



LINDEN

Heritage Trail



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Introduction

The National Trust of Guyana was established following the passage of the National Trust Act, Act No. 7 of 1972. The main responsibility of the agency is the preservation of the nation's monuments, sites, places and objects of historic, architectural, archaeological, artistic and natural interest or national importance. The agency is mandated by law to safeguard Guyana's tangible cultural heritage; this led us to publish numerous publications, articles, among others promoting Guyana's rich and diverse heritage.

The town of Linden is located in the Administrative District of Region 10 (Upper Demerara-Berbice) of Guyana and has a historical background that makes the township a unique one. The Linden Heritage Trail booklet, our latest publication, is the first of its kind the agency has undertaken for the municipality.

One of the aims of this publication is to sensitize the public about the legacy of the town through the documentation of some of the significant cultural heritage resources within the townscape. These will be added to the national inventory and database on monument and sites. Further, this publication having highlighted the richness of the municipality, seeks to encourage all stakeholders to make a conscious and sustained effort to preserve the many heritage sites located in the mining town for the benefit of both the present and future generations of Linden and wider Guyana.

The booklet contains 42 monuments and sites, some of which are no longer visible in the town. These sites have obviously contributed to the legacy of the township. This publication therefore serves as a medium through which local, national and international agencies, institutions, tourists and the general population can explore and rediscover some of Linden's historical treasures.

The journey of the "Linden Heritage Trail" will begin at the Soesdyke/Linden Highway located in Amelia's Ward. The trail then passes through the wards of Mackenzie, Wismar and Christianburg and ends at Blue Lakes and White Sands in Wisroc. The map serves as a guide to easily locate heritage sites listed in the publication and provides reference points for visitors desirous of taking a self-guided tour of the town.

History

Linden

Christianburg, located on the west bank of the Demerara River is Linden's first settlement, and was known as Stabroek in the 19th century. Originally, a Dutch settlement, the inhabitants were mostly involved in balata and rubber bleeding and later the planting of sugarcane. It was later renamed Christianburg in honour of Governor Christian Finette who joined his first name with his wife's family name Burg. After the English invasion in 1803, a Scottish Engineer named John Dalgleish Patterson was invited to construct living quarters for Government officials. Patterson remained on the plantation after the living quarters were completed; he harvested sugarcane and later operated a saw milling business.

Wismar is also located on the west bank of the Demerara River and owes its origin and name to German migration during the period 1830-1840, when over 500 German migrants ventured on to the shores of British Guiana after the emancipation of the enslaved Africans. Many of the migrants died while on the lower coast of British Guiana; those who lived moved up the Demerara River, settling at Wismar. Wismar became a vital central point for the men and women (Pork-knockers) who plied the gold and diamond areas of the Essequibo-Potaro district, and was also the headquarters of Sproston's Limited, the company that operated a steamer service from Georgetown to Wismar.

In 1916, with the discovery of bauxite, the economic balance shifted among the settlements and major activities were now occurring at the new settlement on the east bank of the Demerara River, known as Mackenzie. Mackenzie was named after the geologist Mr. George Bain Mackenzie. It has been suggested that Mr. Mackenzie secured the area for mining operations under the pretence of cultivating oranges on the land. Some historians go as far as saying that "he stole the land."



Mackenzie became popular when the Demerara Bauxite Company Limited (DEMBA), a subsidiary of the Aluminium Company of Canada (ALCAN), invested in the settlement, and the population of the area increased significantly with the production of bauxite. DEMBA's contributions to the community were numerous ranging from construction of schools, churches, clubs, a hospital, a recreational hall, and houses for employees.

In 1918, a management committee was established to govern the Christianburg-Wismar area, the first chairman being Mr. R.G. Sharpies. County District status was granted to the Christianburg-Wismar area in 1926 and village status was attained in 1956. The Mackenzie Village Affairs Committee was established in 1960 and in 1967, the two local authorities were merged together to form the Wismar/Christianburg/Mackenzie Authority and was called Marmacburg.

On April 19, 1967, the Local Authority established a Supernumerary Constabulary whose members were constituted as Town Constables. On April 29, 1970, the town of Linden was constituted with an area of about 89 km² (34.36 miles²).

Amelia's Ward

Amelia's Ward is one of the largest and youngest wards in the town of Linden with a population of approximately 10,000. The community is divided by the Soesdyke/Linden Highway; it was established in the 1970s as a self-help community. Today, Amelia's Ward is one of the most prominent housing settlements in Linden.



1 Soesdyke /Linden Highway

The Soesdyke/Linden Highway was officially declared opened in December 1968 by then Prime Minister Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham; construction began in 1966.

