

5.4. Appendix 4: Features contributing to heritage values

Name: Number One Keeper's House

Address:

Via Coast Road, Wainuiomata, Wellington Region

Additional Location Information

This house is closest to the lighthouse and is located at the south of the accommodation complex.

GPS at front step: 1745217 E, 5414396 N

*Current Legal Description*¹⁰⁶

Pt Lot 1 DP 72418 (NZ Gazette 1995 p. 324), Wellington Land District

Images



Summary

This house was built as part of the complex required to support the operation of the lighthouse. Begun in 1933 and completed in 1934 this house (and its companion) was designed, presumably by the PWD, to house the keepers and their families. They were designed in a state house style, similar to those built

¹⁰⁶ This section is supplemented by visual aids in Appendix 1 of the report.

in New Zealand from the 1930s to the early 1950s.

The house rests on concrete piles. The hipped roof is of asbestos corrugated iron. The house is shielded to some extent from the northern aspect by a series of macrocarpa trees that were planted for this purpose. There is a porch at the rear with a lean to behind. The area between the house and the outhouses is concreted, and there is a small section of picket fence that runs from midway along the house out towards the centre of the outhouse. The remnants of the foundation of a garage are visible to the southeast of the house.

The front entrance to the house is through a door in the west elevation, which is reached by a short set of stairs and deck outside the door. There are two rooms off the front corridor. A small vestibule is created by a second door, with six panes of frosted glass in the upper panels. The first room, to the left of the corridor and past the second set of doors, was a sitting or dining room. There are two sets of windows lighting this room - double hung sashes with two lights below and six above - and this style of window is used throughout the house unless otherwise noted. There is a fireplace in this room which is backed by another fireplace in the other sitting room. Both these rooms have original varnished wooden joinery in them. The fireplace is flanked to the right by a cupboard which is again mirrored in the other parlour. There are four panelled doors.

The second room to the right of the front corridor is a bedroom. This is a midsized room with two windows in the south and western walls. To the right of the door to this room there are two inbuilt cupboards with varnished wooden doors. The corridor then leads on the right to the second bedroom, which again has two windows in the eastern wall of the house. There is another corridor which leads past the bathroom and toilet to the kitchen. The bathroom has one window, a bath with shower and a hand basin which all appear modern.

The kitchen again has modern fittings and fixtures, with a Formica bench running along three walls. In this room there is a large rectangular window along the eastern wall, which, along with the other window in the north-eastern wall differs from the otherwise standard windows in the house. The smaller window in this wall has one light in both the upper and lower sash, while the longer window has two similar but smaller windows on each side of one long rectangular pane. Behind the kitchen area is an open space that leads to the second living room, and also a porch, and washing rooms. Several rooms are lined with original tongue and groove panelling, which is probably rimu. The

house has had all windows and doors boarded up to protect against vandalism. For the same reason, the copper spouting has been removed.

These houses were of great importance to the running of the station. They provided comfortable living accommodation for the keepers and their families in a place that was frequently inhospitable due to the extremes of its weather. This particular house was the only one continuously occupied throughout the life of the station and it retains much of its original fabric to offer a reminder of living conditions for keepers and their families.

Name: Number Two Keeper's House

Address:

Via Coast Road, Wainuiomata, Wellington Region

Additional Location Information

This house is at the north of the complex and the furthest building from the lighthouse.

GPS: 5414339 N, 1756440 E

*Current Legal Description*¹⁰⁷

Pt Lot 1 DP 72418, (NZ Gazette 1995 p. 324), Wellington Land District

Images



Summary

This was the second keeper's house, and was built in a fashion very similar to the other house, being a timber framed and clad house of a state house design and similar to those built in New Zealand from the 1930s to the early 1950s. The second keeper was withdrawn in 1960 and from that date this house was used by visitors and relieving keepers.

The interior of this building was not viewed, however it has been described by

¹⁰⁷ This section is supplemented by visual aids in Appendix 1 of the report.

Jones in his 2010 report.¹⁰⁸ This states that the interior is ostensibly the same as Number One Keeper's House, with 1980s wallpaper and painted wainscoting a noted difference between the two. Another notable difference between the two buildings is the addition of a third bedroom on the western elevation of the second house. Jones states that there was a similar addition to the first house that was subsequently removed. This house is more original than the first. The house has had all windows and doors boarded up to protect against vandalism. For the same reason, the copper spouting has been removed.

