemetery, surrounded by a picket fence and with 16 marked burials, is situated north of the main settlement. The convict cemetery is said to be located near to the brickfields at Bernacchis Creek (Godden Mackay 1997:7). Whaling Stations: The remains of whaling stations at Whalers Cove are extensive and well defined. They include stone rubble foundations and brick chimney butts of an oil store or boat shed, and trypot bases where blubber was rendered down to make oil. The place includes a residential precinct of at least six huts, and a well-built larger hut located further to the south. Remains of the whaling station on the south-western side of the Ile du Nord consist of three stone features that appear to be trypot bases. A further three rectangular shaped depressions adjacent to the beach have been interpreted as boat storage areas (Nash 2003:151-2). Second Convict Phase - Darlington: Remaining buildings and ruins from the second phase of operations at Darlington include: Millers Cottage and Mill Foundations built as a symmetrical, single-storey Old Colonial Georgian building of two rooms, with a medium-pitched hipped roof clad in corrugated iron, with external chimney. This building was modified during the industrial period of the island; Religious Instructors Quarters (ruin) one of a pair of buildings constructed as part of the new hospital complex; Officers Quarters, Smith OBriens Quarters and Clergymans Quarters a row of conjoined cottages with separate pitched roofs and rear skillions; Chapel/Dayroom a single storey Old Colonial Georgian building with no internal space division; Cookhouse and Bread store the cookhouse was used as accommodation during the industrial period and was later demolished. The Bread store was converted into public toilets in 1971; Visiting Magistrates and Superintendents Offices - a single storey brick building with a weatherboard extension to the rear. Building originally had a hipped roof, but has been altered to a gable roof with verandah. Post -convict era, this building was used as a post office and store; Visiting Magistrates Quarters is evident in ruined form under the foundations beneath what is known as Ruby Hunts House; Convict Barn this building forms a prominent place on the hillside to the north of the main complex. Remnants include a steam shovel, a steam pump and other pieces of machinery, located outside the barn. The barn is constructed of patterned brickwork with circular vents. Assistant Superintendents Quarters and Senior Assistant Superintendents Quarters are two single story Old Colonial Georgian cottages which were joined during the Bernacchi period by a central dining room which is now a ruin. Mess Hall an annexe was later added to this building. Bakehouse and clothing store this building still retains a complete oven and original floor. Oast House/Hop Kilns (Knaggs 2006b:4-7). Materials used in the construction of these buildings are diverse, including brick, stone and timber, and are thought to reflect their date and function. The condition of these buildings varies from poor to reasonable. The Millers Cottage and barn are in quite sound condition (Godden Mackay 1995:38). A stone quarry is evident on the foreshore between Darlington and Point Lesueur (Knaggs 2006b:2). Point Lesueur Remains from the second phase of convict operations at Point Lesueur include the ruins of the old separate apartment cells, and the embankments from two stepped courtyards (Knaggs 2006: 6&8). The separate apartments consisted of 21 cells constructed in brick with timber roofs covered by rubble and soil (Knaggs 2006b:7). Other remains at Point Lesueur include an old barn and mill ruins. Bernacchi and Industrial Periods The main structures from the industrial periods of the Darlington area include: Coffee Palace built in the Victorian style as a symmetrical building with hipped and gabled roof forms, corbelled chimneys and verandah with slender timber posts and brackets. Windows are double hung sashes, and doors are panelled; The workmans cottage a small single story T-shaped brick residence; Engineers House an extensive ruin including two large chimneys, gate posts, drainage culverts, and outbuilding remnants; Bernacchis cement works consisting initially of two vaulted chambers and a two storey section to the west (later modified); Bernacchis terraces two rows of three single