The 72 km (45 miles) long road starts at the Soesdyke junction, East Bank Highway. The two-lane road stretches through Guyana's hilly terrains passing through Amelia's Ward and ending at Kara Kara, Mackenzie.

2 Amelia's Ward Primary School

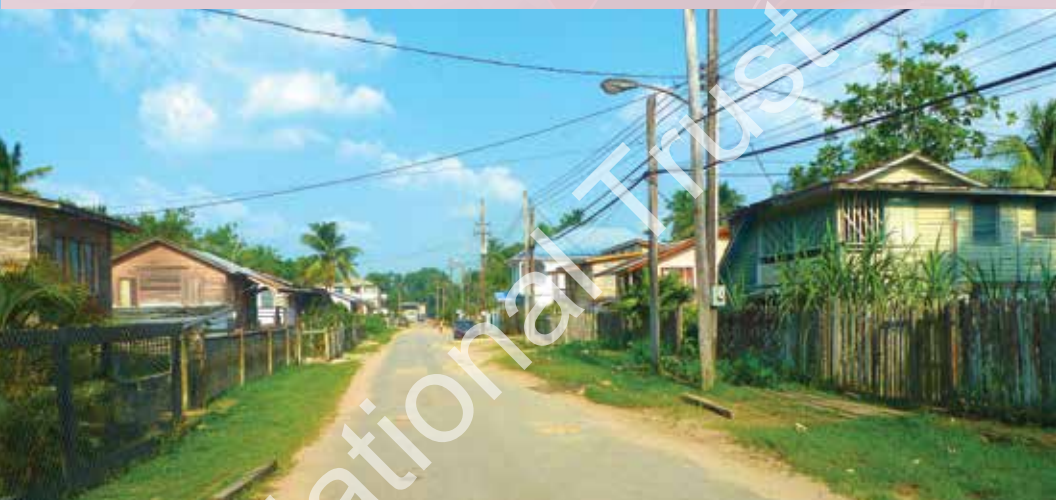


Amelia's Ward Primary School is situated in the heart of Amelia's Ward. This two-storey building is one of the first schools to be built in the self-help community during the early 1970s. The building was constructed with clay brick and the windows are of fixed timber shutters.

Mackenzie Ward

Mackenzie is one of Linden's busiest wards; it was named after Mr. George Bain Mackenzie, who secured the area under the pretence of cultivating oranges; the area was used for mining purposes and became popular when the Demerara Bauxite Company (DEMBA) invested in the settlement. Throughout the years, many changes occurred within the community, a few of these changes include the renaming of streets such as, Arvida Road renamed Republic Avenue and Powell Crescent renamed Co-op Crescent.

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3 Kara Kara Housing Scheme

Kara Kara is a small community located in the ward of Mackenzie. The community consists of “old” Kara Kara and “new” Kara Kara.

Old Kara Kara, a one street settlement, was established to accommodate some of the displaced residents of Spieghtland, Mackenzie, who were in the path of the Alumina Plant's construction. These residents were provided with lands some kilometres east of the Alumina Plant. After the Alumina Plant's construction was completed, the Greater Mackenzie Development Trust in 1964, started the process of developing vacant lands west of old Kara Kara. This area now known as “new” Kara Kara, served as the settlement for the other displaced residents of Spieghtland who were scattered throughout Mackenzie.

4 Mackenzie Primary School



The Mackenzie Primary School began as the Mackenzie All Aged School. The All Aged School was established in 1940 and built in the same year. The school was originally located on Republic Avenue, Mackenzie, and was a two-storey timber building with open corridors running along the exterior of the building.



Mackenzie All Age School in 1965

The school was then renamed and relocated to its current location on Gaskin Road, Kara Kara; this was to facilitate the growing population of the school. The Mackenzie Primary School is now a complex of one-storey buildings. Architectural features of these buildings include mono-pitched roofs and glass louvred windows.



5

Alumina Plant

The Alumina Plant was opened by Dr. Cheddi Bharrat Jagan, Minister of Trade and Industry, on March 28, 1961. At the time, it was considered the largest and most expensive superstructure to be undertaken in British Guiana. It was built by the Demerara Bauxite Company (DEMBA) and is located at Spiegthland, (Republic Avenue) Mackenzie.

The site was considered a “virtual swamp” and before actual construction work could start, approximately 1000 men were sourced as labourers for six weeks, clearing the site so

that bulldozers could gain access to remove and transport huge trees away from the site. After the land was cleared, drained and compacted, bauxitic rock was brought to construct several miles of access road. The plant was completed in four years. Today, the plant is no longer in use.

A plaque to commemorate the construction of the Alumina Plant was erected within the vicinity of the plant on Republic Avenue. It was unveiled by H.E. Sir Ralph Grey, K.C.M.G, K.C.V.O, O.B.E, Governor of British Guiana. The plaque is mounted on a pyramidal body with a hyperbolic curved bottom; there is a flag pole at the back of the pyramid.



