Station Buildings Database

Background

Building Name Old Recreation Hut

Building Number 1

Year 1957

Other Names

Old Powerhouse
Engine Room/Workshop/Bathroom
Diesel Hut
Recreation Room
Main Donga Line (part of)

Secondary Uses

library, darkroom, bathroom, mess, accommodation

Historical Summary

This structure was part of the original 1957 station and was built as the Engine Room/Workshop. It initially housed the Lister 15kVA generator plant (which sat upon concrete beds) and the station bathroom which was accessed from a cold porch. There was also a small store/office in the south-west corner adjoining the bathroom.

The original bonded plywood flooring of the workshop and bathroom spaces was covered by a concrete floor during the first year of station operations. The building was superseded in 1962 by a new Powerhouse. At that time, the engines were removed and a new floor was built over the top of the concrete engine beds. The small store /office was then converted into a darkroom. (It was intended to build a new darkroom in the new Mess, but instead the old one in the Recreation Room was re-built.) The building served as a temporary mess when the Community Hut was demolished in that same year (1962). The building was remodelled in 1963.

A 1970 plan of the building shows it with a bar in the north-west corner and three rooms along the south wall (darkroom at east; library in middle; unidentified [probably cold porch] at west).

With the commissioning of the new Living Quarters (LQ) Building in 1980, the building, like the adjacent Kitchen/Mess, was converted into four dongas. The darkroom was retained and expanded to include the library space. From that time onwards,the building was known as part of the Main Donga Line. It is currently not in use.

Physical Description

Building Type PTB Mark III

Construction Insulated plywood panels

Exterior

A box-structure of timber-framed, plywood-clad panels. The panels are fixed by tie rods which run through the longitudinal planes of the panels. The panel joins are concealed by timber coverstrips. Four metal-framed, double-glazed windows with timber sills sheathed in metal are present in the east side of the building. Copper pipes boxed in timber penetrate the east wall from a nearby fibreglass tank. The south end of the east wall is braced to the Gymnasium by a length of metal. The yellow-painted north side of the building now forms an interior wall of the Drying Room Passage (see also Old Capenter's Workshop entry). This wall has been relined with cement sheeting at its eastern end. This sheeting covers the original north side door of the building. The western part of the south wall is attached to the Gymnasium connection, however, the eastern end is visible from the outside. It is fitted with a single metal-framed, double-glazed window. The exterior paintwork is severely cracked and abraided. Previous colour schemes on the east side of the building include pink, brown, green, white and black. Paint colours on the west side include orange, blue, white and pink.

The roof of the building consists of plywood-clad panels covered with aluminium coated in pitch (most of which is no longer present). Piercing the roof is a single light fitting and three brass mushroom vents. Seven other vents in the roof have been sealed. A north-south aligned latticed steel girder section is attached to the roof and acts as a hanging beam. (This was the second attempt to prevent the roof from sagging. Inside the building are two steel columns which support a beam running the lenght of the structure.) A metal-framed, timber-decked walkway, with a services duct beneath, extends at roof height from the southern end of this building to the northern end of the Gymnasium.

Interior

The interior of this building consists of a north-south aligned passageway with two dongas on either side. A door in the southern end of this passageway leads into a small room which has doorways in its east and west walls

which lead into similar-sized rooms. At the southern end of the building, the passageway branches off to the west and in its southern wall there is a door which leads into a cold porch.

Passageway

The passageway is lined with yellow-painted plasterboard sheeting which probably dates from the early 1980s when this part of the building was converted into donga accommodation. At the northern end of the passageway is an open doorway with a timber architrave. A light switch is located immediately to the right of this doorway. Two doorways with aluminium architraves are located in each of the east and west walls of the north-south aligned section of passageway. Three of these four doorways are fitted with doors. Two light fittings are attached to the ceiling of this section of passageway as are assorted service conduits (electrical, hot water). A heating duct runs along the top of the western wall of the passageway. At the southern end of the north-south aligned section of passageway is an open doorway with a timber architrave which leads into a small room. Steel columns at either end of the passageway support a beam. This represents the first of two attempts to prevent the roof from sagging further.

The west branch of the passageway is constructed of similar materials. One flourescent light is attached to the ceiling. A yellow-painted, timber-framed, plywood-clad door with a lever-action latch is situated in the southern wall. This door leads into the cold porch. A wall heater and a light switch are located to the left of the door.

The floor of the entire passageway is covered with fitted grey linoleum which, in places, is topped with red carpet squares. Beneath this is a plywood layer which covers the original concrete floor.

Southeast Donga

The walls and ceiling of this room are lined with blue-painted plasterboard and cement sheeting. Cork panels have been attached to this sheeting along the south wall. Timber coverstrips are present on the ceiling together with a flourescent light fitting and a smoke detector. A metal-framed, timber-edged, plywood shelf unit runs along the north wall and joins a desk constructed of the same materials which runs along the east wall. This, in turn, joins a bunk which extends along the south wall with hanging space at its western end. A fixed, timber-framed, double-glazed window is located at the southern end of the east wall. In the west wall is an open doorway with an aluminium architrave. To the left of this doorway is a light switch, a fire extinguisher and a gas mask unit. The floor is covered with fitted grey linoleum.

Northeast Donga

The walls and ceiling of this room are lined with beige-painted plasterboard sheeting. Some of the wall corners are fitted with quad moulds. Timber coverstrips are present on the ceiling, together with a flourescent light fitting and a covered air vent. Along the north wall is a timber/plywood bunk with hanging space and drawers beneath. Running along the east wall is a timber-edged, plywood-topped bench with timber shelving above. A timber shelf unit is also present above the bed end. In the southern end of the east wall is a small, double-glazed window with a timber architrave which opens on a piano hinge. In the west wall is a doorway with an aluminium architrave and a hollow core door. To the right of the door is a light switch and a four-peg coat rack. The floor is covered with fitted grey linoleum.

Southwest Donga

The walls and ceiling of this room are lined with brown-painted plasterboard sheeting, with the exception of the west wall which is covered with radiata pine, and the western end of the north wall which is lined with hardwood. In the east wall is a doorway with an aluminium architrave and hollow core door. To the right of this door is a light switch. Above the door, a timber-edged plywood shelf runs along the entire length of the east wall. Attached to the south wall is a light switch, a double GPO, a flourescent light fitting and a gas mask unit. A radiata pine shelf unit extends along the south wall to the southwest corner of the room. A timber/plywood bunk runs along the west wall. Above this bed is a timber-framed, double-glazed opening window with a timber architrave. A double GPO is situated in the top northwest corner of the room. Attached to the north wall is another double GPO and a mirror. Timber coverstrips are attached to the ceiling together with a flourescent light fitting and a screw vent. The floor is covered with brown carpet squares.

Northwest Donga

The walls and ceiling of this room are lined with blue-painted plasterboard sheeting with the exception of the north wall which is constructed of plywood. Timber coverstrips are present on the ceiling, together with a flourescent light fitting, a smoke detector and two metal brackets (purpose unknown). In the east wall is a doorway with an aluminium architrave and hollow core door. A light switch is located to the left of the door. A covered-up window is present in the north wall together with piping and a shelf unit. Beneath these shelves is a cork panel, and to the left of it is a double GPO. A timber/plywood bunk runs along the west wall. Above this is a timber-framed, double-glazed window with a timber architrave which opens on a piano hinge. Attached to the south wall is a plywood shelf unit (above the bed end) with a flourescent light fitting attached, and a double GPO. The floor is covered with brown carpet tiles.

Central Darkroom

The walls and ceiling of this room are lined in brown-painted plywood sheets. Two timber/plywood shelves run the entire length of the south wall. Door openings with timber architraves exist in the east and west walls. Attached to the ceiling is assorted wiring and piping and a single flourescent light. Linoleum covers the floor.

Eastern Darkroom

The walls and ceiling of this room are lined in yellow-painted cement sheeting. Dark grey linoleum tiles cover the floor. In the western wall is an open doorway with a black-painted timber architrave. Immediately to the left of this doorway is a ligtht switch. Attached to the north wall is a double GPO and a timber-framed, formica-topped bench which extends along the entire length of the north and east walls. Three timber shelves resting on metal brackets are situated above this bench in the northeast corner of the room. Above the bench on the east wall are numerous GPOs, a window covered with plywood and a shelf unit. Along the south wall is a double stainless steel kitchen sink and film developing equipment.

Western Darkroom

The walls and ceiling of this room have been relined with plasterboard. Quad moulds exist in the wall corners and timber coverstrips conceal the panel joins. A grey laminex-topped workbench runs along the west wall. Above this bench are numerous GPOs. Along the south wall is a stainless steel kitchen sink. Above this, is a metal grill shelf. Linoleum covers the floor.

Cold Porch

The walls and ceiling of this room are lined in yellow-painted plywood. In the north wall is a door with a timber architrave (refer Passageway description). A light switch is situated to the right of this door. A timber coat rack runs along the entire length of the east wall. In the south wall is a hollow core door (recent addition) with a cement sheet step which leads to the Gymnasium. The original exterior door is situated in the west wall of the cold porch. This door consists of a timber frame clad in plywood with a lever-action latch/handle and a large metal vertical handle. Masonite covers the floor.

(REFER SHEET #1, APPENDIX 1 FOR MEASURED DRAWINGS.)

Condition Report

Poor condition. The exterior paintwork on the east and west sides of the building is severely cracked and abraided. Evidence exists of two separate attempts to prevent the roof of the building from sagging further.

Site Services

Electrical lighting.

Present Use

Not in use.

Reference Source Documentation

Station Reports/Logs

1957 - Engine Room and Workshop erected. A 15kVA generator provides power for lighting, heating, cooking and

sea water distillation. A concrete floor is laid as an engine platform (to cover the original bonded plywood flooring of the Workshop and Bathroom). A second corridor and passageway were built to link the Community Hut and Workshop. The main entrance to the living huts during winter was via the Workshop.
1958 - Darkroom built in the recess between the Community Hut and Engine Room.
1960 - Powerhouse: Good condition. New powerhouse being erected and a suggestion that the old one will make an ideal kitchen and mess.
1961 - Recreation Room and office: Roof cracked during 1961, some leaks, walls buckled.
1962 - Recreation Room: Formerly the Engine Room. Engines were removed and a new floor was built over the top of the concrete beds. A small store and office in the building were converted to a temporary darkroom. When the mess and kitchen were demolished this served as a temporary mess.
1963 - A cold porch was constructed between the new Mess and Recreation Room (which was remodelled). A library was constructed in the old bathroom. The bulk diesel tank was removed from the Recreation Room and a snow melter and hot water service were installed. Walls were constructed to enclose this section. A bar was constructed.
1964 - The space between the Kitchen/Mess and Recreation Room was enclosed using old Community Hut panels.
1973 - Library is located in a small annex of the Recreation Room.
1974 - Recreation Room: A note that it used to be the Old Powerhouse and that the floor is floating on the Old Powerhouse floor.
1975 - Recreation Room leaking.
1978 - Lightproof door installed to darkroom.
1980 - New Living Quarters (LQ) building commissioned.

Other References

Jones to Holmes, Telex 16 July 1979
Picture of conversion of Kitchen/Mess and Recreation Room to donga accommodation.

Drawings

VA 9255 - Engine Room and Workshop at Vestfold Hills, 1956.

Station Buildings Database

Background

Building Name Old Carpenter's Workshop

Building Number 2

Year 1957

Other Names

Balloon Filling Hut
Workshop
Carpenter's Shop
Drying Room

Secondary Uses

coke storage

Historical Summary

This building was erected in 1957 as the first Balloon Hut. Two years later, the structure was superseded by a new Balloon Hut and it was subsequently dismantled and re-erected at the rear of the Engine House as the Carpenter's Workshop. In 1962, the carpentry equipment was moved out and the structure was used to store coke, though towards the end of the year it once again was used as the Carpenter's Workshop. A Carpenter's Shop, presumably this building, is mentioned in the station reports of the 1960s and 1970s. An extension was added to the rear of the building in 1974.

In 1981, a new Workshop was commissioned as part of the station rebuilding program. At this time, the building was converted into a Drying Room. It served this purpose up until 1992 when the 'Old Donga Line' was finally abandonned. It is currently not in use.

Physical Description

Building Type PTB Mark III

Construction Insulated plywood panels

Exterior

The Old Carpenter's Workshop consists of the original 1957 building and the later 1974 addition. It is a box structure built of timber-framed, "Insulwool"-insulated, plywood-clad panels. These panels are fixed by tie rods which run through the longitudinal planes of the panels. The panel joins of the original building are concealed by zincanneal coverstrips. Although the paintwork on the wall panels is severely cracked and abraided, there is evidence of the following colour schemes - dull green, cream, white, orange and red. Most of the foundations of the building were covered by snow at the time of inspection, however, the structure appears to be bolted by metal brackets to north-south aligned timber runners. The roof is covered by galvanised sheeting dating from 1984. The building is guyed from the roof by metal corner brackets on the east side only. Metal rod bracing is present between these corner brackets.

In the southern side, a large opening (the former Balloon Hut doors) has been infilled and a smaller door has been constructed. Two wooden steps provide access to this door which is constructed of a timber frame clad in masonite. The door has a simple bent rod latch/handle. Previous colour schemes on the door include cream, orange, red, dull green, light blue and pink. Above the door is a rusted, circular light fitting. To the left of the door are two galvansied flues. Painted on the wall panels of the south side is further evidence of the building's former use as a Balloon Hut - *BAL V* and *BAL* . To the west, the building is connected to the Old Recreation Hut and Old Kitchen-Mess by a roughly-built plywood extension. In the east wall is a single fixed, double-glazed window with quad moulds and an oregon mast which extends beyond the roof height. The northern end of the building consists of the 1974 addition which is clad in plywood sheeting and has zincanneal flashing and edging. In the north wall of the addition is a timber-framed, plywood-clad door with a timber architrave and canvas seal. This extension is guyed on the north side from the timber panel frames (200mm from the roof level) to eye bolts drilled into rock. The west wall of the addition is clad in cement sheeting, whilst the west wall of the original structure is clad in plywood. The northern side of the connection to the Old Recreation Hut/Old Kitchen-Mess is clad in zincanneal sheeting with zincanneal coverstrips.

Interior

Original Room

The walls of the original room of this building are lined with a combination of plywood (original) and cement (replacement) sheeting painted yellow. Former wall colour schemes include aqua and dark grey. Quad moulds are present in some wall corners. Timber coverstrips are present over the joins of the plywood cladding, but are absent on the more recent cement-sheeted sections. The ceiling consists of plywood painted white. The floor is covered by fitted linoleum, coloured black with green flecks.

Attached to the north wall of the original room is a flourescent light, a double GPO and a light switch. Hot water piping pierces this wall. A pine-framed, plywood-clad door at the eastern end of the north wall (which leads into the 1974 addition) has a timber architrave, metal vent and the words *Drying Room* writtin on it in textra pen. The east wall of this room is pierced by a single fixed, timber-framed, double-glazed window. To the right of this is a double GPO. In the south wall is a yellow painted masonite-clad door with three strap T hinges and a bent rod latch/handle. To the right of the door is a vent opening and a partition section. Two clothes dryers occupy the space between this partition and the connection with the Old Recreation Hut/Old Kitchen-Mess. Stretching across the room between the north and south walls is a nylon cord drying rack.

1974 Addition

The walls of this room are lined in cement sheeting. The southern part of the ceiling consists of plywood, whilst the northern section is lined with masonite. A single flourescent light and a heating fan are attached to the ceiling. The floor is covered by mottled white vinyl tiles with black vinyl skirting.

Yellow-painted timber drying peg sets are attached to the south, north and east (two sets) walls. In the north wall is a timber-framed, plywood-clad door painted khaki. The door has a lever-action latch and a high threshold. Immediatly to the left of this door is a ligth switch. A door is also present in the south wall (refer Original Room description). A north-south aligned timber drying rack is suspended beneath the ceiling. It can be raised or lowered by a simple pulley system.

(REFER SHEET #2, APPENDIX 1 FOR MEASURED DRAWINGS.)

Condition Report

Poor condition. The exterior paintwork is severely cracked and abraided. There are several holes in the plywood panelling, including a large hole in the eastern wall exposing the insulation. The exterior plywood has delaminated in places. Several of the original plywood panels have been replaced and some of the coverstrips have peeled off and are missing. The original plywood roof blew off in 1984 and has been replaced by galvanised sheets and edging.

Site Services

Electrical lighting.

Present Use

Not in use.

Reference Source Documentation

Station Reports/Logs

1957 - Balloon Hut built.
1959 - With the construction of a new Hydrogen Generating and Balloon Filling Hut, the old Balloon Hut was dismantled and relocated to become a new Workshop.
1962 - Workshop (Carpenter's Shop) : All equipment moved from this hut and instead, it was used as a coke store. Later in the year, the building was converted back into the Carpenter's Shop.
1974 - A new extension to the rear of the Carpenter's Shop.
1980 - New Workshop commissioned 1980-81.
1984 - No mention of the Carpenter's Workshop in the list of old station buildings. There is a reference to the roof blowing off the Drying Room. A note that the structural timbers of the roof are very dry and that the plywood supporting the sheet iron has delaminated.

Other References

Balloon Filling Hut, Vestfold Hills, Specification No.1054, Bureau of Meteorology, Deparment of Interior, July

1956, L.J.Dwyer.
Requirements - one 60 watt lamp with switch; one earthing plats; rack to hold four 100ft3 cylinders of hydrogen; one bench with drawers; door opening 6' wide, 7'6" high; fire extinguisher; vent in roof; internal dimensions 10'6" x 7' x 8' high; floor to be wood.

Drawings

VA 9287 - Balloon Filling Hut (marginalia: workshop annexe).

Station Buildings Database

Background

Building Name Sleeping Hut

Building Number 3

Year 1957

Other Names

Dongas
Sleeping Quarters
Old Donga Line (part of)

Secondary Uses

temporary store for surplus scientific chemicals

Historical Summary

This was the first building erected at Davis station. Soon after its construction it was connected to the Community Hut via a corridor. It housed five men in its original form. A further four sleeping cubicles were added in 1958. This extension involved the removal of the northern end-section, the insertion of new panels and then the reinstating of the original end-section. The building was extended yet again in 1964 by a further four cubicles, giving a total of thirteen dongas. This second extension necessitated the relocation of the adjacent Surgery, which was moved 20' to the east. A cold porch was then added to the north wall of the extended Sleeping Quarters. This also served as a passageway link to the Surgery. Another cold porch was later added to the southeast corner.

The building continued to serve as accommodation until the new Sleeping Medical Quarters (SMQ) Building was commissioned in 1992. After that time, it was briefly used to store surplus scientific chemicals. It is currently not in use.

Physical Description

Building Type PTB Mark IV

Construction Insulated aluminium & zincanneal panels

Exterior

The building consists of four separate sections - the original sleeping quarters (including southern cold porch), the 1958 extension, the 1964 addition and the northern cold porch/OIC'ery passageway.

Original Sleeping Quarters (including Southern Cold Porch)

The original sleeping quarters (including southern cold porch) consists of timber-framed, insulated, aluminium-clad wall and roof panels. These panels are fixed by tie rods which run through the longitudinal planes of the panels. The panel joins are concealed by timber coverstrips (some original, some replacements). Timber battens cover the joins where the roof and wall panels meet. At the southern end of the east side of the building is a small fixed, metal-framed, double-glazed window (into the southern cold porch). Two sets of small windows pierce the east wall (one set per donga). Of these, the upper windows have brass hinges and are mortice and tennoned, dowelled, timber-framed and double-glazed. The inside edging of the timber frames is stop-chamfered. The frames are painted white though the previous colour schemes include green, lime green, dark brown, yellow and white. The two lower windows are fixed, double glazed and have white-painted metal frames. The west side of the original sleeping quarters was covered in snowdrift at the time of inspection. It is pierced by three pairs of small windows which are most likely identical to those in the east wall. The south wall now acts as an internal wall between the southern cold porch and the Bathroom/Passage/Office (see relevant descriptions).

The building is guyed from roof brackets via cables and turnbuckles to eye bolts in the bedrock. Metal rod bracing exists between the roof brackets. Only four of the original timber coverstrips survive on the roof, the others having been replaced by zincanneal coverstrips. The roof panels are labelled - *B^/23* to *B^/28*. Piercing the roof at the southern end is a large H-shaped vent.

1958 Addition

The 1958 addition is constructed of timber-framed, insulated, aluminium-clad wall and roof panels. These panels are fixed by tie rods which run through the longitudinal planes of the panels. The panel joins are concealed by timber coverstrips (some original, some replacements). Timber battens cover the joins where the roof and wall panels meet. Two pairs of small windows pierce the east wall (one set per donga). Of these, the upper windows

have brass hinges and are mortice and tennoned, dowelled, timber-framed and double-glazed. The inside edging of the timber frames is stop-chamfered. The frames are painted white though the previous colour schemes include green, lime green, dark brown, yellow and white. (The northernmost of the top windows has been covered by a plywood box.) The two lower windows are fixed and double glazed, and have white-painted metal frames. The north end wall of the original sleeping quarters, which was relocated to the north end of the 1958 extension, (see history description) is still in place. This wall now forms an internal donga wall. The west side of the 1958 addition was covered in snowdrift at the time of inspection. It is pierced by two pairs of small windows which are identical to those in the east wall.

The aluminium roof panels are labelled - *1 Front /Black* to *5 Front/Back*. A raised hatch is present in the roof. Immediately north of this hatch is an air vent covered by a rusted tin can. One of the roof panels is stencilled with - *B^/22* (this panel was formerly part of the original sleeping quarters).

1964 Addition

This addition consists of timber-framed, insulated, zincanneal-clad panels with zincanneal coverstrips. Two pairs of small zincanneal-framed, double-glazed windows are present in the east wall (one pair per donga). The upper windows are top-opening with piano hinges. The bottom windows are fixed. One of the east side wall panels has been stencilled - *W6*. The west side of the 1964 addition was covered in snowdrift at the time of inspection. It is pierced by two pairs of small windows which are identical to those in the east wall. (For a description of the north wall, refer to the Northern Cold Porch/OIC'ery Passage entry.)

The roof consists of zincanneal panels with zincanneal coverstrips. The panels are stencilled - *R15* through to *R19*. One roof panel has the stencil - *Panel Quality*.

Northern Cold Porch/OIC'ery Passage

This section consists of zincanneal sheeting nailed to timber framing, with zincanneal and timber coverstrips over the sheet joins. (It is possible that the zincanneal has been nailed over cement sheeting.) "Insulwool" insulation is present beneath the zincanneal sheeting. The exterior door consists of a heavy timber frame with zincanneal cladding. It has a green-painted timber architrave, lever-action latch and a metal handle. A timber ramp leads from this door to the Old Surgery door. A circular light fitting is located above the door, as is an elevated steel walkway with timber decking which joins the roofs of the cold porch and the Old Surgery. To the left of the door is a services duct which links through to the Old Surgery. On the wall beneath this duct is a sign which reads - *Danger High Tension*. At the western end of the north wall is a pipe ladder with eight rungs which extends up above the roof level. The eastern end of the cold porch/passageway is attached to the Old OIC'ery. The south side of the building is attached to the Sleeping Quarters. The west side was completely covered by snowdrift at the time of inspection. The short passage section which extends out beyone the east wall of the Sleeping Quarters to the Old OIC'ery is clad in zincanneal sheeting and has a zincanneal sheet roof.

Interior

Original Sleeping Quarters (including Southern Cold Porch)

The cold porch is aluminium-lined with timber coverstrips and quad moulds in the corners. The ceiling consists of pink-painted masonite with timber coverstrips and moulds. In the southern wall is a large door opening with the door removed (bevel indicates that it used to open outwards). To the right of this doorway are three quadrant shelves in the southwest corner. In the western wall is a large timber-framed, aluminium-clad door with a lever-action latch and canvas seal. The word *Quiet* is on the wall to the left of the door as is a powerbox and assorted electrical wiring. A flourescent light is situated above the door. There are no fittings or markings on the north wall. In the east wall is a small fixed, (pink) timber-framed, double-glazed window and a plywood fire extinguisher rack with one extinguisher present. The floor is fitted with red linoleum with pink flecks.

The main part of the original sleeping quarters consists of a central passageway with three dongas off the western side and two off the eastern side. The passageway has a plywood floor with a grey vinyl covering. The walls are constructed of cement sheeting painted yellow. The passageway walls and all dividers between the dongas appear not to have originally extended to ceiling height. The gaps above these partitions appear to have been boxed in at a later date. Circular holes have been cut into these later partition additions to provide ventillation. General services (piping, wiring, fire alarms) run along the east wall of the passageway and numerous light fittings are attached to the ceiling. The dongas throughout the sleeping quarters (including the two later additions) display a range of personalised layouts. One such donga layout in the eastern side of the

original sleeping quarters is described here. The floor consists of grey carpet squares over linoleum. The original wall partitions consist of cement sheeting painted lime green, the boxed-in timber additions are painted white. Earlier colour schemes include pink, light blue and black. In the eastern wall are two small windows, the lower being fixed, the upper is opening with a plywood cover. A bunk runs along the entire length of the east wall at head height. (Note: A head high bunk runs along the outer wall of each donga.) Above the bed on the south wall is a simple shelf and a box shelf. A coat rack (minus hooks) is located at the western end of the south wall. A doorway with timber architrave (no door) is located in the west wall. To the right of the door is a curved plywood shelf unit which extends around the northwest corner of the room. A light switch and fire extinguisher are sited immediately to the right of the doorway. A formica-topped desk runs along the north wall together with a timber/plywood shelf. Also on the north wall is a small shelf cabinet and a four point GPOs. A flourescent light is attached to the west wall. Another is located immediately beneath the bed and a third is present on the north wall above the bed. An air duct is located at floor level against the east wall.

1958 Addition

The passageway and donga walls in the 1958 addition are basically identical in construction and appearance to those in the original sleeping quarters. However, on the western wall of the passageway of this addition is a pipe ladder which provides access to a roof hatch. A large heating unit (installed in 1964) is attached to the ceiling at the northern end of the 1958 passageway addition. The four dongas in this addition are similar to the donga previously described in the original sleeping quarters.

1964 Addition

The passageway and dongas in the 1964 addition are similar in construction and appearance to those described above. The original aluminium north wall of the first sleeping quarters is still in place (between the 1958 and 1964 additions) where it was relocated in 1958. The original window above the doorway in this wall is still visible. A typical donga in this addition (western side) is described here. The floor is covered by brown carpet squares over the top of grey linoleum. Chamfered battens exist in the room corners. A metal-edged open doorway is located in the east wall. A flourescent light is situated above the door, as is a shelf which extends along the entire length of the east and north walls. A bunk runs along the west wall at head height. There are two small windows in this wall, the bottom one being fixed, the top one opening. Beneath this (at the southern end) is a desk which is joined at the northern end by a shelf unit and hanging space. A heating duct is located next to this at floor level. A shelf runs along the south and east walls which are covered by fake timber panelling. Flouresent lights are located above the desk and above the bed.