storey, brick conjoined houses of Victorian style, with arched openings and corbelled chimneys. These cottages also have decorative mouldings on the verandahs, architraves and barge boards. The verandahs were reconstructed post 1976 when major restoration work was completed on the ruinous cottages. The second industrial period had the most impact upon the island at Darlington, though much was demolished in the 1970s. Buildings that remain from the second period of industrial activity include: The reinforced concrete silos; Schoolmasters House (Godden Mackay 1995:39); The ruins of Adkins House which was destroyed by fire in 2001. Pastoral, and Other, Activities - Other remnants dating from various periods of the islands history include a dam, mill race, flume, footings of the gaol and barracks, roads, tramways, bridge abutments, footpaths, jetty remnants, embankments of courtyards and cement works structures. In Darlington, structures associated with pastoral activities include: Stockyard and shearing shed; Cart Shed; Hopground Beach Cottage. All these are timber structures. Evidence of the Dunbabins farm exists at Point Lesueur, through the remains of fencing, concrete slabs, brick scatters, and mature macrocarpa trees, which would have served as a windbreak. Other farms and homestead ruins exist throughout the island, though these do not meet the criteria for entry in the Tasmanian Heritage Register. Remains of other farms on the island include Frenchs Farm and Robeys Farm, existing as modest homesteads. A woolshed exists at Frenchs Farm. Plantings: Exotic species contribute to the historic character and history of the island, including the existence of cypress and poplar avenues at Darlington, as well as radiata pines at both Darlington and Point Lesueur. Collections: A number of moveable cultural heritage items are located in and around some of Darlingtons buildings, including agricultural and industrial equipment (Knaggs 2006b:11).

<i>Feature Type</i>	No Data Recorded
<i>Integrity:</i>	Predominantly intact convict

<i>Condition:</i>	No Data Recorded
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Use:	
<i>Original or Significant Use(s):</i>	Recreation
<i>Current Use(s):</i>	

History:

Early European Exploration - With an abundant supply of water, game and shellfish, Maria Island formed part of the land of the

Tyreddeme people of the Oyster Bay tribe for thousands of years. Abel Tasman in 1642 was the first European explorer to note the island. He named it Marias Eylandt, in honour of the wife of Van Diemen, the Governor-General of the Dutch East India Company. The island was subsequently visited by a number of explorers, including Marion du Fresne (1771), Tobias Furneaux (1773), John Henry Cox (1789), Nicholas Baudin (1802) and James Kelly (1816).

In 1789 explorers Cox and Baudin, landed small parties which made detailed observations of the island. Both expeditions came into contact with the Tyreddeme people.

On his voyage in 1789, Cox, Lieutenant George Mortimer and the ships second mate went ashore into a bay on the western side of the islands isthmus and named it Oyster Bay (Ludeke 2001:9). This was later changed to Shoal Bay. In 1802 Nicholas Baudin sent a party to circumnavigate Maria Island in order to make observations of the island, its soil, temperatures and inhabitants. Surveyor Boullanger named many of the features of Maria Island at this time. On the night of 20 February 1802, Boullanger, zoologist Franois Pron and assistant helmsman Maurouard went onshore Point Lesueur for the night. However, the presence of Aboriginal people forced them further into Oyster Bay. At 11:00 pm that night Rene Mauge, the ships surgeon and zoologist passed away. The following day he was buried ashore, between two casuarinas and two eucalypts, and a lead plaque was placed on the spot. The place of his burial is now known as Point Mauge, at the southern end of Shoal Bay (Ludeke 2001:10-11). Accounts of these early expeditions, particularly those of Coxs 1789 expedition and Baudins 1802 expedition, document friendly interactions with the Aboriginal people of Maria Island. The First Convict Period

In 1825 a penal settlement at Darlington was established by Lieutenant-Governor Arthur for convicts who committed offences in the colony, but whose crimes were not of so flagrant a nature that they should be banished to Macquarie Harbour (Knaggs 2006:3). Darlington provided a good anchorage, accessible shore, fresh water and a sheltered site. In March of that year, a small party of soldiers and 50 male prisoners arrived at the island. At first, both prisoners and officers were housed in log and bark huts, or tents. From 1825 onwards more permanent buildings were constructed under the direction of a new Commandant, Major Thomas Lord, using bricks made on the island and sandstone excavated from the sea cliffs at Howells Point (Knaggs 2006:3). The Commandants residence was

constructed on a hillside overlooking Darlington, though remaining at a distance from it (Godden Mackay 1991:12). Convict numbers on the island were not large during the first phase of operations, and it is thought they perhaps never exceeded the 1828 figures of 145 prisoners (Knaggs 2006:3). A military establishment included a sergeant, a corporal and 15 privates. In 1831, Thomas Lempriere was appointed the islands new storekeeper (Ludeke 2001:21-23). Major Lord, the islands Commandant, emphasised the importance of engaging convicts in skill acquiring activities (Ludeke 2001:23). Convicts were involved in industries including blanket and shoe making, tanning, timber cutting, sawing wood, tailoring, building, weaving cloth, quarrying and pottery. Land was cleared for cultivation, and brick making activities started further up Bernacchis Creek valley. After 1831 quarrying for lime began on the island (Godden Mackay 1991:13). Timber from the island was in demand, especially by the Government for making tables and chairs.

