

Street Address	11-13 Empire Vista, Ormiston
GPS/RPD	Lot 999 on RP863217
Place Type	Archaeological



Red-e-map (RCC, 2017).



Empire Point Foreshore, Jetty Remnants (RCC, 2013).

Condition	Good	Integrity	Good
Statutory Listings	Local Heritage Place		
Non-Statutory Listings	No current listing		
Inspection Date	11/02/2017		

Historical Context

The site at Empire Point Foreshore includes the archaeological remnants of a jetty and tramway, and while there is little known about this site, it is believed to be associated with Louis Hope’s sugar cultivation. Hope established his estate in this area near the Empire Point Foreshore, growing sugar cane commercially between c.1864-1875. It is believed that this plantation was staffed by a mostly South Sea Islander workforce.[1] Hope is credited with proving sugar could be grown commercially in Australia, and much of his sugar cane was grown on his Ormiston estate from 1864.[2]

In 1865, Hope’s plantation was the largest in Queensland and the following year Hope’s crop was the first Queensland-grown sugar to sell at auction.[3] In 1869, Hope’s plantation was still the only one in the Cleveland district and supported 90 acres of planted cane.[4] The site was described as “one of the pleasantest situations in Moreton Bay.”[5] Hope began selling his Queensland assets in 1875 and his sugar estates were leased to Hope’s former manager, Gilbert Burnett, that year.[6]

Following the closure of Louis Hope’s sugar mill, some of the cane farming lands were subdivided, including the land at the Empire Point foreshore. John Cameron, auctioneer and businessmen, built a house near the site in 1884, which was called “Doobawah”. The house remains on Empire Vista, and is surrounded by the Empire Point residential estate.[7]

Physical Description

The archaeological remains at Empire Vista include remnants of a timber jetty, winches and tram tracks extending from the foreshore into the bay which are believed to remain from Louis Hope’s sugar mill, as well as later use for residential development. Whilst further study is required, there are also extensive plantings including mature mango trees, palms, figs, cane and bottle trees which could remain from the former use of South Sea Islander labour in the vicinity.

Statement of Significance

The foreshore is a locally significant place that embodies historical value and has archaeological potential. It is closely associated with the early European settlement of Ormiston, including residential subdivision. The place is likely to yield further information on early agricultural and industrial activity as a result of archaeological potential evident, including potential for associated South Sea Islander labour in the region.

Criteria A	The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region’s history.
Criteria B	This archaeological remnants at Empire Point Foreshore demonstrate the pattern of early European settlement at Ormiston and in particular the formation of a local sugar industry in the 1860s and subsequent residential subdivision.
Criteria C	The place has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the region’s history.

The foreshore has the potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Redland’s history, containing the site of early agricultural and industrial activity, and potentially the use of South Sea Islander labour in the region.

Primary Themes

2.0 Exploiting, Utilising and Transforming the Land

2.04 Agricultural activities

References

- [1] Tracy Ryan, "Captain Louis Hope and Cleveland/Ormiston," Redland Shire Council, 2006, p. 5.
- [2] Ibid, p. 3.
- [3] Ibid, p. 4-5.
- [4] Queensland Times, Ipswich Herald and General Advertiser, 13 April 1869, p. 3.
- [5] *The Courier*, 13 October 1863, p. 2.
- [6] Tracy Ryan, "Captain Louis Hope and Cleveland/Ormiston," Redland Shire Council, 2006, p. 6.
- [7] Tracy Ryan, "Places of the Redlands: Ormiston", Redland Shire Council, 2005, p. 12.



Empire Point Foreshore, Jetty Remnants (RCC, 2013).



Empire Point Foreshore, Jetty Remnants, c.1995 (RCC, 2013).