

Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number
2173904
Study Number

Item Name: **Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Area**

Location: **Hunter Street, Scott Street, Watt Street, Newcomen Street,**

Address: Hunter Street, Scott Street, Watt Street,
Newcomen Street, King Street, Perkins
Street, Keightley Lane, Brown Street,
Crown Street, Perkins Street, Wolfe 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:

Area/Group/Complex:

Group ID:

Aboriginal Area:

Curtilage/Boundary: Shown by a heavy black broken line and marked 'Newcastle City
Centre Heritage Conservation Area'

Item Type: Area/Complex/Group Group: Commercial Category: Other - Commercial

Owner: Multiple Owners

Admin Codes:

Code 2:

Code 3:

Current Use:

Former Uses:

Assessed Significance: **Local**

Endorsed Significance: **Local**

Statement of Significance: The Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Area is significant on many levels. The assemblage of commercial and civic buildings is a powerful reminder of the city's rich history and its many phases of development. The number of historic buildings surviving is quite remarkable for a city of this size, with a number of pre-1840s buildings surviving (Rose Cottage, c1830, Newcomen Club, 1830, Parts of James Fletcher Hospital). All of these are associated with the city's penal heritage. It is also known to be a city with a rich archaeological record of national significance, for its potential to yield information about the early convict settlement and early industrial activities. The city area is known to have been a place of contact between colonists and the indigenous population, who owned the land on the southern shores of the Hunter river. This evidence is available in historical accounts and in the archaeological record surviving beneath the modern city. The high numbers of commercial and civic buildings of the 19thc and 20th centuries gives the city a historic character which is notable and allows an understanding of the importance of the city as a place of commerce, governance and city building. The historical foundation of the city was the discovery and exploitation of coal with good shipping access via a safe and navigable harbour. The town's layout by Surveyor General Henry Dangar in 1828 is still visible in the city's streets, and is an element of historical value.

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Historical Notes or Provenance: The presence of abundant coal reserves within easy reach of the sea is the economic foundation on which the City of Newcastle was built. Coal was discovered in other locations in New South Wales (eg Wollongong) but the estuary of the Hunter River gave the locality a unique advantage. Founded as a penal settlement following the Vinegar Hill uprising, the presence of the coal measures and a ready convict workforce meant that the city had a reason for being beyond incarceration. A failed first settlement occurred in 1801 but it was not until 1804 that a proclamation was issued by Governor King, that saw the city of Newcastle successfully established.

Themes:	National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
	2. Peopling	Aboriginal cultures and inter	(none)
	2. Peopling	Convict	(none)
	4. Settlement	Towns, suburbs and village	(none)
	5. Working	Labour	(none)
	9. Phases of Life	Events	(none)

Designer:

Maker / Builder:

Year Started:

Year Completed:

Circa: No

Physical Description: The HCA is the urban core of Newcastle and has been the centre of activities since its settlement in 1804. As such, it is highly significant as a place which can evoke a sense of its past through the street layout, building fabric, sandstone retaining walls and kerbing, and its archaeological layers surviving beneath the modern streets and buildings. The CBD is essentially a narrow peninsula bounded on one side by the harbour, the other the sea, and at the western extremity by the arc of the Hunter river estuary. The street system is a grid layed out in street widths by Surveyor general Henry Dangar in 1828. This has not changed to this day although there has been significant reclamation of the foreshore to create Scott Street and the land the railway sits upon. Of special significance is the area of the Market place which still functions as a shopping precinct today - this can be seen on Dangar's 1828 town plan. One of the early convict coal mines was located under the present day location of Market Square shopping centre.

Physical Condition:

Modification Dates:

Recommended
Management:

Management:

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Date: 04/07/2008

Full Report with Images

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Further Comments:

Criteria a)

Criteria b)

Criteria c)

Criteria d)

Criteria e)

Criteria f)

Criteria g)

Integrity / Intactness:

References:	Author	Title	Year
	Godden Mackay Pty Ltd	Urban Conservation Area Guidelines for Inner Newcastle	1996
	Suters Busteed Corner Clode Pty Ltd	Newcastle Central Business District Heritage Study	1988

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Suters, Lavelle, Doring, Turner	Newcastle Archaeological Management Plan		1997
	Godden Mackay Pty Ltd	Urban Conservation Area Guidelines for Inner Newcastle		1996
	Unknown	Newcastle Heritage Study		1990
	Suters Busteed Corner Clode Pty Ltd	Newcastle Central Business District Heritage Study		1988
	Suters Busteed Corner Clode Pty Ltd	Newcastle Central Business District Heritage Study		1988

Parcels:

Latitude:

Longitude:

Location validity:

Spatial Accuracy:

Map Name:

Map Scale:

AMG Zone:

Easting:

Northing:

Listings:	Name:	Title:	Number:	Date:
	Local Environmental Plan			08/08/2003
	Within a conservation area on an LEP			
	Heritage study	Newcastle CBD		01/01/1988

Custom Field One:

Custom Field Two:

Custom Field Three:

