



REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES - ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in November 1996 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 3.3.4 Making forests into a saleable resource

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 110 Resource exploitation and depletion
- 112 Technology and technological change
- 304 Timber industry

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

The remaining section of stone construction flue at *Davies Park and Foundry Chimney* is a finely constructed piece of Victorian industrial architecture. (Criterion 1.1)

The remaining section of the stone construction flue, stone construction oven, and cast donkey engine at *Davies Park and Foundry Chimney*, although not readily perceived as a collection in the landscape, form a significant cultural environment of industrial structure ruins. (Criterion 1.4)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Davies Park and Foundry Chimney is significant in the development of the karri timber industry in the South-West of the State. (Criterion 2.1)

Davies Park and Foundry Chimney was an integral part of MC Davies' pioneering karri timber milling business in the South-West in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. (Criterion 2.2)

Davies Park and Foundry Chimney is closely associated with MC Davies and his family, whose company founded and developed the place, and after whom the site is now named. The place is also associated with Millars' Karri and Jarrah Company, which owned and operated the mill following the amalgamation of 1902. (Criterion 2.3)

* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, Richard; Irving, Robert and Reynolds, Peter *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus & Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

Davies Park and Foundry Chimney is significant as the site of the timber mill which was at the forefront of the development of the karri timber industry in the South-West in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The stone foundry chimney is significant as the only prominent built structure remaining at the site, and as a rare extant example of the construction of such chimneys as part of a timber milling complex in the late nineteenth century. (Criterion 2.4)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

The site has archeological potential for revealing information about the conduct of timber milling in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. (Criterion 3.2)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Davies Park and Foundry Chimney is highly valued by the community of Augusta-Margaret River as evidence of an important part of the history of the Shire, and by the wider community of Western Australia and Australia for its important role in the history of the timber industry. Its inclusion in the Municipal Heritage Inventory of the Shire, its classification by the National Trust, Interim Registration on the State Register of Heritage Places, and its entry on the Register of the National Estate are evidence of its significance. (Criterion 4.1)

Davies Park and Foundry Chimney contributes to the community's sense of place as the surviving remains of the once thriving timber mill and mill town of Karridale and as commemorated in the naming of the place as Davies Park after M. C. Davies and his family. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

The remaining evidence of the industrial processes at *Davies Park and Foundry Chimney* are amongst the few remaining of their type and therefore has rarity value. (Criterion 5.1)

Davies Park and Foundry Chimney is representative of late nineteenth and early twentieth century timber milling which employed methods that are no longer practised and is a fragile remnant of these processes. (Criterion 5.2)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

The remaining evidence of the industrial processes at *Davies Park and Foundry Chimney*, although only a fragment, are representative of late nineteenth and early twentieth century timber milling processes. (Criterion 6.1 and 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

The remaining evidence is in a fair state of repair. Some attempts have been made to conserve the place. These efforts have not detracted from the values of the place. However, there have been no recent maintenance works and the landscape setting and remaining structures are in need of conservation.

12.4 INTEGRITY

There are only fragments of the whole complex remaining, so that the original intent is not discernible without interpretation. The place is now used as a park and all the evidence indicates that it is not used frequently. The place could be conserved as a ruin for interpretative purposes. The integrity of the place is low to moderate.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

Most of the fabric of the mill has been removed, leaving the remnants included in this assessment. The remaining fabric is in its original state, albeit incomplete, so that the remaining fabric retains a high degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Robin Chinnery, Historian. The physical evidence has been compiled by Philip Griffiths, Architect.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Davies Park and Foundry Chimney is the site of the once thriving timber mill, of which the stone foundry chimney built in c. 1883 is the only surviving prominent built structure.

In 1878, Maurice Coleman Davies was granted a licence to cut timber at Coodardup (near Karridale), which was well situated in relation to Flinders and Hamelin Bays for the shipping of the cut timber.¹ In 1875, Davies, a contractor in Adelaide, had visited Western Australia to inspect the timber industry.² He bought shares in the Jarrahdale and Rockingham Timber Co., before establishing two small timber mills at Worsley, near Collie.³ He recognised that the essential needs for a successful operation were for the timber mill to be located near a good harbour, and provision of a railway line with iron rails to service the mill.⁴

In 1881, Davies built his first mill at Coodardup.⁵ The mill employed 100 men and operated 24 hours a day.⁶ In September 1881, it was reported that a 3'6" gauge railway was being laid to Hamelin Bay, to connect the coast with the locality of Boranup.⁷ In 1882, work was commenced on a jetty at Flinders Bay, also connected by rail to Boranup, and a jetty was built at Hamelin Bay, providing Davies' operations with alternative ports for shipment of timber.⁸

In 1882, the Coodardup mill was dismantled, and transported to a new mill site, at Karridale. The new mill was larger, and doubled the capacity of the old. The site selected for the mill had an ample supply of water, and the mill was built in the shelter of a thickly wooded hillside, affording protection from north-westerly gales in winter. Accommodation was built, and other

¹ Mills, Jenny *The Timber People: A History of Bunnings Limited* (Bunnings Limited, Perth, 1986) p. 8.

