

## Place No. 54 Sam's Island



Remains of structures on Sam's Island, 2012

<b>LOCATION</b>	
Name of Place	Sam's Island
Other Name (1)	Tidepole Island
Other Name (2)	
<b>Location/Address</b>	
Street Number	
Street Name	
Suburb/Town	Dampier
Other Locational descriptor (text)	469205 mE, 7716360 mN (MGA94 Zone 50) Island located in Dampier Harbour Longitude: 116.7044 Latitude:-20.6518

<b>OWNERSHIP &amp; LAND DESCRIPTION</b>				
<i>Owner</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Phone/fax</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Item No.</i>
Rio Tinto				
<b>Land Description</b>				
<i>Reserve No.</i>	<i>Lot/Location No.</i>	<i>Plan/Diagram</i>	<i>Vol/Folio</i>	<i>Item No.</i>

<b>LISTING AND ASSESSMENT</b>	
HCWA Reference Number	NEW ENTRY
State Register of Heritage Places: (Y/N)	No
Classified by the National Trust (Y/N)	No
Register of the National Estate (Y/N)	No
Local Town Planning Scheme (Y/N)	No
<b>Management Category</b>	<b>B</b>

<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	
Construction Date (1)	1960s ongoing
Construction Date (2)	
Site Type (Place Type)	Individual Building or Group
<b>Use(s) of Place</b>	
<i>Original</i>	RESIDENTIAL: Single story residence
<i>Present</i>	VACANT/UNUSED: Vacant/Unused
<i>Other</i>	
<b>Construction Materials:</b>	
<i>Walls</i>	3. CONCRETE 399 Other Concrete 6. METAL 699 Other Metal 8. RENDER 899 Other Render 9. STONE 904 Local Stone 11. TIMBER 1104 Slab
<i>Roof</i>	10. TILE 1007 Terracotta Tile 12. OTHER 1299 Other Material (shell)
<i>Other</i>	
Condition	Good
Integrity (how much of the original fabric is intact?):	Much of the original structures and contents are intact
<b>Physical Description</b>	
<p>The settlement on Sam's Island (Tidepole Island) consists of a stone-wall encircling two main residential structures built of various materials and construction styles. The walls are ornately decorated with open holes and large shells. A smaller 'summer' residence is located outside the walls. Sam's grave and that of his cat are located on the island.</p>	
<b>History</b>	
<p>Tidepole Island was used to measure the tidal range.</p> <p>In the 1960s Sam Ostojich arrived in Dampier from Yugoslavia. After becoming aware of the island Sam began building in 1966, using local and imported materials. The elaborate efforts were locally recognized. Rio Tinto provided a 99-year lease to Sam and connected the island to Dampier water supply. Sam died in 2005 and is buried on his island.<sup>1</sup></p> <p>Today tourists visit the island and tour operators and community members maintain the buildings and grounds.</p>	
<b>Archaeology</b>	
The material remains of Sam's efforts are well preserved.	

<b>SIGNIFICANCE</b>	
Historic theme (s)	6. PEOPLE 604 Local heroes and battlers
Statement of Significance:	

Sam's Island is a distinctive and attractive location close to Dampier. It is a physical reminder of the early era of modern Pilbara mining, migration and the colourful personalities that characterised that time, and is a rare type of site of human expression at the level of a whole island. It provides an insight into the social histories of the 1960s. Sam's Island reminds us of the human creative spirit and for that reason has become a 'pet project' of the Dampier Primary School students.

**ASSOCIATIONS**

Architect/Designer (1)

Architect/Designer (2)

Other Associated Person(s)

Sam Ostojich

**OTHER****References**

See endnotes.

MHI Review 2012

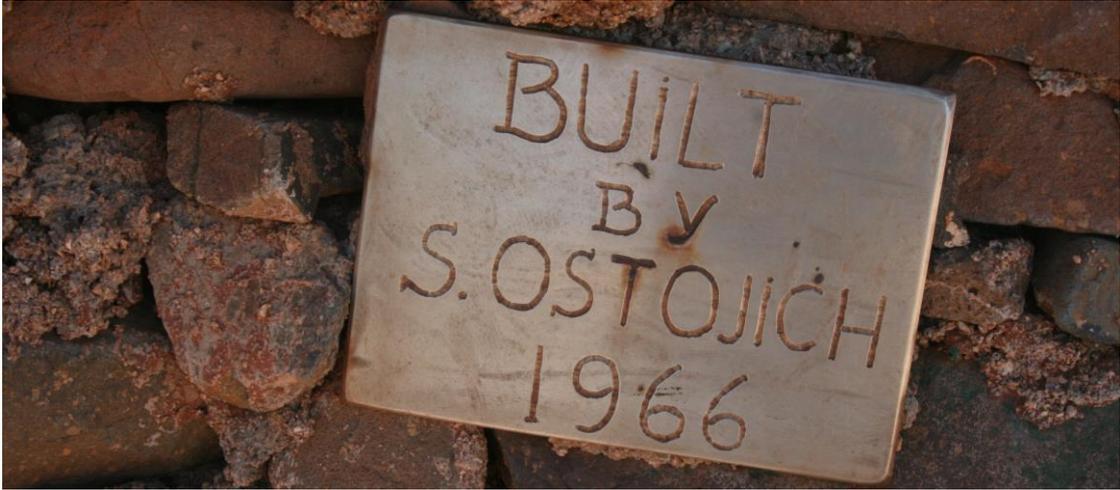
Site identified as significant through public consultation

MHI Review 2012

Site assessed and Place Name Record created



Remains of structures on Sam's Island, 2012



Sign with construction details on one of the structures on Sam's Island, 2012

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<sup>1</sup> Dampier Primary School, *King of His Castle: The Story of Sam Ostojich and 'Sam's Island'*, Dampier Primary Schhol, 2008.