

363.69/REV
Vol. 3
Local Studies

Sue Rosen & Associates



Review of Potential Items of State Heritage Significance

for

Newcastle City Council

Volume Two: Nominations for State Heritage Inventory N - Z

and

Appendix A and Appendix B

June 2008





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ITEM DETAILS					
Name of Item	Newcastle Ocean Baths				
Other Name/s Former Name/s	Griffith Ocean Baths				
Item type (if known)	Built				
Item group (if known)	Recreation and Entertainment				
Item category (if known)	Swimming Pool - tidal				
Area, Group, or Collection Name					
Street number	30				
Street name	Shortland Esplanade				
Suburb/town	Newcastle East	Postcode	2300		
Local Government Area/s	Newcastle City				
Property description	Lot 7061 DP 1118737. Curtilage – see Suters' CMP Figure 6.1				
Location - Lat/long	Latitude	32d 55m 47s	Longitude	151d 47m 20s	
Location - AMG (if no street address)	Zone		Easting		Northing
Owner	Newcastle City Council				
Current use	Swimming baths				
Former Use	Swimming baths				
Statement of significance	<p>The Newcastle Ocean baths are of State aesthetic significance as a landmark structure, believed to be the only Inter-War Stripped Classical ocean baths pavilion existing in New South Wales. The baths and pavilion are an early and possibly first example of this style in Newcastle. The baths themselves were thought to be the largest of their kind (rock excavated) in the southern hemisphere at the time of construction. An icon and landmark of Newcastle, the size and prominence of the baths represents the significance of swimming and beach culture in Australia from the 1900s and contributes to their rarity. The baths also have a high degree of social significance for the local and wider community, having been a popular recreational and sporting venue for generations of Novocastrians and visitors. The distinctive aesthetics, prominent location and beachside setting have provided inspiration for artists, photographers and filmmakers, and have recently become a popular venue for other cultural events, signifying their outstanding significance and contribution to Newcastle's sense of place and their value to the community.</p>				
Level of Significance	State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Local <input type="checkbox"/>	



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DESCRIPTION					
Designer	L. B. Blackwell, F. G. Castleden, J. F. Shine (Engineers for City of Newcastle); Pitt & Merewether, Architects (1927 remodelling)				
Builder/ maker	Newcastle City Council				
Physical Description	<p>The Ocean Baths are set on a rocky outcrop on the southern side of a natural headland forming the southern entrance to Newcastle Harbour. The baths themselves comprise a pool carved into natural rock with rubble stone and concrete walls, coated in limewash. A concrete pillar that once supported lighting remains in the pool.</p> <p>The pavilion is a rendered reinforced concrete building housing a kiosk, male and female change rooms and first floor residence. It is detailed in an Inter-War Stripped Classical / Art Deco style, which has been adapted from an earlier Federation style of building. The façade is dominated by engaged piers and is distinguished by the vertical parapet of the central block and two decorative parapets of each wing, both having shell motifs. The main entrance is a large opening adjacent to the central section to the north. The central structure is a two-storey block with offices and kiosk at ground level and residence above. The change rooms are simple open-air structures behind the pavilion façade. The pavilion is painted in an Art Deco colour scheme. Features of the Inter-War Stripped Classical style which are dominant in the Ocean Baths include the symmetrical façade, division into vertical bays indicating classical origins, elements of other styles such as Art Deco, emphatic portal and simple surfaces. (Suters Architects, 'Ocean Baths CMP', 2002, pp 23-26)</p> <p>Internally, the central section of the pavilion has undergone several renovations at various stages and therefore does not exhibit many original features. (Suters Architects, 'Ocean Baths CMP', 2002, p 26)</p> <p>The interior form of the change rooms is relatively unaltered from the original, each housing changing cubicles, showers and toilets, with the central areas (unroofed) having long benches. Finishes are predominantly painted brickwork, with tiling to the wet areas. Floors are bare concrete. (Suters Architects, 'Ocean Baths CMP', 2002, p 25)</p> <p>The Canoe Pool is a semi-circular pool with a shallow concrete wall and natural sand bottom forming a beach near the sea-wall along the shore. A concrete coloured map of the world originally existed on the bottom of the pool but was removed in 1968.</p>				
Physical condition and Archaeological potential	The baths are in fair physical condition. The pavilion is currently undergoing restoration.				
Construction years	Start year	1911	Finish year	1928	Circa <input type="checkbox"/>
Modifications and dates	<p>1918 – change sheds built on rock platform</p> <p>1922 – Edwardian pavilion building constructed replacing earlier dressing sheds.</p> <p>1922 – sluice gate built with automatic gate on north-western side of site. The flood gates were rebuilt in 1949; and the pumphouse rebuilt in the 1950s.</p> <p>1927-1928 – major alterations to existing central block for new pavilion entrance in Stripped Classical / Art Deco style and addition of simplified palmette motifs to parapet.</p> <p>1928 – existing timber diving platform replaced by steel tower.</p> <p>1937 – Canoe Pool completed. Extended in 1939. Map at base of pool was demolished in 1968.</p>				



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	<p>1948 – bridge dividing lap pool constructed.</p> <p>1958-59 – additions included: separate club rooms for Premier Men's and Women's Swimming Club, storeroom, painting, raising of northern promenade and shelter on eastern wall of dressing sheds. At this time original windows may have been removed and replaced with concrete blocks.</p> <p>1961 – colonnade constructed on eastern side of women's change sheds.</p> <p>1989 - Repairs to baths undertaken due to earthquake damage – included repainting in six colours reflecting a maritime heritage theme.</p> <p>1990 – Disabled facilities improved, including access ramp to pool, shower, change-room and toilet facilities. Kiosk upgraded. (Suters Architects, 'Ocean Baths CMP', 2002, pp 24-26)</p> <p>At the time of the most recent site visit (September 2007) the building was undergoing repairs and restoration work following storm damage.</p>
Further comments	<p>The site should be managed according to the guidelines set out in the Conservation Management Plan prepared by Suters' Architects in 2002.</p>



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HISTORY

Historical notes

The health-giving and therapeutic benefits of bathing in cold salt water had been extolled in England since the late eighteenth century. However, seaside bathing was an intimidating prospect for the early European inhabitants of New South Wales, who faced the unfamiliar threats of waves, currents and sharks. The development of public bathing places in NSW arose partly in response to the need to protect bathers from the physical dangers of the ocean as well as the perceived need to restrict the public display of bathing bodies on the grounds of nineteenth century standards of decency and morality. While men swam naked in the early days of the Colony, in 1810 Governor Macquarie described such bathing as 'an indecent and improper custom'. (Suters Architects, 'Ocean Baths CMP', 2002, p 3)

In Newcastle, for the early European inhabitants of the penal outpost, activity revolved around the harbour rather than the beachfront, though communications between Governor Macquarie and Commandant Major James Morisset in 1818 indicate that some bathers had ventured into the ocean and drowned in dangerous surf. Instructions sent by Macquarie to Morisset advised him to warn bathers to avoid the surf and keep to the harbour. The Bogey Hole, a rock pool at the foot of Shepherd's Hill is one of the landmarks of Newcastle's convict era, and is believed to have been excavated by convict workers around 1820 for Morisset's personal use. (Suters Architects, 'Ocean Baths CMP', 2002, pp 3-4)

In Newcastle's post-convict era, the area's sandy beaches and convenient bathing were used to promote the town, which was hailed by the author of one article in the *Sydney Gazette* in 1828 as 'the future Brighton of New South Wales'. The town's leaders, keen to foster Newcastle's tourism potential, bemoaned the lack of 'a suitable bathing place for the city.' From the late 1850s, several schemes to erect public sea baths at Newcastle were proposed by private syndicates. Between 1850 and 1880 male and female bathers were obliged to use separate areas of Newcastle's beaches or bathe at separate times and agitation for public sea baths grew. By 1880, bathing in the ocean behind the Newcastle Hospital was permitted at any hour, provided bathers wore 'suitable bathing dress.' (Suters Architects, 'Ocean Baths CMP', 2002, p 5; Australian Heritage Database: Soldiers Baths – www.environment.gov.au)

In 1879 a public meeting called on Newcastle Borough Council to build public baths to protect residents from having to bathe in the open sea. At a meeting between a Mr Mullen and the Council, later that year, the City Engineer tabled a report outlining seven schemes for sea baths on various sites stretching along the Newcastle coastline. A site was finally chosen early in 1882 and the Lands Department gave permission for the Council to occupy 'a portion of the foreshore under the Signal Hill'. Construction soon began on the excavation of what became known as 'the Soldiers' Baths' beneath Fort Scratchley. The baths were dedicated on 12 January 1883 and are reputedly the first ocean baths (as distinct from pools excavated from rock, and harbour pools) built in New South Wales. A rock pool to the south of Soldiers' Baths was also a popular swimming spot in the latter half of the nineteenth century. Known as the Square Hole or Cowrie Hole, it is believed that this cavity was originally cut into the rock platform as a footing for a bathing house. It was located to the east of the present Ocean Baths, on the same rock platform, but has long since been covered with sand. In 1884, under Council control, the Bogey Hole was enlarged and deepened, and improved access facilities constructed. However, despite improvements, the rock pool was not considered a safe or respectable bathing site for the citizens of Newcastle. (Suters Architects, 'Ocean Baths CMP', 2002, p 5 - 7; Australian Heritage Database: Soldiers Baths – www.environment.gov.au; McDermott, 2006, www.nswoceanbaths.info/pools/b006.htm , Newcastle – 'Soldiers Baths')

Towards the end of the nineteenth century the beach was becoming popular, though more for leisure purposes than for swimming. Ironically, the beach's popularity led to an increase in surf accidents, drownings and shark attacks. By the turn of the century Newcastle Council renewed its calls for better, safer bathing accommodation for the people of Newcastle. Dr J. L. Beeston proposed to erect the



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largest baths in the Colony on a section of Newcastle Beach to the north-east of the hospital. Beeston's plan was for two segregated swimming pools created out of the rock platform. However, the Minister for Public Works rejected the private syndicate proposals, arguing that the baths should be the Newcastle City Council's responsibility. As mixed bathing was finally legalised in New South Wales, the minister promised a £3,000 subsidy to the Council towards the cost of constructing the baths, provided they would be open to both sexes and be at least 200 feet in length. (Suters Architects, 'Ocean Baths CMP', 2002, p 8)

By 1907 Newcastle's indoor Corporation Baths and the Soldiers' Baths were no longer fit for use. (McDermott, NSW Ocean Baths Study – Newcastle Ocean Baths) In October 1907 Council instructed the City Engineer to prepare plans, specifications and costs for the 'establishment of a suitable bathing place at that plateau of rocks near the Tram Terminus....' However, it was not until July 1911 that Council finally adopted the plans presented by City Engineer, L. B. Blackwell, and called for tenders. The site chosen for the baths was below the hillside where the trams terminated at Parnell Place, and just south of the Cowrie Hole on a slightly inclined tidal rock platform approximately two feet above high water spring tides. Fluctuation in tides was a crucial factor in the design. Outlet design had to coincide with low water level for frequent emptying of the baths. A pumping scheme was necessary because high water level would not provide sufficient depths for diving. The proposed pool was to be oblong shaped, 45,000 feet in area, 300 feet long by 150 feet wide, with a natural sand bottom on top of the underlying rock shelf. Plans included a promenade and gangway with ticket boxes leading to a vestibule, gymnasiums, refreshment room, dressing boxes, baths and promenades. A flight of stairs would lead from the vestibule to a balcony overlooking the baths. Construction of the baths began with blasting of the rock ledge in September 1911. (Suters Architects, 'Ocean Baths CMP', 2002, pp 8-9)

In 1912, Council appointed architect, F. G. Castleden to remodel Engineer Blackwell's original plans for the buildings. By 1913 the swimming pool, 100 yards long by 50 yards wide, had been constructed along with the wall and side promenades. The Newcastle Ocean Baths was by no means the first public pool in New South Wales built on an ocean rock platform. Bondi Beach Pool and Bronte Beach Baths were amongst the earliest enclosed concrete ocean pools in NSW. However, the *Newcastle Morning Herald* told readers that the swimming area of the Ocean Baths 'is certainly larger than any of the other enclosed ocean baths in Australia....' Mayor, Alderman Shedden, opened the baths to the public for New Year's Day, 1913, as a public relations exercise to deflect complaints about the slow process of construction, even though the baths complex was far from complete. At that time the baths were known as the 'Griffith Ocean Baths' in honour of the Minister for Works. While the opening was intended to be temporary, the baths remained open to the public and by 1915 swimming carnivals were being held, including the Newcastle Surf Swimming Club's annual carnival, and a display by Olympian champion swimmer, Duke Kahanamouka, organised by the Northern District Amateur Swimming Association. At that time, the pool was described by the *Newcastle Morning Herald* as 'probably the finest salt water bath in Australia.' (Suters Architects, 'Ocean Baths CMP', 2002, pp 9-11, 20)

