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Local Studies

Sue Rosen & Associates



Review of Potential Items of State Heritage Significance

for

Newcastle City Council

Volume One: Report

and

Nominations for State Heritage Inventory A -M

June 2008

**NEWCASTLE REGION
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report has been prepared by Heritage Assessment And History (HAAH) in fulfilment of a brief commissioned by Newcastle City Council (NCC).

The study group comprises places ranging from mining relics to dwellings, educational institutions to ocean baths and cemeteries within the Newcastle City Local Government Area. Items were included in the study group because they had been flagged as having potential significance at a State level by previous heritage studies and were included on the Newcastle Local Environment Plan (LEP), but had not been included on the State Heritage Register (SHR); or had previously been assessed as having regional significance, a level of significance which no longer has official standing. The items reviewed here were selected from a larger group through a process of prioritization in consultation with Council. The project aimed to help recognise Newcastle's significance to the State, and to provide clearer and more comprehensive information to assist in the administration and assessment of development proposals.

The objectives of this study can be summarised as follows:

- to review the existing listings for the items on the Newcastle Heritage Inventory, along with previous heritage studies where available and other information where necessary, and;
- where it was considered that an item demonstrated heritage significance at a State level, to prepare a nomination to the State Heritage Register;
- where it was felt that the item demonstrated local heritage significance, to prepare an updated inventory form for inclusion on the Newcastle Heritage Inventory.

A summary of the outputs of this review process is provided overleaf in the form of a table. Nominations to the State Heritage Register were prepared for thirty-seven (37) items. Updated inventory forms were prepared for thirty-one (31) items considered to demonstrate heritage significance at a local level.

SHI Database No.	Name of Item
SHR Nomination Prepared	
2171451	131 Radar Igloo, Kooragang Island
2171837	AA Company's "A Pit" and Surface Works (<i>part of AA Co. serial nomination</i>)
2172035	AA Company's Remnant Bridge Pier (<i>part of AA Co. serial nomination</i>)
2173869	AA House (Mine managers office, former) (<i>part of AA Co. serial nomination</i>)
2170219	Air Force Club (Wood Chambers)
2170233	Barracks (former) (<i>combined with Military Hospital 2170234</i>)
2173907	BHP Administration Building
2170295	Cathedral Park and Cemetery (<i>combined with Christchurch Cathedral and Park 2170284</i>)
2170284	Christchurch Cathedral and Park
2170202	City Hall and Lamp Posts
2170185	Civic Theatre
2170209	Claremont (<i>combined with The Newcastle Club 2170208</i>)
2170153	Coutts Sailor Home (former)
2170248	Former Superintendent's Residence (<i>combined with Coutts Sailor Home 2170153</i>)
2171845	Honeysuckle Point Railway Turntable
2170005	Hydraulic Power Station
2170302	King Edward Park Group (includes public reserve, drinking fountain and rotunda)
2170301	King Edward Park Group - Reserve, Drinking Fountain (<i>combined into 2170302</i>)
2170304	King Edward Park Group (<i>combined into 2170302</i>)
2170043	Leslieville (former residence)
2170762	Merewether Baths Precinct
2171574	Migrant Camp (former)
2170234	Military Hospital (former)

2173887	Minmi to Hexham railway
2170252	Newcastle Ocean Baths
2170269	Newcastle Technical College
2170207	Nos 1 and 2 Lee Wharf buildings A and C
2170173	Police Station (former)
2171658	PWD Buildings (with former police station)
2170873	Regent Picture Theatre (former)
2170222	Shepherds Hill Group (includes residence, observation post and gun placement)
2170026	Signalman's Cottage (<i>part of AA Co. serial nomination</i>)
2170253	Soldiers Baths
2173981	St Ronans (<i>part of AA Co. serial nomination</i>)
2170208	The Newcastle Club
2170423	Theatre Royale (former)
2170147	Toll Cottage (former Rose Cottage)
Improved SHI form for local significance prepared	
2170170	AMP building
2170174	ANZ bank
2170027	Baptist Tabernacle
2170279	Beacon Tower (landmark)
2170340	Catholic Centre for Deaf Education
2170192	Colonial Mutual Life Building
2170115	Delprat's Quarters
2170278	Jesmond House (residence)
2170189	National Australia Bank
2170003	Newcastle Crematorium
2170247	Newcastle East Police Station (former)
2170198	Newcastle Hospital North Wing
2170142	Newcastle Post Office Annexe
2173890	Newcastle War Memorial Cultural Centre

2170305	Obelisk
2170127	Original Timber Wharfs
2170104	Redemptorist monastery
2170272	Sandgate Cemetary
2170024	St Andrews Presbyterian Church
2170306	St Marys Star of the Sea Church
2170048	St Peters Anglican Church
2170258	Stone Boat Harbour (relic)
2170328	Terrace House (Hill House)
2171359	The Laurels (residence)
2170312	Three Storey House (also known as Corlette's cottage)
2170905	Tighes Hill Tafe College
2173976	Von Bertouch Galleries
2170337	Wallsend Precinct - police station
2170338	Wallsend Precinct - post office
2170334	Wallsend Precinct - Courthouse
2170347	Western Suburbs Hospital (former)

4. CONCLUSION

This review aimed chiefly to clarify the status of a diverse group of items listed on Schedule 6 of the Newcastle Local Environment Plan 2003 (NLEP 2003) and to determine whether they are of State significance in accordance with the State Heritage Register criteria adopted by the Heritage Council of NSW under section 4A of the *Heritage Act 1977*. After an initial priority-setting stage, sixty-eight of these items were reviewed, with their level of significance assessed against the seven criteria for significance defined by the NSW Heritage Council. As a result of this review process, nominations to the State Heritage Register have been prepared for thirty-seven (37) items, a number of them combined to form pairs or small groups. Updated inventory forms have also been prepared for thirty-one (31) items considered to demonstrate heritage significance at a local level. Although the brief was for a case by case review of the items rather than a gap analysis or consideration of the representation of Newcastle City on the Register according to theme or item type, we do feel that if incorporated into the State Heritage Register the items nominated will help to create a fuller understanding of Newcastle as the State's second city.

1. INTRODUCTION

The objective of the project was to review heritage items listed as having State Heritage significance in Schedule 6 of the Newcastle Local Environment Plan 2003 (NLEP 2003) and to determine whether they are of State significance in accordance with the State Heritage Register criteria adopted by the Heritage Council of NSW under section 4A of the *Heritage Act 1977*.

The tasks incorporated in the execution of the project were specified in the contract brief and are summarised as follows:

- To make an initial classification of the items, to assist in setting priorities based on the level of completeness of existing SHI form, and on advice of existing information provided by NCC. This was to be undertaken using the Heritage Office checklists for assessing the completeness of nominations to the SHR as a guide. The categories for classification are listed below within the discussion of our methodology.
- In light of priorities set with the aid of this classification process, review the existing listings for the items on the Newcastle Heritage Inventory, along with previous heritage studies where available and other information where necessary and:
 - where it was considered that an item demonstrated heritage significance at a State level, prepare a nomination to the State Heritage Register;
 - where it was felt that the item demonstrated local heritage significance, prepare an updated inventory form for inclusion on the Newcastle Heritage Inventory.

1.1 Scope of the Study

From the outset it seemed clear that not all of the items listed in the brief would be able to be reviewed within the project budget and timeframe. A secondary aim of the study was to add information to incomplete Newcastle SHR listings. At the project setup meeting, it was decided to exclude this from the scope of the study.

The remaining one-hundred-and-nine (109) items were reviewed against the Heritage Office checklists. It was found that a large number of the forms contained only basic details. An initial prioritisation of the items for further review was undertaken based on these findings and advice from NCC (see Methodology section below). At a number of other points through the study, reprioritisation was undertaken in consultation with Council, as the number of items that would be able to be reviewed within the project budget became clearer.

During the checklist process, a further two items were found to be listed on the SHR, and were

thus disincluded from the study, resulting in the inclusion of 107 items on our prioritisation and revised prioritisation tables at **Appendix B**. A small number of items with a high priority were added to the study group after the checklist stage was completed, and thus although SHR nominations or improved SHI forms were prepared, no checklists exist for these items.

See **Appendix A** for a list of all items for which checklists were prepared and/or further review was undertaken as part of the study, indicating what action has been taken. Note that for a number of items no further action was taken after the checklist stage. This is indicative of limits to the project budget and timeframe and does not reflect the items' level of significance.

1.2 The Study Team

The study team at Heritage Assessment And History (HAAH) comprised project manager Emma Dortins, with Rosemary Kerr and Julia Kensy, all undertaking historical research, analysis and assessment with general guidance and support from company director Dr Sue Rosen.

1.3 Acknowledgments

The considerable assistance provided by Patricia McCarthy and Sarah Cameron of Newcastle City Council must be acknowledged. Bill Nethery and, in the early stages of the project, Susan Lampard from the Heritage Office gave much valued guidance on preparing nominations to the State Heritage Register, and the benefit of their experience in the interpretation and application of the assessment criteria. Thanks must go to the State Heritage Register Committee chaired by Sharon Sullivan for allowing Emma Dortins to attend their meeting in February 2008, as valuable insights were gained into the listing process.

Valuable advice on architectural and engineering heritage matters were provided by heritage architect David Sheedy and Dr Sid French of Worley Parsons. Historians Terry Kass and Assoc. Professor Bruce Pennay helped us to gain a comparative perspective on items associated with WW2. Anne Higham of the Royal Institute of Architects NSW generously provided us with biographical and historical information on a number of architects associated with our study group. The Local Studies librarians at Newcastle Region Library gave their time and assistance in accessing the Local Studies collection. Stewart Watters gave much valued technical assistance in operating the SHI database.

2. STATEMENT OF METHODOLOGY

2.1 Classification and setting priorities

As per the brief, an initial classification of the items was made based on the level of completeness of the existing SHI form, and on advice of existing information provided by NCC. This was undertaken using the Heritage Office checklists for assessing the completeness of nominations to the SHR as a guide. The categories for classification were defined by the brief as follows:

Category A: Straightforward - SHI form provides sufficient information to review the item and proceed with SHR nomination;

Category B: Critical or threatened - the significance of the item is identified as being under actual or imminent threat. (The item may be considered 'critical' or 'threatened' if: discussion regarding application for demolition or alterations that may affect the item's significance has occurred with Council officers; the item is facing demolition by neglect; the item is for sale or auction; or the item falls within the Study Area of the Newcastle City Centre Plan project) Category B items were identified by Council;

Category C: Not of State Significance - available information is sufficient to conclude that the item does not warrant inclusion on the SHR;

Category D: Minimal additional research required;

Category E: Considerable additional research required.

A draft classification was made based on a review of the existing SHI forms against the Heritage Office Checklist [see **Appendix B** for copies of the checklist templates, the checklists themselves, and initial table of the results] The results were as follows:

Category A	3 items
Category B	3 items
Category C	3 items
Category D	6 items
Category E	92 items

As stated above, it was found that the majority of forms contained only basic information, and were thus classified under Category E. This did not reflect, however, an important distinction between items for which previous Conservation Plans, Heritage Assessments or other relevant materials were available and those for which no such resources were available. Thus the list was revised so that items for which relevant materials were held by Council and able to be made available to HAAH were given Category D status. It was according to this revised list that we set our priorities as we undertook the review. (see **Appendix B** for Revised list)

Revised Classification

Category A	3 items
Category B	3 items
Category C	0 items
Category D	53 items
Category E	48 items

2.2 The Review Process - Heritage Assessments

Information was gathered from existing heritage studies and conservation plans relating to the items, where they existed; published general thematic histories and histories of Newcastle; National Trust listings for items, where possible; and other secondary sources. The Newcastle City Wide Heritage Study - Thematic History was highly valuable in placing themes and items in context in Newcastle and in understanding the history of Newcastle within the State. Sources such as unpublished manuscripts, dossiers of newspaper clippings, and subdivision plans were accessed at Newcastle Region Library, Local Studies Collection.

The above sources were analysed and historical summaries sufficient for the assessment of the heritage significance of each item were prepared.

Equipped with our contextual histories, field work was undertaken. Items were inspected subject to the level of access available. Access was not possible in the case of the Original Timber Wharves on the former BHP site (SHI No: 2170127); the Former Western Suburbs Hospital (SHI No: 2170347); and interior access to St Ronans (SHI No:2173981) was not possible due to current building works. All other items were inspected, although the majority of buildings were viewed from the exterior only. In most cases this was sufficient for review purposes. Photographs were taken of all items inspected.

Assessments of the items were then made against the significance criteria according to the NSW Heritage Office guidelines. Where it was considered that the item or group of items was of State significance, nominations to the State Heritage Register were prepared following the

guidelines of the NSW Heritage Office's Guidelines for Nominations to the State Heritage Register. Where it was considered that the item was of local significance the State Heritage Inventory form for the item was updated to be as complete as possible.

2.3 Assessment Criteria

Under the criteria of the NSW Heritage Council:

To be assessed for listing on the State Heritage Register an item will, in the opinion of the Heritage Council, meet one or more of the following criteria:

- a) an item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history;
- b) an item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history;
- c) an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW;
- d) an item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
- e) an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history;
- f) an item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history;
- g) an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places; or- cultural or natural environments.

An item is not to be excluded from the Register on the ground that items with similar characteristics have already been listed on the Register.

In this study, items have also been assessed in regard to their Local Significance. The criteria for Local Significance are essentially the same as those for State Significance except that issues of rarity and representativeness are considered in the context of the local region rather than the state as a whole. While *local region* is not defined, it refers to the general locality and may imply a loose definition of the Local Government Area. At times, *local region* can also refer to a geographical area within say, 10 or 20 kms, the range reflecting the density of development and some subjective sense of what people living in the area would consider as local.

2.4 Submission of Results

As requested by Council and by Heritage Branch, we submitted small groups of completed nominations and updated forms as the study progressed, with the first batch of draft forms submitted in October 2007, and the most recent submitted in early June 2008. Thus, some of our nominations to the State Heritage Register have already received preliminary attention from the State Heritage Register Committee as this report is submitted.

2.5 Grouped Items

In a number of cases, it was decided to prepare group nominations to the State Heritage Register. In the case of the Australian Agricultural Company items, of which there were over twenty in the study group, it was decided in consultation with Council and representatives from the Heritage Office that a serial listing would be most appropriate. The nomination prepared consists of a central form which puts forward the significance of the group, and satellite forms for seven items selected. The nominated group includes two items that are already on the Register, as well as five nominated items, which were put forward by Sarah Cameron of NCC as places which could demonstrate a cross section of the Company's significant activities in Newcastle. The remaining relics have been noted in the central form as being incidentally associated with the group.

Several nominations were also prepared for pairs of items that are physically contiguous and have a shared history, such as Claremont and The Newcastle Club. Although they have been listed separately on the Newcastle Heritage Inventory, it was felt that their potential significance at a State level was shared. Combined nominations are indicated in the table below (pages 12-14).

3. OVERVIEW

The items reviewed were a diverse set of buildings, structures, archaeological remains and places, ranging from the Newcastle Cathedral to a remnant bridge pier footing, spread across the City, and representing a cross section of Newcastle's history and cultural life.

Just over half of the items reviewed have been nominated for inclusion on the State Heritage Register. Although the brief was for a case by case review of the items rather than a gap analysis or consideration of the representation of Newcastle City on the Register according to theme or item type, we do feel that if incorporated into the Register the items nominated will help to create a fuller understanding of Newcastle as the State's second city. The inclusion of the Newcastle City Hall (SHI No. 2170202), for example, on the Register would add to an understanding of the civic life of this important NSW city, which is currently under-represented on the Register. The inclusion of the Australian Agricultural Company coal mining group would constitute the acknowledgment of this highly significant chapter in the industrial history of the State which is currently only partially represented by Fanny's Tavern (SHR No. 5044990) and St Johns Church, Hall and Grounds on Parry Street (SHR No, 5045733)

Our work is best represented by the sixty-three nominations and inventory forms included below. Inventory forms constituting nominations to the Register are placed first, and those providing updated forms for the Newcastle Heritage Inventory are placed second in the following order:

SHI Database No.	Name of Item
SHR Nomination Prepared	
	AA Serial Listing Central Form
2171837	AA Company's "A Pit" and Surface Works (<i>part of AA Co. serial nomination</i>)
2172035	AA Company's Remnant Bridge Pier (<i>part of AA Co. serial nomination</i>)
2173869	AA House (Mine managers office, former) (<i>part of AA Co. serial nomination</i>)
2170026	Signalman's Cottage (<i>part of AA Co. serial nomination</i>)
2173981	St Ronans (<i>part of AA Co. serial nomination</i>)
2171451	131 Radar Igloo, Kooragang Island
2170219	Air Force Club (Wood Chambers)
2173907	BHP Administration Building
2170284	Christchurch Cathedral, Park and Cemetery
2170202	City Hall and Lamp Posts
2170185	Civic Theatre

2170153	Coutts Sailor Home (former)
2171845	Honeysuckle Point Railway Turntable
2170005	Hydraulic Power Station
2170302	King Edward Park Group (includes public reserve, drinking fountain and rotunda)
2170301	King Edward Park Group - Reserve, Drinking Fountain (<i>combined into 2170302</i>)
2170304	King Edward Park Group (<i>combined into 2170302</i>)
2170043	Leslieville (former residence)
2170762	Merewether Baths Precinct
2171574	Migrant Camp (former)
2170234	Military Hospital and Barracks (former)
2173887	Minmi to Hexham railway
2170252	Newcastle Ocean Baths
2170269	Newcastle Technical College
2170207	Nos 1 and 2 Lee Wharf buildings A and C
2170173	Police Station (former)
2171658	PWD Buildings (with former police station)
2170873	Regent Picture Theatre (former)
2170222	Shepherds Hill Group (includes residence, observation post and gun placement)
2170253	Soldiers Baths
2170208	The Newcastle Club and 'Claremont'
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Improved SHI form for local significance prepared	
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2170027	Baptist Tabernacle
2170279	Beacon Tower (landmark)
2170340	Catholic Centre for Deaf Education

2170192	Colonial Mutual Life Building
2170115	Delprat's Quarters
2170278	Jesmond House (residence)
2170189	National Australia Bank
2170003	Newcastle Crematorium
2170247	Newcastle East Police Station (former)
2170198	Newcastle Hospital North Wing
2170142	Newcastle Post Office Annexe
2173890	Newcastle War Memorial Cultural Centre
2170305	Obelisk
2170127	Original Timber Wharfs
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2170905	Tighes Hill Tafe College
2173976	Von Bertouch Galleries
2170337	Wallsend Precinct - police station
2170338	Wallsend Precinct - post office
2170334	Wallsend Precinct - Courthouse
2170347	Western Suburbs Hospital (former)

Nominations to the State Heritage Register

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Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number
2171451
Study Number
KOOR.001

Item Name: **131 Radar Igloo (Building)**

Location: **200 Kooragang Street, Kooragang [Newcastle City]**

Address: 200 Kooragang Street
Suburb / Nearest Town: Kooragang 2304
Local Govt Area: Newcastle City
State: NSW

DUAP Region: Hunter & Central Coast
Historic region: Lower Hunter
Parish:
County:

Other/Former Names:

Area/Group/Complex:

Group ID:

Aboriginal Area:

Curtilage/Boundary: See Curtilage Map, image no. 1. The recommended curtilage takes in the cleared area comprising the interpretation site and carpark. This provides a physical buffer around all the identified components of the station as well as an area from which to view them.

Item Type: Built **Group:** Defence **Category:** Other - Military

Owner:

Admin Codes: **Code 2:** Draft LEP **Code 3:**

Current Use:

Former Uses:

Assessed Significance: State

Endorsed Significance:

Statement of Significance: Radar Station 131 at Ash Island is historically, aesthetically and technically significant at a State level. It provides evidence of the air warning network which was in place along the east coast of Australia during WWII and as such has the capacity to demonstrate Australia's response threat of attack. Its location on Ash Island is testament to the importance placed upon protecting Newcastle as a major coastal industrial centre and chief site of munitions production. The remaining site layout, buildings and landscape elements provide rare physical evidence of radar stations during WWII.

Historical Notes or Provenance: Ash Island is located between the north and south channels of the Hunter River at Hexam, and is named after trees noticed there by European explorers, which looked like English Ash. The 131 Radar igloos on Ash Island were constructed and used during World War II as part of the RAAF 131 Radar station.

In 1939, Newcastle was one of the primary sources of munitions production for NSW and during WWII it became a significant industrial area (J.R. Graham, 1969, p.69). The BHP Company, which operated in Newcastle, had been preparing for the outbreak of war since Essington Lewis, head of BHP had made a tour of Europe in 1934, and had returned home sure that war was imminent. Munitions productions began at the steelworks, and metallurgists were forced to adapt to new technologies that were involved in manufacturing alloys that had not previously been produced in Australia. After acquiring the steelworks at Port Kembla, BHP became the only integrated iron and steel producer in Australia

State Heritage Inventory

Date: 24/07/2008

Full Report with Images

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This report was produced using State Heritage Inventory database software provided by the Heritage Office of New South Wales.

Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2171451

Study Number

KOOR.001

Item Name: **131 Radar Igloo (Building)**

Location: **200 Kooragang Street, Kooragang [Newcastle City]**

(Conservation Plan: BHP Steelworks, p. 24). Thus, the defence of Newcastle had an importance beyond the immediate area and was significant to Australia as a whole. It was also the site of the NSW Dockyards. In order to protect these productions, defence works were undertaken, which included the strengthening of Fort Wallis at Stockton, Fort Scratchley, the establishment of Radar Unit 131 at Ash Island as well as fortifications at the harbour (City Wide Heritage Study, p. 46).

Radar stations were established at strategic locations along the Australia's coastline, in response to Australia's concerns regarding the threat of Japanese attack. These concerns intensified 1942, when a Japanese submarine shelled Newcastle. Although there was negligible damage, the attack highlighted the vulnerability of the city to attack. By the end of 1942, a network of early warning radar units as well as ground controlled interception units had been installed at various locations. The function of WW II radar was to detect, intercept and destroy bombers before they reached their destination. The technology used was Ground Controlled Interception, which had emerged in 1940 in Britain, and allowed operators to obtain grid references directly, without needing to manually calculate the co-ordinates. (Information Brochure)

Following the attack by the Japanese submarine, 131 Radar station was moved to Newcastle in August 1942. It had been formed at Richmond just two months earlier, on 19th June 1941. Other radar stations in the region were 20 Radar at Tomaree and 208 Radar at Catherine Hill Bay. There was a unit of approximately fifty people at the radar station, comprising of RAAF and WAAF personnel. When it was first installed at Ash Island, 131 Radar was equipped with an English mobile station, which required an operator to turn the aerial either to the left or right depending upon bell signals. Following the construction of the concrete igloos, a new electronic system was installed, with a hand controlled motor for when greater accuracy was required. The igloos erected on Ash Island served to protect the equipment and replaced temporary huts. They were a British design and intended to be underground constructions. In Australia however, concrete igloos were generally built above the ground. This was so in the case of Radar 131 as well as Radar Station 208 at Catherine Hill Bay, which housed an Advanced Chain Overseas installation. This was the most sophisticated type of radar technology during WWII (Heritage Council State Heritage Register Committee, Minutes of Meeting, 1/6/05, accessed at <http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/docs/heritagecouncil/shrminutesjune2005.pdf>).

As the war progressed the chance of an attack on Newcastle appeared less likely, and 131 Radar Station assumed a role as a demonstration and training centre for Radar Officers, Controllers, Filter Officers, recorders, mechanics and operators. The radar was officially disbanded in January 1946. Although over 100 radar stations were constructed during the Second World War, very few survived and the one at Ash Island is one of the few still extant. (<http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/docs/heritagecouncil/shrminutesjune2005.pdf>).

Ash Island is part of Kooragang Wetland Rehabilitation Project which was initiated in 1993 with the purpose of restoring and creating fisheries as well as other wildlife habitat in the Hunter River estuary. Along with Ash Island, two other sites were chosen, located in Tomago and Stockton. The three sites together form the Kooragang Wetlands (Information Brochure, Exploring Kooragang Wetlands, Ash Island). The two Radar buildings on Ash Island are currently used for a Visitors Centre, with the larger structure housing interpretive

State Heritage Inventory

Date: 24/07/2008

Full Report with Images

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This report was produced using State Heritage Inventory database software provided by the Heritage Office of New South Wales.

Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number
2171451
Study Number
KOOR.001

Item Name: **131 Radar Igloo (Building)**

Location: **200 Kooragang Street, Kooragang [Newcastle City]**

material illustrating the functioning of the estuarine ecosystem and human use of estuaries
(<http://home.st.net.au/~dunn/locations/ashisland.htm> and
(http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/asp/pdf/06_0107_preferred_route_report.pdf).

Themes:	National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
	3. Economy	Technology	(none)
	7. Governing	Defence	(none)

Designer:

Maker / Builder:

Year Started: 1942 Year Completed: 1942 Circa: No

Physical Description: 131 Radar Station is located on Kooragang Island. It consists of two semi-cylindrical concrete igloos, situated approximately 100 metres apart. The larger one has covered entryway at one end, whilst the smaller igloo has a small central porch. There are also remnants of concrete footings and the base of an antenna stand on the site.

The igloos are situated on a flat grassy area surrounded by scrubby vegetation. An earth mound runs along the eastern side. The 131 Radar unit camp was also on the Island, to the south east of the radar.

Physical Condition:

Modification Dates:

**Recommended
Management:**

Management:

Further Comments:

- Criteria a)** Radar 131 is of significance to NSW as a rare surviving radar station. Despite the fact that there were over 100 radar stations constructed in NSW during WWII, very few of these remain. While Radar Station 208 at Catherine Hill Bay is an example of an Advance Chain Overseas radar station, Radar Station 131 provides an insight into Ground Control Interception technology. It has the capacity to demonstrate a particular technique employed during the Second World War to protect Australia's coastline from attack.
- Criteria b)** Within the limits of this research the item was not found to be significant under this criterion.
- Criteria c)** The Radar Station at Ash Island is significant at state level because it is aesthetically distinctive and exemplifies a particular type of technology used during World War II. The site demonstrates the concrete igloos which typically housed radar equipment, but of which

State Heritage Inventory

Date: 24/07/2008

Full Report with Images

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Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2171451

Study Number

KOOR.001

Item Name: **131 Radar Igloo (Building)**

Location: **200 Kooragang Street, Kooragang [Newcastle City]**

there are few remaining. The site demonstrates the new technology used during WWII to protect Australia's coastline.

Criteria d) Within the limits of this research the item was not found to be significant under this criterion.

Criteria e) Within the limits of this research the item was not found to be significant under this criterion.

Criteria f) Within the limits of this research the item was not found to be significant under this criterion.

Criteria g) Within the limits of this research the item was not found to be significant under this criterion.

Integrity / Intactness: From what could be determined from the exterior, the radar igloos are in good condition.

