

History

Green Mountain Time Line

1811 - 1820	1816: A rough track was made to Dampier's ravine and a detachment sent to collect fresh water. The rough cave houses still visible at Dampier's were begun at this time and expanded as the catchment area grew. 1817: A track was extended up the side of Green Mountain and a stone house, almost certainly the present "Garden Cottage" was built and garden plots started. Gardens extended three years later.
1821 - 1830	1829: First large tank completed at Dampier's (Bates Tank); 1830: Two small tanks built at "Bullock Holes" and piping laid from Dampier's tank to Georgetown.
1831 - 1840	1831: Captain Brandreth found water at a depth of 30ft in Breakwater Ravine. Pipelines laid between farm areas and Georgetown via Dampier's; 1832: The mountain tunnel built by Brandreth to house the water pipeline from Breakneck valley to the Mountain Main Tank completed. 1833: Stone barracks built near the upper catchments. North East Cottage and Ruperts path cut to link it to the farm. 1838: An influenza epidemic caused some deaths including Capt William Bate, the most respected Island Commander for the previous ten years, who died at N.E Cottage.
1841 - 1850	1843: J.D.Hooker director of The Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew visited the island and later sent many seeds and seedlings to improve the mountain gardens. 1848: Cottage built at Green Mountain, later to be named after Mr Bell the Farm Superintendent during the 1860's. 1849: Cattle introduced; Convalescent Hospital (not the San) at the mountain completed.
1851 - 1860	1852: Walls built at N.E. Cottage to enclose a paddock. 1856: Earliest recorded memorial at Monkey Rock Cemetery.
1861 - 1870	1861: Request for windmills to pump water at Breakneck and Georgetown. 1863: Marines moved into new accommodation, the Red Lion built to replace condemned damp and "cold" Stone Barracks. 1867: The Naval hospital (the 'San') was built as a sanatorium for fever victims. 1861: Monkey Rock Cemetery consecrated on Ascension on April 30 by the Bishop of St. Helena.
1871 - 1880	1872: James Galloway, R.M.L.I., fell to his death from Black Rock on Rupert's path. A white cross in the cinder cliffs still marks the spot. 1875: Dewpond constructed at the peak of the mountain. Bamboo planted 2 years later.
1891 - 1900	1900: Orange ceramic tiled water catchment built directly above Red Lion.
1911 - 1920	1921: Cronk's path cut from Garden Cottage to N.E. Cottage. 1922: Banana Bridge built, spanning Banana Ravine on the Cronk's path from Green Mountain Farm to N.E. Cottage. 1915: Pipeline laid ... Bullock Ponds: Two small tanks hidden in a eucalyptus grove between Middleton's and Grazing Valley. A 3rd tank just beneath Middleton's feeds the lower tanks via a pipeline laid in 1915.
1941 - 1950	1942/5: US built radar stations on Elliot Pass and on what is now the picnic site on the mountain ramps.
1951 - 1960	1958: Mountain Ramps tarred for the first time.
1961 - 1970	1963: Great rainstorm, which brought three years rainfall in one day. Landslides occurred around Elliot's.
1971 - Present	1971: Red Lion clock repaired and bell found to be dated 1890. 1982: The RAF set up an early warning RADAR close to Coronation Peak. 1982: Banana Bridge replaced, lowered into position by RAF Chinook helicopter after the Falklands conflict. Early 1990s - farm closed down.

Banana Bridge: Spans Banana Ravine on the Cronk's path from Green Mountain Farm to N.E.Cottage. Original bridge probably built in 1922. Replaced in 1982, lowered into position by RAF Chinook helicopter after the Falklands conflict.

Bell's Cottage: Erected in 1848 and later named after Farm Superintendent Bell. This 2-storey cottage was partially demolished in the 1970's and made into pig sties. The ground floor is still distinguishable.

Bullock Ponds: Two small tanks hidden in a eucalyptus grove between Middleton's and Grazing Valley. A 3rd tank just beneath Middleton's feeds the lower tanks via a pipeline laid in 1915.

Dampier's Drip: Named after William Dampier, buccaneer and explorer was wrecked at Ascension in 1701. A small spring or drip was found which saved their lives. The spring Dampier found was in all probability a drip in Breakneck valley as his description of the site best fits that location. The spring should be credited to the Royal Marines in 1816. Later, over 50 men, women and children were living at Dampier's collecting water in casks for transport down to Georgetown.

Monkey Rock Cemetery: Found below the San, was the first cemetery consecrated on Ascension on April 30 1861 by the Bishop of St. Helena. The earliest recorded memorial here is 1856.



North East Cottage: Built in 1833 probably as a shepherds dwelling. A pipeline from a spur off the the Dew Pond to farm water pipe feeds a catchment and old sheep trough on the ridge above the cottage.

The Dew Pond:

At the summit of Green Mountain covered in bamboo. An anchor chain marks the island highest point (2,817ft).

Garden Cottage:

Was the home of the farm manager, probably the first stone building erected on Green Mountain. It appears in an engraving dated 1834 but was probably built as early as 1817.

Red Lion: Built for the Royal Marine farm workers in 1863 to replace Stone barracks which were declared unfit for human habitation. Housed workers until early 1990's when the farm closed down.

Rock Cottage: Probably built along with Barter's during the boom years of the farm in the mid to late 1800's. Plaque inscribed 1806 is incorrect.

'San': The Naval hospital built in 1867 as a sanatorium for fever victims. Now the Residency of the Administrator of Ascension Island. Invalids and Convalescents paths lead from here to the mountain ramps. As their name suggests they were cut to enable fever victims to walk on the flat and regain their strength.



Stone Barracks: Built in 1833 as the original accommodation for the Royal Marine farm workers. Later became cow sheds and are probably the only cowsheds in the world to bear the Royal Marines Crest.

Wind Pump: Found in Breakneck Valley. This pumped water, drained from the upper valley catchments, up to and through the mountain tunnel to the Main Mountain tank at the Red Lion.



Code of Conduct

- ▶ **Be safe** – plan ahead and follow any signs
- ▶ Leave gates and property as you find them
- ▶ Protect plants and animals
- ▶ Do not create fire hazards
- ▶ Take your litter home
- ▶ Keep dogs under close control
- ▶ Consider other people
- ▶ Only park vehicles in designated areas
- ▶ Enjoy and appreciate the environment



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