During the early construction of the baths, a pumping plant was installed. The electrically driven 12 inch centrifugal pump was capable of filling the baths in four and a half hours with 1.2 million gallons of sea water. The pool was emptied and refilled on a daily basis. There was also a reserve pump with a capacity of pumping 184,000 gallons an hour through an 11 inch pipe. However, accusations of 'dirty water' at the baths occurred from time to time. In 1917, for example, a bather complained that the water was 'so thick you can cut it with a knife.' (Suters Architects, 'Ocean Baths CMP', 2002, p 18)

Completion of the baths was delayed by storms and heavy seas, which damaged existing work and by 1914 the cost greatly exceeded original estimates, so Castleden submitted a modified plan for half the cost. The onset of World War 1 further delayed completion of the project, however, new dressing accommodation was built in 1918 and the raised rock platform was completed under the supervision of the new City Engineer, J. F. Shine at the end of that year. A sluice channel with automatic gate to reduce sand accumulation was built on the north western end of the site. Other improvements were implemented and the baths' growing popularity prompted Council to call for the existing dressing



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sheds to be replaced. In January 1921 the Mayor approved expenditure for new buildings – the Newcastle Ocean Baths Pavilion - as per plans submitted by the City Engineer, Shine. (Suters Architects, 'Ocean Baths CMP', 2002, pp 10-11)

Construction of the Pavilion building commenced early in 1922 and it was opened by the Mayor, Alderman H. P. Cornish, before a large crowd on 25 November 1922. The Edwardian façade of the two winged Pavilion included a central entrance portico. The central block behind the portico contained the caretaker's residence and refreshment rooms. The men's accommodation was provided in the southern wing and the women's quarters in the northern wing. There were also spare rooms for gymnasiums and swimming clubs at the end of the wings. (Suters Architects, 'Ocean Baths CMP', 2002, pp 11-12)

In 1927 plans for a complete remodelling of the Pavilion's façade were drawn up by architects, Nigel Pitt and Edward Merewether. Pitt & Merewether remodelled the original Edwardian façade in the inter-war Stipped Classical style by building up the parapet which was decorated with Art Deco motifs. The two wings were joined over the original Edwardian entrance portico by a tower-like structure. The entire 300 feet long façade was rendered and the original windows were infilled with geometric concrete blocks. Other additions included a garage for the caretaker, a room for the Northern Amateur District Swimming Association and a substation. As part of the improvements a new three platform steel diving tower was erected to replace the wooden structure that was continually subjected to damage in heavy seas. The remodelling drew praise from locals and visitors, including Alderman R. H. Nott, from Waverley Municipal Council, who remarked to the Newcastle City Engineer, J. Cummins, that 'there was not a bathing pool in Sydney equal to the Newcastle Ocean Baths.' (Suters Architects, 'Ocean Baths CMP', 2002, pp 13-14)

In the 1930s various lighting schemes were considered. In 1934 a Baths Committee was established by Council to consider whether the baths should be modernised. The Committee concluded that such a major overhaul would be too expensive, but minor improvements such as painting the buildings as well as providing pontoons and picnic tables would be carried out. In August 1938 tenders were called to build a brick electricity substation adjacent to the Baths. Night swimming was popular before World War 2, but with wartime lighting restrictions imposed, the lighting equipment deteriorated. In 1946 Council approved a scheme for the installation of thirteen 500 watt lamps around the pool and eleven 1,000 watt flood lights. Swimming clubs had long argued for adequate seating and a distinctive curved concrete seating wall on the north eastern side of the site was proposed in 1946 and erected in the late 1940s. A bridge or catwalk spanning the swimming pool was commenced in 1948 to create a separate pool for racing. No other major structural changes occurred in the immediate post-war years, though the Baths underwent numerous repairs and improvements. (Suters Architects, 'Ocean Baths CMP', 2002, p 14-15)

During the winter of 1958 improvements carried out at the Baths included a new club room for the Premier Men's Swimming Club, a storeroom, painting of dressing sheds and cementing of the northern promenade. Brick rooms were also built for the Premier Women's Swimming Club. In 1962 additional lighting was recommended. (Suters Architects, 'Ocean Baths CMP', 2002, pp 15-16)

By the 1980s the Ocean Baths was in dire need of renovation. A conservation order was placed on the façade in January 1981 and in the early 1980s repairs and improvements were made to club rooms, the Pavilion was painted in heritage colours and new floodlighting was installed. The earthquake that struck Newcastle in 1989 seriously damaged the Baths and a large sum was spent on repairs and restoration. The façade was repaired and repainted in six colours reflecting a maritime / heritage theme. There have been no other major alterations to the site since the mid-1990s, when facilities for disabled access were installed and the kiosk upgraded. (Suters Architects, 'Ocean Baths CMP', 2002, p 16)

The pavilion building is one of few remaining bath pavilions in the Art Deco style in NSW and Victoria. In Melbourne, the Brighton Baths are of similar scale and style, however are more restrained and



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identified with the Functionalist Style. Many baths in Sydney, such as Balmoral, and the numerous Harbour baths were built with turpentine or ironbark timber with wire netting. In many coastal areas, pools were carved out of the rock base with rock and concrete walls, such as Wylie's Baths, Coogee, Bondi and Bronte Baths and at Merewether, Newcastle. Some of the pavilions were designed in the Art Deco style or the Free Classical Style, with elements of Spanish Mission, such as the Bondi and Balmoral Pavilion. Many of the original pavilions have now been demolished, having deteriorated due to exposure. The Art Deco style as a style associated with the beach and recreation was predominant in the United States at baths in New York and on beachesides such as Miami. As in the United States, this style in Australia became closely associated with recreation. (Suters Architects, 'Ocean Baths CMP', 2002, p 30)

The Canoe Pool

In 1937 a children's pool, known as the 'Young Mariners' Pool' was built adjacent to the southern end of the Ocean Baths. The pool was partly the result of sand being swept up against the southern wall of the site, which created a sandy beach for children. In 1939 the children's pool was extended as a new boat pool or 'Canoe Pool' on the ocean side of the Young Mariner's Pool, to form a 100m x 70m elliptical pool. Eventually both pools were referred to as the Canoe Pool. (Suters Architects, 'Ocean Baths CMP', 2002, p 17)

On the floor of the Young Mariners' Pool was a map of the world about 40 metres wide and coloured in pigmented cement, about 60cm thick, with 20cm jutting above the waterline. The pool was often crowded with small boys in canoes circling the map of the world. The map was demolished in 1968 because of constant saltation, which caused a health hazard. Sea lice was often a problem in the children's pool and in the early 1960s complaints about dirty water prompted calls for the pool to be closed. The City Engineer, Mr Baddeley suggested that the pool could be filled with fresh water by installing a pipeline between the Ocean Baths and Canoe Pool. (Suters Architects, 'Ocean Baths CMP', 2002, p 17; McDermott, 2006, www.nswoceanbaths.info/pools/b009.htm, Newcastle, Canoe Pool)

Many Novocastrians have fond memories of the Canoe Pool, including former Olympic and America's Cup yachtsman, Ben Lexcen, who is said to have sailed his first boats in the pool. The pool is a popular subject for photographers and other artists. (Suters Architects, 'Ocean Baths CMP', 2002, p 17; McDermott, 2006, www.nswoceanbaths.info/pools/b009.htm, Newcastle, Canoe Pool)

The Ocean Baths have played a prominent role in the lives of generations of Novocastrians. As Newcastle's only enclosed concrete ocean pool before the construction of Merewether Baths in 1926, the Ocean Baths enjoyed high popularity. Easy transport access meant that the Baths catered not only to the inner city residents, but also to the wider region. At the height of their popularity in the mid-twentieth century, the Ocean Baths attracted over 500,000 visitors annually and hosted 28 swimming carnivals each season. Thousands have taken their first swimming lessons and undertaken surf lifesaving training at the Baths. (Suters Architects, 'Ocean Baths CMP', 2002, pp 19-20)

Whilst the Ocean Baths continue as a popular swimming and hydrotherapy facility for the general public, in recent years there has been a rise in the cultural appreciation of the Baths. The renovations carried out after the Newcastle earthquake helped to bring about a rejuvenation for the Baths. Today they are a drawcard for tourists, artists and wedding parties, for their art deco atmosphere. From the 1990s a 'Sculpture at the Baths' event has been held there. By 2002 the Baths hosted Moonlit Movies by the Water outdoor cinema and the Freewheels Theatre Co. production of *Peer Gynt*. The Art Deco façade and stunning ocean backdrop of the Baths have become a source of inspiration for photographers and filmmakers. The site served as a location for the movie, 'Bootmen'. The site is also a popular focal point for artists including Newcastle's Kerrie Coles and Sydney-based James Willebrant. (Suters Architects, 'Ocean Baths CMP', 2002, p 21; McDermott, 2006, www.nswoceanbaths.info/pools/b008.htm, Newcastle Ocean Baths)



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THEMES	
<i>National historical theme</i>	Environment Economy Culture
<i>State historical theme</i>	Environment – natural Environment – cultural Leisure Sport Social Institutions Creative Endeavour

APPLICATION OF CRITERIA	
Historical significance SHR criteria (a)	The baths are historically significant as an integral part of the history of the development of Newcastle's beachfront. Their size and dominant position represent the importance of beach culture and swimming as a sport and recreational activity to the people of Newcastle, NSW and Australia. The baths represent the first major public baths constructed in Newcastle. Having operated as swimming baths since the early twentieth century, the baths represent the continuity of this significant cultural practice in Australia. The rock platform on which the baths are located, together with the Canoe Pool and former Square Hole (no longer extant) forms a historically significant site representative of the development of bathing facilities along the Newcastle beachfront.
Historical association significance SHR criteria (b)	<p>The pavilion as remodelled in 1927-28 is associated with Newcastle architects, Nigel Pitt and Edward Merewether, whose firm, Pitt and Merewether, was a key practitioner of the Art Deco and Inter-War Classical style exemplified in the building. The firm was involved in the design of several local landmarks including Tyrell House in Telford Street, Newcastle East, the Seven Seas Hotel in Carrington and NESCA House (with Emil Sodersteen).</p> <p>The baths and canoe pool reputedly have some association with former yachtsman and America's Cup yacht builder, Ben Lexcen, who sailed and swam at the pool during his childhood and adolescence.</p>
Aesthetic significance SHR criteria (c)	The pavilion building exemplifies the Inter-War Classical / Art Deco style and its use in recreational buildings, particularly as a style used in beachside developments both in the USA and Australia. It is a unique structure and believed to be the only Inter-War stripped Classical ocean baths pavilion found in New South Wales and one of only a few remaining bath pavilions in the Art Deco style in NSW and Victoria. The landmark baths and pavilion is an early and possibly first example of this style in Newcastle. The baths themselves are also significant as reputedly the largest of their type (rock excavated) in the southern hemisphere at the time of their construction. The Ocean Baths is a dominant physical landmark in Newcastle retaining a prominent position on the headland and beach promenade. (Suters' Architects, 'Ocean Baths CMP', 2002, pp 29, 30)
Social significance SHR criteria (d)	The Ocean Baths contributes to the local community's sense of place and Newcastle's identity as a coastal city. The baths have played a prominent role in the lives of Novocastrians and visitors alike as a well-known and much loved recreational and sporting venue for generations. Several swimming and surf lifesaving clubs have trained and held carnivals at the pool, which continues as a popular swimming and hydrotherapy facility for the people of Newcastle. The baths have also inspired artistic and other cultural activities, providing a setting for artists, photographers and film makers and as the setting for cultural events such as outdoor cinema and theatre, as well as weddings, indicating the ongoing significance of the baths in the lives of the local and wider community.
Technical/Research significance SHR criteria (e)	Excavation of the natural rock ledge and sand bottom of the baths and pool could yield information re the nature of their construction.
Rarity SHR criteria (f)	The Ocean Baths pavilion is considered to be aesthetically rare for its type in NSW. No other baths pavilions of this architectural style have been found to exist in NSW. The style, scale and prominent location add to the rare qualities of the bath pavilion. (Suters' Architects, 'Ocean Baths CMP', 2002, pp 30, 32)
Representativeness SHR criteria (g)	The Ocean Baths are representative of beachside baths in Australia carved out of rock base, such as those at Coogee, Bondi and Bronte. The Newcastle Ocean Baths were reputedly the largest of their kind (rock excavated) in the southern hemisphere at the time of construction.
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HERITAGE LISTINGS	
Heritage listing/s	Newcastle City Council LEP, 1987
	National Trust
	RAIA Register of 20 th Century Significant Buildings

INFORMATION SOURCES				
Include conservation and/or management plans and other heritage studies.				
Type	Author/Client	Title	Year	Repository
Written	Suters' Architects Pty. Limited	Ocean Baths Newcastle, NSW Conservation Management Plan	2002	NCC
Written / Website	McDermott, Marie Louise	New South Wales Ocean Baths website	2006	www.nswoceanbaths.info/pools.b008.htm
Written / Website		Australian Heritage Database: 'Soldiers Baths'		www.environment.gov.au

RECOMMENDATIONS	
Recommendations	Site should be managed according to guidelines set out in the Conservation Management Plan prepared by Suters' Architects in 2002.
	As suggested by Marie Louise McDermott, the Ocean Baths should be considered to be of State significance as part of a group of baths, including the Canoe Pool, Square Hole and Soldiers' Baths, which share the same rock platform.