References:	Author	Title	Year
		http://home.st.net.au/~dunn/locations/ashisland.htm and (http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/asp/pdf/06_0107_preferred_route_report.pdf)	
		Newcastle City Wide Heritage Study: Thematic History	2007
	Brochure	Exploring Kooragang Wetlands, Ash Island	
	Conservation Plan	BHP Steelworks	
	Heritage Council State Heritage Register Committee,	Minutes of Meeting: accessed at http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/docs/heritagecouncil/shrminutesjune2005.pdf	2005
	State Heritage Register	WWII RAAF Radar Station 208	

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Suters Architects Snell	Newcastle City Wide Heritage Study	KOOR.001	1996
	Sue Rosen and Associates Heritage Assessment And History (HAAH)	Review of Items of Potential State Significance in the Newcastle City Area		2008

Parcels:	Parcel Code	LotNumber	Section	Plan Code	Plan Number
	LOT	1		DP	126347

Latitude:

Longitude:

Location validity:

Spatial Accuracy:

Map Name:

Map Scale:

AMG Zone:

Easting:

Northing:

Listings:	Name:	Title:	Number:	Date:
	Local Environmental Plan			8/08/2003
	Heritage study			

Custom Field One:

Custom Field Two:

Custom Field Three:

State Heritage Inventory

Full Report with Images

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Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2171451

Study Number

KOOR.001

Item Name: **131 Radar Igloo (Building)**

Location: **200 Kooragang Street, Kooragang [Newcastle City]**

Custom Field Three:

Custom Field Four: Principal dates 1943

Custom Field Five: No

Custom Field Six: The history and stories of 131 Radar Ash Island. Field survey

Data Entry: Date First Entered: 14/08/1998 Date Updated: 17/06/2008 Status: Completed

State Heritage Inventory

Full Report with Images

Date: 24/07/2008

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Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2171451

Study Number

KOOR.001

Item Name: **131 Radar Igloo (Building)**

Location: **200 Kooragang Street, Kooragang [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Aerial Photograph showing recommended curtilage. The smaller igloo can be seen on the left hand side and the larger one on the right hand side. The antenna base can be seen to the right of the larger igloo

Copyright:

Image by: Google Earth

Image Date: 6/06/2008

Image Number: 1

Image Path:

Image File: 2171451b5.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2171451t5.jpg

State Heritage Inventory

Full Report with Images

Date: 24/07/2008

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Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2171451

Study Number

KOOR.001

Item Name: **131 Radar Igloo (Building)**

Location: **200 Kooragang Street, Kooragang [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: 131 Radar Igloo

Copyright:

Image by: Julia Kensy

Image Date: 21/04/2008

Image Number: 2

Image Path:

Image File: 2171451b4.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2171451t4.jpg

State Heritage Inventory

Full Report with Images

Date: 24/07/2008

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Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2171451

Study Number

KOOR.001

Item Name: **131 Radar Igloo (Building)**

Location: **200 Kooragang Street, Kooragang [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: 131 Radar Igloo

Copyright:

Image by: Julia Kensy

Image Date: 21/04/2008

Image Number: 3

Image Path:

Image File: 2171451b3.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2171451t3.jpg

State Heritage Inventory

Full Report with Images

Date: 24/07/2008

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Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2171451

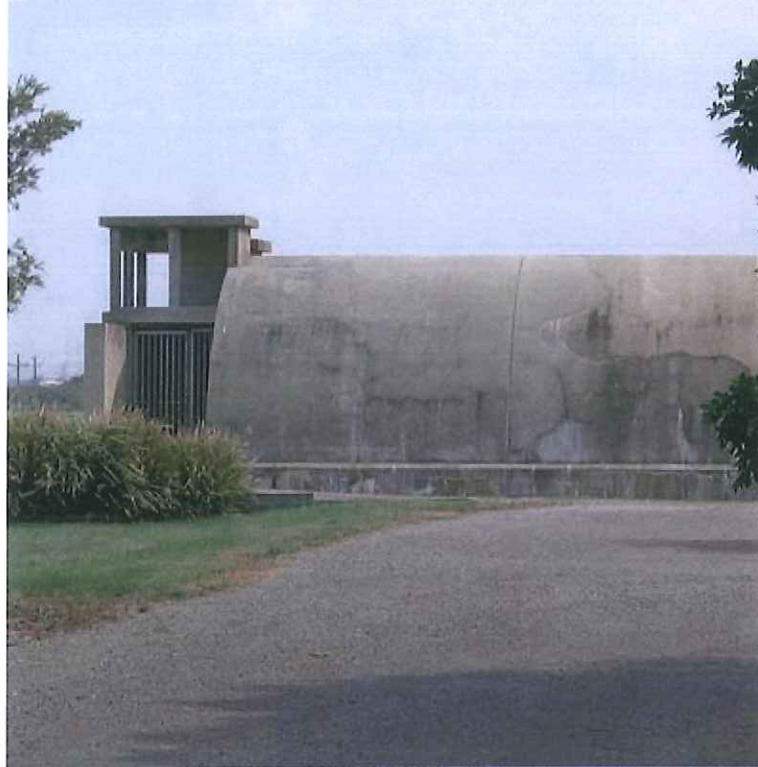
Study Number

KOOR.001

Item Name: **131 Radar Igloo (Building)**

Location: **200 Kooragang Street, Kooragang [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: 131 Radar Igloo (Building) - large igloo

Copyright:

Image by: S Cameron

Image Date: 1/12/2006

Image Number: 4

Image Path:

Image File: 2171451b2.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t2_2171451.jpg

Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2171451

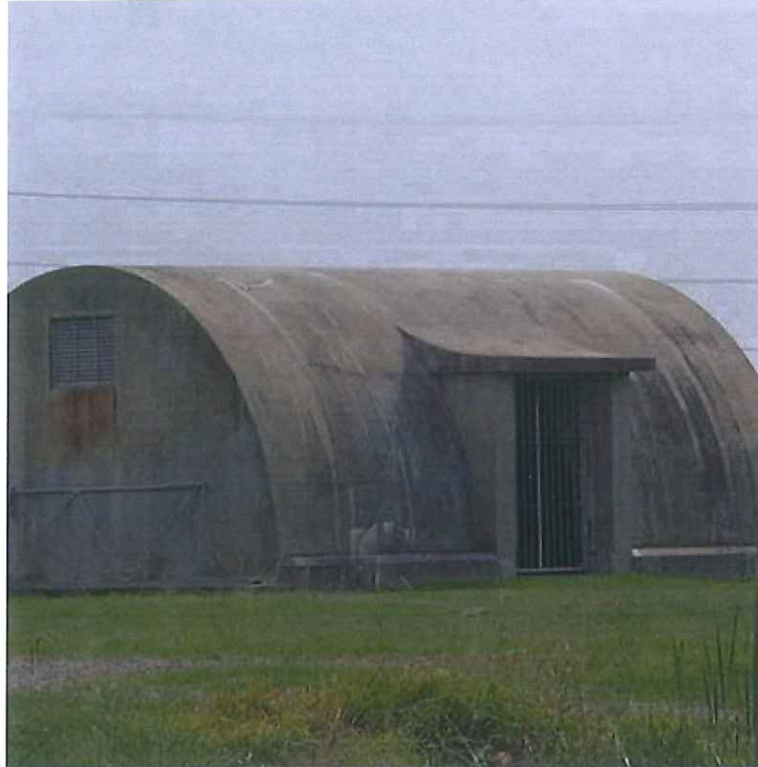
Study Number

KOOR.001

Item Name: **131 Radar Igloo (Building)**

Location: **200 Kooragang Street, Kooragang [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: 131 Radar Igloo (Building)

Copyright:

Image by: S Cameron

Image Date: 1/12/2006

Image Number: 5

Image Path:

Image File: 2171451.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t_2171451.jpg

Nominations to the State Heritage Register

Sue Rosen & Associates Pty Ltd, **Heritage Assessment And History (HAAH)**, ABN 42 053 393 598
14 Crown St, Epping, NSW 2121
Ph: 9876 1655 Fax: 9869 3818 Email: inquiries@haah.com.au Web: www.haah.com.au



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ITEM DETAILS			
Name of Item	Australian Agricultural Company Newcastle coal mining group		
Other Name/s Former Name/s			
Item type (if known)	Built and Archaeological - terrestrial		
Item group (if known)	Mining and Mineral Processing		
Item category (if known)	Mining camp/settlement/housing; mine site; and Other		
Area, Group, or Collection Name			
Street number			
Street name	Various		
Suburb/town	Hamilton, Newcastle, The Hill, Cooks Hill	Postcode	
Local Government Area/s	Newcastle		
Property description			
Location - Lat/long	Latitude		Longitude
Location - AMG (if no street address)	Zone	Easting	Northing
Owner			
Current use	Various		
Former Use			
Statement of significance	<p>The A.A. group has historical and associative significance for the State, as well as for the Newcastle area, through its capacity to demonstrate the scale and nature, and development over time, of the A. A. Company's coal mining operations in Newcastle. The Company was a major force in NSW's nineteenth century economy. The coal mining endeavour at Newcastle became a significant part of its activities and allowed the Company, and through it the colony, to play an active part in the international steam shipping industry. The Company's mines at Newcastle were the first modern, large scale mines in Australia, and signified the first step in the privatisation and industrialisation of what had previously been a largely pastoral and government run colony. The group is unique in being able to demonstrate the dynamic system that was the Company's coal mining operation in Newcastle.</p>		
Level of Significance	State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Local <input type="checkbox"/>



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DESCRIPTION					
Designer	Various				
Builder/ maker	Various				
Physical Description	<p>This group comprises seven items which tell the story of the coal mining operations of the Australian Agricultural Company in Newcastle. These items are distributed across the Newcastle area reflecting the key sites of the Company's coal mining, administration and coal transport activities in the mid to late nineteenth century. The group comprises:</p> <p>A Pit and Surface Works – off Church Street, Newcastle</p> <p>St Ronan's – 18 Bingle Street, The Hill</p> <p>A.A. House – 195-197 Denison Street, Hamilton</p> <p>St John's Church, Hall and Grounds – 1B Parry Street, Cooks Hill (SHR 5045733)</p> <p>Argyle House (former AA Company Headquarters) – 311 Wharf Road, Newcastle (SHR 5044990)</p> <p>Remnant bridge pier base - Hunter Street, Newcastle (beside railway opposite Crown Street.</p> <p>Signalman's Cottage – 12 Laman Street, Cooks Hill</p>				
Physical condition and Archaeological potential	See forms for each of the individual items				
Construction years	Start year		Finish year		Circa <input type="checkbox"/>
Modifications and dates	See forms for each of the individual items				
Further comments	See forms for each of the individual items				



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HISTORY

Historical notes

Coal has played a key part in Newcastle's history from the 1790s. The Australian Agricultural Company (A.A. Company) introduced modern, commercial scale coal mining to Newcastle, and to NSW, and had a near monopoly on coal mining in Newcastle for 31 years. The company thus had an enormous influence on the development of Newcastle through the first half of the nineteenth century, and leaves a rich legacy in the shape and character of the city. The A.A. Company's activities also transformed the small scale convict coal mining operations of the first decades of the nineteenth century into an international trade, of great importance to the economy and self-sufficiency of New South Wales. The Newcastle coal mines were the earliest in the State, and the northern coalfields, operating through the port of Newcastle remained far and away the most significant into the 20th century. Coal mines also operated on the south coast from the 1850s, and at Lithgow by the 1870s, but the northern coalfields accounted for two-thirds of the mining workforce, and about 70 per cent of all coal production in New South Wales between 1880 and 1930. (Docherty, 1983, p. 8) The A.A. Company laid the foundations for the vastly expanded mining operations of the later nineteenth century and for Newcastle as a seat of heavy industry in the twentieth century.

At Newcastle, where sea meets shore, the rich coal seams of the Hunter region displayed themselves in a range of cliffs, showcases to early European explorers. This spectacular display impressed the newcomers, and between 1791 and 1801 escaping convicts, pursuing naval officers, off-course fishermen and official explorers all commented on the mineral wealth of Newcastle. A settlement was formed at the mouth of the Hunter River in 1801 with the aim of exploiting the area's coal and cedar. The camp at the Coal River, as it was called, was closed six months later but re-established in 1804. Over the next two decades, coal, lime, timber and salt were inefficiently extracted from the region by gangs of convicts, and the vast agricultural potential of the well-watered, fertile Hunter Valley was revealed. Although Newcastle was not intended to be purely a penal settlement, until the 1820s free settlement did not take off in the town to any great extent. (City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History, pp. 1-2)

The A.A. Company was formed by Royal Charter in London in 1824 to undertake "Cultivation and Improvement of the waste Lands in the Colony in New South Wales". As a result of its aristocratic origins the Company was able to secure from the Imperial Government the right to select 1 million acres of Crown Land in NSW. The Company entered the coal industry with the intention of exporting coal to India for use by the steamers of the East India Company. Steamships also began to appear on the coast of New South Wales from 1831, creating the first significant local commercial demand for coal. Despite the protests of the Colonial Governor, General Ralph Darling, the Company succeeded in winning a grant of 2,000 acres of coal bearing land near Newcastle, NSW. At the same time it secured a form of market protection, which amounted to a near-monopoly on the supply of coal across the following decades. This grant could be regarded as the most important event in the nineteenth century history of Newcastle, as it had profound effects on the future expansion of the town. (City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History, p. 4; and Former AA Co. Mine Manager's Residence, CMP, p. 7)

The entry of the A.A. Company into coalmining transformed the industry. The Company initially took control of the small scale government mines. Bringing stability and efficiency to the coal mining endeavour at Newcastle, the Company was able to increase production sixfold between 1831 and 1844, to 44,700 tonnes. The Company's first mine, known as 'A Pit' opened in 1831, the first modern and privately operated colliery in Australia. This colliery was equipped with two steam engines (the first to be used for mining purposes in the colony) for raising coal and pumping water and its coal was delivered to the port by an inclined plane which, though it relied on gravity for its power, has been recognised as the first railway in Australia. Moreover, the casting of certain metal parts for the steam engines may well have been the first occasion that such work was undertaken in this country. (City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History, p. 4; Docherty, 1983, p. 8)

The Company next extended its mining activities to the coal-bearing land to the south-west of



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Shepherds Hill. The 2nd and 3rd collieries, known as the "B" and "C" pits, were completed in 1837 and 1842. In both the A and B Pits the workforce was mainly convict labourers and convict miners, while the shaft of the C Pit was sunk using wholly convict labour. St Ronan's, The Hill, still used as a residence, is believed to have been initially constructed as the engine and boiler house for C Pit, with a mine manager's residence and store constructed above. The coal-bearing area beneath inner Newcastle was to prove however, geologically unstable, and so the Company looked for more stable fields of operation. (Former AA Co. Mine Manager's Residence, CMP, p. 7)

In 1848 an exploring party discovered, by means of a borehole, a seam of workable coal which ran beneath a hill near the western boundary of the Company's estate (around Cameron's Hill, Hamilton). This seam was known as the Borehole Seam, and was to support the coal industry in Newcastle through the 1850s. During this and the following year a winding shaft was sunk and in 1849 the new colliery, called the "D" Pit, was opened. A modern winding engine was relocated from the A pit. While this machine, together with rails, skips, and other materials were brought to the site, the buildings and probably the poppet head were of local materials. Bricks were made using material drawn from several brick pits which had been excavated nearby, while shingles were cut from the brush nearby. At this time, transport in the area was rudimentary, and the distance of three miles that separated the D Pit from the Company's other operations necessitated the accommodation of workers and a mine manager close by. A village known as The Borehole, after the pit itself accommodated the miners in timber huts along the present Denison and Steel Streets. A.A. House was constructed as the mine manager's residence, a compact, but gracious Company man's outpost, surrounded by a high picket fence, and with its own water supply and farmlet, but within easy sight of D Pit, and the worker's huts opposite. (Former AA Co. Mine Manager's Residence, CMP, p. 7)

During the 1850s the Company continued to develop new collieries in the area around the Borehole. These were the "E" and "G" pits and were only a short distance from the D Pit. In 1855 Governor Denison visited the Borehole and watched while the "E" Pit winding engine was put in motion for the first time. In 1859 coke ovens were opened nearby. These activities stimulated much growth in this area, located away from the Borehole and towards Beaumont Street, and these miners' settlements laid the foundations for the present suburb of Newcastle, Hamilton, named after Edward Terrick Hamilton, governor of the Company when the villages gained the status of Municipality in 1871. (Former AA Co. Mine Manager's Residence, CMP, p. 8)

The headquarters of the A A Company from the mid 19th century was Argyle House, also known as Fanny's Tavern, constructed c1860. These offices were located adjacent to the Company's former wharf area, within sight of its coal loading facilities and its railway network, at the Port of Newcastle, on the eastern most edge of its 2000 acre land holding in inner Newcastle.

The Company's monopoly on coal mining in Newcastle ended in 1847, the Company agreeing to give up its privileged position in return for the right to sell its estates. From 1855 onwards, a number of other large companies entered the scene: the Newcastle Wallsend; the Scottish Australian; the Waratah; and the New Lambton companies. Each of these entities operated in a fairly similar way to the A. A. Company, starting their operations by acquiring title to a suitable tract of land, then founding a settlement to attract a workforce. A ring of townships on the southern edge of the harbour resulted, each with its *raison d'être* in mining or coal based industry. The new townships included Merewether (mid-1930s), Hamilton (1849), Wallsend (1859), Lambton (1860), new Lambton (1868), and Adamstown (1870). (Docherty, 1983, p. 8; Newcastle Archaeological Management Plan, p. 19)

The development of private railways, side by side with the construction of the great Northern Railway between Newcastle and East Maitland (1854-1857), facilitated the transport of coal to the port, permitting the opening of new mines at Minmi, Wallsend, Lambton, and Waratah within a decade, thereby laying the foundations of Newcastle's key role in the Australian economy. All of these lines converged in the central Newcastle area, aiming for the Port. Two important remnants of this vital transport system survive in the form of Signalman's Cottage, which was built at the junction of one of the Company's lines with the Burwood Coal Company's line as quarters for the signalman who co-



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ordinated the transport activities of these lines; and the brick bridge pier footing on Hunter Street, a remnant from the bridge that lifted the converged AA Company lines over the road traffic of Hunter and King Streets as they approached the loading facilities. A major Government scheme to modernise Newcastle port was also set in train (1862-1878). It involved the construction of a long Dyke on a tidal sand tract of some 1,600 acres to the east of Bullock Island, ultimately faced with a line of wharves and equipped with coal loading appliances. Dredging would create a shipping basin to the south and the facility was later linked to the Great Northern Railway to the north. This plan saw the eventual removal of all coal loading from the southern side of the estuary. (City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History, p. 5)

As the railway network developed, the Newcastle coalfield expanded both geographically and in terms of output. In 1850 the Australian Agricultural Company was still the only large producer and total Newcastle output did not exceed 54,000 tons: by 1914 the 76 mines shipping through the port of Newcastle produced over seven million tons. About two thirds of this was consumed in the Australian colonies and the remainder was exported, mainly to Asian ports and to North and South America. (City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History, p. 6)

By the turn of the century, the coal reserves of the Hamilton area had been exhausted. The A.A. Company had no option but to relocate its operations. A new mine was opened in 1904 on the South Maitland field, known as Hebburn. In the years before the Great War, the Company was also forced to close its prestigious New Winning colliery, also known as the Sea Pit, due to geological problems. This signalled the end of coal mining operations in the central Newcastle area. The Company, however, continued to play a very important role in the development and economy of the City. Coal continued to play a key role in the history of Newcastle in the form of the operations surrounding the transport of coal won further inland through the Port of Newcastle, and the development in the twentieth century of heavy industries along the Port, most notably the BHP Steelworks, partly attracted by the ready supply of coal fuel. (Former AA Co. Mine Manager's Residence, CMP, p. 15; City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History, p. 7)

Up to the 1850s, the Company did not have the right to alienate any of its land, even when it was no longer useful for mining. The development of central Newcastle as a town was thus restricted to the land east of Brown Street, but with a tiny population, this was not at first a significant problem. Coal mining was Newcastle's main pursuit for the duration of the first half of the nineteenth century. In the mid-1850s, Newcastle was still a mere village, the home of about 1,500 people of whom some one fifth were coal miners. (City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History, pp. 4-5, 27) From the 1850s however, the Company began to sell land, and its land sales policy dominated the development of the central business district. The Company began to plan its first land sale in 1853. Much of the grant had to be retained for collieries and railways, and large sections were swampy and unsuitable for residential use. The first offerings, designated by the Company's pioneer surveyor, G.E. Darby, provided for quarter acre allotments along Lake Macquarie and Maitland Roads and on parts of the Company's high land at the east end of its estate, and made available the lower land to the west for gardening in portions of from one to ten acres. The first auction in 1854 was very successful, the ready buyers showing that Newcastle was beginning to attract more residents and businesses. There were sales to miners and other A.A. Company employees on both sides of Darby Street but along Blane Street (later Hunter Street west), the lots were bought at higher prices (about 50%) by businessmen including butchers, shoemakers and publicans. This tended to become the pattern of future sales but Darby Street was also favoured by hoteliers and Blane Street contained a high proportion of residences, albeit some were combined commercial-residential premises. Some of the larger allotments were taken up for market gardening by Chinese who formed a well recognised minority in Newcastle by the 1880s. However, much of this lower portion of the Company's estate was destined to become parkland when the remainder of it was opened up later in the century. (City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History, p. 27; Newcastle Archaeological Management Plan, p. 19)

An important step in moving Newcastle towards a position of greater administrative and cultural importance, beyond its narrow beginnings in convicts and coal, occurred with the arrival of Anglican



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	<p>Bishop, William Tyrrell in 1848. Tyrrell's immense diocese stretched from the Hawkesbury River north to Wide Bay, and from the Pacific coast west to the South Australian border. He was based in the Pro-Cathedral at Newcastle, and began a campaign for the provision of schools and churches for all his flock. In the late 1850s, the A. A. Company responded, with donation of land for St John's Church, Parry Street. A number of A.A. directors in England subscribed money to build the church, school hall, and rectory (1857-60). (ADB online, entry for William Tyrrell; State Heritage Register entry for St Johns Church, Hall and Grounds)</p> <p>To make the best of its assets the Company adopted a policy of periodic releases for auction sale, followed by sale by negotiation for lots not sold at auction. It also offered leases of particular sites, presumably those judged to have exceptional commercial value. Early in the 20th century the company embarked upon large scale selling of its remaining residential lands in Newcastle and Hamilton. This acceleration was prompted by increasing municipal rates and the Federal Land Tax of 1912. There were releases at The Junction in 1908, at Cooks Hill from 1912, at Shepherds Hill from 1915 and at Bar Beach in 1924. From 1914 onwards the Company was selling its Hamilton Garden Suburb Estate of 300 acres and it was able to take advantage of the enormous population growth resulting from the development of the steelworks. (City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History, p. 27)</p>
--	--

THEMES	
<i>National historical theme</i>	Economy; Settlement; Culture
<i>State historical theme</i>	Mining – Coal Mining, A A Company, transport, technology; Land tenure, Accommodation, Domestic life

APPLICATION OF CRITERIA	
Historical significance SHR criteria (a)	<p>The A.A. group has historical significance for the State in demonstrating the scale and nature, and development over time, of the A. A. Company's coal mining operations in Newcastle. The Company's Newcastle coal mines were the first modern, commercial and large scale mines in Australia, and remained at the forefront of coal production in the country for much of the nineteenth century. The group illustrates the activities of the Company within their 2000 acre holding at Newcastle: exploring for coal; exploiting successive seams through a series of collieries, and then moving on once each colliery was no longer viable. The group also demonstrates the administration and staff accommodation necessary as the Company's activities moved further from the administration facilities centred on the Port area; and the transport infrastructure vital for moving the coal from the pits to the loading facilities at the Port. The group demonstrates the dynamic system that was the Company's coal mining operation in Newcastle, and the establishment of a pattern for modern mining operations in NSW, which the Company continued to develop in the form of its later collieries at South Maitland and elsewhere, and which a large number of smaller companies followed. The story of the A.A. Company, as articulated by this group, is also of a very high level of significance for the Newcastle area, as the Company and its activities had profound effects on the future shape and character of the City.</p>
Historical association significance SHR criteria (b)	<p>The A.A. group has significance for the State through its strong and special association with the Australian Agricultural Company, an important entity in the economic development of the State in the mid to late nineteenth century. The Company was a big player in NSW, and was able to use its considerable political clout to insist on the Newcastle grant, despite the Governor's objections, and gain a virtual monopoly on coal production in Newcastle. Although the Company was originally formed with more pastoral pursuits in mind, the coal mining endeavour at Newcastle became a significant part of its activities, among other things allowing the Company to have a key role in the steam shipping industry. Through these mining activities and associated stake in the shipping industry, the Company had a major role in making NSW a more active part of the international economy. All items in the group are strongly associated with the coal mining operations of the Company. A Pit, its history and probably archaeological remains, illustrate the commitment of the Company to the introduction of modern technology to coal mining in New South Wales and the results that this yielded. St Ronans and A.A. House are strongly associated with a number of the Company's senior coal department staff, being their place of residence as servants of the Company.</p>
Aesthetic significance SHR criteria (c)	
Social significance SHR criteria (d)	
Technical/Research significance SHR criteria (e)	



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Rarity SHR criteria (f)	This group is unique in its ability to demonstrate the mining operations of the A A Company in Newcastle, and the associated transport and administration systems, that dominated the Newcastle area, and the coal mining industry in NSW in the mid nineteenth century.
Representativeness SHR criteria (g)	
Integrity	There are many more relics from the Company's coal mining operations in the Newcastle area. This group of seven places has been identified as best demonstrating the coal mining operations of the Company.



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HERITAGE LISTINGS	
Heritage listing/s	

INFORMATION SOURCES				
Include conservation and/or management plans and other heritage studies.				
Type	Author/Client	Title	Year	Repository
Written	Newcastle City Council	City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History	1996/7	
Written	Newcastle City Council	Newcastle Archaeological Management Plan	1997	
Written	Turner, J. W.	Coal Mining in Newcastle, 1801-1900, Newcastle Region Public Library, Council of the City of Newcastle	1982	
Written	Suters Architects for Newcastle City Council	Former AA Co. Mine Manager's Residence, CMP,	2000	
Written	Docherty, J. C.	Newcastle. The Making of an Australian City, Hale and Iremonger	1983	
Written	Department of Commerce, for Compass Planning	Statement of Heritage Impact: 14 Bingle Street, The Hill	2006	

RECOMMENDATIONS	
Recommendations	<p>The following AA places and relics within the Newcastle City area are also incidentally associated with this group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aa Company's Adit (SHI id no. 2172029) Aa Company's B Pit (SHI id no. 2171839) Aa Company's Boundary Marker (SHI id no. 2171841) Aa Company's C Pit and Surface Works (SHI id no. 2171840) Aa Company's Coke Ovens (SHI id no. 2171270) Aa Company's Colliery Railways (SHI id no. 2171935) Aa Company's D Pit (SHI id no. 2171264) Aa Company's D Pit Colliery Railway (SHI id no. 2171265) Aa Company's Dam (SHI id no. 2171986) Aa Company's E Pit (SHI id no. 2171266) Aa Company's Eastern Boundary (SHI id no. 2172025) Aa Company's Engine Shed (SHI id no. 2171981) Aa Company's Hamilton Pit (SHI id no. 2171269)



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	<p>Aa Company's Inclined Plane (SHI id no. 2171810) Aa Company's Inclined Tramway for A Pit (SHI id no. 2171838) Aa Company's No. 1 Pit (SHI id no. 2171267) Aa Company's No. 2 Pit (SHI id no. 2171268) Aa Company's Office and Depot (SHI id no. 2171836) Aa Company's Sea Pit (SHI id no. 2172030) Aa Company's Staithes and Shoots (SHI id no. 2171834) Aa Company's Stone Crushing Works (SHI id no. 2172036) Aa Company's Wall (SHI id no. 2171831) Rubbish Pit - Aa Company (SHI id no. 2171961)</p>
--	--

SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION			
Name of study or report		Year of study or report	
Item number in study or report			
Author of study or report			
Inspected by			
NSW Heritage Manual guidelines used?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
This form completed by		Date	

Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number
2171837
Study Number
Part of AA

Item Name: **AA Company's "A" Pit and Surface Works**

Location: **3/18 Brown Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Address: 189 King Street
Suburb / Nearest Town: The Hill 2300
Local Govt Area: Newcastle City
State: nsw

DUAP Region: Hunter & Central Coast
Historic region: Lower Hunter
Parish:
County:

Address: 4/18 Brown
Suburb / Nearest Town: The Hill 2300
Local Govt Area: Newcastle City
State: nsw

DUAP Region: Hunter & Central Coast
Historic region: Lower Hunter
Parish:
County:

Address: 108A Church Street
Suburb / Nearest Town: Newcastle 2300
Local Govt Area: Newcastle City
State: nsw

DUAP Region: Hunter & Central Coast
Historic region: Lower Hunter
Parish:
County:

Address: 3/18 Brown Street
Suburb / Nearest Town: Newcastle 2300
Local Govt Area: Newcastle City
State: NSW

DUAP Region: Hunter & Central Coast
Historic region: Lower Hunter
Parish:
County:

Address: 108B Church Street
Suburb / Nearest Town: The Hill 2300
Local Govt Area: Newcastle City
State: nsw

DUAP Region: Hunter & Central Coast
Historic region: Lower Hunter
Parish:
County:

Other/Former Names: A Pit

Area/Group/Complex: Australian Agricultural Company

Group ID: 1

Aboriginal Area:

Curtilage/Boundary: The Newcastle Archaeological Management Plan 1997 refers to maps 7255 and 7253 in relation to A Pit. The extent of surviving underground workings is yet to be investigated.

Item Type: Archaeological-Terrest **Group:** Mining and Mineral Pr **Category:** Mine site

Owner: Multiple Owners

Admin Codes:

Code 2:

Code 3: Archaeological

Current Use:

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SHI Number

2171837

Study Number

Part of AA

Item Name: **AA Company's "A" Pit and Surface Works**

Location: **3/18 Brown Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Former Uses:

Assessed Significance: **State**

Endorsed Significance:

Statement of Significance: A Pit is a significant element in the Australian Agricultural Company Newcastle coal mining group, as the first colliery established by the Company. It was the State's first large scale private coal mine, equipped with steam and rail technology, and producing commercial scale output. It was the mainstay of the Australian Agricultural Company's, and thus the State's, coal production for the decade 1831-1841, the first decade of modern coal mining activities in NSW. A Pit, its site, history and archaeological remnants thus tells an important part of the story of the A.A. Company and of NSW mining history. A Pit has the potential to yield much significant information on the operations of the company and on early coal mining in NSW through further archaeological investigation.

