

4.0 Analysis

This section analyses the documentary and physical evidence presented in the earlier sections to determine how the place developed and the extent of the fabric surviving from the different eras of development.

4.1 Sequence of Development

Point Peron "K" Battery was constructed in 1942. At the time, the site was just an area of natural bushland with no other built structures or infrastructure, not even pathways through the site and no formal road entry. Fisherman's shacks known to have been located on the headland are believed to have not been within the study area.

The earliest aerial map dates from 1965 which shows the barracks, the WWII infrastructure and buildings to the south east of the barracks. It also clearly demonstrates the ever changing landform with much of the west edge of the headland covered in sand.

The buildings to the south east of the barracks had been removed by the 1970s, with the barracks themselves being removed in the late 1990s.

The roadway into the site was extended in the 1970s providing vehicular access to the south-western portion of the site with the current parking configuration being in the place by 1985.

The western side of the headland has gradually been reclaimed with the sand gradually being covered by dense bushland, providing some stabilisation to the ground.



Figure 163: 1965 Aerial View of Point Peron
Courtesy Landgate



Figure 164: 1977 Aerial View of Point Peron
Courtesy Landgate



Figure 165: 1979 Aerial View of Point Peron
Courtesy Landgate



Figure 166: 1981 Aerial View of Point Peron
Courtesy Landgate



Figure 167: 1983 Aerial View of Point Peron
Courtesy Landgate



Figure 168: 1985 Aerial View of Point Peron showing former barracks
Courtesy Landgate



Figure 169: 2000 Aerial View of Point Peron
Courtesy Landgate



Figure 170: 2001 Aerial View of Point Peron
Courtesy Landgate



Figure 171: 2006 Aerial View of Point Peron
Courtesy Landgate

4.2 Comparative Information

The most direct comparative places to the Point Peron "K" Battery are those places constructed during World War II to fulfil a military function. A search of the State Heritage Office database of heritage places, Inherit, has identified the following places.

<p>P18495 Garden Island Batteries (4) This entry includes the remains of 4 batteries on the island including P3301 Challenger Battery Beacon Battery Scriven Hill Battery Collie Section Battery</p> <p>Garden Island City of Rockingham</p>	<p>Municipal Inventory - Category A Register of the National Estate</p>	<p>Constructed as part of the coastal defence network in 1942-1943.</p>
<p>P3301 Challenger (J Gun) Battery</p>	<p>Municipal Inventory – Category A Classified by the National Trust Register of the National Estate</p>	<p>Constructed as part of the coastal defence network in 1942-1943.</p>
<p>South Beach Battery (Ruins) Emplacement Crescent, Hamilton Hill, City of Cockburn</p>	<p>Municipal Inventory – Category D</p>	<p>Constructed as part of the coastal defence network in 1942-1943. Ruins</p>
<p>P3247 Leighton Battery (Buckland Hill Tunnels, Citizen Military Force Training Battery) Boundary Road Mosman Park City of Mosman Park</p>	<p>State Register Town of Mosman Park Municipal Inventory – Category 1 Classified by the National Trust Register of the National Estate</p>	<p>Constructed as part of the coastal defence network in 1942-1943. The guns at the site were upgraded after World War II and used for training. The place is in good condition following restoration and is now the site of a museum and interpretation centre.</p>
<p>P26 Albany Forts (Princess Royal Battery/Barracks, Nissen Hut) City of Albany</p>	<p>State Register City of Albany - Category A+ Classified by the National Trust Register of the National Estate</p>	<p>Constructed initially in 1893 and modernised during World War II. Extensively restored the place is now a military heritage park.</p>
<p>P526 Oliver Hill Battery (Signal Station and Battery Observation Post) Rottnest Island City of Cockburn</p>	<p>State Register Register of the National Estate Classified by the National Trust</p>	<p>Constructed in 1936 and modernised during World War II. The place has been extensively restored and is now a tourist attraction.</p>
<p>P3321 Bickley Battery Rottnest Island</p>		
<p>P9146 Battery Observation Post and Timber Signal Station Rottnest Island</p>		

P16785 RAAF Headquarters Bunker (fmr), Belmont (SES Bunker) Leake Street Belmont	State Register City of Belmont Heritage List	Constructed in 1944 this partially submerged concrete building was used as a communications centre for the RAAF and is now part of the SES headquarters.
P15133 World War II Airfield and Bunkers, Springfield Shire of Capel	Shire of Capel Municipal Inventory – Category 5	Constructed c1942 as part of the training facility for the RAAF located in Busselton.
P17789 Cockburn Sound Anti-Submarine Boom Remnant (Anchor Dophin No.60, Anti Sumbarine Boom Net (fmr)) Indian Ocean Cockburn Sound	City of Cockburn – Category A	Constructed as part of the anti-submarine Defence system constructed during World War II. Little physical evidence remains of the structure which was part of an extensive system which included Point Peron "K" Battery.
P05847 Radar Installation Site North Head, Jurien	Shire of Dandaragan – Category 1	Constructed c1941 for the provision of shelter for the diesel motors which generated electricity to power the radar equipment installed on the site. The radar was part of the system to detect invaders..
P12090 Radio Communication Centre, Wellard Road Leda	City of Kwinana – Category C	Constructed c1942 as Radar Detection Huts for the adjacent Radar tower. The staff at the site were predominantly WAAFs. The huts are now derelict.
P13512 Concrete Bunkers Great Eastern Highway Merredin	Shire of Merredin – Category 2	Constructed c1941 for an unknown military function. The two structures are partially dug into the ground and are now in poor condition.
P13514 Radar Station Chandler-Merredin Road, Merredin	Shire of Merredin – Category 1	Constructed c1941 for the provision of radar services during World War II. The building is still intact and used for grain storage.
P3499 YNP Army Bunkers – Radar Installation 3499 Wanneroo Road, Yanchep	State Register City of Wanneroo – Category 1A Register of the National Estate Classified by the National Trust	Concrete Nissen huts constructed in 1940 for the RAAF who occupied Yanchep National Park during World War II.
P14278 YNP Generator Bunkers – Radar Installation 3499 Wanneroo Road, Yanchep	State Register City of Wanneroo – Category 1A Register of the National Estate Classified by the National Trust	Concrete Nissen huts constructed in 1940 for the RAAF who occupied Yanchep National Park during World War II.

4.3 Summary

Point Peron "K" Battery was constructed as part of a network of places that provided defence against potential attack from the sea. The place is best understood as part of the network where the differences and similarities between the places illustrate the role of each place. The Rottnest and Garden Island batteries are most directly comparable.

The condition of Point Peron "K" Battery is generally sound however in comparison to others; Leighton Battery and Rottnest Island complex it is clear that is not as favourably presented. Specifically, the action of wind erosion on the gun emplacement is leading to major structural failure.