² *ibid*; and Cresswell, Gail *The Light of Leeuwin: The Augusta-Margaret River Shire History* (The Augusta-Margaret River Shire History Group, Margaret River, 1990) pp. 74-79.

³ *ibid*.

⁴ *ibid*, p. 79.

⁵ Cresswell, Gail *op. cit.*, p. 79.

⁶ *ibid*, pp. 79-80.

⁷ In *ibid*, p. 80.

⁸ *ibid*.

buildings associated with the timber mill, including workshops and foundry.⁹ Soon the mill and a town were established.

On 1 October 1882, Davies was granted an additional concession of 46,000 acres, for 42 years at an annual rental of £150. He was also granted the right to select eight 50 acre blocks at 10s. per acre, and 20 acres at Hamelin Bay. In 1883, Davies purchased further land grants in the district. Davies was very active in the promotion of the Western Australian timber karri in Australia and internationally, and pioneered the karri industry.¹⁰

In 1896-97, Davies travelled to London to arrange public flotation of the company, MC Davies Karri and Jarrah Company Ltd., for which the prospectus was released on 19 October 1897.¹¹

By 1897, the population of Karridale had grown to 600, with accommodation provided in company houses and single-men's accommodation, the company office, store, workshop, foundry, and Post Office had been built. There were sports grounds and a race course. Karridale was renowned for the conditions offered to workers, with free accommodation provided, wages were stable and incentives were offered, fresh food supplies were readily available including produce from market gardens established by Davies, and the company's stores provided a wide range of goods.¹²

M. C. Davies Jarrah & Karri Co., Ltd. Karri & Jarrah Timbers describes the company's operations c. 1899, and the town of Karridale, which by that date boasted a population of 800. There were good roads 'throughout the estate and to neighbouring towns', 40 miles of railway, schools, public halls, a library, and a church and rectory.¹³ The company was also operating timber mills at Boranup and Jarrahdene, and had freehold and leasehold of over 168,000 acres. Karridale was the heart of the company's operations, and the foundry and workshops played an essential part. Photographs in this booklet do not show the mill at Karridale; however there is a photograph of the mill at Boranup, showing a large stone chimney in the rear ground, which has some similarities to the remnant stone foundry chimney at the place.¹⁴

In 1901, May Vivienne described Karridale:

There is a good post-office ... Many of the employees have pretty gardens by their cottages, which are dotted about the bush in most picturesque fashion. The single men have rows of cottages to themselves, and there is a large dining-room built for their use ... and as house-rent is free, and there are no rates or taxes to pay, this seems to me a paradise for the working community. A large store adjoins the office ... There is a nice hall for entertainments ... A handsome little church has just been

⁹ Note: previous assessments by the National Trust, and based thereon those in the State Register, the Register of the National Estate and Municipal Inventory, have stated the foundry was built in the 1890s. However, in view of the way in which the mill was developed and the need for foundry, smithy, and workshops from the early period to meet the requirements of the mill, logging, and railway operations, and on the basis of comparison with the development of Davies' mill at Boranup, it is more likely that the foundry was built in c. 1883.

¹⁰ *ibid.*

¹¹ *ibid.*, p. 110. Note: the town was at its peak in the period 1897-1900.

¹² *ibid.*, pp. 80-82.

¹³ *M. C. Davies Karri & Jarrah Co., Ltd. Karri & Jarrah Timbers* (Wedekind & Co., London).

¹⁴ *ibid.*

built ... Moreover, there is the unusual institution of a hospital for horses, of which there are two hundred in the place. A hospital for the people is being built¹⁵

She recorded 'All the latest improvements are to be found at Karridale, electric lighting and a telephone service running to the port and to the lighthouse at Cape Leeuwin'; and there were two market gardens and orchards, and 300 bullocks on the estate.¹⁶

MC Davies had been the first person to introduce karri to the timber markets of the world; and by 1901 the timber was being exported to England, China, India, Egypt, South Africa, Mauritius, as well as the Eastern States of Australia.¹⁷ In London, karri blocks had been used to pave the streets of Pall Mall, Regent Street, and Piccadilly; and in Melbourne, the floors of the museum and art gallery had been laid with karri.¹⁸

In 1902, MC. Davies Karri and Jarrah Company Ltd. was one of eight timber companies in operation in Western Australia which amalgamated and thus Karridale became part of the combined company, Millars' Karri and Jarrah Company.¹⁹ The mill at Karridale was closed early in the twentieth century, Boranup in 1910, and Jarrahdene in 1913.²⁰ It has not been possible to establish at what date the foundry at Karridale ceased operation; however it is likely that it continued in operation for the same period of time as the timber mill. Thereafter it fell into disrepair, until eventually all that remained standing of the foundry was the stone chimney.