Historical Notes or Provenance: The Australian Agricultural Company's 'A Pit' was the first modern colliery to be opened in Australia. The coal reserves near the mouth of the Hunter River were first noticed in the late eighteenth century, and a penal settlement was established at 'Coal River' in the early years of the nineteenth century, being aborted after six months in 1801, but re-established in 1804. Convict labour was used to exploit the estuary's coal, timber, salt and lime resources. The extraction of coal in this first stage of mining at Newcastle was very primitive, with efficiency hamstrung by the shortage of experienced miners, and resources. For instance, in 1801 only three trained miners were employed, and this situation hardly improved over the following decade with only eight miners among a population of one thousand in 1811. Coal was raised by windlass in 1817, when a horse gin was requested, but the windlass was still in use seven years later. Similarly, pumps for draining the mines were repeatedly requested, but in 1824 the miners were still using buckets. Government priorities clearly lay elsewhere. (City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History, pp. 1-2; Newcastle Archaeological Management Plan, pp. 13-14; Turner, 1982, p. 18)

The A.A. Company (hence: the Company), formed in London in 1824, entered the coal industry with the intention of exporting coal to India for use by the steamers of the East India Company. Steamships also began to appear on the coast of New South Wales from 1831, creating the first significant local commercial demand for coal. The Company secured a grant of 2,000 acres of coal bearing land near Newcastle, in 1829. At the same time it secured a form of market protection, which amounted to a near-monopoly on the supply of coal across the following decades. The arrival of the Company could be regarded as the most important event in the nineteenth century history of Newcastle, as it dominated the course of the area's history for much of the nineteenth century and had profound effects on the future development of Newcastle as a City. (City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History, p. 4; and Campbell, 2000, p. 7)

The entry of the A.A. Company into coalmining also transformed the coal mining industry in Australia. The Company was initially given control of the small scale government mines, but almost immediately began exploration works with a view to constructing a new colliery. John Henderson, the officer in charge of the Company's coal department, was responsible for the construction of the new shaft, nine feet in diameter and forty six feet deep on the Dudley Seam near the corner of the present Church and Brown Streets. This first mine, known as 'A Pit' opened in 1831, and was the first modern and privately operated colliery in Australia. This colliery was equipped with two steam engines (the first to be used for mining purposes

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Item Name: **AA Company's "A" Pit and Surface Works**

Location: **3/18 Brown Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

in the colony) for raising coal and pumping water. The shaft was located on a steep rise overlooking the Hunter estuary, and its coal was delivered to a newly constructed wharf area by an inclined plane which, though it relied on gravity for its power, has been recognised as the first railway in Australia. One piece of rail, known as Fish bellied rail, associated with the A Pit was discovered by David Campbell and now resides in the Newcastle Regional Museum. Moreover, the casting of certain metal parts for the steam engines may well have been the first occasion that such work was undertaken in this country. (City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History, p. 4; Docherty, 1983, p. 8)

The mine was officially opened on 10th December 1831, and dignitaries watched decorated wagons descend to the wharf where the steamer Sophia Jane waited to receive coal. The coal was released by a single hammer blow, and then the descent of a second pair of laden wagons propelled the emptied pair back up the incline to the pit - a far cry from the convict propelled wheelbarrows and shovels of the Government operation. This mine was without rival for the following twenty-five years in terms of its design and equipment. Although a number of private mines were constructed in the region in the following sixteen years, including Blaxland's and Platt's in the Newcastle area, they were more akin to the small and primitive Government operations of the preceding decades than to the modern A Pit. (Turner, 1982, p. 32)

A Pit yielded 20,000-40,000 tons per year until closed in c1841. Bringing stability and efficiency to the coal mining endeavour at Newcastle, the Company was able to increase production sixfold between 1831 and 1844, to 44,700 tonnes. This reflected the rise and rise in demand for coal by the steam shipping industry, which was the single largest purchaser of coal mined in Newcastle. At times the relationship was very direct. For example, Commissioner Dumaresq announced in 1835 that two more steamers were almost complete, and therefore a fault in A Pit must needs be corrected and a new shaft sunk. There was also demand from overseas, but shortage of labour meant that despite the Company's sinking of a number of new shafts, almost all the coal produced was still needed within the colony (Docherty, 1983, p. 8; Turner, 1982, pp. 33-4)

When A Pit was closed, machinery and equipment was relocated to the Company's other sites. The 2nd and 3rd collieries, known as the B and C pits, had been completed in 1837 and 1842 respectively. Subsequently, the colliery buildings were removed, and the mouth of the shaft sealed. Full archaeological investigations are yet to be undertaken to establish the extent to which the subsurface features of the colliery remain intact. A number of other collieries in NSW retain a great deal more of their surface apparatus, and therefore present much more readily accessible information on their technological characteristics and atmosphere as a workplace among other things. For example, the Metropolitan Colliery at Wollongong retains surface features including machinery, office and bath buildings, tunnel opening, and porter and winder house. Similarly the Richmond Main Colliery System at Kurri Kurri retains a complex of above surface structures including its power house, cooling towers and main shaft buildings. However, A Pit retains its significance in the face of this comparison, as this significance rests on its foundational place in the history of coal mining in NSW and its strong and special association to the A A Company. A Pit preceeded the Metropolitan Colliery by over fifty years and the Richmond Main Colliery by over seventy years. The A A Company established a number of other collieries in Newcastle including B Pit, at Cooks Hill; C Pit, The Hill; D Pit and E Pit, at Hamilton; Pit No. 1 at Hamilton East; Pit

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Location: **3/18 Brown Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

No. 2 at Broadmeadow; and the Sea Pit, Cooks Hill. A Pit best demonstrates the story of the Company's coal mining operations in Newcastle, as it was the Company's first colliery and established the pattern as well as the economic basis for these subsequent collieries. Additionally, traces of A Pit's surface works remain visible, where the majority of these other collieries are known as sites only.

Themes:	National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
	3. Economy	Mining	coal mining
	3. Economy	Technology	(none)
	4. Settlement	Land tenure	(none)

Designer: Australian Agricultural Company

Maker / Builder: Australian Agricultural Company

Year Started: 1829 **Year Completed:** 1831 **Circa:** No

Physical Description: The A Pit had a vertical shaft about 3m in diameter. At top, a timber headframe, with brick or stone buildings for the winding engine and boiler house and chimney. A timber gravity tramway took wagons of coal down to ships moored opposite Crown St.

The surface works have been demolished, and much of the machinery was relocated immediately by the Company to its other sites. The mine shaft has subsequently been sealed. Surface relics in the form of brickwork and metal survive and are visible on the roadway near council's stormwater pit. The land is shaped into a flat benched area, which would most likely have been the position of the pit. Spoil, clinker and coal can be seen on the hillside.

It is likely that underground workings and shafts would survive. There have been some suggestions that a bricked up shaft survives in the basement of a house nearby. Footings of the boiler/engine house, chimney, head-frame and tramway could also survive beneath the ground in this vicinity.

Physical Condition: Moderate disturbance.

Modification Dates: A Pit was closed in 1841, and machinery, and possibly useful building materials were immediately relocated to other operating collieries.

Recommended Management: Excavate Archaeologically

Management:

Further Comments: The curtilage of the item needs to be defined. Related items; 187,1150,1151. Monitor minor works. Archaeological excavation of sites if to be cleared for redevelopment. Related items;

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Item Name: **AA Company's "A" Pit and Surface Works**

Location: **3/18 Brown Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

1026,1150,1151

Criteria a) A Pit has a high level of historical significance for the State as it tells an important part of the story of the A. A. Company's coal mining operations in Newcastle, and holds an important place in the State's mining history. The Company's Newcastle coal mines were the first modern, large scale mines in Australia, and remained at the forefront of coal production in the country for much of the nineteenth century. A Pit was the first of the Company's collieries, and is the site where steam power and railway transport were introduced to the State's mining industry. It was the basis of the Company's coal production, and that of the State, for the decade 1831-1841. A Pit also has a high level of local historic significance: the location of the pit site, on the steep slope to the south of the Newcastle Harbour demonstrates the domination of central Newcastle by the Company's mining activities at this time.

Criteria b) A Pit is of associative significance for the State and for the Newcastle area as it has a strong and special association with the Australian Agricultural Company, an extremely important entity in the economic development of NSW in the mid to late nineteenth century, and the dominant force in Newcastle at that time. Although the Company was originally formed with more pastoral pursuits in mind, the coal mining endeavour at Newcastle became a significant part of its activities, among other things allowing the Company to have a vital role in the steam shipping industry. A Pit, its history, site and archaeological remains, illustrate how the Company revolutionised coal mining in New South Wales, introducing stability, efficiency and nineteenth century technology.

Criteria c) Within the limits of this research the item was not found to be significant under this criterion.

Criteria d) Within the limits of this research the item was not found to be significant under this criterion.

Criteria e) A Pit has a high level of research potential of significance both for the State and the Newcastle area. Remains of the footings of the colliery buildings, and of the subsurface works have the potential to yield valuable information on the early history of mining in the State and on the operations of the Australian Agricultural Company

Criteria f) Within the limits of this research the item was not found to be significant under this criterion.

Criteria g) Within the limits of this research the item was not found to be significant under this criterion.

Integrity / Intactness: The above surface structures on the site have been removed, but evidence of the mine's location and the earth shelf created on the slope to form the colliery site can be readily seen. The site has a high level of archaeological potential, with the subsurface works being likely to survive, and the possibility of archaeological remains of colliery buildings.

References:	Author	Title	Year
		Newcastle City Wide Heritage Study - Thematic History	2007
		Newcastle Archaeological Management Plan	1997
	Campbell, D	Former A.A. Co. Mine Managers Residence, CMP - Thematic History	2000
	Docherty, J.C.	Newcastle. The Making of an Australian City	1983
	Turner, J.W.	Coal Mining in Newcastle 1801 - 1900	1982

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Item Name: **AA Company's "A" Pit and Surface Works**

Location: **3/18 Brown Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Sue Rosen and Associates Heritage Assessment And History (HAAH)	Review of Items of Potential State Significance in the Newcastle City Area	Part of AA Co coal mining group	2008
	Suters, Lavelle, Doring, Turner	Newcastle Archaeological Management Plan	1026	1997
	Sue Rosen and Associates Heritage Assessment And History (HAAH)	Review of Items of Potential State Significance in the Newcastle City Area		2008

Parcels:	Parcel Code	LotNumber	Section	Plan Code	Plan Number
		1		DP	155743
		1		DP	531497
		1012		DP	577948
		3121		DP	855140

Latitude:

Longitude:

Location validity:

Spatial Accuracy:

Map Name:

Map Scale:

AMG Zone:

Easting:

Northing:

Listings:	Name:	Title:	Number:	Date:
	Heritage study			

Custom Field One: 1831

Custom Field Two:

Custom Field Three:

Custom Field Four: Area partly built over by houses and a navigation tower, but still largely driveways, yards or open space.

Custom Field Five:

Custom Field Six:

Data Entry: Date First Entered: 17/05/1999 Date Updated: 24/07/2008 Status: Basic

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Item Name: **AA Company's "A" Pit and Surface Works**

Location: **3/18 Brown Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: View along the private accessway below Church Street showing the 'shelving' of the land and some of the nineteenth century bricks embedded in the surface (in the foreground)

Copyright:

Image by: Sarah Cameron

Image Date: 1/04/2006

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2171837b2.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t2_2171837.jpg

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Item Name: **AA Company's "A" Pit and Surface Works**

Location: **3/18 Brown Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Close view of brick pattern on the surface, near the elbow of the private accessway from Church Street.

Copyright: Newcastle City Council

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 10/09/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2171837b3.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2171837t3.jpg

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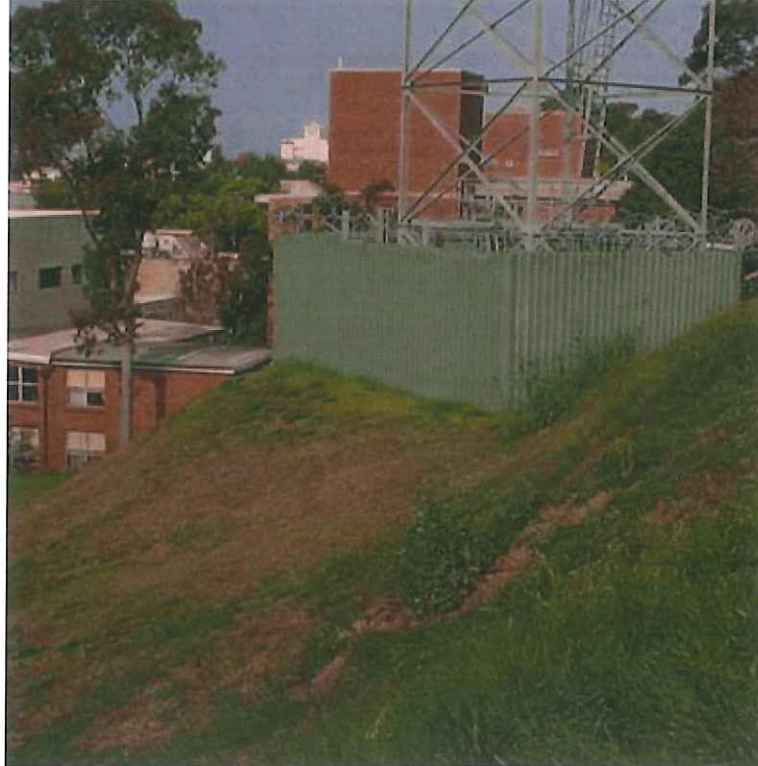
State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number
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Study Number
Part of AA

Item Name: **AA Company's "A" Pit and Surface Works**

Location: **3/18 Brown Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: View eastwards along the slope below the private accessway from Chruch Street

Copyright:

Image by: Sarah Cameron

Image Date: 1/04/2006

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2171837b1.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t1_2171837.jpg

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Item Name: **AA Company's "A" Pit and Surface Works**

Location: **3/18 Brown Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: A Pit marked bottom right at end of short rail line to the harbour (top of map), from 'Cadastral map of Newcastle, N.S.W., also showing locations of Australian Agricultural Company's coal pits', 1850-1857 (NLA: Map 51 from Ferguson Collection)

Copyright: National Library of Australia

Image by:

Image Date: 31/12/1857

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2171837b5.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2171837f5.jpg

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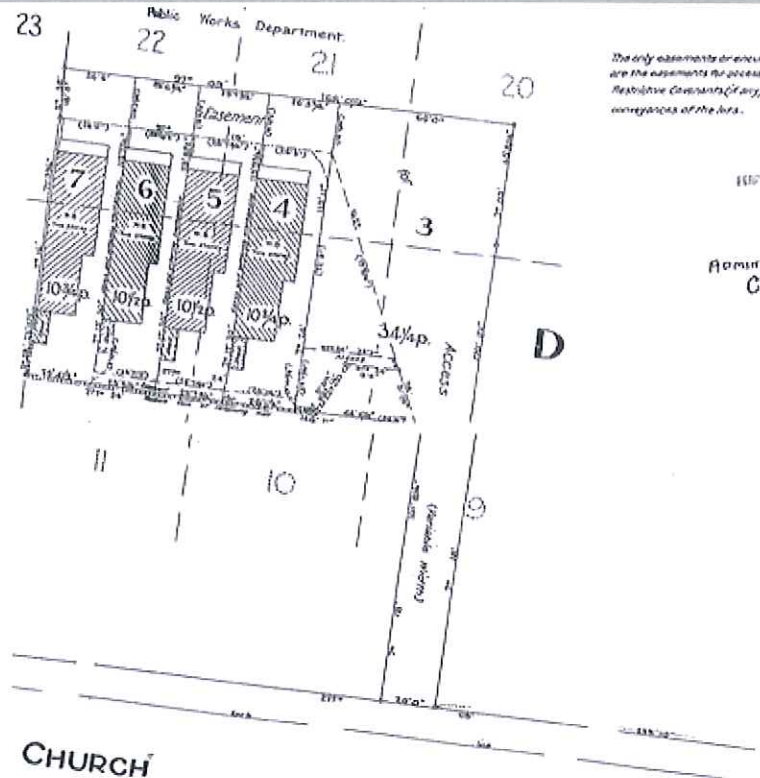
State Heritage Inventory

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Item Name: **AA Company's "A" Pit and Surface Works**

Location: **3/18 Brown Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s: 23



Caption: Part of 1928 subdivision plan (DP 0037425) showing the accessway from Church Street to 'The Boltons', in which some partially exposed relics can be seen.

Copyright:

Image by:

Image Date: 16/01/1928

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2171836b6.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2171836t6.jpg

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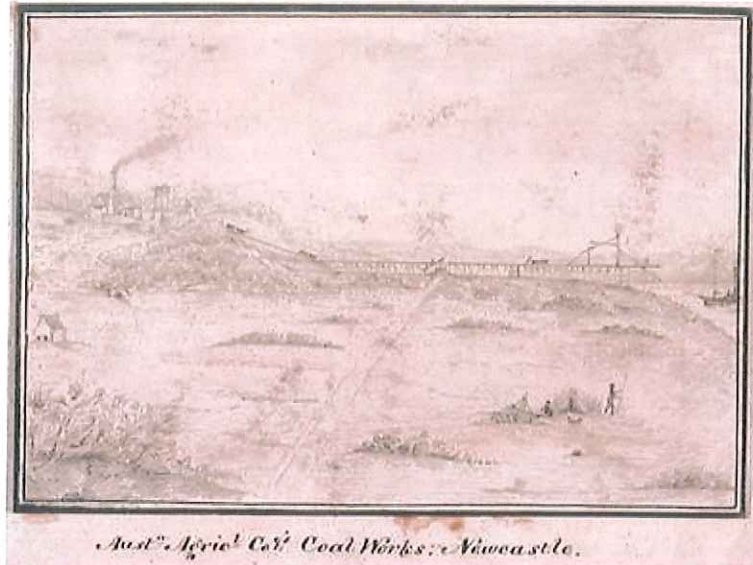
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Item Name: **AA Company's "A" Pit and Surface Works**

Location: **3/18 Brown Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Sketch c1833 showing view of the A Pit colliery, and its transport facilities in operation, attributed to J. C. White (From State Library of NSW Picman online resource, Original: SSV1B/NEWC/1840-9/1)

Copyright: State Library of NSW

Image by:

Image Date:

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2171837b4.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2171837t4.jpg

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SHI Number

2172035

Study Number

Part of AA

Item Name: **AA Company's Remnant Bridge Pier**

Location: **280 Hunter street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Address: 280 Hunter street

DUAP Region: Hunter & Central Coast

Suburb / Nearest Town: Newcastle 2300

Historic region: Lower Hunter

Local Govt Area: Newcastle City

Parish:

State: NSW

County:

Other/Former Names: Hunter Street Bridge

Area/Group/Complex: Australian Agricultural Company

Group ID:

Aboriginal Area:

Curtilage/Boundary: The recommended curtilage is for a two metre apron wrapping around the remnant pier footing, with a viewing corridor maintained to Hunter Street.

Item Type: Movable/Collection

Group: Transport - Rail

Category: Railway gate/ fence/ w

Owner: Local Government

Admin Codes:

Code 2:

Code 3: Archaeological

Current Use: Still standing

Former Uses:

Assessed Significance: State

Endorsed Significance:

Statement of Significance: The remnant AA Company bridge pier and railway fence form a significant element of the Australian Agricultural Company Newcastle coal mining group, as they provide rare physical evidence of the Company's complex coal transport system, a vital part of the Company's operations in Newcastle. The bridge remnants mark what was both a bottleneck and a vital connection for the Company throughout its coal mining history in Newcastle, where coal trains from all areas of Newcastle converged at the River at the same time as crossing Newcastle town's main public thoroughfare. Thus the bridge remnants demonstrate both the dynamic system of coal mining and transport that dominated Newcastle in the nineteenth century, as well as commemorating an important intersection of public and private. The iron bridge, or which this pier footing is a remnant, was constructed to allow an easier relationship between the Company's coal transport activities and the transport needs of the growing town of Newcastle demonstrating an aspect of the relationship between the Company and the town and its community.

Historical Notes or Provenance: The bridge pier footing on Hunter Street forms an important part of the story of the Australian Agricultural Company. With the Signalman's Cottage, it illustrates the transport activities vital to the coal industry, bringing the coal to the loading facilities at Newcastle Port.

The coal reserves near the mouth of the Hunter River were first noticed in the late eighteenth century, and a penal settlement was established at 'Coal River' in the early years of the nineteenth century. Convict labour was used to exploit the estuary's coal, timber, salt

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Item Name: **AA Company's Remnant Bridge Pier**

Location: **280 Hunter street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

and lime resources. (City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History, pp. 1-2) The Australian Agricultural Company (hence: the Company), formed in London in 1824, entered the coal industry with the intention of exporting coal to India for use by the steamers of the East India Company. Steamships also began to appear on the coast of New South Wales from 1831, creating the first significant local commercial demand for coal. The Company secured a grant of 2,000 acres of coal bearing land near Newcastle, in 1829. At the same time it secured a form of market protection, which amounted to a near-monopoly on the supply of coal across the following decades. The arrival of the Company could be regarded as the most important event in the nineteenth century history of Newcastle, as it dominated the course of the area's history for much of the nineteenth century and had profound effects on the future development of Newcastle as a City. (City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History, p. 4; and Campbell. 1994, p. 7)

The entry of the Company into coal mining also transformed the coal mining industry in Australia. The Company was initially given control of the small scale government mines, but almost immediately began constructing its own colliery following more up to date mining practice in Britain. This first mine, known as 'A Pit' opened in 1831, and was the first modern and privately operated colliery in Australia. A Pit was perched on a steep rise overlooking the Hunter River estuary, and its coal was delivered to the port, by an inclined plane which, though it relied on gravity for its power, has been recognised as the first railway in Australia. (City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History, p. 4; Docherty, 1983, p. 8) The Company subsequently extended its mining activities to the coal-bearing land to the south-west of Shepherds Hill. The 2nd and 3rd collieries, known as the B and C pits, were completed in 1837 and 1842, and the D, E and G Pits were established several miles to the west, in the present Hamilton area, in the late 1840s and 1850s. (Campbell. 1994, p. 8)

The Company's monopoly on coal mining in Newcastle ended in 1847. From 1855 onwards, a number of other large companies entered the scene: the Newcastle Wallsend; the Scottish Australian; the Waratah; and the New Lambton companies. Each of these entities operated in a fairly similar way to the A. A. Company, starting their operations by acquiring title to a suitable tract of land, then founding a settlement to attract a workforce. A ring of townships on the southern edge of the harbour resulted, each with its *raison d'être* in mining or coal based industry. The new townships included Merewether (mid-1930s), Hamilton (1849), Wallsend (1859), Lambton (1860), new Lambton (1868), and Adamstown (1870). (Docherty, 1983, p. 8)

The development of private railways, side by side with the construction of the great Northern Railway between Newcastle and East Maitland (1854-1857), facilitated the transport of coal to the port, permitting the opening of new mines at Minmi, Wallsend, Lambton, and Waratah within a decade, thereby laying the foundations of Newcastle's key role in the Australian economy. All of these lines converged in the central Newcastle area, aiming for the Port. Two important remnants of this vital transport system survive in the form of Signalman's Cottage, which was built at the junction of one of the Company's lines with the Burwood Coal Company's line to as quarters for the signalman who co-ordinated the transport activities of these lines; and the brick bridge pier footing on Hunter Street, a remnant from the bridge that lifted the converged AA Company lines over the road traffic of Hunter and King Streets as they approached the loading facilities. (City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History, p. 5)

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Item Name: **AA Company's Remnant Bridge Pier**

Location: **280 Hunter street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

This remnant brick bridge pier supported the A.A. Company's iron bridge which was erected in 1863-4. The bridge replaced an earlier timber bridge constructed in 1841 to transport coal from the company's mines to its coal loading staithes on the harbour front. This bridge in turn probably replaced a light timber viaduct constructed before 1831 to transport the coal wagons travelling between A Pit, the Company's first colliery, and the River. Standing on the site of this series of bridges, the site of A Pit can be seen directly up the hill to the south, lining up approximately with the former bridge alignments. The second timber bridge was so low in height that it caused inconvenience to traffic using Hunter Street; a person mounted on a tall horse would have had to duck to pass underneath. The third bridge was a three span continuous girder structure of riveted iron, fabricated by Robert Stephenson & Co. of Newcastle-on Tyne, supported on massive brick wall type piers. The bridge was erected on a skew of approximately 54 degrees, about 20 feet away and on a slight angle to the timber structure it replaced. It was some 7 feet higher than the old timber bridge, high enough for traffic to pass beneath without obstruction. It was removed in 1923. The surviving base of one brick pier is visible between the Hunter St footpath and railway land. (Tonks, research)

Themes:	National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
	3. Economy	Industry	Industrial technology
	3. Economy	Mining	coal mining
	3. Economy	Transport	railways
	3. Economy	Transport	transportation

Designer:

Maker / Builder: A.A. Company

Year Started: Year Completed: 1863 Circa: No

Physical Description: The remnant bridge pier consists of a large rectangular section of brickwork with rounded ends, standing approximately eight rows of brick above ground level. The alignment of the pier base is skewed, reflecting the skewed alignment of the bridge.

It is abutted by a cast iron fence with a brick plinth capped with large sandstone blocks, into which are set the cast iron rods with arrowhead finials of the palisade, also constructed by the AA Company to divide Hunter Street from the adjacent railway land.

A steel security fence has recently been erected on the street side of the original fence to prevent access to the railway, and this makes it difficult to appreciate its historic character.

Physical Condition: In poor condition though appears stable.

Modification Dates:

Date: 24/07/2008

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Item Name: **AA Company's Remnant Bridge Pier**

Location: **280 Hunter street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Recommended Management: Conservation Plan

Management:

Further Comments: Related items; 1022,1115. Conserve remnant fence in situ. Consider reconstruction of remainder.

Criteria a) The remnant AA Company bridge pier and railway fence have historical significance to the State as part of the Australian Agricultural Newcastle coal mining group. The bridge remnants provide rare physical evidence of the Company's complex system of rail lines, connecting the collieries to the loading facilities on the Hunter River, a network which dominated the geography of central Newcastle in the nineteenth century. The location of the Company's first colliery, A Pit, determined the location of this vital transport node, and the bridge remnants represent the history of coal transport on this site, both a bottleneck and a vital connection for the Company throughout its coal mining history in Newcastle, where coal trains from all areas of Newcastle converged at the River. The bridge remnants also commemorate this important intersection of public and private in nineteenth century Newcastle. The iron bridge, of which this pier footing is a remnant, was constructed to allow an easier relationship between the Company's coal transport activities and the transport needs of the growing town of Newcastle along its main public thoroughfare, demonstrating an aspect of the relationship between the Company and the town and its community.

Criteria b) The remnant bridge pier and fence have a strong association to the Australian Agricultural Company and its coal mining activities in Newcastle, which made a significant contribution to NSW's economy in the nineteenth century, and to the colony's ability to play an active part in the international economy through the steam shipping industry. The bridge remnants provide rare physical evidence of the Company's coal transport activities, and of the Company's interaction with the public world of Newcastle town.

Criteria c) Within the limits of the research undertaken the item was not found to be significant under this criterion.

Criteria d) Within the limits of the research undertaken the item was not found to be significant under this criterion.

Criteria e) Within the limits of the research undertaken the item was not found to be significant under this criterion.

Criteria f) Within the limits of the research undertaken the item was not found to be significant under this criterion.

Criteria g) Within the limits of the research undertaken the item was not found to be significant under this criterion.

Integrity / Intactness: The iron fence and brick pier footing are remnants of a much larger structure. Sufficient information in the form of position, original form and materials remain to present a significant historical landmark, which is articulate about the historic shape of Newcastle under the domination of the A A Company.

References: Author Title Year

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Study Number
Part of AA

Item Name: **AA Company's Remnant Bridge Pier**

Location: **280 Hunter street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

	City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History	2007		
	Research of E. Tonks, historian			
Campbell, David	Reproduced in Conservation Management Plan Suters Architects, Former AA Mine Manager's Residence	2000		
Docherty, J. C.	Newcastle. The Making of an Australian City	1983		
Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Sue Rosen and Associates Heritage Assessment And History (HAAH)	Review of Items of Potential State Significance in the Newcastle City Area	Part of AA Co coal mining group	2008
	Suters, Lavelle, Doring, Turner	Newcastle Archaeological Management Plan	1224	1997
	Ecotecture Pty Ltd	Review of Potential Heritage Items for NLEP		2003

Parcels: Parcel Code LotNumber Section Plan Code Plan Number

Latitude:

Longitude:

Location validity:

Spatial Accuracy:

Map Name:

Map Scale:

AMG Zone:

Easting:

Northing:

Listings: Name:
Heritage study

Title: Number: Date:

Custom Field One:

Custom Field Two:

Custom Field Three:

Custom Field Four:

Custom Field Five:

Custom Field Six:

Data Entry: Date First Entered: 19/05/1999 Date Updated: 24/07/2008 Status: Partial

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Item Name: **AA Company's Remnant Bridge Pier**

Location: **280 Hunter street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: View of the brick bridge pier base prior to the completion of the steel security fence.

Copyright:

Image by: S Cameron

Image Date: 10/03/2004

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2172035b4.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t4_2172035.jpg

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Item Name: **AA Company's Remnant Bridge Pier**

Location: **280 Hunter street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: View along top of remnant bridge pier base, with section of palisade fence in foreground

Copyright: Newcastle City Council

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 12/09/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2172035b5.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2172035t5.jpg

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Item Name: **AA Company's Remnant Bridge Pier**

Location: **280 Hunter street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Close view of eastern end of bridge pier base showing rounded corners and abutting palisade fence with brick and sandstone base.

Copyright: Newcastle City Council

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 12/09/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2172035b6.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2172035t6.jpg

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Study Number

Part of AA

Item Name: **AA Company's Remnant Bridge Pier**

Location: **280 Hunter street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Remnant Aa Co Railway Fence

Copyright:

Image by: S Cameron

Image Date:

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2172035b3.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t3_2172035.jpg

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Item Name: **AA Company's Remnant Bridge Pier**

Location: **280 Hunter street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Remnant Aa Co Railway Fence viewed through the recently erected steel security fence.