Northern Cold Porch/OIC'ery Passage

The north and west walls of the interior and the ceiling are lined with cement sheeting. The south wall (the north wall of the Sleeping Quarters) and the east wall (west wall of the Old OIC'ery) are clad in zincanneal. The zincanneal-clad exterior door, which has a lever-action latch and a metal handle, is located in the north wall. To the right of the door is a timber batten and a timber coat rack which utilises six large screws as pegs. The door into the Sleeping Quarters in the south wall is clad in zincanneal and has a lever-action latch, horizontal handle and a sign which reads - *Smoking Prohibited.* A light fitting is located above the door and to the left are two light switches. Water pipes run along the top of the south wall. At the eastern end of the south wall is a short cement sheet-clad wall section with a fire extinguisher attached. The eastern end of the building is largely occupied by the zincanneal door into the Old OIC'ery which has a lever-action latch, a *No Smoking* sign and the word *OIC* above the door. The room has a concrete floor.

(REFER SHEET #3, APPENDIX 1 FOR MEASURED DRAWINGS.)

Condition Report

Original Sleeping Quarters - Fair condition. The aluminium cladding on one of the roof panels has been torn off exposing plywood sheeting and insulation.

1964 Addition - The zincanneal panels on the east side are severely corroded and pitted.

Cold Porch/Passageway - Fair condition. The insulation is exposed internally in places where the cement sheeting has been broken or has sagged. Some external corrosion is evident on the eastern edge of the building.

Site Services

Electrical lighting.

Station Buildings Database

Present Use

Not in use.

Reference Source Documentation

Station Reports/Logs

1957 - Erected by 20 January. Accommodation for five.
1959 - Partition walls erected (probably part of extension works).
1964 - Extensions.
1970 - Thirteen sleeping dongas.
1992 - Last used for accommodation.
1994 - Used as a store for surplus scientific chemicals (liquid and solid).

Other References

Drawings

VA 63/437 C, Plan, Elevations , 14.6.63.
Shows extension and existing building. Shows five cubicles and cold porch.
VA7608, 28.9.54.
Furniture details for sleeping huts, (marginalia : "Bunk sizes refer to Davis extension 1958").
VA 11181-C, 17.10.58.
Four cubicle extension to Sleeping Hut.
VA 63/437 C, 14.6.63.

Station Buildings Database

Background

Building Name No. 1 Store

Building Number 4

Year 1957

Other Names

Store
Hardware Store
'Woolies'/'Woolworths'

Secondary Uses

none

Historical Summary

This building formed part of the original station. It was located some distance to the south of the main building line as a precaution against fire (it could serve as a temporary shelter if the main line burned down).

The building served most of its life as a hardware store. After the construction of a further two stores buildings, it was usually referred to as the No. 1 Store. It was demolished in 1988 once all of its stores had been transferred to the new stores building.

The condition of the building was always of some concern. The roof was described as requiring replacement in 1960, although this work does not appear to have been done by 1962 when galvanised iron was ordered to replace the plywood roof panels. In 1964, the building was described as having roof and some wall panels covered in zincanneal, implying a piecemeal repair job. External cladding problems were again noted in 1971, and in 1974 the roof was leaking. In 1977 it was stated that,*"the oldest buildings seem to be the store buildings which are only good for demolition"*. In 1986, this building and the adjacent Field Store were removed and burnt. These two buildings were described as being the most decrepit structures on the station.

Physical Description

Building Type PTB Mark III

Construction Insulated plywood panels

No longer exists.

Condition Report

Site Services

Present Use

Reference Source Documentation

Station Reports/Logs

1957 - Store hut built.
1960 - Store huts (two): Both in good condition, though the roof of the older store needs replacing.
1961 - Hardware Store: Used as a warm bottle store in 1961. Changed to a clothing store in 1962 with the erection of a new warm store.
1962 - No. 1 Store: Reference to this being one of the original station buildings and it being used as a hardware, stationary and clothing store. A note that the plywood roof of the building is deteriorating, though it is in reasonable condition. Galvanised iron has been ordered to re-roof the building.
1963 - Reference to the construction of shelving in No. 1 Store. All station buildings are described as being in good condition, except for the roofs of Nos. 1 and 2 Stores. A suggestion that the top layer of plywood be removed and the roofs be covered in zinzanneal sheeting.
1964 - Nos. 1 and 2 Stores: Roofs and some wall panels covered in zincanneal sheeting.
1969 - Reference to No. 1 or Hardware Store.
1971 - Reference to Hardware Store having external cladding problems.
1974 - A note that the Hardware Store has a solid timber frame and is worth recladding.
1975 - Leaks noted in Hardware Store.
1977 - A comment that the,*"oldest buildings seem to be the store buildings which are only good for demolition."*
1984 - The Hardware Store described as an old style container.
1985 - A note that the Hardware Store (Woolworths) has deteriorated and should be replaced.
1986 - A note that the most decrepid buildings on-station (Field Store and 'Woolies') have been removed and burnt after their contents were relocated.

Other References

Drawings

VA 9087, 1.8.56, Standard Store.

Station Buildings Database

Background

Building Name Community Hut

Building Number 5

Year 1957

Other Names

Mess and Kitchen

Secondary Uses

none

Historical Summary

When erected in 1957, this building housed the meterology and radio offices, the kitchen, dining room, pantry and a cold porch. The structure was never very satisfactory. It had major leak problems in 1958 and the exterior panels facing the sea were in need of replacement by 1960. The building offered only *"limited facilities"* and in 1960 it was recommended that it be used as a recreation hut. Instead, it was demolished in 1962. The recommendation that part of the structure be re-erected north of the garage as an emergency store was not acted upon.

Physical Description

Building Type **Construction**

No longer exists.

(DRAWING OF ORIGINAL INTERNAL LAYOUT PROVIDED ON NEXT PAGE.)

Condition Report

Site Services

Present Use

Reference Source Documentation

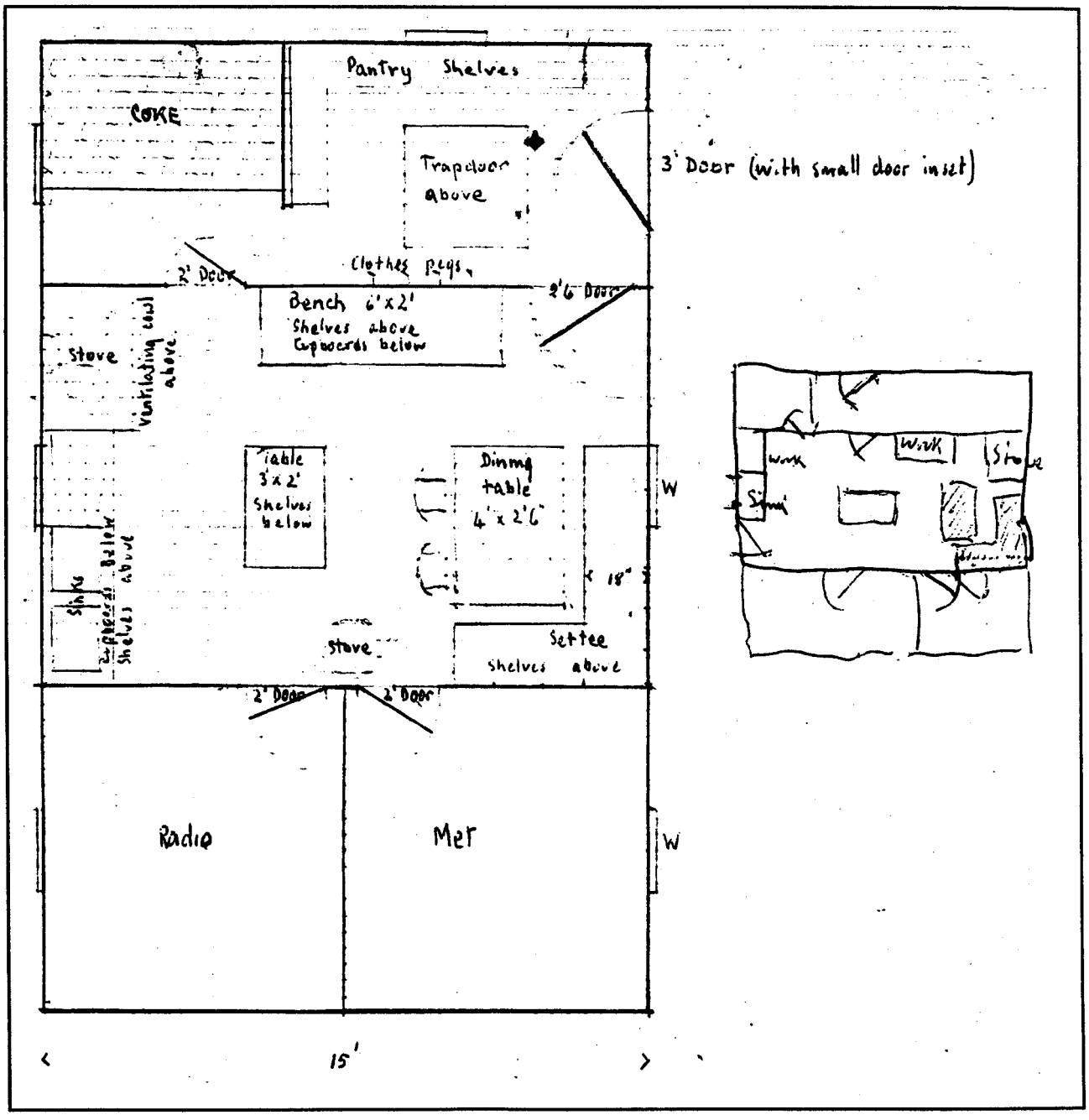
Station Reports/Logs

1957 - Community Hut built. By mid May, snowdrift had sealed off the main entrance to the building. By September, major leaks were occuring in the roof. A corridor was constructed linking the Sleeping and Community Huts. A second corrdior was constructed to link the building with the Workshop & Bathroom. Access in winter was through the roof hatch.
1958 - A darkroom was constructed in the small recess between the Community Hut and the Engine Room. Water poured through the ceiling of the building as the snow thawed.
1959 - The old pantry is planned to be the future library. Work began on dismantling the old radio room and met room to convert them into the new kitchen and pantry.
1960 - Mess/Kitchen: Reasonable condition, except for the plywood panels facing the sea (which were under snow for much of the year). An opinion stated that the building offers *limited facilities* and would be better as a recreation hut.
1961 - Mess/Kitchen/Pantry/Library: The roof leaks badly, condensation is a problem inside, the exterior plywood is buckled, the kitchen and pantry are too cramped.
1962 - Mess and Kitchen demolished. A recommendation that part of the structure be re-erected north of the garage as an emergency store.

Other References

G. Smith, Comunity Hut, Vestfold Hills, 1956 AAD, Melbourne (located with *Report on Australia's Antarctic Station at Davis, W.R.J. Dingle, 1957, AAD, Melbourne.*)
A note that - Rafters and Joists - 4"x2" Oregon DAR; Ends of panels 4"x1" Oregon DAR; Panels - plywood sheets; Canite for insulation.

Drawings



Original Interior Layout, Community Hut

Station Buildings Database

Background

Building Name Balloon Theodolite Shelter

Building Number 6

Year 1957

Other Names

none

Secondary Uses

none

Historical Summary

This structure was built in 1957. It was never considered part of the main station complex, being located some distance to the east of the station proper. It served its original purpose until 1994 when the new Balloon Theodolite Shelter was commissioned. It has since been dumped on its side near the new Incinerator Building.

Physical Description

Building Type

Construction

Inaccessible during study period.

Condition Report

Site Services

Present Use

Reference Source Documentation

Station Reports/Logs

1957 - Reference to a theodolite shelter, though it was not regarded as one of the original station buildings.
1961 - Not included in the list of station buildings.

Other References

Shown on *Davis Station Plan, 2/60/06 B* (as at 30/5/1963).

Drawings

Station Buildings Database

Background

Building Name Auroral Hut

Building Number 7

Year 1957

Other Names

Auroral Observatory
Old Auroral Hut
Astrodome Shelter
Theodolite Dome

Secondary Uses

paint and ether store
meteorological records store
obsolete radio equipment store

Historical Summary

This building was erected in 1957 and was originally located to the east of the main line of buildings. During 1961 it was used as a paint and ether store and in 1962 as a store for meteorological records. It was replaced in 1964 by a new Auroral/Glaciology Hut. The function of the building after that time is uncertain, though it probably served as a store. In a 1969 description of the station after it was re-opened, reference is made to an Astrodome Shelter. This would concur with the identification in a 1970 map of the 'Theodolite Dome'. In 1976, the structure was used to house obsolete radio equipment. It is currently sited atop the old Meteorology Hut and is no longer in use.

Physical Description

Building Type PTB Mark III

Construction Insulated plywood panels

Exterior

A box-structure consisting of timber-framed, fibre mat (asbestos?)-insulated, plywood-clad panels bolted together. The joins of the plywood panels are concealed by timber square-sectioned coverstrips. The western side of the structure is painted red, though previous paint layers (green, yellow, blue) are visible where the paint has cracked. The southern side of the building is painted with three stripes (two brown and one blue). The eastern side is painted red and has a length of pipe attached to it which extends up above the roof level (purpose unknown). The northern wall is painted in three stripes (two red and one blue) and has an electrical light fitting at the western end.

The roof of the building also consists of plywood panels, in this instance, painted light yellow. A perspex dome projects from the roof and is bolted to it via a circular fibreglass frame. The building is guyed from roof corner brackets using cables and turnbuckles to eye bolts in the bedrock. Cables also extends between the four corner brackets to provide extra bracing.

Interior

All of the internal walls and the ceiling are lined in plywood sheeting painted pale blue. Blocks of blue polystyrene (non-original) have been loosely wedged together to cover the walls. The door (which is in the western wall) has a mortice and tennon timber frame and is clad with a plywood sheet painted dark brown. It has a simple lever-action latch, two steel strap hinges which sit on gudgeons bolted to the timber door frame, and a rubber seal. Two light switches and an electrical box are located immediately to the right of the door on the western wall.

The floor consists of unpainted plywood. A wooden platform (painted powder blue) has been constructed (610mm above the floor) and has been cut out to permit the opening of the door. It is covered with loose red carpet squares.

An octagonal-shaped opening which has been cut into the ceiling is covered by a perspex dome. A section of galvanised pipe extends from a metal plate on the floor to the bottom of the dome. Attached to the pipe at this point is a brass stand and cover for the theodolite (no longer present). A light fitting is located in the northwest corner of the ceiling. A pencil sharpener is attached to the northwest side of the octagonal opening.

(REFER SHEET #4, APPENDIX 1 FOR MEASURED DRAWINGS.)

Station Buildings Database

Condition Report

Sections of the external and internal plywood cladding have delaminated and are cracked, exposing the insulated core. The external paintwork is very abraided and cracked, especially on the eastern side of the building and on the roof.

Site Services

None.

Present Use

Not in use.

Reference Source Documentation

Station Reports/Logs

1957 - Reference to the erection/installation of overhead power lines to the Auroral Observatory.
1961 - Auroral Hut in good condition. Utilised as a paint and ether store.
1962 - Hut has been used to store meteorological records but may be used once again for auroral work.
1964 - During the 1963-64 changeover period, a new Auroral-Glaciology Hut was erected to lock-up stage.
1976 - Hut used to store obsolete radio equipment.

Other References

1970 Davis Plan
Marked as the "Theodolite Dome".

Drawings

Station Buildings Database

Background

Building Name Community Hut/Engine Room Enclosure

Building Number 8

Year 1958

Other Names

Dark Room

Secondary Uses

none

Historical Summary

A link was soon erected between the Community Hut and the Engine Room. It was described as a corridor and passageway, however, additional space must have been enclosed to form a darkroom. This corridor provided access to the bathroom which was then located in the Engine Room building.

This enclosure would have been removed when the Community Hut was demolished in 1962. The darkroom equipment was moved into the Engine Room when this was converted into the Recreation Room. Although the intention was to locate the darkroom in the new Kitchen-Mess, this never occurred.

Physical Description

Building Type

Construction

No longer exists.

Condition Report

Site Services

Present Use

Reference Source Documentation

Station Reports/Logs

1957 - A passage linking the Community Hut and Workshop was completed.
1958 - A darkroom was constructed in the small recess between the Community Hut and Engine Room.
1962 - The Community Hut was demolished (presumably this enclosure was demolished at the same time).

Other References

Drawings

Station Buildings Database

Background

Building Name Met Office

Building Number 9

Year 1959

Other Names

Radio and Meteorology Hut
Radio/Met Hut
Met Hut

Secondary Uses

none

Historical Summary

Initially, the radio and meteorology offices were located in a room in the 1957 Community Hut. However, with the completion of a new Radio and Meteorology Hut in 1959, this room was dismantled to become a kitchen and pantry. The Radio and Meteorology Hut was sited at the northern end of the main building line. A partition wall was erected inside it to separate the two uses.

In 1961, a new Radio Hut was built in line with and parallel to the Radio and Meteorology Hut. After removal of radio operations to this new hut, the 1959 structure was used exclusively as the Met Office. A connecting passageway was constructed between the two neighbouring buildings in the same year, however, all but a 4' section of this attached to the Radio Hut was dismantled in the following year. The Met Office was extended to the east in 1982 to accommodate the met technician. The last use of the building was for donga accommodation. It is currently not in use.

Physical Description

Building Type PTB Mark III

Construction Insulated plywood panels

Exterior

Constructed of timber-framed, insulated, plywood-clad panels painted blue. (Previous colour schemes include dark blue and white.) The panels are fixed by tie rods which extend through the longitudinal plar. s of the panels. Wooden coverstrips conceal the wall panel joins and the joins between the wall and roof panels. The corners are covered by zincanneal edging.

The building is guyed from roof corner brackets by cables and turnbuckles to eye bolts in the bedrock. A metal rod roof frame braces the building between the corner brackets. The roof consists of plywood-clad panels with wooden battens over the panel joins. It is pierced by a roof hatch with a timber frame, metal top and plywood bottom. The hatch has rubber and cloth seals. A second (former) roof hatch is covered with a rough piece of plywood. Of the three original roof vents, two are covered by rusted cans while the third is topped with a H-shaped cowling. The base of the building is bolted to four beams (marked *I, II, III, IV*) by metal angle brackets. These beams, which extend beyond the edge of the building on the eastern side, rest upon a base of railway sleeper sections and rocks.

The exterior door is located in the northern side of the building. This is not the original exterior door (see Interior description) and has been placed where there was once a window. The door is constructed of a heavy timber frame and plywood panelling and it has a lever-action latch/handle and a canvas seal. A timber deck is situated beneath the door. To the west of this door are two fixed, timber-framed, double-glazed windows with timber sills sheathed in metal and a service duct to the Radio Hut. Immediately to the right of the door is a metal ladder with nine rungs which provides access to the roof. On the western side of the building is the wall-high word *MET* painted white. A large timber-framed, double-glazed window has been inserted into this wall eliminating part of the letter "E". The south side of the building is in its original form and has three metal-framed, double-glazed windows with timber sills sheathed in metal. (Note: All of the original windows in this building have recessed wooden sashes. The inner pane of each of these windows was designed to open.) The westernmost of these three windows has been covered over with a sheet of plywood. The 1982 cement-sheeted addition runs along the entire east wall of the building.

Interior

Consists of three rooms - a cold porch, an eastern room and a western room. (The cement sheet addition attached to the east of the building is not included in this description, being constructed in 1982.)

Cold Porch

The exterior door is lined internally with plywood painted yellow. The architrave of this door, the two open doorways and all of the furnishings and edging in this room are painted bright red. The plywood lining of the room is painted deep blue. Three wooden shelves run the entire length of the northern wall above the exterior door. A small shelf is located in the northwest corner. A curtained doorway in the east wall leads into the 1982 cement sheet addition. (There is evidence that this was the original exterior doorway.) To the right of this doorway is a timber ladder with nine rungs which provides access to a roof hatch. A curtained doorway in the south wall provides access to the eastern room of the building. To the left of this doorway is a powerbox. On the west wall is a GPO and a single shelf at head height which runs the full length of the wall. A wooden coat hook with four pegs is also attached to this wall. The ceiling consists of white-painted plywood with timber coverstrips. It is pierced by a roof hatch (previously described) and has a single flourescent light attached to it. On the floor, red carpet tiles cover grey linoleum squares (possibly anti-static).

Eastern Room

An L-shaped room. All of the walls consist of yellow-painted plywood panels except for the partition wall with the western room which is made of masonite. (Note: This wall is most likely that which was constructed to separate radio and met operations in 1959.) Previous colour schemes include light green and cream. Some of the wall panels are covered by zincanneal coverstrips and quad moulds exist in some of the corners.

On the eastern wall of this room there is evidence of a shelving unit since removed. A "Servex" refrigerator stands against the east wall. In the south wall are two small timber-framed, double-glazed windows, the inside panes of which were designed to open. A workbench and timber/plywood shelving occupies most of the southern wall. Shelving has also been constructed over the westernmost of the two windows in the south wall. In the western wall is a doorway with a timber architrave and a white vinyl concertina door. A single GPO is attached to this wall. Sunset wallpaper has been applied to the southern wall in which there is a timber-framed, double-glazed window.

The ceiling consists of white-painted plywood sheeting with timber coverstrips. It is pierced by an open vent and a screw vent. Attached to the ceiling are two flourescent light fittings. The "Structa" particleboard floor is covered by red carpet squares.

Western Room

All of the walls of this room consist of white-painted plywood with half-round battens over some panel joins and quad moulds in some corners. The doorway between the east and west rooms is located in the east wall. Above the doorway is a fire alarm. Two chrome coat hooks are attached to the wall to the right of the door. To the left of the door is a single bed built in to the wall. A timber-framed, double-glazed window in the south wall has been covered over from the outside. Attached to the south wall is a wall radiator and two double GPOs. A large, timber-framed, double-glazed window is located in the west wall. A desk with a two drawer filing cabinet beneath occupies the northwest corner of the room. In the north wall is a timber-framed, double-glazed window with a blind. The "Structa" particleboard floor is covered with grey carpet tiles.

(REFER SHEET #5, APPENDIX 1 FOR MEASURED DRAWINGS.)

Condition Report

Fair condition.

Site Services

Electrical lighting.

Present Use

Not in use.

Reference Source Documentation

Station Reports/Logs

1959 - Reference to work commencing on a new building, the Radio-Met Hut. A partition wall was installed to

separate these two uses.
1960 - A reference that during the 1961-62 changeover a new meteorological hut was erected to lock-up stage and that Radio/Met was now used only by radio. [Note: This statement is incorrect. The new building refers to the Radio Hut. In the station log of the following year this building was described as being taken over by radio and that met stayed in the earlier 1959 structure.]
1961 - Reference to the connecting passageway between Met and Radio: Dimensions 8' x 6' x 12', materials - tongue and groove flooring, 4x2 supports, unlined masonite. During the 1962 changeover it was decided to separate the two buildings, so some 4' of the passage was dismantled. This left the met building as it was before the passage was constructed and the radio building with a small cold porch.
1982 - Extension to Met Hut for the met technician's workshop.
1984 - Reference to Met Office.

Other References

Drawings

Station Buildings Database

Background

Building Name No. 2 Store

Building Number 10

Year 1959

Other Names

Field Store
Fort Knox
Warm Store

Secondary Uses

laundry (?)

Historical Summary

This building, the second store at Davis,was built in 1959 for use as a warm store. In that year, a reference was made to stairs and a laundry platform being added to this new structure. In 1961, it stored vegetables, tinned food and field equipment, yet even by this early stage, its condition was reported as being quite deteriorated with buckled plywood panels and a large hole in the floor. By the following year the building was formally serving two roles, with unheated food being stored in the rear and field equipment in the front. The food section was refloored during this year.

Further repairs were carried out in 1964 when the roof and some wall panels were covered in zincanneal. Problems continued to be experienced with the external cladding during the 1970s. During that time, the alcohol store - Fort Knox - was moved into the rear of the building, whilst the front of the building continued to serve as the field store. The building was refurbished in 1982 only to be demolished and burnt four years later.

Physical Description

Building Type

Construction

No longer exists.

Condition Report

Site Services

Present Use

Reference Source Documentation

Station Reports/Logs

1959 - A reference to stairs and a laundry platform being completed on the new stores building.
1960 - Store huts are both in good condition, though the roof of the older store needs replacing.
1961 - Vegetable, tinned food and field equipment store. The plywood panels are buckled in places and there is a large hole in the floor.
1962 - No. 2 Store: The rear of this building is used as an unheated food store, the front as a field store. During the 1962-63 changeover the food section was refloored and it is expected this will be converted into a second warm store.
1963 - All buildings are in good condition except for the roofs of Nos. 1 and 2 Stores. A suggestion that the top layer of plywood on both roofs be removed and that they be covered in zinzanneal sheeting.
1964 - Nos. 1 and 2 Stores: Roofs and some wall panels are covered in zincanneal sheeting.
1969 - A reference to 'No. 2 or Field Store'.
1971 - A reference to the Field Store having external cladding problems.
1975 - Leaks reported in Fort Knox.
1976 - A reference to the Field Store/Fort Knox.
1977 - An opinion that the, *"oldest buildings seem to be the store buildings which are only good for demolition."*
1979 - Building divided into the Field Store and Fort Knox.
1982 - The building is refurbished.
1984 - The Field Store is referred to as an old-style container.
1985 - A note that the Field Store is deteriorating rapidly.
1986 - The Field Store and 'Woolies' were removed and burnt after their contents had been relocated.

Other References

Drawings

VA 10941 C. 21.8.58. Store Hut. Davis. for 1959 Expedition.

Station Buildings Database

This drawing is of a 12′ x 12′ structure. However, the Field Store measured 24′ x 12′.
Note: VA 61/393, C Plan for Standard Insulated Store, 1962 Expedition. Marginalia: 'Field Store Davis'.

Station Buildings Database

Background

Building Name Paint Store (Clothing Store)

Building Number 11

Year 1959

Other Names

Heard Island Rawin Hut
Metox
Radio Theodolite Hut
Paint Store
Clothing Store

Secondary Uses

non-metallic store
paint store
clothing store

Historical Summary

This building was originally erected at Heard Island where it was known as the Rawin Hut. It was transfered to Mawson station in 1955 where it served the same purpose. The building was transferred yet again, this time to Davis station, in 1959. The 1959 station report notes that it, *"...was the the third time this hut was put up"*. In 1960, the hut was described as being in extremely poor condition due to its age. As such, it was decided to build a replacement structure - the Radome - in 1962. From then onwards, the old structure was used as a non-metallic store which required no heating ("Insulwool", bedding, alcohol, linoleum, sisalcraft etc.) It was used as a Paint Store in 1963 and as a Clothing Store during the 1970s. Although it is currently used to store paint, the names Paint Store and Clothing Store are used interchangeably. It is likely that the hut is still in its original location on-station.

Physical Description

Building Type One-off Structure

Construction Timber framed and sheeted with plywood

Exterior

An octagonal structure consisting of eight timber-framed, plywood-clad panels filled with"Dufaylite"insulation. The corners of the panels are covered by timber cornerstrips. The panels are alternately painted red and white. Earlier colour schemes (blue, green, purple, yellow) are visible where the latest paintwork is cracked. Four air vents in the wall panels have been covered with pieces of plywood. An additional plywood patch is present on one of the wall panels. Rubber gaskets ("Rubazote") are present between the panels.