An early undated photograph, shows the chimney surrounded by remnant materials. At this date, the brick top to the stone chimney was intact.²¹

In the period following the closure of the mill, a number of buildings and materials were removed from Karridale, as was common practice.

On 23 December 1948, the place was declared Public Reserve 22875 for the purpose of Public Utility, being one acre one rood and 17 perches in area.²²

In 1961, bush fires raged in many areas of Western Australia. On 3 March, as fire in the district came closer to Karridale, the 60 people resident in the town were evacuated before the fire swept through. The hall, post office and general store, St. Augustine's Church, and two houses were destroyed. The only remaining buildings in the town were the CWA Rest Room, and seven houses; and at the former mill site, the stone foundry chimney was almost all that remained after the fire.²³ The only other remains at the mill site were a boiler which stood horizontal, supported by sections of rail line, and a nearby brick oven.²⁴

15 Vivienne, May *Travels in Western Australia being a description of the various cities and towns, goldfields and agricultural districts of that State* (William Heinemann, London, 1901) p. 131.

16 *ibid.*

17 *ibid.*, pp. 131-132.

18 *ibid.*, p. 132.

19 Cresswell, Gail *op. cit.*, p. 117.

20 *ibid.*

21 Chimney Stack of Old Karridale Timber Mill, RWAHS Collection u/c R2639.

22 *Government Gazette* 7 January 1949, p. 3.

23 Cresswell, Gail *op. cit.*, p. 300; and *The West Australian* 4 and 5 March 1961.

24 Site visit by Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, 22 May 2001.

In early 1978, the place was assessed by the National Trust of Australia (WA), and subsequently classified on 1 May 1978.²⁵ The assessment noted that the place was 'the sole remaining landmark' of the once prosperous town of Karridale.²⁶

On 29 September 1981, the place was entered on the Register of the National Estate.²⁷

Circa 1982, a tall timber archway was erected at the entrance to the Public Reserve, on which was painted the name by which the park is now known, *Davies Park*, in commemoration of the Davies family. A memorial plaque made by Wilsons Engraving Works was laid at the foundry chimney, with this inscription (which includes some inaccuracies regarding dates and company names):

Karridale and Maurice Coleman Davies

24-9-1835 - 10-5-1913

This chimney a relic of Karridale Mill, is a symbolic survival of the timber empire which Maurice Coleman Davies established in this district about 1878.

Mills were built at Coodardup (1882), Karridale (1884), Boranup (1891), and Jarrahdene (1895): jetties were built at Flinders Bay and Hamelin Bay and a fleet of six lighters and a steam tug worked the ports: a network of 40 miles of railway, with 4 locomotives, linked the mills with the ports and with the township of Karridale. M. C. Davies introduced Karri to the world: Pall Mall, Piccadilly, and Regent Street were paved with his karri blocks.

Karridale had a population of 800. Amenities included: post office, telephone, electric light, rent free housing, hall, school, church and rectory, hospital and doctor, library, racecourse and cricket ground - and a hospital for horses.

Boranup had housing for its 300 workers, and its own school, store, produce store and stables. Hamelin had housing, a school, police station, customs office, timber yard and slipway.

In 1902, M. C. Davies, Millars and seven other companies merged to form Millars' Timber and Trading Co. Ltd. The last mill closed in 1913.

The Construction firm of John Wishart and M. C. Davies built Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse, 1895/6 and Alexandra Bridge 1897.

This plaque and archway were donated by members of the Davies family, Augusta-Margaret River Tourist Bureau and Augusta Branch of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society.²⁸

Photographs taken at that date show the brick top to the chimney was no longer extant.²⁹

On 19 August 1988, a change of purpose for the Reserve was gazetted, changing it from Public Utility to Parklands and Historical Site; and also the vesting of the place in the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River in trust for that purpose.³⁰

²⁵ National Trust of Australia (W. A.) Assessment, 31 March 1978.

²⁶ *ibid.*

²⁷ HCWA Database 00124.

²⁸ Site visit by Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, 22 May 2001.

²⁹ RWAHS Collection R3361.

³⁰ *Government Gazette* 19 August 1988, p. 2921 and p. 2905 respectively.

