



Second-Generation Sawmill

After the original sawmill was destroyed in the 1941 Zhongpu Earthquake, the Japanese government built a replacement sawmill to meet the high demand for timber during the Pacific War.

This sawmill is a wooden structure and was built without any nails or screws, only joinery skills. The power transmission system and sawdust transport equipment were placed underground. These facilities were excavated in 2017 and are now listed historic buildings of Chiayi City.



Knitting Centre

Following the ban on logging, the Forestry Bureau established this as a training center where workers were taught how to make bamboo handicrafts.



Drying Room

After processing in the sawmill, cut timber was moved to the drying room to be dried and seasoned. Hot air was used to create ideal humidity and wind speed levels for this. The main structure has been restored and is now used to demonstrate the wood drying process to the public. It is a listed historic building of Chiayi City.



Overhead Gantry

This enabled timber to be moved around the yard of the sawmill by overhead cables attached to two towers. One was where the repair workshop is now and the other one in Fujita Village. A large pond underneath the gantry covering 6.2 hectares was used to store timber. The overhead crane we see now in the factory is a full size model of the original.



Office

Built after the 1941 Zhongpu Earthquake, it was called the "Office" then. From 1965, it served as the second teaching center for labor education of the Forestry Bureau. Now it is a listed historic building of Chiayi City.



Remains of Chimney Flue

The smoke and exhaust heat produced by the boilers passed into the smokestack to be discharged into the open air. The flue was the inside portion of the smokestack. Once a landmark of Chiayi City, the exhaust stack was destroyed in the 1964 Baihe Earthquake. Now, only part of its base remains as a listed historic building of Chiayi City.



Strolling a the



The Chiayi sawmill, the pre-eminent timber factory in East Asia

In 1912, the Alishan Forest Railway was extended to Erwanping Station and started to transport felled timber from Alishan. Completed in 1913, the Chiayi sawmill was the largest state-owned timber factory during the Japanese colonial period and was equipped with the most advanced machinery and technology from Europe and America. It was mainly used for processing timber felled in Alishan into finished wood. Its large scale and advanced equipment earned it the status of pre-eminent sawmill in East Asia.

The sawmill was destroyed in the 1941 Zhongpu Earthquake. Despite budget constraints and the earthquake risk, the pressing need for raw materials for the Pacific War meant a replacement wood-structured sawmill was erected to enable timber processing to resume as quickly as possible.

In 1963, the government banned logging in Alishan, and Chiayi sawmill was closed the following year. The sawmill buildings were put to other uses. It was not until 2009, following a restoration plan prepared by the government, that the beautiful scenes and facilities in the sawmill and its grounds were made accessible to the public.



around
Chiayi
saw

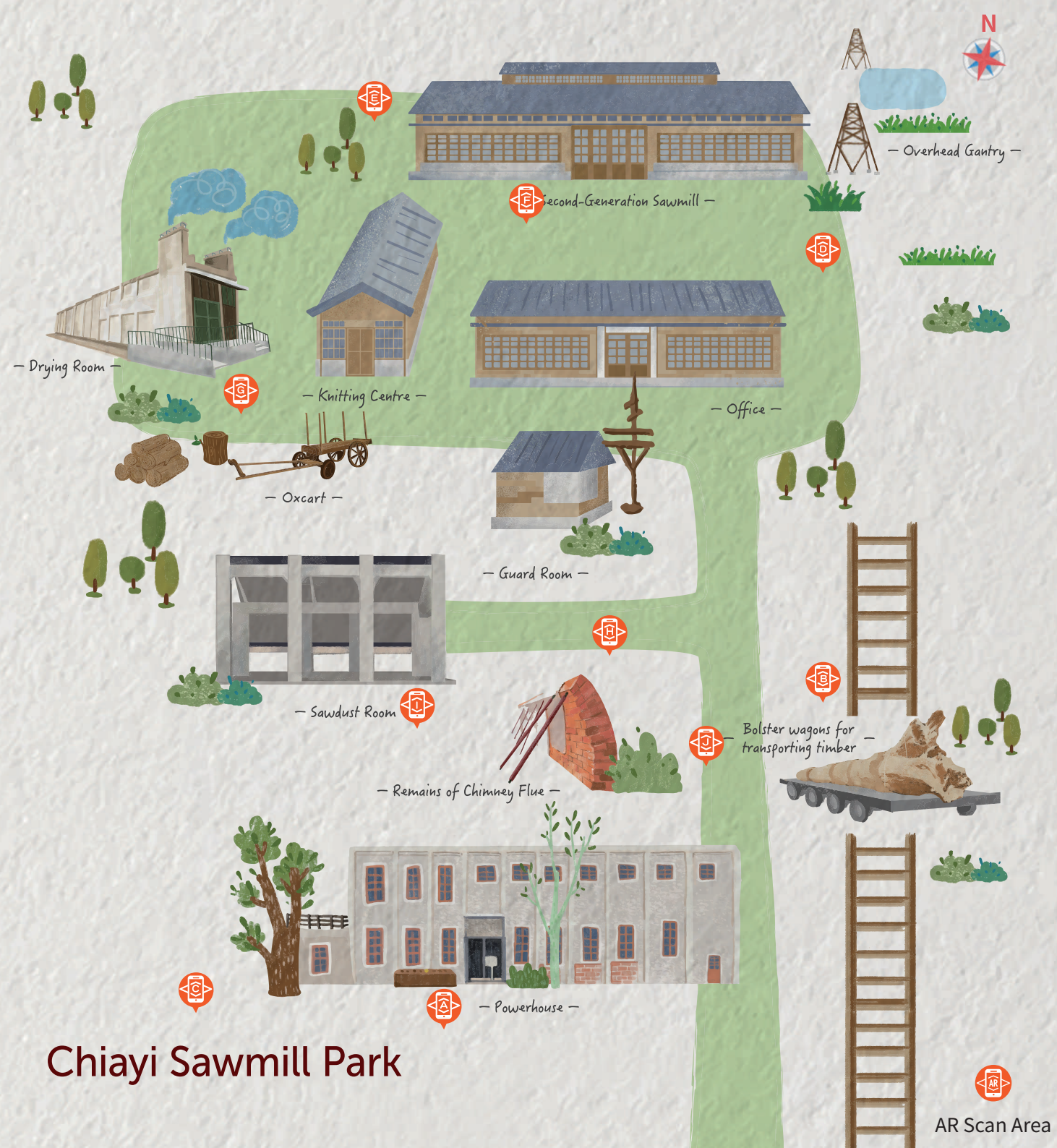
Powerhouse

Power for the sawmill was generated by the thermal plant in the powerhouse, completed in 1913. Timber processing was fully mechanized, using advanced equipment for the time. Due to its long-span design and reinforced concrete construction, the powerhouse is a listed historic building of Chiayi City.



Sawdust Room

The storage room for sawdust. In the original sawmill, sawdust produced during wood processing was carried to the sawdust room via a conveyor belt, then delivered to the powerhouse as fuel via another conveyor. Its concrete foundation and the funnel by which the sawdust was loaded into the furnace are preserved and listed as historic buildings of Chiayi City.



Chiayi Sawmill Park

Information Regarding the Park

Opening Hours : 9:00-17:00,
Wednesdays - Sundays
(Closed on Mondays,
Tuesdays and Chinese
Lunar New Year's Eve)

Address : No.4, Linsen W. Rd., East
Dist., Chiayi City

Tel. No. : 05-2765909

Free tours : 10:00-14:00 on Saturdays
and Sundays



official Website



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Alishan Forest Railway and Cultural Heritage Office,
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