Copyright:

Image by:

Image Date:

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2173947b1.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t_2173947.jpg

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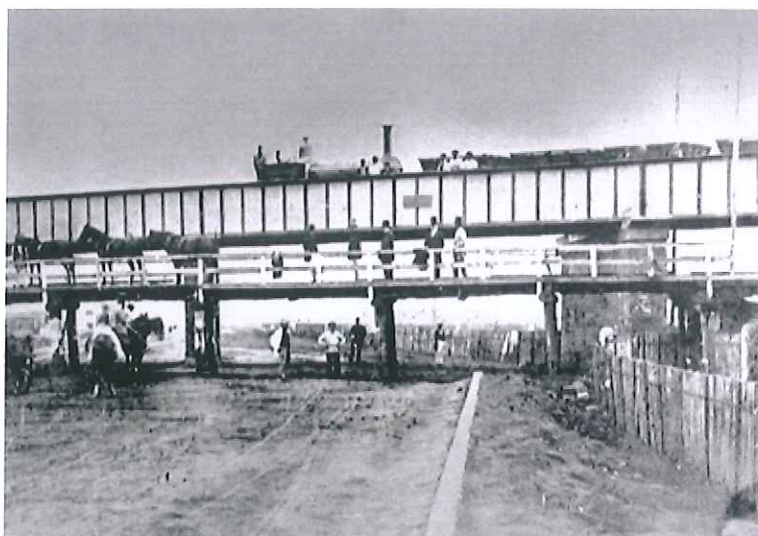
Study Number

Part of AA

Item Name: **AA Company's Remnant Bridge Pier**

Location: **280 Hunter street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Historic photograph showing the 1841 timber bridge and 1864 iron bridge side by side before the former's demolition, taken at the opening of the new bridge by Governor Darling. (Hunter Photobank)

Copyright:

Image by:

Image Date:

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2172035b7.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2172035t7.jpg

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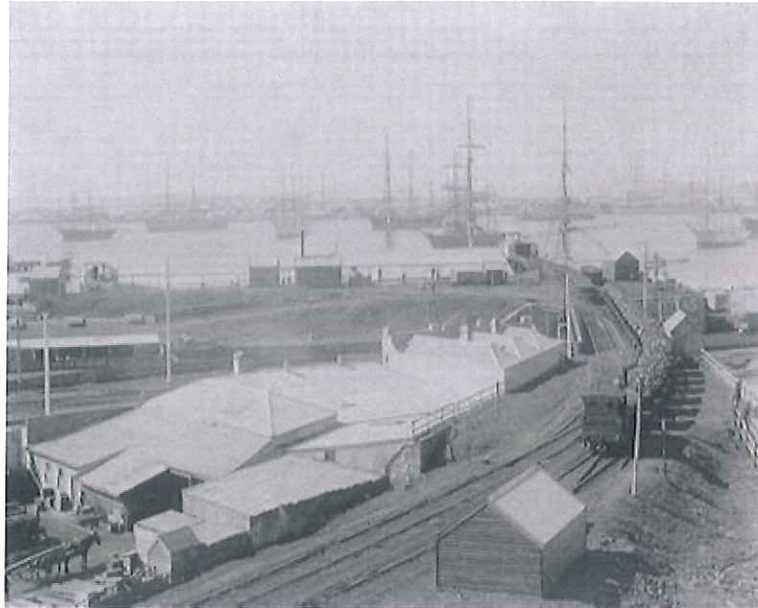
Study Number

Part of AA

Item Name: **AA Company's Remnant Bridge Pier**

Location: **280 Hunter street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Undated photograph showing full coal wagons crossing the 1864 iron bridge over Hunter Street, approaching the loading facilities on the River (Hunter Photobank)

Copyright:

Image by:

Image Date:

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2172035b8.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2172035t8.jpg

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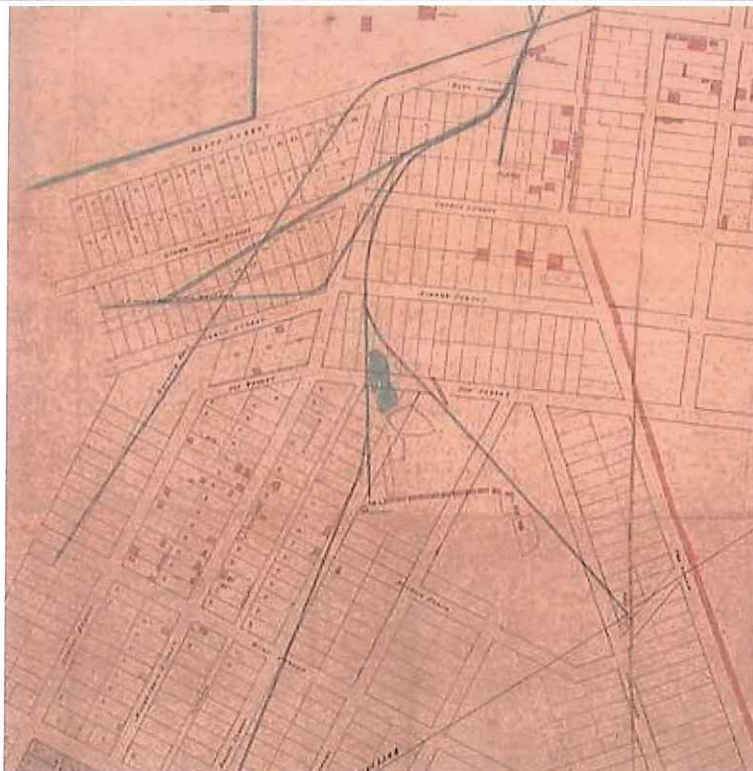
Study Number

Part of AA

Item Name: **AA Company's Remnant Bridge Pier**

Location: **280 Hunter street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Historic map showing convergence of AA Coy rail lines (top) in inner Newcastle 'Cadastral map of Newcastle, N.S.W., also showing locations of Australian Agricultural Company's coal pits', 1850-1857 (NLA: Map 51 from Ferguson Collection)

Copyright: National Library of Australia

Image by:

Image Date: 31/12/1857

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2172135b2.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t2_2172135.jpg

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Study Number

Part of AA

Item Name: **AA House (Australian Agricultural Company)**

Location: **195 Denison Street, Hamilton [Newcastle City]**

Address: 195 Denison Street

DUAP Region: Hunter & Central Coast

Suburb / Nearest Town: Hamilton 2303

Historic region: Lower Hunter

Local Govt Area: Newcastle City

Parish:

State: NSW

County:

Other/Former Names: Mine Manager's residence

Area/Group/Complex: Australian Agricultural Company

Group ID: 1

Aboriginal Area:

Curtilage/Boundary: The recommended curtilage is the property boundary of 195 Denison Street: Lot 212 DP 1122139

Item Type: Built

Group: Mining and Mineral Pr Category: Mine office

Owner: Local Government

Admin Codes:

Code 2:

Code 3:

Current Use:

Former Uses:

Assessed Significance: State

Endorsed Significance:

Statement of Significance: A A House is a significant element in the Australian Agricultural Company Newcastle coal mining group as the central administration site for the 1850s and 1860s operations of the Company around the profitable Borehole Seam and as the residence of a number of senior staff. A A House and its site has a unique ability to demonstrate aspects of the cultural and family life of the Company's senior staff, as well as the administrative culture of the Company. The house, with its high level of integrity as a nineteenth century residence, is powerfully evocative of the more 'human' side of the Company. As well, the house and site, along with associated documents and movable items housed in the Newcastle Regional Museum have the potential to yield much valuable information on the Company and its coal mining operations in Newcastle.

Historical Notes or Provenance: A.A. House forms an important part of the story of the Australian Agricultural Company, illustrating the nature of its mining and administrative activities as the colliery branch of the Company matured in the mid nineteenth century, and throwing light on the stories of some of the Company's senior colliery staff.

The coal reserves near the mouth of the Hunter River were first noticed in the late eighteenth century, and a penal settlement was established at 'Coal River' in the early years of the nineteenth century, being aborted after six months in 1801, but re-established in 1804. Convict labour was used to exploit the estuary's coal, timber, salt and lime resources. (City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History, pp. 1-2) The Australian Agricultural Company (hence: the Company), formed in London in 1824, entered the coal industry with the intention of exporting coal to India for use by the steamers of the East India Company.

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Location: **195 Denison Street, Hamilton [Newcastle City]**

Steamships also began to appear on the coast of New South Wales from 1831, creating the first significant local commercial demand for coal. The Company secured a grant of 2,000 acres of coal bearing land near Newcastle, in 1829. At the same time it secured a form of market protection, which amounted to a near-monopoly on the supply of coal across the following decades. The arrival of the Company could be regarded as the most important event in the nineteenth century history of Newcastle, as it dominated the course of the area's history for much of the nineteenth century and had profound effects on the future development of Newcastle as a City. (City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History, p. 4; Campbell, 1994, p. 7)

The entry of the Company into coal mining also transformed the coal mining industry in Australia. The Company was initially given control of the small scale government mines, but almost immediately began constructing its own colliery following more up to date mining practice in Britain. This first mine, known as 'A Pit' opened in 1831, and was the first modern and privately operated colliery in Australia. (City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History, p. 4; Docherty, 1983, p. 8) The Company subsequently extended its mining activities to the coal-bearing land to the south-west of Shepherds Hill. The 2nd and 3rd collieries, known as the B and C pits, were completed in 1837 and 1842. In both the A and B Pits the workforce was mainly convict labourers and convict miners, while the shaft of the C Pit was sunk using wholly convict labour. The Coal-bearing area beneath inner Newcastle was to prove however, geologically unstable, and so the Company looked for more stable fields of operation. In 1848 an exploring party discovered, by means of a borehole, a seam of workable coal which ran beneath a hill near the western boundary of the Company's estate (around Cameron's Hill, Hamilton). During this and the following year a winding shaft was sunk and in 1849 the new colliery, called the D Pit, was opened. In accordance with the operating procedures of the Company, the new mine was heavily capitalised and the colliery buildings were constructed in brick. A modern winding engine was provided, having been relocated from the A Pit. While this machine, together with rails, skips, and other materials were brought to the site, the buildings and probably the poppet head were of local materials. Bricks were made using material drawn from several brick pits which had been excavated nearby, while shingles were cut from the brush nearby (eg, She-oaks). Very little is known about the Aboriginal significance of this area, although because the hill was a prominent landscape feature it follows that the rising ground around the house may have been associated more with ceremonial uses than the nearby wet flat lands. (Campbell, 1994, p. 7)

At this time, transport in the area was rudimentary, and the distance of three miles that separated the D Pit from the Company's other operations necessitated the accommodation of workers and supervising Company staff close by the new colliery. A.A. House was constructed to house D Pit's colliery manager. The residence was constructed within easy sight of D Pit, fronting the track known as Pit Row, but on the crest of the hill some distance from the colliery. The residence took the form of a Company man's outpost, separated from Pit Row and the worker's huts opposite by a high picket fence with double gates. The grounds so demarcated were laid out like a small, self-sufficient farm, independent from the working man's village, known as the Borehole after the pit itself. A large underground cistern guaranteed an independent supply of water for the manager and his family - the villagers took their water from local wells. Although small, having four rooms with an attic and perhaps separate kitchen, the house was sufficiently solid and ornate to demonstrate the manager's status in comparison to that of his workers who lived a precarious existence in

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Location: **195 Denison Street, Hamilton [Newcastle City]**

the Company-owned slab huts opposite, some of which only had earth floors into the 1860s. (Campbell, 1994, pp. 8, 10, 11) Nevertheless, despite this comparative luxury, the managers who lived here endured an isolated existence in a very basic town surrounded by a wilderness. In December 1854 the town and colliery narrowly escaped destruction by bushfire, saved through the strenuous efforts of Lindsay, stationed in the subject house, and his colleague Charlton. (Campbell, 1994, p. 10)

During the 1850s the Company continued to develop new collieries in the area around the Borehole. These were the E and G pits and were only a short distance from the D Pit. In 1855 Governor Denison visited to watch the E Pit winding engine put in motion for the first time. In 1859 coke ovens were opened nearby. These activities stimulated much growth in this area, located towards Beaumont Street, at a more comfortable distance from the smoky, noisy, dirty atmosphere of the pits than the original village. Two miners' villages known as Pit Town and Happy Flat sprang up nearby. Pit Town appears to have been a carefully planned subdivision whereas Happy Flat was a spontaneous settlement. The population of the three villages was overwhelmingly protestant, heavily influenced by the nature of economic activity and the national origins of its new inhabitants - the majority of the miners being from Scotland, Northern and Midlands England or of Welsh origins. These miners' settlements laid the foundations for the present suburb of Newcastle, Hamilton, named after Edward Terrick Hamilton, governor of the Company when the villages gained the status of Municipality in 1871. (Campbell, 1994, p. 8)

The history of the house is linked to the people who lived there as servants of the A.A. Company. From the time of its construction to the 1870s A.A. House was occupied by Senior Officers of the Company. The first occupant was James Lindsay, from 1849 and until at least 1854. Lindsay was one of two 'Overmen' employed by the Company during the 1850s to oversee the day to day operations of the collieries. The other, Charlton, was domiciled in Newcastle, in a house near the Blane Street tram bridge. Lindsay made a contribution to the Company as a skilled 'mechanic' in the nineteenth century sense, and he proved his worth by overcoming geological problems to prolong the life of the C Pit by two years. Lindsay planned and superintended the relaying of the tramway which led from the Borehole to the Company's coal staithes at Newcastle, and assisted with the introduction of locomotive traction to the line in 1857. (Campbell, 1994, p. 10)

The second occupant of the house was probably Robert Whytte, Superintendent of Collieries 1856-1860. Although there is no direct evidence of his occupation of the house, it is likely that he lived there from 1858 when he was occupied with the disastrous Pit 1, nearby D Pit. Campbell finds that all the other Company residences were occupied during this period, and that Whytte would have had to spend most of his time near The Borehole for the purposes of these endeavours and would have needed to be quartered near the site. Whytte had arrived at Newcastle in 1856, determined to modernise the Company's mining operations. He felt that it was impossible to introduce new methods to old collieries. Unfortunately, however, his attempts to develop new collieries were unsuccessful and he was dismissed in 1860. (Campbell, 1994, pp. 10-11)

Following Whytte's dismissal, Lindsay took up the position of Acting Superintendent of Collieries for several months, until the arrival of Englishman James Baron Winship. Winship took up residence in the manager's house at The Borehole and oversaw further

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Location: **195 Denison Street, Hamilton [Newcastle City]**

development of the Company's mining infrastructure. Sinking of the No. 2 shaft, begun by Whyte, was recommenced, and coal was struck in June 1861. A new shaft, known as G Pit was also sunk immediately to the west of The Borehole in response to worries that the coal accessible via D Pit and the auxiliary E Pit would soon be exhausted. Winship's period of management coincided with the emergence of strong activity on the part of the newly formed district union and a period of heightened disharmony between the Company and its workers. The several coal proprietors in the neighbourhood of Newcastle combined to reduce the 'hewing rate' by 20 per cent, to counter what they felt were exorbitant demands by the miners. A two month strike by the fully unionised workforce succeeded in overturning that decision. Winship became a leading figure in the subsequent efforts of the companies to destroy the union. He was involved in recruiting miners from Victoria and South Australia as strike breakers; evicting miners from their Company-owned homes to make way for the new workforce; and prosecuting those who sympathised with the unionists. (Campbell, 1994, p. 11-12)

After Winship's resignation in 1876, A.A. House entered a new phase, as quarters for Company engineers and their families. The Little family dominated the history of the house until the 1990s. Dixon Little, having gained solid experience in England working on the Durham water supply, Regent's Canal and other projects, arrived in Australia in 1863. After first serving as an engineer on the New South Wales Government Railways, he secured a position with the A.A. Company in 1869 and remained with the Company for over thirty years. Although his career was punctuated by the tragic fall in H Pit, for which he had superintended underground engineering operations, in which 11 workers died in 1889, Little was a highly valued and very popular servant of the Company, and received a great send off on his retirement. (Campbell, 1994, pp. 12-13)

William Little, Dixon's son, took up his father's position, and with it the residence. Dixon and his wife moved to 'Tecomá' nearby on Denison Street. About this time, major alterations were made to the house. It appears that at this time the large dining room was added; access to the kitchen improved; two of the four small rooms comprising the original house were converted into one large space; and the shingled roof covered in corrugated iron. These developments, which somewhat altered the character of the house, illustrate some of the ways in which living expectations had changed over the half-century since the house was constructed. (Campbell, 1994, pp. 13)

Another major change for the residence occurred in the new century. By the turn of the century, the coal reserves of the Hamilton area had been exhausted. The A.A. Company had no option but to relocate its operations. A new mine was opened in 1904 on the South Maitland field, known as Hebburn. Continuing a process which had begun fifty years earlier in the central Newcastle area, the Company began to subdivide and sell land around Cameron's Hill. Although this process encroached on the grounds of A.A. House, a large part of the property was preserved, and it remained in the hands of the A.A. Company. But a decade later the Company was also forced to close its prestigious New Winning colliery, also known as the Sea Pit, due to geological problems, and began to dispose of more of its Colliery Department assets, including A.A. House. William Little purchased the property in 1914. Some time later the property was divided into three blocks, with new residences constructed for family members either side of the original house, following the general pattern of suburbanisation of Hamilton in the first few decades of the twentieth century. After

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William's death in 1945, his wife Alice and son Charles continued to live in the house. Charles died in 1963, and from then on the house remained vacant, although still owned by descendant of Dixon Little, Naomi McCourt, who lived in an adjacent residence. Although members of the Little family continued to maintain the old house as much as they were able, it slipped into decay. Hidden from the street by a garage and fruit trees, the house was forgotten by the public until its A.A. Company connections were re-discovered in 1990, and it was purchased by Council, with an extensive conservation programme begun in 1994. (Campbell, 1994, pp. 15-17)

Themes:	National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
	3. Economy	Mining	coal mining
	4. Settlement	Accommodation (Housing)	Housing
	8. Culture	Domestic life (new theme)	(none)

Designer:

Maker / Builder: Australian Agricultural Company employees

Year Started: 1848 Year Completed: 1849 Circa: No

Physical Description: AA House is a compact brick residence. The eastern, original, portion sits under a high pitched hipped roof. The western wing, housing the dining room, abuts under a pitched roof, with a box gutter at the junction. An L shaped verandah wraps around the eastern and southern sides. A freestanding bath/laundry wing and toilet are constructed in timber.

The bulk of the structure is brick, of which most is either painted, and some of which would previously have been lime-washed. A pebble render surface covers the west face of the building. The south façade is rendered in an ashlar pattern. The painted surfaces are badly weathered, although a section does survive in relatively sound condition on the wall under the east verandah. The verandah structure including posts is of timber with a surviving decorative timber valance and a concrete floor surface. The bath/ laundry wing to the north is of timber frame and clad in sawn weatherboards. Fenestration is generally of four pane double hung timber windows. The timber front entry door includes two decorative glass panels. Roof sheeting is new corrugated galvanised steel over earlier timber shingles. The larger dormer in the east roof is clad with new compressed cement sheet material (unpainted) and its south window has a metal sun hood still in place.

The interiors of the house are in poor condition, but they are highly intact. Floors are generally timber boarding (t&g) with linoleum over. Walls in the original section of the house are set plaster with lath and plaster ceilings. In the pantry the brickwork is clad with compressed fibre board sheet and timber battens. Ceilings vary from room to room and include lath and plaster, corrugated iron sheet with timber mouldings, pressed metal, and fibrous plaster board. The ceiling to the attic is lined with t&g boards. The sitting and dining

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room ceilings are coffered. Much of the interior decorative fittings are intact, although again are in poor condition. Many of the windows are still covered in curtains or blinds and wallpaper remains in place. Several layers of lineoleum floor covering are present in most rooms. The fireplaces remaining in the parlour, bedroom and dining rooms have cast iron inserts, and surround and mantles of timber. A decorative hearth of ceramic tiles completes the dining room fireplace.

The house is now situated on a small battleaxe block entered from Denison Street, with the original front elevation facing the side boundary of an interwar suburban dwelling fronting Denison Street.

Physical Condition: The condition of the building is fair to poor, with the fabric suffering variously from dry rot, termite damage, rising damp and other problems due to age and long years of neglect. Repair and stabilisation work is in train through Newcastle City Council's conservation program for the property.

There is archaeological potential in the rear section of the house, attic, parlour and external areas. Residential construction on adjacent lots has probably destroyed any archaeological potential outside the small allotment occupied by AA House.

Modification Dates: The house was doubled in size in 1900, when the large drawing room, pantry and kitchen were added. Other modifications include the addition of an outside WC in the early 1900s, and provision of external laundry/ bath house in the 1920s.

**Recommended
Management:**

Management:

Further Comments: Newcastle City Council prepared a Conservation Management Plan in 2000 and is actively ensuring that the Conservation Policy outlined is implemented. This means that no restoration can occur apart from stabilisation or renewal as defined under the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter.

Criteria a) The house is of historical significance to the State as it has the capacity to articulate important aspects of the story of the A.A. Company and its coal mining operations in Newcastle. The Company's Newcastle coal mines were the first modern, large scale mines in Australia, and remained at the forefront of coal production in the country for much of the nineteenth century. The house was the central administration site for the 1850s and 1860s operations of the Company around the Borehole Seam where most mining activity at the time was focussed. The house has a unique capacity to bring to life the working and living conditions of the Company's staff. The necessity for a mine manager's residence adjacent to the new D Pit, three miles from the Company's other operations, its construction partly from local materials, and its design as a semi-self-sufficient Company man's outpost illustrates the isolated situation of D Pit and its workers and managers at the time. The compact but solid and slightly ornate design of the house demonstrates the hierarchical structure of the Company's mining operations, being a statement of authority and comparative luxury over the miners in their dirt-floored slab huts.

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- Criteria b)** A.A. House is of significance to NSW through its strong and special association with the Australian Agricultural Company, which is significant in the course of NSW's history due to its pioneering work in the development of a private coal mining industry. The house has a unique capacity to bring to life the working and living conditions of the Company's senior staff, and has a particularly strong association with James Lindsay, Robert Whytte and James Baron Winship, senior Company staff who resided in the house, and the Little family, which provided two generations of engineers to the Company. The house is associated with the work of these men as well as with their family life. Through the survival of some of the furnishings and wall and floor coverings the house can demonstrate the tastes of these men and their families. A. A. House is unique in this respect, being the only surviving staff residence associated with the Company's mid-nineteenth century operations in Newcastle.
- Criteria c)** The house is highly evocative of a simple pre-Victorian building (with later additions), its overall form and surviving details of its fabric, fittings and finishes giving a rich sensory experience of a nineteenth century dwelling. This aesthetic distinctiveness is significant at a local level, and enhances the historic and associative State significance of the house.
- Criteria d)** The house has social significance for the local area, being highly valued by people in Newcastle as evidenced by its acquisition by Newcastle City Council on behalf of the people of the City. It is also well visited on open days routinely receiving in excess of 200 people per day when open.
- Criteria e)** The house has the potential to yield information of high significance to Newcastle relating to the use of the house by the early employees of the Australian Agricultural Company. There is potential for deposits of archaeological material dating back to the mid 19th century of cultural and domestic material existing in subfloor cavities and in the yards outside, as well as material that may relate to the workings of one of the AA Company's most successful collieries (the D Pit, also called the Borehole Pit). The research potential of the building and site is enhanced by moveable and documentary material which was found on site in the 1990s and have been relocated to Newcastle Regional Museum.
- Criteria f)** A. A. House has rarity value at a State level as it is the only known staff residence associated with the Company's nineteenth century coal mining operations.
- Criteria g)**

Integrity / Intactness: The house has a high level of integrity. Most of the 1848 fabric remains. The later additions were achieved without the destruction of the original fabric, and the fabric of these later additions is also substantially intact. Even some original or early wall and floor coverings are present. The house is in a delicate condition, with much past damp damage, termite damage and the like. However, the current and ongoing conservation program has stabilised the condition of the house and Council is closely monitoring its condition.

References:	Author	Title	Year
		Newcastle Archaeological Management Plan	1997
		City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History	2007
	Campbell, David	Reproduced in Conservation Management Plan Sutlers Architects, Former AA Co. Mine Manager's Residence, 2000, Sutlers Architects	1993

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State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number
2170026
Study Number
Part of the

Item Name: **Signalman's Cottage**

Location: **12 Laman Street, Cooks Hill [Newcastle City]**

Address: 12 Laman Street

DUAP Region: Hunter & Central Coast

Suburb / Nearest Town: Cooks Hill 2300

Historic region: Lower Hunter

Local Govt Area: Newcastle City

Parish:

State: NSW

County:

Other/Former Names:

Area/Group/Complex: Australian Agricultural Company

Group ID:

Aboriginal Area:

Curtilage/Boundary: The recommended curtilage is a reduced curtilage based on Lot 11 DP 150135. The eastern and northern boundaries follow the lot boundaries with Civic Park, while the western boundary follows the lot boundary also, but disincludes the driveway access to Auckland Street. See image no. 7 for sketch.

Item Type: Built

Group: Transport - Rail

Category: Railway Residence/Qu

Owner: Religious Organisation

Admin Codes: LEP

Code 2:

Code 3:

Current Use:

Former Uses:

Assessed Significance: State

Endorsed Significance:

Statement of Significance: Signalman's Cottage is a significant element in the Australian Agricultural Company Newcastle coal mining group. It provides evidence of the transport network associated with the Company's coal mining activities, demonstrating the central role of private railways in providing transport for coal, from the collieries to the Hunter River, in nineteenth century Newcastle. The cottage also provides evidence of the co-operation of the Company with other mining interests following the end of its monopoly. The story of Signalman's Cottage and its relationship with the Burwood Coal & Copper Company Railway illustrates how the Company continued to dominate the coal industry across the decade following the end of its monopoly, through restricting access to the port facilities across its land, but eventually yielded and put systems in place for successful co-existence.

Historical Notes or Provenance: Signalman's cottage forms an important part of the story of the Australian Agricultural Company. With the bridge pier footing on Hunter Street, Signalman's Cottage illustrates the transport activities vital to the coal industry in Newcastle. The cottage also illustrates the continued strong role of the Company in the coal mining industry after the entry of other companies from the 1850s.

The coal reserves near the mouth of the Hunter River were first noticed in the late eighteenth century, and a penal settlement was established at 'Coal River' in the early years of the nineteenth century. Convict labour was used to exploit the estuary's coal, timber, salt

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Location: **12 Laman Street, Cooks Hill [Newcastle City]**

and lime resources. (City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History, pp. 1-2) The Australian Agricultural Company (hence: the Company), formed in London in 1824, entered the coal industry with the intention of exporting coal to India for use by the steamers of the East India Company. Steamships also began to appear on the coast of New South Wales from 1831, creating the first significant local commercial demand for coal. The Company secured a grant of 2,000 acres of coal bearing land near Newcastle, in 1829. At the same time it secured a form of market protection, which amounted to a near-monopoly on the supply of coal across the following decades. The arrival of the Company could be regarded as the most important event in the nineteenth century history of Newcastle, as it dominated the course of the area's history for much of the nineteenth century and had profound effects on the future development of Newcastle as a City. (City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History, p. 4; and Campbell, 1994, p. 7)

The entry of the Company into coal mining also transformed the coal mining industry in Australia. The Company was initially given control of the small scale government mines, but almost immediately began constructing its own colliery following more up to date mining practice in Britain. This first mine, known as 'A Pit' opened in 1831, and was the first modern and privately operated colliery in Australia. (City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History, p. 4; Docherty, 1983, p. 8) The Company subsequently extended its mining activities to the coal-bearing land to the south-west of Shepherds Hill. The 2nd and 3rd collieries, known as the B and C pits, were completed in 1837 and 1842, and the 'D', 'E' and 'G' Pits were established several miles to the west, in the present Hamilton area, in the late 1840s and 1850s. (Campbell, 1994, p. 8)

The Company was forced to relinquish its monopoly on coal mining in Newcastle in 1847. The pressure on the Government to allow other companies to exploit the coal resource in Newcastle had mounted over the previous years. The Company agreed to give up its privileged position in return for the right to sell its estates. A number of other large companies entered the scene from the early 1850s, including the Newcastle Wallsend; the Scottish Australian; the Waratah; and the New Lambton companies. Each of these entities operated in a fairly similar way to the A. A. Company, starting their operations by acquiring title to a suitable tract of land, then founding a settlement to attract a workforce. A ring of townships on the southern edge of the harbour resulted, each with its *raison d'être* in mining or coal based industry. The new townships included Merewether (mid-1830s), Hamilton (1849), Wallsend (1859), Lambton (1860), new Lambton (1868), and Adamstown (1870). (Docherty, 1983, p. 8; Newcastle Archaeological Management Plan, p. 19)

The development of private railways, side by side with the construction of the great Northern Railway between Newcastle and East Maitland (1854-1857), facilitated the transport of coal to the port, permitting the opening of new mines at Minmi, Wallsend, Lambton, and Waratah within a decade, thereby laying the foundations of Newcastle's key role in the Australian economy. All of these lines converged in the central Newcastle area, aiming for the Port. Although the monopoly of the Company had been relinquished, the Company still had a privileged position due to the location of its land in central Newcastle. The Government had been careful not to allow the Company to control all the land along the waterfront, but just enough for its own wharf operations. However, to reach the waterfront, other rail lines, belonging to the State and other companies needed to cross the A.A. Company's land. The Company resisted the construction of other lines. Several mines had been established in the

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area of Dr James Mitchell's Merewether estate (then known as the Burwood Estate). Each company had its own tramway which converged on a common point, still known as 'The Junction', on the southern boundary of the A A Company's estate. As early as 1847, Dr Mitchell applied to the A A Company for lease of a corridor of land to construct a railway through to the Hunter River. The Company replied that 'while they had no objection to lease the land, there must be a restriction against his taking coal along the proposed railway'. Coal, therefore had to be conveyed in drays between The Junction and the River. Mitchell applied to the Legislative Council in 1850, for the right to construct a coal-carrying railway across the Company's land, and this right was granted. The line connecting the Burwood Coal & Copper Company collieries with the River was completed in 1855. It proceeded toward the port along the western side of Bruce Street, along Glover's Lane and through a tunnel under Laman Street (the bridge parapet of which is still visible), across today's Civic Park and along Burwood Street to arrive at its destination on the waterfront. (City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History, p. 5; Swan, The Signalman's Cottage, n/p; Newcastle Archaeological Management Plan, p. 20)

The Burwood Coal & Copper Company Railway crossed the A A Company's line to its D Pit at Hamilton approximately in the centre of the present Civic Park. Initially, a kind of signal staff was erected at the crossing. Signalman's cottage is believed to have been constructed some time after the Newcastle Coal Mining Company took over the operation of the Burwood collieries in 1877. The cottage is visible on an 1889 engraving, and an 1896 map. The signalman co-ordinated the transport activities of the Burwood and A A Company's Hamilton lines, operating line points, signals and a boom gate which crossed Auckland Street. (Walker, St Andrews Church 1890-1990, 1990, p. 8; Swan, The Signalman's Cottage, n/p) The cottage symbolises the end of the A A Company's monopoly, as additional infrastructure the Company was required to provide to co-exist safely and successfully with others.