On 27 March 1992, the place was entered on the State Register of Heritage Places.³¹

On 17 June 1996, the place was included in the Municipal Inventory adopted by the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River.³²

In 2001, the place continues as a park and historic site. There has been considerable re-growth of bracken and saplings, and the foundry chimney is no longer clearly visible from the entry archway or from the slip road.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Davies Park and Foundry Chimney is a reserve located to the east of Caves Road. It comprises a timber park entrance portal, the remains of a foundry chimney, remains of an oven, and a donkey engine, in a setting of re-growth forest. The area is likely to contain other archaeological material relating to the milling operation and related uses.

Davies Park and Foundry Chimney is a reserve approximately 150 metres deep from the road and 200 metres wide. The cultural features are all located at the far eastern side of the site, alongside the old rail permanent way, and set within a zone between 9 and 21 metres from the boundary fence. The foundry furnace is located in the north-eastern corner, the oven in the south-eastern corner, and the cast iron donkey engine a few metres west of the oven. Other cultural features comprise a stone construction barbecue, and an entry portal located on Caves Road, constructed in bushpoles, with a cattle grid under it.

The site is quite overgrown, with re-growth Jarrah, Peppermint trees, Acacia and bracken ferns. The vegetation obscures clear views of all the cultural material, and the main feature, the foundry chimney, can no longer be seen from the road.

The documentary evidence indicates a range of other structures stood on the site, but there is no above ground trace of these.

Flue

The foundry flue is square in plan with a stone construction channel leading away from its northern side. The flue rises some 24'6" (7.5 metres) above ground level and is tapered. It is constructed of random rubble granite and the stone is set in pug. There are openings to the east and north sides of the flue, and these are roughly arched. The walls of the flue are 2'0" (600mm) thick at the base, and the interior of the flue is cylindrical, with stones extending into the flue in a random pattern throughout the flue height. The top of the flue is unfinished and was originally somewhat higher than it is at present. Near the top of the flue there is a section of brickwork that may have formed part of a draft control shaft. A plaque has been fixed to the south side of the flue, commemorating the Davies family and giving a short history of the place. There is an iron structure to the north of the flue and the east of its main axis, which is constructed with a pair of iron 2.5" (63mm) equal angles as cross members, and vertical supports made up with 3" (75mm) x 5/8" (9mm) flat bars. There is mounding to the north of the flue that suggests a further structure that has been covered by silt and leaf mold.

³¹ HCWA Database op. cit.

³² Municipal Heritage Inventory Shire of Augusta-Margaret River, 1996.

The flue has been reduced in height, and the other structures relating to the foundry function have been removed. The remaining structure is in fair order, but leaf mulch and silt has accumulated and obscured the remaining evidence on the ground level.

Oven

In the far eastern corner, there is a structure measuring some 6'0" (1830mm) square which stands about 2'8" (800mm) above ground level at its highest point. It is made with an outer wall of random rubble granite, and two layers of 9" (230mm) brickwork lining. The brickwork is shaped in a circular pattern with a diameter of about 1'8" (500mm) which opens to the south. It has a brick lined floor supported on iron flat bars, and there is a firebox under the floor. There is no interpretation of this structure. The structure is in a ruined state and is quite fragile.

Donkey Engine/Furnace

A short distance to the west of the oven, there is a cast iron riveted plate donkey engine that stands some 9'0" (2.8 metres) tall and has a diameter of about 3'0" (900mm). It is suspended off the ground by a pair of iron legs made up of sections of standard 4" (100mm) rail, with pivots spanning between the legs and cylinder. The bottom of the plate cylinder is flanged and the sides riveted together in three lifts of plate. The interior is lined with refractory bricks, and there are several ports in the sides which are covered over with plates, and one uncovered port at the bottom of the assembly on its south side. It appears on the whole to be in fair condition. There are no labels on the piece and no interpretation.

A short distance to the west of the main furnace chimney, there is a stone construction barbecue. A gravel track leads back to the road and the timber portal entry.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

There is a flue of similar construction at the Warribanno Smelter (1853), at Ajuna and this was associated with the Geraldine Lead Mine at the Murchison River. This is a furnace draft flue that terminates a number of roasting and refractory furnace draft flues. The furnaces are linked by above ground flue system that joins into a single draft flue. The rising shaft of the flue is tunnelled through a stone hillside and then the random rock stone flue rises above the hillcrest. This flue did have a tall brick extension, but the extension has been removed and the top of the stonework tidied with brickwork. There are no other known extant flues of similar construction at timber milling sites in Western Australia.

13.4 REFERENCES

National Trust Australia (W. A.) Assessment, 31 March 1978

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

Further research into the history of MC Davies' operations at the place may yield more information about the place.

Future works at the site may provide the opportunity for archaeological investigation, which may in turn reveal more about the operation of the place and other cultural features.