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	Rosemary Kerr, Heritage Assessment And History	Date	10/10/07



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completed by			
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Image caption	Ocean Baths c. 1918. Dressing sheds on site before pavilion constructed.				
Image year	1918	Image by	Hunter Photo Bank	Image copyright holder	



IMAGES - 1 per page

Please supply images of each elevation, the interior and the setting.

Image caption	Heritage curtilage of baths – as defined in Suters' Architects, Conservation Management Plan, 2002, Figure 6.1, p 34.				
Image year	2002	Image by	Suters Architects Pty. Ltd.	Image copyright holder	



Figure 6.1
Heritage curtilage.



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Image caption	Ocean Baths c. 1930. Note – lighting in pool.				
Image year	1930	Image by	Hunter Photo Bank	Image copyright holder	





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Image caption	General view of Ocean Baths pavilion				
Image year	10/09/2007	Image by	Emma Dortins	Image copyright holder	





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Image caption	Detail of Pavilion façade, Newcastle Ocean Baths				
Image year	10/09/2007	Image by	Emma Dortins	Image copyright holder	





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Image caption	View from rear of Ocean Baths Pavilion				
Image year	10/09/2007	Image by	Emma Dortins	Image copyright holder	





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Image caption	Newcastle Ocean Baths				
Image year	10/09/2007	Image by	Emma Dortins	Image copyright holder	





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Image caption	Newcastle Ocean Baths. Note remnant of light pillar in pool.				
Image year	10/09/2007	Image by	Emma Dortins	Image copyright holder	



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Image caption	Canoe Pool – looking south-east				
Image year	10/09/2007	Image by	Emma Dortins	Image copyright holder	





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Image caption	Canoe Pool – looking north-east				
Image year	10/09/2007	Image by	Emma Dortins	Image copyright holder	





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Image caption	Newcastle Ocean Baths – prominent feature of the beachfront				
Image year	10/09/2007	Image by	Emma Dortins	Image copyright holder	



Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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SHI Number
2170269
Study Number
269

Item Name: **Newcastle Technical College**

Location: **590-608 Hunter Street, Newcastle West [Newcastle City]**

Address: 590-608 Hunter Street
Suburb / Nearest Town: Newcastle West 2302
Local Govt Area: Newcastle City
State: NSW

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

Other/Former Names: Trades Hall

Area/Group/Complex:

Group ID:

Aboriginal Area: Awabakal

Curtilage/Boundary: Curtilage should follow property boundary

Item Type: Built **Group:** Education **Category:** Tertiary College

Owner: State Government

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

Current Use: TAFE

Former Uses: Technical College, School of Mines, Museum; Trades Hall

Assessed Significance: State **Endorsed Significance:**

Statement of Significance: The Newcastle Technical College site is of state significance for its association with key phases in Newcastle's and NSW's political and social history. The former Trades Hall Council and Technical College buildings both represent two of the most important institutions to develop in the late nineteenth century - the trade union movement and state-sponsored technical education. These institutions played a significant role in the life of Newcastle, and their impact extended to the state as a whole. The School of Mines, incorporated in the original 1894-96 building also reflected the key importance of mining in the regional, state and national economy at the time. Associated with architects, Ernest Yeomans, practitioner of the Anglo-Dutch style (Trades Hall) and William Kemp, who designed several educational institutions, including the Sydney Technical College in the Federation Romanesque style, the buildings represent distinctive, yet harmonious architectural styles. Together they create a landmark site, of high aesthetic significance, which makes a significant contribution to the streetscape. The buildings also articulate the importance of the institutions as well as something of the philosophies of their creators and the era in which they were constructed - including the status of workers, the importance of widespread access to education, and the necessity of practical training to the modern industrialised economy. Having operated as a technical college since the late nineteenth century, the site articulates aspects of the evolution of higher technical education in the region.

Historical Notes or Provenance: The former Newcastle Technical College incorporates the former Trades Hall building built for the Newcastle Trades Hall Council in 1895.

The trade union, destined to be possibly the most influential institution in the city, began at

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the colliery level in the 1850s and became a district organisation in 1860. At that stage there were miners' unions at Merewether, Hamilton, Wallsend, Minmi, and Tomago and new lodges as they were known, appeared with each new mine. Usually meeting in hotels and at the mines, the lodges did not acquire buildings of their own until the early 1900s. (Suters Architects, 2007, p 49)

With the exception of miners and skilled metal workers, there was no general movement towards unionism in Newcastle until the 1880s, when, along with the rest of the colony, Newcastle absorbed an influx of British immigrants. The first Eight Hour Day procession of unionists in Newcastle took place in October 1883. The Eight Hour Committee, as well as campaigning to achieve an eight-hour working day for eight shillings pay, also wished to erect a building to act as a focus for union activity by consolidating the offices of all the different unions in a single landmark edifice. They believed that a Trades Hall would bring the working man dignity in the same way that a Town Hall dignifies a Municipal Council. A site in Hunter street West was secured from the state government in 1893, a condition of the grant being that the building be completed within three years. The Hall, which was built in 1895, was the focal point of local unionism from 1895 to 1917. It was reportedly the second home of the Trades Hall Council. (Suters Architects, 2007, p 49; Docherty, 1983, p17; Maitland & Stafford, 1997, p 94; National Trust Listing - Hunter Street Technical College and Former Trades Hall Group, 1977)

The Trades Hall was designed by Ernest Yeomans, one of a number of private architects to emerge in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, whose works were instrumental in shaping the character of much of Newcastle's CBD. Others included Frederick Menkens, James Henderson and Peter Bennett, the latter working in partnership with Yeomans from 1884 to 1892. Yeomans' design for the Trades Hall adopts a free interpretation of classical composition and decoration. Its red-brick cement rendered façade is richly moulded and its elaborate skyline is typical of the Federation Anglo-Dutch or Baroque Revival style of architecture that flourished in Australia in the early 1890s. Menkens is generally acknowledged as the most prominent architect to emerge in Newcastle in this period, and his Woods Chambers (Air Force Club), built in 1892 is hailed as Menkens' masterpiece of the Anglo-Dutch style of architecture and an outstanding example of the style generally. 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. There are relatively few surviving examples of the style in Australia, many having been replaced by taller structures. Other examples of Yeomans' work in Newcastle include the former Court Chambers in Bolton Street (1898) and part of the Co-operative Store in Hunter Street (1910), though these are not in the Anglo-Dutch style. The Trades Hall remains as a great work of architecture and also as a reminder of significant social and political events in the life of Newcastle. (Maitland & Stafford, 1997, pp 12-14, 89, 92, 94, 105; Apperley, Irving & Reynolds, 1989, pp 112-115).

During the nineteenth century, Newcastle acquired a reputation as a centre of industrial militancy, an image reinforced by events such as a riot by miners at Adamstown in 1888. Some believed that Newcastle offered fertile ground for radical activity. In 1908 over a third of votes cast in a miners' ballot favoured the principles of the International Workers of the World. Left-wing feeling in Newcastle waned in the late 1900s, however, when many miners left the city to work at the new inland mines. The miners' radicalism had been fuelled by the

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harsh, dangerous working conditions shared by many at a single source of employment. Under the more varied conditions of secondary industry, this level of interest in radical politics was harder to sustain. After 1913 many of the city's industrial workers had been drawn from Sydney and so, in a sense, Newcastle became an outpost of metropolitan working-class culture. The coming of heavy industry in the twentieth century also meant that the old independent coalmining unions were replaced by unions whose head offices were in Sydney. Rather than originating large scale disputes, Newcastle tended to suffer them, as in the Great Strike of 1917. Some of the radical tradition of the nineteenth century continued to be carried on in the inland coalfields towns, rather than industrial Newcastle. (Docherty, 1983, pp 18, 75)

In 1914 the Trades Hall moved to larger premises in Union Street and sold the Hunter Street building to the Government. Being adjacent to the Newcastle Technical College, it became a useful addition to that institution. The Trades Hall building was extended at the rear some time between 1897 and 1916. (Maitland & Stafford, 1997, p 94; NSW Public Works Hunter-New England Region, 1993, p 4)

The development of technical education had its origins in the Industrial Revolution in Germany and Britain, the two most advanced industrial economies in Europe, from the early to mid-nineteenth centuries. Germany led the way in developing a national system of education to improve the efficiency of workers in technical occupations in the interests of the nation's material prosperity. Britain was slower to develop such a system, but following the International Exhibition in London in 1851 attention was drawn to the need to improve British manufactures. The City and Guilds of London Institute, established in 1879, advanced the technical education suited to those engaged in manufacturing and other industries, contributed towards the establishment of technical schools and conducted exams throughout British colonies. Britain's system was influential in the development of technical education in Australia. (Perry, 1984, pp 166, 167)

In Australia, schools of art and mechanics institutes began to proliferate from the 1860s, partly as a result of the availability of government subsidies. Intended to have significant educational function, they were more important as centres of entertainment, providing games (especially billiards, chess, etc) and being community halls. They also maintained libraries for their members. Government involvement in technical education began in 1882 with the establishment of a Board of Technical Education. Following the abolition of the Board in 1888, responsibility for technical education passed to the Department of Public Instruction. There was some variation in structures and administration in each state due to economic, geographic and demographic differences. Schools of Mines were established first in Victorian country towns as the local economies and size of local populations were able to support them. New South Wales had a much larger number of smaller communities spread over a much greater geographic area, and while secondary industry was central to the economies of the three major metropolitan centres: Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong, outside these centres, primary industry was paramount. (Suters Architects, 2007, pp 49; Goozee, 1995, pp 3-4)

Newcastle's first Technical College in Hunter Street West was commenced by the State Government in 1894 and, although not officially opened until 1896, the building's entrance

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bears the inscription, 1894. When it opened, classes were offered in plumbing and gas fitting, chemistry, metallurgy, mineralogy, geology, art, mechanical drawing, steam engines, boiler making and dress cutting, and the College had an enrolment of 350. The establishment of the Technical College, including a School of Mines, reflects the growing importance of scientific and practical education in Australia generally in the Victorian era, and the importance of the mining industry, in the local and national economy. A School of Mines was established at the University of Sydney in 1895, within this context and given the Hunter's importance as a major mining region, the establishment of the School of Mines in Newcastle was a logical development. As mining technology became more sophisticated, an important role of the Schools of Mines was to train future managers. The technical college as an institution also reflects the philosophy of extending higher education to a wider section of the community, including workers, that developed in the late nineteenth century with the need for a skilled workforce in the industrial and manufacturing industries that were developing at that time. In this era there was also a greater awareness and recognition of the social utility of education, expanding on the traditional philosophical and classical education initially offered in the established universities. (Suters Architects, 2007, pp 49, 57; Kerr, 2002, pp A28, A32; Perry, 1984, pp 170-171)

The Technical College was designed by William Edmund Kemp, architect to the Department of Public Instruction. Kemp's father had migrated to Australia from England in the service of the Australian Agricultural Company, to design and construct the company's buildings. Kemp worked in the Colonial Architects Office under Edmund T. Blacket from 1854 to 1857, then entered into private practice for a brief interlude. At the invitation of James Barnet, he returned to the Colonial Architects Department, where he remained for about eight years, resigning in June 1880 in order to take up the newly established position of 'Architect for Public Schools' in the NSW Department of Public Instruction. He was in charge of all the public school buildings in the colony, designing and constructing new buildings. He is best known, however, as the designer of the Sydney Technical College (1891) and Technological Museum -later known as the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences - (1892) in Ultimo, which are similar in style to the Newcastle Technical College. Concord Public School (1893) is another of Kemp's buildings in this late Victorian neo classical style. (RAIA NSW, Biography - William Kemp; Maitland & Stafford, 1997, p 95; National Trust Listing - Hunter Street Technical College and Former Trades Hall Group, 1977)