As the railway network developed, the Newcastle coalfield expanded both geographically and in terms of output. In 1850 the Australian Agricultural Company was the only large producer and total Newcastle output did not exceed 54,000 tons: by 1914 the 76 mines shipping through the port of Newcastle, including the new generation of South Maitland collieries, produced over seven million tons. About two thirds of this was consumed in the Australian colonies and the remainder was exported, mainly to Asian ports and to North and South America. (City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History, p. 6)

Signalman's Cottage is now located in the grounds of St Andrews Church, tucked into a corner of Civic Park alongside the church and its cluster of associated buildings. The cottage was purchased by the Church in 1922 as the church caretaker's cottage. Its demolition was mooted a number of times in the late 1950s, with the land to be incorporated into Civic Park. The cottage has been re-roofed and modernised by the church, and the caretaker continued to reside there until the 1990s. The building is now used as church offices. (Walker, St Andrews Church 1890-1990, 1990, p.8)

Themes:	National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
	3. Economy	Mining	AA Company
	3. Economy	Transport	railways

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Item Name: **Signalman's Cottage**

Location: **12 Laman Street, Cooks Hill [Newcastle City]**

Designer:

Maker / Builder:

Year Started:

Year Completed:

Circa: No

Physical Description: Signalman's Cottage is a fairly simple, single storey painted brick cottage with iron roof. The northern elevation is symmetrical, featuring a central entrance flanked by two timber framed double hung windows under a bullnosed verandah supported on ornamental timber columns. A projecting bay on the eastern side of the building features a castellated parapet decorated with rosettes. The multi hipped roofs are of a medium pitch with a valley to the centre of the roof. The eastern side of the roof is punctuated by a single chimney decorated with Italianate mouldings and terra cotta chimney pots. While much of the exterior fabric and detailing is intact, the interior retains little of its original finishing, detailing or atmosphere. Several of the fireplaces, for example, have been closed over.

Physical Condition: The building appears to be in sound physical condition.

Modification Dates:

**Recommended
Management:**

Management:

Further Comments:

Criteria a) Signalman's Cottage is of historical significance to the State as it has the capacity to articulate important aspects of the story of the Australian Agricultural Company and its coal mining operations in Newcastle. The Company's Newcastle coal mines were the first, modern, large scale mines in Australia and remained at the forefront of coal production in the country for much of the nineteenth century. Signalman's cottage provides evidence of the continued operation of the Company's collieries alongside those of other concerns, after the Company relinquished its monopoly on coal mining in Newcastle in the 1840s. Signalman's Cottage also demonstrates the activity of coal transport to the port facilities on the Hunter River, which was so vital to the industry, and the central role of private railways in providing transport for coal in Newcastle.

Criteria b) Signalman's Cottage is significant to the State through its association with the Australian Agricultural Company, and its ability to articulate aspects of the Company's coal mining operations in Newcastle. The Company was a big player in the NSW economy, and was able to use its considerable political clout to gain an effective monopoly on coal mining in Newcastle. The story of Signalman's Cottage and its relationship with the Burwood colliery line illustrates how the Company continued to dominate the coal industry across the decade following the end of its monopoly, through restricting access to the port facilities across its

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Item Name: **Signalman's Cottage**

Location: **12 Laman Street, Cooks Hill [Newcastle City]**

land, as well as the eventual accommodation of other mining companies once the Government had legislated in their favour.

Criteria c)

Criteria d)

Criteria e)

Criteria f)

Criteria g)

Integrity / Intactness: The exterior of the cottage is substantially intact. Although all the rail/tram lines and associated signals and the like have been covered or removed, the orientation of the cottage in relation to Civic Park, and the tunnel under Laman Street shows the historic relationship of the cottage to the railway lines.

References:	Author	Title	Year
		Newcastle Archaeological Management Plan	1997
		City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History	2007
	Campbell, David	Reproduced in Conservation Management Plan Sutlers Architects, Former AA Co. Mine Manager's Residence	2000
	Docherty, J, C	Newcastle. The Making of an Australian City	1983
	Swan, W. G.	The Signalman's Cottage	1997
	Walker, G. W.	St Andrews Presbyterian Church, 1890-1990, Laman Street Newcastle	1990

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Sue Rosen and Associates Heritage Assessment And History (HAAH)	Review of Items of Potential State Significance in the Newcastle City Area	Part of the AA Co coal mining group	2008
	Unknown	Newcastle Heritage Study	26	1990

Parcels:	Parcel Code	LotNumber	Section	Plan Code	Plan Number
	LOT	11		DP	150135

Latitude:

Longitude:

Location validity:

Spatial Accuracy:

Map Name:

Map Scale:

AMG Zone:

Easting:

Northing:

Listings:	Name:	Title:	Number:	Date:
	Local Environmental Plan			8/08/2003
	Public Works Department - Former register		000958	

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Item Name: **Signalman's Cottage**

Location: **12 Laman Street, Cooks Hill [Newcastle City]**

Heritage study

Custom Field One: 1860's

Custom Field Two:

Custom Field Three:

Custom Field Four: Conservation Area - CH

Custom Field Five:

Custom Field Six:

Data Entry: Date First Entered: 11/08/1998

Date Updated: 24/07/2008

Status: Basic

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Item Name: **Signalman's Cottage**

Location: **12 Laman Street, Cooks Hill [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Former Signalman's Cottage 12 Laman Street

Copyright:

Image by: Sharn Harrison

Image Date: 9/10/1997

Image Number: 1

Image Path:

Image File: 2170026b1.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t_2170026b1.jpg

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Item Name: **Signalman's Cottage**

Location: **12 Laman Street, Cooks Hill [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Close view of front of signalman's Cottage showing details of the verandah.

Copyright: Newcastle City Council

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 11/09/2007

Image Number: 2

Image Path:

Image File: 2170026b2.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170026t2.jpg

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Item Name: **Signalman's Cottage**

Location: **12 Laman Street, Cooks Hill [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Rear view of Signalman's Cottage taken from Laman Street and showing roof form.

Copyright: Newcastle City Council

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 11/09/2007

Image Number: 3

Image Path:

Image File: 2170026b3.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170026t3.jpg

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Item Name: **Signalman's Cottage**

Location: **12 Laman Street, Cooks Hill [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: View of Signalman's Cottage from Laman Street showing the brick parapet in foreground associated with tunnel of Burwood coal line under Laman Street

Copyright: Newcastle City Council

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 11/09/2007

Image Number: 4

Image Path:

Image File: 2170026b4.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170026t4.jpg

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Item Name: **Signalman's Cottage**

Location: **12 Laman Street, Cooks Hill [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Undated photo of Signalman's Cottage, probably when used as caretaker's residence by St Andrews, note hills hoist at right of picture. (Hunter Photobank)

Copyright:

Image by:

Image Date:

Image Number: 5

Image Path:

Image File: 2170026b5.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170026t5.jpg

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Location: **12 Laman Street, Cooks Hill [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Approximate location of cottage, Burwood line runs top-bottom, and AA Hamilton line I-r, from 'Cadastral map of Newcastle, N.S.W., also showing locations of Australian Agricultural Company's coal pits', 1850-1857 (NLA: Map 51 from Ferguson Collection)

Copyright: National Library of Australia

Image by:

Image Date: 31/12/1857

Image Number: 6

Image Path:

Image File: 2170026b6.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170026t6.jpg

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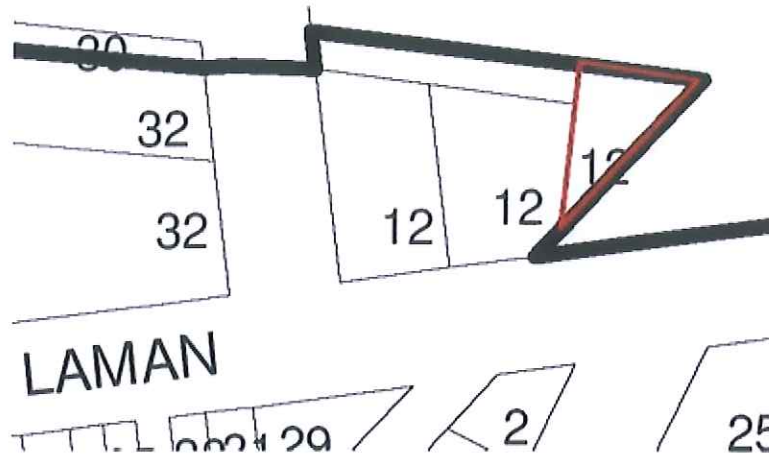
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Item Name: **Signalman's Cottage**

Location: **12 Laman Street, Cooks Hill [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Recommended curtilage for Signalman's Cottage shown in red, using Newcastle City Council cadastral map with street numbers

Copyright:

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 21/05/2008

Image Number: 7

Image Path:

Image File: 2170026b7.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170026t7.jpg

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Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2173981

Study Number

Part of the

Item Name: **St Ronans**

Location: **18 Bingle Street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

Address: 18 Bingle Street
Suburb / Nearest Town: The Hill 2300
Local Govt Area: Newcastle City
State: NSW

DUAP Region: Hunter & Central Coast
Historic region: Lower Hunter
Parish:
County:

Other/Former Names:

Area/Group/Complex: Australian Agricultural Company

Group ID:

Aboriginal Area:

Curtilage/Boundary: The recommended curtilage follows the property boundary.

Item Type: Built **Group:** Residential buildings **Category:** House

Owner: Private - Individual

Admin Codes: **Code 2:** **Code 3:**

Current Use:

Former Uses:

Assessed Significance: State

Endorsed Significance:

Statement of Significance: St Ronans makes an important contribution to the State significance of the Australian Agricultural Company Newcastle coal mining group as the Company's earliest surviving colliery building. St Ronans provides evidence of the Company's second generation of collieries in Newcastle, the B and C Pits, and is also associated with the Company's strategic subdivision and sale of land no longer useful for mining purposes. Thus St Ronans helps to demonstrate the pattern which characterised the Company's operations in Newcastle. St Ronans has the potential to yield further information on the scale and nature of the Company's mining operations in Newcastle. It is also considered that St Ronans has social significance for the local area.

Historical Notes or Provenance: St Ronans forms an important part of the story of the Australian Agricultural Company. The oldest section of the building is thought to have been constructed to house the engines and boilers associated with the Company's 'C Pit', which opened in 1842, making it the earliest extant colliery building in Australia. St Ronans is also strongly associated with the land disposal activities of the Company, which played a key role in the shape of Newcastle from the 1850s.

The coal reserves near the mouth of the Hunter River were first noticed in the late eighteenth century, and a penal settlement was established at 'Coal River' in the early years of the nineteenth century, being aborted after six months in 1801, but re-established in 1804. Convict labour was used to exploit the estuary's coal, timber, salt and lime resources. The extraction of coal in this first stage of mining at Newcastle was very primitive, with efficiency hamstrung by the shortage of experienced miners, and resources. For instance, in 1801 only three trained miners were employed, and this situation hardly improved over the following

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decade with only eight miners among a population of one thousand in 1811. Coal was raised by windlass in 1817, when a horse gin was requested, but the windlass was still in use seven years later. Similarly, pumps for draining the mines were repeatedly requested, but in 1824 the miners were still using buckets. Government priorities clearly lay elsewhere. (City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History, pp. 1-2; Newcastle Archaeological Management Plan, pp. 13-14; Turner, 1982, p. 18)

The Australian Agricultural Company (hence: the Company), formed in London in 1824, entered the coal industry with the intention of exporting coal to India for use by the steamers of the East India Company. Steamships also began to appear on the coast of New South Wales from 1831, creating the first significant local commercial demand for coal. The Company secured a grant of 2,000 acres of coal bearing land near Newcastle, in 1829. At the same time it secured a form of market protection, which amounted to a near-monopoly on the supply of coal across the following decades. The arrival of the Company could be regarded as the most important event in the nineteenth century history of Newcastle, as it dominated the course of the area's history for much of the nineteenth century and had profound effects on the future development of Newcastle as a City. (City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History, p. 4; and Campbell, 1994, p. 7)

The entry of the Company into coal mining also transformed the coal mining industry in Australia. The Company was initially given control of the small scale government mines, but almost immediately began constructing its own colliery following more up to date mining practice in Britain. This first mine, known as 'A Pit' opened in 1831, and was the first modern and privately operated colliery in Australia. (City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History, p. 4; Docherty, 1983, p. 8) The Company subsequently extended its mining activities to the coal-bearing land to the south-west of Shepherds Hill. The 2nd and 3rd collieries, known as the 'B' and 'C' pits, were completed in 1837 and 1842. In both the A and B Pits the workforce was mainly convict labourers and convict miners, while the shaft of the C Pit was sunk using wholly convict labour. (Campbell, 1994, p. 7)

Adjacent to the shaft entrance of C Pit, a brick engine house was erected to accommodate a steam-powered engine and the boiler. This engine house was later converted into a residence, St Ronans. Although it was thought for some time that a storeroom and mine managers quarters were constructed above the engine room during the mine's period of operation, this now seems unlikely. It is more likely that these facilities were located in a separate, neighbouring building, which is thought to have been demolished in the 1950s. The coal from C Pit was delivered to the Harbour facilities by the same means as that from the A and B pits, using a self-acting tramway. The tramway from C Pit joined with that of B Pit. The C Pit worked what was known as the 'Yard Seam' for a decade until 1852, when the 'Dirty Seam' was opened up. Over the next two years, four or five acres of this seam were worked, but the coal from this seam was of inferior quality. This contributed to the Company's decision to abandon the C Pit in 1854. Both equipment and personnel were transferred to the D and E Pits, exploiting the Borehole Seam near Cameron's Hill, Hamilton, to the west of Newcastle centre, which was discovered in 1848. (Compass Planning, 2006, pp. 4-5, 11)

Up to the 1850s, the Company did not have the right to alienate any of its land, even when it was no longer useful for mining. The development of central Newcastle as a town was thus

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Item Name: **St Ronans**

Location: **18 Bingle Street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

restricted to the land east of Brown Street, but with a tiny population, this was not at first a significant problem. Coal mining was Newcastle's main pursuit for the duration of the first half of the nineteenth century. In the mid-1850s, Newcastle was still a mere village, the home of about 1,500 people of whom some one fifth were coal miners. (City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History, pp. 4-5, 27) From the 1850s however, the Company began to sell land, and its land sales policy dominated the development of the central business district. The Company began to plan its first land sale in 1853. St Ronan's is doubly associated with these activities, as it was sold by the Company as part of its disposals policy, and it was purchased by George Darby, the Company's pioneer surveyor, who had been appointed in 1853 to lay out town allotments in the Cooks Hill area of the Company's Newcastle Estate. Darby converted the engine house into a residence for his family. The Company's first public auction in 1854 was very successful, the ready buyers showing that Newcastle was beginning to attract more residents and businesses not directly associated with coal mining. There were sales to miners and other A.A. Company employees on both sides of Darby Street, the area's main thoroughfare, named after George Darby. Along Blane Street, however, (later Hunter Street west), the lots were bought at higher prices (about 50%) by businessmen including butchers, shoemakers and publicans. This tended to become the pattern of future sales but Darby Street was also favoured by hoteliers and Blane Street contained a high proportion of residences, albeit some were combined commercial-residential premises. (City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History, p. 27; Compass Planning, 2006, p. 7)

Darby used the engine house as a dwelling, added rooms to the structure and planted an orchard in the grounds. Darby still owned the house in the early 1860s but by 1868 it had been acquired by Charles Boscawen Ranclaud. Ranclaud was the second son of Captain James St. John Ranclaud, one of the earliest European settlers in the Lake Macquarie district with land grants at Teralba. Ranclaud was well-known in Newcastle's commercial and business circles. The 1888 Aldine Centennial History of New South Wales noted that 'no name is better known in the district than that of Mr Ranclaud, and none more respected'. Ranclaud added the wooden gabled section to the dwelling and by 1880 the house comprised of 12 rooms. He also built a windmill over the old 'C' Pit's abandoned shaft nearby the house. Used by local residents as a water well, the well acquired the name of St Ronan's after Walter Scott's, 'St Ronan's Well', a nineteenth century English novel based on the fictional spa town of the same name. The name was extended to the house. Ranclaud resided at St Ronan's into the 1890s before moving to Sydney where he died in 1901. (Compass Planning, 2006, p. 7) After Ranclaud's departure, St Ronan's was leased to tenants and continued to be so occupied until it was acquired by Oscar W. Gillam in the early 1900s. It would appear that Gillam operated St Ronan's as a boarding house and tried to change the name of the residence to 'Alloa' after filling in the well but he was unsuccessful as neighbours continued to refer to the house as St Ronan's. (Campbell, 1995)

St Ronan's featured in a 1929 Newcastle City Council's commemorative publication which claimed St Ronan's was the oldest house on The Hill still in use as a residence and provided a description of the house's original section:

The walls are of brick, over 3ft. thick. The nails used were hand-made, square in shape and very strong. Doors, skirtings, stair cases, etc., are of cedar and most of the heavy timber is bloodwood. The plaster is mixed with horsehair and is 2in. thick. (W.F. Morrisson, 1888)

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Item Name: **St Ronans**

Location: **18 Bingle Street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

Following Gillam's death in the mid 1940s the property continued to be used for residential purposes although it changed hands several times and had been converted into flats.

A number of other former collieries in NSW retain complexes of colliery buildings, and therefore present much more readily accessible information on their technological characteristics and atmosphere as a workplace among other things. For example, the Metropolitan Colliery at Wollongong retains surface features including machinery, office and bath buildings, tunnel opening, and porter and winder house. Similarly the Richmond Main Colliery System at Kurri Kurri retains a complex of above surface structures including its power house, cooling towers and main shaft buildings. However, these collieries represent mining activities of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century respectively. St Ronans retains its significance as part of the A A group in the face of this comparison, as this significance rests on its foundational place in the history of coal mining in NSW and its strong and special association to the A A Company, an extremely important entity in the economic development of NSW in the mid to late nineteenth century.

Themes:	National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
	3. Economy	Industry	Industrial technology
	3. Economy	Mining	coal mining
	4. Settlement	Accommodation (Housing)	Housing (inner city)
	9. Phases of Life	Persons	prominent individuals

Designer:

Maker / Builder: Australian Agricultural Company

Year Started: 1842 **Year Completed:** 1888 **Circa:** Yes

Physical Description: A modest residence, it comprises a seemingly ad hoc collection of additions and alterations around a central pavilion, with basement, main floor and attic within different sections of the building, the main floor level being well below street level. It is constructed of rendered masonry and timber weatherboards. The main roof is in corrugated iron or colorbond, with some sections in corrugated asbestos. The building includes details typical of the late Georgian and early Victorian eras including steeply pitched roof, ashlar coursing to the walls and symmetrical arrangement of openings.

The two rooms on the north west corner at the lower and main floor levels comprises the original engine house, the pit itself having been located directly to its north in the adjacent lot. There is evidence in the render of where various attached structures once existed, and much of the winding house fabric remains behind later fabric. The winding house's massive brick chimney remains intact inside the house.

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The garage is a modern adaptation of an earlier structure. A low stone wall along the street boundary is relatively modern. The garden is landscaped with various mature trees and shrubs, including some very old and tall palms.

Physical Condition: Appears to be in reasonable condition, although most original fabric is covered over by more recent finishes and materials.

Modification Dates: In 1854 the colliery equipment was removed from the building. Shortly afterwards, the structure was converted into a residence, and probably extended.

Recommended Management:

Management:

Further Comments: Please note that the stability of the upper parts of the cottage was under investigation at the time of this review, and it was not possible to gain access to the interior and rear of the building for the purpose of obtaining up to date photographs of the fabric associated with the A A Company's mining operations.

Criteria a) St Ronans contributes to the State significance of the Australian Agricultural Company Newcastle coal mining group as the Company's earliest surviving colliery building. As the engine and boiler house for the Company's C Pit, St Ronans provides evidence of the Company's second generation of collieries in Newcastle, the B and C Pits, demonstrating the pattern which characterised these mining operations in Newcastle - exploration, exploitation whilst viable, and moving on, taking equipment and personnel to the next site. St Ronans' subsequent modification and use as a residence demonstrates the following phase of the Company's activities, the strategic subdivision and sale of land no longer useful for mining purposes, an activity that has a high level of local significance as it helped to shape and form the character of Newcastle.

Criteria b) St Ronans is significant to the State through its association with the Australian Agricultural Company, a major force in the NSW economy in the nineteenth century. As a colliery building associated with the Company's C Pit and then residence of the Company's surveyor, St Ronans, with the other items in the group, demonstrates the pattern of the Company's activities in Newcastle.

Criteria c)

Criteria d) It is likely that further research would indicate that St Ronans has social significance locally. The persistence of the affectionate title for the property 'St Ronans' demonstrates that this modest building has remained a local historical landmark beyond its period of association with the Company. The well on the property provided water to the local community at The Hill for many years, and the house functioned as a boarding house for much of the twentieth century.

Criteria e) St Ronans has the potential to yield further information on the scale and nature of the Company's mining operations in Newcastle. The building provides evidence of construction techniques from the early-mid 19th century and the site is likely to retain archaeological evidence of early occupation and use.

Criteria f)

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Criteria f) St Ronans has rarity value for NSW as a colliery building surviving from the mid nineteenth century.

Criteria g)

Integrity / Intactness: St Ronans has been much modified since the construction of its lower portion as the engine and boiler house of C Pit. The engines and other equipment have been removed; the building has been extended and adapted as a residence; and the context of the building has changed, with the site of C Pit obscured, and all other associated colliery structures demolished. Nevertheless, the site, the surviving fabric and its history demonstrate significant aspects of the AA Company's operations in Newcastle.

References:	Author	Title	Year
		City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History	2007
		Newcastle Archaeological Management Plan	1997
		Newcastle Sun, 10 July, 1953.	
		Newcastle Morning Herald, 21 May, 1901.	
		Newcastle Herald, 29 May, 2004.	
		Newcastle City Council Rate and Assessment Books	
	A.B.Williams	'The Passing of St Ronan's', Newcastle and Hunter District Historical Society Journal, Vol. I, Part IV, p. 43.	
	Compass Planning	Statement of Heritage Impact: 14 Bingle Street, The Hill	2006
	David Campbell	Australian Agricultural Company Nineteenth Century Structures in Newcastle, unpublished manuscript, August, 1995.	1995
	Docherty, J. C.	Newcastle. The Making of an Australian City	1983
	Suters Architects	Former AA Co. Mine Manager's Residence, CMP	2000
	Turner, J.W.	Coal Mining in Newcastle 1801-1900	1982
	W.F. Morrison,	The Aldine Centennial History of New South Wales Illustrated.	1888
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Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Sue Rosen and Associates Heritage Assessment And History (HAAH)	Review of Items of Potential State Significance in the Newcastle City Area	Part of the AA Co coal mining group	2008
	Ecotecture Pty Ltd	Review of Potential Heritage Items for NLEP		2003

Parcels:	Parcel Code	LotNumber	Section	Plan Code	Plan Number
		B		DP	420523

Latitude:

Longitude:

Location validity:

Spatial Accuracy:

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Item Name: **St Ronans**

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Map Name:

Map Scale:

AMG Zone:

Easting:

Northing:

Listings:

Name:

Title:

Number:

Date:

Heritage study

Custom Field One:

Custom Field Two:

Custom Field Three:

Custom Field Four:

Custom Field Five:

Custom Field Six:

Data Entry:

Date First Entered: 17/08/2004

Date Updated: 24/07/2008

Status: Partial

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Item Name: **St Ronans**

Location: **18 Bingle Street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: View of St Ronans from Bingle Street.

Copyright:

Image by: unknown

Image Date:

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2173981b1.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t_2173981.jpg

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Item Name: **St Ronans**

Location: **18 Bingle Street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Side view of upper section of St Ronans

Copyright:

Image by: unknown

Image Date:

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2173981b2.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t2_2173981.jpg

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Location: **18 Bingle Street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Close view of C Pit and the tram/rail line leading from C Pit to the port facilities, from 'Cadastral map of Newcastle, N.S.W., also showing locations of Australian Agricultural Company's coal pits', 1850-1857 (NLA: Map 51 from Ferguson Collection)

Copyright: National Library of Australia

Image by:

Image Date: 31/12/1857

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2173981b3.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2173981t3.jpg

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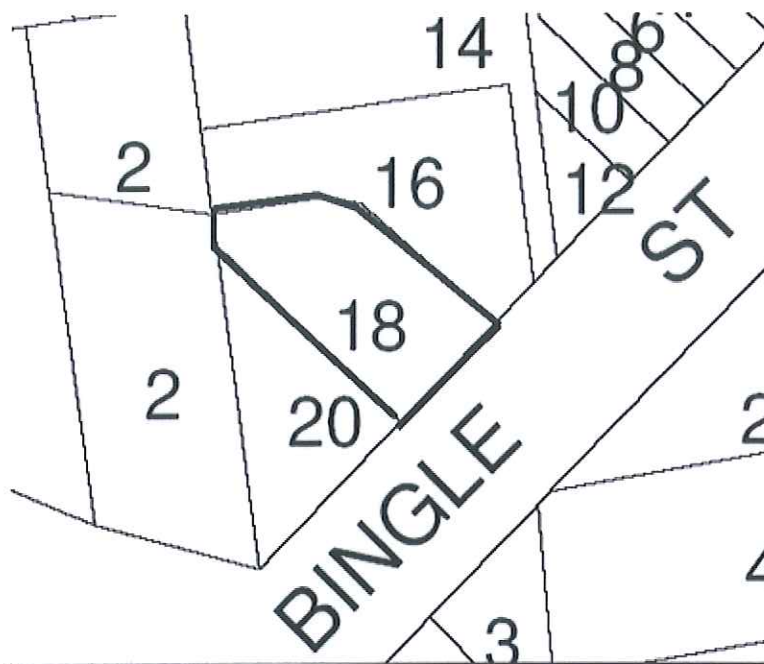
Study Number

Part of the

Item Name: **St Ronans**

Location: **18 Bingle Street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Recommended curtilage, using Newcastle City Council cadastral maps with house numbers.

Copyright:

Image by:

Image Date:

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2173981b4.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2173981t4.jpg

Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

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Study Number

219

Item Name: **Air Force Club (Wood Chambers)**

Location: **129 Scott Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Address: 129 Scott Street
Suburb / Nearest Town: Newcastle 2300
Local Govt Area: Newcastle City
State: NSW

DUAP Region: Hunter & Central Coast
Historic region: Lower Hunter
Parish: Newcastle
County: Northumberland

Other/Former Names: Woods Chambers, Longworth Institute

Area/Group/Complex: **Group ID:**

Aboriginal Area: Awabakal

Curtilage/Boundary: Follows property boundary of Lot 100 DP 1036238

Item Type: Built **Group:** Community Facilities **Category:** Exhibition Building

Owner: Private - Individual

Admin Codes: LEP **Code 2:** **Code 3:**

Current Use: Vacant

Former Uses: Offices, Art Gallery, Servicemen's Club

Assessed Significance: State

Endorsed Significance:

Statement of Significance: The Air Force Club is of outstanding aesthetic significance at a state and possibly national level as the finest example of the Anglo Dutch style of architecture, designed by Frederick Menkens, one of the key practitioners of the style in Newcastle and an architect of national importance. It is one of few examples of this style remaining in Australia and its modest scale, yet elaborate detailing, including the Baroque ornamentation of the monumental parapet and oriel windows, which recall Menkens' hanseatic influences, add to its rarity and aesthetic appeal. The building also has a high degree of historical significance as it is associated with a number of key phases in Newcastle's commercial, social and cultural history, represented in its role as commercial premises built in the era of mercantile prosperity of the early 1890s; then as a centre for cultural pursuits associated with Newcastle's emergence as a prosperous, cosmopolitan city in the 1920s; and particularly its role as a recreational facility for servicemen during World War 2. The Air Force Club was also part of a significant phase in the architectural history of Newcastle, and is one of a number of buildings commissioned by commercial clients and designed by newly emerging private architects which helped to shape the character of much of Newcastle's commercial architecture. The building makes a distinctive contribution to the Newcastle CBD and to the architectural heritage of the state and nation. Its role as a servicemen's club during World War 2 also links it to a key phase in Newcastle's, NSW's and Australia's social history and articulates an important aspect of life associated with the War on the homefront.

Historical Notes or Provenance: The building was designed by leading Newcastle architect, Frederick Menkens in 1892 and was originally called Woods Chambers. It was built as offices and auction premises for Joseph Wood, who was a successful wealthy businessman as a wholesale wine and spirit merchant and brewer and a leading identity in his own right. (Maitland & Stafford, 1997, p 89)

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Item Name: **Air Force Club (Wood Chambers)**

Location: **129 Scott Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Frederick Burnhardt Menkens was born at Varel, Oldenburg in Germany in 1855. He began training in practical building craft at the age of 13 and later attended the Royal Polytechnicum in Hanover, graduating with a Diploma in Architecture in 1876. He toured Europe in 1877, studying architecture but left Europe because of developments following the Franco-Prussian war, emigrating to Adelaide in 1878. After a few months in the Colonial Architect's Office, he moved to Melbourne, but being unable to find work, he travelled through Victoria and Tasmania, working as a tradesman before establishing an architectural practice in Maitland in 1881, then at Newcastle in 1882. He soon became established and carried out several important works for prominent citizens such as Bishop Murray. As well as a number of churches, he designed five warehouses and many other commercial premises in Newcastle City. His creative life could be divided into two periods - the decorative period of his early years, 1884 to 1895 and the commercial or transitional period from 1896 to 1907. Among his works were: the Deaf and Dumb Institute, Waratah; Mechanics Institute, Hamilton; Earp Gillam Bond Store, Newcastle; St Andrews Presbyterian Church and Baptist Tabernacle, Cooks Hill; Dangar's Warehouse and Hotel and Dangar's Commercial Chambers; Frederick Ash Warehouse; Keightley Residence, Terrace Street; and The Boltons, off Church Street. In 1891 Menkens won a competition for the building of a new Town Hall in Newcastle, but later disagreements ended the scheme. Menkens combined a thorough understanding of architecture with a practical knowledge of the building trades. His work is notable for the use of ornament and colour, versatility in the use of architectural styles and thoroughness of workmanship. He was a well known, colourful and respected personality of his day - a highly principled man, who spent a year in a debtors' prison in 1895-1896 for refusing to pay damages to a sub-contractor he had accused of dishonest work. In 1907 he took F. G. Castleden into partnership and revisited Germany in 1908, returning to live in Sydney at his newly built house at Randwick. He died in 1910, aged 55. (Reedman, ADB Online, 2006 - Menkens; Maitland & Stafford, 1997, p 15; Newcastle Library, 'Frederick Burnhardt Menkens' Typescript, n.d.; Suters, 'Menkens' Centenary Exhibition Catalogue', 1978, n.p.)