Commemorative Plaque

6 Hymara Recreational Park



Hymara Recreational Park is a privately owned park located on Republic Avenue, Mackenzie. The Park overlooks the Demerara River occupying less than one hectare (two acres) of land. The park is owned and managed by Mr. Neville Whyte who stated that the park came into fruition c.1994; it is dedicated to his late son Mr. Neil Whyte.

The park provides facilities for the young and the old, aiming to uphold its mission of developing and maintaining a recreational facility to enrich the quality of life for all Lindenians and visitors, and preserving the same for future generations by promoting the cultural arts, crafts and health awareness programmes.

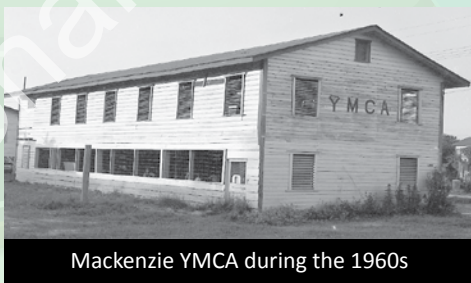


7 Mackenzie YMCA

The Mackenzie Young Men Christian Association (YMCA) was first established as a Red Triangle Club in 1939. The first YMCA building was an old Army Barrack located at the corner of Republic and David Rose Avenues. Through self-help, it was converted into the Association's hall.

From 1940-1952, it operated the only church in the area. From 1941-1952, it introduced and operated the only Library which was later handed over to the Public Free Library (Mackenzie Branch). YMCA also operated the only sports club for a brief period.

The association also served temporarily as an inn, boarding and lodging men who were seeking employment with the Alumina Plant. The YMCA moved many times until it was relocated to its current site in Retrieve, Mackenzie, in 1992. It is a single-storey, masonry building with a low-pitched gable roof.



Mackenzie YMCA during the 1960s



The first of two Cenotaphs in Linden was unveiled in November 1968, by Mr. R.M. Dealy on behalf of the Demerara Bauxite Company (DEMBA). The Cenotaph was built to honour the fallen soldiers of World Wars I & II by the Guyana Legion, with the help of a few individuals and organisations. This concrete commemorative monument is located in central Mackenzie within the vicinity of the Mackenzie market. After the town of Linden was constituted, there were conflicting views on the Cenotaph pertaining to its location, ownership and maintenance.



First Cenotaph built in 1968

In the late 1980s, this Cenotaph was abandoned and a new Cenotaph of aluminium was built on Republic Avenue within the vicinity of the Linden Town Council. This new Cenotaph has a stepped circular concrete base and ascending cylindrical tubes. It is now recognised as the official Cenotaph of Linden.



9 National Library (Linden Branch)

The National Library (Linden Branch) was known as the Public Free Library (Mackenzie Branch) when established in 1955. The library was first housed in a single-storey suspended timber building with wooden shuttered windows.

The library was moved to its new two-storey, masonry building on Republic Avenue, in 1966. The building underwent a number of changes to the façade; the initial building did not have a gable roof and consisted of windows that spanned from the ceiling to the floor. The library provides a variety of services to the community of Linden.



Public Free Library in 1956

10 Mackenzie High School



The Mackenzie High School (MHS) was declared opened by then Minister of Education and Community Development Mr. Balram Singh Rai on September 11, 1956 at its current location on Purpleheart Street. The first Guyanese principal to the school, Mr. John Joseph Cummings, was appointed on March 1, 1965.

Funding for the school building came from the Demerara Bauxite Company (DEMBA). The building was designed by Messrs' Mence and Moore and built



The opening of the current Mackenzie High School in 1959

by Sprostons Construction Company. The school started with five classrooms and three Science laboratories. Architectural features include its high-pitched and mono-pitched roofs.

Prior to its life as Mackenzie High School, it was known as the Echols High School which was opened in 1946, on Republic Avenue and Wismar Street. It was the first secondary school to be established in Mackenzie.



11 Linden Town Council

The Mackenzie Local Authority was tasked with overlooking the activities of the community on January 18, 1965. Construction of the building to house the offices of the Mackenzie Local Authority began in 1967. The estimated 557 m² (6000 ft.²) building was built at a cost of \$108,000 by Wilson Ricketts Construction Company.



Linden Town Council during the 1960s

Mackenzie, along with its neighbours Christianburg and Wismar, were later amalgamated and declared a town in 1970. The building was later renamed Linden Town Council. This single-storey masonry building is located on Republic Avenue, Mackenzie. Architectural features of the building include the horizontal shading devices fixed to the windows and its parapet wall.