Each building panel is attached to the side of a timber octagonal frame by two steel straps which are bolted to the frame through wooden chocks. The octagonal frame surrounds a floor of timber planks, part of which is covered on the underside by "Onazote"- insulated, timber-framed, plywood-clad panels. The floor of the building sits upon a structure of double crossbeams which meet a central set of double posts which have been roughly tied together by short lengths of planking. On the outer edge of the building, the double crossbeams are supported by double posts (four ends) or single posts at the intermediary corners. Angled timber braces are attached to all of the support posts. The double posts consist of hardwood, all other foundation timbers appear to be oregon. Some of the posts are bolted to steel straps which are set in concrete blocks. Rocks have been piled up around the posts for additional support.

The roof consists of eight separate segments which meet at a central octagonal-shaped piece of timber. The building is guyed from four eye bolts on the roof via cables and turnbuckles to eye bolts drilled into the bedrock.

A set of four wooden steps provide access to the timber-framed, plywood-clad, inward-opening door. The door has an angled metal handle, a simple wooden latch, a padlock latch and a metal-covered doorstep. To the left of the door is a rusted metal drum top with the number *10* painted on it.

Interior

The internal walls and ceiling (also insulated with "Dufaylite") are all clad in white or pink-painted plywood panels. These panels are bolted together. Access to these bolts is from the interior through small holes which have been covered with rectangular plywood patches after fixing. The ceiling rafters meet at a central octagonal-shaped piece of timber. There are two light fittings on the ceiling and two Auto BCF fire extinguishers. Two light switches and a double GPO are located immediately to the left of the door. A fire extinguisher sits on the floor beneath these. The floor is covered with red linoleum over masonite over floorboards.

All of the walls are lined with rough shelving stacked with tins of paint. Two central benches are also used to store paint. A freestanding dimplex heater is present.

Condition Report

Poor condition. The exterior paintwork is badly cracked and abraided. Sections of the exterior coverstrips are missing and broken, cracks in some of these have been filled with silicon. One of the timber posts forming part of the foundations is shattered, one of the angled braces is split and broken, and a number of the support posts are slightly leaning.

Site Services

Electrical lighting and heating.

Present Use

Storage of paint.

Reference Source Documentation

Station Reports/Logs

1959 - Metox erected in February, it was,*"..the third time this hut was put up.."*
1960 - Building in extremely poor condition due to its age. The walls become waterlogged during winter due to constant heating and cooling. Recommendation that a new radio theodolite hut is needed.
1961 - Replacement Radome erected during 1961-62 changeover. Metox described as being in sound condition. Once the radio theodolite is moved to the Radome in 1962, the Metox will be used as a met store.
1962 - Radome erected during 1961-62 changeover.
1970 - Building is now referred to as the Clothing Store.
1979 - A suggestion that the Clothing Store be retained for historical interest.
1987 - Note that Paint Store is likely to be the last remaining example of its type.

Other References

Mawson Heritage Plan, S. Rando, 1995, AAD, Hobart.
Building used as the Radio Theodolite Hut (Rawin Hut) at Mawson 1955-59.

Drawings

VA 5795, 9.9.52, Rawin Hut for Heard Island.

Station Buildings Database

Background

Building Name Latrine

Building Number 12

Year 1959

Other Names

Lavatory
Toilet
"Cultural Centre"
Crapper

Secondary Uses

none

Historical Summary

The Latrine was constructed in 1959 to the west of the Recreation Room. A structure appears in the same location throughout the life of the station. The building was an ANARE "Standard Latrine" design.

The Latrine originally had three *"Destroilet"* toilets, none of which were partitioned. There was concern raised from the Medical Officer in 1962 about this building, as he believed that many of the aches and illnesses amongst expeditioners were caused by them venturing outdoors to the toilet when inadequately clothed. However,*"should the toilet be attached to the sleeping quarters or mess the problem of odour would be involved, for the present system would not be very satisfactory and to install 'flaming furies' would be an additional fire hazard"*. Toilet partitions were added in 1962. It was 1979 before a link was made from the Donga Line to the Latrine. It was described as a 'tunnel' with a plasply roof. This structure no longer exists. An addition (housing a fourth *"Destroilet"* toilet) was added to the northern end of the building, probably during the 1970s.

The Latrine remains in its original location though it is currently not in use.

Physical Description

Building Type PTB Mark III

Construction Insulated plywood panels

Exterior

Built in two stages. The original building represents a standard ANARE latrine design. It is constructed of timber-framed, insulated, plywood-clad panels. Tie rods run through the longitudinal sections of the panels. The roof has been reclad in metal sheeting (possibly colourbond) and has colourbond edging. The extension to the northern end of the building is clad externally in metal sheeting. All of the walls are painted yellow, though beneath this is successive evidence of red and blue paint.

The four roof corner brackets of the original building remain, the structure being guyed to the ground via cables and turnbuckles from these and from two additional brackets on the roof corners of the building extension. The roof of the entire structure is braced from corner bracket to corner bracket with cables. Piercing the roof are four flues connected to the *"Destroilets"* and a general air vent flue, all of which have H-shaped cowlings.

A small timber-framed, plywood-clad door (originally a window) exists in the eastern side of the building though it is now sealed. This door has a rope seal, vertical metal handle and a padlock latch. To the right of this door is a small, wooden-framed, single-glazed window with a wooden sill.

The current door to the building is located in the southern wall. It consists of a mortice and tennon timber frame clad in cement sheeting and has a lever-action latch. The threshold of the door is set two steps above the height of the floor level. Above the door is a plastic sign which reads - *Incinerator Building D. Hurburgh 1982* (from the new station). On the door is a *No Smoking* sign. Light fittings are present on the southern and eastern sides of the building.

The western wall of the building was buried by snowdrift at the time of inspection, but is likely to be similar in construction to the other walls. A box (measuring 2 200 x 1 010mm) adjoining this wall was also covered by snow (purpose unknown). The northern wall (being of the later addition) consists of metal sheeting.

Except at the northeast corner, the foundations were buried in snow. On this corner the building was resting on a timber beam.

Station Buildings Database

Interior

The walls and ceiling of the original building and the extension are lined internally in cement sheeting (Hardiflex). Quad moulds are present over all ceiling and wall joins. The walls and ceiling are predominantly painted white, though the previous colour schemes included green, black, sky blue and eau de nil.

The current door (in the southern wall) is framed and braced in timber, with the bracing housed into the stiles. Strap hinges on the door sit on gudgeons. The internal framing of the door is painted white, the Hardiflex sheeting is painted red, black, blue and yellow. A risisng sun has been painted above the door.

Along the western wall of the original building are three *"Destroilet"* toilets. On the lid of each toilet is a sign which reads - *Crapper Rules. Look before you shit. Check that when you lift this lid the flap to the bowl opens (lifts up) and that the previous load has burnt off. If either of these requirements are not functioning place out of service board on units and notify electrician. Happy shitting.* The white-painted half-partitions between these toilets are timber-framed and Hardiflex-sheeted. A plywood shelf covered with wood-grained formica tops each partition. The toilet flues are located internally and pierce the ceiling near the western wall.

Various abstract patterns have been painted on the western wall in flouro colours. Written on the wall above the toilets in black textra pen from south to north are the numbers *1, 2* and *3*, with No. 3 also known as *Simon's Office*. A vacuum cleaner and various gas fittings and pipes are attached to the west wall as are a number of metal GPOs. Psychedelic geometrical shapes have been painted on the eastern wall, as has a nude woman (rear view). At the southern end of the eastern wall is a wooden-framed, plywood-clad sealed door painted yellow. Writing on the door reads - *Thru to Lounge and Beer Garden.* Two fire extinguishers are attached to the door. A coat hanging rack extends from this door to a small timber-framed, single-glazed window near the southern end of the eastern wall. Various plumbing fittings are attached to the bottom of this wall.

A landscape scene (trompe l'oriele) has been painted on the north wall of the No. 3 toilet cubicle. A black-painted door frame (with orange stripes along the top) in the north wall provides access to the building extension. To the right of this door is a heating fan, switch and a fuse box. Attached to the ceiling are two flourescent light fittings and two BCF fire spray units. A single air vent pierces the ceiling. The floor is covered with quarry tiles manufactured by Annawerk, West Germany.

The building extension is also lined with cement sheeting, except for the southern wall (formerly an exterior wall) which is clad in plywood. The extension houses a fourth *"Destroilet"* toilet which has a similar sign attached to its lid as those in the original building. The top half of the north wall is painted red and includes a cartoon illustration (manga style). The remainder of this wall and all of the other walls and the ceiling are painted white. The southern wall has a wooden coat hanging rack and two fire extinguisher fittings attached to it. A double GPO is attached to the western wall while a six-shelf particleboard bookcase with a pegboard back lines the eastern wall. A BCF fire spray unit and a bare light bulb hang from the ceiling of the extension. Quarry tiles also cover the floor of the extension.

(REFER SHEET #6, APPENDIX 1 FOR MEASURED DRAWINGS.)

Condition Report

Fair condition. The exterior paintwork is badly abraided. The lid of one of the gas *"Destroilets"* has been partially burnt.

Site Services

Electrical lighting.

Present Use

Not in use.

Reference Source Documentation

Station Reports/Logs

1960 - Latrine Hut: Good condition.
1961 - Lavatory: A suggestion that partitions should be installed for privacy.
1962 - Medical Officer believes that many of the minor aches and illnesses that occur are caused by men going outdoors to the toilet at night when inadequately clothed. However, he notes that should the toilet be attached to the Sleeping Quarters or Mess the problem of odour would be involved, for the present system would not be very

satisfactory, and to install 'flaming furies' would be an additional fire hazard. Partitions were erected to provide more privacy.
1976 - A reference to the 'Crapper '.
1979 - A 'tunnel' built from the dongas to the toilet with a plasply roof.

Other References

Drawings

VA 11097, 15.9.58 Standard Latrine.
(Note: This is a 13' x 11' structure.)

Station Buildings Database

Background

Building Name Old Balloon Hut

Building Number 13

Year 1959

Other Names

Hydrogen Generating & Balloon Filling Hut
Balloon Shed

Secondary Uses

none

Historical Summary

Constructed in 1959, this building replaced the 1957 Balloon Filling Hut which was subsequently adhered to the main building line and used as the Carpenter's Workshop. The 1959 Balloon Hut was largely rebuilt in 1982 and was only superseded in 1994 with the completion of the new Meteorology Centre. It is currently not in use.

Physical Description

Building Type PTB Mark III

Construction Insulated plywood panels

Exterior

A two-roomed building constructed of insulated timber-framed, plywood-clad panels bolted together by tie rods through the longitudinal planes of the panels. The panel joins are hidden by square-section timber coverstrips. The building is predominantly painted red with the doors painted white. It sits on a concrete foundation pad. The building is guyed from the roof by corner brackets which are joined to eye bolts in the ground by cables and turnbuckles.

A door is situated at the western end of the the southern side of the building. It has a timber architrave and is constructed of a timber frame clad in plywood. The door has a simple metal vertical handle and a lever-action latch. Cracks in the white paint reveal that the door was previoulsy painted red. Above and to the right of the door are warning signs (inflammable gas). Two identical signs are located at the other (eastern) end of the wall together with a sign warning of underground cables. An alarm bell, electrical box and miscellaneous wiring and gas piping are also present on the southern wall.

The western side of the building has two large concertina doors (four leaves) which are timber-framed and clad in plywood sheeting painted white. Rubber seals exist around each of the two doors, with canvas seals present between the concertina sections. The doorway has a timber architrave. Two light fittings are located above the doors.

Two warning signs (identical to those on the southern side) are also present on the north side of the building (eastern end). At the western end of this side is a large electrical box and a snowmelter housed in a raised, white-painted box constructed with a timber frame and clad in a combination of cement and plywood sheeting. The plywood lid of the box is hinged and surrounded by a rubber seal. Two wooden steps provide access to the snowmelter.

A door, with a wooden architrave, is present in the northern end of the eastern wall. It is constructed using a timber frame which is clad in plywood sheeting and has a lever-action latch and a simple vertical metal handle. Cracks in the red paint on the door reveal previous paint colours - orange, green, white. Two concrete steps lead to the door.

Interior

Eastern Room

The walls and ceiling of this room are clad in white-painted cement sheeting with the joins concealed by square-section timber coverstrips. There are quad moulds in all of the corners. Small circular holes have been drilled into the ceiling (open to the sky). Next to this is a square recess (purpose unknown). Gas piping and fittings are attached to the ceiling as is a single flouresent tube.

Two heaters are attached to the north wall and one heater is attached to the southern wall. The room is fitted with Brownbuilt shelving units and wooden pallets. A timber-framed, plywood-clad door with a canvas seal, wooden architrave and lever-action latch joins the eastern and western rooms.

Station Buildings Database

Western Room

The walls and ceiling of this room are clad in white-painted cement sheeting with the joins concealed by square-section timber coverstrips. There are quad moulds in all of the corners. Gas piping and fittings are attached to the walls and ceiling, as is miscellaneous electrical wiring. An electrical light fitting is situated on the northern wall. Immediately to the left of the exterior door is a fire extinguisher and a small blackboard. Metal tracks run along the top and bottom of the concertina doors which are hinged on the inside. Locking bars (consisting of heavy metal rods) hold the doors in position. A small plywood shelf with metal brackets is located to the right of the door joining the two rooms. A circular opening in the ceiling is covered by a cowling vent.

(REFER SHEET #7, APPENDIX 1 FOR MEASURED DRAWINGS.)

Condition Report

Reasonable condition. The exterior paintwork is cracked and weathered. The paint on the eastern side of the building is especially abraided.

Site Services

Electrical lighting and heating.

Present Use

Not in use.

Reference Source Documentation

Station Reports/Logs

1959 - Floor of Hydrogen Generating Shed concreted in January. Building erected in February.
1960 - Balloon Filling & Hydrogen Generating Hut is reported to be in extremely good condition.
1961 - Building in good condition except for the doors.
1962 - A note that the building is in good condition but is not snowproof. The sliding door, *"has always been troublesome."*
1971 - Building in good condition.
1982 - Balloon Shed rebuilt.
1983 - Opinion stated that there is no need for a new Balloon Shed. The existing hut is considered to be ideal for problem releases in high winds.

Other References

Drawings

VA 11160-C, 13.10.58. Balloon Filling and Hydrogen Generating Hut, Davis 1959.

Station Buildings Database

Background

Building Name Old OIC'ery

Building Number 14

Year 1960

Other Names

Old Surgery
Surgery
OIC Office & Donga

Secondary Uses

electrical storeroom

Historical Summary

This building, the original Surgery at Davis, was constructed north of the Sleeping Quarters in 1960. In 1964, it was moved 20' to the east of its original location to allow the Sleeping Quarters to be extended. A porch was then added which linked the building to the quarters. A glass conservatory was added to the north wall window in 1969. With the commissioning of a new Surgery in the following year, it was recommended that this building be used as an electrical worshop. This did not occur, and the building was converted for use as the OIC'ery in 1971, though, it was also used as an electrical store during that year. The building was known as the OIC'ery from that year onwards. The glasshouse was removed in 1979.

Although connected to it, the OIC'ery was never referred to as part of the Main Donga Line in station descriptions of the 1980s. It is currently not in use.

Physical Description

Building Type PTB Mark III

Construction Insulated zincanneal panels

Exterior

A box structure consisting of timber-framed, polystyrene-insulated zincanneal-clad panels. The panels are fixed by tie rods which run through the longitudinal planes of the panels. Some of the panel joins are concealed by zincanneal or timber coverstrips. Timber battens cover the joins between the wall, roof and floor panels. The building is guyed from roof corner brackets via cables and turnbuckles to eye bolts in the rock. Metal rod bracing also runs through these roof brackets. The roof panels are labelled *Surgery 17* through to *Surgery 22*. Wooden coverstrips cover the roof panel joins. The roof is pierced by a single brass mushroom vent.

The building superstructure is bolted to metal angle brackets which are then bolted to north-south aligned timber bearers. These timber members extend beyond the end of the building at both ends, being topped by five timber planks on the north side to form a narrow platform.

A fixed, zincanneal-framed, double-glazed window is located in the north wall. A silicon outline around this window indicates the former presence of the 1969 conservatory. Stencilled on the north wall panels are - *Surgery 10, Surgery 11*. The exterior door is located in the east wall. It is zincanneal-clad, has a lever-action latch, vertical metal handle and a timber architrave. A light fitting is located above the door, a railway sleeper step has been placed beneath it. Two fixed zincanneal-framed, double-glazed windows are situated in the east wall. Two identical windows are also located in the south wall, as is an air vent. Stencilled onto the south wall panels are - *Surgery 15, Surgery 16* and *ZA Seconds Panel Quality*. In the west wall are two fixed, zincanneal-framed, double-glazed windows.

Interior

The internal walls are lined in pastel green-painted masonite sheeting. Coverstrips conceal some of the panel joins and there are quad moulds in some of the corners. A fire extinguisher is located in the northwest corner of the room. In the centre of the north wall is a fixed, timber-framed, double-glazed window with a white painted architrave. Two timber shelves run along the entire length of the north wall above the window. In the eastern corner of the north wall is a timber cupboard and a powerbox. An exterior door is located in the northern end of the east wall. The door is lined internally in plywood, and has a canvas seal, lever-action latch/handle and a mirror attached. Also in the east wall are two windows (identical to the window located in the north wall), miscellaneous electrical wiring and two light switches. Two windows are also situated in the south wall. The easternmost of these is identical to those already mentioned, however, the western window has a metal architrave and has been painted over. A timber workbench/desk runs along the south wall and has metal drawers and a filing cabinet beneath it. A turning vent is located in the western end of the south wall. From the

southwest corner of the room a timber shelf, with chrome railing beneath, runs along the west wall at head height. Two fixed, double-glazed windows with metal architraves are situated in the south wall. One of these has been painted over. At the northern end of the west wall is the door to the cold porch/passageway. It is clad in zincanneal and has a lever-action latch and a timber architrave. To the left of this door is a timber coat rack with two pegs. Above this is a fire alarm. A freestanding counter/cupboard runs to the centre of the room from the east wall. Immediately south of this is a metal-framed single bed. A bank of crates full of empty beer bottles line the western wall.

The ceiling consists of white-painted masonite and has a single air vent and six light fittings. The floor is covered with grey fitted carpet which covers a layer of plywood. Beneath this is a polystyrene foam layer which sits upon cement sheeting. There are two sunken sections of floor. One permits the exterior door to be opened while the second, which is against the north wall, was previously occupied by a wall radiator.

(REFER SHEET #8, APPENDIX 1 FOR MEASURED DRAWINGS.)

Condition Report

The zincanneal panels on the eastern side of the building are severely rusted and pitted and are broken in places. The guy cables from the east side roof brackets are no longer fastened. A number of the timber coverstrips over the wall panel joins are missing or are lifting off.

Site Services

Electrical lighting.

Present Use

Not in use.

Reference Source Documentation

Station Reports/Logs

1960 - A surgery building was erected during the 1959-60 changeover to lock-up stage.
1961 - The Surgery is described as being in very good condition. A sink, cupboard and bookcase were built along the northern wall.
1963 - The Surgery was dismantled and erected in a new position.
1964 - Work commenced on a cold porch connecting the Sleeping Quarters to the Surgery.
1969 - The building was repainted internally, and a greenhouse was attached externally to the window in the north wall.
1971 - The building was used as the OIC'ery and electrical storeroom.
1978 - The OIC Office and Donga was re-floored, carpeted and re-painted.
1979 - A recommendation that the conservatory on the outside of the window be removed to allow the window to be opened.
1984 - A reference to the OIC Office and Donga.
1988 - A note that the OIC unit accommodates the Station Leader and two others.

Other References

Drawings

VAA 59/649-C, 13.8.59 Surgery Hut for Davis, 1960 Expedition.

Station Buildings Database

Background

Building Name Radio Hut

Building Number 15

Year 1961

Other Names

Radio-Meteorology Store
Radio Office

Secondary Uses

none

Historical Summary

This structure was built during the 1960-61 changeover in line with and parallel to the 1959 Radio/Met Office. At the same time a connecting passage was built between this building and the Radio/Met Office, however, during the 1962-63 changeover a 4' section of the passage was demolished leaving the new building with a cold porch.

The building was initially used as the Radio -Meteorology Store until the 1962 changeover when it was taken over by the radio section. A telephone booth was added in 1973. The building was refurbished in 1983. The structure was vacated in 1993 with the commissioning of the new Operations Building. It is currently not in use.

Physical Description

Building Type PTB Mark III

Construction Insulated zincanneal panels

The Radio Hut consists of three rooms - the Radio Room, Cold Porch and Telephone Booth.

Exterior

Radio Room

A box-structure consisting of timber-framed, polystyrene foam-insulated, zincanneal-clad panels. The panels are joined by tie rods which run through the longitudinal planes of the panels. The panel joins are typically concealed by zincanneal coverstrips, though on the southern side of the building, wooden battens cover the gap between the wall and roof panels. A single opening zincanneal-framed, double-glazed window is located in the western end of the southern wall. To the east of this window is a service duct through to the Met Office. On the eastern side of the building is a small wooden deck and a pipe ladder which provides access to the roof. To the north, the building is attached to a shipping container and a green freezer panel addition. At the western end of the north wall is a small fixed, zincanneal-clad, double-glazed window. In the western wall is an opening zincanneal-clad, double-glazed window.

The roof is pierced by a rectangular hatch (sealed), an air vent cowling, a mushroom vent and numerous electrical and radio fittings. Wooden battens run along the panel joins of the roof.

Cold Porch

The cold porch is clad in orange-painted masonite sheeting with timber coverstrips. The sheeting on the eastern side of the building is badly abraided, revealing previous colour schemes of red, yellow, white and blue. The door into the cold porch is located in the southern wall. It is constructed of a heavy timber frame and plywood cladding, and has a chrome freezer-type latch and strap hinges on gudgeons. The door has been cut down and is painted white. The words *VLZ Davis Radio* are visible at the top of the door. The cement sheet-clad telephone booth has been built against the western side of the cold porch. A timber platform connects the cold porch with the nearby Met Hut. A timber ramp leads off the western side of this platform.

Telephone Booth

Located on the southern side of the Radio Room, in the corner between this and the Cold Porch. The Telephone Booth is constructed of timber frames clad externally in cement sheeting. The joins are covered by timber battens and the corner of the west and south walls is covered by aluminium edging. The south and west walls are both pierced by a single fixed, double-glazed window with a timber frame and architrave.

Interior

Radio Room

The walls are lined with masonite-clad panels painted pink. These panels are filled with polystyrene foam insulation. Wooden coverstrips and quad moulds exist over some of the panel joins and corners. A small, opening timber-framed, double-glazed window is located in the western end of the southern wall. Near this is a wall radiator and above this is a noticeboard. A timber/plywood shelf unit (four shelves) is attached to the south wall, as is a power box and various electrical fittings. A fixed, metal-framed, double-glazed window (with a timber frame inserted inside it) looks into the Telephone Booth. Against the wall at this point is a timber/plywood radio console. Immediately to the left of this window is a stained hollow core door (with a small timber-framed, double-glazed window in it) which provides access to the telephone booth. A white-painted hollow core door in the southeast corner of the room leads into the cold porch. The eastern wall is partially covered with hessian and has a double GPO attached. The eastern end of the north wall is also covered in hessian. This hides an opening timber-framed, double-glazed window. To the left of the hessian is a section of counter constructed of timber and plywood, and to the left of this is a fire extinguisher and then a white-painted hollow core door. A fixed timber-framed, double-glazed window is located in the western end of the northern wall. In the western wall is a small opening double-glazed window with a wooden sash. A bank of radio equipment stands near the west wall.

The ceiling consists of white-painted masonite-clad panels. It is pierced by innumerable light and radio fittings and a single extraction fan, and has many electrical leads attached to it. The floor consists of bare "Structa" particleboard panels covered here and there with the occasional carpet tile.

Cold Porch

The cold porch is attached to the southeast corner of the Radio Room. It is lined internally with masonite sheeting painted grey. There are coverstrips and quad moulds over some of the panel joins and corners. The ceiling consists of masonite painted white. The floor is covered with carpet tiles over linoleum.

The door to the outside is located in the southern wall. It has a heavy timber frame, is clad in plywood and has a freezer-type latch. One light switch is located above the door, another is situated to the right of the door. Also to the right of the door is a non-functioning lever-action latch. To the left is a fire alarm. A timber coat rack with four pegs is attached to the western wall. In the north wall, a white-painted hollow core door with a timber-framed, double-glazed window provides access to the Radio Room. An electrical box is located to the right of this door. Three timber shelves resting on metal angle brackets run along the eastern wall.

Telephone Booth

The door between the Booth and the Radio Room is located in the north wall (see Radio Room description). This wall consists of plywood covered in a layer of black foam, which in turn is covered with cork tiles. A single-glazed, timber-framed window is located in this wall. In the western wall, which is also lined with cork tiles, is a fixed, double-glazed window with a timber frame and architrave. Situated beneath this window is a formica (wood-grained)-topped bench which runs the entire length of the western wall. Various telephone connections are attached to the southern end of this bench. The southern wall consists of black-painted plywood while the eastern wall is covered with black foam.

The floor consists of plywood covered with red carpet squares. The ceiling is constructed of white-painted particleboard and has a single flourescent light fitting attached to it.

(REFER SHEET #9, APPENDIX 1 FOR MEASURED DRAWINGS.)

Condition Report

Poor condition. The external panelling is separating and a number of the coverstrips have failed and been replaced with wooden battens, silicon or tape. The zincanneal pannelling on the eastern side is corroded. The ceiling is badly sagged and in places the polystyrene insulation is exposed. Numerous roof penetrations associated with radio operations have been patched. The exterior paintwork on the eastern side of the cold porch is very badly abraided.

Site Services

Electrical lighting.

Station Buildings Database

Present Use

Not in use.

Reference Source Documentation

Station Reports/Logs

1960 - Station Leader notes that a new Meteorological Hut was erected to lock-up stage during the 1960-61 changeover and that Radio/Met (now used only by radio) is in very good condition. [Note: This comment is incorrect. The new building referred to was the Radio Hut. In the following year, this building was described as being taken over by radio, with met. staying in the earlier 1959 structure.]
1961 - During the1960-61 changeover, a new Radio Hut was erected parallel to and in line with the Radio/Met Hut. The 1961 Building Report states that the new radio building was used during the year as a radio-meteorology store. At the 1962 changeover, the building was taken over by the radio section. A connecting passageway between the Met and Radio buildings (measuring 8' x 6' x 12') was constructed, using tongue and groove flooring, 4 x 2 supports, and unlined masonite. During the 1962-63 changeover it was decided to separate the two buildings, so some 4' of the passage was knocked down leaving the Met Hut as it was before the passage was constructed. The new Radio Hut was left with a small cold porch.
1962 - A reference to the Radio Building.
1969 - A reference to the Radio Hut.
1971 - A reference that the Met, Radio, Balloon and Garage buildings are made of wood and are in good condition.
1973 - A new phone booth constructed in June.
1976 - A reference to the Radio Office.
1983 - The Radio Hut was renovated.
1984 - A reference to the Radio Office.