Also during this period, sandstone was cut from a quarry near Point Lesueur, and what is thought to have been the first cultivation of hops in Tasmania occurred. A stone jetty was also constructed during this time. The island became notorious for convicts escaping by rafts or bark canoes. A number perished or gave themselves up, while a few (including George Lacey a survivor of Bradys gang) ended life on the gallows (Knaggs 2006:4). The frequent escape attempts led to the decision, in 1832, to abandon the settlement.

Following the closure of the settlement, the land was resumed for sheep grazing on Government leases, whaling and other activities. Whaling and Sealing - In the early 1800s whalers and sealers constructed huts on Maria Island and the Ile du Nord. Sealing

gangs were operating in Oyster Bay as early as 1805. Whalers including George Meredith and Thomas Lucas established temporary camps in the winter months in the 1820s and 30s. In 1833, George Meredith and his son Charles operated a whaling station at Darlington, on the northern end of Maria Island. In 1834 this lease was taken over by Mr Goffe and Charles Seal. This station appears to have been run in conjunction with a farming operation (Nash 2003:151). Three years later, part of the lease was let to Thomas Lucas. Lucas also established a station in partnership with Richard Radcliffe at Ile Du Nord (Nash 2003:103-4). There are no remains at Darlington from this time, with the site thereafter being heavily impacted. In 1836 Thomas Lucas and Richard Radcliffe established their station at Ile du Nord. Remains on the south-western side of the island consist of three stone features that appear to be trypot bases. It is possible that the whaling party resided at Darlington (Nash 2003:151). A whaling station at Whalers Cove to the southeast of the north island of Maria is thought have been established as early as 1825. It is assumed that the station was closed during the first convict period, until 1833, but may have been reopened by 1837 when Thomas Lucas leased the eastern side of Maria Island from Charles Seal (Nash 2003:151). The site lies on the banks of Montgomerys Creek and is extensive and well defined. In 1838 on a visit to Darlington Lady Franklin noted that: the shores of the little settlement bay are strewn with whale blubber and bones The smell of the whale blubber and the still worse smell of putridity from the sea-weed made our walk along the sands to and from the dwelling house anything but agreeable (Knaggs 2006:2). With the reopening of the probation station at Maria Island in 1842, all whaling stations were warned off. Two constables used a former whaling station at Haunted Bay near the southern tip where buildings were still standing, to prevent illegal landings by whalers. The last mention of whaling at Maria Island is in 1851, when William Bennett and James Kelly both unsuccessfully applied for leases at Reidle Bay (Nash 2003:104). The Second Convict Period - Darlington: From 1842, the second phase of convict settlement began with probation stations established at

Darlington and at Point Lesueur. The reopening was stimulated by the rise in convict numbers in Van Diemens Land, and