12 St. Joseph, the Worker Catholic Church



The foundation stone for St. Joseph, the Worker Catholic Church was laid on July 25, 1950, by Rev. George Weld, S.J, then Vicar Apostolic of British Guiana. The church was completed in 1951. The church was designed by W. M. Walkins & Partners, Chartered Architects of London, and constructed by the local Civil Engineering Department of Mackenzie.

The church originally built with a bell tower, is located on Republic Avenue, with its main entrance facing the Demerara River. Architectural features for this single-storey masonry building include its louvred roof vents just above its main roof and its external colonnaded corridors that span the length of the building, on both the western and eastern sides.



St. Joseph, the Worker Catholic Church during the 1950s



13 Mackenzie Sports Club

Mackenzie Sports Club (MSC) was built by the Demerara Bauxite Company (DEMB) in 1956. The MSC is located at the intersection of Greenheart Street and Independence Avenue. It is a member of the Upper Demerara Cricket Association. This sports club is the centre of attention for Linden and hosts a variety of sporting activities including, cricket, football, basketball, volleyball, tennis, track and field, cycling and field hockey.



Mackenzie Sports Club under construction in 1956

MSC is also the hub for cultural and social activities, such as the popular Linden Town Week and Annual Fair. It is not only known for its outdoor events, but also for indoor games such as, dominoes, billiards, table tennis, darts, among others.

14 Republic Bank



The British Guiana Bank was opened in Georgetown in 1836, and was purchased by the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) in 1914. In 1949, the RBC opened a branch in Mackenzie, in a single-storey masonry building. In 1967, the bank



Royal Bank of Canada, Mackenzie, in 1967

opened its new building at the intersection of Republic Avenue and Greenheart Street. The RBC sold their operations countrywide c.1980s to the Government of Guyana. The public bank called National Bank of Industry and Commerce (NBIC) was later established by the Government and housed in the same building.

However, NBIC was then sold to a Trinidadian bank (Republic Bank) and renamed. The building underwent significant changes over the years, however the single-storey flat roof design remains.



15 Mackenzie Post Office

The Mackenzie Post Office, on Republic Avenue and Co-op Crescent, made history when it first opened its doors on December 4, 1964, as the first air-conditioned post office in British Guiana.

The “L” shaped building was constructed at a cost of \$35,000. The building is within the vicinity of the Recreational Hall which is now the Linden Museum, and the Mackenzie Market. Architectural features of this building include its mono-pitched roof and the fenestration of louvred windows on the front façade, facing Republic Avenue.



Mackenzie Post Office in 1964

Linden Museum of Industrial & Socio-Cultural Heritage



The Linden Museum of Industrial & Socio-Cultural Heritage is housed in one of Linden's most historic buildings. The single-storey, masonry structure was built in 1925 and was for many years known as the Recreational Hall; it is located on Co-op Crescent, Mackenzie.

The Hall served numerous functions such as a dancehall, cinema and a general meeting place. It was also home to the Linden Consumer Goods Complex. The Linden Museum was established by the Region 10 Tourism Development Association and opened during Linden's Town Week in April, 2006.

Today, the museum displays miniature replicas of trains and factory buildings along with artefacts, historical journals, newspapers and photographs.



The building as Linden Consumer Goods Complex in 1975



17 Crescent Plaza

The Crescent Plaza was once known as the Crescent Cinema which was the first public cinema (building used solely as a cinema) in the mining community of Mackenzie. Construction began in 1951 and it was opened in 1952. This two-storey masonry building is located at Lot 2 Co-op Crescent on the Demerara River bank. Today the building is used as a shopping complex.



18 Mackenzie Market

The Mackenzie Market stands in the heart of Mackenzie's business district on Republic Avenue and Co-op Crescent close to the Demerara River.

The first market, in the early 20th century, consisted of a few close-knit stalls called

the "Depot". As the market developed, a single-storey semi-enclosed building was constructed at the same location. The new and current market, a two-storey building, was built during the late 1980s to early 1990s to replace the first market. An architectural feature of the market includes its external aluminium façade.



Mackenzie Market during the 1950s

United Mission Church (Day Care and Learning Centre Building)



The United Mission Church was previously known as the Mackenzie United Mission Church. The church was founded by the Moravian Congregational and Methodist Churches of British Guiana. The two-storey church was dedicated on April 3, 1962 by Rev. R.T.G Mitchell and is located on Republic Avenue, Mackenzie. This church, similarly to other buildings in Linden, was built through self-help.

The first floor of the building was used to carry out church services while the bottom flat housed the Johnson Hall. The building was also equipped with an organ and had a tower with a clock; it was Mackenzie's first public clock.