Other References

Drawings

Station Buildings Database

Background

Building Name No. 3 Store

Building Number 16

Year 1961

Other Names

Warm Store
"F Donga"

Secondary Uses

donga accommodation

Historical Summary

This store was erected south of and parallel to the Hardware (No. 1) and Field (No. 2) Stores in 1961. It was built as a warm store for perishable food and continued to serve this function up until the completion of the new Stores Building in 1985, after which time it was converted into two dongas. It continues to serve this function and is referred to by some as "F Donga".

(Note: The building also housed the refrigeration unit when a cool room was built to its rear in 1963.)

Physical Description

Building Type PTB Mark III

Construction Insulated zincanneal panels

Exterior

A box-structure consisting of timber-framed, insulated, zincanneal-clad panels with zincanneal coverstrips and edging. Tie rods run through the longitudinal planes of the wall panels. Along the bottom of the zincanneal panels on the south side of the building have been stencilled the numbers - *2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.* Stencilled on the tops of these panels are the numbers - *21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28.* At every second panel join are stencilled *Top 10* through to *Top 20.* Two doors are positioned in the southern wall. The westernmost of these is original and has a timber-frame and is clad with a zincanneal sheet. It has a lever-action latch and a horizontal, metal handle. Beneath this door is a timber slat platform on a timber base and a set of five timber steps (the bottom step consisting of a railway sleeper). Above this door is a light fitting and to the right of it has been painted the letter *F.* The eastern door in the south wall is not original and dates from the conversion of the building into donga accommodation. It is plywood-clad with a timber frame and a timber architrave, and has a simple bent metal latch and a vertical handle. Beneath this door are two railway sleeper steps and a metal grill. The western side of the building has two fixed, zincanneal-framed, double-glazed windows. The northern wall has no windows but has the letter *F* marked on the western end of the wall. Two fixed, zincanneal-framed, double-glazed windows pierce the eastern wall.

Metal brackets are bolted to the bottom of the wall panels and to timber joists which rest on railway sleepers. The joists each consist of two lengths of timber into which have been carved the numbers - *I, II, III, IV, V.* Each joist has a small circular hole in each end for tying down. The building is guyed from four roof brackets on each of the north and south walls via cables and turnbuckles to eye bolts in the rock. Metal rods between the roof brackets provide roof bracing. The building has a flat roof which is pierced by two large vents with H-shaped cowlings which have been strapped down.

Interior

West End Donga

This room is lined with pink-painted plywood with timber coverstrips and quad moulds in the corners. The plywood ceiling, which is painted white and has a central vent, is supported by a timber beam running east-west to prevent further sagging. The floor is covered in carpet squares over polystyrene over carpet underlay. The floor level appears to have been raised by about 50mm in the eastern part of the building. The donga fitout is with radiata pine.

The room is separated from the east end donga by a central plasterboard partition (with ogee moulds) which forms the eastern wall of the room. A large curtained opening in this wall (about half the width of the building) allows access between dongas. To the left of this opening are two sets of radiata pine shelves and a freestanding drawer set. The door for the western donga (the original store door) is in the southern wall. It is lined internally in plywood and has a canvas seal and a lever-action latch. A fire alarm is positioned above the door. To the right of the door are two coat hooks, while to the left is a powerboard, a carpeted section of wall and a set of

lami panel shelves with a pegboard back. A pinboard and a small pine shelf are positioned on the northern wall beneath which is a single bed and a small timber table. In the west wall are two fixed timber-framed, double-glazed (original) windows with curtain rods and curtains. A flourescent light and a mirror are fixed to the west wall above the bed head. Near the more southerly of the two windows is a fixed pine shelf and two coat hooks. A built-in open shelving/wardrobe unit with radiata pine frame and plasterboard shelves extends out from between the two windows.

East End Donga

The internal lining of this room consists of plywood panels painted white with timber coverstrips and quad moulds in the corners. A non-original door provides access to this donga in the southern wall. The door is timber-framed, plywood-clad and has a simple metal latch and two strap hinges. To the left of the door is a veneered particleboard shelf on two metal brackets and two coat hooks. To the right of the door is a fire extinguisher, light switch and a section of carpeted wall. A freestanding cupboard is also positioned against the south wall. Laminated particleboard shelving is attached to the west wall, beneath which is a chest of drawers. In the northwest corner of the room is a timber-edged, veneered-particleboard shelf unit with a curtain. Attached to the north wall is timber shelving and a noticeboard. A single bed is located beneath the north wall. Two fixed, timber-framed, double-glazed original windows are positioned in the eastern wall together with a flourescent light, two double GPOs, a fire alarm and a fan heater. A desk and a two-drawer filing cabinet are located against the east wall.

(REFER SHEET #10, APPENDIX 1 FOR MEASURED DRAWINGS.)

Condition Report

The roof apparently leaks. Apart from this the building is in very good condition.

Site Services

Electrical lighting and heating.

Present Use

Donga accommodation.

Reference Source Documentation

Station Reports/Logs

1961 - A new warm store was erected during 1960-61 changeover period. It was placed in line with, and 10' south of, the second store.
1962 - All perishable food requiring warmth is kept in the Warm Store.
1984 - Building still used as the Warm Store.

Other References

Drawings

VA 59/610-C, 4.8.59, Standard Insulated Store (1960 Expedition).

Station Buildings Database

Background

Building Name Garage

Building Number 17

Year 1961

Other Names

Garage and Emergency Powerhouse
Vehicle Workshop
Tractor Shed

Secondary Uses

storage of meteorological equipment
storage of solvents, acids, flammable liquids

Historical Summary

A tractor garage was built in 1961. It was described as being built to the east of the main building line, between the new Radio Hut and the Balloon Shed. The structure, as originally built, housed one vehicle (the Ferguson tractor). This would have been the central section of the existing building (cf 1961 description). However, there was an immediate need to house two vehicles, and this was achieved by extending the Garage to the east, thus doubling its size. It is uncertain when this extension took place.

The 1963 station plan identifies a building located to the east of the main building line as the "Garage and Emergency Powerhouse". In this year, an Emergency Powerhouse was built as an addition against the western side of the Garage. (It was possibly made from material from the demolished 1957 Community Hut). This addition housed the emergency power generator up until 1976 when the Main Powerhouse came on line (the 1962 Powerhouse then becoming the emergency powerhouse). This emergency generator was probably the Lister 15kVA which was brought down with the 1957 party. At some stage, a fibreglass room was added to the southeast corner of the building, though its history is undocumented.

In 1978, part of the Garage was given to the meteorology section for storage and perishables (a number of labelling stencils belonging to meteorology are still located in the Emergency Powerhouse section). With the commissioning of the new Workshop in 1981, the structure was entirely converted into a store. Sections of the building are currently used to store solvents, acids and flammable liquids.

Physical Description

Building Type -

Construction Timber framed, plywood sheathed

The building consists of four separate rooms. The westernmost room is the 1963 Emergency Powerhouse. Attached to this is the original 1961 Garage, whilst attached to the east of this is the later garage extension (the dividing wall between these two rooms has been removed). A fibreglass room has been added to the south of the garage extension.

1963 Emergency Powerhouse

Exterior

A timber-framed, plywood-clad structure with square-section (30x7mm) timber coverstrips and zincanneal corner strips. An exception is the southern wall which is clad in cement sheeting. The cladding is painted green. The framing timbers used for the southern wall are all 4x1.5" sections. The frame of the western wall utilises 4x4" uprights and 4x1.5" horizontal sections. A plastic light fitting is present in the southwest corner. In the northern wall is an orange painted door constructed of V-joint tongue and groove timber boards which appears to have been cut down or lowered. There is evidence of earlier strap hinges on the door and frame and a lever-action latch is present. To the right of the door is a faded metal sign which reads - *Danger Underground Cable.* The roof also consists of plywood sheeting with timber coverstrips.

The building is braced from corner to corner on the roof using steel rods and guyed from brackets on the roof corners to eye bolts in the bedrock using cables and turnbuckles.

Interior

The interior walls and ceiling are unlined except for in the northern part of the room which is covered in cement

sheeting. Polystyrene foam sheets have been fitted to the northern part of the eastern wall of the building. A powerboard on the western wall has references to the Emergency Lister generator. Numerous electrical fittings and wiring is attached to the walls. The door is lined internally with plywood. Two flourescent lights are attached to the ceiling. A later concrete floor appears to have been poured over the original concrete floor. A freestanding Brownbuilt shelving unit stands on the floor and holds miscellaneous equipment, including a meteorology stencil.

Original 1961 Garage

Exterior

A box-structure utilising timber framing and plywood cladding. The cladding joins are identified by square section (30x7mm) coverstrips. The building has a zincanneal roof (panels aligned east-west) with zincanneal coverstrips. Stamped on the zincanneal panels are the words - *Made in Gt. Britain, S.C.W., Newport.* A square hatch pierces the roof. A gantry constructed of I-Beam steel and angle iron (painted orange), complete with pulley hoist fixings, sits over the roof.

On the northern side of the building is a set of double doors painted orange. These doors, which consist of V-joint tongue and groove timber boards, have been nailed together with pine battens across all of the wall/door joints. There are two timber battens across the doors and a metal padlock strap. The doors appear to have their original hinges and there is evidence of a locking arm having been fitted across the doors.

Interior

The dividing wall between the original 1961 Garage and the Garage Extension has been removed and replaced by a steel pipe girder. The ceiling and walls of this single space are lined with cement sheeting. There is no evidence of the hatch in the roof of the original Garage. The room has a concrete floor, the central section consisting of one piece, the eastern section consisting of two pieces.

The doors of the original Garage and Garage Extension have been completely covered by cement sheeting on the inside. Only those of the Extension remain operative. A timber bench runs along the northern wall of the enlarged room. There are also miscellaneous shelving, cupboards, Brownbuilt shelf units and a series of metal cabinets which store flammable liquids.

Garage Extension

Exterior

A box-structure consisting of a timber frame clad in plywood sheeting with timber coverstrips. The panels are painted green over orange. The roof consists of north-south aligned zincanneal panels with zincanneal coverstrips. Steel bracing rods extend from corner to corner on the roof and the building is guyed from metal brackets on the roof corners using cables and turnbuckles to eye bolts in the bedrock.

On the northern side of the building is a set of green painted double doors constructed of V-joint tongue and groove timber boards with a central timber stud. The easternmost of the two doors has a small inset timber/plywood door with a canvas seal, lever-action latch and a metal sign with the words - *No Smoking*. The westernmost of the two doors has a small fixed, timber-framed, double-glazed window. A timber weather strip runs along the top of both doors. The doors are fixed with two steel rotating latches. On either side of the double doors are metal arms used to hold the doors open. There is no evidence of ring bolts on the doors for these arms, which indicates that the doors may not be original.

Interior

(Refer to the interior description for the 1961 Garage.)

Fibreglass Extension

Exterior

Fibreglass skin painted grey with a 70mm thick foam insulation layer beneath. The building is guyed via a single cable over the middle of the roof.

Station Buildings Database

Interior

Unpainted fibreglass skin. A door opening has been cut into the southern wall of the Garage Extension to provide access to this room. The room is empty.

(REFER SHEET #6, APPENDIX 1 FOR MEASURED DRAWINGS.)

Condition Report

1963 Emergency Powerhouse - Poor condition. External paintwork is badly cracked and weathered. The plywood is split and buckled in places and some of the coverstrips are broken.

1961 Garage - Poor condition. The external plywood panelling is cracked and weathered and most of the paint has been abraided by wind-borne grit. The double doors are badly weathered.

Garage Extension - Nearly all of the paint has been abraided from the eastern wall. The paintwork on the northern wall is cracked and weathered.

Fibreglass Extension - Very poor condition. Large holes exist in the southern side of the building exposing the insulation layer.

Site Services

1963 Emergency Powerhouse - Electric lighting.

1961 Garage - Electrical lighting and heating.

Present Use

1963 Emergency Powerhouse - Not in Use.

1961 Garage - Storage of solvents, acids, flammable liquids.

Reference Source Documentation

Station Reports/Logs

1961 - The Garage was erected to the east of the main line of buildings between the new Radio Hut and the Balloon Shed. This site was chosen because it was virtually drift free. The original dimensions of the building were - 8' x 10' x 6'. Materials - 6" concrete floor, 4x4" hardwood supports, 4x2" softwood elsewhere, covered with a single layer of 3/8 to 1/2" ply. The double doors open side on to the wind and do not drift up. There is a skylight in the roof and a steel gantry with a chain block for removing engines. The existing Garage only houses one vehicle, but there is a need for a two-vehicle garage. It is suggested that the present building be converted into a carpenter's shop.
1963 - Construction of Emergency Powerhouse.
1969 - Reference to the Garage and the Tractor Shed.
1971 - The garage is described as being in good condition.
1974 - Reference to there being no storage in the Powerhouse or Garage.
1976 - Vehicle Workshop: Insulation and new doors installed. (The Main Powerhouse was commissioned and the 1963 Powerhouse became the new Emergency Powerhouse. The 1963 Emergency Powerhouse on the west end of the Garage presumably became a store at this time.)
1978 - A note that both Powerhouses and the Vehicle Workshop have to accommodate large amounts of stores and spare parts.
1979 - Part of the Garage was given to the meteorology section for storage and perishables.

Other References

Drawings

Station Buildings Database

Background

Building Name CO_2 Shed

Building Number 18

Year 1961

Other Names

none

Secondary Uses

none

Historical Summary

In 1961, a snowproof shelter was built for the C02 fire extinguishers. It was described as a masonite box and was attached to the cold porch of the Engine Room (i.e. Old Recreation Hut). The 1970 station plan shows it attached to the south side of this building. It was extended in 1964, but has since been demolished (year uncertain).

Physical Description

Building Type

Construction Masonite box

No longer exists.

Condition Report

Site Services

Present Use

Reference Source Documentation

Station Reports/Logs

1961-Construction of masonite box to house cylinders against the cold porch of the Engine Room.
1964-CO2 Shed extended (doubled in size).
1969-Mention of CO2 storage hut.

Other References

Drawings

Station Buildings Database

Background

Building Name Gymnasium

Building Number 19

Year 1962

Other Names

Emergency Powerhouse
1962 Powerhouse
"Davis Sports Complex"

Secondary Uses

diving operations store
plumber's workshop

Historical Summary

A new Powerhouse was erected during the 1961-62 changeover. It housed two Ruston 4YE40 units (40kVA) (a 15kVA Lister was used as an emergency power supply and was presumably located in the Emergency Powerhouse attached to the Garage). The structue continued to serve the role of principal powerhouse up until 1975 when a new powerhouse was commissioned. From then until 1985 when the No.1 Powerhouse was completed as part of the station rebuilding program, this building was used as the Emergency Powerhouse. Since then, it has been used as a diving operations store and, most recently, as the Gymnasium. In 1988, the Sauna was relocated beside this building and two showers were installed within it.

Physical Description

Building Type PTB Mark III

Construction Insulated zincanneal panels

Exterior

A box structure clad in timber-framed, insulated, zincanneal-sheeted panels with zincanneal coverstrips and corner edging. The panels are fixed by tie rods which run through the longitudinal planes of the panels. In the eastern end of the south wall is a timber-framed, zincanneal-clad door with a lever-action latch. Above this door is a sign which reads *Davis Sports Complex* and a single ligth fitting. To the left of the door is a red-painted timber box (door removed), evidence of a hose reel and various electrical conduits. Small signs which read *Danger Underground Cable* are situated either side of the door. Stencilled onto the panels of the south wall from left to rignt are the labels *Wall Top 6* through to *Wall Top 10* and *Lysaght Zincanneal Australia L O Panel Quality*. The western wall of the building was entirely covered by snowdrift at the time of inspection. The eastern wall is pierced by three timber-framed, double-glazed windows which are hinged at the top. The middle window is covered over with a sheet of plywood. A plywood box is attached to the east wall immediately to the right of the most southerly window. The eastern end of the north wall is pierced by a single timber-framed, double-glazed window. The wall panels on this side are stencilled *Wall Top 16* and *Wall Top 17*. Attached to the wall is a sign which reads - *Danger High Tension*. The western half of this wall is joined to the Old Recreation Hut via a red freezer panel-clad connection.

To the east of the building is a scaffold/timber ramp and a roughly constructed gantry which lead across a fibreglass tank to a galvanised steel-lined tank and on to a second fibreglass tank. A branch of this walkway also provides access to the roof of the Gymnasium. The roof consists of zincanneal panels which are numbered *27 - 46*. The original zincanneal coverstrips have been replaced by galvansied strips and some of the panel joins have been taped over. There are numerous patches in the roof, a single H-vent, a filled-in vent and a sealed roof hatch. A fire pump hut constructed of green freezer panels (from the station rebuilding program) is located atop the northeast corner of the roof. A steel-framed, timber-decked walkway links the roof of this building with the roof of the Old Recreation Hut. A services duct is located beneath this walkway. The building is guyed from roof corner brackets via cables and turnbuckles to eye bolts in the rock. A framework of metal rod bracing extends between the corner brackets.

Interior

The interior of the building consists of four rooms - the Gymnasium, Cold Porch, Shower Room and an Open Enclosure.

Gymnasium

The Gymnasium is lined in zincanneal panelling painted off-white. The panel joins are concealed by a combination of zincanneal and timber coverstrips.

A large opening with a timber architrave has been cut through the western half of the original north wall. This provides access to a raised platform (cement sheet inner, freezer panel outer) which connects through to the Old Recreation Hut. Added to the lower section of the eastern half of the north wall, is plywood lining with timber edging (painted grey). A single timber-framed, double-glazed window with a curved sliding fastener is also located in the north wall. To the left of the window is a double GPO, various electrical conduits, a mirror and several workout posters. The northern half of the east wall is also lined at the bottom with plywood. There are three windows in this wall. Of these, the middle window has been infilled with polystyrene, while the remaining two are identical to the window described for the north wall. Beneath the middle window is a white plywood cabinet. Various electrical conduits, alarms and temperature controls are attached to the east wall. In the southeast corner of the room, an inward-opening zincanneal-clad door with a lever-action latch provides access to the Cold Porch.

Two Dexion shelves, which run along the top of the south wall, are used to store cross-country ski boots. Ski stocks are stored beneath this shelving. The shelving continues around onto the western wall and ends at the doorway into the Shower Room. A large mirror and workout posters are attached to the partition wall with the Open Enclosure. Two removable panels are situated in the west wall to the north of the Shower Room and Open Enclosure. A third such panel formerly existed, but has been removed to provide a doorway into the Sauna connection. The locations of these panels correspond with the former positions of the generators. Each panel has four locking handles and a central window in the top half. Above each of these panels is a timber-framed opening with a removeable metal infill. A fan heater is attached to the wall between the two surviving removeable panels, as are numerous workout posters.

The ceiling, which consists of a mish-mash of zincanneal panels with timber coverstrips, is primarily painted white. Patches in the ceiling may indicate the former positions of the generator exhausts. A north-south aligned lattice girder, supported at both ends by steel columns, runs down the centre of the ceiling. The floor of the southern third of the room is covered with quarry tiles. The remainder consists of concrete covered with an assortment of carpet squares. Gym equipment is positioned about the room.

Cold Porch

Situated in the southeast corner of the building. The walls and ceiling of this room are lined with zincanneal panels painted white. No coverstrips are present. The exterior door is located in the south wall. It consists of a timber frame clad in zincanneal and has a canvas seal and a lever-action latch. A similar door in the west wall provides access to the Gymnasium. A sign above this door reads - *No Boots Through Door Please.* Five fire extinguishers are attached to the north wall. Three lengths of pipe which run along the east wall are used to stack cross country skis against. Above this piping is a Dexion shelf which also runs the entire length of the east wall. The floor of the room consists of concrete.

Shower Room

This room is situated in the southwest corner of the building. A hollow-core, ex-toilet door provides access from the Gymansium to this room. Two plastic shower recesses are situated against the south wall which consists of zincanneal panelling. A single timber-framed, double-glazed window, with a curved sliding fastener, is located in the west wall (also zincanneal). A set of wooden shelves is attached to the north wall which is constructed of cement sheeting. A double flourescent light fitting is attached to the zincanneal ceiling. The floor is covered with quarry tiles.

Open Enclosure

This space is located immediately to the north of the Shower Room. The north and south walls of this enclosure are constructed of cement sheeting. The west wall, which consists of zincanneal sheeting, is pierced by a window which is identical in appearance to that described for the Shower Room. This space has a raised concrete floor.

(REFER SHEET #11, APPENDIX 1 FOR MEASURED DRAWINGS.)

Condition Report

Poor condition. The roof is buckled and supported by a lattice girder. The exterior panels on the eastern side are severely corroded and pitted.

Site Services

Electrical lighting and heating.

Station Buildings Database

Present Use

Gymnasium.

Reference Source Documentation

Station Reports/Logs

1961- A new Powerhouse was constructed during the 1961-62 changeover period, sited 10' south of, and in line with, the old powerhouse (Engine Room).
1963 - Two Ruston 4YE 40kVA generators were installed in the Powerhouse.
1971 - The powerhouse prime movers and alternators were overhauled. Peak load reached.
1972 - Both Ruston generators were overhauled. The Powerhouse was at load limit.
1975 - A reference to leaking in the Powerhouse.
1976 - Both Rustons were moved to the newly completed Powerhouse (Gimesey Building). The single phase Lister 15kVA is moved to the (1962) Powerhouse.
1978 - A note that both powerhouses have to also accommodate large amounts of stores and spare parts.
1980 - (1962) Powerhouse again houses the two Ruston generators. The roof is described as being rotten and likely to fall down soon. One column is settling and the building is unsafe.
1984 - (1962) Powerhouse is decommissioned. It is now used as a diving operations store and gym.
1985 - Building converted to a dive store and gym.
1988 - The sauna is relocated to beside the Gymnasium. Two fire doors are installed between the Gymnasium and the cold porch entrance to the Main Donga Line. Two showers are installed in the Gymnasium.

Other References

Drawings

VA 61/572-C, 18.9.61, Power House, Davis 1962 Expedition.

Station Buildings Database

Background

Building Name Radome

Building Number 20

Year 1962

Other Names

Radio Theodolite Dome
Rawin Radome
Metox

Secondary Uses

none

Historical Summary

This building, erected in 1962, replaced the ex-Heard Island Rawin Hut. It was originally located to the west of this earlier structure and to the south of the main station complex, where it housed the radio theodolite.

In the late 1970s, the Radome was moved to the east of the main building line. It continued to be used for its original purpose in this new location until replaced by the present structure in 1992. At this time it was discarded and moved to the west of the Magnetic Absolute Building to make way for the new Meteorlogy Centre. It is no longer in use.

Physical Description

Building Type -

Construction Glass reinforced plastic segments

Exterior

An orange-coloured single skin fibreglass sphere (5mm thick) with the bottom 1m flared outwards. The structure consists of eight fibreglass segments with foam seals between each. These segments are flanged and bolted together. Circular holes have been drilled into the flanges, supposedly as guy wire attachments. Three vents in the wall segments are covered by flanged, curved, fibreglass hoods. The top of the building has a circular opening sealed by two circular fibreglass plates which are secured by a wing bolt. An electrical light fitting is located to the left of the fibreglass door which has a simple lever-action handle. A curved fibreglass weather strip is situated above the door.

The building sits upon a plywood base and the fibreglass segments are bolted down through a curved plywood plate. This in turn sits upon timber decking (painted white and green in places) which tops a framework of timber bearers and joists.

Interior

The internal side of the fibreglass segments are painted white. Each segment has a number (1 - 8) and an arrow drawn on it in black textra pen. Three coverflaps in the walls conceal circular openings which are covered by flywire. The door, which has a lever handle, is in segment No. 1, a fire extinguisher hangs on segment No. 2, and a fusebox is attached to segment No.7. There are three wooden supports on the walls which previously held instruments, one each on segments 2, 5 and 8. Two bare light bulbs are attached to the walls, as is a fire alarm (*Pearsons B1, Associated Fire Alarms Ltd., 1956*) and various electrical wiring. The floor is constructed of masonite segments.

(REFER SHEET #4, APPENDIX 1 FOR MEASURED DRAWINGS.)

Condition Report

Good condition. The timber decking has a weathered appearance.

Site Services

Electrical lighting.

Present Use

Not in use.

Station Buildings Database

Reference Source Documentation

Station Reports/Logs

1960 - A suggestion that a new radio theodolite hut is needed.
1961 - The radio theodolite will be moved into the new Radome in 1962. The Radome was erected during the 1961-62 changeover 20' west of the Metox. The nylon guys supplied with the building are being replaced with steel ones.
1962 - The building is in excellent condition.
1969 - A reference to the "Radome or Metox building".
1976 - A reference to the Radio Theodolite Dome.
1978 - The re-siting of the Metox dome has been approved and the foundations have been drilled.

Other References

Drawings

Station Buildings Database

Background

Building Name Old Kitchen and Mess Hut

Building Number 21

Year 1963

Other Names

Kitchen/Mess Hut
Mess Hut
Main Donga Line (part of)

Secondary Uses

accommodation

Historical Summary

The need for a new mess and kitchen was identified within five years of establishing the station and the erection of the first Community Hut. In 1961, it was recommended that the area between the Sleeping Quarters and the new Powerhouse should be utilised to house a mess, kitchen, pantry, library, record player, table tennis table, bathroom, laundry, darkroom, carpentry area, hobbies room and refrigeration room. This would have involved the removal of both the Community Hut and the Recreation (ex-Engine House) Building. However, in the event, only the Community Hut was demolished and a mess and kitchen were built on the same site.

The Old Kitchen and Mess was one of the few buildings constructed with a sloping roof which meant that it was kept clear of drift snow. A connection was built between the new building and the Sleeping Quarters. This consisted of a short passage flanked by a Bathroom (to the west) and an Office (to the east) (see Bathroom/Cold Porch/Office entry). The space between the Mess and the Recreation Room was enclosed using Community Hut panels in 1964 (see Old Carpenter's Workshop entry).

The building was superseded by the new Living Quarters in 1980. After that time, it was converted into four dongas and from then on was referred to as part of the Main Donga Line.

Physical Description

Building Type PTB Mark III

Construction Insulated zincanneal panels

Exterior

A box-structure consisting of timber-framed, insulated, zincanneal-clad panels with zincanneal coverstrips. The panels are fixed by tie rods which pass through the longitudinal planes of the panels. The double-glazed windows in the panels are typically opening (hinged at the top) and have metal architraves and timber frames. The yellow-painted northern wall of the building and the southern wall now form interior walls. The eastern and western sides of the building were largely covered by snowdrift at the time of inspection.