the introduction of the new system of probation (Godden Mackay 1991:13). Buildings from the first convict phase at Darlington were reused for the second phase of operations. However, overcrowding and ill-adapted buildings presented themselves as constant problems (Knaggs 2006:5). A major building program was initiated, and most of the structures on the island today date from this period of activity (Godden Mackay 1991:13). Clear separation was evident in the layout of the settlement, with the offices and officers quarters at some distance from the muster yard (Godden Mackay 1991:13). By the end of 1844 there were 627 convicts at Darlington, with agriculture being the main activity. At the end of 1846, five New Zealand Maoris were imprisoned on the island for open rebellion against the Queen. One of these prisoners, Hohepa Te Umuroa, died on the island and was buried in the cemetery until his remains were repatriated to New Zealand in 1988. His headstone remains. The other Maoris returned to their homeland in March 1848 (Knaggs 2006:7). This period of operation saw a considerable expansion into other parts of the island. Nearest to Darlington, the northern end of the island was used for farming. A large barn, a mill and millers cottage, were constructed (Godden Mackay 1991:14). To the south of Darlington, an oast house and hop gardens were extended. In 1847, a total of 367 acres of crops were grown at Darlington, including wheat, potatoes, hops, turnip, flax and vegetables (Ludeke 2001:29). In 1847 Darlington was cleared of all convicts to receive 369 prisoners, almost direct from England, under a new development in the convict system known as Task Work (Knaggs 2006:8). The Irish political prisoner, William Smith O'Brien, was sent to the island in November 1849. O'Brien had been convicted of high treason. Early in 1850, it was proposed to break up the station and numbers declined until the convict occupation of Maria Island was virtually over by the end of the year (Knaggs 2006:8). The Darlington Probation Station was considered the best situated and best arranged Station in Tasmania (LaTrobe, 1846/7). Point Lesueur: The Long Point (now Point Lesueur) probation station was established as a substantial independent outpost of Darlington, linked by road. In 1846 it accommodated up to 336 men. Separate cells were constructed at Point Lesueur in 1842, designed to keep the prisoners separated at night and at meal times. The cells were used for the more hardened criminals or those suspected of homosexual activity. Other buildings constructed at Long Point included accommodation for 11 officers, huts for the convicts, separate apartments, a mess room/schoolroom/church, hospital, a windmill, stores, barn and farm (Knaggs 2006:6-8). The main activity of this station was agriculture (Ludeke 2001:26). In 1847 crops included wheat, hay, turnips, potatoes, vegetables, barley, and flax, covering nearly all of the Point. In addition, 2300 sheep were maintained. Due to a lack of good water and the poor quality of buildings, the Long Point station was closed in 1850. The Bernacchi Period: After the closure of the probation station on Maria Island, various parts of the island were leased over the next 30 years for agricultural purposes. In 1884 Italian entrepreneur, Angelo Giulio Diego Bernacchi, became enchanted with the island and was granted lease for the purposes of sericulture (silk farming) and winegrowing at Darlington.

He moved to the island with his wife and young children. A colourful character, Bernacchi spoke several languages, and was a popular, charming and benevolent employer. His company added farming and grazing, fruit growing and cement making to its enterprises. By 1888 Darling, renamed San Diego, was a boom town of about 250 people of a dozen nationalities. It had a school, shops, butcher, baker, blacksmith, shoemaker, and post office. Bernacchi was appointed a Justice of the

Peace, and in 1889-92 served as a municipal councillor at Spring Bay (Weidenhofer 1979: 274-275). By October 1886 thousands of vines were planted with the help of employees housed on the site. Hundreds of mulberry plants were also thriving (Knaggs 2006:9).

In 1888, the island was also transformed into a pleasure resort and sanatorium, with the opening of the Grand Hotel. Ruins of the hotel include chimney stacks and outbuilding surfaces. Also constructed in the Bernacchi period were the coffee palace, a row of workers cottages known as the 12 Apostles, and the Bernacchis terraces. Other existing buildings from the convict period were adapted to house workers, managers and shops. At this time, the northern end of the island was used for agricultural purposes, with two small vineyards planted on the north-facing slopes. In 1892 the Maria Island Company went into liquidation. Bernacchi built and lived in a house at Point Lesueur, while his daughter lived in a house one kilometre to the southeast (Kintail). Only footings of these houses remain. During this period, a number of buildings were constructed in connection with farming enterprises, mainly on the western side of the island and a small pastoral community became established. After a new cement company of Bernacchis failed, his family left for Melbourne, and later London.

Following Bernacchis departure, tourists visited the island, where Mrs Adkins ran a boarding house in the old Coffee Palace.