Menkens' work is characterised by his love of dramatic gabled elements, which recall the elaborately gabled buildings of the Netherlands and Northern Germany where he grew up. However, it is difficult to separate such influences from the general stylistic trends of the times, in which extravagant gables and pediments were features of the architectural vocabulary of the 1880s, while the Queen Anne Revival consciously drew on the architectural traditions of the Low Countries and was generally popular in Australia at the time. This style, which flourished just before the economic collapse of 1892, was labelled the 'Federation Anglo Dutch' style. A basically simple, elegant architecture of fine brickwork, with lively Dutch gables on the skyline and some light touches of Renaissance detailing, it emanated from a reaction in Britain in the 1870s against academic Classical and Gothic styles. It is essentially modest in scale, with Classical themes re-interpreted with originality and wit. It was used predominantly for commercial and institutional buildings of modest size. Exteriors are characterised by symmetry, though this is not essential; red-brick, often with stone or rendered trim; elaborate and picturesque treatment of parapet gables. There are relatively few surviving examples of the style in Australia, many having been replaced by taller structures. The Woods Chambers (Air Force Club), built in 1892, is Menkens' masterpiece of this type of architecture and an outstanding example of the style generally. Menkens went on to design a domestic version for Joseph Wood in Waratah. The Air Force

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Club's elegant small scale is also unusual as other surviving examples in Australia tend to be on a much larger scale - for example, Commercial Building in Rundle Street, Adelaide, Former Town Hall, Brisbane, Railway Institute, Sydney and Maryborough Railway Station, Victoria (Maitland & Stafford, 1997, pp. 13-14, 89; Apperley, Irving & Reynolds, 1989, pp 112-115).

The period in which the Anglo Dutch style flourished was particularly important for Newcastle. Many of the city's most significant architectural works date from the 1880s and 1890s and formed the essential character of the city centre and much of the inner suburbs. The period also represented the predominance of commercial clients who gave their commissions to a new group of private architectural practitioners, thus breaking the hegemony of the Colonial (later Government) Architect's Office. Menkens was foremost amongst this new breed of architects. His contemporaries included James Henderson, Peter Bennett and Ernest Yeomans. The commercial street buildings and emporia designed by these architects - including Menkens' Stegge's Emporium - were highly significant in forming the scale and character of the retail streets of the city. Yeomans' Trades Hall building is perhaps closest in design to Woods Chambers, though the latter highlights Menkens' sculptural exuberance, compared to the somewhat stiffer Yeomans design. (Maitland & Stafford, 1997, pp12-14)

Menkens himself had his offices on the first floor of the Woods Chambers building from 1893 to 1907, testament to his regard for this particular work, perhaps. It subsequently became the Longworth Institute following its purchase by the Longworth family. William and Thomas Longworth were mine managers and industrial entrepreneurs. The large auction room at the rear of the ground floor was suitable for an art gallery and recital hall. During the Longworth era it was used as a place of learning with a library, gallery and music recitals. In 1928 William Longworth donated the building to the Australasian Society of Patriots to be used as a lecture hall, museum, art gallery and herbarium and was commonly referred to as the Empire Club. (Maitland & Stafford, 1997, p 89; Atchison, ADB Online, 2006 - William Longworth; Moore & Ostwald, 1997, p 164)

The Australasian Society of Patriots, of whom Longworth was a member, was formed in 1918 following a split from the Australian Natives Association in Newcastle. The latter was a mutual society, founded in Melbourne in 1871, with membership open to Australian-born men at a time when native-born people of European descent were rising to power in place of an older generation born in Britain. The Association played a key role in the movement for Australian federation. The Australasian Society of Patriots met regularly in Inglis Chambers, King Street Newcastle prior to Longworth's donation of the Woods Chambers building. As well as donating and renovating the building, Longworth gave the Society a valuable collection of drawings of bird life by Australian artist, Neville Caley as well as a history of early Australia and other valuable books. (Newcastle Regional Library, Local Studies Collection: Newspaper Cuttings File - Newcastle - Buildings - Longworth Institute, 'The Australian Society of Patriots and the Longworth Institute'; http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australian_Natives_Association)

During World War 2 the building became home to the Air Force Club and a canteen was established, providing food and recreation, including dancing and female companionship for Australian and American servicemen. It was organised by a committee of women, who

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volunteered their services for the war effort. The Servicemen's Canteen became the most popular venue in wartime Newcastle for dancing. The Club featured in Dymphna Cusack's novel, 'Southern Steel', though it was not so sympathetically described by Cusack, who wrote of its 'incessant noise and false heartiness.' (Moore & Ostwald, 1997, p 164).

After remaining vacant and in disrepair for many years, the building was restored by Suters Architects in the late 1990s for then owner, entrepreneur Paul McCloskey. A gallery and cafe / restaurant was planned for the ground floor, with a commercial tenancy above. During the course of the work, removal of a plaster wall revealed Menkens' original first floor office wall of intricately grooved timber topped by stained-glass panels, which had remained hidden for years. Restoration work included reinstating an internal cedar staircase and original western entry door. The offices include restored fireplaces, original polished floorboards, 4.5 metre ceilings with restored Kauri Pine ceilings and Australian Cedar cornices. Glass roofing installed along the length of the building filled it with natural light and highlighted the original woodwork. While the newly restored building was officially re-opened in November 1999 by NSW Deputy Premier, Dr Andrew Refshauge, it is currently empty. (Architecture Australia, 2000: <http://www.archmedia.com.au/aa>; Newcastle Regional Library, Local Studies Collection: Newspaper Cuttings File - 'Newcastle - Buildings - Longworth Institute').

Themes:	National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
	3. Economy	Commerce	(none)
	6. Educating	Education	Education
	8. Culture	Creative endeavour (Cultur	(none)
	8. Culture	Social institutions	social institutions
	9. Phases of Life	Persons	(none)

Designer: Frederick Menkens

Maker / Builder:

Year Started: 1892 Year Completed: 1892 Circa: No

Physical Description: An Anglo Dutch style building with a street facade of red pressed bricks substantially ornamented with stone and plaster details. Notable features include the sculpted heads decorating the keystones over the five arches at street level, including Hercules and Atlas. Two of these keystones support the projecting oriel windows, above which an elaborately decorated gable, reminiscent of the architecture of Menkens' north German homeland, contains the figure Commerce. The two outermost bays of the facade differ slightly in scale and this difference has been handled cleverly and subtly (Maitland & Stafford, 1997, p 89). Internally, the building is in two parts with a large gallery space at the rear and offices over 2 levels at the street end. Restoration work in the late 1990s restored many of the original interior features, including floors, staircase, fireplaces, windows and doors, and rediscovered

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Menkens' office wall - timber panelled with leadlight above.

Physical Condition: Appears to be in sound condition following conservation treatment in the mid 1990s.

Modification Dates: Late 1920s - renovations undertaken by William Longworth when he donated the building to the Australasian Society of Patriots.

Late 1990s - major renovations and restoration; adaptation for use as restaurant / cafe & gallery on ground floor & offices above.

Recommended Management:

Management:

Further Comments:

Criteria a) The Air Force Club building is associated with a number of significant phases in Newcastle's and NSW's commercial, social and cultural history. Built as commercial premises, it reflects the affluence and emergence of the mercantile class in the city during the late nineteenth century as Newcastle developed as a major commercial centre in the region, state and nation. It reflects the prosperity and ostentation exhibited in several commercial properties built at the time, just before the economic collapse of the late 1890s. The building is also representative of a significant phase in Newcastle's architectural history, when a new breed of private architects, including Menkens, designing works for commercial clients broke the hegemony of the Government Architect in designing significant works and had an important influence in shaping the character of Newcastle's CBD. The building's subsequent use by the Longworth Institute, Australasian Society of Patriots and Air Force Club reflects significant social and cultural activities associated with Newcastle's maturation as an urban centre, particularly during the 1920s, as a cultural centre; and during World War 2 as one of the main recreational venues in Newcastle for servicemen. The latter role reflected a scenario played out across the nation at the time, when local and visiting servicemen spent their leisure time on leave at dance halls and servicemen's clubs.

Criteria b) The Air Force Club is associated with a number of key figures in Newcastle's and NSW's history, including Joseph Wood and the Longworth family, significant players in the commercial, industrial and cultural life of Newcastle and the state. Most significant, however, is the association with architect, Frederick Menkens, one of Newcastle's and Australia's most accomplished and influential architects. His mastery of the Anglo Dutch style had a profound influence on shaping much of Newcastle's architectural character and he created a legacy of several works of significance to the state as whole. Menkens' association with the building is also physically embodied in its surviving physical fabric, with an original wall to his office uncovered during recent restoration work.

Criteria c) The building is of outstanding aesthetic significance as it is regarded as the best example of Menkens' work in the Anglo Dutch style and one of the most outstanding buildings in the city of Newcastle. While not the largest of Menkens' many buildings, it is the most Baroque and best loved of his works. Making a stunning and distinctive contribution to the streetscape it is distinctive in Newcastle and in NSW. The rather modest scale of the Air Force Club

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contributes to its aesthetic appeal and uniqueness in comparison with other surviving examples of the style in Newcastle and Australia, generally. Restoration works carried out in the 1990s revived many of the building's features, particularly its internal fabric, including Menkens' timber panelled and leadlight office wall, thereby enhancing its aesthetic significance.

- Criteria d)** While this aspect has not been researched within the scope of this study, it would seem that the building has been a much-loved feature of the city and has played a significant role in the cultural and social life of Newcastle, particularly during the 1920s as a cultural centre and during World War 2 as a recreational facility for local and visiting servicemen. It is likely to hold a special place in the memory of locals who experienced the Club at that time as well as for generations who have known it as a distinctive landmark building due to its flamboyant design.
- Criteria e)** The item was not found to be significant under this criteria based on the limited review undertaken for this study.
- Criteria f)** The Air Force Club is rare as one of the best examples of Menken's work in the Anglo Dutch style and one of few examples of this style remaining in Australia. Its small scale relative to other surviving buildings also contributes to its rarity.
- Criteria g)** The Air Force Club is significant under this criteria for its capacity to demonstrate key elements of the Anglo Dutch style of architecture at a local, state and national level.

Integrity / Intactness: Good

References:	Author	Title	Year
		http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australian_Natives_Association	
		Newcastle Regional Library, Local Studies Collection: Newspaper Cuttings File - Newcastle - Buildings - Longworth Institute	
		'Air Force Club', Australian Heritage Database	1978
		'Projects', Architecture Australia, March / April, 2000	2000
	Apperley, R. Irving, R. & Reynolds, P.	A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture - Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present	1997
	Atchison, John	'Longworth, William (1846-1928)', Australian Dictionary of Biography Online Edition	2006
	Maitland, Barry & Stafford, David	Architecture Newcastle, A Guide	1997
	Moore, John & Ostwald, Michael J. (eds.)	Hidden Newcastle, Urban Memories and Architectural Imaginations	1997
	Newcastle Library	'Frederick Burnhardt Menkens' Typescript, n.d.	
	Reedman, L. A.	'Menkens, Frederick Burnhardt (1855-1910)', Australian Dictionary of Biography Online Edition	2006
	Suters, Brian	Menkens' Centenary Exhibition - Catalogue to Exhibition arranged by Brian Suters Newcastle Region Art Gallery 19 October to 19 November 1978	1978

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
				1990

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Location: **129 Scott Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Unknown	Newcastle Heritage Study	219
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Parcels: Parcel Code LotNumber Section Plan Code Plan Number

Latitude:

Longitude:

Location validity:

Spatial Accuracy:

Map Name:

Map Scale:

AMG Zone:

Easting:

Northing:

Listings:	Name:	Title:	Number:	Date:
	Local Environmental Plan			8/08/2003
	Heritage study			
	National Trust of Australia register			
	Register of the National Estate			

Custom Field One: 1892

Custom Field Two:

Custom Field Three:

Custom Field Four: Conservation Area - NCBD

Custom Field Five: Archaeological Potential

Custom Field Six:

Data Entry: Date First Entered: 11/08/1998 Date Updated: 24/07/2008 Status: Basic

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Location: **129 Scott Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Air Force Club (Wood Chambers) 129 Scott Street

Copyright:

Image by: Sharn Harrison

Image Date: 13/12/1997

Image Number:

Image Path:

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Study Number

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Item Name: **Air Force Club (Wood Chambers)**

Location: **129 Scott Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Air Force Club - facade

Copyright:

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

Image Date: 18/12/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170219b2.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170219t2.jpg

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Study Number

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Item Name: **Air Force Club (Wood Chambers)**

Location: **129 Scott Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Facade detail - elaborate central gable with statue of Commerce

Copyright:

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

Image Date: 18/12/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170219b3.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170219t3.jpg

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Item Name: **Air Force Club (Wood Chambers)**

Location: **129 Scott Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Facade detail - Marble tablets flanking central doorway commemorating site of Lieutenant Shortland's landing place (1797) & presentation of building to the Australasian Society of Patriots by William Longworth in 1928

Copyright:

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

Image Date: 18/12/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170219b4.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170219t4.jpg

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Item Name: **Air Force Club (Wood Chambers)**

Location: **129 Scott Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Decorative carved stone below oriel window & one of five sculpted heads decorating keystones over arches at street level

Copyright:

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

Image Date: 18/12/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170219b5.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

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SHI Number

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Study Number

Item Name: **BHP Administration Building**

Location: **99 Selwyn Street, Mayfield North [Newcastle City]**

Address: 99 Selwyn Street

DUAP Region: Hunter & Central Coast

Suburb / Nearest Town: Mayfield North 2304

Historic region: Lower Hunter

Local Govt Area: Newcastle City

Parish:

State: NSW

County:

Other/Former Names: BHP

Area/Group/Complex:

Group ID:

Aboriginal Area:

Curtilage/Boundary: The recommended curtilage should run along the northern side of Administration Drive, and take in the formal entrance drive and landscaped areas which fan out from the northern elevation of the building, and the cycle shed to the north east, allowing the maintenance of significant views to and from the main facade of the building. At the rear (southern side) of the building a suitable buffer zone of at least 5 metres should be maintained so that natural light continues to enter the building, and so that it can be viewed from the rear at close range. See image No. 12 for suggested curtilage boundaries.

Item Type: Built

Group: Manufacturing and Pr Category: Industrial Office/Admin

Owner:

Admin Codes:

Code 2:

Code 3:

Current Use: Business Offices

Former Uses:

Assessed Significance: **State**

Endorsed Significance:

Statement of Significance: The Administration Building has State historical, associative and aesthetic significance as the management centre of one of the NSW's largest and most influential industrial entities across the twentieth century. The Newcastle Steelworks were highly influential in the State's economy, and confirmed decisively Australia's ability to sustain large scale manufacturing industry. The building is articulate about the management and administration of the Steelworks, and the working lives of the management, clerical and design staff. The building has strong associations with Essington Lewis, Managing Director of BHP 1921-1961 and influential Federal defence advisor. Completed under his management, the building would have formed his headquarters at Newcastle. The building's imposing exterior and plush interior are articulate about both the Company's grand self image in the 1920s, and the image that it wanted to project to the world. The interior spaces create a lively impression of the atmosphere of this building at work as the headquarters of the Newcastle Steelworks. The building also has aesthetic, associative and representative significance at a State level as an excellent example of the Inter-War Georgian Revival style employed on a large scale, designed by widely acclaimed Sydney based architects Ross and Rowe. Along with the

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Newcastle Club, the Administration Building represents the influence of this style in the Hunter Region. The Steelworks had a major influence on the lives of Novocastrians and their sense of place and identity. It is likely that further research will find the building to have a high level of social significance locally.

Historical Notes or Provenance:

The Administration Building is one of the few intact buildings associated with the BHP Steelworks at Port Waratah, Newcastle. The Steelworks was one of BHP's longest running operations, and constituted a major venture for the Company when begun in the 1910s. The venture was also a significant one for the State, and for NSW's first Labour government, which backed the Steelworks. The Newcastle Steelworks were a large scale, modern integrated steel and iron works, quite different to the existing operation at Lithgow and earlier one at Mittagong, which had struggled and failed against competition from imported iron. The Administration Building thus demonstrates important aspects of NSW's industrial history.

The Broken Hill Mining Company (hence: BHP) was established in 1883 on the discovery of silver, zinc and lead deposits near Broken Hill, NSW. Two years later the Company was incorporated. BHP began its venture into steelmaking in the search for ironstone as a flux in the Company's lead/silver smelters at Port Pirie, South Australia. The Company acquired two mining leases, named Iron Knob and Iron Monarch, inland from Wyalla. The ironstone had been passed over by a previous mining company focussing its efforts on silver. These deposits were exceptionally high in metallic content, one of the richest deposits in the world. General Manager of the Company 1899-1921, G. D. Delprat, made a trial of the ironstone in a converted lead smelter at Port Pirie in 1908, and found that the results were very promising. Delprat embarked on a research trip in 1911, to investigate iron and steelmaking practices with a view to the Company's diversification in that direction. He encountered little interest in England and Europe, and moved on to the USA. Here he found David Baker, an engineer with considerable steelworks experience, and Baker was contracted for five years to report on the feasibility of BHP's entry into iron and steelmaking. If the report was favourable, Baker was to furnish plans and estimates for a steelworks, supervise construction, and manage the start-up of operations and the training of Australians to carry on the works. (Conservation Plan: BHP Steelworks, p. 12)

As the production of steel required such a large quantity of coal, the input of a much greater tonnage of coal than of iron ore, Baker rejected a site close to the iron ore in South Australia, and sought a site close to coal production. He considered both Port Kembla and Newcastle. The testing of coal samples showed the Newcastle coal to be more satisfactory. Baker predicted, 'That you can assemble at Newcastle the iron ore, coke and limestone for pig iron production at a lower cost per unit of iron produced than is possible for the United States Steel Corporation, the largest and cheapest producer in its country'. (Conservation Plan: BHP Steelworks, p. 12; City Wide Thematic History, p. 7)

The BHP Company had purchased a site on the river at Newcastle in the late 1890s, with a view to relocating their copper smelting works from Broken Hill. This site had previously housed the Port Waratah copper smelter, which had failed in the mid 1890s due to the combined impact of a massive fall in the world copper price, and damage from flooding. Copper smelting operations of the late nineteenth century were also attracted to Newcastle because of access to cheap coal. Copper was shipped from South Australia where coal cost

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Location: **99 Selwyn Street, Mayfield North [Newcastle City]**

23 to 24 shillings per ton to Newcastle where it cost less than 3 shillings per ton.
(Conservation Plan: BHP Steelworks, p. 12)

Newcastle was in a precarious position in the first decade of the twentieth century. As the South Maitland coalfield boomed, the inner Newcastle collieries continued to close. By 1910, several thousand miners had moved out of the Newcastle municipality to the new mines at Cessnock and Kurri Kurri. It appeared that the city might have to rely on its function as a port, and service and leisure centre for the Hunter Region for its survival. A steelworks at Newcastle had been repeatedly advocated through the 1890s. One such scheme culminated in the formation of an English syndicate in 1896 for the purpose of building a steelworks with a proposed capacity of 60,000 tons annually, and with a contract to supply NSW with steel rails. However the depressed state of the economy and lack of positive government action meant that none of the proposals eventuated. The Broken Hill Proprietary Company transformed the local economy by opening its Steelworks at Port Waratah. NSW's first Labour government, under Premier McGowen, was instrumental in the opening of the steelworks. A state-owned steelworks had been part of the party's election platform, and McGowen had commissioned Frederick W. Paul, general manager of the Steel Company of Scotland, to assess the feasibility of a state-owned works in 1910. But the cost of establishing a plant of a size large enough to be efficient was to be enormous. In May 1912, Delprat made overtures to the government, asking for assistance in setting up the BHP Steelworks. After much debate, the McGowen government put aside its own plans for a steelworks, and put its backing behind the BHP venture. The government turned its focus towards the creation of a state dockyard at Newcastle, on Walsh Island, opposite the BHP site, and the other harbour improvements undertaken to support the BHP venture. (Citywide Thematic History, p. 7; Docherty, 1983, pp. 30-34)

Work began on the construction of the BHP Co. Ltd. Iron and Steelworks at Port Waratah on 3 January 1913, under the supervision of Baker, appointed Steelworks Manager in 1912. The site included the Copper Smelter land purchased by the Company in 1896, and an adjacent site of approximately 36.4 hectares, which had been set aside as a Botanical Reserve in 1868. It was mainly mangrove swamp under tidal influence, and was extensively reclaimed with sand pumped from the harbour by dredges of the Department of Public Works completing a State Government undertaking to improve the shipping channels. The proposed capacity of the works was an ambitious 150,000 ton of rails, equivalent to the tonnage of rails imported into Australia in 1910. The design of the works closely followed the American pattern, which was said to be well ahead of other world steel production practices. The initial plant comprised one 350 ton Blast Furnace, three 65 ton Open Hearth Furnaces, a battery of 66 Semet Solway By-Product Coke Ovens, one 35 inch Blooming Mill and a 28 inch Heavy Rail and Structural Mill. The high melting shop type of open hearth installation were said to be typically American, and the building of large open hearth furnaces in batteries and using machine charging were new and radical techniques. The blast furnaces and many of the building structures were pre-fabricated in America. The construction of the plant proceeded rapidly. The Steelworks Act of 1912 had decreed that the works be built in five years, it was in fact completed in less than half that time. Following the production of the first rail on 24 April 1915, the works were officially opened by the Governor General on 2 June 1915. (Conservation Plan: BHP Steelworks, p. 16)

Opened in the middle of the Great War, the steelworks was profitable from the beginning. In

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Location: **99 Selwyn Street, Mayfield North [Newcastle City]**

a little over four months from the commencement of smelting operations the plant had produced 36, 865 tons of pig iron, 17, 442 tons of steel blooms and billets and 11, 782 tons of rails. The Federal Munitions Committee arranged that the Newcastle Steelworks should provide rail which was urgently required in France, as well as munitions steel. During the Great War, BHP supplied approximately 16, 300 tons of steel rails abroad, and the same tonnage of munitions. This ready market helped to put the BHP Steelworks on a strong footing, and the plant expanded more rapidly than the Company had planned. Four additional open hearth furnaces were constructed in 1917, then a second blast furnace, additional coke ovens and a 1000 ton mixer. To provide plate to the shipbuilding industry, and for the building of the No. 2 Blast Furnace, the Bloom Mill was modified enabling the manufacture of more than 13,000 tons of steel. The Rod Mill, second blast furnace and a 100 ton blast furnace to provide ferro-manganese iron (made unavailable by the War) were all commissioned in 1918. Further expansion occurred to satisfy post-war demands. (Citywide Thematic History, p. 7; Conservation Plan: BHP Steelworks, p. 16)

By 1919 the BHP Steelworks and the State dockyard on Walsh Island had a combined labour force of 7,300. Such economic expansion created the impression that jobs were plentiful in Newcastle and migrants from other parts of Australia and overseas flooded into the Hunter, creating a housing shortage and forcing up rents. This led in turn to new subdivisions and to more intensive development of older residential areas in the 1920s. The end of the war caused a severe contraction in the demand for steel, and as coal exports did not recover, the 1920s were marred by periods of recession. The BHP Steelworks continued to prosper until 1922, when severe overseas competition caused many sections of the works to be closed down, reducing the workforce from 5,500 men to 840. There were signs, however, that the steel industry would eventually recover. Essington Lewis, an outstanding industrialist, now head of the BHP, embarked on a programme of diversification and cost cutting. (Citywide Thematic History, p. 7) The Administration Building was constructed in 1921, by Architects and Consulting Engineers, Ross and Rowe of George Street Sydney, a nationally recognised firm responsible for many significant buildings, including the Commonwealth Bank, Martin Place, and the RACV Building, Melbourne. (Conservation Plan: BHP Steelworks, p. 55) The imposing grandeur of this massive Georgian Revival style building perhaps stands as a statement of the confidence of BHP in an upturn for the industry, and the ongoing prosperity and growth of the Company in these uncertain times.

Encouraging overseas firms, mainly from Britain, to establish steel processing plants on the fringe of the steel works, Lewis gradually expanded the demand for its produce. Thus, in the 1920s and 1930s, Newcastle acquired the works of the Titan Manufacturing Company, the Australian Wire Rope Works Company, Bullivants Australian Company, the Commonwealth Steel Company, Ryland Brothers, Lysaght Brothers and Stewarts and Lloyds. At the same time he sought to control the cost of raw materials and shipping by buying collieries and ships so that, by the 1930s, his company began to fulfil David Baker's forecast of 1912 by producing some of the world's cheapest steel. (Citywide Thematic History, p. 7)

Stimulated by the Steel Industry, the population of Newcastle (excluding Lake Macquarie Shire) grew from 54, 000 in 1911, to 84,000 in 1921 and 104,000 in 1933. With such significant industrial and demographic development, the CBD responded with new commercial buildings, particularly hotels and stores, and Newcastle City Council constructed a town hall and Civic theatre worthy of the State's second city in 1929. (Citywide Thematic

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History, p. 7-8)

The general optimism of the 1920s was dispelled by the Great Depression which brought the construction industry to a halt and severely affected the steelworks and its dependant plants. With high unemployment, estimated at 30% of the workforce, hundreds of people moved into shanty towns at Nobbys Beach, Stockton, Carrington and Adamstown, Lambton, Waratah and Hexham. Partly because of the Depression the State Dockyard closed in 1933 but the steelworks gradually increased its production, leading the city out of the slump as the decade progressed. (Citywide Thematic History, p. 8)

World War II had a profound effect on Newcastle which became a key industrial area of great strategic importance. Anticipating the outbreak of hostilities in the Pacific, Essington Lewis began to prepare BHP for its wartime role after his 1934 overseas tour. Facilities for the production of munitions were installed at the steelworks and the Company's metallurgists had to cope with the new technologies involved in the manufacture of special alloys not previously made in Australia. Magnesium, which was vital for aircraft production, was made for the first time, and tungsten carbide, an essential cutting and shaping agent in precision engineering, began to flow from a pilot plant at the steelworks in 1941. Looking towards this important wartime role the Company also acquired the steelworks at Port Kembla, and thus became the sole integrated iron and steel producer in Australia. Newcastle steel was used in the manufacture of a wide range of military items from shells to ships and the overall effect of the war was to greatly stimulate metals manufacture in the city. BHP was intimately involved in the war effort, with Essington Lewis, Managing Director, being appointed permanent head of the new Department of Munitions. He controlled the production of all ordnance, explosives, ammunition, small arms, aircraft and vehicles and all machinery and tools used in producing such munitions. He was given a seat on the Defence Committee and had the same access to War Cabinet as the chiefs of staff, and enjoyed unusual commercial exemptions and privileges. This was important for the war effort but it also created a base for post-war industrial expansion in Newcastle. (Citywide Thematic History, p. 8; Conservation Plan: BHP Steelworks, p. 24; ADB Online, Essington Lewis)

The immediate post war years saw a contraction of activities, as plans were hampered by shortages of coal and manpower. 1950 saw the beginning of a new era of development. The following decades saw the Steelworks expand, diversify and adopt new technologies. (Conservation Plan: BHP Steelworks, p. 24)

The city is still adjusting to the long term decline of employment in its heavy industrial base. In 1983 the BHP Company announced the first stage of its restructuring, involving a \$356.m upgrade in capital equipment but marked a reduction in the numbers employed. In April 1997 the intent to close the Newcastle Steelworks was announced. In 1999 the steelworks closed and in 2001, the site, its plant and equipment were dismantled, removed and demolished. The Administration Building is one of the few structures that survive. (Citywide Thematic History, p. 9) The diverse mining, industrial, and shipping interests of BHP, escalating from the 1930s to operate in a number of Australian states simultaneously, further branched out from the 1970s, when BHP commenced or took over mining and industrial operations in Malaysia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Chile, and other countries. BHP merged with Billiton in 2001, coinciding with the closure of the Steelworks. The merged companies have continued to pursue mining opportunities globally, and engage in off shore

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gas and oil exploration. (BHP Billiton website, History Timeline)

The Steelworks had become very much a part of Newcastle, as Docherty writes: 'Newcastle is still BHP' proclaimed the Australian Financial Review in 16 April 1973. No one disagreed. Since 1915 when the steelworks of the Broken Hill Proprietary Co Ltd were opened, heavy industry had imprinted itself on every aspect of Newcastle's life as thoroughly as coalmining had done in the 19th century. By the mid-1920s it was common for inner city residents to check their clocks and watches by the whistle of the steelworks' (Docherty, 1983, p. 27) Docherty, in his book 'Newcastle: The Making of an Australian City', also supplies a dark account of work at the steelworks, and the relationship between the Company and its workers, especially in the early years. Shift work characterised the life of the steelworker, with three shifts of workers maintaining the operation of the works, commencing at 7am, 3pm and 11pm. Through the 1920s, many worked seven days a week. Workers were also vulnerable to injury. In 1917, with about 2,700 employees, there were 2 deaths, 520 injuries requiring hospital treatment, and a further 720 'slight' injuries. Workers faced low wages, and participation in protracted union-Company disputes as well as intermittent unemployment. (Docherty, 1983, pp. 62-67)

The Administration Building was sited in splendid isolation overlooking the flat riverfront site once occupied by the industrial buildings where the workers worked and the steel was produced. As Nancy Cushing notes, it represents a particular and partial side of the BHP experience. The building housed management, clerical, design and printing facilities, and articulates little about 'the experience or process of making steel'. (Cushing, 1999, p. 2) The building was the head of the steelworks, it was where the decisions were made, the plans laid and from which the pay was dispensed. It was also a place of success and leisure, as well as work, for the upper echelons of management, who could enjoy the sensation of being eminent industrialists at the cutting edge of the State's economy, industry and sometimes political life, ensconced within the building's plush, modern interior. It can not represent the experiences of the thousands of workers, who would never have set foot inside.