Mackenzie United Mission Church
in 1962

The building underwent a number of changes, but its original fin like buttresses on the eastern and western sides still exist. This building is still owned and operated by the United Mission Church body, but no longer functions as a church; it operates as a day care on the first floor and a learning centre on the ground floor. The church was relocated to Crabwood Street, Mackenzie.

20 Christ, the King Anglican Church



Christ, the King Anglican Church is located on Republic Avenue, Mackenzie. The church was designed to accommodate 300 worshippers bringing some relief to the overcrowded St. Aidan's Anglican Church in Wismar. Construction of the church began c.1950 and was designed with its front façade facing the Demerara River.

The church's foundation was built of reinforced concrete; the length of the building is 27m (90ft.), its width 12m (40ft.) and its height 7m (24ft.). The architect was W.M

Walkins & Partners, Chartered Architects of London. In the architect's rendering of the single-storey building, it was proposed that the church have a bell tower almost twice the height of the building, but today the bell tower stands just a few metres above the roof.



Architect's rendering of the Anglican Church



21 Bauxite Plant (Bosai Minerals Group Guyana)

Bauxite, synonymous with the town of Linden, primarily the ward of Mackenzie, brought economic strides to the area. The Bauxite Plant, located on the eastern side of the Demerara River was built c.1917 after the establishment of the Demerara Bauxite Company (DEMBA). The plant's relationship with the town of Linden goes beyond the mining of ore, since it created countless jobs and aided with the development of the community.

Within the Bauxite Plant, the Mechanical & Utilities Store (M.U Store), previously known as the Ration Store provided the mining community with its daily rations via company issued tickets. The Ration Store was established in 1924, as a commissary store. In 1945, it ran as a general store and was housed in a single-storey timber building located in the vicinity of the plant's northern boundary; privately managed by Messrs Sprotons Limited. From 1947-1954, the store changed management three times. In 1964, the store was merged with the Bauxite Plant's stores and purchasing department, it was renamed the M.U Store and underwent some extensions. Today, the M.U Store is used as a warehouse for Bosai, a Chinese Company who took over operations of the Bauxite Plant in 2007.

Also synonymous with bauxite were the locomotives (or trains as they are commonly known) used to transport bauxite ore throughout



Locomotive that transported ore from the bauxite mines

each of the bauxite mines, which were connected by railway to the bauxite plant. The use of locomotives or trains were discontinued and replaced by large trucks to transport the bauxite ores. Today, there are traces of both railways and locomotives in Mackenzie ward, primarily in Watooka.

Washer Pond also known as the “Washing Pond”, is a very important component in the production of bauxite, it is used to wash the bauxite ore. There are two Washer Ponds in Mackenzie; the first, known as the “old” Washer Pond is the larger of the two. This is a shallow pond that occupies a large land mass, east of the Bauxite Plant along Washer Pond Road and is mostly visible during the wet seasons. The “new” Washer Pond is located in the Bauxite Plant.



Ration Store built in 1945



22 Linden Technical Institute

In 1958, a training institute was established to facilitate the training of the Demerara Bauxite Company (DEMBA) employees through apprenticeship. The institution underwent a number of name changes until 1996 when it was transferred to the Ministry of Education and became the Linden Technical Institute.

The tertiary education entity is located at the junction of New Washer Pond Road and Sir David Rose Avenue; it is also bordered by Cockatara Creek on its north-western boundary. The building is a two-storey masonry and timber structure. Architectural features include a low-pitched gable roof and glass louvred windows.



DEMBA Trading School in 1958



23 Watooka House

Watooka House is a three-storey early 20th century colonial building that started out as a privately owned establishment. During the early 1900s, it was renovated by the Demerara Bauxite Company (DEMBA) to accommodate its managers. In the 1940s, it was renamed Watooka House, the name Watooka originating from the nearby Watooka creek. The front façade of the guest house faces the Demerara River, whilst access can be gained from Casuarina Drive, Mackenzie.

Architectural features on the first and second floors include the wide overhangs, enclosed corridors on most facades, extended galleries, dormer and jalousied windows. The guest house has a pool which was once considered one of the finest in the country.



Watooka House during the 1950s

24 Linden Hospital Complex (Mackenzie)



Linden Hospital Complex (Mackenzie) is located on Casuarina Drive and consists of two buildings; the old and the new hospital buildings. In early 1900s the hospital was known as the Mackenzie Hospital. It was one of the major priorities of the newly formed Demerara



Old Mackenzie Hospital in 1959

Bauxite Company (DEMBA) and was built in May 1925 to provide improved medical services to the employees of DEMBA.

The old hospital is a single-storey structure built in 1925. It was constructed using timber with its front façade facing the Demerara River. The 88m (290ft.) long two-ward hospital was initially designed to accommodate sixty beds and 56 patients; after minor additional provisions were made, the hospital was opened with 75 beds. This building is currently used as the administrative block of the hospital.