The Industrial Period: During the 1920s-30s, a second industrial era occurred at Maria Island, exploiting the limestone deposits of the island. A small cement company was registered. By 1923, more than 150 men were employed at Darlington with National Portland Cement Ltd (Knaggs 2006:10). A new pier, additional buildings and infrastructure were constructed, including a 200ft high chimney stack of reinforced concrete, and a railway line between the works and the limestone deposits. The cement works were opened in 1924, as a massive industrial complex, technologically in advance of any in the southern hemisphere (Godden Mackay 1991:15). The slip-formed chimney stack demonstrated the first use of this process in the State. This chimney was demolished in 1971. The township was revitalised, with approximately 500 residents. Existing Darlington buildings were adapted for re-use, including the Penitentiary, Mess Room, Visiting Magistrates and Superintendents Office, and the Coffee Palace. Darlington received electricity supply and a reticulated water system. Social and sports clubs sprang up, dances were held and the old chapel was used as a cinema. A school was erected for the employees children. (Knaggs 2006: 10-11). By 1930 coal and cement production had ceased, troubled by a number of problems, including high costs of transport. Other Activities: Maria Island has been home to a small farming and fishing community at various times since the 1830s. In the 1860s-70s, Thomas Dunbabin ran sheep and cattle on the island, living at Point Lesueur. Chinamans Bay received its name due to a small number of Chinese abalone fishermen who were active in the 1870s. The Chinese fishermen supplied abalone to the Chinese on the Victorian goldfields, and possibly overseas (Godden Mackay 1991:14). After the closure of the cement works, the population of the

island dwindled. Some stayed on to run sheep and cattle, and to fish. These families included the South African, John Robey, at South Maria, and the French and McRae families of Chinamans Bay and Point Lesueur. Darlington was largely occupied by the Howell family (Knaggs 2006:12). The farm buildings of this period reflect the less affluent families who occupied Maria Island as a pastoral area (Godden Mackay 1991:16). A National Park: In the early 1960s the Government, realising the potential of the island as a reserve of historic and natural importance, established a Fauna Reserve on the island. In 1968 the first ranger was appointed to Maria (Godden Mackay 1991:16). In 1971 Maria Island was declared a sanctuary under the Animals and Birds Protection Board. Species considered to be under threat were imported to the island, including Cape Barren Geese, Forester Kangaroos, Emus and Flinders Island wombats. From 1971, the Government began acquiring properties and in 1972 the island was declared a national park with the National Parks and Wildlife Service assuming responsibility. Sheep grazing was continued until 1981 under a lease arrangement (Godden Mackay 1991:16). Since that time, a series of conservation works have been implemented on the island, including the Conservation Plan produced in 1992.

References:

Author:	Publication Date:	Title:	Pages:
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ASSESSED HISTORICAL CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

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

Maria Island exhibits many different layers of human occupation and activities. Aboriginal people occupied the land for thousands of years before European exploration and early whaling and sealing exploits. The era of European exploration also provides an insight into contact history and race relations. Two convict periods demonstrate aspects of the penal system and probation stations within Tasmania in the nineteenth century. Darlington is a rare example of an intact convict probation station.

Evidence exists of whaling stations at Whalers Cove and the Ile du Nord. There is evidence of the Bernacchi family's attempts to establish various industries on the island, ranging from sericulture (silk farming), wine making and fruit growing to farming, grazing and a cement works. More recent history of National Park and fauna management contribute to the historical significance of this place, illustrating aspects of environmental philosophy and ideology. Maria Island has considerable social value for those who visit there, enjoying its natural elements combined with cultural features. Maria Island is also of significance for its association with many notable people, among them, early explorers, whalers, Italian entrepreneur Diego Bernacchi, William Smith O'Brien, Maori prisoners of war, Lady Jane Franklin, as well as the convicts who were sent there.

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"***

An overlay of change is evident at Maria Island, with layers of history transposed onto an existing place, including the early exploration, convict periods, whaling, industrial periods, pastoral activities, and management as a National Park. The social structure, history and development of Maria Island are illustrated through this range of periods of use and occupation. Maria Island is of historic cultural heritage significance as a place of known and documented early friendly exchanges between the local Aboriginal inhabitants and European explorers, particularly those of Cox's 1789 expedition and Baudin's 1802 expedition. Darlington demonstrates important aspects of the British strategy of convict transportation to Australia. It remains as a relatively intact nineteenth century convict probation station, retaining a high level of ability to illustrate this phase in Tasmania's history. Through its use during two different periods of convict administration the island, particularly at Darlington, illustrates the changes in the convict system during the nineteenth century, including aspects of punishment and reform. As a place of incarceration for Maori prisoners and Irish exile, Smith O'Brien, Darlington is also indicative of British policies for the removal and isolation of prisoners involved in political conflict with the imperial powers. As a collection, the buildings and ruins of both Darlington and Point Lesueur are an important reminder of the convict period. The industrial and Bernacchi periods of the island are of significance for their continuation of the story of development and evolution at Maria Island. The Bernacchi occupation and development of Darlington also remains as an early illustration of entrepreneurial enterprises of an Italian immigrant in Tasmania. The Ile du Nord and Whalers Cove are of historic cultural heritage significance as they demonstrate aspects of early nineteenth century whaling stations, an important historical theme within Tasmania's past, contributing much to the social and economic circumstances of the State. The later use of the island by a small farming community continues to portray the story of Maria Island as an evolving place with multiple layers of history. The later period of conservation of natural and cultural values at Maria Island documents changing values and attitudes of society, towards an environmental ethic and philosophy in the mid-to-late twentieth century.