See the Number One Keeper's House for more information.

¹⁰⁸ Jones 2010, p. 6

Name: Diesel generator building

Other Names: Power house and radio room

Address:

Via Coast Road, Wainuiomata, Wellington Region

Additional Location Information

GPS: 5414299N, 1756444E

*Current Legal Description*¹⁰⁹

Pt Lot 1 DP 72418, (NZ Gazette 1995 p. 324), Wellington Land District



Summary

As part of the powering of the lighthouse (and the rest of the station) a building to house the diesel generators was required. The PWD opted to design the building in a domestic style to fit in with the two keepers' houses. Unlike the latter, this building was constructed in concrete, most likely to guard against fire. It is not known who built the structure. In 1948 work began on the construction of a power line to Baring Head. It was completed in 1950 and the diesel generators were no longer required, except perhaps as a back up. When they were removed is not known.

This building was not accessed in the course of the site visit but it was assessed by Jones in his report, where the interior is described as having 'a

¹⁰⁹ This section is supplemented by visual aids in Appendix 1 of the report.

loading bay, a radio room, a generator room and what is probably a battery and electrical equipment room.’¹¹⁰ There is a plaque attached to the front wall of the building made from wood in the shape of a steering wheel of a boat. The roof is hipped and clad in corrugated asbestos sheets. Directly in front of the building is a circular garden enclosed in a stone wall.

The importance of this building lies in its role in providing electrical power, the first time it had been done at a New Zealand lighthouse. It meant that keepers did not have to maintain a 24 hour watch over the light. This also meant that only two keepers were required at Baring Head, not the usual three.

¹¹⁰ Jones 2010, p. 7

Name: Baring Head Lighthouse

Address:

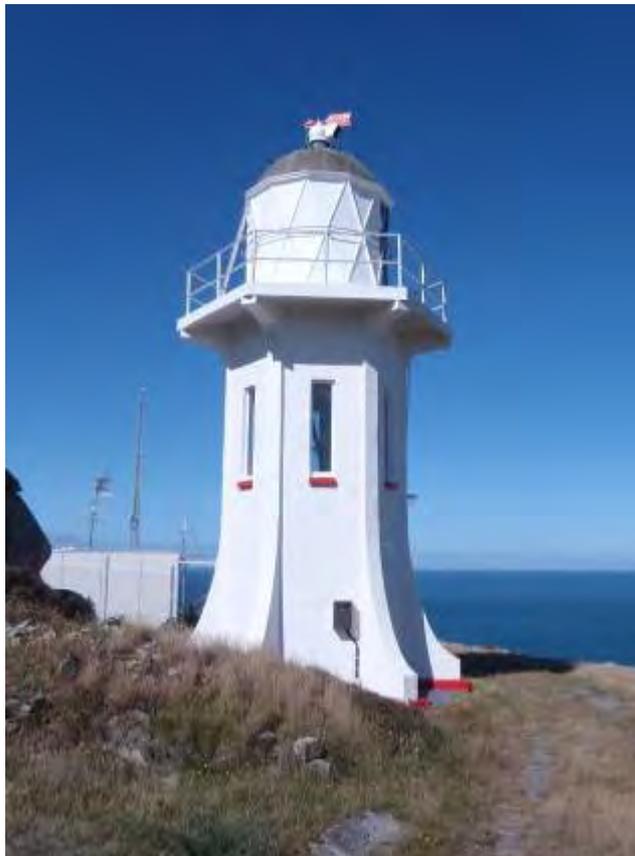
Coast Road, Wainuiomata, Wellington Region

Additional Location Information

GPS at base: 1756392 E, 5414248 N

*Current Legal Description*¹¹¹

Lot 2 DP 72418 (CT WN72418), Wellington Land District



Summary

A tender was advertised for the erection of the reinforced concrete tower in November 1933.¹¹² Nearly identical to the later Cape Reinga Lighthouse, Baring Head demonstrated a new design aesthetic, using Moderne elements in the curved solid buttresses. The designs were probably the work of the Public Works Department. The successful contractor was Messrs Joseph Jackson

¹¹¹ This section is supplemented by visual aids in Appendix 1 of the report.