The new hospital building is located parallel to the old hospital building; the three-storey masonry building was constructed in the late 20th to early 21st century. Architectural features for this building include its mono-pitched roofs and its fenestration of small windows.



25 Charles Roza School of Nursing

Charles Roza School of Nursing is housed in a two-storey timber building located next to the Linden Hospital Complex (Mackenzie) on Casuarina Drive.

The nursing school was founded in 1959 by Dr. Charles Roza for whom the school was named after. Dr. Roza was better known as Uncle Charles, he was the first Guyanese to work with the Mackenzie Hospital.

Charles Roza School of Nursing, during its early days provided training to all of the nurses who were employed by the Mackenzie Hospital. Most of the nurses today at both Hospital Complexes (Mackenzie & Wismar) are trained at this institution.

HERITAGE ERASED

26 Mackenzie Hotel



The first hotel in 1956

Mackenzie Hotel was constructed in the early 20th century on the Demerara River bank, and was celebrated as the first public hotel in the Mackenzie area, a short distance from the Mackenzie Hospital. The hotel was owned and managed by the Demerara Bauxite Company (DEMBA) for private guests.

The first hotel was a two-storey timber building which was dismantled in 1956. The hotel was later rebuilt and became operational c.1959. Architectural features for the second hotel include its composition of one and two-storey buildings, some with balconies, mono-pitched and low-pitched gable roofs. This hotel was dismantled in the early 1990s and never rebuilt.



The second hotel in 1959



27 Mackenzie-Wismar Bridge

Construction of the Mackenzie-Wismar Bridge began in 1965, and it was opened in 1967. The bridge was built by the Demerara Bauxite Company (DEMBA) to facilitate the transportation of ore from mines located at Wismar and Christianburg to the processing plant at Mackenzie. This bridge is the second of two bridges built by DEMBA. The first was built in 1939 at Hope Mine, the Hope Bridge being the first bridge to span the Demerara River. Hope Mine was critical during World War II where the majority of its bauxite was processed for the manufacturing of war machinery. This bridge was later dismantled and a fraction of the bridge was incorporated into the Mackenzie-Wismar Bridge structure.

The Mackenzie-Wismar Bridge is 213m (700ft.) in length and 6m (21ft.) in width and constructed from steel and wood. The bridge has a feature whereby, it could be opened at the centre to allow large vessels to pass under; however, this feature was never utilized.

The bridge initially permitted both railroad cars (for the transportation of bauxite) and vehicular traffic; however, in 2006, railroad cars stopped utilizing the bridge. Today the bridge is monitored by the Linmine Secretariat and vehicle operators are still allowed to utilize the bridge but are required to pay when crossing; cyclists and pedestrians are allowed to cross freely. Bauxite ore is now transported across the bridge by large trucks.

Wismar Ward

Wismar is the second oldest Ward in Linden and is located on the west bank of the Demerara River. This Ward represents Guyana's only German established settlement. Wismar was also home to the headquarters of Sprostons Limited.



28 Hamilton's Sawmill Steam Boiler

The Hamilton's Sawmill Steam Boiler is located on Burnham Drive, Silvertown. The 19th century ruin built of mostly of clay brick and is considered one of the oldest industrial structures to be constructed in the community.



29 Silvertown

Silvertown is a community located on the west bank of the Demerara River. In the early 1960s, the community was developed by the Demerara Bauxite Company (DEMBA) to facilitate the growing demand for housing. The name of the community came from the material aluminium, which was used primarily to build the homes in the community.

30 Wismar Market



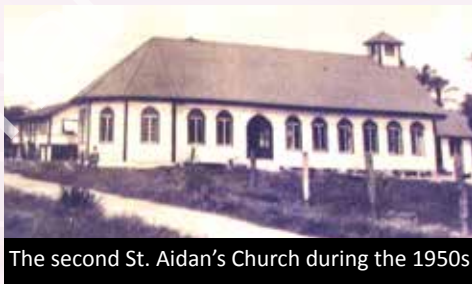
The Wismar Market is located on Burnham Drive, Wismar, and was first constructed in 1952. The Market was razed by a fire and in 1967, the current two-storey building was rebuilt with approximately 200 stalls. Architectural features include its aluminium façade and its tower, the latter displays a clock on each side.



31 St. Aidan's Anglican Church

St Aidan's Anglican Church is one of the earliest churches in Linden; it was established in 1897 at Malai, a settlement located up the Demerara River. It was then moved to a new building, across the river to Burnham Drive, Wismar, in 1913.