b) ***"It demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of Tasmania's heritage"***

Maria Island is of historic cultural heritage significance as a rare example of a probation system which retains a high degree of integrity and intactness, with Darlington one of the most intact convict probation stations remaining in Tasmania. Maria Island (including the Ile du Nord) is a rare place where such an extent of the layering of history has occurred and remains evident through the physical and tangible relics today, including its use as a penal station over two different phases and at two different locations on the island, as a place of whaling stations, for early exploration and documented interactions with Aboriginal people, as a place of industrial enterprise, and pastoral and residential activity. Its geography as an island further emphasises this unique quality of the place, and acts to isolate Maria Island as a place of conservation and preservation, largely devoid of modern intrusions.

c) ***"It has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Tasmania's history"***

Maria Island has the ability to yield information which will contribute to a greater understanding of Tasmania's history. In particular, Maria Island has visible archaeological features of the early convict phase as well as subsurface occupational deposits of this and later phases of occupation. The Maria Island cemetery has research value as an index to the social and religious history of the place. Whaling stations, established at Whalers Cove and Ile du Nord are of significance for their ability to yield further information in relation to the social and technological aspects of whaling in the nineteenth century.

d) ***"It is important as a representative in demonstrating the characteristics of a broader class of cultural places"***

Maria Island demonstrates the principle characteristics of a nineteenth century penal and probation station. These characteristics are evident in the group of buildings and structures that remain Darlington and Point Lesueur. These structures include, at Darlington, the penitentiary, assistant superintendents quarters, chapel and religious buildings. At Point Lesueur, the ruins of the separate apartment cells have the ability to demonstrate a probation station.

A number of buildings at Darlington are demonstrative of architectural values including the Old Colonial Georgian and Victorian styles of architecture. These buildings include the Commissariat Store and Millers Quarters. Whalers Cove at Maria Island demonstrates aspects of a nineteenth century whaling station. In particular, the extensive remains at this station retain a relatively high level of integrity of the temporary structures and associated works that were established at many whaling stations along the States coastline. In particular, this place has the ability to demonstrate workers huts, a headmans residence, shed, slips and tryworks.

e) ***"It is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement"***

Elements associated with the industrial period at Darlington demonstrate a high degree of technical achievement. In particular, the reinforced concrete structures at Darlington were the first in Tasmania and were technologically advanced for their time. These were also among the largest complexes of reinforced concrete industrial buildings of their time.

f) ***"It has strong or special meaning for any group or community because of social, cultural or spiritual associations"***

Maria Island is the focus of social sentiment. Darlington has strong social values because of the recreational opportunities it offers to a wide spectrum of the community. The islands structures have education value illustrating the past uses of the island. Darlington has special social value for specific community groups, including fishermen and the Italian community. The place also has a long tradition as an island escape for Tasmanians.

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"***

For thousands of years, Maria Island formed part of the land of the Tyreddeme people of the Oyster Bay tribe. European explorers and early settlers have also layered the island with special meanings and associations. Among the former are Abel Tasman, Marion du Fresne, John Henry Cox, Tobias Furneaux, Nicholas Baudin and James Kelly. Maria Island is of historic cultural heritage significance for its association with convicts in the nineteenth century, through the men who were sentenced to serve there. The Darlington area is of significance for its association with political prisoner William Smith O'Brien and the Maori prisoners of war, including Hohepa Te Umuroa, who died there and whose headstone still stands at Darlington. The Italian entrepreneur, Diego Bernacchi, who developed silk and wine making industries at Darlington between 1884 and 1892 is another notable figure associated with Maria Island.

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
eguerzoni 21 July 2008

Cleared by: DS / DR [date]