The building is currently partly occupied by a variety of Hunter Region businesses as office space, and greatly enjoyed by those who work there.

Themes:	National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
	3. Economy	Industry	(none)
	5. Working	Labour	(none)

Designer: Ross and Rowe, George Street, Sydney

Maker / Builder:

Year Started:

Year Completed: 1921

Circa: No

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Item Name: **BHP Administration Building**

Location: **99 Selwyn Street, Mayfield North [Newcastle City]**

Physical Description: The Administration Building displays the revived characteristics of clarity, simplicity, reasonable proportions, restrained, simplified classicism and symmetry which typify the Old Colonial Georgian style. The building is free standing in a formal garden setting, with curved drives leading up to the front entrance. The building is orientated towards the river, looking over the flat, riverfront site that once housed the bustling steelworks. The northern façade is symmetrical, with the porticoed front entrance and its sweeping stair at centre. The building is of three levels, with two stories containing varied office space, conference and meeting rooms, dining room and kitchen facilities, atop a basement, partly below ground level, in which some clerical facilities were located along with storage and strong room and pay room functions. The floor plan wraps around an irregular central courtyard.

In detail the building has regular repetitive fenestrations with plain wall surfaces of fine face brickwork and stucco. Classical elements such as orders, porticos and pediments have been used for emphasis. Style indicators used on the building include quoining, double hung windows of vertical proportions, round arches, trabeated loggia, fan lights, boxed eaves, cupola, fine textured hipped roof, cornice, string course, pilasters, plinth and breakfront. The structure is typical of the period and has traditional load bearing walls with steel and reinforced concrete structure with a facing of brick.

The interior spaces range from the vast dining room/ballroom on the second floor, to more intimately scaled executive offices, and small filing rooms. The interior has a very high level of integrity throughout, with most spaces, including offices, kitchen and bathroom facilities, as well as the grand conference and dining rooms, retaining many original and early finishes, fittings and fixtures. Pressed metal ceilings with an art deco flavour in a great variety of patterns are a notable feature throughout the upper two stories.

The building faces towards the north west, looking over the bulk of the former BHP site. A formal curved drive and symmetrical grassed areas fan out from the main, northern, facade of the building, forming a visual setting for its outlook. Bordering the eastern side of this fan is the cycle shed, a simple, long and narrow single storey brick building with pitched tiled roof. Flat, asphalt car parking space is provided around the other sides of the building.

Physical Condition: The building appears to be in good physical condition. Some water damage was sustained to the basement in mid 2007, but this is not known to have caused serious damage beyond the floor coverings.

Modification Dates:

**Recommended
Management:**

Management:

Further Comments:

Criteria a) The Administration Building has State historical significance as the management centre of one of the NSW's largest and most influential industrial entities across the twentieth century. The Newcastle Steelworks were highly influential in the State's economy, and sometimes political scene as well, and confirmed decisively Australia's ability to sustain domestic

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industries based on domestic primary resources. The building is articulate about the management and administration of the Steelworks, the working lives of the management, clerical and design staff, and the grand self image and optimism of the Company following its booming start to life during the Great War.

Criteria b) The Administration Building has strong associations with the management staff of the BHP Steelworks, in particular Essington Lewis, who lead the Company and Newcastle, out of the post- WW1 slump, through the Great Depression and prepared the Company for its strong role in WW2, as Managing Director of BHP 1921-1961. He was also extremely influential in Federal defence policy through the war years. The Administration Building was completed under Lewis, and would have formed his headquarters at Newcastle whenever he arrived to review operations at the Steelworks.

The Building is also significant through its association with widely acclaimed Sydney based architects Ross and Rowe, as a very substantial building for a very substantial client, which is an excellent example of the Inter-War Georgian Revival style .

Criteria c) The building has State significance as an exceptional example of the Inter-War Georgian Revival style employed on a large scale. Along with the Newcastle Club, the Administration Building represents the influence of this style in the Hunter Region. The building's imposing exterior and plush interior are articulate about both the Company's grand self image in the 1920s, and the image that it wanted to project to the world. The high level of integrity of the interior spaces, furnishings, fittings and fixtures creates a lively impression of the atmosphere of this city of a building at work as the headquarters of the Newcastle Steelworks.

Criteria d) Although no investigations have been undertaken, it is believed that future investigations will find that the Administration Building has a high level of social significance in the Newcastle area.

Criteria e) Within the limits of the research undertaken the item was not found to be significant under this criterion.

Criteria f) Within the limits of the research undertaken the item was not found to be significant under this criterion.

Criteria g) The Administration Building has the capacity to demonstrate the key characteristics of the Inter-War Georgian Revival style in NSW as an exceptional example of this style.

Integrity / Intactness: The building appears to be in good condition, and has a high level of integrity, retaining most original external and internal features.

References:	Author	Title	Year
		Newcastle City Wide Heritage Study - Thematic History	2007
	Blainey, Geoffrey, Smith, Ann, G.	Entry for Essington Lewis, Australian Dictionary of Biography Online	1986
	Cushing, Nancy	'Remembering BHP: Memory and Industrial Heritage' in Workers Online, No. 13, 14th May 1999	1999
	Docherty, J. C.	Newcastle: The Making of an Australian City	1983

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Item Name: BHP Administration Building

Location: 99 Selwyn Street, Mayfield North [Newcastle City]

The EJE Group Conservation Plan for BHP Steelworks, Port Waratah Site 1991

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Sue Rosen and Associates Heritage Assessment And History (HAAH)	Review of Items of Potential State Significance in the Newcastle City Area		2008

Parcels:	Parcel Code	LotNumber	Section	Plan Code	Plan Number
	LOT	221		DP	1013964

Latitude:

Longitude:

Location validity:

Spatial Accuracy:

Map Name:

Map Scale:

AMG Zone:

Easting:

Northing:

Listings:	Name:	Title:	Number:	Date:
	Local Environmental Plan Heritage study			8/08/2003

Custom Field One:

Custom Field Two:

Custom Field Three:

Custom Field Four:

Custom Field Five:

Custom Field Six:

Data Entry: Date First Entered: 11/09/2003 Date Updated: 24/07/2008 Status: Basic

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SHI Number

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Study Number

Item Name: **BHP Administration Building**

Location: **99 Selwyn Street, Mayfield North [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Front view of main entrance and facade

Copyright: Newcastle City Council

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 11/09/2007

Image Number: 1

Image Path:

Image File: 2173907b3.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2173907t3.jpg

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Item Name: **BHP Administration Building**

Location: **99 Selwyn Street, Mayfield North [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Administration Building front entrance

Copyright:

Image by: S.Skillen

Image Date: 18/10/2006

Image Number: 2

Image Path:

Image File: 2173907b1.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t_2173907.jpg

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Image/s:



Caption: Administration Building

Copyright:

Image by: S.Skillen

Image Date: 18/10/2006

Image Number: 3

Image Path:

Image File: 2173907b2.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t2_2173907.jpg

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Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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SHI Number

2173907

Study Number

Item Name: **BHP Administration Building**

Location: **99 Selwyn Street, Mayfield North [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Oblique view of front facade from along main roadway to front entrance

Copyright:

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 11/09/2007

Image Number: 4

Image Path:

Image File: 2173907b4.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2173907t4.jpg

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Study Number

Item Name: **BHP Administration Building**

Location: **99 Selwyn Street, Mayfield North [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Stairway of main foyer

Copyright:

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 11/09/2007

Image Number: 5

Image Path:

Image File: 2173907b5.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2173907t5.jpg

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Study Number

Item Name: **BHP Administration Building**

Location: **99 Selwyn Street, Mayfield North [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Kitchen and canteen facilities, second floor, adjacent main dining room

Copyright:

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 11/09/2007

Image Number: 6

Image Path:

Image File: 2173907b6.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2173907t6.jpg

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Item Name: **BHP Administration Building**

Location: **99 Selwyn Street, Mayfield North [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Main dining room for management staff, showing partitionable divide across centre, for dividing different levels of management while dining. Also used as ballroom.

Copyright:

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 11/09/2007

Image Number: 7

Image Path:

Image File: 2173907b7.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2173907t7.jpg

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Item Name: **BHP Administration Building**

Location: **99 Selwyn Street, Mayfield North [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Detail showing decorative pressed metal ceiling and cornices typical of first and second floors in hallway near executive offices first floor

Copyright:

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 11/09/2007

Image Number: 8

Image Path:

Image File: 2173907b8.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2173907t8.jpg

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Study Number

Item Name: **BHP Administration Building**

Location: **99 Selwyn Street, Mayfield North [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Filing room, first floor, representative of surviving filing facilities on first floor and in basement

Copyright:

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 11/09/2007

Image Number: 9

Image Path:

Image File: 2173907b9.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2173907t9.jpg

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Item Name: **BHP Administration Building**

Location: **99 Selwyn Street, Mayfield North [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Close view of vault door, basement pay room.

Copyright:

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 11/09/2007

Image Number: 10

Image Path:

Image File: 2173907b10.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2173907t10.jpg

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Image/s:



Caption: Farewell dinner for Keith Butler, NSW Manager of BHP, held in the main dining room in 1955 (Source: Hunter Photobank, from 'Australian Coal, Shipping, Steel and the Harbour', May 2 1955)

Copyright:

Image by:

Image Date: 31/12/1955

Image Number: 11

Image Path:

Image File: 2173907b12.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2173907t12.jpg

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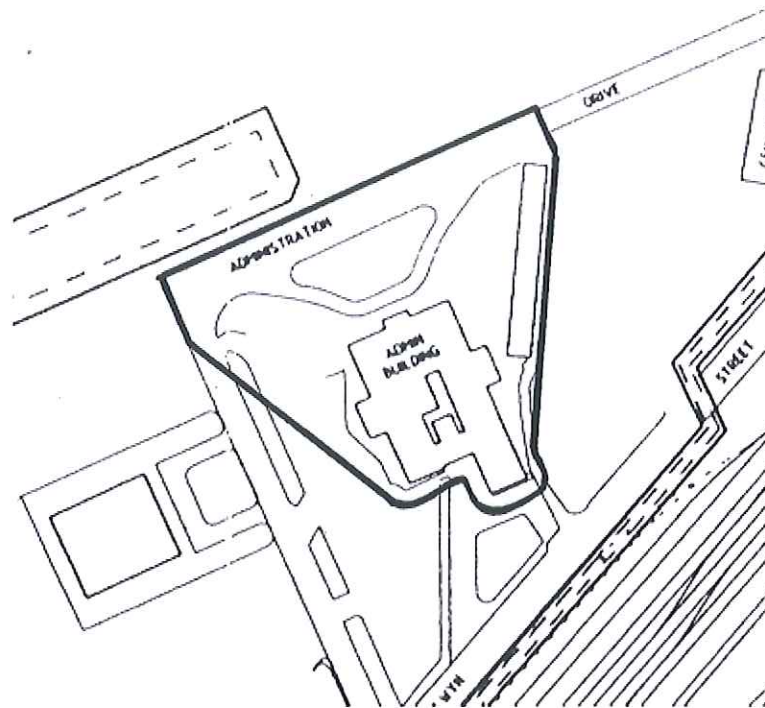
2173907

Study Number

Item Name: **BHP Administration Building**

Location: **99 Selwyn Street, Mayfield North [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Suggested curtilage for the Administration Building

Copyright:

Image by: Drawing by Hatch Land Technologies, Newcastle. Curtilage outline by Emma Dortins

Image Date: 13/06/2000

Image Number: 12

Image Path:

Image File: 2173907b11.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2173907t11.jpg

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Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

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Study Number

Item Name: **Christ Church Cathedral, Park and Cemetery**

Location: **52A Church Street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

Address: 52A Church Street
Suburb / Nearest Town: The Hill 2300
Local Govt Area: Newcastle City
State: NSW

DUAP Region: Hunter & Central Coast
Historic region: Lower Hunter
Parish:
County:

Other/Former Names: Christ Church

Area/Group/Complex: **Group ID:**

Aboriginal Area: Awabakal

Curtilage/Boundary: Follows property boundary, see image no. 9 for curtilage.

Item Type: Built **Group:** Religion **Category:** Cathedral

Owner: Multiple Owners

Admin Codes: LEP **Code 2:** **Code 3:**

Current Use:

Former Uses:

Assessed Significance: **State**

Endorsed Significance:

Statement of Significance: Christ Church Cathedral, Park and Cemetery are historically and aesthetically significant at state level. The Cathedral is the largest of the Cathedrals designed by one of Australia's most influential architects, John Horbury-Hunt. It visually dominates Newcastle's city centre and defines its skyline. It is situated on top of Church Hill and the city has been mapped out around it. The story of the construction and development of the Cathedral is interwoven with the establishment and growth of Newcastle into NSW's second largest city. Its level of significance is reflected by the number of prominent individuals who have visited the Cathedral. These have included various Governors of NSW, Bob Hawke when he was Prime Minister, Governor Generals, Archbishops of Sydney as well as Archbishops of Canterbury and York.

The cemetery, which is now also a rest park, is historically significant at a state level because it was one of the earliest European burial sites to be established in NSW and one of the few that remain undeveloped and accessible. The history of the site reflects the changing social burial customs in NSW during the 19th century. The site itself has a long, continuous association with Australia's religious history, being the site of one of the earliest churches and European burial grounds in Australia.

Historical Notes or Provenance: The ground on which Christ Church Cathedral stands has been the site of at least one other church. The original Christ Church was built on this soil in 1817, and the latter Christ Church Cathedral has a strong historical continuity with the original church. Unlike the rushed construction of Christ Church, the building of Christ Church Cathedral was a long and complicated process; it was exactly one hundred years from the beginning of its construction until consecration of the Cathedral. John Horbury Hunt was the principal architect involved in

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the project, with other prominent Newcastle architects also contributing to its design.

It is possible that this site had been used by Christians as a place of worship since 1812, when a small slab hut served as a church. The first known church on this site was built on the order of Governor Lachlan Macquarie to provide religious services for the civil and military officials and convicts who were posted there. The population of Newcastle had swelled following the closure of Norfolk Island in 1814, making this need more pressing. In 1816, Macquarie appointed Captain James Wallis to design the church. Wallis was not an architect and to assist him in his work, Joseph Lycett, a convict who had been transported to Newcastle in 1815, was sent to Sydney with the purpose of sketching the plans of churches there to help design Christ Church. Captain Wallis chose the site of the church, which is on one of the highest points in Newcastle. On one side of the hill was an extensive bay, on another side there were mountain views and the two other sides overlooked the ocean. Due to this location, the Cathedral physically presides over the City of Newcastle as does the present Cathedral (B. Maitland and D. Stafford, 1997, p. 61).

Construction of Christ Church began on 1st January 1817. Christ Church had a T shaped plan, with the communion table in a semi-circular apse on the western wall. The Church was in a colonial gothic style, with a simple classical form and basic medieval details. The tower and steeple were located at the eastern end of the church. At the top of the steeple was a spire topped with a ball and cross. The worship area was 64ft 6in long and 26ft 6in wide with the pulpit located at the northern end and a gallery along the southern wall. On one side of the entry to the church was a school master's room and on the other side was a school room. The first church service was held in August 1818, a few weeks after construction had finished. The construction had been completed within this limited timeframe in order to have the church ready for the visit of the Governor. The Church was one of the earliest brick and stone churches to be constructed in Australia. (EJE Architecture, 1995, p. 5-7).

Structural flaws in the Church soon became apparent. Several years after its completion, the upper tower and the steeple were taken down, due to instability. It remained in this form for a period of 43 years. Following on from a report in 1866, which found it to have serious weaknesses, the remainder of the tower was pulled down and was replaced with a timber bellcote. Despite these flaws, Christ Church was still in operation for nearly seventy years, during which time there were dramatic changes in Newcastle, as it developed from a penal settlement to a large town and coal producing centre. (EJE Architecture, 1995, p. 4).

With the establishment of the Diocese of Newcastle in 1847, Newcastle officially became a city. Christ Church became a Cathedral in this year, with the appointment of a first bishop, William Tyrrell (1848-1879). During the second half of the 1850s, with coal production greatly increasing, there was a doubling of the population of Newcastle and it was decided that there was a need for a new or expanded Cathedral. In the 1860s, Bishop Tyrrell argued that there was no need for a new building, and instead advocated for an addition to the existing church. However, the Diocese disagreed and in 1868 ran a competition for the design of a new Cathedral. The requirements were that contestants design an establishment to be built of stone or brick, large enough for 1000 people and at a maximum cost of ten thousand pounds. The winners were Mr Terry and Mr Speechley from Melbourne. John Horbury Hunt who, during the last third of the nineteenth century, became one Australia's most significant ecclesiastical architects, had also entered the competition and was

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Location: **52A Church Street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

appointed supervising architect (B. Maitland and D. Stafford, 1997, p. 61). Hunt's other ecclesiastical projects include the Anglican Cathedrals in Armidale 1871 and Grafton in 1880 as well as many smaller ones in the Hunter Valley. Christ Church Cathedral was the largest and most ambitious building designed by Hunt. His design for the Cathedral was for a cruciform Victorian Academic Gothic style building with a central tower over the crossing, supporting a spire. This architectural style was in harmony with religious beliefs of the time, which saw the strengthening of moral values as being closely related to the revival of religious Gothic style (R. Apperly, R. Irving, P. Reynolds, 1998, p. 81).

The project was delayed due to funding difficulties, which came with the realisation that the outlined project was going to cost far more than the estimated ten thousand pounds. In 1878, collections began in order to raise money for the project. In 1882, Hunt's plans were accepted and signed (B. Maitland and D. Stafford, 1997, p. 61). Although Hunt had completed the designs for the Cathedral in 1868, work was not started on it until 1883 and the building of the cathedral was marked by many delays and disputes. The original Christ Church remained in use until 1884 (C. Goulding, 1995, p.91). While Christ Church Cathedral was being constructed, Selwyn commissioned Hunt to also design a pro-cathedral opposite Christ Church. This was used until the opening of the new cathedral in 1904, and is still intact (C. Goulding, 1995, p.93). It is listed on the State Heritage Register (Plan number 198891). In 1895, the relationship between Hunt, A.E. Selwyn, Dean of Newcastle, and the builder, John Straub had become so bad that both Hunt and Straub were dismissed. By this stage, 27 years after Hunt had sketched the original design for the Cathedral, the Cathedral was far from complete (P. Reynolds, L. Muir, J. Hughes, 2002, p. 77).

In 1900, John Francis Stretch replaced the late Selwyn as Dean and he appointed John Hingstone Buckeridge as the Cathedral architect. Buckeridge was responsible for overseeing the temporary roofing of the half-built nave. The Cathedral was dedicated on 21st November 1902 and a service was held in the presence of the Governor, Sir Harry Rawson and the Premier, Sir John See (EJE Architecture, 1994, p.53). However, the full extent of Hunt's designs were not realised until the next phase of work was completed in 1928. The next architect assigned to work on the project was F.G. Castleden, an important architect in Newcastle who designed many houses and commercial buildings in the region. Castleden supervised the completion of the Cathedral between 1909 and 1928. In 1911, the ambulatory around the east end of the church and the Tyrrell Chapel was built and in 1912 the eastern walls were completed and roofed and the east window was finished. In 1924, the Warriors Chapel was built and in 1928, further work was completed on the arches of the church as well as the cathedral walls. Castleden's work was closely based on Hunt's original designs even to the extent that clay from the same pit and the same moulds were used to make the bricks (J.M. Freeland, 1970, p.102). However, there were some slight departures from Hunt's design, these being the omission of the spire and the addition of a castellated parapet. There is also a visible change in the colour and quality of brickwork at the height of the clerestory window sills, completed after Hunt's departure (P. Reynolds, L. Muir, J. Hughes, 2002, p. 77).

The transepts and the tower were raised in 1979 by John Sara, of Castleden and Sara. (P. Reynolds, L. Muir and J. Hughes, 2002, p. 77). After over 80 years of use, the Cathedral was finally consecrated by Bishop Holland on 20th November 1983. (B. Maitland and D. Stafford, 1997, p. 62-63). The earthquake that occurred in 1989 at first appeared to have

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Location: **52A Church Street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

only superficially damaged the building. However, it was soon realised that the building had been significantly harmed, and this led to restoration and refurbishment works. This project was undertaken by Dean Graham Lawrence and architect Barney Collins. Work was begun in 1995 and completed in 1997. The Cathedral was Re-Hallowed on 31st January 1997 (Christ Church Parish Office pamphlet).

The Christ Church burial ground, located on the northern side of the church is the first known European burial ground in Newcastle and one of the first burial grounds established in Australia. The first recorded European burials at this site began with the construction of Christ Church in 1817. Although burials were under the authority of the Church of England, the burial site initially was used for people of all denominations. Following a Church of England act in 1836, Christ Church could no longer bury people of other denominations. As a result of this act, cemeteries were established for Roman Catholics and Presbyterians during the 1840s (Austral Archaeology, 2004, p.1).

During the 19th Century, new notions of hygiene led to the belief that there were significant health risks involved with having a cemetery in the heart of a city (Austral Archaeology, 2004, p. 5). This led to the relocation of cemeteries as well as gaols, isolation wards and cemeteries to areas outside of the city. In 1881 a new cemetery was opened at Sandgate, outside of central Newcastle, and Christ Church Cemetery was officially closed. There were several burials in the Christ Church burial site after the opening of the site at Sandgate, which led to the council taking legal action. 1884 was the last time a burial occurred at the Christ Church burial ground. The cemetery had originally been three acres and unfenced, extending beyond King St. By 1884, the cemetery was just one acre, and King St formed its northern border. There was also a retaining wall between the street and the cemetery (Austral Archaeology, 2004, p. 3).

With Christ Church no longer being used as a burial ground, the site was not well maintained. During the 1930s and 1940s there were attempts by the neighboring land owners to use the area for other purposes. During the 1950s, debates about the burial ground intensified. The Newcastle Club wished to acquire it but had no success. The Council also wished to acquire the land, and intended to develop it into a carpark. Dismissing all these offers, Christ Church Cathedral arranged for the area to be re-fenced and to be cleared of weeds. The idea of making the area a rest park had been in existence since the 1870s and had been proposed again in 1951 by local historian William Goold. In 1966, the Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle, Cemetery Act was passed which gave the majority of land to the Council to be made into a public Rest Park. It also granted permission to remove headstones. Areas along the east, south and west boundaries of the ground were to remain the property of Christ Church Cathedral. In 1966, the all legible tombstones were relocated to the eastern boundary of the park. The monument to James Hannel (the first Mayor of Newcastle) and his wife remained in its original location (Austral Archaeology, 2004, p.4).

Themes:	National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
	8. Culture	Religion	(none)
	8. Culture	Social institutions	(none)
	9. Phases of Life	Birth and Death	(none)

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Study Number

Item Name: Christ Church Cathedral, Park and Cemetery

Location: 52A Church Street, The Hill [Newcastle City]

Designer: John Horbury Hunt

Maker / Builder: various

Year Started:

Year Completed:

Circa: No

Physical Description: Christ Church Cathedral is of dark red-brown brick and is in a cruciform shape with a central tower over the crossing. There is a parapet to the main roof and a steeply pitched roof over the aisles, made of sheet copper. There are flying buttresses to the main walls and buttresses support the tower, all of them culminating in pinnacles. Decorative elements include lancet openings and plate tracery, which is in keeping with the style of Early English Gothic, and stone detailing on the walls of the Cathedral. A separate timber bellcote is on the grounds of the Cathedral, located to the north west of the Cathedral.

The interior of the Cathedral is brick with a timber ceiling. The Liturgical Platform and the Pulpit are located in the centre of the Cathedral and face the Rose window, which is set into the Western end of the Cathedral. The Cathedral houses a number of religious and military collections. Religious items include a tapestry near the south-west entrance of the Cathedral, a pair of bronze candlesticks crafted by a sixteenth century Italian sculptor and a terracotta crucifix which is located near the Pulpit. Items of military significance include war memorial panels which are located at the northern end of the Cathedral and a Union Jack flag that was taken to Gallipoli, located on one of the southern walls of the Cathedral. There is also a stone that records the opening of the first Church in the north entrance of the Cathedral.

The main entrance is to the south of the Cathedral. Surrounding the Cathedral is a path of bricks engraved with the names of those who have donated to the Cathedral building projects. Immediately to the north of the Cathedral is a garden and beyond that is the rest park and cemetery. The cemetery and rest park are in a prominent location, with views out to the water. The site is bounded on the north by a retaining wall along King Street and on the south by the Cathedral. Wolfe Street forms the western boundary and Newcomen Street the eastern boundary. The headstones have all been relocated to the eastern boundary and are in three rows, and the remainder of the area is now a rest park. Only the legible headstones were kept, which are modest and in fairly good condition. The park has large trees and grassy slopes. There are park benches to encourage passive recreation.

Physical Condition: The Cathedral was severely damaged in the 1989 earthquake but has been repaired and is in good condition. The cemetery and rest park are well maintained, although some of the headstones are no longer legible.

Modification Dates: In 1979, the transepts and the Cathedral tower were raised. The Cathedral was badly damaged by the 1989 earthquake in Newcastle. Restoration work was begun in 1995 and completed in 1997.

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Following this damage, walls were reinforced with steel rods, these rods ranged from 215 mm long to 32m long. Following the 1966 Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle, Cemetery Act, the cemetery was partly converted into a rest park with the headstones that are still in tact moved to the east of the park.

In addition to repairs, other work was undertaken on the Cathedral. The Narthex, Nave and crossing all had marble flooring laid down and floor heating was installed. The altar was developed to allow for raising or lowering and a room was added for additional seating. New lights were also installed and furniture was restored. The old exterior asbestos roofing was removed and replaced with copper sheeting. There was also a landscaping of the surrounding gardens and lawns and the organ was upgraded.

**Recommended
Management:**

Management:

Further Comments:

Criteria a) Christ Church Cathedral is historically significant as it is associated with an important phase of church building in NSW, and the gradual expansion of the colony away from Sydney to areas such as Newcastle, Parramatta and Liverpool. It illustrates the influence of the Church of England in the early years of the colony of NSW. Built on the same grounds as 1817 church, the Cathedral maintains an historical continuity with Christ Church, which was one of the earliest brick and stone churches to be built in Australia.

The rest park is one of the oldest European burial grounds in Australia and pre-dates the first church on the site. The park and cemetery are historically significant, dating back to the earliest stages of official burial, when cemeteries controlled by the Church of England accepted people of any denomination. Thus, its history extends over the range of denominational cemetery management and is one of the few burial grounds that articulates this history.

Criteria b) Christ Church Cathedral is highly significant at a State level because of its association with one of Australia's most influential ecclesiastical architects. It is Hunt's largest undertaking in ecclesiastical architecture. Although its style is more restrained than Hunt's Christ Church Cathedral in Grafton, which is generally seen as his most magnificent Cathedral, there are similarities between the two Cathedrals.

Criteria c) Christ Church Cathedral visually dominates Newcastle, with the peaks of its towers visible from many parts of the city. It has aesthetic significance at a State level, as it is an excellent example of Victorian Academic Gothic architecture. It has landmark qualities, having dominated and defined the Newcastle skyline for many years.

Criteria d) Christ Church Cathedral is significant at a state level because it is a physical manifestation of the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle. It has been, and continues to be a focus for the lives of Anglicans in Newcastle as well as for other residents. As one of the largest Anglican Cathedrals in the state, it is an important landmark in Newcastle.

Criteria e) There is archeological potential in the park and cemetery for evidence of early burials.

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Criteria f) Within the limited research carried out for this review, the site was not found to be significant under this criteria.

Criteria g) The Cathedral is a fine example of the Victorian Academic Gothic style and is Hunt's largest and most ambitious ecclesiastical work.

Integrity / Intactness: The Cathedral, Park and Cemetery all have a high level of integrity.