The first church building was originally a dance hall. The church was consecrated by Bishop Swaby in 1913, but was later dismantled and rebuilt in



The second St. Aidan's Church during the 1950s

1941. The second church, a colonial style building was dismantled in 1968, and the third church built in 1969.

The third and present church, constructed at a cost of \$60,000 was consecrated on July 19, 1969 by Rev. Philip Elder. Architectural features of the church are, its egg shaped dome, elliptical shaped plan 23m (72ft.) by 17m (56ft.) and its towering spire 7m (24ft.) above the umbrella-shaped roof.

HERITAGE ERASED

32 Palm Tree Cinema



The Palm Tree Cinema was a 20th century cinema that operated in Wismar. The cinema, located at the intersection of Burnham Drive and Sun Flower Street, was a two-storey clay brick building which was mostly popular for its Thursday night Indian movies.

The cinema was closed in the 1990s; all that remains today is a roofless building. The cinema square was adapted for rallies, among other activities of the town. In 2015, the façade facing Burnham Drive, was converted into a mini shopping arcade with colorful shops lining the front.

Christianburg Ward

Christianburg is Linden's oldest settlement and for a brief period it was known as Shingles Landing for the shingles and wallaba posts it produced. Christianburg became popular after John Dalgleish Patterson, a Scottish engineer, came to the community in 1803. He worked as a government contractor and later cultivated sugar on the plantation; he subsequently established a woodcutting business.

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33 St. Matthew's Church

St. Matthew's Church, opened on November 25, 1898, was constructed by the Presbyterians. The church is located on Burnham Drive, Christianburg. The church plays a very important role in the cultural and social development of the community.

This single-storey, low-suspended colonial building faces the Demerara River. Some architectural features for the building are its high-pitched roofs, bell tower, pointed arched windows with tracery, and rose window.

34 Christianburg Waterwheel



The Christianburg Waterwheel is regarded as one of the earliest engineering structures to be built in Linden. The waterwheel was built as part of a hydro-powered sawmill in 1855. This hydro-powered sawmill was needed to improve the production of logs and reducing the cost associated with it.

Katabuli Creek was identified as the ideal point for operations for the production of timber. Water flowed through the creek from the savannahs into the Demerara River, allowing it to be strong enough to permit the construction of the hydro powered-sawmill.

Before the sawmill was built, logs were tied together, strung alongside a punt and floated downstream. All that remains today of the hydro-powered sawmill is the wheel which stopped working in the 1950s.

HERITAGE ERASED

35 Christianburg Court House

The Christianburg Court House, originally known as Christianburg Mansion, was built in the 1830s. The building was owned by John Dalgleish Patterson, a Scottish Engineer. The two-



storey suspended timber building was considered one of the largest buildings to be built in Christianburg during the 1800s.

After Patterson's death in 1842, the colonial Government took over his plantation. During this period many changes were done to the mansion to convert it into the Christianburg Court House building.

Architectural features of the building included its brick columns, timber louvres and shutters.

Christianburg Court House was destroyed by fire on April 12, 2011. The judiciary proceedings for the town are now conducted at Linden Magistrate Court in Wismar which was built in 2014.



River view of Christianburg Mansion
c. 19th Century

36 Wismar-Christianburg Multilateral School



Preston High School was opened on August 28, 1963 at Silver City, Wismar; it was the first secondary school in the Wismar area. The school was later renamed Wismar-Christianburg Secondary School and relocated to Felspar Avenue, Blueberry Hill, Wismar. The school, under its new name, was opened on September 15, 1975.

Architectural features of the three-storey masonry building include its strong mono-pitched roof and its front façade of horizontal and vertical sun-shading devices.



Wismar-Christianburg Secondary School in 1975



37 Linden Hospital Complex (Wismar)

Linden Hospital Complex (Wismar) is also known as the Upper Demerara Hospital Complex. The hospital is located on Blueberry Hill, Wismar.

The site for the hospital was identified in 1967 after a call was made in 1965 by the Chairman of the Wismar-Christianburg Local Authority for the area to have a general hospital which would provide medical services to the district. The complex consists of four single-storey masonry buildings that house its emergency, outpatient and administrative units.

38 St. Aidan's Primary School



St. Aidan's Primary School was constructed in 1941 in St. Aidan's Church's compound on Burnham Drive, Wismar. The school was relocated to Blueberry Hill, Wismar, to a two-storey masonry building after the church and the school parted company; the name of the school however, was not changed.

The old St. Aidan's school building still stands; it is a two-storey timber building with a high roof. The building currently houses the Harmony Secondary School.



The old St. Aidan's Primary School in 1966



39 Range Houses

The demand for housing in the Mackenzie area grew when the Alumina Plant was constructed by the Demerara Bauxite Company (DEMBA). This demand later spread to the other wards such as Wismar. One of the ways DEMBA responded to the demand was with the introduction of Range Houses.