The building is guyed from roof brackets at the northwest and southwest corners via cables and turnbuckles to eye bolts drilled into the rock. Metal rods between the roof brackets provide additional bracing. A zincanneal roof hatch with timber surround pierces the roof, as do five air vents (including three H-vents associated with use of the building as a kitchen). Stencilled onto the roof panels are the words - *Lysaght Zincanneal Australia - LO Panels* and *Panel Quality*. The roof slopes gently to the east and west.

Interior

The interior of the building consists of a central north-south aligned passageway with two dongas on either side.

Passage

The passage and the two eastern dongas occupy that part of the interior which was formerly the station mess. The west side wall of the passage, which is constructed of plywood sheeting and timber framing, appears to be original. At the northern end of the west wall is a fire alarm panel, a fire extinguisher and a wooden shelf with a messageboard above. The east side wall consists of plasterboard sheeting and dates from the conversion of the building into donga accommodation in the 1980s. Both walls are painted yellow. The doorway in the northern end of the passageway (into the Drying Room passageway) has a timber architrave.

The floor of the passageway is covered with the original mess linoleum tiles, which are coloured brown with a dark brown fleck. The white-painted zincanneal ceiling has two light fittings attached and various service pipes and wires running beneath it. In the southern end of the ceiling is a zincanneal-clad, timber-surround

hatch. A six-rung pipe ladder on the eastern side of the passageway provides access to the roof hatch. Opposite the ladder are four fire extinguishers. There is a series of zincanneal patches (purpose unknown) in the west side of the passageway ceiling.

Northeast Donga

The north and east walls of this room consist of zincanneal-clad panels with zinc coverstrips. The more recent south and west walls are constructed of plasterboard sheeting attached to metal frames. In the east wall is a small opening, double-glazed window with a timber sash which is hinged at the top. Along the northern wall is a bunk with a bench/desk beneath. On the south wall is a yellow/green shelf unit. The floor of this donga is covered with brown carpet squares over linoleum tiles. The ceiling is constructed of white-painted zincanneal with timber coverstrips. It is pierced by a single mushroom vent and it has a flourescent light fitting attached.

Southeast Donga

The south and east walls of this room consist of zincanneal-clad panels with zinc coverstrips. The more recent north and west walls consist of metal framing clad in plasterboard. A plasterboard panel in the eastern end of the south wall marks the original doorway into the station mess. A second similar panel in this wall marks an original window which is now blocked up. A powerbox and pinboard are attached to the south wall. Along the east wall is a bunk with hanging space beneath. A small fixed, metal-framed, double-glazed window pierces this wall. A blocked window is situated in the northern end of the east wall. The donga doorway in the western wall of the room has aluminium door jams and architrave. The floor of this donga is covered with brown carpet squares over linoleum tiles. The ceiling consists of white-painted zincanneal with timber coverstrips. It is piered by a single mushroom vent and it has a flourescent light fitting attached to it.

Northwest Donga

The west and north walls of this room consist of zincanneal-clad panels with zinc coverstrips. The south wall is lined with plasterboard sheeting on metal framing, while the east wall consists of a timber frame infilled with plywood panels. This donga was built in that part of the interior previously occupied by the pantry. The hollow core doorway into this donga appears to be the original doorway into the kitchen. On the south wall is a five-peg coat rack. To the right of this is a hole in the plasterboard and a double GPO. The west wall of this donga was formerly occupied by an electric stove and griller and an *Aga* solid fuel stove. This space is now filled by a low bed which has an opening, timber-framed, double-glazed window above it. A second window in this wall (partially in the southwest donga) has been covered over. A small timber shelf supported by two metal brackets is located in the southwest corner of the room. A double GPO is located in the north wall. Immediately north of the doorway in the east wall is a light switch. Piping runs along the top of this wall. The floor of this donga is covered with brown carpet squares over linoleum tiles. The ceiling is constructed of white-painted zincanneal with timber coverstrips. It is pierced by a single mushroom vent and a flourescent ligth fitting is attached to it. The flue opening in the ceiling for the *Aga* stove is still visible in the southwest corner.

Southwest Donga

The south and west walls of this room consist of zincanneal-clad panels. The north wall is constructed of plasterboard on a metal frame and the east wall consists of a timber frame with plywood cladding. This donga was built in that part of the interior which previously housed the kitchen preparation area and servery. Part of the eastern wall of this room is the original servery wall and the current doorway in this wall has been cut through the original servery opening. A small metal-framed, double-glazed window is situated in the west wall. The floor consists of bare plywood along the west and south walls where the kitchen counters were formerly sited. The remainder of the floor is covered with linoleum tiles. The ceiling is constructed of white-painted plywood with timber coverstrips.

(REFER SHEET #12, APPENDIX 1 FOR MEASURED DRAWINGS.)

Condition Report

Fair condition. The external panels on the eastern side of the building are corroded and pitted in places.

Site Services

Electrical lighting.

Present Use

Not in use.

Station Buildings Database

Reference Source Documentation

Station Reports/Logs

1958 - Thawing snow pours through the ceiling of the Community Hut.
1960 - A suggestion that the old Powerhouse will make an ideal kitchen and mess.
1961 - The Community Hut roof leaks badly, condensation is a problem inside, the external plywood is buckled, the kitchen and pantry areas are too cramped. A recommendation that the area between the Sleeping Quarters and the new Powerhouse be used to house a mess, kitchen, pantry, library, record player, table tennis table, bathroom, laundry, darkroom, carpentry, hobbies room and refrigeration room.
1962 - A Mess Hut built during the 1962-63 changeover period.
1963 - The Kitchen/Mess Hut completed. The building is considered to be ideal because the sloping roof keeps clear of drift.
1978 - Building is repainted.
1980 - The Kitchen/Mess Hut was superseded by the new Living Quarters completed in 1979.

Other References

Jones to Holmes, Telex 16 July 1979.
Contains a picture of the conversion of the Kitchen/Mess, Recreation Room and Carpenter's Workshop to donga accommodation.

Drawings

VA 62/549-C, August 1962, Kitchen and Mess Hut for 1963 Expedition, Davis.

Cold Porch - The north wall of this room consists of aluminium-clad panels (refer Sleeping Quarters description). The south wall is clad in zincanneal panels (refer Old Kitchen/Mess description). The east and west walls are constructed of plywood with timber battens. All of the four walls are painted yellow. Quad moulds exist in the wall corners. The ceiling consists of white-painted plywood panels with the joins concealed by timber coverstrips. A single flourescent light is attached to the ceiling.

A door opening (door removed) in the western end of the north wall leads into the southern cold porch of the Sleeping Quarters. Immediately to the right of this is the former door to the exterior, now sealed with a sheet of masonite. This covered door has a timber architrave. At the northern end of the east wall is an open doorway with timber architrave which leads into the Office. To the right of the doorway is a timber coat rack with eight pegs. In the south wall is a zincanneal-clad door with a heavy timber frame and an inset zincanneal door. Both the door and inset door have lever-action latches. To the left of the door are three fire extinguishers. To the right of the door is a green-painted battery box (for emergency lighting?). Service wiring and piping (including hot water) runs along the tops of the walls. There is an open doorway (with step) into the Bathroom in the west wall. To the right of this doorway is a GPO, a light switch and a plywood patch. The floor is covered with linoleum tiles over plywood. There is a step up to the level of the Old Kitchen/Mess.

Bathroom - Like the Cold Porch, the north wall of this room is clad in aluminium. The south wall is clad in zincanneal, while the east and west walls consist of beige-painted plywood. On the walls is a combination of aluminium, zincanneal and timber coverstrips and there are quad moulds in the corners. Assorted service wiring and piping runs along the walls. The floor is covered with quarry tiles. The ceiling is lined with plywood and has a central timber batten and a flourescent light attached.

In the north wall is an original fixed, aluminium-framed, double-glazed window which looks into the passageway of the Sleeping Quarters. A ten-peg (one missing) coat rack is attached to the eastern wall. A cream-coloured enamel bath is located in the northwest corner of the room. The walls in this corner are lined with fake timber-grained laminex with timber surround. In the western wall is an open doorway with a timber architrave which leads into a shipping container (not included in this study). A step in this doorway is sheathed in copper. In the southern wall is a double stainless steel kitchen sink with timber edging. Beneath the sink is timber shelving, above it is a metal soap holder. In the southwest corner of the room is a glass and toothbrush holder. Left of the sink is a pigeonhole unit (for toiletries?). Either side of the doorway in the east wall are coat holders. Beneath the holder to the right of the door is a metal paper towel dispenser.

(REFER SHEET #12, APPENDIX 1 FOR MEASURED DRAWING.)

Condition Report

The zincanneal sheeting on the east side of the Office is badly corroded and pitted. The ceiling of the Office has sagged. The panelling on the western side of the Bathroom has separated from the timber frame in places.

Site Services

Electrical lighting.

Present Use

Not in use.

Reference Source Documentation

Station Reports/Logs

1963-A bathroom, office and cold porch were constructed between the new mess and the sleeping hut. It was clad externally with zincaneal sheeting. The floor consists of concrete on steel decking overlaid with tiles. The bathroom and office sections are clad externally with plywood.

Other References

Drawings

Station Buildings Database

Background

Building Name Sauna

Building Number 23

Year 1963

Other Names

Refrigeration Room
Cold Store
Refrigerated Store
Freezer

Secondary Uses

none

Historical Summary

This building was erected as a Cold Store in 1963 at the rear of the No. 3 Store. (The refrigeration unit was actually installed in the No.3 Store.) The structure served its original purpose until being replaced by the new Stores Building in 1985. It was subsequently converted into a Sauna and moved to its present location beside the Gymnasium in 1988. The building remains in service as the Sauna. All that is left at the original building site is a set of two concrete steps.

Physical Description

Building Type PTB Mark III

Construction Insulated zincanneal panels

Exterior

This building is connected to the Gymnasium by a short corridor (not described as part of this study).

A box structure consisting of timber-framed, insulated, zincanneal-clad panels formerly painted white. The panels are fixed by tie rods which pass through the longitudinal planes of the panels. The panel joins are concealed by zincanneal coverstrips. The eastern side of the building now forms part of the interior of the Gymansium. Unlike the other walls of this building, this side is clad in plywood sheeting and has a timber-framed, plywood-clad door which has been painted in green and white stripes. Written on the door in textra pen is the following message - *No Dirty Snow. Please, the snow around this building is full of ash from the incinerator. There are some sauna users who don't really want to inhale cremated shit. Thank you.* Above the door is a length of radiata pine.

Interior

The eastern wall, floor and ceiling of this room are lined with "lamipanel" plywood. The remaining walls are clad in stained radiata pine. In the east wall is a timber-framed, plywood-clad door painted white with vents in the top and bottom. Light fittings are attached to the east wall either side of the door. A thermometer is located immediately to the right of the door. The sauna heater is positioned next to the west wall of the room and is housed in a small alcove lined with cement sheeting. A high timber bench seat runs along the north and south walls.

(REFER SHEET #11, APPENDIX 1 FOR MEASURED DRAWING.)

Condition Report

Poor condition. Virtually all of the exterior paintwork has been abraided off. The roof is now slightly concave in shape and holds water. The zincanneal wall cladding in the southwest corner has been stripped away to expose a section of the timber panel frame. The walls and roof have been patched and silicon has been applied to reduce leaking.

Site Services

Electrical lighting and heating.

Present Use

Sauna.

Station Buildings Database

Reference Source Documentation

Station Reports/Logs

1963 - A new refrigerated cold room was erected, with the refrigeration unit installed in No.3 Store.
1976 - A mention of the Cold Store.
1978 - A mention of the Freezer.
1988 - The Sauna was relocated to beside the Gymnasium.

Other References

Drawings

VA 62/496C, August 1962, Refrigerated Storage Hut for 1963 Expedition, Davis.

Station Buildings Database

Background

Building Name Auroral and Glaciology Hut

Building Number 24

Year 1964

Other Names

Auroral Hut
Upper Atmospheric Physics (UAP) Building

Secondary Uses

none

Historical Summary

This hut replaced the original Auroral Hut and was located some distance to the south of the main station complex. It served its original function throughout the life of the old station. A description of the old station in 1984 refers to the Upper Atmospheric Physics (UAP) Building being housed in an old-style container. This is almost certainly the Auroral-Glaciology Hut. In 1985, there was a reference to the placement and fitting of a UAP container (this is likely to be a second structure, as two such containers were in existence in 1987). An urgent replacement for the UAP Building was recommended in the same year, yet by 1992 a further two containers appear to have been added to the complex. With the commissioning of the new UAP Building in 1992, one of these containers was transferred to Casey station, while a second was moved down the hill to near the site of the new water tanks where it is currently used to house the hydroponics unit.

All that remains of the Auroral-Glaciology Hut complex at its original site are its foundations.

Physical Description

Building Type **Construction**

No longer exists. All that remains of the Auroral-Glaciology Hut at its original site (immediately southeast of the new ASP Building) are sections of concrete foundations, a grid of scaffold pipe sections (25 visible) drilled into the bedrock (two with steel stirrups attached) and several eye bolts drilled into rock.

Condition Report

Site Services

Present Use

Reference Source Documentation

Station Reports/Logs

1964 - During the 1963-64 changeover period, a new Auroral-Glaciology Hut was erected to lock-up stage. The building was completed during 1964.
1969 - A reference to the Auroral Hut.
1976 - A reference to the Auroral Hut.
1984 - A note that the UAP Building consists of an old-style container.
1985 - Mention of the placement and fitting of a second (?) UAP container.
1987 - A note that the UAP Building and Biolab are in urgent need of replacement.

Other References

Drawings

VA 63/447 C, 18.6.63, 1964 Expedition, Davis.

Station Buildings Database

Background

Building Name Fire Pump Hut

Building Number 25

Year 1969

Other Names

none

Secondary Uses

none

Historical Summary

This structure was built on the re-occupation of the station in 1969 against the south wall of the 1962 Powerhouse. It was replaced in 1978 when a new Fire Pumphouse was built using spare Living Quarters (LQ) panels from the station rebuilding program. This new structure now sits on top of the Gymnasium (1962 Main Powerhouse). It appears that the 1969 Fire Pump Hut was demolished at this time.

Physical Description

Building Type

Construction

No longer exists.

Condition Report

Site Services

Present Use

Reference Source Documentation

Station Reports/Logs

1969-Fire Pump Hut is mentioned in the list of old station buildings.
1978-New Fire Pump Hut built with spare LQ panels.

Other References

Drawings

Station Buildings Database

Background

Building Name Old Paint Store

Building Number 26

Year 1969

Other Names

none

Secondary Uses

none

Historical Summary

This store appears to have been built on the re-occupation of the station in 1969. It was located slightly to the west of the No. 1 and No. 2 Stores. It was probably demolished at the same time as the Nos. 1 and 2 Stores in 1986 from which time the then Clothing Store (ex-Heard Island building) was used as the paint store.

No evidence remains of this building.

Physical Description

Building Type

Construction

No longer exists.

Condition Report

Site Services

Present Use

Reference Source Documentation

Station Reports/Logs

1969-A Paint Store is included in the list of station buildings.

Other References

Drawings

Station Buildings Database

Background

Building Name Micropulsation

Building Number 27

Year 1970

Other Names

none

Secondary Uses

none

Historical Summary

This was most likely built in 1970 to the west of the Auroral-Glaciology Hut. It was probably demolished during the station rebuilding program in 1992 or 1993 to make way for the new fuel farm.

Physical Description

Building Type

Construction Plywood cladding on timber frames

No longer exists.

Condition Report

Site Services

Present Use

Reference Source Documentation

Station Reports/Logs

Other References

Drawings

Station Buildings Database

Background

Building Name Old Surgery

Building Number 28

Year 1971

Other Names

Cosray and Glaciology Building (at Wilkes Station)
Medical Building
New Medical Building

Secondary Uses

temporary store for biological equipment
general store

Historical Summary

This structure was originally erected at Wilkes station in early 1962 where it served as the cosmic ray and glaciology building. It was dismantled in 1969 and returned to Australia to be converted into the new medical building for Davis. The conversion cost ran to $7 000. The building was erected at Davis in 1971 to the north of the Sleeping Quarters. Upon completion, it replaced the original 1960 Surgery which then became the OIC'ery. The building was used as a surgery/medical building up until 1990 when the new Sleeping Medical Quarters (SMQ) Building was commissioned. Since then it has not been in use.

Physical Description

Building Type PTB Mark III

Construction Insulated zincanneal panels

Exterior

A box structure consisting of unpainted timber-framed, polystyrene-insulated, zincanneal-clad panels. The panels are fixed by tie rods which run through the longitudinal planes of the panels. Zincanneal coverstrips and corner edging conceal the wall and roof panel joins. The roof corner brackets for guying the building have been removed. The roof is pierced by a H-shaped vent and one round cowling vent. Three former openings in the roof have been covered with zincanneal patches. A metal-framed, timber-decked walkway (broken) extends from the southern end of the roof to the roof of the Sleeping Quarters cold porch. There are two numbering systems stencilled on the roof panels: *32-43* and *R32-R43*.

The building is bolted to metal angle brackets which, in turn, are bolted to four north-south aligned timber runners (numbered *I, II, III, IV*). These timbers extend beyond the northern end of the building where three planks have been nailed across them to form a narrow platform.

A timber-framed, insulated, zincanneal-clad door is located in the north wall. The door has a lever-action latch, horizontal stainless steel handle, a zincanneal patch, canvas seal and the number *3* stencilled on it. On the wall panel above the door has been stencilled *Top 18*, while *W18* is stencilled below the door. At the bottom of another panel is stencilled *W19*. A services duct runs from the north wall of the building to the south wall of the Met Office. The eastern wall of the building is obscured by shipping containers. The western side of the building was covered by snowdrift at the time of inspection, except for the far northern end in which there is a zincanneal-framed, double-glazed window hinged at the top. A zincanneal door (non-original) also exists in the southern end of the building. It has a lever-action latch/handle, a horizontal stainless steel handle and a single galvanised patch. A light fitting is situated above the door and two zincanneal patches are located to the left of the door.

Interior

The interior of the building consists of four rooms - Cold Porch, Southern Room, Central Room and Northern Room (Operating Theatre).

Cold Porch

The walls of the eastern end of this room are lined with cream-coloured zincanneal panels. The panels of the western end of the room are painted blue. The ceiling, which consists of white-painted zincanneal panels with some coverstrips, is pierced by a flue and has a bare light bulb attached. The zincanneal-clad door in the south wall of the room has a lever-action latch, a horizontal handle, a canvas seal and a metal patch (refer Exterior description). Left of the door are corner shelves made of radiata pine, while immediately to the right of the door is a light switch and fire alarm. The western end of this room is occupied by a prefabricated fibreglass shower recess and a hot water cylinder. A wall-mounted heater is attached to the south wall near this cylinder.

In the western wall is an opening metal-framed, double-glazed, canvas-sealed hopper window with a timber sash. The window has a screw fastener at its base and opens externally on a continuous piano hinge. In the north wall is a curtained doorway into the southern room. To the left of this doorway is a powerbox above which is a fire alarm. A doorway in the east wall leads into the shipping container previously used as donga accommodation for the doctor. The floor consists of red carpet squares over grey linoleum tiles.

Southern Room

The walls and ceiling of this room consist of cream-painted zincanneal panels with zincanneal coverstrips. The floor is covered with grey linoleum tiles with black rubber skirting. In the western wall of this room is an identical window to that in the west wall of the Cold Porch (see above description). In the southwest corner of the room is a stainless steel sink and a set of four wall shelves. To the right of this is a timber-framed, formica-topped workbench. To the right of the window is timber shelving, two GPOs and assorted electrical conduits. The north wall consists of a dark brown interlocking plastic partition with white plastic edging and a doorway into the middle room. A timber/plywood workbench runs along the length of this wall. At the northern end of the east wall is a fire extinguisher. To the right of this is a shelving unit (six shelves), while further to the right are three fire extinguishers and a wall heater. In the south wall is the doorway into the Cold Porch. To the right of this is an *Athena* steriliser. Two flourescent light fittings are attached to the ceiling.

Central Room

The walls and ceiling of this room consist of cream-painted zincanneal panels with zincanneal coverstrips. The floor is covered with grey linoleum tiles with black rubber skirting. In the east wall of this room is a doorway with a timber architrave which provides access to a shipping container previously used for storage. To the left of this doorway is a wall heater and an opening window identical to that located in the west wall of the Cold Porch (see above description). The south wall consists of a dark brown interlocking plastic partition with white plastic edging. A timber-framed, plywood-topped workbench runs along the entire length of the south wall. A timber shelf supported by metal brackets is located in the southwest corner. A timber-framed, plywood-topped workbench (with a ceramic sink) runs along the entire west wall. In the west wall is a window, identical to that previously described for the west wall of the Cold Porch. To the right of this window are two wall shelves. The west wall workbench extends around the corner and part-way along the south wall, which consists of a dark brown interlocking plastic partition with white plastic edging. The workbench along this wall adjoins a formica-topped cupboard unit and a timber shelf unit. A formica (wood grain)-clad, white plastic-edged door with a small window provides access to the northern room. Two flourescent light fittings are attached to the ceiling.

Northern Room

This room was formerly the Operating Theatre. The walls and ceiling consist of cream-painted zincanneal panels with zincanneal coverstrips. The floor is covered with black and white patterned linoleum tiles. The south wall of this room (including the door) has already been described (see Central Room description). In the west wall is a double GPO and a window (as described for the west wall of the Cold Porch). Attached to the north wall are a double GPO and a speaker box. To the right of these features is the cream-painted, zincanneal-clad, canvas-sealed exterior door. In the east wall is a window (as described for the west wall of the Cold Porch). Below this window is a wall heater, while to the right of it is a fire extinguisher. Gas piping and fittings run along the eastern side of the entire building. Five light fittings are attached to the ceiling, including a surgery lamp.

(REFER SHEET #13, APPENDIX 1 FOR MEASURED DRAWINGS.)

Condition Report

Silicon has been applied to many of the exterior coverstrips.

Site Services

none

Present Use

not in use

Station Buildings Database

Reference Source Documentation

Station Reports/Logs

1970 - A note that the original surgery is to be converted into an electrical workshop with the building of a new surgery during the 1970-71 changeover period.
1975 - Biologists have equipment in several buildings, including the 1971 Surgery.
1978 - Vinyl is laid in the Surgery.
1981 - A note that a new doctor's quarters has to be fitted out.
1984 - The Surgery contains a store and the Medical Officer's sleeping quarters.
1988 - The Surgery sleeping quarters accommodates one or a mixed couple.

Other References

Specification: S2/70/04.
For the Cosray and Glaciology Building erected at Wilkes in early 1962.

Drawings

VA 61/641 C, 12.10.61,Wilkes Expedition 1962, Cosmic Ray and Glaciology Laboratory.
VA 70/101, July 1970, Specification for New Medical Building 1971.

Station Buildings Database

Background

Building Name Remote Transmitter Hut

Building Number 29

Year 1972

Other Names

Transmitter Building

Secondary Uses

none

Historical Summary

The Remote Transmitter Hut was built in 1972 to the northeast of the main station complex. This building and the Scientific and Electrical Stores are identical in design and construction. It remains in its original location and continues to serve its original function.

Physical Description

Building Type PTB Mark III

Construction Insulated zincanneal panels

Exterior

A box-structure consisting of white-painted, timber-framed, insulated zincanneal panels. Three tie rods pass through the longitudinal section of each wall, which consists of three panels. The building is attached to four north-south aligned timber bearers (numbered *B1, B2, B3, B4*) by metal brackets and stirrups. The bearers, in turn, sit on three steel I-Beams (aligned east-west) which are bolted to metal supports which are bolted to concrete pads. The building is guyed from brackets at the roof corners by cables and turnbuckles to eye bolts secured to the bedrock. The roof, which is slightly sloping, is tensioned from corner to corner by metal rods. A deck (1 300mm wide), consisting of nailers (wooden beams) attached to the bearers, has been constructed against the southern end of the building. This is accessed by a set of three metal grill steps.

Interior

Each wall consists of three white-painted zincanneal panels. The floor is covered in linoleum. Two low timber platforms (constructed of floorboards) run the entire length of the building along the eastern and western walls. The positions of the original radio equipment (which is no longer present) is indicated by plywood patches in these platforms. Atop the eastern wall platform is a six-shelf metal rack (southeast corner) which holds miscellaneous radio equipment. A metal-framed, formica-topped desk stands in the northeast corner. A two-drawer filing cabinet is located beneath the desk. A single timber shelf (1 240mm long) which rests on two metal angle brackets is sited above the desk and holds miscellaneous radio equipment. Several banks of radio transmitting equipment rest upon the west wall platform. Various electrical fittings are located on the eastern and western walls.

A wooden-framed, double-glazed hopper window (with winding mechanism) is located in the centre of the northern wall. Beneath this is a Dimplex wall heater while to the right is a fire extinguisher. The door is located on the southern side of the building. It is constructed of an insulated zincanneal panel and has a central fixed, wooden-framed, double glazed window and a lever-action freezer lock. The ceiling consists of four zincanneal panels painted white.

(REFER SHEET #14, APPENDIX 1 FOR MEASURED DRAWINGS.)

Condition Report

Sound condition. The external paintwork on the eastern side of the building has been completed removed by wind-borne particles. The paintwork on the southern side has been abraided to a lesser extent.

Site Services

Electrical heating and lighting.

Present Use

Radio transmissions.

Station Buildings Database

Reference Source Documentation

Station Reports/Logs

1972 - A reference to a new building.
1976 - The building is described as being new in 1972.

Other References

Drawings

VA 71/888 C, August 1971, Transmitter Building, 1971-72 Expedition, Davis.

Station Buildings Database

Background

Building Name Electrical Store

Building Number 30

Year 1972

Other Names

"The Swamp"

Secondary Uses

donga accommodation

Historical Summary

This was one of two new stores buildings constructed in 1972, the other being the Scientific Store. These buildings were erected behind the existing Hardware Store (No. 1 Store) and Field Store (No. 2 Store). This structure, the Scientific Store and the Remote Transmitter Hut are identical in design and construction.

In 1982, *"...former store buildings were fitted out as four new dongas"*. This station log reference refers to the Electrical Store and its neighbour, the Scientific Store. Although the Hardware and Field Stores were demolished in 1986, the Electrical and Scientific Stores survive. They have been joined by a freezer panel addition and are now regarded as one building, referred to by expeditioners as "The Swamp". Each of the original buildings contain two bunks, which are used by wintering expeditioners or for summer overflow accommodation. The addition which joins the two buildings is used as a communal lounge area.

Physical Description

Building Type PTB Mark III

Construction Insulated zincanneal panels

This building is joined to the Scientific Store via a more recent addition which consists of freezer panels. These three structures, in essence, now form one continuous building.

Exterior

The Electrical Store is a box-structure clad in timber-framed, insulated, zincanneal-clad panels. Tie rods run through the longitudinal sections of the wall panels. The superstructure sits on north-south aligned oregon bearers which protrude beyond the northern edge of the building where they are topped by oregon decking. These bearers are marked - *B1, B2, B3* and *B4*. On the B1 bearer is a stencilled sign (green on white) which reads - *Store 2 Davis 12*. The bearers sit on steel I-Beams which are bolted to metal bases which, in turn, are bolted to concrete pads. In places the I-Beams are chocked up on timber sections which rest upon railway sleepers. The building is guyed from roof corner brackets via cables and turnbuckles to eye bolts concreted into the rock. The roof, which slopes to the west, is braced by metal rods which extend between the four corner brackets.