The era in which the Technical College was built was a period of economic turmoil. It was also a period of stylistic uncertainty in architecture. At the time, City Architect, George McRae was presenting designs for the Queen Victoria Building in Sydney in alternative Queen Anne, Gothic, Renaissance or Romanesque styles. The last was chosen as it most closely followed the fashion appearing in overseas journals. Kemp freely interpreted and eclectically used the Romanesque style in his buildings in Ultimo and it is carried through to his design for the former Technical College in Newcastle. The Victorian preference for highly decorative walls is exemplified in the use of three brick colours - warm yellow, red and dark blue - as well as the carved Pyrmont freestone mouldings, finials and copings, patterned terracotta tile spandrels and gable apexes and ornate brickwork. The slightly asymmetric façade became part of a composition of three buildings, which originally housed the Technical College, School of Mines and a museum. (Maitland & Stafford, 1997, p 95; National Trust Listing - Hunter Street Technical College and Former Trades Hall Group, 1977)

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The Technical College expanded over the years. A Survey Plan dated 1897 shows a building to the north-west corner of the site and a shed on the northern boundary. A Workshops building, housing Technical Engineering and Carpentry, designed by Government Architect, Walter Liberty Vernon, was constructed around 1911 and was to remain the only free-standing building on the site until its demolition in 1988. The former Trades Hall building was incorporated into the site in 1914, as mentioned above. The next major phase of development occurred in 1915 when Engineering buildings were erected; however, plans indicate the existence of at least two other buildings on the site at the time: the first being demolished to make way for the Engineering Buildings; the other a Plumbing Building on a section of the site now occupied by an extension of the Newcastle West Post Office. Plans for the final building on site, a new Chemistry School were drawn in 1916. The building, completed in 1917, extends the full remaining length of the northern boundary of the site, connecting the Engineering Building with the northern interconnection between the Trades Hall Building and the 1894 Technical College Building. All of the additional buildings were designed by architects in the Government Architect's Office, including L. W. Tristram and S. Wells. (NSW Public Works Hunter-New England Region, 1993, pp 4, Appendix)

Both the Trades Hall building and the former Newcastle Technical College are now part of the Hunter Institute of Technology (TAFE) Hunter Street campus. The buildings are now internally connected to form a series of exhibition, lecture, laboratory, studio, amenities and other spaces serving the Faculty of Arts and Media. Together, the buildings are compatible in style, forming an harmonious and significant element of the streetscape. (Maitland & Stafford, 1997, p 95)

Both the former Trades Hall and the Technical College are recognized for their individual significance and their significance as a group. In 1977 the complex was listed by the National Trust of Australia. Reasons for their listing included the aesthetic importance of the buildings' late Victorian neo-classical facades, but also their importance as symbols of two of the most important Victorian social and educational phenomena of the Newcastle / Hunter region - that of the trade union and technical education, including the first school of mines in the region. (NSW Public Works Hunter-New England Region, 1993, pp 7, 8). The impact of the trade union movement in Newcastle was felt across the entire state and the role of technological education in the mining industry and elsewhere has also had an important impact on the state and national economy.

Themes:	National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
	3. Economy	Science	(none)
	3. Economy	Technology	(none)
	5. Working	Labour	Trade unionism
	6. Educating	Education	Education
	8. Culture	Creative endeavour (Cultur	(none)

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Designer: W. E. Kemp (original Technical College building); Ernest Yeomans (former Trades Hall)

Maker / Builder: Government Architect (Technical College)

Year Started: 1894 **Year Completed:** 1896 **Circa:** No

Physical Description: The former Trades Hall building is located to the west of the main Technical College building, and was incorporated into the College in 1914. It is a two-storey structure in Baroque Revival or Federation Anglo Dutch style, characteristic of the late Victorian era. The design adopts a free interpretation of classical composition and decoration. Tuck pointed double-pressed buff and red bricks and cement render provide the material for a richly moulded facade. Four layered pilasters divide the facade into three bays with a central emphasis. Entablatures form ground level aedicules (over the entrance doorways) at each side, which are extended vertically to broken semi-circular pediments and an elaborate skyline, typical of the Federation Anglo-Dutch style. Shields, wreaths, keystones, tablets and inscriptions provide detailed interest. (Maitland & Stafford, 1997, p 94)

The 1894 Technical College building complements the adjacent former Trades Hall, though it is not of the same style. It is a late Victorian neo-classical / Romanesque style with a highly decorative facade of polychrome brick and stone facing Hunter Street. The rear of the building and side walls are of similar design. This building was originally free-standing on three sides. Three brick colours are used on the walls - warm yellow for the body, red for arches and pilasters, and dark blue for building angles. Carved Pyrmont freestone mouldings, finials and copings, patterned terracotta tile spandrels and gable apexes and ornate brickwork are characteristic of the Victorian style. The slightly asymmetric facade is an interesting feature of the building. This building, which originally housed the Technical College, School of Mines and Museum is now internally interconnected to form a series of exhibition, lecture, laboratory, studio, amenities and other spaces. (Maitland & Stafford, 1997, p 95; NSW Public Works Department, Heritage Register - Hamilton TAFE College, Property 644)

These buildings form a dominant and colourful landmark in an otherwise nondescript architectural area. The facades occur at a bend of the main thoroughfare leading to the city and create important vista enclosures when viewed from both directions. (National Trust Listing - Hunter Street Technical College and Former Trades Hall Group, 1977)

The interiors of both buildings are substantially intact, including ceilings, walls, joinery, and in particular, two turned cedar staircases. Building detail elements such as cornices, picture rails, architraves, doors, windows and staircases are an important aesthetic characteristic of the buildings. (NSW Public Works Hunter-New England Region, 1993, p 9)

The original site has been expanded to the north and west of the significant buildings. [Check which buildings are there now - what about description of the 1915 & 1917 buildings??]

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Some alterations and additions have disfigured buildings such as the infilling of windows. The construction of the 1917 Chemistry School has largely hidden the northern elevation of the 1894 Technical College from view and altered the northern portion of the 1895 Trades Hall. This in turn created an alley space between the buildings. The original roof of the 1894 Technical College was slate with terracotta decorative ridge tiles. This roof was replaced, probably around the 1950s or 1960s and was re-roofed again in the 1970s.

Physical Condition: The buildings are structurally stable following extensive repairs and strengthening work after damage in the 1989 earthquake. Generally, however, the buildings are in poor physical and visual condition.

Modification Dates: 1897 - 1916 - Trades Hall building extended at rear
Pre-1915 - additional buildings on site, including Plumbing Building
1911 - Workshops building constructed to east of 1894 Technical College. Demolished 1988.
1915 - Engineering Building constructed - to north-east of original buildings
1917 - Chemistry Building constructed - to north-west of original buildings
1950s-1960s - roof replaced on 1894 Technical College building
1970s - Technical College (1894 building) re-roofed in metal / corrugated iron.
1991 - repair of earthquake damage including replacement of part of roof.

**Recommended
Management:**

Management:

Further Comments:

Criteria a) The former Newcastle Technical College and Trades Hall building are historically significant to the state of NSW as they represent the emergence two of the most important institutions to develop in the late nineteenth century, namely, the trade union movement, and state-sponsored advanced technical education. As the home of the Trades Hall Council the Trades Hall building was at the centre of local union activity from the late nineteenth century until 1914 when it became part of the Technical College complex. This period was one in which the union movement played a crucial role in the social and political history of Newcastle and New South Wales, particularly in the often militant struggles of workers in the mining industry. The building's style and prominent city location articulate the philosophies promoted at the time of its construction regarding the dignity and status of the worker in society and the importance of their struggles for unity and representation.

The Technical College represents one of the most significant education developments of the late nineteenth century in Australia. It reflects the growing importance of practical and scientific education in an industrialised economy that emerged in the Victorian era, with the corresponding philosophy of extending higher education to a broader section of the community, particularly those already engaged in practical occupations. The School of Mines, incorporated in the original 1894-96 building reflected the key importance of mining in the regional, state and national economy at the time. Such Victorian institutions no longer exist, having being subsumed by a wider subject: Geology. The development of the Technical College site, which has continued to operate in that capacity to the present,

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reflects the changing nature and philosophy of technical education in the region and state over time.

- Criteria b)** The former Trades Hall building is significant to NSW for its association with the Trades Hall Council and Eight Hour Day Committee, who played a prominent role in the labour movement locally and whose activities were part of a highly significant phase in NSW and Australian political history. It is also significant to Newcastle and regionally for its association with architect, Ernest Yeomans, one of a number of private architects to emerge in the late nineteenth century in Newcastle, who was responsible for a number of important buildings in the city.

The Technical College is associated with architect, William Edmund Kemp, whose prolific works for the NSW Government Architect and Department of Public Instruction, included, most notably, the Sydney Technical College and Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences as well as the Hunter Street Technical College, in which the influence of his earlier designs is evident.

- Criteria c)** The Technical College complex, including the former Trades Hall, has a high degree of aesthetic significance. The buildings' differing, yet complementary styles form a harmonious and striking complex, with landmark qualities, enriching an otherwise unremarkable streetscape. Both exemplify styles of the late Victorian era - the ornate Federation Anglo-Dutch Trades Hall being one of few examples of this style in Newcastle and in NSW. The Federation Romanesque main Technical College building reflects Kemp's proficiency in this style and recalls his work on the Sydney Technical College and Museum in Ultimo a few years earlier. With the latter buildings, it is one of Kemp's most significant works. The style, detailing and workmanship evidenced in the buildings make a strong statement about the importance of these institutions in the life of Newcastle and NSW.
- Criteria d)** While this aspect has not been investigated within the limited review undertaken for this study, it is likely that the site has social significance for a range of groups in the region, including those involved in the Trades Hall Council unions during the Council's period of occupancy; as well as present and former students and staff of the Technical College. Still operating as a TAFE campus, the historic buildings are likely to be important to these groups' sense of place and identity.
- Criteria e)** While this aspect has not been investigated within the limited review undertaken for this study, there may be evidence of former structures on the site, which, with the existing buildings, may have the potential to contribute to our understanding of building practices and philosophies of late nineteenth century educational institutions.
- Criteria f)** The former Trades Hall building is a rare surviving example of the Federation Anglo-Dutch style of architecture in NSW and possibly Australia, and, with Menkens' Woods Chambers (Air Force Club), is one of few examples of the style built in Newcastle. The Technical College building is also rare as a fine example of a late nineteenth century educational institution. With the Sydney Technical College and former Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, it is one of architect, W E Kemp's largest and most significant works.
- Criteria g)** Both the former Trades Hall and Technical College buildings have representative significance for the state as fine examples of the Federation Anglo-Dutch and Federation Romanesque architectural styles respectively.

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Integrity / Intactness: Good

References:	Author	Title	Year
		National Trust Listing - Hunter Street Technical College and Former Trades Hall Group	1977
		Heritage Office NSW - State Heritage Register entry - Old Geology Building / School of Mines University of Sydney	2000
	Apperley, R., Irving, R & Reynolds, P.	A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture	1994
	Docherty, J. C.	Newcastle - The Making of an Australian City	1983
	Goozee, G.	The Development of TAFE in Australia	1995
	Kerr, Rosemary	'The Physical Development of Buildings and Grounds' Appendix A: University of Sydney Overview History, in University of Sydney Grounds Conservation Plan	2002
	Maitland, Barry & Stafford, David	Architecture Newcastle, A Guide	1997
	NSW Public Works Hunter-New England Region	Hunter Institute of Technology, Hunter Street (Faculty of Arts & Media) Conservation Plan	1993
	Perry, Warren	The School of Mines and Industries, Ballarat - A History of its first One Hundred & Twelve Years, 1870-1982	1984
	RAIA NSW	Biography - William Kemp	
	Suters Architects	Newcastle City Wide Heritage Study Thematic History	2007

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Unknown	Newcastle Heritage Study	269	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
	LOT	1 & 2		DP	852552

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		000976	
	Heritage study			
	National Trust of Australia register			10/11/1977
	Register of the National Estate			

Custom Field One: 1894-95

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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: 21/05/2008

Status: Basic

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Image/s:



Caption: Former Trades Hall building between modern additions to TAFE (left) & the 1894 Technical College (right)

Copyright:

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

Image Date: 18/12/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170269b3.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t3_2170269.jpg

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Image/s:



Caption: Former Trades Hall & 1894 Technical College

Copyright:

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

Image Date: 18/12/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170269b4.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

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Image/s:



Caption: Newcastle Technical College - Hunter Street facade

Copyright:

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

Image Date: 18/12/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170269b5.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t5_2170269.jpg

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Caption: Technical College - Hunter Street facade looking west. Showing the combination of coloured brickwork - yellow, red & blue - characteristic of the Victorian era.

Copyright:

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

Image Date: 18/12/2007

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Image Path:

Image File: 2170269b6.jpg

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Thumb Nail File: t6_2170269.jpg

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Caption: Technical College Hunter Street facade - detail. Decorative carved stone motif.

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Image File: 2170269b7.jpg

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Caption: Detail - western facade of Technical College - decorative moulded brickwork

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Image Path:

Image File: 2170269b8.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

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Caption: Western facade - Technical College

Copyright:

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Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170269b9.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t9_2170269.jpg

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Caption: Detail - western facade of Technical College.