¹¹² *Evening Post*, Volume CXVI, Issue 127, 25 November 1933, p. 16

and Son who also built the houses and constructed and installed storage tanks for the cottages. After solid foundations could not be found 2.5 metres down The first site for the tower was found to be unsuitable and had to be moved east.¹¹³ Work came to a halt during winter, with Jackson complaining that the wind was sometimes so strong that his men could not stand up.¹¹⁴

The tower was, and is, the focal point of the station. Being atop a high cliff, it is not a tall structure, but it was (and is) visible for long distances.

The lighthouse is situated at the edge of a cliff at the southern end of the station. It is 12 metres high, and 87 metres above the beach below. Its base is hexagonal, with fine buttresses tapering from the base to the platform approximately three quarters of the way up the structure. On each of the walls there are thin rectangular windows, each with a small sill below, currently painted red. There is an information panel on the door, summarising the history of the lighthouse. There is a safety barrier surrounding the platform that wraps around the structure and is reached by a ladder on the south-western side of the lighthouse. This platform provides access to the light. The present light is attached to the balcony, while the former light is enclosed within a series of triangular windows. These occur on the front of the light only (that is, the section facing the sea). The rear section (facing the lighthouse accommodation complex) is painted white, and possibly of the same material the lighthouse is constructed from. Above this is a copper dome. Apparently recently painted, the lighthouse is in good repair.

The lighthouse is the primary reason the headland is occupied and although it is not a tall structure it is a conspicuous landmark, particularly from the sea, and is, as Jones puts it, 'an essential visual element to the lighthouse settlement theme.'¹¹⁵ It has functioned continuously for over 75 years and as the country's first electrically driven light it has particular importance in the history of coastal lighthouses.

¹¹³ Beaglehole p.143

¹¹⁴ *Evening Post*, Issue 15, 18 January 1935, Page 8

¹¹⁵ Jones 2010, p. 9

Name: Fortress Observation Post (water tank, observation post, wireless room, possible mess room and barracks foundations)

Address:

Para Trig, Baring Head,

Wellington Region

Additional Location Information

Approximately 500 metres to the rear of the Lighthouse complex, atop a large hill to the northeast and near the Para trig. The barracks are 50 metres further down the hill on its north side.

GPS:

Water tank: No reading

Observation post: 5414537 N, 1756987 E

Wireless room: 5414564 N, 1757007 E

Engine room: 5414557 N, 1757009 E

Barracks: 5414634 N, 1757010 E

*Current Legal Description*¹¹⁶

Lot 4 DP 59276 (CT WN 42B/597), Wellington Land District

¹¹⁶ This section is supplemented by visual aids in Appendix 1 of the report.



Observation post



Wireless room



Unknown structure (possible mess)



Remains of the ablutions block (foreground) and the site of the barracks to the right (with chimney extant)

Summary

These five buildings were built at various stages over a five year period and are located in a general cluster at the top of the hill near the Para trig.

The Fortress Observation Post was built in 1935 as remote observation post of the Palmer Head 6.2 inch battery. One of two observation posts for the battery it was originally composed of an observation post and a separate barracks, both reinforced concrete. Constructed in 1935, the buildings were largely unused before the beginning of World War II. Then, in a flurry of activity, in 1940 another building (purpose unknown, but possibly a mess) was built alongside the barracks, which was converted into a wireless room. A larger timber barracks, with room for 10 men, was built a little further north down the slope. Water was pumped up from the Wainuiomata River for the complex, and as part of this, a water tank was built just above the wireless room. The observation post was in use until about 1944 and housed a depression range finder (DRF) on a concrete plinth. It was later used as an observation post for Wrights Hill Battery (a 9.2 inch counter bombardment battery). In it was put on a 'care and maintenance' basis in 1944 as the war turned in the allies' favour. The observation post was dismantled and the equipment returned to Trentham on 15 May 1945.¹¹⁷

The observation post was sunk into the western side of the hill just below the summit. Built of reinforced concrete it contains the plinth that supported the depression range finder. It retains part of its camouflage (a layer of earth and vegetation directly on its roof) but the cantilevered roof over the viewing slit has collapsed. Entrance to the building is from a pathway cut along its northern side.