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Location: **Hunter Street, Scott Street, Watt Street, Newcomen Street,**

Custom Field Four:

Custom Field Five:

Custom Field Six:

Data Entry:

Date First Entered: 11/09/2003

Date Updated: 04/07/2008

Status: Basic

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Item Name: **Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Area**

Location: **Hunter Street, Scott Street, Watt Street, Newcomen Street,**

Image/s:



Caption: Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Area - Telephone Exchange and David Jones Wolfe Street Annex

Copyright:

Image by: Sarah Skillen

Image Date: 10/10/2006

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2173904b2.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t2_2173904.jpg

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Item Name: **Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Area**

Location: **Hunter Street, Scott Street, Watt Street, Newcomen Street,**

Image/s:



Caption: Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Area - Masonic Hall detail

Copyright:

Image by: Sarah Skillen

Image Date: 01/09/2006

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2173904b4.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t4_2173904.jpg

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Item Name: **Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Area**

Location: **Hunter Street, Scott Street, Watt Street, Newcomen Street,**

Image/s:



Caption: Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Area - former Post Office

Copyright:

Image by: Sarah Skillen

Image Date: 01/09/2006

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2173904b5.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t5_2173904.jpg

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Location: **Hunter Street, Scott Street, Watt Street, Newcomen Street,**

Image/s:



Caption: Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Area - Commandant's Cottage
James Fletcher Hospital

Copyright:

Image by: Sarah Skillen

Image Date: 01/09/2006

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2173904b7.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t7_2173904.jpg

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Location: **Hunter Street, Scott Street, Watt Street, Newcomen Street,**

Image/s:



Caption: Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Area - aerial perspective from Queens Wharf Tower

Copyright:

Image by:

Image Date: 01/01/2001

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2173904b8.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t8_2173904.jpg

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Location: **Hunter Street, Scott Street, Watt Street, Newcomen Street,**

Image/s:



Caption: Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Area - overview from Foreshore

Copyright:

Image by: S Cameron

Image Date: 24/11/2006

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2173904b10.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t10_2173904.jpg

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Caption: Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Area - View of Inner Newcastle by Joseph Lycett, Newcastle Region Art Gallery Registration Number 1961007

Date Created (1818)

Media Painting

Medium oil on canvas (relined)

Copyright: Newcastle Region Art Gallery

Image by: Joseph Lycett

Image Date:

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2173904b11.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t11_2173904.jpg

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Image/s:



Caption:

Copyright:

Image by:

Image Date:

Image Number:

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Image File: 2173904b6.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t6_2173904.jpg

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Item Name: **Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Area**

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Caption: Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Area - Crown and Anchor Hotel

Copyright:

Image by: Sarah Skillen

Image Date: 01/10/2006

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2173904b1.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t1_2173904.jpg

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Image/s:



Caption: Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Area

Copyright:

Image by:

Image Date:

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2173904b12.jpg

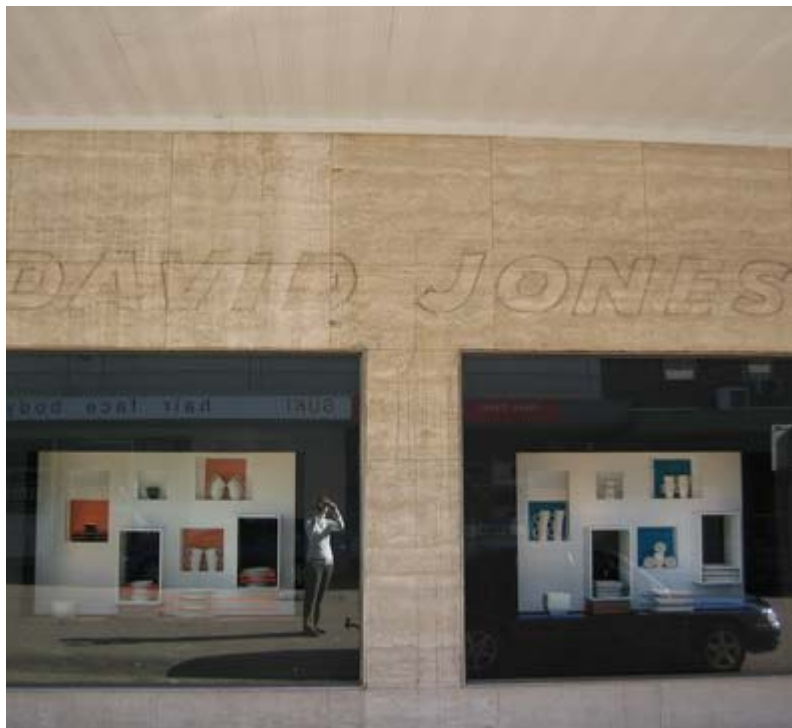
Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t12_2173904.jpg

Item Name: **Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Area**

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Image/s:



Caption: Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Area - detail of David Jones's shopfront showing 1960s business signage

Copyright:

Image by: Sarah Skillen

Image Date: 10/10/2006

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2173904b3.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t3_2173904.jpg