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Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170269b10.jpg

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Item Name: **Newcastle Technical College**

Location: **590-608 Hunter Street, Newcastle West [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Western side of Technical College with part of the 1917 Chemistry School also visible

Copyright:

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

Image Date: 18/12/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170269b11.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t11_2170269.jpg

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Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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SHI Number

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Study Number

207

Item Name: **No.1 & No.2 Lee Wharf Buildings A & C**

Location: **9 Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Address: 9 Honeysuckle Drive

DUAP Region: Hunter & Central Coast

Suburb / Nearest Town: Newcastle 2300

Historic region: Lower Hunter

Local Govt Area: Newcastle City

Parish: Newcastle

State: NSW

County: Northumberland

Other/Former Names: Building A - Maritime Centre

Area/Group/Complex:

Group ID:

Aboriginal Area: Awabakal

Curtilage/Boundary: Includes both buildings and remnants of wharf structure - see Image 10

Item Type: Area/Complex/Group Group: Transport - Water Category: Wharf

Owner: Multiple Owners

Admin Codes: LEP

Code 2:

Code 3:

Current Use: Maritime Museum (Building A)

Former Uses: Cargo wharf sheds

Assessed Significance: **State**

Endorsed Significance:

Statement of Significance: The Lee Wharf Buildings, including the surviving wharf and wharf structure are of state significance as remnants of the main general cargo wharves of the Port of Newcastle and are the last remaining examples of the extensive cargo and commercial wharf facilities that once existed along the foreshore. They are representative of the era after 1900 when the growing importance of agricultural and other exports as well as the previously dominant coal industry contributed to Newcastle's emergence as a major regional capital as well as a national and international port. The significance of the remaining Lee Wharf buildings is chiefly their historical association with the Port of Newcastle, which has been of utmost significance in the economic, social and cultural history of New South Wales and indeed, Australia. The buildings also have high aesthetic significance as rare examples of Federation style wharf buildings. The twin structures, with their pleasing, symmetrical form and detailing, and their spatial relationship to both the harbourfront and nearby rail and road network have the ability to demonstrate the design philosophy of early twentieth century cargo wharf facilities and the movement of goods in and out of the Port. They stand as reminders of the importance of the shipping and export industry in the local, state and national economy.

Historical Notes or Provenance: The Lee Wharf is located between Newcastle Harbour, near Throsby Basin, and the Great Northern Railway Line, near Honeysuckle Point. The harbour and port at Newcastle have played a vital role in the city's history, from its earliest days as a penal colony, reliant on small sailing ships for transport and communication by water, to its emergence as a major port, particularly focused on the coal trade, but also handling agricultural, industrial and other cargo. The Port of Newcastle developed within the estuary of the Hunter River. While

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Item Name: No.1 & No.2 Lee Wharf Buildings A & C

Location: 9 Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle [Newcastle City]

searching the western reaches of the estuary for escaped convicts in 1797, Lieutenant John Shortland noted a 'large lagoon and extensive tidal islands part dry at low water.' He was looking at the mouth of Cottage Creek and Throsby Creek, where the Lee Wharf and Wharf Road now stand. Problems with siltation and shallowness of the water at the harbour bar hampered the development of the region's shipping trade, but over the years, particularly from the mid nineteenth century, efforts to remove silt and deepen the channels, berths and harbour bar facilitated Newcastle's development as a major port. (Suters Architects, Newcastle City Wide Heritage Study Vol. 1, 1997, p 2/20; Turner & Hunter History Consultants, 1994, p 33; Turner, 'Pictorial History', 1997, p61)

As the south western section of the estuary was so shallow, it was not used for shipping in the early days of settlement. When the Great Northern Railway was under construction in 1855, a causeway to carry the line had to be constructed across the shallows on the north side of Hunter Street between Honeysuckle Point and Cottage Creek. The line between East Maitland and Newcastle West opened in 1857; and at that time a small finger wharf or jetty existed near the end of Merewether Street and a siding from the first railway line ran down past the Honeysuckle Railway Workshops site to the wharf on Honeysuckle Point (C & MJ Doring, Hunter History Consultants, Dr J W Turner & Godden Mackay Logan, Interpretive Signage, Lee Wharf precinct). The following year the rail line was carried on to Watt Street at the eastern end of the city and linked to deep water and ocean going ships utilising that section of the harbour, where a number of wharves were built parallel to the railway and fitted with steam cranes for loading coal. The area between the railway and Hunter Street was then filled in, creating valuable land in the west end of Newcastle. This reclaimed area was retained by the Railways and allowed road access between Hunter Street and the railway line. The first Newcastle Station, called Honeysuckle Point (close to the present Civic Station) was not well situated to suit the developing western end of Newcastle, so in 1872 the original station was closed and replaced by another, also known as Honeysuckle Point, some 700 metres to the west, which continued to operate until 1936 when it was replaced by the Civic and Wickham Stations. The Lee Wharf area was partly reclaimed in 1875 but remained undeveloped for some years. (Suters Architects, Newcastle City Wide Heritage Study Vol. 1, 1997, p 2/21; Turner & Hunter History Consultants, 1994, pp 33-34; Marsden, 'Newcastle's Waterfront', 1999, p20; C & MJ Doring, Hunter History Consultants, Dr J W Turner & Godden Mackay Logan Interpretive Signage, Lee Wharf precinct)

During the second half of the nineteenth century, Newcastle was rapidly developing into a busy coal port serving the Australian colonies and the Pacific rim countries. The extension of the rail system into the Hunter Valley also meant that Newcastle increasingly became a major service centre for the agricultural areas. Wool exports also became an important and valuable part of the region's economy in the later nineteenth century. By 1900 Newcastle was the fifth largest port in the world and over 5,000 vessels passed through it in 1906. The Newcastle West area had developed rapidly from the 1870s as Newcastle's western gateway, however, the harbour foreshores adjacent to the station remained undeveloped until local business interests demanded that the State Government improve wharf facilities by developing the western end of the harbour. In 1906, the Minister for Public Works, Charles Lee, visited the city to evaluate the problems and instigated a plan of action. In 1907 the Newcastle Wharfage Act gave authority for construction of a new wharf and spoil from Newcastle Inner Basin was used for fill at the site. (Suters Architects, Newcastle City Wide Heritage Study Vol. 1, 1997, p 2/20; (Marsden, 'Newcastle's Waterfront', 1999, p 21; Turner

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Item Name: No.1 & No.2 Lee Wharf Buildings A & C

Location: 9 Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle [Newcastle City]

& Hunter History Consultants, 1994, p 34; Turner, 'Pictorial History', 1997, p 61; (C & MJ Doring, Hunter History Consultants, Dr J W Turner & Godden Mackay Logan, Interpretive Signage, Lee Wharf precinct)

Lee's plan included extending the Merewether Street Wharf and by 1909, 600 feet of wharf had been constructed and tenders were accepted for two storage sheds - Buildings A and C. By 1910 1,088 feet of wharf with a 30 foot apron and the two cargo sheds, each 150 feet long and 50 feet wide, were completed; railway sidings were run in and offices erected for Customs and Navigation Departments. The new wharf facilities were named after the minister responsible for their construction, Charles Lee. The two sheds (No.s 1 and 2, now Buildings A and C) were designed to facilitate the loading of goods into railway wagons standing on a loop line from the Honeysuckle Point Station. The Newcastle Chamber of Commerce described the wharf facilities as follows: 'The sheds are provided with an outside platform for their whole lengths, the wharf, Sheds and Platforms being raised to cart and truck level which will facilitate loading. The Platforms at the back of the sheds are protected by a large overhanging awning so that goods can be delivered without damage from the Sheds into trucks in any weather....The Sheds are covered with tile roofs and are of pleasing architectural design.' (C & MJ Doring, Hunter History Consultants, Dr J W Turner & Godden Mackay Logan, Interpretive Signage, Lee Wharf precinct) A roadway to Merewether Street had also been constructed, creating what would eventually be Wharf Road, completed in 1917. (Turner & Hunter History Consultants, 1994, p 34) The Lee Wharf incorporated Monier precast concrete sea walls, an innovative, and theoretically rat-proof design, first used in Australia in construction of the Walsh Bay Wharves in Sydney only a few years earlier (Godden, Mackay Logan & C & MJ Doring, Interpretive Signage, Lee Wharf precinct).

While the first stage of the new wharf had been hailed as a great improvement when it first opened, by 1912 it was judged inadequate when the President of the Newcastle Chamber of Commerce reported: 'Lee Wharf is now being largely utilised, and commodious as it was deemed to be when built, it is thus early found to be inadequate to meet the demands made upon it.' The Chamber of Commerce applied to the Minister for the wharf to be completed by placing a line of rails along the water's edge to facilitate the discharge of cargo directly into railway trucks. Despite pressure from port interests, however, the State Government did not build the second stage of Lee Wharf until 1930, when the third cargo shed came into use (No. 3 or Building E). This shed was intended mainly for the shipment of wheat. (Turner & Hunter History Consultants, 1994, pp 35-36)

Between 1930 and 1947 the southern foreshores of the harbour experienced little change. In 1947 another cargo shed (No. 1A) was commenced and another (No. 2A) was planned. Between 1947 and 1952 these two larger sheds (Buildings B and D) were completed between Buildings A and C. As well as these new wharf facilities, Lee Wharf was widened under the first two cargo sheds. A further period of development occurred in the 1960s, with plans to replace the existing oil berth to the west of Lee Wharf with a new inflammable liquids wharf about 100 metres upstream in Throsby Basin to create more space for another general cargo wharf -No. 5 Lee Wharf. The No. 5 Lee Wharf was equipped with two five ton luffing cranes, representing an innovation on the ship's cranes traditionally used for unloading general cargo. In connection with these wharf works, extensive road widening of Wharf Road occurred and a large parking area for trucks was provided. New railway lines made it possible to bring wagons to the luffing cranes and extensive floodlighting was

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Item Name: **No.1 & No.2 Lee Wharf Buildings A & C**

Location: **9 Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

installed for night operations. The Lee Wharf continued to be the main general cargo wharves for the Port of Newcastle into the 1960s. They are among the earliest remaining examples of structures reflecting the history of the shipping industry in central Newcastle and represent the increase in general and agricultural cargoes handled through the Port after 1900 - another dimension in Newcastle's economic history augmenting the previously paramount coal export business. (Turner & Hunter History Consultants, 1994, pp 37-38)

The Lee Wharf structures are likely to be rare in NSW as remnants of early twentieth century wharf facilities. Of the few listings of wharf structures on the State Heritage Register, only the Woolloomooloo finger wharves in Sydney date from this era, though they differ in design. While the Newcastle facilities are nowhere near the scale of the latter, they do provide a rare example of matching buildings of the Federation era and represent some of the only remains of Newcastle's early port facilities.

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

Designer:

Maker / Builder:

Year Started: 1910 Year Completed: 1910 Circa: No

Physical Description: Lee Wharf Buildings A & C are the oldest and smallest of the Lee Wharf Buildings. The buildings are identical in structure, constructed of timber in the Federation style with hip gabled roofs with terracotta tiling with decorative terracotta finials. Edwardian style slatted collar ties are visible at the gable ends (Maitland & Stratford, 1997, p 110). Elongated gabled dormers for ventilation extend above the centre of the main roof line and are similarly roofed with terracotta tiles and decorative finials. Both sheds have large overhanging awnings extending for the entire length of the sheds on the roadway side for the protection of goods during loading and unloading in all weather. The awnings are supported by curved steel brackets and have timber battens at the ends. Large door openings exist at the western end of each building, also covered with an awning, with two sets of door openings at both the front (harbour side) and back (road side) of each shed. Two dormer gables are located in the roof of each building, positioned over the doorways on the harbour side. There appear to have been no windows in the buildings, though there may have been lights in the two dormer gables. Both are painted in heritage colours, though with slightly different colour schemes. Building C is painted in pale green and cream, with brown trim on gables, while Building A has been painted more recently in cream and beige with grey trim. Remains of the wharf apron still exist in front of Shed C, but little remains of Shed A's wharf. At the back

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Item Name: No.1 & No.2 Lee Wharf Buildings A & C

Location: 9 Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle [Newcastle City]

of the sheds, the path of the former railway tracks leading to the loading area can be seen in the pavement.

Physical Condition: Building A appears to be in better physical condition than Building C, having undergone redevelopment, including repainting for use as a Maritime museum. The wharf apron has completely gone from Building A; and that remaining in front of Building C is deteriorating.