The zincanneal cladding is painted white, though this paintwork has been entirely abraided on the eastern side. A small, metal-framed, double-glazed hopper window pierces the northern wall. A small metal-framed, double-glazed window is located in the southern wall which now forms one of the interior walls of the freezer panel addition.

(Note: The infill section which joins the Scientific and Electrical Stores is clad in freezer panels from the rebuilding program. This addition sits atop an east-west aligned bearer which sits on an acrow prop. A joist on top of this bearer is bolted to the bearers of the two earlier buildings. This substructure is topped by timber slats.)

Interior

The interior of the building is accessed through the freezer panel addition via a standard freezer door. The structure has been converted into two separate sleeping dongas. The interior walls consist of white-painted zincanneal panelling. Each donga is fitted with a single bunk located above head height, cupboards, shelving, wardrobe space and a small desk. Small windows are present on the north and south walls (see Exterior description.) A corridor located east of the two dongas is used as a shared space in which there is shelving and a sink. Red carpet tiles cover the plywood floor.

(REFER SHEET #15, APPENDIX 1 FOR MEASURED DRAWINGS.)

Condition Report

Sound condition.

Station Buildings Database

Site Services

Electrical lighting and heating.

Present Use

Donga accommodation.

Reference Source Documentation

Station Reports/Logs

1972-Three new buildings constructed on-station.
1976-A reference to the Electrical Store being new in 1972.
1982-A reference to fitting out former store buildings into four new dongas.

Other References

Drawings

VA 71/889 C, August 1971, Davis, Two Store Buildings.

Station Buildings Database

Background

Building Name Scientific Store

Building Number 31

Year 1972

Other Names

"The Swamp"

Secondary Uses

donga accommodation

Historical Summary

This was one of two new stores buildings erected in 1972, the other being the Electrical Store. These buildings were erected behind the existing Hardware Store (No. 1 Store) and Field Store (No. 2 Store). The Scientific Store is identical in design and construction to the Remote Transmitter Hut and Electrical Store.

In 1982, *"...former store buildings were fitted out as four new dongas"*. This station log reference refers to the Scientific Store and its neighbour, the Electrical Store. Although the Hardware and Field Stores were demolished in 1986, the Scientific and Electrical Stores survive. They have been joined by a freezer panel addition and are now regarded as one building, referred to by expeditioners as "The Swamp". Each contains two bunks and is used by wintering expeditioners or for summer overflow accommodation. The addition which joins the two buildings is used as a communal lounge area.

Physical Description

Building Type PTB Mark III

Construction Insulated zincanneal panels

This building is joined to the Electrical Store via a more recent addition clad in freezer panels. These three structures, in essence, now form one continuous building.

Exterior

The Scientific Store is a box-structure clad in timber-framed, insulated, zincanneal-clad panels. Tie rods run through the longitudinal sections of the wall panels. The superstructure sits on north-south aligned oregon bearers which protrude beyone the southern edge of the building. These bearers are marked - *B1, B2, B3* and *B4*. On the B1 bearer is a stencilled sign (green on white) which reads - *Store 1 Davis 12*. The bearers sit on steel I-Beams which are bolted to metal bases which, in turn, are bolted to concrete pads. In places the I-Beams are chocked up on timber sections which rest upon railway sleepers. The building is guyed from roof corner brackets via cables and turnbuckles to eye bolts concreted into the rock. The roof, which slopes to the west, is braced by metal rods which extend between the four corner brackets.

The zincanneal cladding is painted white, though this paintwork has been entirely abraided on the eastern side. A small, metal-framed, double-glazed hopper window pierces the southern wall which has a simple pipe scaffold frame and a rusted pipe length attached to it. A scaffold foundation/timber-decked walkway runs southwards along the eastern wall of the building and extends beyond the freezer panel addition where it is joined by a set of four timber steps. The western wall has a timber-framed, double-glazed opening window which does not appear to be original. A small metal-framed, double-glazed window is located in the northern wall which now forms one of the interior walls of the freezer panel addition.

(Note: The infill section which joins the Scientific and Electrical Stores is clad in freezer panels from the rebuilding program. This addition sits atop an east-west aligned bearer which sits on an acrow prop. A joist on top of this bearer is bolted to the bearers of the two earlier buildings. This substructure is topped by timber slats.)

Interior

The interior of the building is accessed through the freezer panel addition via a standard freezer door. It has been converted into sleeping accommodation. The walls consist of white-painted zincanneal panelling which in places is covered by stained cedar or pine. A metal-framed, black formica-topped table is located in the southwest corner of the room. Two bunks are set above head height with various inbuilt cupboards, shelves and wardrobe spaces. One bunk has a fixed timber ladder, the other is accessed by a portable timber ladder. A sink/cupboard unit is located in the northwest corner of the room. Pelmets run along the top of the walls and

Station Buildings Database

have flourescent lighting behind. Red carpet tiles cover quarry tiles on the floor. Small windows are present on the north, south and west walls (see Exterior description.)

(REFER SHEET #15, APPENDIX 1 FOR MEASURED DRAWINGS.)

Condition Report

Sound condition. The paintwork has been completely blasted off the zincanneal panels on the eastern side of the building. No evidence remains inside the building of its original use as a store.

Site Services

Electrical lighting and heating.

Present Use

Donga accommodation.

Reference Source Documentation

Station Reports/Logs

1972-Three new buildings constructed on-station.
1976-A reference to the Scientific Store being new in 1972.
1982-A reference to fitting out former store buildings into four new dongas.

Other References

Drawings

VA 71/889 C, August 1971, Davis, Two Store Buildings.

Station Buildings Database

Background

Building Name Desalination Building (I)

Building Number 32

Year 1972

Other Names

Desalination Hut

Secondary Uses

none

Historical Summary

The location of this structure is uncertain. It is probable that it was demolished shortly after a new desalination building (now known as "The Beach House" or "Toad Hall") was built in 1978.

Physical Description

Building Type

Construction

No longer exists.

Condition Report

Site Services

Present Use

Reference Source Documentation

Station Reports/Logs

1972 - A new building designed and constructed on-site.
1976-A Desalination Hut (built in 1972) is included in the list of extant station buildings.
1978-A note that the new desalination building was erected that year. New desalination units arrived in December 1978 and were moved inside the building for installation in the following year.
1979 - A note that the 1978 desalination building was abandoned that year and will be used in the following year as part cool room, part warm store.
1983-A reference to the 1978 desalination building being used for summer accommodation in recent years.
1985-A note that the 1978 desalination building was used during the year as a temporary boat store.

Other References

Drawings

Station Buildings Database

Background

Building Name Emergency Radio Transmitter

Building Number 33

Year 1973 (?)

Other Names

Temporary Biology Hut (smaller of two)
Emergency Radio Shack
Ham Shack
Hydroponics Store/Cold Porch

Secondary Uses

hydroponics store/cold porch

Historical Summary

The first documented use of this structure is as a temporary biology hut (the smaller of two). It appears to be one of the structures shown as an amendment to the 1971 station plan marked as "temporary buildings (1973) Biology". These are shown on the plan immediately to the south of the OIC'ery (Old Surgery). However, the building appears to have been an existing portable structure on-station, whereas the other temporary biology hut (cf Radio-Tech Workshop) was shipped to Davis on the *Nella Dan* in 1973.

The hut was re-located in 1976 up the hill east of the main building line and near the western apex mast of the main receiving rhombic aerial. It was converted for use as the Emergency Radio Transmitter and housed a Collins KVM-2 transceiver. The building was also used at this time by ham radio enthusiasts. The structure was moved again in 1992, this time to a site south of the new water tanks. Here, it was attached to one of the former UAP containers (refer Auroral-Glaciology Hut) to serve as a cold porch/storage area for the hydroponics unit.

Physical Description

Building Type -

Construction Insulated plywood panels

Exterior

A box-structure manufactured from timber-framed, foam-insulated, plywood-clad panels. The panels are painted yellow (abraided) beneath which the colour is orange. Attached to the building are two timber runners which have turned up ski points at both ends and are sheathed in steel, indicating that the building was designed to be towed. The plywood floor sits on two I-Beam lengths which in turn rest upon metal stirrups attached to scaffold foundations. Coverstrips are present on the east and west walls, as are two metal braces which extend at an angle to above the roof level. The building is guyed from the top of these braces by cables and turnbuckles to the scaffold foundations.

The timber-framed, foam-insulated, plywood-clad door (which is located on the southern side) has a small, fixed, wooden-framed, single-glazed window and a lever-action latch/handle. Above the door is a length of timber sheeted in copper with a dripline. An incandescent light is located to the right of the door, while a ring bolt is positioned to the left of the door. Access to the building is provided by a set of seven metal grill steps (with timber/metal hand railings) which are set on a scaffold frame and lead to a metal grill platform.

Interior

The interior is lined with cream-painted plywood sheeting. An internal pine frame (non-original) runs along the edges of the ceiling and down the four wall corners. The northern wall has been roughly cut through to the adjoining shipping container exposing the foam insulation. The eastern wall has two particleboard patches, one plywood patch, two double GPOs, a metal frame (formerly for shelving) and a low, wooden slat bench. The building door is located in the southern wall. Coverstrips run down either side of the door frame. A fire extinguisher and a small brass shelf are situated to the right of the door. Along the western wall is a small workbench with a particleboard top and timber frame and a wooden shelf which rests upon metal brackets. The western wall also has two double GPOs and a temperature control dial.

The floor is covered with red carpet squares over white linoleum. The ceiling consists of plywood panels separated by coverstrips. Located on the ceiling are four flourescent lights, numerous electrical fittings and a single screw vent.

(REFER SHEET #14, APPENDIX 1 FOR MEASURED DRAWINGS.)

Station Buildings Database

Condition Report

Sound condition. The exterior paintwork is abraided.

Site Services

Electrical lighting and heating.

Present Use

Hydroponics storage and cold porch.

Reference Source Documentation

Station Reports/Logs

1976- Building relocated up the hill near the western apex mast of the main receiving rhombic aerial. It housed a Collins KWM-2 transceiver.

Other References

Davis Master Plan Issue No 12 - Drawing No. V85/466-1/12 .
Emergency radio shack is shown in situ to the east of the main building line.

Drawings

Station Buildings Database

Background

Building Name Radio-Tech Workshop

Building Number 34

Year 1973

Other Names

Temporary Biology Hut (larger)
Biology Hut
Plumber's Workshop
Old Plumber's Shop

Secondary Uses

workshop and store

Historical Summary

This building was brought down on the *Nella Dan* in February 1973 and erected that month. It is one of the two structures shown in the 1971 station plan as "Temporary Buildings (1973) Biology". On the plan, it is located to the south of the then OIC'ery (Old Surgery). In 1976, the structure was used as the Plumber's Workshop. In that same year it was recommended that the building be relocated due to snowdrift problems. This occurred three years later when it was moved alongside the Radio Hut and occupied by the radio technician as his workshop.

An extension was made to the workshop in the 1985-86 season using surplus green freezer panels originally intended for the new Stores Building or Services Building. The structure was vacated with the commissioning of the new Operations Building in 1993. It is currently not in use.

Physical Description

Building Type PTB Mark III

Construction Insulated zincanneal panels

Exterior

The orange-painted Radio-Tech Workshop is a rectangular, flat-roofed PTB Mark III structure which utilises wooden-framed, insulated zincanneal panels and zincanneal coverstrips and edging. Tie rods run through the longitudinal planes of the wall and roof panels. The hut is guyed from eye bolts in the bedrock to two roof corner brackets (northern end) via cables and turnbuckles. Four timber battens cross the roof. Two of these cover panel joins, the other two are interspersed. A sealed hatch with broken hinges and a mushroom air vent pierce the roof. The stencils *W1*, *W2*, *W3*, and *W4* occur on individual roof panels. The hut sits upon a series of joists which run across the width of the building. These in turn sit on two long beams which protrude beyond the northern edge of the building where they are decked with wooden planks to form a work platform. The two long timber members rest upon wooden chocks which top interlaced railway sleepers. (The building foundations may not be original.)

The paintwork on the eastern side of the hut has been completely abraided, however, a stencilled*W1* is still discernible near the top of one of the wall panels. A small fixed, aluminium-framed, double-glazed window is present in the eastern wall. The southeast corner of the building is attached to a recent freezer panel-clad addition. Attached to the northern wall is a length of pipe which extends up above the roof level. A window (identical to that on the eastern side) is also present on the northern wall, as are two stencils of *W4*. An identical window is also found in the western wall along with a single stencil - *W3*. The southern side of the building now forms an internal wall of the freezer panel-clad addition. This wall is painted orange except for a white painted patch which represents the position of an unknown structure no longer in place. The wall, which is stencilled with *W2*, has a metal-framed doorway in the western end which is topped by a dripline. To the right of this doorway is electrical conduit, a four-plug GPO, and a timber coat rack with three pegs.

Interior

The walls and ceiling are lined with white-painted zincanneal panelling with zincanneal coverstrips. Part of the floor is covered with red carpet tiles, though most of it consists of bare plywood.

To the left of the doorway in the southern wall is a fire alarm, electrical conduit, a powerbox, two fire extinguishers, a double GPO and a light switch. The doorway appears to have been lowered and the step over removed (probably in 1984). In the extreme southeast corner of the room is the remains of a shelf unit. A small window is located in the eastern wall (see Exterior description). A rough timber-framed and edged, and plywood-topped work bench runs along the western wall of the room. Plywood shelving and a small window (see Exterior description) are located above the workbench, as is a crude shadowboard. To the left of the window is a

timber coat rack with four pegs. In the northwest corner of the room is a plywood shelf unit with carpet attached. On the northern wall are various GPOs and miscellaneous electrical wiring and fittings. A simple glass-topped desk is located beneath the window (see Exterior description) in the northern wall. A plywood shelf unit occupies the northeast corner and extends across to the northwest corner. Three flourescent light fittings are attached to the ceiling which is pierced by a square roof hatch and a screw vent.

(REFER SHEET #9, APPENDIX 1 FOR MEASURED DRAWINGS.)

Condition Report

Fair condition. The external paintwork on the eastern side of the building is completely abraided. The plywood floor is water-damaged and delaminated in places.

Site Services

Electrical lighting.

Present Use

Not in use.

Reference Source Documentation

Station Reports/Logs

1973 - The foundations were prepared for the temporary biology laboratories at a site behind the dongas. One of the new biology labs was placed on top of a general load on the *Nella Dan*. The Biology Lab was erected in February.
1976 - A suggestion that the larger of the two ex-biology huts (orange hut) should be relocated.
1979 - The building was moved to beside the Radio Hut and occupied by the radio technician.
1983 - The building was renovated.
1986 - An extension to the Radio-Tech Workshop was started in 1985 and completed in 1986.

Other References

Drawings

Station Buildings Database

Background

Building Name Magnetic Absolute Building

Building Number 35

Year 1973

Other Names

Magnetometer

Secondary Uses

none

Historical Summary

This building was erected in 1973-74 (see note in 'Drawings' below). Apart from changes to equipment, the re-hanging of the door and the introduction of a second sighting hole in the west wall, the structure is largely in its original form. It serves its original function.

Physical Description

Building Type Truncated Pyramid

Construction Plywood panels on timber frames

Exterior

A truncated pyramid-shaped building constructed of timber-framed, foam-insulated, plywood-clad panels. The building is painted orange. All of the exterior fittings are made of brass. Small circular openings exist in the northen and western walls. The timber-framed, foam-insulated, plywood-clad door, which has been turned upside down and rehung to avoid being caught by the wind, has external chrome hinges.

Interior

The walls and ceiling are lined with white-painted plywood sheeting secured with brass tacks. Quad moulding is present in the four corners. A single screw vent and light bulb are located in the ceiling. The concrete floor has a central concrete plinth upon which sits a heavy timber base which supports a theodolite. The theodolite is pointed towards a small circular opening in the northern wall. A similar opening (using a section of HDPE pipe) exists in the western wall. The door has a single screw vent and a brass handle and lever-action latch.

Condition Report

Sound condition.

Site Services

Electrical lighting.

Present Use

Magnetic measurements.

Reference Source Documentation

Station Reports/Logs

This building is not mentioned in station reports, either in works undertaken or in building registers.

Other References

Plan 1971 (2/71/32).
Magnetometer Building in situ.

Drawings

2/73/61 - 10/9/73, Davis and Casey Magnetic Absolute Building

[There is a second plan for a box-like structure, *2/71/36, 21.10.71 - Davis Magnetic Absolute Shelter.* It is unlikely that this structure was ever built, yet 1971 station plans show a Magnetometer Building in situ. As the plans for the existing structure date from 1973, it is possible that this earlier structure was erected but replaced by the existing one. Why this should be the case is unclear.]

Station Buildings Database

Background

Building Name Biology Laboratory

Building Number 36

Year 1974

Other Names

Biolab

Secondary Uses

none

Historical Summary

The Biology Laboratory was constructed in 1974 as the first building in the complete redevelopment of the old station. This redevelopment plan was abandoned shortly afterwards, resulting in this building being a "one-off" structure on-station. In 1984, a 20' shipping container was attached to the building as an annexe, together with a small cement-sheeted addition. The building was vacated with the commissioning of the new Science Building in 1993. It is currently not in use.

Physical Description

Building Type

Construction Fibreglass panels

Exterior

A yellow fibreglass building with a multifaceted shape. The building is constructed using a steel truss frame to which has been bolted fibreglass panels which consist of outer and inner fibreglass skins between which is a layer of"Isolite" insulation. The structure rests upon a frame of steel I-Beams which in turn are bolted to I-Beam stumps. These are welded to steel plates which are bolted to concrete pads. The I-Beam framework for the building base includes members of various dimensions. The fibreglass roof of the building is pierced by a single cowling vent, a large H-shaped vent and two extraneous pipe fittings.

A bevelled, insulated fibreglass door with a canvas seal and typical 1970s lever-action latch and hinges is located on the southern side of the building. The door has a fixed double-glazed, rubber-sealed window and a *No Smoking* sign attached to it. An oregon platform runs along the southern wall. The building is accessed by a central set of three timber steps (likely to be original) and a concrete pad. At the western end of the platform is a timber ramp with hand railing. Eight rubber-sealed, double-glazed windows (two rows of four) exist on the eastern side of the building. All of these are fixed, with the exception of the southernmost window of the lower of the two rows, which is hinged from the top. The panel joins are covered by aluminium channelling on this side of the building. A series of later additions have been adhered to the northern side of the building. These include a 1969 shipping container which is joined to the building at its western end via a cold porch constructed of timber framing clad in cement sheeting. Another timber-framed, cement sheeted addition is located between the container and the northern wall of the Biology Laboratory. Access into the northern end of the building is through a door in the cold porch which has a *No Smoking* sign attached to it. The western side of the building has four windows (in a single row) which are identical in form to those on the eastern side. In this instance, all of the windows are fixed except for the northernmost one. The panel joins on this side are also covered by aluminium channelling.

Interior

The interior of the building consists of four rooms. The internal layout of the building as constructed is almost identical to that shown on plan 2/73/76. An exception is that the entrance to the western room from the northern and southern storage/service areas has been altered as shown in the accompanying drawing. This has resulted in the western room occupying the entire west side of the building. The truss frame to which the wall cladding has been attached is exposed internally and has been painted red. The internal fibreglass skin of the building panels is painted white, as are all of the internal partitions which are constructed of cement sheeting.

The southern and northern rooms of the building are both long, narrow spaces which were used for storage and servicing purposes. The building entrance is located in the southern wall of the southern room. Fittings in this room include a timber coat hook with four pegs, a lighting switch, fire extinguisher attachments and remnant plumbing fittings. An alcove in the northern wall of this room formerly held a hot water cyliner (no longer present). A single flourescent light is attached to the ceiling. The floor of this room is covered with brown linoleum. A metal-framed doorway leads into the western room. The northern room of the building is identical to the southern room except that it does not have an alcove.

A workbench and overhead shelf unit (both with timber frames and plywood shelving) run along the eastern side

Station Buildings Database

of the western room as far as the doorway into the eastern room. This doorway is covered with a sheet of Fortecon. A lab sink is positioned at the northern end of the workbench. In the western wall of this room is a row of four windows (see Exterior description). In the southwest corner of the room is a large aluminium-framed, cement sheet-clad cupboard. A double timber desk with open shelving above is situated in the northwest corner of the room. Adjacent to this is a terrazo slab upon which is some radio equipment. The slab sits on two upright concrete blocks. The floor of this room is also covered with brown linoleum. Evidence of the radiators shown in plan 2/73/76 is apparent at the northern and southern ends of the room. Three flourescent lights are attached to the truss frame members.

The eastern room has an identical layout to that shown on plan 2/73/76. A workbench with lab sink and preparation area runs along the western side of the room to the south of the door. Along the southern wall of this room is another lab sink and a plywood fume cupboard with plywood storage cupboards beneath and shelving to the left. Sinks with metal shelving above occupy the southeast corner of the room. A bench runs along the northern and eastern sides with a section returning to the centre of the room. In the northwest corner of the room is another terrazo slab with an oven upon it. Anti-static tiles cover the floor. Three flourescent lights hang from the ceiling.

(REFER SHEET #16, APPENDIX 1 FOR MEASURED DRAWING.)

Condition Report

The building appears to be in sound condition. Numerous small holes are visible in the exterior fibreglass cladding. The building apparently has had severe leakage problems as indicated by the copious amount of silicon applied to the exterior panel joins.

Site Services

Electrical lighting and heating.

Present Use

Not in use.

Reference Source Documentation

Station Reports/Logs

1974 - A reference to the completion of the new Biology Laboratory (footings completed March 1974).
1979 - Described as a"one-off" building, not as yet completed internally.
1983 - The biology store container was used as an annexe to the Biolab. The contents of this store were placed in an unused workshop.
1984 - The old station includes the Biolab (with an extension and a 20' container outside).
1985 - The Biolab container was re-floored.
1987 - A recommendation that the Biolab be replaced as a matter of urgency.

Other References

Plan 2/73/81, 20.12.71, Station Development.
This plan shows the proposed new station buildings. The building shown in the position of the Biolab is marked 'Biology 1974'.

Drawings

Drawing 2/73/76.
(Note: Only two of the five sheets were found).

Station Buildings Database

Background

Building Name Emergency Powerhouse

Building Number 37

Year 1976

Other Names

Main Powerhouse

Secondary Uses

mechanics store & workshop
store for spares

Historical Summary

This building was constructed during 1975 and 1976. It was intended to be the first structure in a new redevelopment scheme for the station. However, this scheme was abandoned shortly afterwards leaving the powerhouse as a "one-off" structure on-station. Two similar structures (now known as "Gimesey Buildings") survive at Mawson station. This building served as the Main Powerhouse up until the commissioning of the No. 1 Powerhouse in 1985. Since then, it has served the role of the Emergency Powerhouse. It continues to serve this function.

[Note: Refer to Part A, Section 4.4 (Station Building Designs) for details regarding the shortcomings of this building type.]

Physical Description

Building Type Gimesey Building

Construction Hardiflex-clad insulated panels

Exterior

A square building with gabled roof. The building utilises a rectangular hollow steel frame which sits upon insulated scaffold tube stumps. Bolted to the steel frame are timber-framed, insulated panels clad in "Hardiflex" asbestos cement sheeting. The external side of these panels has been sprayed with a resin called "Adiprene" which has an ochre colour. The panels appear to be rebated. A strip of cement sheeting has been inserted at the panel junctions and this has been covered with aluminium channelling which is bolted through into the steel frame. Rubber gaskets are present beneath the aluminium channelling on the east and west walls but not on the gabled ends.

A timber-framed, galvanised sheet-clad door with a vertical handle and lever-action latch is present in the southern wall. The door is fitted with a small fixed, metal-framed, double-glazed window. Beneath this is a galvanised vent with a hinged bottom flap fixed with a wing nut. To the left of the door are two GPOs, while to the right are two fire alarms, a length of timber and a survey point (*CON 1*). Also on the southern wall are two square radiator inlets hinged at the bottom with a white freezer door with freezer fittings (these doors are possibly later additions). There are also two covered circular pipe fittings which are the exhaust outlets for the generators. A small fixed, metal-framed, double-glazed window pierces the eastern side of the building. A door (identical to that on the southern side of the building) is located on the northern side. To the left of this door is a length of timber and two fire alarms. To the right of the door is a powerbox and next to that a concrete tank filled with injected foam insulation. At the western end of the northern wall is a small brass plaque which reads - *Here lies the end of a finger cut off in the prime of life while trimming this panel. Brian Ball, Chippie, 1976.* On the western side of the building is a single window which is identical to that located on the eastern side.

Three large cowlings (which vent the generator sets), two square dome covers and two circular flues pierce the roof.

Interior

The interior of the building consists of a single room. It is unlined and the steel girder frame is exposed. The concrete floor has been painted grey. The building is fitted out with two Cat Generators, a CO_2 flooding system (eastern wall), control panels (northern wall), two radiators (southern wall) and assorted power generation/heat exchange systems.

(REFER SHEET #17, APPENDIX 1 FOR MEASURED DRAWINGS.)

Station Buildings Database

Condition Report

Sound condition. In places, especially on the eastern side, the "Adiprene" coating has been scoured off. Where this has occured, water has penetrated the cement sheeting causing it to break down. Numerous small holes are present in the external cement cladding.

Site Services

Connected directly to the new station Ring Main Unit.

Present Use

Emergency Powerhouse.

Reference Source Documentation

Station Reports/Logs

1975-Traxcavator used to clear site for new power station.
1976-Erection of new power station.
1978-Both Powerhouses and the Vehicle Workshop have to accommodate large amounts of spares.
1979-Main Powerhouse also used as the Mechanic's Store and Workshop.
1982-Main Powerhouse was re-fitted.

Other References

Drawings

Drawing 2/74/04, Proposed Main Powerhouse, Davis.
The structure shown in this drawing differs in detail and size from the building that was actually constructed.
Drawing 3/75/04 (14.2.75)
This shows a plan of the building, very similar to that which was constructed. It has two power units, two radiators, control panels and a CO_2 flooding system.

4 OTHER FEATURES

This part of the report includes information on all structures other than station buildings in the Davis area which predate the commencement of the station rebuilding program in 1978. These include field refuges, traverse vans, sledges and historic cairns and monuments. **Background, Physical Description** and **Reference Source Documentation** information for each individual structure is presented under the following headings:

BACKGROUND

Feature Name — The name most commonly used at present to denote the feature.

Other Names — Other names (if any) by which the feature has been known over the years.

Feature Number — The feature identification number used by the authors of the study.

Location — The geographical location of the feature (if it is not sited on-station).