The water tank is a cylindrical reinforced concrete structure approximately four metres wide.

The wireless room is a rectangular (c.4 x 3m) reinforced concrete structure with rendered (plastered) walls. It has a mono pitched roof that slopes slightly to the rear. There is one door and window. The remains of the steel door are on the ground near the building, while the steel shutters for the windows remain in place. Both the doors and shutters are actively corroding. The slightly bigger possible mess room (c 5 x 3 m), has five windows and space for a double door, but none of these remain *in situ*. There are vents near the roof in the southern wall of the structure. Both buildings are fenced off from the public.

The remnants of the ablution block and accommodation barracks for the men who staffed the observation post are located a short distance north and down the hill from the observation and engine room. The barracks is assumed to have been constructed of timber and is no longer evident bar a concrete

¹¹⁷ Cooke p.494

chimney. The ablutions block retains its concrete foundations, floor and drains, but is likewise missing its timber structure. Closer access to these buildings was not possible due to the danger of the collapse of the chimney. In the archaeological site recording form for these structures Walton notes that they are on a large artificially created terrace, and that the spoil from this has been dumped below and to the northwest of the terrace.¹¹⁸ Access to the ruins is restricted by a fence, as there are concerns about their structural integrity.

This collection of buildings has significance as an example of the country's pre-war response to rising tensions in Europe, but its period of use during World War II was particularly significant given that Palmer Head was Wellington's most important coastal defence in the early part of the war. These physical remains are only shells but still convey something of the conditions that its occupants would have experienced.

¹¹⁸ NZAA Site Record (R28/40) NZAA Archsite www.archsite.org.nz (accessed 26 Jan 2010)

Name: Pumphouse / water pipes

Address:

Coast Road, Wainuiomata, Wellington Region

Additional Location Information:

Located on the true right bank of the Wainuiomata River about 300 metres from Coast Road and 800 metres south of the access bridge to Baring Head. The pipes rise to the Para Trig from this point.

*Current Legal Description*¹¹⁹

Lot 4 DP 59276 (CT WN 42B/597), Wellington Land District

Images

(Images courtesy Greater Wellington Regional Council)



¹¹⁹ This section is supplemented by visual aids in Appendix 1 of the report.



Summary:

The pumphouse was built about 1940 to extract water from the Wainuiomata River for use at Baring Head. From the river the water was pumped to the top of the Para trig where it was stored in a tank. From there it was distributed to the observation post buildings and down to the lighthouse station complex and naval signal station. Following the end of the war, water continued to be pumped to Baring Head from the stream. When it was ceased to function is not known but the pumphouse remains in situ as do many of the galvanised pipes that carried the water and the water tank (see Fortress Observation Post).

Name: Access Road and Bridge

Address:

Via Coast Road, Wainuiomata, Wellington Region

Additional Location Information:

*Current Legal Description*¹²⁰

Lot 4 DP 59276 (CT WN 42B/597), Pt 1A3 Parangarahu (NZ Gazette 1995 p. 1364), Pt 1A2 Parangarahu (CT WN 26B/763), Wellington Land District

Images



(Andy Dodd, NZHPT, 11 November 2010)

Summary:

Before work began on building the lighthouse station, the Marine Department had to organise access to the site. It determined that approaching the site from the sea was not feasible, so an overland route was built from the Coast Road south of Wainuiomata. This required the construction of a bridge over the Wainuiomata River and a road from there to the lighthouse site. Tenders were advertised for the construction of both features in June 1931 and work began in the second half of that year. The contractor for the road was H.J. Peacocke and he finished his job in January 1932. Just under three kilometres long, it was a relatively straightforward construction, with just a steep portion at the beginning

¹²⁰ This section is supplemented by visual aids in Appendix 1 of the report.

(to gain the plateau above) a slightly difficult proposition.

The contract for the bridge over the Wainuiomata River was won by S.T. Dibble, and work took about the same time as the road, finishing in early 1932. It was not without its difficulties; piles were driven into the river bed but hard rock was located much deeper down than anticipated. It meant that sections of timber had to be spliced on to reach the bedrock. A trestle bridge, it was built with Australian hardwood. The bridge has been much repaired over its life but it has continued to provide one of the key access ways to the lighthouse, particularly during its early decades. Likewise the road has suffered from weather events that have undermined it but it continues to function as it always has.