These buildings consist of more than one apartment adjoined to each other. The design and use of material varied throughout the wards. The larger Range Houses can be found in Wismar. Architectural features of these buildings include their low-pitched gable roofs and colourful facades. They were built of clay brick, timber or concrete and in some rare cases aluminium.

HERITAGE ERASED

40 Wismar-Rockstone Railway



Early 19th Century

The Wismar-Rockstone railway was located between the upper Demerara and Essequibo Rivers; it ran for 30km (18 ¾ miles). The railway was constructed by Sproston's Company Limited from 1895 to 1897, and the terminus was built next to the Wismar Steamer Stelling.

The "light" railway line as it was called, provided access through British Guiana's primeval forest leading to the Essequibo-Potaro gold fields. The train ran south along the Demerara River until it reached where the Wismar-Mackenzie Bridge is now located; it then swung west through the forest until it reached Rockstone.



41 Wisroc Housing Scheme

The Wisroc Housing Scheme emerged in the early 1970s as a self-help community; it is located outside of Wismar. Wisroc received its name due to its geographic location; the community is located between Wismar for which it received the first three letters of its name and Rockstone for which it received the last three letters, hence “Wis-roc”.

The first buildings to be built in the housing scheme were mainly of timber. Later on, single-storey clay brick homes were constructed. Today, there are still a number of these buildings in their original form around the community.

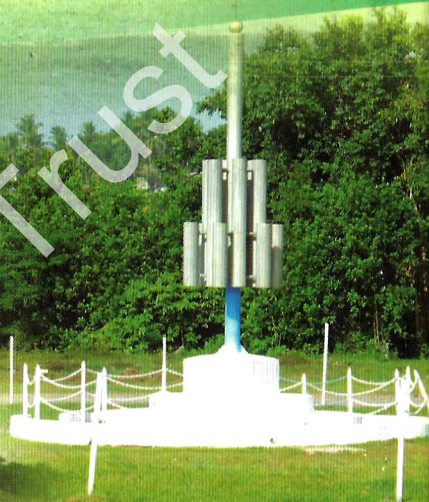
42 Blue Lakes and White Sands



Linden is home to many “Blue Lakes and White Sands” areas. These man-made picturesque lakes were formed from vast valleys left behind once mining ceased in an area whilst the white sands are due to the hilly terrains. These lakes are a hub for recreational activities in the town, but there are no official names for the lakes.

One popular lake is the Wisroc Blue Lake. This lake, like many others, stretches a long distance and can go as deep as 12m (40ft.). The surreal view of having blue waters in Linden and Guyana in general, generates debates on whether the water is actually blue. One theory indicated that the water is blue due to the reflective properties of the sand at the bottom of the lakes, the vegetation and the sky’s reflection.

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**Safeguarding and
Promoting Our Heritage**

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Washer Pond

E MILE

LINDEN HERITAGE TRAIL MAP



MAP LEGEND	
	Neighbourhood
	Main Road
	Secondary Road
	Lake or Pond
	Existing Sites
	Heritage Erased

KEY TO HERITAGE SITES IN LINDEN

- 1 Soesdyke /Linden Highway
- 2 Amelia's Ward Primary School
- 3 Kara Kara Housing Scheme
- 4 Mackenzie Primary School
- 5 Alumina Plant
- 6 Hymara Recreational Park
- 7 Mackenzie YMCA
- 8 Cenotaph
- 9 National Library (Linden Branch)
- 10 Mackenzie High School
- 11 Linden Town Council
- 12 St. Joseph, the Worker Catholic Church
- 13 Mackenzie Sports Club
- 14 Republic Bank
- 15 Mackenzie Post Office
- 16 Linden Museum of Industrial & Socio-Cultural Heritage
- 17 Crescent Plaza
- 18 Mackenzie Market
- 19 United Mission Church (Day Care and Learning Centre Building)
- 20 Christ, the King Anglican Church
- 21 Bauxite Plant (Bosai Minerals Group Guyana)
- 22 Linden Technical Institute
- 23 Watooka House
- 24 Linden Hospital Complex (Mackenzie)
- 25 Charles Roza School of Nursing
- 26 Mackenzie Hotel
- 27 Mackenzie Wismar Bridge
- 28 Hamilton's Sawmill Steam Boiler
- 29 Silvertown
- 30 Wismar Market
- 31 St. Aidan's Anglican Church
- 32 Palm Tree Cinema
- 33 St. Matthew's Church
- 34 Christianburg Waterwheel
- 35 Christianburg Court House
- 36 Wismar-Christianburg Multilateral School
- 37 Linden Hospital Complex (Wismar)
- 38 St. Aidan's Primary School
- 39 Range Houses
- 40 Wismar-Rockstone Railway
- 41 Wisroc Housing Scheme
- 42 Blue Lakes and White Sands