Grid Reference — A six-figure grid reference for the feature (if not located on-station). All such grid references refer to the 1:50 000 scale map - *Vestfold Hills, Princes Elizabeth Land, Australian Antarctic Territory, Second Edition September 1982, Division of National Mapping, Department of National Development and Energy, Canberra, Australia.*

Historical Summary — For field refuges and traverse vans, this is a summary of when and why the structure was originally constructed, internal and external alterations to the structure over time, and changes in its use. For cairns and monuments, this field contains a summary of who erected the structure and when, together with notes on subsequent rediscoveries and searches for the site.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

In the cases of field refuges and traverse vans, physical descriptions are provided under the following headings:

Exterior — A detailed description of the exterior walls, roof and foundations (where appropriate) of the structure. These descriptions may be incomplete (as indicated in the text) if part(s) of the structure were obscured by snowdrift at the time of inspection.

The terms "left" and "right" are commonly used to describe the location of features and fittings as seen by the observer when facing the wall in question.

These written descriptions should be read in conjunction with studies of the accompanying measured drawings for each structure (where provided), black and white photographs and colour transparencies.

Interior — A detailed description of the interior walls, ceiling and floor of the structure.

The terms "left" and "right" are commonly used to denote the location of features and fittings. It should be noted that these directions refer to what is seen by the observer when facing the wall in question.

These written descriptions should be read in conjunction with studies of the accompanying measured drawings for each structure (where provided), black and white photographs and colour transparencies.

For all other features (sledges, cairns and monuments) the materials and dimensions of the feature and any contents are described. Where these features include historically important documents, complete copies of the texts are provided.

Condition Report A brief assessment of the physical condition of the feature.

REFERENCE SOURCE DOCUMENTATION

A list of documents (including station, building and field reports as appropriate) and drawings which contain information regarding the particular feature. A summary of the relevant information contained in each is also provided.

Miscellaneous Features Database

Background

Feature Name	Old Platcha Hut	**Feature Number**	38
Other Names	Remote Weather Station No. 89572	**Grid Reference**	982 979
Location	Long Fjord		

Historical Summary

In 1960, an insulated two berth caravan (measuring 6'x7'x9') was built on-station for use as a remote weather station from which to study katabatic wind effects. The van was constructed of a softwood timber frame (mainly 11/2" x 11/2" members), clad externally and internally with plywood sheeting (3/8"-1/2" external; 3/16"-1/4" internal). Between the plywood layers was "Insulwool"insulation and two layers of foil-backed "Sisalcraft". Ventilation for the hut consisted of a roof hatch with a removable cover, a 3" vent just above the floor level and a ceiling vent topped by a H-type cowling.

In April 1961, a field party found a suitable site for the weather station in the upper reaches of Long Fjord near the edge of the continental ice cap. This site was chosen because it had:

- Reasonable access for the Ferguson tractor;
- Good exposure for the screen and instruments;
- Direct exposure to the katabatic wind stream;
- Easy access to the ice cap; and
- A good position for the launch of pilot balloons.

In the following month, a tractor train towed the newly constructed caravan to the site, arriving on 18 May. By this time the Weddell Arm caravan (also constructed in 1960) had been returned to Davis for an overhaul and the fitting of a new door with the intention of also redeploying it for use at the weather station. This van measured 7'x6'x4' and was constructed of a flat galvanised iron exterior with a masonite interior lining. The interior fittings were limited to two folding bunks. It was towed to the site on 27 May where it was initially used as a store and as "guest house" accommodation during staff changeovers. Both caravans were painted orange to improve their visibility. Finally, a standard 6' square theodolite shelter was located some 150' up the hill from the two caravans.

The remote weather station, named "Platcha" (an abbreviation of Plateau Chateau), was fully operational by the end of June. The station was staffed virtually continuously during the remainder of 1961 and for a period of 6-8 weeks during the winter of 1962. During this time the site was occupied by a team of two men for shifts of 2-3 weeks' duration. A cold porch was added to the main hut during this period.

In latter years, the role of the station changed to that of a field refuge. By 1982, the two Platcha huts were reported to be in poor condition and a third hut was constructed at the site. In 1988, the original hut was partially restored because of its historical significance and the ex-Weddell Arm van was demolished. A latrine was added to the southern side of the original hut in 1992.

Physical Description

Attached to the Old Platch Hut is a cold porch (1961) and a latrine (1992). The later of these two additions is not included in the following description.

Exterior

Original Hut

A box structure consisting of a softwood frame clad externally in plywood sheeting painted red. The sheeting joins are concealed by timber coverstrips. Between the exterior and interior plywood sheeting is a layer of "Insulwool" insulation and two layers of foil-backed "Sisalcraft". Small windows are located in the north and east walls. Attached to the eastern side of the building is a length of angle iron which extends up above roof height. The latrine addition conceals the southeast corner of the building, whilst the cold porch is attached to

the northwest corner. As such, the western section of the north wall now forms an internal wall of the cold porch. This wall is painted orange (presumably the original paintwork). Located in this wall is the original exterior door which consists of a timber frame with plywood cladding attached. The door has a broken lever-action latch and a cloth-covered rubber seal.

The building is guyed from four metal roof corner brackets to rocks via cables and turnbuckles. Metal rod bracing extends between the four roof brackets. A H-type cowling is located on the roof. The hut rests upon a timber frame which extends out beyond the edge of the building at the northern end. Here it is topped by two planks to form a narrow platform. This frame sits upon railway sleepers which in turn rest upon a rough timber sledge with two runners sheathed in steel. (Presumably this is the original sledge upon which the hut was towed out to the site.)

Cold Porch

A box-structure consisting of a timber frame clad in masonite sheeting painted red. Located in the western wall is the cold porch door. This is constructed of a timber frame clad in masonite and has a lever-action latch. To the right of the door is an electrical socket and a small single-glazed window. The structure is guyed to rocks from two roof corner brackets (northwest and southwest corners) via cables and turnbuckles. It sits upon a base of railway sleepers and rocks.

Interior

Original Hut

The internal fittings and layout of Old Platch Hut are virtually identical to those shown on a 1961 drawing of the hut interior.

The internal walls of the hut are lined with plywood, parts of which are painted silver/grey, light blue and pink. Quad moulds are present in the four wall corners and timber coverstrips conceal the wall sheet joins. Running along the south wall is a set of double bunks (timber/plywood/masonite), with the top bunk supported by a steel pipe upright. Two timber/masonite drawers are situated beneath the lower bunk. In the top right hand corner of the east wall is a plywood box (which originally housed the radio) and two timber shelves. (The table which originally occupied the southeast corner of the hut is no longer present.) A small window is located in the upper right hand corner of the east wall. A shelf/cupboard unit constructed of timber and plywood runs along the northern wall. Beneath the eastern end of this unit is open storage. To the left of this is a metal-lined stove recess with open storage beneath. Left of this are two cupboards, two cutlery drawers and another open storage area. Above all of this is a small double-glazed window and a timber dish rack. A timber shelf is situated above the window. The original exterior door is also located in the north wall. It consists of a timber frame clad in plywood and has a lever-action latch (broken) and a cloth-covered rubber seal. To the right of the door is a fire extinguisher and a light switch. Attached to the western wall is a fire extinguisher and a steel step up to the top bunk.

A plywood roof hatch (original), with a timber frame and metal handle, is located in the northeast corner of the ceiling. In the western end of the ceiling is an open air vent. The floor consists of red linoleum over plywood sheeting.

Cold Porch

The interior of the cold porch is unlined. A single timber shelf runs along the western side of the room at hip height. Above this are a light switch and a bare light bulb. The ceiling is constructed of masonite, while the floor consists of plywood sheeting.

Condition Report

Sound condition. The latch of the door from the hut into the cold porch is broken resulting in a buildup of snowdrift inside the hut. Part of the ceiling immediately above the stove alcove has been burnt. The interior of the hut is in need of repainting. A small hole in the roof of the cold porch is in need of patching.

Miscellaneous Features Database

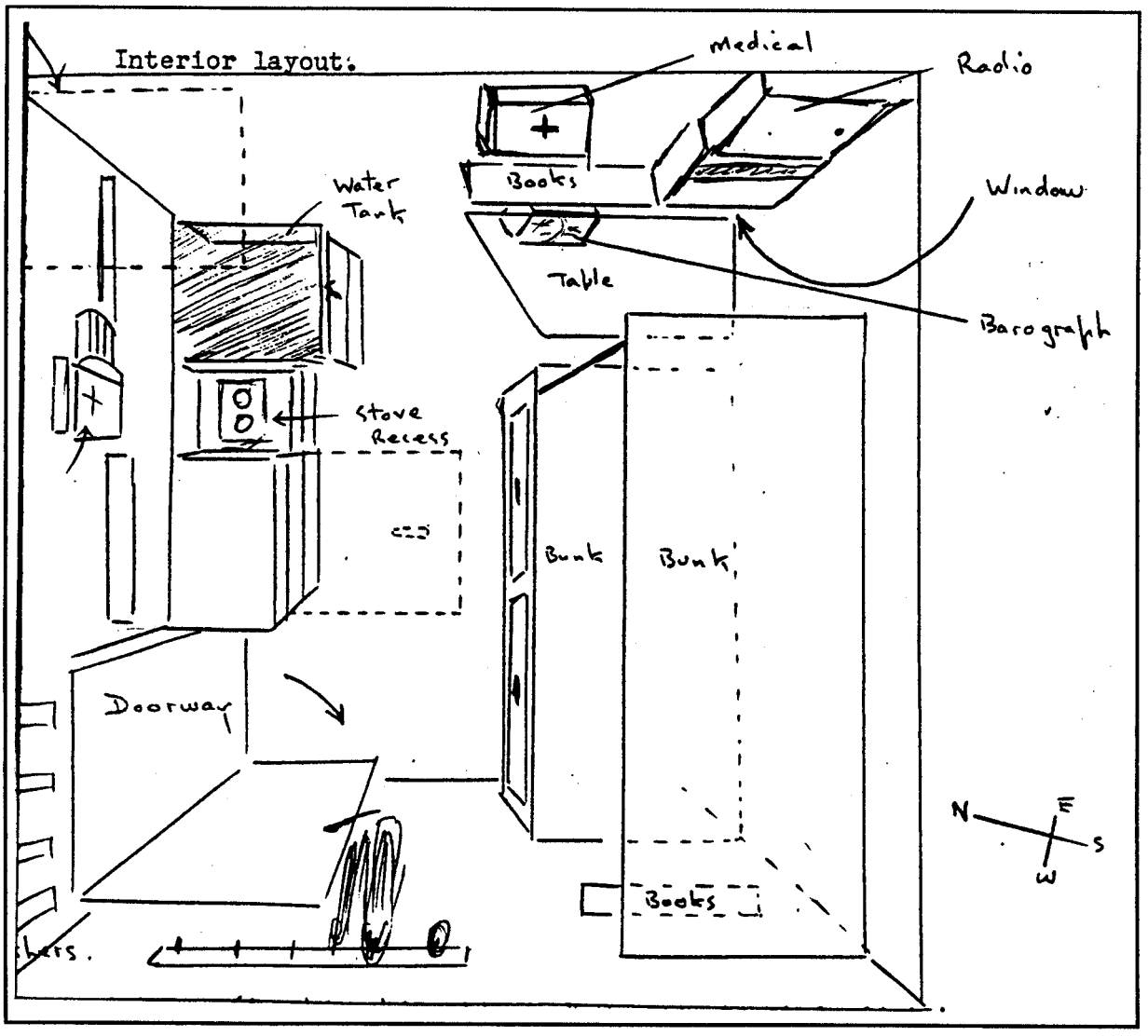
Reference Source Documentation

1961 Building Report, AAD, Melbourne.
This report describes the dimensions and the materials used in the construction of the surviving Old Platcha Hut, the ex-Weddell Arm caravan and the theodolite shelter.

Establishment of Remote Weather Station No 89572, Lied, N.T., 1961, AAD, Melbourne.
This report contains a chronological record of the development of the remote weather station and the various changes in use of the buildings at the site. It also details how and when the station was operated.

"What Happened at Davis in 1961" in Aurora May 1962, Brown, A., ANARE Club Inc., Melbourne.
This article describes the choosing of the site for the remote weather station, the origins of the word "Platcha", the transfer of the ex-Weddell Arm van and how and when the station was operated.

Davis Station Reports.
1960 - Platcha Hut Remote Weather Station built in the early part of 1960 but only offically sanctioned at the end of that year. In operation during 1961.
1961 - During 1961 two caravans were towed out to the site. The first meteorological records were collected in May and recording continued up until the arrival of the relief party in 1962. The weather station was usually staffed by two men for two - three week periods. A cold porch was added to the original hut.
1982 - A new hut was erected at the site. The old hut was in poor condition by this time and it was strongly recommended that, "...this be restored for its historical significance."
1984 - A cold porch was built onto the new hut.
1987 - A recommendation that the, "..two old huts behind (new) Platcha should be removed." A further recommendation was that the larger (of the two) be considered for, "... retention as a museum display."
1988 - The ex-Weddell Arm caravan was demolished.
1989 - A recommendation that restoration and maintenance work be undertaken on Old Platcha Hut.
1990 - The exterior of Old Platcha was repainted.
1992 - A latrine was added to Old Platcha.



Original Interior Layout, Platcha Hut

Miscellaneous Features Database

Background

Feature Name	**Brookes Hut**	**Feature Number**	39
Other Names	Biologists' Shelter	**Grid Reference**	853 941
Location	Long Fjord		

Historical Summary

A hut was prefabricated on-station during 1972 and towed out to Shirokaya Bay (Long Fjord) for use as a shelter for biologists. Originally known as the "Bio Hut", this field refuge was later renamed Brookes Hut after the Davis carpenter (1972, 1975), Ray Brookes. In 1983, a cold porch was added to the hut using clip-together panels from a building left behind at Davis by a Russian physicist. Eight year later a substantial extension was added to the northern end of the building.

Physical Description

Brookes Hut currently consists of the original 1972 hut, a cold porch added in 1983 and an accommodation extension dating from 1991. The following description is confined to the 1972 structure.

Exterior

A box structure (PTB Mark III) consisting of mortice and tenon timber-framed panels clad in cement sheeting and filled with polystyrene. The panels are alternately painted red and white. Zincanneal coverstrips conceal the wall panel joins. The original exterior door (painted red) is located in the southern end of the east wall, which now forms an internl wall of the cold porch. This door is constructed of a timber frame clad in plywood. It has a lever-action latch, a cloth-covered rubber seal and a timber architrave. To the right of this door is a timber-framed, single-glazed window with a timber sill and a timber/plywood shutter, painted white. Immediately to the right of this is the accommodation extension (clad in red freezer panels). The northern wall now forms an internal wall between the original hut and the accommodation extension. An air vent with a galvanised hood is located in the southern wall. Two rough plywood patches are present in the western wall. Attached to this wall is a single GPO, gas piping and a gas cylinder.

The roof has been reclad in galvanised sheeting (without coverstrips). It is pierced by a H-type cowling and a brass mushroom vent. A length of angle iron, with attachment points at either end, runs along the eastern edge of the roof. However, the building is only guyed from one of these points (southeast corner). A similar length of iron along the western edge of the roof has three attachment points. The building is guyed from all three of these points.

The building sits upon two timber bearers which in turn sit in stirrups attached to pipe scaffolding drilled into the bedrock.

Interior

The walls and ceiling are lined with cement sheeting painted white. Coverstrips are not present, though quad moulds have been attached to the ceiling/wall panel joins. Located in the southern end of the east wall is the original exterior door, now the door to the cold porch (refer Exterior description). Two fire extinguishers are situated above the door, while a third extinguisher is located to the left of the door. Also to the left of the door is a timber-framed and edged/plywood topped bench with open storage beneath. Above this bench is a timber shelf unit (five shelves) painted blue. Immediately to the left of this is a timber-framed, single-glazed window with a timber architrave, which has two screw fasteners at the bottom and is hinged from the top. To the left of this is a HF radio cradle, a light switch, a plywood paper towel dispenser and a sign regarding the use of LPG gas. The northern end of the east wall has been relined with unpainted plywood.

In the right hand end of the northern wall is an open doorway which leads into the accommodation extension. To the left of this doorway are two open storage areas, which are possibly sections of the original bunks which were cut down when the accommodation section was added. Running along the western wall is a bench/open storage unit which incorporates a stainless steel kitchen sink and a gas stove. This bench is constructed of timber and

plywood with sections topped by formica. Above the stove is a timber/plywood rangehood. A timber shelf, supported by metal angle brackets, is situated either side of the rangehood. To the left of the bench is a blue-painted timber/plywood cupboard with the three doors removed. Attached to the southern wall is a small blackboard. Above this is a timber coat rack (nine pegs). A single spinning vent is located in this wall (near floor level).

A single flourescent light fitting, various electrical conduits and a timber/plywood rangehood (above the stove) are attached to the ceiling. In the centre of the ceiling is a perspex dome. The floor of the hut consists of plywood sheeting covered by green/yellow carpet squares.

Condition Report

Sound condition. The paintwork on the northern and eastern exterior wall panels is badly abraided. There are several small holes in the external cladding where the insulation layer is exposed.

Reference Source Documentation

Davis Station Reports :
1972 - A reference to a Biologists' Shelter being erected on the shores of Long Fjord.
1974 - A reference to Brookes Hut.
1975 - A reference to Brookes Hut.
1976 - A 10kVA Lister generator was supplied for Brookes Hut.
1982 - Brookes Hut painted internally.
1983 - A cold porch was added to the hut using clip-together panels from a hut left at Davis by a Russian physicist.
1989 - Steps to the cold porch constructed.
1991 - Accommodation extension.

Miscellaneous Features Database

Background

Feature Name	Watts Hut	**Feature Number**	40
Other Names	Ellis Rapids Hut	**Grid Reference**	872 877
Location	Ellis Rapids/Watts Lake		

Historical Summary

The original hut at Watts Lake was erected on-site in 1976. Seven years later a cold porch was added to the northern side of the structure. The building was significantly enlarged in 1989 with the addition of a new accommodation room at the western end.

Physical Description

The original 1976 hut has had two extensions added to it over the years. To the north is a cold porch (1983), while to the west is an accommodation room (1989). The following description is restricted to the 1976 structure.

Exterior

The 1976 hut is constructed of cement sheets (painted red) attached to timber framing. Timber coverstrips conceal the sheet joins. Sandwiched between the exterior and interior sheeting is an insulation layer of polystyrene foam. The building corners and wall/roof joins are covered with metal edging. The original hut is guyed from two roof corner brackets (northeast and southeast corners) via cables and turnbuckles to eye bolts in the rock. A metal roof bracing rod extends between these two corner brackets. The roof is pierced by an escape hatch and a single pipe vent.

The north wall of the 1976 hut now forms an internal wall of the cold porch. It is painted white. In this wall is the original exterior door, which consists of a bevelled heavy timber frame clad in plywood. The door has a lever-action latch and a cloth-covered rubber seal. In the east wall is a timber-framed, triple-glazed window (1990) with a timber architrave and a timber/plywood shutter. Beneath this window is a brass mushroom vent. Attached to the south wall is the latrine (recent addition). To the left of this are two cement sheet patches, a covered vent, two gas bottles and a length of timber which extends up above the roof level and serves as a radio mast. The west wall now forms the interior wall betwen the 1976 hut and the 1989 addition (see Interior description).

The building rests upon a base of railway sleepers and rocks.

Interior

The interior walls of the original hut are lined in white-painted cement sheeting. Quad moulds are present in the four wall corners and the wall sheet joins are concealed by timber coverstrips. The original exterior door (now the door into the cold porch) is located in the north wall. This door consists of a timber frame clad in plywood. It has a lever-action latch, a horizontal handle and a cloth-covered rubber seal. A shallow timber shelf runs the full length of the north wall (above the door height). Beneath this, a similar shelf extends along the wall to the left and right of the door. A fire extinguisher is situated to the left of the door, while to the right of the door is a fire extinguisher cradle (extinguisher missing). In the eastern corner of the north wall is a chrome coat hanging rack which extends across to the central ceiling beam. In the southern end of the east wall is a fixed timber-framed, triple-glazed window with a timber architrave (dating from 1990). Beneath this is a brass screw vent, while to the left of the window are three coat pegs attached to a length of timber.

Attached to the south wall is a timber shelf unit (three shelves). Beneath this is a timber-framed and edged/plywood-topped bench with a plywood open storage area beneath. Immediately to the right of this is a stainless steel kitchen sink and another plywood-topped bench with a single drawer and open storage area beneath. A shallow timber shelf is attached to the wall above the sink, and in the southwest corner of the room is a plywood shelf for the HF radio. Against the west wall is a stove (with a galvanised splash back) which sits upon a timber shelf unit (two shelves). To the right of this is an open doorway into the 1989 accommodation extension.

Miscellaneous Features Database

The floor consists of plywood sheets covered in red carpet squares. The ceiling is also constructed of plywood sheeting, painted white. A timber beam runs down the centre of the ceiling which is pierced by a timber-framed roof hatch (now covered over by a sheet of plywood) and a single screw vent with a galvanised driptray attached.

Condition Report

Good condition. Several small holes are present in the cement sheeting exposing the insulation layer.

Reference Source Documentation

Davis Station Reports :
1975 - A depot containing a tent, sleeping bags etc is established at the site.
1976 - A hut built at the site during this year.
1982 - A reference to painting the interior of the hut.
1983 - A cold porch was added to the hut during this year.
1984 -Wall vents and shelving were installed.
1989 - An extension (containing four beds) was added to the west side of the hut.
1990 - A window was installed in the east wall of the hut.

Miscellaneous Features Database

Background

Feature Name RMIT Van Mark II **Feature Number** 41

Other Names **Grid Reference**

Location On-station

Historical Summary

A new type of traverse van was developed by the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (R.M.I.T.) in the mid-1960s. These caravans, known as RMIT vans, differed from previous designs in that they were constructed of fibreglass. They were fitted out with wooden and fibreglass shelving, four bunks, a kitchen bench, stove and table.

New versions of the RMIT van, known as Marks II, III and IV, were constructed by a Melbourne based firm called British Engineering Pty Ltd. The principal difference between each of these models was size, with each successive model being larger than the previous one. While the original RMIT vans were towed on Norwegian timber sledges, the later models were sent down on fully sprung steel sledges.

The single surviving example of an RMIT van at Davis is a Mark II model. It is still occasionally used on traverse, most recently during a trip to the Larsemann Hills in 1994.

Physical Description

This van is constructed of timber frames clad internally and externally with fibreglass skins. Between these two layers is a 40mm thick filling of insulation (probably "Isolite"). It is bolted to a steel sledge with two runners.

Exterior
A fibreglass shell painted orange. An ANARE emblem and Australian flag have been painted on both sides of the van which are also fitted with original perspex windows with rubber sealing. The van door is also constucted of fibreglass and has a canvas seal, lever-action latch and a spinning vent. To the left of the door is a light switch and fitting, and a simple metal handle. A radio antenna, gas piping and electrical wiring are attached to the rear wall of the van. Two air vents and a perspex dome are located on the roof together with a small hook attached to a base plate and a number of radio antennae connections.

Interior
The interior of the van is divided into a cold porch and accommodation/living space. The walls and ceiling of both rooms consist of fibreglass, painted white. The fibreglass floor of both rooms is covered by grey carpet which sits upon slatted timber. All internal fittings are constructed of a combination of timber and plywood.

The partition wall separating the cold porch from the accommodation/living space is constructed of plywood. In the centre of this wall is a hollow core door with a timber frame clad in plywood and a timber architrave. The door is fitted with a domestic-type latch and an air vent. To the left of the door are four coat hooks and a GPO. To the right of the door is a single coat hook. Open plywood shelving runs along both side walls of the cold porch. To the left of the exterior door are two fire extinguishers, an electrical box and a light switch. Another light switch and a bare light bulb are situated above this door. A third switch and a small lamp are located to the right of the door. In the ceiling is a single screw vent.

Two timber/plywood bunks with foam mattresses run along the entire length of the side walls of the accommodation/living space. Beneath both bottom bunks is an open storage space, one of which is also fitted with a gas heater. Either side of the door separating this room from the cold porch are two sets of light switches and two small reading lights (one for each bunk). Also to the left of the door is a single GPO. Against the rear wall of this room is a small timber/plywood shelf unit with a non-operative gas stove on top. To the right of the stove is a bench with a lockable drawer beneath. beneath this a shelf with a detachable front panel. On the wall above the shelf unit is a chrome clothes peg and a small light. Piercing the ceiling of this room are a single screw vent and a perspex dome. The sliding plywood cover from beneath the dome is missing. Attached to the ceiling is a single flourescent light fitting and various electrical conduits.

(REFER SHEET #18, APPENDIX 1 FOR MEASURED DRAWING.)

Miscellaneous Features Database

Background

Feature Name Generator Van

Feature Number 42

Other Names Dive Van

Grid Reference

Location On-station

Historical Summary

The Generator Van appears to date from the mid-1960s. Initially designed for use on traverses, the van has most recently been used in support of a diving program which ended at Davis in 1989. It is identical in construction and dimensions to another Generator (Workshop) Van sited on-station at Mawson. The Davis van was manufactured by Chapman Engineering, Healesville, Victoria.

Physical Description

The Generator Van is bolted to metal brackets attached to a Smith's Sledge.

Exterior

The exterior of the van consists of insulated, riveted sheet metal panels painted orange. The roof is slightly curved. The two side walls of the van are each pierced by a square perspex window encircled by a rubber seal. The letters *ANARE* (in blue) and an Australian flag have been painted on both of these walls. On one of these sides has been added a circular motif of a penguin complete with oxygen tank and weight belt. On the opposite side is the main exhaust/muffler for the engine. A single metal grill step provides access to the van door which is metal-clad and framed, and has a spinning vent and a lever-action latch. It is encircled by a canvas seal. To the right of the door is painted the name of the manufacturer - *Chapman's Engineering, Healesville, Victoria.* Attached to the rear wall of the van is a frame constructed of angle iron with three metal supports. Sitting within this frame is a steel fuel tank. Above this tank is a protruding length of angle iron (apparently for lifting) and a bank of electrical switches. Beneath the tank is a mushroom vent. On the roof are three brass mushroom vents and a square metal roof hatch.

Interior

The interior of the van is lined in sheet metal painted grey/white. To the left of the door is a light switch. Running along part of the LHS wall is a metal bench/cupboard unit with four metal doors. Attached to the bench top are two fire extinguishers and a vice. Above the bench is a light switch, two light fittings and various electrical conduits. To the right of the perspex window in this wall is a sealed-over vent and an electrical box for the Lister generator which is located on the floor beneath. On the opposite wall are six metal coat hooks and a metal cupboard with three shelves at head height. Attached to the rear wall is a double GPO. Piercing the ceiling are three screw vents and a roof hatch. Two flourescent light fittings are attached to the ceiling.

(REFER SHEET #19, APPENDIX 1 FOR MEASURED DRAWING.)

Condition Report

Fair condition. The external cladding has been damaged in a few places exposing the insulation layer.

Reference Source Documentation

Miscellaneous Features Database

Background

Feature Name Smith's Sledge (six)

Feature Number 43

Other Names

Grid Reference

Location On-station

Historical Summary

During the first years of ANARE, numerous types of sledges were employed for traverse trips and general operations. Initially, Norwegian timber sledges were used. These consisted of wooden frames with longitudinal stringers attached to two wooden runners with turned up ski points. Various designs were trialled, using different configurations and combinations of materials.