Name: WAAC barracks foundations

Address:

(No physical address)

Via Coast Road, Wainuiomata, Wellington Region

*Current Legal Description*¹²¹

Pt Lot 1 DP 72418 (NZ Gazette 1995 p. 1364), Wellington Land District

Images



Summary:

A naval signal station (or Port War Signal Station), was established at Baring Head c.1942, right alongside the lighthouse itself. It was staffed mainly by WAACs, and a timber barracks building was constructed for them, to the west of the station complex, a short distance from the garage. The station closed in 1945 and presumably the WAACs also left at the same time. The building was also removed at about this time, leaving behind the concrete foundations.

¹²¹ This section is supplemented by visual aids in Appendix 1 of the report.

Name: Baring Head Clean Air Monitoring Station (and foundations of World War II naval signal station)

Other names: NIWA Station

Address:

(No physical address)

Via Coast Road, Wainuiomata, Wellington Region

Additional Location Information:

*Current Legal Description*¹²²

Lot 2 DP 72418 (CT WN40D/367), Wellington Land District

Images



¹²² This section is supplemented by visual aids in Appendix 1 of the report.



Summary:

The air monitoring station at Baring Head was established by the DSIR in 1974. It was preceded on the site by the naval signal station (or Port War Signal Station), established in c.1942 and staffed mainly by WAACs, and then by a DSIR research facility (using the signal station building) conducting experiments on radar. At some point before or after the DSIR took over the site, the concrete signal station buildings were demolished to their platform and new buildings, largely small boxes built from concrete blocks and fibrolite, were constructed on top and immediately to the west. A tower was built to the rear of this complex. NIWA, which was formed after the DSIR was broken into various Crown research organisations in 1992, took over the Baring Head site and continues to manage the facility. In its own words, the station, known as the Baring Head Clean Air Monitoring Station, makes 'significant contributions to our global understanding of greenhouse gases, other trace gases and related species in air that is representative of the mid latitude southern hemisphere.'¹²³

¹²³ <http://www.niwa.co.nz/our-science/atmosphere/baring> [accessed 11 April 2011]

Name: Cave with Midden

Other names: R28/37

Address:

(No physical address)

Via Coast Road, Wainuiomata, Wellington Region

*Current Legal Description:*¹²⁴ Lot 2 DP 72418 (CT WN72418), Wellington Land District

Summary:

R28/37 is located at the foot of the cliff that the lighthouse is situated on.¹²⁵ The cave extends one hundred feet from the entrance, and at the far end there is evidence for charcoal and ash, with a midden including paua, shells and bird bones at the mouth of the cave.¹²⁶ It has been suggested that this site was used as shelter when bad weather stopped food gathering expeditions along this part of the coast.¹²⁷

¹²⁴ This section is supplemented by visual aids in Appendix 1 of the report.

¹²⁵ NZAA Archsite www.archsite.org.nz (accessed 26 Jan 2010)

¹²⁶ NZAA Archsite www.archsite.org.nz, (accessed 26 Jan 2010) site R28/37

¹²⁷ J.B. Palmer 'Maori Sites in Fitzroy Bay' *New Zealand Archaeology Association newsletter* 1963 6(3):125-134, p. 133

Name: Burial

Other names: R28/36

Address:

(No physical address)

Via Coast Road, Wainuiomata, Wellington Region

*Current Legal Description:*¹²⁸ Lot 2 DP 72418, (CT WN72418), Wellington Land District

Summary:

The burial site (R28/36) is situated above the cave at the most projecting part of the point, and was uncovered during excavations for the lighthouse.¹²⁹ It is unclear from the site report whether these remain in place or have been removed, although a newspaper report stated that the majority of the bones fell down the side of the cliff at the time they were uncovered.

This burial site should be regarded as a wahi tapu.

¹²⁸ This section is supplemented by visual aids in Appendix 1 of the report.

¹²⁹ *Dominion* Jan 19 1934, in Baring Head – Origin –General, M1 769 6/62/1 (1925-39), Archives New Zealand.