References:	Author	Title	Year
	Peter Reynolds, Lesley Muir, Joy Hughes	Review of John Horbury Hunt: Radical Architect 1838-1904.	2002
	Anrew Garran (ed.)	Australia: The First Hundred Years	1979
	Barry Maitland and David Stafford	Architecture Newcastle: A Guide	1997

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Sue Rosen and Associates Heritage Assessment And History (HAAH)	Review of Items of Potential State Significance in the Newcastle City Area		2008
	Austral Architecture	Cathedral Rest Park: Conservation Policy & Archaeological Management Plan		2004
	EJE Architecture	Christ Church Cathedral Newcastle Conservation Plan		1995

Parcels:	Parcel Code	LotNumber	Section	Plan Code	Plan Number
	LOT	1		DP	36886
	LOT	2		DP	36886
	LOT	3		DP	36886

Latitude:

Longitude:

Location validity:

Spatial Accuracy:

Map Name:

Map Scale:

AMG Zone:

Easting:

Northing:

Listings:	Name:	Title:	Number:	Date:
	Heritage Act - Permanent Conservation Order - former		284	
	Local Environmental Plan			8/08/2003
	Heritage study			
	National Trust of Australia register			
	Register of the National Estate			

Custom Field One: 1883

Custom Field Two: 3/07/81

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Location: **52A Church Street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

Custom Field Three:

Custom Field Four: Conservation Area - TH

Custom Field Five: Archaeological Potential

Custom Field Six:

Data Entry: Date First Entered: 11/08/1998

Date Updated: 24/07/2008

Status: Basic

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Item Name: **Christ Church Cathedral, Park and Cemetery**

Location: **52A Church Street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Christ Church Cathedral from the north-east side

Copyright:

Image by: Julia Kensy

Image Date: 17/12/2007

Image Number: 1

Image Path:

Image File: 2170284b1.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170284t1.jpg

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Item Name: **Christ Church Cathedral, Park and Cemetery**

Location: **52A Church Street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Interior of Christ Church Cathedral: Facing East

Copyright:

Image by: Julia Kensy

Image Date: 17/12/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170284b2.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170284t2.jpg

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Study Number

Item Name: **Christ Church Cathedral, Park and Cemetery**

Location: **52A Church Street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Cathedral Garden

Copyright:

Image by: Julia Kensy

Image Date: 17/12/2007

Image Number: 3

Image Path:

Image File: 2170284b3.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170284t3.jpg

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Item Name: **Christ Church Cathedral, Park and Cemetery**

Location: **52A Church Street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Christ Church Cemetery

Copyright:

Image by: Julia Kensy

Image Date: 17/12/2007

Image Number: 5

Image Path:

Image File: 2170284b6.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170284t6.jpg

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Item Name: **Christ Church Cathedral, Park and Cemetery**

Location: **52A Church Street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Headstones that have been relocated

Copyright:

Image by: Julia Kensy

Image Date: 17/12/2007

Image Number: 4

Image Path:

Image File: 2170284b5.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170284t5.jpg

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Item Name: **Christ Church Cathedral, Park and Cemetery**

Location: **52A Church Street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: View of Newcastle from Park and Cemetery

Copyright:

Image by: Julia Kensy

Image Date: 17/12/2007

Image Number: 6

Image Path:

Image File: 2170284b9.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170284t9.jpg

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SHI Number

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Study Number

Item Name: **Christ Church Cathedral, Park and Cemetery**

Location: **52A Church Street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Cathedral Park

Copyright:

Image by: Julia Kensy

Image Date: 17/12/2007

Image Number: 7

Image Path:

Image File: 2170284b7.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170284t7.jpg

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SHI Number

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Study Number

Item Name: **Christ Church Cathedral, Park and Cemetery**

Location: **52A Church Street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: James Hannel Memorial

Copyright:

Image by: Julia Kensy

Image Date: 17/12/2007

Image Number: 8

Image Path:

Image File: 2170284b8.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170284t8.jpg

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Item Name: **Christ Church Cathedral, Park and Cemetery**

Location: **52A Church Street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Aerial photograph of Church and Rest Park: boundary has been drawn.

Copyright:

Image by:

Image Date:

Image Number: 9

Image Path:

Image File: 2170284b10.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170284t10.jpg

Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170202

Study Number

202

Item Name: **City Hall & Lamp Posts**

Location: **290 King Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Address: 290 King Street
Suburb / Nearest Town: Newcastle 2300
Local Govt Area: Newcastle City
State: NSW

DUAP Region: Hunter & Central Coast
Historic region: Lower Hunter
Parish:
County:

Other/Former Names: Newcastle Town Hall

Area/Group/Complex: **Group ID:**

Aboriginal Area:

Curtilage/Boundary: The recommended curtilage follows the property boundary, as shown in image 10, taking in the City Hall itself, and lamp posts; Christie Place and part of Wheeler Place, across which significant views of the Town Hall are gained; and the Civic Theatre, sister building to the City Hall.

Item Type: Built **Group:** Community Facilities **Category:** Hall Town Hall

Owner:

Admin Codes: LEP **Code 2:** **Code 3:**

Current Use: City Hall and Offices

Former Uses:

Assessed Significance: State **Endorsed Significance:**

Statement of Significance: Newcastle City Hall is of historic and aesthetic significance to the State of NSW as an imposing civic building embodying the civic pride of NSW's second city in a restrained inter-war classicism. City Hall is an outstanding example of the Inter-War Academic Classical style in NSW. The building's planning, construction and history of use demonstrates the evolution of local government in Newcastle, reflecting the growth, development and increased power of local government across the twentieth century in New South Wales. The style of the building is illustrative of significant social and aesthetic values of the inter-war period in NSW, demonstrating a desire to hold onto traditional forms of architectural stylism particularly in public architecture, in the face of modernism and social and political change. Locally, the architectural pretensions and central Newcastle site demonstrates the perceived centrality of local government to the City of Newcastle during the interwar years, and ambition of mayors and civic leaders to leave their mark on the city by transforming this previously industrial area into a unique cultural precinct to form the civic heart of the City. City Hall has strong associations with its designer Henry Eli White, an internationally noted theatre architect of the early twentieth century, and JV Rowe, principal designer for the Wunderlich company from 1904 to 1925, responsible for the original interior finishes and decoration. Locally the City Hall has a significant association with Alderman Morris Light (1859-1929), Mayor and businessman, the realisation of the City Hall and Civic Theatre complex being his greatest achievement. The building is also associated with Alderman Joy Cummins, who was the first female Lord Mayor in Australia.

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Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

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Study Number

202

Item Name: **City Hall & Lamp Posts**

Location: **290 King Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

**Historical Notes
or Provenance:**

Local Government began in Newcastle in 1843 with the Newcastle District Council. This body, however, was not embraced by locals and Councillors were often appointed by the Government as no nominations had been received. When the Municipalities Act was passed in 1858, there was considerably more interest, with a large number of locals signing the petition to form the Municipality of Newcastle. Meetings of the Council were initially held at the Court House on the corner of Hunter and Bolton Streets. The town's first Mayor was James Hannell. At this time the Newcastle Municipality encompassed only the central Newcastle area, with a number of the surrounding satellite communities, including Hamilton, Lambton, Waratah and others, which are now part of Newcastle Local Government Area, becoming separate municipalities over the following decades. (Conservation Management Plan, p. 18)

The meetings of Newcastle Council continued to be conducted in the Court House, and Council business was undertaken in a small room in the Borough Markets. In 1874 these two functions were brought together under one roof, in the convict built former Commissioner Store in Watt Street, which had served as Post Office until 1872. A decade later a purpose built Council Chambers was erected on the same site in front of the Commissioner Store building, which was used as a store until demolition in 1923. It was designed by the City Engineer, John Sharp, and contained a meeting hall and offices for the Mayor and Town Clerk, on the ground floor, and further offices on the first floor. (Conservation Management Plan, p. 18)

The Council Chambers in Watt Street quickly proved to be inadequate, both in terms of space, and, it would seem, local aspirations. Only four years after it was built the first moves were made towards the construction of a Town Hall. In 1890 a design competition was held for a Town Hall and civic shopping arcade on Hunter Street. The competition was won by eminent local architect Frederick Menkens. However, the project did not proceed, partly due to Council's inability to raise the required funds. Over the following three-and-a-half decades a long series of plans failed to materialise. The need for new premises was intensified following the 1919 Local Government Act, which increased the powers of local government. The existing Council Chambers was extended, but Council staff were still scattered through four separate buildings in Watt Street due to lack of space. At the same time, Newcastle's growing population placed further pressure on the inadequate facilities for public meetings. By 1921 the population of the Newcastle area reached 84,372, an increase of 30,000 across the previous decade. (Conservation Management Plan, pp. 19-20)

In January 1920 a referendum of rate payers was held to gauge community support for raising a loan to purchase a suitable site for the construction of a Town Hall. 682 people voted, and supported the move by a large majority. The next hurdle was to find a suitable site. After the acquisition of a site owned by John Brown in Hunter Street was thwarted, the community was again involved in a September referendum to decide whether the Town Hall should be constructed in the east or west end of town (either side of Burwood Street). Considerably less votes were cast, and an east end location was favoured by a small majority. After the decision to purchase land bound by Hunter, Darby, King and Burwood Streets for a Town Hall based on Menkens' design, yet another attempt was abandoned due to the cost of resumption and compensation of existing businesses. This issue of a Town Hall was again postponed. (Conservation Management Plan, pp. 20-21)

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Item Name: **City Hall & Lamp Posts**

Location: **290 King Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

The election of Morris Light as Mayor of Newcastle in 1924 was a turning point. He was a man of vision and determination who had served on Newcastle and Carrington Councils for 35 years. In February 1925 Light began the final, successful scheme to build a Town Hall for Newcastle, recognising that the city had long ago outgrown the existing Council Chambers. In June 1925 the report produced by the specially appointed Town Hall Special Committee for the construction of a Town Hall, theatre and business premises on the present, central site was adopted. The appointment of Mr Henry Eli White as architect and the taking of a 175,000 pound loan were approved. Although Light died before the completion of the project, he is widely recognised as the man who made it happen, a pair of memorial light standards at the main entrance to the Town Hall commemorates his contribution.

It was after lengthy debate that Council commissioned Henry Eli White for the design. Council was anxious to engage an architect with experience in theatre design. White had developed a passion for theatre design in 1907 and his 3 essentials were vision lines, acoustics and ventilation. The reputation that drew White to the attention of Council aldermen was firmly established by 1915. He was one of the most successful theatre architects in the country, having designed Sydney's Capitol and State Theatres. In all, he designed 183 theatres in Australia, New Zealand and North America, many in partnership with John Ebersson. (Civic Theatre website: <http://www.civictheatrenewcastle.com.au - History>) Although his main focus was on theatres White had also designed a variety of other prominent commercial and industrial buildings including the Bunnerong Power House and the famous art deco Paragon Cafe at Katoomba. In August 1925 White submitted the Town Hall plans which were placed on public display in the Hunter Street window of Scott's Store. Plans for the Theatre and shops were presented soon after. (Conservation Management Plan, p. 24)

In 1926 there was community debate over the inclusion of a large theatre in the commission. One of the more vocal opponents was the manager of the Victoria Theatre. Through the local press, an unceasing opposition campaign was conducted against the construction of a new theatre in Newcastle. Consequently, a poll of ratepayers occurred in 1926 at which voters were asked to indicate their preference for a town hall, theatre and shops or a town hall only. A majority were in support of the proposal to include the theatre in the design and a successful application under the Local Government Act to raise two hundred thousand pounds led to the resumption of land. (Conservation Management Plan, pp. 26-7)

The design of the town hall and theatre/shops complex was let as a single contract but separate tenders were called for the construction of the two buildings. The successful tenderer was the firm of Charles Davis and Son, which submitted the lowest tender of 82,927 pounds. Among the firm's larger contracts were the AMP block, remodelling of the Council's market street buildings, the Commercial Bank, and several hotels including the Crown and Anchor. His domestic work included Braeside at Waratah, designed by Frederick Menkens. (Conservation Management Plan, pp. 27-8)

In July 1927, the Council resumed just over 2 ½ acres of land for the civic complex, including a site owned by John Brown. Included in the resumption were 10 lots in Section A of the original 2000 acre grant to the Australian Agricultural Company. Newcastle City Hall still stands on Lots 10,11,and 12 of this portion, while Christie Place occupies Lots 13 and

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Item Name: **City Hall & Lamp Posts**

Location: **290 King Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

14 with Wheeler Place occupying lot 9. The firm of Archibald Rodgers previously occupied the site. The firm was established in Carrington in 1854. In 1870 the name was changed to Rodgers Bros. and the business moved to the King Street on which City Hall now stands. The land was swampy and required six feet of fill to prepare it for the new engineering works including a blacksmiths' shop, fitting and machine shop and a moulding shop. Following resumption by Council in 1927, the buildings were auctioned or demolished. Part of the site now containing Nesca House was retained by Rodgers Bros. This land was resumed in 1936 for the construction of Nesca House. (Conservation Management Plan, p. 23)

In November 1927, Council decided to change the external cladding material from brick and cement to freestone. This was first noted in the Council minutes in November 1927. Within three weeks the decision had been made and the building was to be faced with 30,000 super feet of stone from Waverley in Sydney, increasing the cost of the project by 26,480 pounds. The work was suspended until government approval was granted for an additional loan of 81,000 pounds to cover the cost of the stone and increased land acquisition costs. The loan was finally repaid in 1960. Given the history of community consultation on significant issues relating to the Town Hall proposal, it can only be assumed that Council did not invite further delay of the project at this stage. There is no evidence of opposition from the community. (Conservation Management Plan, p. 28)

Pouring the foundations of Cockle Creek concrete reinforced with BHP steel began on March 7 1928. Seven tons of steel were used in one area at the base of the tower. Existing overhead high tension mains in the vicinity of the site were put underground to allow an unimpeded view of the Town Hall, and a substation constructed to the west of the building. The foundation stone was laid on April 20 1928 by the Governor Sir Dudley de Chair, who travelled by train to Newcastle. He described the people of Newcastle as industrious and enterprising and declared the Town Hall 'one of the noblest structures of the kind which has been erected in the State'. He then laid the foundation stone of polished trachyte. (Conservation Management Plan, p. 29)

As a general policy in construction of the Town hall, the Council preferred to use local materials, suppliers and contractors. British steel had been specified but steps were taken to substitute BHP steel. BHP steel was more expensive than the specified imported product, and Council approached the BHP to bear half the costs of the steel, which they accepted, reducing the cost of the steel by 250 pounds. (Conservation Management Plan, p. 30)

Although the Council had agreed that the Town Clerk be responsible for the interior design, it was later decided that the professional advice should be sought. J.V.Rowe, recognised furnishing expert, was engaged to undertake the interior decoration. Rowe had come to Australia in 1904 as chief designer for Wunderlich. He is credited with introducing Art Nouveau to Wunderlich. He continued to work for the firm until 1925. He was Principal of the East Sydney Technical College. Previous commissions include the Royal Automobile Club in Sydney, Rose Bay Golf Club and private homes in Sydney. (Conservation Management Plan, p. 30)

On December 14 1929, the Governor Sir Dudley de Chair returned to Newcastle to open the town hall. The adjacent Civic Theatre was opened by the Premier, Mr T Bavin. To mark the opening, Council declared 'Civic Week', a week of celebrations. (Conservation Management

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Item Name: **City Hall & Lamp Posts**

Location: **290 King Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Plan, p. 31)

The clock was initially to be a gift to the city but the cost of 850 pounds was borne by the Council. At the time the clock was seen as a worthy rival to London's Big Ben. The clock and bell were supplied by Prouds, together with 15 small electric clocks which were synchronised with the father clock. (Conservation Management Plan, p. 35)

Morris Light's concept was for a town hall and offices together with an art gallery and museum. This was later modified to encompass the Civic Theatre including an exhibition hall and 14 shops, public open spaces (Christie Place and Civic Park) and new roads (Wheeler Place and Christie Street). The construction of the City hall and the Civic Theatre was the catalyst for the transformation of this part of the city centre. White was instrumental in having the buildings in Civic Park removed and the land resumed as park. In 1949 a precinct plan was prepared by the Northumberland County Council which established a site for the War memorial cultural centre (Newcastle Region Library) at the southern end of the axis established by City Hall. This is a similar planning model to Parliament House in Canberra and the National War Memorial. (Conservation Management Plan, p. 38) This generous vision for the civic precinct which forms the centre of today's Newcastle, and the lavish construction of the Town Hall and adjacent Civic Theatre was made possible by the optimism and booming economy of the early-mid 1920s. The use of a classical style for the Town Hall is reflective of a persistent belief in the western world that the true architecture 'had its roots in Greece, Rome and the Renaissance and that some form of classicism was the only safe port in a stormy sea of change' that was the early twentieth century. (Apperly, Irving and Reynolds, p. 154)

In 1937 the 11 borough councils in Newcastle were amalgamated to form the City of Newcastle and the Town Hall became the legislative and administrative hub from this time. The name was changed to City Hall in honour of this event. (Conservation Management Plan, p. 46)

During the war years City Hall formed an important hub for charitable and patriotic organisations as community activities of this nature burgeoned, and also hosted recruitment rallies, patriotic fundraising concerts, returned soldiers events. A request by the Anti-Conscription Committee to hold a meeting in the City Hall, on the other hand, was denied by the Mayor, to the chagrin of the Trades Hall Council. The alliance between the British Empire, Soviet Union and USA was marked by the hoisting of the Red Flag on the City Hall in October 1941, and additional flagpoles were erected on the building to allow the Union Jack, the American, Soviet and Greek flags to be raised daily. The National Emergency Services organisation was moved into the No. 1 Committee Room in the City Hall in March 1941, and in January 1942, as the war seemed to draw perilously close to NSW, the main door of of the City Hall was bricked up as a protection against potential blasts. (Conservation Management Plan, p. 47)

Through the 1930s and 1940s settlement and damp issues were addressed. Several alterations were made to the stage in the main auditorium during the 1940s and 1950s, the provision of improved lighting and a larger stage area to allow ballet and orchestral performances. This was necessary because the Civic Theatre had become such a popular, and profitable, venue for movies that such performances had been squeezed out. By the

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Item Name: City Hall & Lamp Posts

Location: 290 King Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]

late 1950s and 1960s the City Hall was becoming crowded and the City Engineer, Aldermen and the public jostled for space. Both public and staff facilities were seen as shabby and inadequate. Writing to the Newcastle Morning Herald in 4 May 1966 'Hostess' captured the concerns of the public for their city's reputation, writing 'Most visitors to Newcastle go to the City Hall which is in a sense our "lounge room" so how about a brighter welcome?' The pressure was finally relieved with the construction of the Civic Administration Centre in 1977, and the relocation of all administrative functions out of the City Hall. The City Hall itself was to remain the focus of civic life, and after half a century of only minor maintenance work, needed a thorough going over. Local architects Suters and Busted and local builder R W Black were engaged to carry out refurbishment works aiming to incorporate new services, such as air conditioning, and converting previous office space into public spaces, at the same time as maintaining and enhancing the dignity of the original design. In 1981 these works received an award from the Royal Australian Institute of Architects as one of the best examples of building recycling in NSW. (Conservation Management Plan, pp. 48-51) The City Hall was largely spared by the 1989 earthquake, but some repairs to the tower were necessary. After 2001 major stonework conservation was undertaken (Conservation Management Plan, p. 2)

The building City Hall continues to house Council Chambers, as well as hosting civic receptions, community gatherings, weddings, national and international conferences, trade shows, seminars, corporate meetings, product launches and social functions. (Newcastle City Council website)

Themes:	National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
	4. Settlement	Towns, suburbs and village	(none)
	7. Governing	Government and administra	(none)
	8. Culture	Creative endeavour (Cultur	(none)

Designer: Henry Eli White, J V Rowe (interior)

Maker / Builder: Charles Davis and Son

Year Started: 1928 **Year Completed:** 1929 **Circa:** No

Physical Description: Newcastle City Hall is a three storey stone-clad building in the Inter-War Academic Classical style. It is supported by a steel frame and reinforced concrete floors. Like the similar Brisbane Town Hall, its design follows the precedent established in the nineteenth century, where the strong vertical mass of a central tower emerges from a relatively low base over three storeys. The building features imposing symmetrical pavilions with coupled Roman Doric and Ionic orders on the three main facades, which are designed to be seen 'in-the-round'. On the southern, King Street, façade a Porte Cochere is supported by sandstone Roman Doric style columns, the balustrade above the entablature has circular turned balusters. The balusters are slim and have been largely replaced by synthetic stone

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Item Name: **City Hall & Lamp Posts**

Location: **290 King Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

balusters.

The upper two storeys of the major facades are treated as a single storey united by Ionic columns. The ground floor is treated as a rusticated plinth. This device prevents the classical detailing on the building looking distorted. The rear elevation, backing onto Christie Lane, is painted cement render. A deep continuous base course is broken by two original escape doors and a new escape door introduced in 1980. Sandstone quoins return on both ends, three moulded string courses and a cornice being the only features. Blind windows are then used to excellent effect.

The external wall cladding and elements such as the Porte Cochere, the clock tower, balconies, balustrades and external stairs are built of Sydney 'yellowblock' sandstone. Externally, metal grilles, window and door frames are used.

A vehicular ramp leads up to the main entrance midway between the ground and first floor levels. The entrance is then enclosed in the Porte-Cochere. The flat roof of the Porte-Cochere provides a terrace off the main staircase mid-way between first and second floors. This ingenious planning device clearly defines an imposing entrance and again helps break the height and bulk of the building. The scale is further reduced by means of a flight of steps from King Street.

The clock tower is an imposing landmark and distinctive feature of the city sky line, indicating the Civic Centre of Newcastle. The tower is a reinforced concrete and steel framed structure clad in Sydney yellowblock sandstone ashlar with rusticated quoins.

The lavish interiors provide rare evidence of a refined historical stylism coupled with craftsmanship and techniques of twentieth century paint technology. They also define the trends of the late 1970s and early 1980s in the replacement fabric which includes lighting, balustrades, furnishings, and bars. The major public spaces (Concert hall and gallery, Council chamber, Mayor's reception room and the main entrance foyer) feature the use of Queensland Maple joinery and furnishings, coffered fibrous plaster ceilings and plaster relief ornament. These rooms are the most original, containing most of the original fabric. Floorings are timber, timber parquetry, linoleum, and Sicilian marble with carpeting dating to 2001.

The cast iron lampposts are located: 6 on the southern footpath, 7 on the northern footpath, 6 forming part of City Hall and 2 each at the east and west entrances a total of 23.

Physical Condition: The City Hall appears to be in good physical condition.

Modification Dates: Repairs and sympathetic alterations were carried out internally in 1981.

Recommended Management:

Management:

Further Comments:

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Item Name: **City Hall & Lamp Posts**

Location: **290 King Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

- Criteria a)** Newcastle City Hall is of historic significance to the State of NSW. The planning and construction of the building in the 1920s and the over crowding and final separation of administrative functions in the post war years demonstrates the growth, development and increased power of local government across the twentieth century in New South Wales. The style of the building, combining a modern construction with classical configuration and facades, is illustrative of significant social and aesthetic values of the inter-war period in NSW, demonstrating a desire to hold onto traditional forms of architectural stylism in the face of a growing modernist movement, particularly as an expression of civic pride and aggrandisement. Locally, the architectural pretensions and central Newcastle site demonstrates the perceived centrality of local government to the City of Newcastle during the interwar years, and ambition of mayors and civic leaders to leave their mark on the city by transforming this previously industrial area into a unique cultural precinct to form the civic heart of the City.
- Criteria b)** City Hall has strong associations with its designer Henry Eli White, who was an internationally noted theatre architect of the early twentieth century, many of whose domestic and overseas theatres are listed on state and national heritage registers. In this major civic building he employed a restrained interpretation of Academic Classicism to embody the civic aspirations of Newcastle in the interwar period, today respected as the focal point of Newcastle. City Hall is also associated with JV Rowe, principal designer for the Wunderlich company from 1904 to 1925, responsible for the original interior finishes and decoration. The City Hall has a high level of local significance through its association with Alderman Morris Light (1859-1929), Mayor and businessman, who served on Newcastle and Carrington Councils for 35 years, was the catalyst for the building of City Hall. Among his other notable achievements was his push for the electrification of the Sydney to Newcastle Railway line. His greatest achievement remains the realisation of the City Hall and Civic Theatre Complex. Showing foresight and integrity as a statesman, Light demonstrated his democratic spirit by taking the concept to the people on two occasions in referenda about the location of the building and its uses. The building is associated also with Alderman Joy Cummins, who was the first female Lord Mayor in Australia.
- Criteria c)** Newcastle City Hall has aesthetic significance for the State as an outstanding example of a major public building designed in the Inter-War Academic Classical style set adjoining community open space and associated cultural institutions. The building is one of the finest examples of its class of item in the State of New South Wales, with a largeness of scale and an imposing presence in the streetscape befitting its civic and political importance to the Hunter region. Its style expresses the conservative community attitudes of the day in regards to appropriate design in public architecture, combining classical elements with the beauty of Sydney yellowblock sandstone. It employs the use of modern construction materials (reinforced steel and concrete) with a traditional facing material. It forms a central part of this landmark civic precinct, back to back with the Civic Theatre designed by White as part of the same project, and its classicism provides a fitting contrast to the modernist Nesca House (State significance), situated to its west.
- Criteria d)** Although this aspect of the building's significance has not been specifically researched, it is clear that Newcastle City Hall is a potent symbol of civic pride held in high esteem by the local community. It remains in active use as the seat of local governance and plays host to a constant stream of community and local business events, as well as regional and national conferences and performances. It is a prominent civic icon, with an accessible and

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Item Name: **City Hall & Lamp Posts**

Location: **290 King Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

democratic atmosphere, which provides a sense of place to the local community.

Criteria e) City Hall has the potential to yield information about the role of administration and government in a major regional city during the Inter-War period and about the history of the second largest city in New South Wales. It has the potential to yield information of the decorative techniques of the period and of the 1980s period. Archaeologically, the site has the potential to yield invaluable information relating to the early settlement of Newcastle and industry on the site until the construction of City Hall in 1928, including the Australian Agricultural Company, which owned the land until the late 19th century.

Criteria f) The building is one of the the only examples of its class (a large Town Hall designed in the Academic Classical style from the Inter-War period) in New South Wales.

Criteria g) City Hall is representative of a wave of classical architecture which struck Australia in the 1920s before the widespread advent of modernism in the years following. It can be ranked alongside other major Inter-War Classical buildings in Australia such as the Commonwealth bank in Martin Place and Central Block of the State Library of New South Wales. It is one of the most outstanding examples of this style of architecture purpose-built as the seat of government and administration for NSW's 'second city'.

Integrity / Intactness: The integrity of this item is very high and its symbolic importance is underscored by the value placed on its setting - parklands rich in public art (sculptures), fountains and other cultural institutions. The view to the clock tower from the southern approach has been marginally compromised by the erection of the City Administration Centre in 1969.

References:	Author	Title	Year
	Aperly, Irving and Reynolds	A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture	1989
	Department Public Works and Services Heritage Branch	Conservation Management Plan, Newcastle City Hall (draft)	2001
	Newcastle City Council	Newcastle City Council Website	

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Unknown	Newcastle Heritage Study	202	1990
	Sue Rosen and Associates Heritage Assessment And History (HAAH)	Review of Items of Potential State Significance in the Newcastle City Area		2008

Parcels:	Parcel Code	LotNumber	Section	Plan Code	Plan Number
	PARTLOT	1			225689

Latitude:

Longitude:

Location validity:

Spatial Accuracy:

Map Name:

Map Scale:

AMG Zone:

Easting:

Northing:

Listings:	Name:	Title:	Number:	Date:
	Local Environmental Plan			8/08/2003

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Item Name: **City Hall & Lamp Posts**

Location: **290 King Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Heritage study

National Trust of Australia register

Custom Field One: 1928

Custom Field Two:

Custom Field Three:

Custom Field Four: Conservation Area - NCBD

Custom Field Five:

Custom Field Six:

Data Entry: Date First Entered: 11/08/1998

Date Updated: 08/04/2008

Status: Basic

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Item Name: **City Hall & Lamp Posts**

Location: **290 King Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: City Hall & Lamp Posts - southern elevation

Copyright:

Image by: Newcastle City Council

Image Date: 31/12/2002

Image Number: 1

Image Path:

Image File: 2170202b1.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170202t1.jpg

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Item Name: **City Hall & Lamp Posts**

Location: **290 King Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Newcastle City Hall - eastern elevation

Copyright:

Image by: Newcastle City Council

Image Date: 31/12/2002

Image Number: 2

Image Path:

Image File: 2170202b2.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170202t2.jpg

Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170202

Study Number

202

Item Name: **City Hall & Lamp Posts**

Location: **290 King Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Newcastle City Hall - northern elevation

Copyright:

Image by: Newcastle City Council

Image Date: 31/12/2002

Image Number: 3

Image Path:

Image File: 2170202b3.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170202t3.jpg

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Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170202

Study Number

202

Item Name: **City Hall & Lamp Posts**

Location: **290 King Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Newcastle City Hall - western elevation

Copyright:

Image by: Newcastle City Council

Image Date: 31/12/2002

Image Number: 4

Image Path:

Image File: 2170202b4.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170202t4.jpg

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SHI Number

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Study Number

202

Item Name: **City Hall & Lamp Posts**

Location: **290 King Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: View to the north east from clock tower

Copyright:

Image by: Newcastle City Council

Image Date: 31/12/2002

Image Number: 6

Image Path:

Image File: 2170202b6.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170202t6.jpg

Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170202

Study Number

202

Item Name: **City Hall & Lamp Posts**

Location: **290 King Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: View to the south from clock tower

Copyright:

Image by: Newcastle City Council

Image Date: 31/12/2002

Image Number: 5

Image Path:

Image File: 2170202b5.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170202t5.jpg

Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170202

Study Number

202

Item Name: **City Hall & Lamp Posts**

Location: **290 King Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: View of front, southern facade across the flower beds of Civic Park opposite the City Hall on Hunter Street.

Copyright:

Image by: Newcastle City Council

Image Date: 31/12/2002

Image Number: 7

Image Path:

Image File: 2170202b7.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170202t7.jpg

Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170202

Study Number

202

Item Name: **City Hall & Lamp Posts**

Location: **290 King Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: City Hall with lamps in the evening.

Copyright:

Image by: Newcastle City Council

Image Date: 31/12/2002

Image Number: 8

Image Path:

Image File: 2170202b8.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170202t8.jpg

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Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170202

Study Number

202

Item Name: **City Hall & Lamp Posts**

Location: **290 King Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Aerial view of the Newcastle civic precinct.

Copyright:

Image by: unknown

Image Date:

Image Number: 9

Image Path:

Image File: 2170202b9.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170202t9.jpg

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