Several types of sledges which utilised steel runners were developed during the 1960s. One such sledge type, known as the "Smith's Sledge", was introduced to ANARE stations in the 1969-70 season. These sledges utilised two 12"-wide steel runners to which steel I Beams were welded. These beams were joined by three sliding metal cross rods and topped by a timber deck.

Six Smith's Sledges remain at Davis. All of these continue to be used for general operational purposes.

Physical Description

All of the sledges are painted orange and are basically identical in appearance. They consist of two 12"-wide steel runners which are generally connected to timber decking (thirteen planks) and tensioned beneath with steel cables and turnbuckles. The steel runners are constructed from I-Beams, the lower sections of which have been cut and welded to steel plates which have ski points at both ends. Seven circular holes have been cut into each of the I-Beams to reduce weight. The two runners of each sledge are connected by three metal rods, of which the two end ones are sliding. Tensioning cables are attached to the central rod which is fixed. A pivoting towing arm at the front of the sledge sits in a vertical slot.

Note: The timber decking has been removed from the sledge which currently supports the Generator Van.

(REFER SHEET #19, APPENDIX 1 FOR MEASURED DRAWING.)

Condition Report

All six sledges remain in serviceable condition.

Reference Source Documentation

Miscellaneous Features Database

Background

Feature Name Mikkelsen Site

Feature Number 44

Other Names Norwegian Cairn

Grid Reference 933 126

Location Largest island in Tryne Group, unofficially known by Davis expeditioners in 1957 as Depot Island.

Historical Summary

On 20 February 1935, the Norwegian Captain Klarius Mikkelsen of the Lars Christensen tanker *Thorshaven* sighted an ice-free area and named it after the Vestfold province of Norway which he considered it resembled. Together with his wife and seven crew members, Mikkelsen landed in a small bay at the northern end of the Vestfold Hills. There the crew established a depot of provisions beneath a cairn of stones, Mrs Mikkelsen raised the Norwegian flag and her husband delivered a speech. This ceremony was followed by a festive picnic of coffee and sandwiches (coffee being the Norwegian national drink). On this day, Caroline Mikkelsen became the first woman to set foot in Antarctica.

Although there is no direct mention of the depot site in the earliest Davis station logs, it seems likely that the location of the depot was known at this time. The 1957 field party which found Wilkins records at what is now known as Walkabout Rocks, had travelled via a nearby island then known by Davis epeditioners as Depot Island (presumably named after the Norwegian depot). Three years later, another ANARE party which visited Walkabout Rocks via Tryne Fjord (using the same route there and back) returned with a Norwegain flag which they found somewhere en route protruding from a rock cairn. (The Tryne Group of islands is only a short detour off this route.) In 1962, an ANARE field party which visited Walkabout Rocks also walked out to the largest island in the Tryne Group with the purpose of visiting a Norwegian depot site (which they successfully located). Having pieced this information together, the authors of this study relocated the depot site on 12 November 1995.

Physical Description

Located just to the west of the highest point at the southern end of the largest island in the Tryne Group. At the time of rediscovery, all that was visible at the site was a flagpole (made of a spar 4-5 metres high) standing upright. Three square-sectioned braces are nailed to the spar. The eastern brace is made of two pieces of wood nailed together (as shown in 1935 photograph). A hole has been drilled in the top of the spar (to raise a halyard). The spar and timbers appear whitewashed, though this bleached appearance may simply be due to weathering. There are initials carved into the spar - *AD, SL, PS, GD.* Snow covered the rock cairn and depot. The proximity of an Adelie penguin rookery to the site prevented a close inspection of the flagpole and the excavation of the cairn and depot box.

Condition Report

Flagpole appears to be in remarkably good condition. As noted previously, the cairn and depot were not inspected.

Reference Source Documentation

Aagaard, B. Antarktis 1502-1944, 1944, Oslo.
Contains photographs of Caroline and Klarius Mikkelsen and of the *"...flaggheising, Ingrid Christensen Land, 20 Februar 1935"* (p.216). Also contains a general map of the route and a detailed map of the landing site (this bears little relationship to the actual site though the depot is located on the side of a hill [marked 125m in actuality 24m] and there is a lake at the end of the valley as shown).

Handbook and Index to Accompany a Map of Antarctica, Bayliss, E.P. and Cumpston, J.S. 1939, Department of External Affairs, Canberra.
Reference to discovery of Vestfold Hills by Klarius Mikkelsen in 1935.

Miscellaneous Features Database

Quest for a Continent, Sullivan, W. 1957, McGraw-Hill Book Company Inc., New York.
pp112-113 *" ... they landed in a small bay between two high promontories. A little valley ran inland, rising to a lake about 100 feet above sea level from which a stream ran down to the sea..."*

Main Events in the History of Antarctic Exploration, Bogen, H. 1957 Reprinted from the Norwegian Whaling Gazette 1957, Sandefjord.
"... After a quick trip between icebergs and over shoal water they landed in a little bay between two barren mountain ridges. The flag was hoisted by Mrs Karoline Mikkelsen (Danish-born) and the speech was delivered by her husband. Then they had a festive meal consisting of coffee and sandwiches.... A provision depot was buried under a cairn of stones at 68:29S, 78:50E."

Davis Station Log, 1957, AAD, Melbourne.
Reference to a field trip to Depot Island in Tryne Sound and of the same party finding Wilkin's records at Walkabout Rocks. (It is highly likely that Depot Island refers to the largest island in the Tryne Group. This reference indicates that the 1957 ANARE party knew of the existence of the Norwegian depot on the island.)

Davis Station Log, 1960, AAD, Melbourne.
A field party returned with a *"...Norwegian flag which had been planted at a cairn many years before."* (Note: This party travelled up and down Tryne Fjord on its way to Walkabout Rocks.)

Davis Field Log, 1962, AAD, Melbourne.
22.9.62, "...left on foot [from Walkabout Rocks] at 0915 for Tryne Islands... reached the top of the closest island in Tryne Group at 1045... located flagpole and box left by the Norwegians on the west side of the largest island ..." Entry includes a map showing the 22.9.62 route to the west coast of the largest island of the Tryne Group.

Miscellaneous Features Database

Background

Feature Name	**Wilkins Site - Walkabout Rocks**	**Feature Number**	45
Other Names	Historic Monument No. 6	**Grid Reference**	993 139
Location	Walkabout Rocks, approximately six km northeast of the Vestfold Hills.		

Historical Summary

The American explorer Lincoln Ellsworth, accompanied by his Australian adviser, Sir Hubert Wilkins, arrived off the Vestfold Hills aboard the *Wyatt Earp* in January 1939. Despite Wilkins' protestions that Mawson had already claimed this part of Antarctica for Britain, Ellesworth planned to claim the area for America. In response, Wilkins took pre-emptive action by reclaiming the area for Australia. On January 8, 1939, Wilkins, with Pilot J.H. Lymburner as a witness, landed on the northernmost island in the Rauer Group where he raised the Australian flag and left behind a proclamation decree. He repeated this exercise on the following day at the western end of the Vestfold Hills and did so again on 11 January at what is now known as Walkabout Rocks.

Wilkins journal entry for 11 January 1939 reads as follows:

"Meanwhile I proceeded to near the eastern end of the snow-free land at the edge of the continental ice-cap - presumably the mainland - and at the top of a dyke which appears black against the surrounding granite and which extends vertically from sea-level - where it is four inches wide - to the top of the hill where it is about four feet wide, I flew a large Commonwealth of Australia flag and then deposited it together with a record as follows:

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Recognising the rights of the Commonwealth of Australia to administrate the area referred to in an Order in Council dated 7th February, 1933, wherein it is ordered as follows:

That part of His Majesty's dominion in the Antarctic seas which comprises all the islands and territories other than Adelie Land which are situated south of the 60th degree of south latitude and lying between the 160th degree of east longitude and the 45th degree of east longitude is hereby placed under the authority of the Commonwealth of Australia.
I place this document as a record of having put foot on the Antarctic mainland in several places and upon several of the islands in the vicinity between latitude 68 south and latitude 69 south and between longitudes 77 east and 79 east and having flown the flag of Australia, leave it with this record on the land bordering the present continental glacier surface at approximately latitude 68.30 south and 79 degrees east longitude.

Date: January 11th, 1939. (Signed) Hubert Wilkins.

The record and flag, in a white enamel container, was placed beneath a boulder which almost spans the dyke and then covered with small rocks."

The proclamation site was found by chance by an ANARE field party in 1957 who built a small rock cairn on top of the boulder beneath which Wilkins had left his record. For the next twenty years the position of the site was unknown, until another ANARE party rediscovered it in 1977. This party rediscovered the site on their second attempt, noting that Wilkins description matched the location where he had left his records. They marked the site by another cairn, then took the material back to Davis station where it was photographed. The material was returned to the proclamation site later in the same year, now housed in a copper cylinder. In 1982, the proclamation document and the copy of *Walkabout* magazine left by Wilkins were sandwhiched between sheets of perspex for protection. In 1989 this material was housed in a plywood box.

Physical Description

The approximate position of the proclamation site is indicated by a rock cairn surmounted by a bamboo pole which is visible from the sea ice (this is presumably the cairn erected by the 1977 ANARE party). A short distance uphill is the boulder (1 800mm across) bridging the dyke (as described by Wilkins), atop of which is a second cairn (that constructed by the 1957 party).

In 1989, the proclamation material was transferred to a plywood box sited 900mm to the west of the boulder. The box, which is painted orange, measures 520 x 230 x 455mm. The lid is fastened to four pivoting bolts on the sides of the box by two steel plates and wing nuts. A chrome handle is attached to the lid. On the inside of the box written in pencil is the following message - *This box was built at Davis Chippy Shop by 1989 Maintenance Carpenter Paul Delaney 18th of December 1989.* Inside this container is a stainless steel box with a sliding copper lid which houses the following material:

(a) Proclamation Decree

The typed and signed proclamation decree reads as follows:

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Recognising the rights of the Commonwealth of Australia to administrate the area referred to in an Order in Council dated 7 February 1933 wherein it is ordered as follows:

"That part of His Majesty's dominions in the Antarctic seas which comprises all the islands and territories other than Adelie Landwhich are situated south of the 60th degree of south latitude and lying between the 160th degree of east longitude and the 45th degree of east longitude is hereby placed under the authority of the Commonwealth of Australia."
I place this document as a record of having put foot on the Antarctic mainland in several places and upon several of the islandsin the vicinity between latitudes 68South and latitude 69 South and between longitudes 77 East and 79 east and having flown the flag of Australia, leave it with this record on the land bordering the present continental glacier surface at approximately latitude68.30 South and 79 degrees East longitude.

Date January 11th 1939. Hubert Wilkins

Added to this is the following message from the 1957 ANARE party:

Visited on 10 May 1957 by following members of ANARE, W.W. Fisher Surveyor; H. Lied Weather Obs; B.H. Stinear Geologist.

The 1977 ANARE party which rediscovered the site added the following message on the back of the decree:

A field party consisting of members of the 1977 Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition to Davis Station, Australian Antarctic Territory, visited the Walkabout Rocks, Vestfold Hills area, in search of records left by Sir Hubert Wilkins in 1939. Records of the visit were located on 16/5/1977, the names of the field party were: Eric King; Colin Christiansen; Nevil Alexander; Mark Podkolinski (signed and dated).

Beneath this entry is a list of subsequent visitors: *Don Ward (2/8/77); M. Ellis (2/8/77); A. Parker (2/8/77); Joe Broadhurst (2/8/77); Tony Bamford (30 December 1978); Michael F. McCallin (30 December 1978.)*

The proclamation decree is sandwhiched between two sheets of perspex (277 x 215mm) and the edges are sealed with grey gaffer tape.

(b) Walkabout Magazine

The copy of *Walkabout* Geographic magazine (October 1938) left behind by Wilkins is also sandwhiched between two sheets of perspex (340 x 285mm) and the edges are sealed with grey gaffer tape.

(c) Enamel Beakers

Two identical white enamel measuring beakers with blue rims and the handles broken off each. These beakers were originally placed end to end and held the decree, magazine and flag. There is evidence around the rim of the beakers that they were both formerly sealed together with cloth tape.

(REFER SHEET #20, APPENDIX 1 FOR MEASURED DRAWING.)

(d) Red Ensign

Inside the two beakers is a folded Red Australian Ensign.

A visitor's book and a number or pens and pencils are also housed within the stainless steel box.

Condition Report

The proclamation document, copy of *Walkabout* magazine and beakers are all in good condition. The current housing of this material and the use of perspex covers should ensure that these artefacts remain in sound condition for the foreseeable future.

Reference Source Documentation

Report of the Ellsworth Antarctic Flight Expedition 1938-39, Sir Hubert Wilkins (held at the Ohio State University).
Contains Wilkins description of the proclamation site and the text of his decree (see History section above).

Station Diary, 1957, (10 May), AAD Melbourne.
Stinear reports finding one of Sir Hubert Wilkins landing records in the vicinity of Depot Island. (Note: Depot island was the unofficial name given to the largest island in the Tryne Group, supposedly named because of the presence of the 1935 Norwegian depot at the southern end of the island.)

Report on Australian Antarctic Station at Davis, W.R.J.Dingle, 1957, AAD, Melbourne.
A party of three (Stinear, Fisher, Lied) on a field trip to Depot island found one of Wilkins records on a continental rock outcrop north of the Vestfold Hills.

Historic Monuments, Anonymous n.d., AAD, Melbourne.
May 1957 - An ANARE party led by B.H. Stinear found Wilkins records at the northern end of the Vestfold Hills under a large rock on top of the highest point of an outcrop. The records consisted of a brown paper parcel containing two enamelled beakers pressed end to end within which was a copy of the Australian geographical magazine *Walkabout* dated 1 October 1938 and an Australian flag. Within the pages of the magazine was a typed decree. Stinear returned the records and built a small cairn over them after adding a note which documented his visit. The spot was subsequently named Walkabout Rocks (33kms NE of Davis).

Sir Hubert Wilkins, Enigma of Exploration 1960 John Grierson, Robert Hale Limited, London.
In response to plans by Lincoln Ellsworth to claim the Vestfold Hills area for America, Wilkins landed on the Rauer Group of islands on 8 Jan 1939 where he raised the Australian flag and left a container with a record of his visit and his own claim. On 10 Jan he repeated the exercise at the western end of the Vestfold Hills and did so again on 11 Jan at the northern end of the Vestfold Hills (Walkabout Rocks).

Davis Station Report, 1977 AAD, Melbourne.
Reference to relocating Wilkins record. A note that the proclamation site matched Wilkins description of where he had deposited his records. The site was found on the second attempt and a cairn was erected. The western end of theVestfold Hills was searched for another set of records, but without success.

Historical Records in the Vestfold Hills, Antarctica 1977 Memorandum from T.J.Petry (A/Director AAD) to Minister.
After the 1957 visit to Walkabout Rocks subsequent attempts to locate the site failed up until 16 May 1977 when it was relocated. The party that relocated the site intended to photograph the contents on-site and replace them, but photography was hampered by poor light. As such, they took the artefacts back to Davis to be photographed. The material was returned to the site on 2 Sept 1977 housed within a copper cylinder for better protection.

Handbook of the Antarctic Treaty System, sixth edition 1989 (Edited by Polar Publications, Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge UK).
Historic Monument No. 6 - Rock cairn at Walkabout Rocks, Vestfold Hills, Princess Elizabeth Land erected in 1939 by Sir Hubert Wilkins. The cairn houses a canister containing a record of his visit.

Miscellaneous Features Database

Background

Feature Name Wilkins Site - WesternVestfold Hills **Feature Number** 46

Other Names **Grid Reference**

Location ?

Historical Summary

The American explorer Lincoln Ellsworth, accompanied by his Australian adviser, Sir Hubert Wilkins, arrived off the Vestfold Hills aboard the *Wyatt Earp* in January 1939. Despite Wilkins protestions that Mawson had already claimed this part of Antarctica for Britain, Ellesworth planned to claim the area for America. In response, Wilkins took pre-emptive action by reclaiming the area for Australia. On January 8, 1939, Wilkins with Pilot J.H. Lymburner as a witness, landed on the northernmost island in the Rauer Group where he raised the Australian flag and left behind a proclamation decree. He repeated this exercise on the following day at the western end of the Vestfold Hills and did so again on 11 January at what is now known as Walkabout Rocks.

Wilkins journal entry for 9 January 1939 reads as follows:

"We therefore continued eastward until coming to the west end of the Vestfold Mountains. There I went ashore and collected some geological samples some of which are highly mineralised.

Again with Pilot Lymburner as a witness I deposited a flag together with a record of the visit to what appears to be part of the mainland of Antarctica; the site of the deposit is a round eroded hole about three inches in diameter in the northern side of a boulder, the hole being stopped up with a rock after the record was deposited. The boulder containing the record is about four yards to the southward of another but more conspicous boulder near the top of the next - to - the - highest point of land emerging from the glaciated ice-cap. Near it and a little more to the northward of the conspicous boulder, and in a slight depression, is a formation of rocks grouped in the shape of a small, empty hut four feet long and three feet wide and about three feet high, the roof of which, previously formed by a flat slab, has through the fracture of the slab, fallen in.

From this hill-top we saw in a fjord nearby what appeared to be a suitable flying field but closer inspection proved that the ice in it was unsafe for use with skis."

ANARE parties from Davis station searched for this site in 1973 and 1977 without success.

As part of this study, systematic searches were made for this site. All of the high points near the seaward end of Mule Peninsula, the offshore islands from Pintado to Warriner Island (excepting Hawker) and the northwest corner of Broad Peninsula were searched. No evidence of Wilkins' site was found.

It is highly likely that the frozen fjord seen from the hilltop (as per Wilkins description) is Ellis Fjord, and that his boat was unlikely to have been taken beyond Ellis Narrows. As such, it may be worthwhile concentrating any future searches on those high points of Broad and Mule Peninsulas which border Ellis Fjord (up to Ellis Narrows).

Physical Description

Condition Report

Reference Source Documentation

Report of the Ellsworth Antarctic Flight Expedition 1938-39, Sir Hubert Wilkins (held at the Ohio State University).
Contains Wilkins description of the flag-raising site (see History section above).

Sir Hubert Wilkins, Enigma of Exploration 1960 John Grierson, Robert Hale Limited, London.
In response to plans by Lincoln Ellsworth to claim the Vestfold Hills area for America, Wilkins landed on the Rauer Group of islands on 8 Jan 1939 where he raised the Australian flag and left a container with a record of his visit and his own claim. On 9 Jan he repeated the exercise at the western end of the Vestfold Hills and did so again on 11 Jan at the northern end of the Vestfold Hills (Walkabout Rocks).

Miscellaneous Features Database

Davis Station Report, 1977 AAD, Melbourne.
The western end of theVestfold Hills was searched for Wilkins records, but without success.

Davis Station Report, 1973 AAD, Melbourne.
(12 Nov) - *"...they counted many penguins, found many lichens but could not find a trace of a marker left on the mainland by Sir Hubert Wilkins. They have completed the survey in the northern area and will move down the coast of Long Peninsula tomorrow..."*

Historic Monuments, Anonymous n.d., AAD, Melbourne.
On 8 Jan 1939, Wilkins landed in the Rauer Group (just south of the Vestfold Hills) at 68°46'S, 77°50'E and raised an Australian red ensign and left a record of his visit and territorial claim. He later he repeated this exercise at the western and eastern ends of the Vestfold Hills.

Sir Hubert Wilkins, Enigma of Exploration 1960 John Grierson, Robert Hale Limited, London.
In response to plans by Lincoln Ellsworth to claim the area for America, Wilkins landed on the Rauer Group of islands on Jan 8 1939 where he raised the Australian flag and left a record of his visit and claim. On 9 Jan he repeated this exercise at the western end of the Vestfold Hills, and did so again on 11 Jan at the eastern end (Walkabout Rocks).

Historical Records in the Vestfold Hills, Antarctica 1977 Memorandum from T.J.Petry (A/Director AAD) to Minister.
Notes the existence of two as yet undiscovered Wilkins sites, one at the western end of the Vestfold Hills and one in the Rauer Group.

Miscellaneous Features Database

Background

Feature Name Wilkins' Site - Rauer Group

Feature Number 47

Other Names

Grid Reference

Location Filla Island (?)

Historical Summary

The American explorer Lincoln Ellsworth, accompanied by his Australian adviser, Sir Hubert Wilkins, arrived off the Vestfold Hills aboard the *Wyatt Earp* in January 1939. Despite Wilkins protestions that Mawson had already claimed this part of Antarctica for Britain, Ellesworth planned to claim the area for America. In response, Wilkins took pre-emptive action by reclaiming the area for Australia. On January 8, 1939, Wilkins with Pilot J.H. Lymburner as a witness, landed on the northernmost island in the Rauer Group where he raised the Australian flag and left behind a proclamation decree. He repeated this exercise on the following day at the western end of the Vestfold Hills and did so again on 11 January at what is now known as Walkabout Rocks.

Wilkins journal entry for 8 January 1939 reads as follows:

"With Pilot J.H. Lymburner as a witness I landed on the northernmost island of the group marked as Rauer on Lars Christensen's chart. It is the highest of the group and near the highest part at the southern end close to the topmost nest of a penguin rookery. I flew the flag of the Commonwealth of Australia and then deposited the flag and a record of the visit in a small aluminium container.

The container is placed at the foot of a rock about three feet high and covered with small stones. A small cairn of stones was erected about 25 yards to the southward of the deposit."

As part of this study, a day was spent on Filla Island in the Rauer Group searching for this site. (Filla Island is the northernmost and highest island in the Rauer Group as shown on the Hansen Atlas.) This search concentrated on that part of the island in which penguins rookeries exist. No evidence of Wilkins landing was discovered. It is possible that the penguin rookery mentioned by Wilkins may have expanded during the past 55 years and that his site is now actually in the midst of a rookery. (At the time of inspection the rookeries were full, ruling out searches of these areas.) Copies of photographs taken by Wilkins at this site, which show an extensive Adelie rookery, were left with researchers based on nearby Hop Island for the summer. They intend to conduct further searches on an opportunistic basis.

It is possible that Wilkins was wrong in his description of the island he landed on being the northernmost and highest in the group. Searches of other islands in the group with Adelie rookeries would be a worthwhile exercise.

Physical Description

Condition Report

Reference Source Documentation

Report of the Ellsworth Antarctic Flight Expedition 1938-39, Sir Hubert Wilkins (held at the Ohio State University).
Contains Wilkins description of the flag-raising site (see History section above).

Sir Hubert Wilkins, Enigma of Exploration 1960 John Grierson, Robert Hale Limited, London.
In response to plans by Lincoln Ellsworth to claim the Vestfold Hills area for America, Wilkins landed on the Rauer Group of islands on 8 Jan 1939 where he raised the Australian flag and left a container with a record of his visit and his own claim. On 9 Jan he repeated the exercise at the western end of the Vestfold Hills and did so again on 11 Jan at the northern end of the Vestfold Hills (Walkabout Rocks).

Historic Monuments, Anonymous n.d., AAD, Melbourne.
On 8 Jan 1939, Wilkins landed in the Rauer Group (just south of the Vestfold Hills) at 68°46'S, 77°50'E and raised an Australian red ensign and left a record of his visit and territorial claim. He later repeated this exercise at

the western and eastern ends of the Vestfold Hills.

Historical Records in the Vestfold Hills, Antarctica 1977 Memorandum from T.J.Petry (A/Director AAD) to Minister
Notes the existence of two as yet undiscovered Wilkins sites, one at the western end of the Vestfold Hills and one in the Rauer Group.

Miscellaneous Features Database

Background

Feature Name Law Cairn **Feature Number** 48

Other Names **Grid Reference** 787 937

Location Broad Peninsula

Historical Summary

After establishing Mawson station, the 1954 ANARE expedition led by Phillip Law headed 650km eastwards aboard the *Kista Dan* to the Vestfold Hills, anchoring offshore on 1 March. During the next day, Law and three companions landed on the mainland. Here they constructed a small rock cairn which was surmounted by a broom handle. A glass jar placed within the cairn contained the following handwritten record of their visit:

ANARE 1954
This receptacle was deposited here on Tuesday 2nd March by the following members of the Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition who landed from M.V. "Kista Dan" and raised the Australian flag -
Phillip G. Law Leader of the Expedition
Richard H. Thompson Supply Officer, Second in Charge
Dr Arthur M. Gwynn Medical Officer and Naturalist
Peter S. Shaw Meteorologist
(Signed P.G. Law 2/3/54)

The following note was added to the document by a member of the 1956-57 Soviet party which visited the area on 12 January 1956:
12 Jan 1956 This place was visited by member of the Soviet Antarctic Expedition team, Signed Dolgushin P.D.

Other additions included:
Geologist Bruce Stinear from the first Davis wintering party signed on the bottom left of the original document in Feb 1957:
Revisited on 26th Feb 1957 by B.R.Stinear, Geologist, Davis station.

Stinear returned two years later with Don Styles who wrote beneath the Russian script:
27th January 1959 Cairn visited by members of the Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition on M.S. "Thala Dan"
D.F. Styles Leader of Expedition
B.R. Stinear Geologist

Stinear returned yet again later in the same year, this time with two members of the Davis party and wrote on the back of the original document:
Revisited 30th Aug 1959
J.C. Armstrong Surveyor
B.H. Stinear Geologist
C. Brounsteffer Weather Observer

Styles returned in 1961 and wrote a note on a second piece of paper:
23rd January 1961 Revisited
D.F. Styles Assistant Director, Antarctic Division
James R. Hay United States Observer

This site was revisited on 21-1-70 by
K.D. Collerson (CHECK) Geologist
Ron McLean Radio Supervisor 1969/70
Alan McCallum Met Observer "
D. Cowan Met Obs "

The original document was removed to Davis in 1977 and photographed before being returned to the cairn. It appears that the document was removed again at a later date and returned to the site on 20 December 1991 (refer Physical Description entry). The document is now held by the AAD at Kingston.

Miscellaneous Features Database

Physical Description

The cairn is located on a slight rise above the shore of Broad Peninsula, approximately 5km north-northeast of Davis. The rock cairn, itself, measures 1 600 x 1 300 x 900mm (high). Wedged into the top of the cairn is the broom handle left by Law in 1954. It measures 1 550mm in length. The original (?) glass jar is present but is without a lid and is empty except for a deposit of grit.

A plastic container at the site contains entries left by visitors over the years written on scraps of paper. The original document written by Law is not amongst these, and is currently held at the Head Office of the Australian Antarctic Division in Kingston.

Condition Report

The rock cairn, itself, remains in good condition. That part of the broom handle which is exposed to the elements has been severely weathered. The original (?) glass jar is present, though its lid is missing and it is full of grit. The plastic container holding the visitation records is waterproof, though too small. As already noted, the original 1954 note is missing.

Reference Source Documentation

Antarctic Odyssey, Law, P., 1983, William Heinemann Australia, Melbourne.
Contains a thorough description of the flag-raising occasion and the text of the original document (and later additions).