Modification Dates: Currently undergoing redevelopment. Building A currently being converted for use as the Newcastle Maritime Centre

Recommended Management:

Management:

Further Comments:

- Criteria a)** The Lee Wharf buildings are historically significant at a state level as they are among the earliest surviving examples of the extensive cargo and commercial wharf facilities that once existed in the port of Newcastle. The structures reflect the history of the shipping industry in Newcastle and are also linked to the nearby railway infrastructure, both of which were instrumental in Newcastle's development as a major regional, national and international port of key importance to the state and national economy. As remnants of the main cargo wharves for the Port of Newcastle, they represent the period in Newcastle's economic development after 1900 when an increasing amount of general and agricultural cargoes were handled through the port, as opposed to the previously dominant coal export trade. This expansion of trade is linked to Newcastle's key role in the economy of NSW and Australia generally and the wharf buildings stand as a reminder of this era.
- Criteria b)** The Wharf is associated with Charles Lee, Minister for Public Works at the time of its construction and after whom it was named. Lee was instrumental in improving wharf facilities at the Port of Newcastle in the early twentieth century, which in turn played a vital role in the state and national economy, facilitating the export of agricultural and commercial produce as well as coal. Lee's involvement in planning the new wharf facilities in Newcastle is testament to the importance of the port to the NSW economy.
- Criteria c)** The wharf buildings reflect the design philosophy applied to waterside structures in the early twentieth century. The 1910 Lee Wharf Cargo Buildings A and C are aesthetically pleasing buildings, both as part of the waterside landscape and as viewed from the Harbour. The wharf area as a whole has a group quality which creates a visually appealing edge to the waterfront. (Godden Mackay Logan, 2003, p 2) The two twin shed buildings provide a harmonious balanced appearance, at opposite ends of the wharf and recall their early twentieth-century era of construction and exhibit features of the Federation style of architecture, in contrast to the newer developments now encroaching on the precinct.
- Criteria d)** As Newcastle's main general cargo wharves from 1910 to the 1960s the buildings are likely to have social significance for the many waterside workers who were employed there and would also have significance for the local community as a well known waterfront landmark.
- Criteria e)** The buildings may have the potential to yield information about the design and operation of

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Item Name: No.1 & No.2 Lee Wharf Buildings A & C

Location: 9 Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle [Newcastle City]

general cargo wharves in the early twentieth century.

Criteria f) The buildings are rare as one of the few surviving elements of the cargo and commercial wharf facilities that once existed in Newcastle and as examples of Federation style wharf buildings in NSW.

Criteria g) The buildings are representative of waterside timber wharf facilities of the early twentieth century.

Integrity / Intactness: Reasonable

References:	Author	Title	Year
	Godden Mackay Logan	Heritage Impact Statement - Lee Wharf Building C	2003
	Maitland, Barry & Stafford, David	Architecture Newcastle	1997
	Marsden, Susan	'Newcastle's Waterfront', Historic Environment, Vol. 14, No. 3	1999
	Turner, J. W. & Hunter History Consultants	Honeysuckle Historical Study	1994
	Turner, John	A Pictorial History of Newcastle	1997

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Unknown	Newcastle Heritage Study	207	1990
	Sue Rosen and Associates Heritage Assessment And History (HAAH)	Review of Items of Potential State Significance in the Newcastle City Area		2008
	Suters Architects Snell	Newcastle City Wide Heritage Study		1996
	C & M J Doring Pty Ltd	Honeysuckle Point Heritage Study Volume 2		1990

Parcels:	Parcel Code	LotNumber	Section	Plan Code	Plan Number
	PARTLOT	51		DP	1036132

Latitude:

Longitude:

Location validity:

Spatial Accuracy:

Map Name:

Map Scale:

AMG Zone:

Easting:

Northing:

Listings:	Name:	Title:	Number:	Date:
	Heritage Act - s.170 NSW State agency heritage register			
	Local Environmental Plan			8/08/2003
	Public Works Department - Former register		000978/000979	
	Heritage study			
	National Trust of Australia register			

Custom Field One: 1910

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Location: **9 Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

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: 11/06/2008

Status: Basic

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Item Name: **No.1 & No.2 Lee Wharf Buildings A & C**

Location: **9 Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: No.1 & No.2 Lee Wharf Buildings A & C - Building A

Copyright:

Image by: S Cameron

Image Date: 23/11/2006

Image Number: 1

Image Path:

Image File: 2170207b3.jpg

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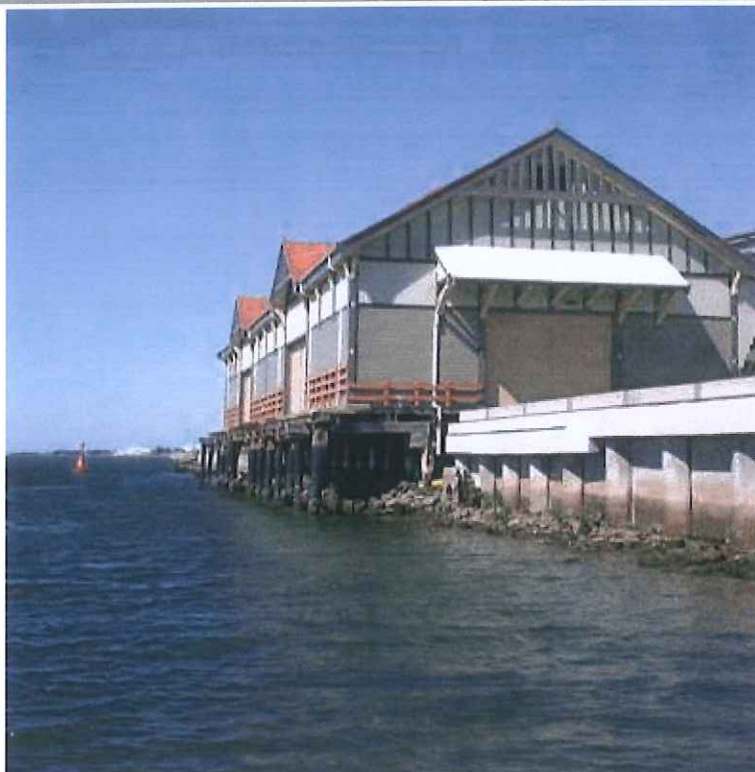
Study Number

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Item Name: **No.1 & No.2 Lee Wharf Buildings A & C**

Location: **9 Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Lee Wharf Building A looking east from water

Copyright:

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

Image Date: 10/09/2007

Image Number: 2

Image Path:

Image File: 2170207b4.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

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Item Name: **No.1 & No.2 Lee Wharf Buildings A & C**

Location: **9 Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Building A from ground level. Note line of former railway tracks imprinted in pavement leading to shed.

Copyright:

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

Image Date: 10/09/2007

Image Number: 3

Image Path:

Image File: 2170207b5.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t5_2170207.jpg

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Item Name: **No.1 & No.2 Lee Wharf Buildings A & C**

Location: **9 Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Building C looking west from harbour.

Copyright:

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

Image Date: 10/09/2007

Image Number: 4

Image Path:

Image File: 2170207b6.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t6_2170207.jpg

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Location: 9 Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle [Newcastle City]

Image/s:



Caption: Building C from ground level looking west. Path of former rail lines visible in pavement.

Copyright:

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

Image Date: 10/09/2007

Image Number: 5

Image Path:

Image File: 2170207b7.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t7_2170207.jpg

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Location: **9 Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Building C - eastern elevation

Copyright:

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

Image Date: 10/09/2007

Image Number: 6

Image Path:

Image File: 2170207b8.jpg

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Location: **9 Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: No.1 & No.2 Lee Wharf Buildings A & C 10 & 24 Lee Wharf Road

Copyright:

Image by: unknown

Image Date:

Image Number: 7

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Image File: 2170207b1.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t1_2170207.jpg

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Item Name: **No.1 & No.2 Lee Wharf Buildings A & C**

Location: **9 Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: No.1 & No.2 Lee Wharf Buildings A & C

Copyright:

Image by: S Cameron

Image Date: 23/11/2006

Image Number: 8

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Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t2_2170207.jpg

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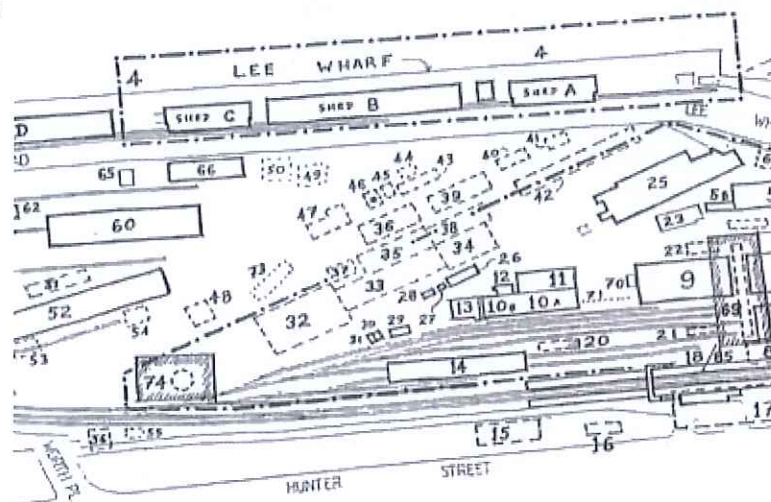
Study Number

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Item Name: **No.1 & No.2 Lee Wharf Buildings A & C**

Location: **9 Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



HONEYSUCKLE POINT HERITAGE STUDY - KEY SITE PLAN

EXISTING BUILDING



REMOVED BUILDING



PROPOSED CURTILAGE



I.A. Item No. 74 & 69



© MJ Doring Pty Ltd (Adapted from Suters Site Plan)

Caption: Site plan showing Buildings (Sheds) A & C in relation to Honeysuckle wharf and railway workshop precinct. (From C & MJ Doring Honeysuckle Point Heritage Study, 1990, p481)

Copyright:

Image by: C & MJ Doring

Image Date:

Image Number: 9

Image Path:

Image File: 2170207b9.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t9_2170207.jpg

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Location: **9 Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Aerial view of Lee Wharf buildings (Google Earth) showing approximate indication of suggested curtilage area outlined in yellow

Copyright: Map Data Sciences P/L

Image by:

Image Date:

Image Number: 10

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Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170207t10.jpg

Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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SHI Number

2170173

Study Number

173

Item Name: **Police Station (Former)**

Location: **90 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Address: 90 Hunter Street

DUAP Region: Hunter & Central Coast

Suburb / Nearest Town: Newcastle 2300

Historic region: Lower Hunter

Local Govt Area: Newcastle City

Parish: Newcastle

State: NSW

County: Northumberland

Other/Former Names:

Area/Group/Complex:

Group ID:

Aboriginal Area: Awabakal

Curtilage/Boundary: Follows property boundary

Item Type: Built

Group: Law Enforcement

Category: Police station

Owner: Private - Community Group

Admin Codes: LEP

Code 2:

Code 3:

Current Use: Hunter Heritage Centre Museum, Gallery

Former Uses: Police Station, Lock-Up

Assessed Significance: **State**

Endorsed Significance:

Statement of Significance: The former Police Station and Lock-up is historically significant at a state level for its ability to demonstrate aspects of the administration of law and order and the evolution of those practices across the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Its current use as a museum and heritage centre, with its well-preserved internal spaces of the lock-up and interpretive material enhances its capacity to demonstrate conditions and philosophies associated with the policing and holding of prisoners. It has associative significance at a state level, representing the work of some of the state's most important Colonial Architects - Alexander Dawson, James Barnet and Walter Liberty Vernon as well as Mortimer Lewis Jr. It is also part of a precinct representing the works of some of the most important Colonial Architects in NSW. The former Police Station makes a substantial contribution to this group of nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings, including the former Electric Telegraph Office, the Public Works Department building and Post Office, comprising an entire block on the northern side of Hunter Street, which form an outstanding Victorian streetscape and some of the most important public buildings in Newcastle. The survival of this building within its intact setting contributes to its rarity and significance as part of a group that is considered to be one of the most important in NSW outside the Sydney metropolitan area for their historical and aesthetic attributes.

Historical Notes or Provenance: The former Police Station at 90 Hunter Street is one of a group of important nineteenth and early twentieth century public buildings on the northern side of Hunter Street between Watt Street and Bolton Street, which includes the former Public Works Department building (currently occupied by a legal office) on the corner of Hunter and Watt Streets and the adjoining former Electric Telegraph Office; and, the Newcastle Post Office on the corner of Hunter and Bolton Street. The group is located in the area which, since the earliest

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Item Name: **Police Station (Former)**

Location: **90 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

settlement of Newcastle in the early nineteenth century, has formed the central business and administration district of the city. The buildings to some extent reflect Newcastle's growth and prosperity in the latter half of the nineteenth century, stimulated by the establishment of rail and telegraph services to the north, which led Newcastle to become the major port to the rich hinterland that extended to the north and west of the Hunter Valley. Although Newcastle retains an identifiable Victorian character and setting, very few buildings constructed prior to 1880 survive intact, making this group, which forms a distinctive precinct within the CBD, particularly significant. (Government Architect's Branch, PWD NSW, 1983, p 1)

Newcastle's first substantial police station was designed in 1837 by Mortimer Lewis Senior, Colonial Architect, on the corner of Hunter and Bolton Streets on the site now occupied by the Newcastle Post Office. Early plans of Newcastle by surveyors James Meehan and Henry Dangar indicate a Watch House in approximately the position of the Post Office. By 1845 a Court House had also been built on this site. Lewis had been appointed Colonial Architect in 1835, a position he held for fifteen years. Some of his major works completed during his prolific career included: the court-houses at Darlinghurst, Hartley, Berrima and Parramatta. Acknowledged as the leading designer in the Greek revival style in Australia, of which the Darlinghurst court-house is an important example, he was also adept at Gothic revival. Among his other works were: five gaols, three watchhouses, two police stations, three court-houses, a school, a customs house at Port Phillip and twelve churches, most of them in the Hunter River valley. (Rheinberger, 1998, p 2.2; Ecotecture, 2005, p 1; Morton Herman, 'Lewis, Mortimer William (1796 - 1879)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, Online Edition, Australian National University <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A020098b.htm>)

By the 1850s the Police Station and Courthouse at Newcastle had become too small for both the Police and Court functions and so, plans for a new police station and lock-up were prepared by Lewis's son, Mortimer Lewis Jnr, Clerk of Works at Newcastle, under the direction of then Colonial Architect, Alexander Dawson. Lewis's design complemented that of his father's Police Office, which adjoined the new site on the same alignment. The new building was designed in stone, the simple classic elevation repeating the entablature of the original Police Office. The work was undertaken by builder, John Scanlon and completed in May 1861. It was constructed in 18-inch Sydney sandstone, rather than Waratah stone; and construction was interrupted by a strike due to delays in payments to the contractor while Alexander Dawson was absent. The new building opened in 1861, originally a single storey, comprising the central projecting section and a room to either side. (Government Architect's Branch, PWD NSW, 1983, p 4; Ecotecture, 2005, p 1)

The building constantly underwent alteration and expansion. In 1867, under new Colonial Architect, James Barnet, a new kitchen at the rear was added. In 1880 further additions included a storeroom and extra cells, while in 1881 a brick wall was commenced around the exercise yard and completed in 1882, replacing a timber fence. In 1890, the last work carried out by Lewis under James Barnet - both of whom left the Colonial Architect's office following a change of Government - were alterations to the ground floor, which was extended symmetrically at either side to provide two new entrances. These alterations were completed in 1891. Walter Liberty Vernon, who succeeded Barnet as Colonial Architect in August 1890, appointed a Mr Rigg to succeed Lewis and together they embarked on major

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Item Name: **Police Station (Former)**

Location: **90 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

works to the Police Station, adding an upper storey over the entire street frontage, accessed by a new stairway behind the charge room. The second storey provided a mess hall and sleeping quarters for up to sixteen officers and completed the facade as it is today. (Hunter Heritage Centre, Museum - Interpretive signage). At least one additional cell may also have been added at this time, in the range nearest to the present Post Office. Prior to the completion of these extensions, the constantly expanding police function meant that from 1886, police had also been accommodated in the adjacent former Telegraph Office. Once the 1891 additions were completed at the Police Station, the former Telegraph Office became the C.I.B. Building, housing the detectives. Between the Electric Telegraph Office and the Police Station, a lane provided access to the rear yards of both properties, although the lane was located on the Police Station allotment. (Government Architect's Branch, PWD NSW, 1983, pp 5, 7; Ecotecture, 2005, p 1; Rheinberger, 1998, p 2.3)

The final major change to the Police Station came in 1926 when a second storey was added over the rear wing over the cells below; and numerous changes were made to the internal layout and use of spaces. At this time the main entrance door was moved to the side opening, destroying the symmetry of the facade. (Government Architect's Branch, PWD NSW, 1983, p 5; Ecotecture, 2005, p 1)

Apart from a period of use for military purposes, including recruitment, during World War 2, the building continued to serve the police for most of the twentieth century. Over that time, however, the role of policing changed substantially, with several separate departments being created. By the 1970s police services in Newcastle had expanded and the inadequate facilities at the lock up meant that the various departments were housed at eight different locations around the city. The Police vacated the building in June 1982 when a new Police Headquarters opened on the corner of Church and Watt Streets, and the former Police Station remained vacant for many years (Hunter Heritage Centre - Museum - Interpretive signage). 1986 care and maintenance of the building was vested in the National Trust, who carried out repairs during 1989, however, the building was badly damaged in the earthquake in December that year, necessitating further repairs. In 1991 management was transferred to the Newcastle Historic Reserve Trust, an organisation set up by the State Government, and which manages the former Police Station in conjunction with the adjacent former C.I.B. building. The old Police Station is now the Hunter Heritage Centre, incorporating the Police Station Museum and the John Paynter Gallery. Over the years the site has included a number of commercial and community functions and has undergone some modifications to accommodate these activities. (Ecotecture, 2005, p 2)

Built largely during the Victorian period, the centre is characterised by refined understatement typical of its Late Regency style. The original sandstone has now been painted over to unify the various extensions. The building is associated with several prominent architects from the Colonial Architect's Office, with the original (1861) building designed by Alexander Dawson, with Mortimer Lewis Junior as supervising architect. The 1891 ground floor additions were by James Barnett; and the 1893 upper storey, by Walter Liberty Vernon. (Maitland & Stafford, 1997, p 37)

The former Police Station is historically significant having had a continuous association with policing and the administration of law and order in Newcastle since its construction and is capable of demonstrating the history of those activities over much of the nineteenth and

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Item Name: **Police Station (Former)**

Location: **90 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

twentieth centuries. It is also significant as part of a group of important public buildings constructed in the late nineteenth - early twentieth century on a block that has accommodated key buildings associated with public service and law and order for over a century. The buildings - from west to east - include: the Newcastle Post Office on the corner of Hunter and Bolton Streets; the former Police Station and Lock-up, (currently a museum); the Electric Telegraph Office and the former Public Works Department offices. This group has been described as possibly the most important urban group of nineteenth century buildings outside the Sydney metropolitan area because of their architectural merits; contribution to the streetscape and historical significance. The Police Station reflects the influence of three of the State's most prominent Government Architects - Mortimer Lewis, Alexander Dawson, James Barnet and Walter Liberty Vernon. The Justice and Police Museum in Bridge Street, Sydney is comparable, being designed over a similar period; representing the work of some of the state's most important Government Architects, and for its current interpretive role as a museum. The Newcastle Police Station, is rare in NSW, however, being designed on a much grander scale than most regional police stations, reflecting Newcastle's status as a key regional centre and the state's second city in the nineteenth century. It is also extremely rare as it retains its historical streetscape context as part of the group of significant nineteenth century public buildings within the same precinct that have survived within the Newcastle CBD despite development pressures associated with this urban setting. (Government Architect's Branch, PWD NSW, 1983, pp 1-2; National Trust Listing, 1989).

Themes:	National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
	4. Settlement	Towns, suburbs and village	(none)
	6. Educating	Education	(none)
	7. Governing	Law and order	(none)
	8. Culture	Creative endeavour (Cultur	(none)
	9. Phases of Life	Persons	(none)

Designer: Mortimer Lewis Jr

Maker / Builder: John Scanlon

Year Started: 1859 **Year Completed:** 1861 **Circa:** No

Physical Description: The former Police Station, now the Hunter Heritage Centre is a two-storey building, generally symmetrical in plan and elevation, in the old Colonial Regency or Victorian Regency style. The original single-storey section is of sandstone, with later additions in brick. Most of the walls have been painted. The main building, occupying the street frontage comprises two symmetrical wings either side of a slightly projecting central section, featuring a prominent central gable and hipped roof, originally of slate, but now covered with corrugated iron sheeting. In the central section, a coat of arms, painted, features prominently on the pediment. Between the pediment and string course a large semicircular window,

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Item Name: Police Station (Former)

Location: 90 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]

divided into three sections dominates the upper storey, with a set of three arched windows at ground floor level. For each wing either side of the central projecting section, fenestration consists of groups of rectangular sash windows on the top floor and a combination of rectangular and arched openings at ground level. There is a two-storey wing at the rear, with the remainder of the building single storey. Internally the spaces remain largely in their historic configuration, including a full range of men's and women's prison cells.

Physical Condition: The building appears to be in good condition externally and internally.

Modification Dates: 1867 - new kitchen at rear
1880 - store room and extra cells added
1881 - exercise yard enclosed by brick wall
1890 - ground floor extended symmetrically at either side to provide two new entrances
1891 - second storey added over street frontage; new stairway behind charge room; additional cells
1926 - second storey over rear wing cells; changes to internal layout.
1926 to present - various modifications to internal spaces relating to adaptations for other uses, including museum and gallery in recent years.

Recommended Management:

Management:

Further Comments:

- Criteria a)** The former Police Station is historically significant at a state level for its ability to demonstrate the operation of law and order in Newcastle and NSW in its role as police station and lock-up across much of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Having served this function continuously for over 100 years it reflects the changing nature of the police function and is able to demonstrate something of the conditions of nineteenth century lock ups. Individually and as part of a group of key public buildings, the former Police Station reflects Newcastle's development in the second half of the nineteenth century and its emergent status as NSW's second city. Along with the adjoining Post Office, former Telegraph Office and Public Works Department buildings, in the block between Watt and Bolton Streets, it is one of a group of buildings that articulately and proudly recalls Newcastle's Victorian heritage. This coherent and well preserved precinct has been described as possibly the most important urban group of nineteenth century buildings outside the Sydney metropolitan area as a harmonious historical streetscape.
- Criteria b)** The building has associative significance at a state level as it is associated with a number of the most important and prominent architects of the Colonial Architect's Office, namely, Alexander Dawson, James Barnet and Walter Liberty Vernon, who were responsible for overseeing the design of various stages of the building. The site is also indirectly associated with another significant Colonial Architect, Mortimer Lewis. While not directly involved in the design of this building, Lewis's adjacent original police and court house strongly influenced his son, Mortimer Lewis Junior's design for the current building.
- Criteria c)** The former Police Station is aesthetically significant at a state level as a fine example of

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Location: 90 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]

Colonial or Victorian Regency architecture. Its scale and design reflects its important function in the administration of law and order in one of the State's major centres. The symmetry and gentle projection of its facade makes a distinctive yet harmonious contribution to its surroundings. Both individually and as part of a group of well preserved nineteenth century buildings it makes an outstanding contribution to the streetscape of Newcastle's CBD. Together the group represents a rare and exceptionally intact example of a nineteenth century streetscape at a state and possibly national level.

- Criteria d)** While this aspect of significance has not been investigated within the limited scope of this study it is likely that the former Police Station building and the precinct of which it is part, is valued by locals and visitors as a landmark within the CBD for its aesthetic and historical attributes. In its current role as museum and heritage centre it is likely to be a well-known and much visited part of the CBD for both locals and tourists.
- Criteria e)** The site has the potential to yield information regarding nineteenth and twentieth century policing, as well as conditions and treatment of prisoners held awaiting trial. The site as a whole is likely to have archaeological potential to reveal former structures yielding insights into building practices and design of police facilities over time.
- Criteria f)** The former Police Station is rare both locally and at a state level as a highly intact example of a Victorian police station and lock up remaining within the context of an intact nineteenth century urban streetscape. As such it is one of few such examples in NSW outside Sydney.
- Criteria g)** The building is representative of some of the key features of the Victorian Regency style of architecture in NSW.

Integrity / Intactness: High

References:	Author	Title	Year	
		Hunter Heritage Centre, Museum - Interpretive signage		
		National Trust Listing - Department of Public Works (Post Office Group)	1989	
	Ecotecture	Newcastle Police Station Museum - Upgrade to Museum and Gallery, Heritage Impact Assessment	2005	
	Government Architect's Branch, Special Projects, Public Works Department NSW	Conservation Plan for Historic Buildings in Hunter Street, Newcastle	1983	
	Herman, Morton	'Lewis, Mortimer William (1796 - 1879)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, Online Edition	2006	
	Maitland, Barry & Stafford, David	Architecture Newcastle - A Guide	1997	
	Reinberger, P. A. Of Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited	Research Design Relating to the development of part of Lot 3224 DP 729951, 74-90 Hunter Street - The Electric Telegraph Office	1998	
Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Unknown	Newcastle Heritage Study	173	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

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Item Name: **Police Station (Former)**

Location: **90 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

LOT

3223

DP

729951

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: 1859/90

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: 17/04/2008

Status: Completed

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Item Name: **Police Station (Former)**

Location: **90 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Former Police Station 90 Hunter Street - looking east.

Copyright:

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

Image Date: 17/12/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170173b2.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170173t2.jpg

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Item Name: **Police Station (Former)**

Location: **90 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Detail - Central projecting bay, former Police Station, 90 Hunter Street

Copyright:

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

Image Date: 17/12/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170173b3.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170173t3.jpg

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Item Name: **Police Station (Former)**

Location: **90 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Interior of former Police Station - cell blocks

Copyright:

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

Image Date: 17/12/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170173b4.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170173t4.jpg

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Item Name: **Police Station (Former)**

Location: **90 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Exercise yard, former Police Station / Lock Up

Copyright:

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

Image Date: 17/12/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170173b5.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170173t5.jpg

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Item Name: **Police Station (Former)**

Location: **90 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: View towards rear of former Police Station, through metal grill over exercise yard.

Copyright:

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

Image Date: 17/12/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170173b6.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170173t6.jpg

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Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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SHI Number

2171658

Study Number

0040

Item Name: **PWD Buildings**

Location: **74 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Address: 74 Hunter 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: Post Office

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

Aboriginal Area: Awabakal

Curtilage/Boundary: Follows property boundary

Item Type: **Group:** **Category:**

Owner: Private - Corporate

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

Current Use: Law Offices

Former Uses: Public Works Department Offices, Post & Telegraph Office

Assessed Significance: **State** **Endorsed Significance:**

Statement of Significance: The former Public Works Department building is significant at a state level, both individually and as part of a group of public buildings of utmost historical and aesthetic significance. The building is historically significant, being associated with the development of public services in Newcastle in an area with a long continuous history as a site of key public and administrative functions from the early nineteenth century. Its construction in the 1870s as a post office reflects Newcastle's growth and prosperity in the latter half of the nineteenth century and its emergence as a major commercial and administrative centre in the region and the state's second city. Designed by Colonial Architect, James Barnet, the building is a fine example of his elegant and dignified designs for civic buildings and it is part of a precinct representing the works of some of the most important Colonial Architects in NSW. The Public Works building, located on a prominent corner siting, makes a substantial contribution to this group of nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings, including the former Electric Telegraph Office, the Police Station and Post Office, comprising an entire block on the northern side of Hunter Street, which form an outstanding Victorian streetscape and some of the most important public buildings in Newcastle. The survival of this building within its intact setting in the heart of Newcastle's CBD contributes to its rarity and significance as part of a group that is considered to be one of the most important in NSW outside the Sydney metropolitan area for their historical and aesthetic attributes.

Historical Notes or Provenance: The Public Works Department building (currently occupied by a legal office) on the corner of Hunter and Watt Streets is one of a group of nineteenth and early twentieth century public buildings on the northern side of Hunter Street between Watt Street and Bolton Street, which includes the former Electric Telegraph Office (now joined to the Public Works Department building), the former Police Station and Post Office. The group is located in the area which,

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Item Name: **PWD Buildings**

Location: **74 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

since the earliest settlement of Newcastle in the early nineteenth century, has formed the central business and administration district of the city. The buildings to some extent reflect Newcastle's growth and prosperity in the latter half of the nineteenth century, stimulated by the establishment of rail and telegraph services to the north, which led Newcastle to become the major port to the rich hinterland that extended to the north and west of the Hunter Valley. Although Newcastle retains an identifiable Victorian character and setting, very few buildings constructed prior to 1880 survive intact, making this group, which forms a distinctive precinct within the CBD, particularly important. (Government Architect's Branch, PWD NSW, 1983, p 1)

Early maps of Newcastle, dating from the 1840s and 1850s indicate that the site now occupied by the Public Works Department Buildings may have been designated as the site for District Council Chambers, indicating a long history as a site of civic importance, although there is no evidence that any such building actually existed on the site (Rheinberger, 1998, p 2.2). The second half of the nineteenth century was a time of rapid expansion for Newcastle and the need for public buildings was great. In conjunction with the construction of the northern telegraph line between Sydney and Newcastle between 1858 and 1860, an Electric Telegraph Office was constructed in 1861 in Hunter Street, adjoining what is now the former Public Works Department building. The Telegraph Office, which also served as the Post Office, was originally built as a single storey structure, in Italianate style with a triple-arched porch, housing a central telegraph office and providing accommodation for the telegraph officer. It was designed by Mortimer Lewis Jr under the direction of then Colonial Architect, Alexander Dawson and completed by Henry Sherwood, builder, of West Maitland (Government Architect's Branch, PWD NSW, 1983, p 3; Rheinberger, 1998, p 2.1).

Newcastle's growth meant that the original combined Post and Telegraph Office soon became inadequate, and Colonial Architect, James Barnet had plans prepared for a new two storey building to be sited on the corner of Hunter and Watt Streets adjoining the old building. This is the structure that became the Public Works Department building. Tenders were called on 15 January 1872 and on 11 March the contract was awarded to builders, Lang and Wylie. The building was completed in 1873 at a cost of just over 2,139 pounds. Predominantly Victorian Regency in style, the original form was very simple, of coloured, patterned brick construction. The entrance to the building was from Hunter Street via two doors flanking a central window. The Watt Street facade only extended so far as to include three of the five windows at present in this section. On its completion, the postal business was transferred from the old building next door, though that continued to house the telegraph section. (Government Architect's Branch, PWD NSW, 1983, pp 3, 8; Maitland & Stafford, 1997, p 43)

As these postal and telegraphic services expanded to meet the needs of the growing city of Newcastle space in each facility proved inadequate, The Telegraph Office was extended with an additional storey between 1876 and 1877, designed by Mortimer Lewis Jr under the direction of James Barnet. The site was also extended by the addition of a number of outbuildings (Rheinberger, 1998, p 2.1).

By 1884, it was decided that the Post Office building needed to be enlarged and that the Telegraph Office should be transferred into the same premises. Accordingly, Barnet

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Item Name: **PWD Buildings**

Location: **74 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

designed alterations at the rear of the Post Office building. Completed by Mr Parkhill, builder, the alterations included the addition of a verandah at the rear as well as an arcaded portico at the front. These additions, embellished in the Italianate style, were completed in 1886. Upon completion of the additions, the former Telegraph Office served as accommodation for the Police until the enlargement of the adjoining Police Station in 1891, after which, the former Telegraph Office became the C. I. B. Building, accommodating the detectives, a role it continued to fulfil until 1982. This building is currently managed by the Newcastle Historic Reserve Trust and is leased on a commercial basis. (Government Architect's Branch, PWD NSW, 1983, p 8; Maitland & Stafford, 1997, p 43; Ecotecture, 2005, p 2)

In 1903-1904, upon the opening of a new Post Office on the corner of Hunter and Bolton Streets, the former Post Office building became the Public Works Department (PWD) offices. It was fitting that the Public Works Department, which was responsible for the design and construction of public buildings in NSW, should be located in this precinct, along with a number of the buildings for which it was responsible. Some time after the building became the PWD offices, the arcaded portico was removed, and a new string course was added at the same level as the one on the neighbouring building. The two buildings were then joined by a pedimented doorway and corridor. The buildings were cement rendered and painted to match the adjacent building (former Police Station), giving this group of buildings an outward unity of style and decoration. A three-storey rear wing along Watt Street was added to the PWD building in 1921. At that time, substantial internal alterations were made to the building. (Government Architect's Branch, PWD NSW, 1983, pp 3, 9; Maitland & Stafford, 1997, p 43)

The former Public Works Department building is an important example of the work of James Barnet, who served as Colonial Architect from 1865 to 1890, and was influential in designing several major public buildings in NSW, including Newcastle. By 1890 there were four hundred townships in NSW, almost all featuring at least one of Barnet's dignified civic buildings. Barnet's work includes 169 post and telegraph offices, 130 courthouses, 155 police stations, 110 lock-ups and 20 lighthouses. His major works include the General Post Office, Chief Secretary's and Lands Department buildings in Sydney. In his architectural work Barnet had been strongly influenced by the Italian Renaissance, as evidenced in his design of the Public Works building. As colonial architect for twenty-five years he had an important influence on colonial architecture; his public buildings were well built and well designed and stood as a memorial to his ability. (Coltheart, 1991, p 34; McDonald, ADB online - James Johnstone Barnet, 2006)

The former PWD office is significant in its own right and as part of a group of important public buildings constructed in the late nineteenth - early twentieth century on a block that has accommodated key public service facilities for over a century. The buildings - from west to east - include: the Newcastle Post Office on the corner of Hunter and Bolton Streets; the former Police Station and Lock-up, (currently a museum); the Electric Telegraph Office and the former Public Works Department offices. This group has been described as possibly the most important urban group of nineteenth century buildings outside the Sydney metropolitan area because of their architectural merits; contribution to the streetscape and historical significance. They are rare examples in NSW of a group of buildings which demonstrate the work of some of the state's most important government architects, including, James Barnet,

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Item Name: **PWD Buildings**

Location: **74 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Alexander Dawson, Mortimer Lewis and Walter Liberty Vernon. The PWD is a significant part of the group representing the office that had responsibility for the design and construction of public buildings in NSW from the mid-nineteenth to early twentieth century. While there are other examples of nineteenth century public buildings surviving in regional centres across NSW, including the Public Works office at Lismore, the Newcastle building is rare largely because of its intact setting within an urban streetscape that retains its Victorian character. (Government Architect's Branch, PWD NSW, 1983, pp 1-2; National Trust Listing, 1989)

Themes:	National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
	3. Economy	Communication	(none)
	4. Settlement	Towns, suburbs and village	(none)
	4. Settlement	Utilities	(none)
	8. Culture	Creative endeavour (Cultur	(none)

Designer: James Barnet

Maker / Builder: Lang and Wylie

Year Started: 1872 **Year Completed:** 1873 **Circa:** No

Physical Description: The former Public Works Department building is a two storey brick building in mid-Victorian Regency style with rendered facade. The wall openings are semicircular headed on the ground floor and arched on the upper floor. Double-hung sash windows and doors are organised both in groups and singly and are surrounded with plaster mouldings having exaggerated keystones at the head and corbel supported sills. Imitation plaster quoins mark the corners of the building, while the underside of the eaves is supported on scroll brackets. The low pitched hipped roof, once clad in corrugated asbestos cement has been renewed. Chimneys are decorated with plaster corbels and mouldings.

Physical Condition: The building appears to be in good condition externally.

Modification Dates: 1886 - additions to rear of building, including verandah and arcaded portico at front.

1904 - Arcaded portico removed; new string coursing added to match adjacent former Telegraph Office. The two buildings were joined by a pedimented doorway corridor and both cement rendered and painted.

1921 - Three-storey wing along Watt Street added to Public Works Department building. Substantial internal alterations.

Recommended Management: Conservation Plan

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Item Name: **PWD Buildings**

Location: **74 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Management:

Further Comments:

- Criteria a)** The former Public Works Department building is historically significant at a state and local level as one of a group of buildings associated with the development of public services in Newcastle. Originally serving as a post and telegraph office the site is representative of a key phase in Newcastle's development reflecting its growth and prosperity in the latter half of the nineteenth century and its emergence as a major commercial and administrative centre in the region and the state's second city. It has a long and continuous association with key administrative services in the locality and state. Along with the adjoining former Telegraph Office, Police Station and Post Office in the block between Watt and Bolton Streets, it is one of a group of buildings that articulately and proudly recalls Newcastle's Victorian heritage. This coherent and well preserved precinct has been described as possibly the most important urban group of nineteenth century buildings outside the Sydney metropolitan area.
- Criteria b)** The building has associative significance at a state level as it is associated with James Barnet, one of the most influential architects of the colonial era and NSW Colonial Architect from 1865 to 1890. Barnet was influential in designing several major public buildings in NSW, including the General Post Office, Chief Secretary's and Lands Department buildings in Sydney as well as a large number of civic buildings in towns and cities across NSW.
- Criteria c)** The former Public Works Department building is aesthetically significant at a state level as a fine example of Victorian Regency style with classical influences characteristic of Barnet's dignified civic designs. Both individually and as part of a group of well preserved nineteenth century buildings it makes an outstanding contribution to the streetscape of Newcastle's CBD. Together the group represents a rare and exceptionally intact example of a nineteenth century streetscape at a state and possibly national level.
- Criteria d)** While this aspect of significance has not been investigated within the limited scope of this study it is likely that the Public Works Department building and the precinct of which it is part, is valued by locals and visitors as a landmark within the CBD for its aesthetic and historical attributes.
- Criteria e)** The site is likely to have the potential to contain archaeological remains of earlier structures and outbuildings that may yield information about nineteenth century building techniques and public services in Newcastle.
- Criteria f)** The former Public Works Department is rare both locally and at a state level as a highly intact example of a Victorian public building remaining within the context of an intact nineteenth century streetscape in an urban setting. As such it is one of few such examples in NSW outside Sydney.
- Criteria g)** The building is representative of the Victorian Regency style of architecture in NSW.

Integrity / Intactness: Good

References:	Author	Title	Year
		National Trust Listing - Department of Public Works	1989

State Heritage Inventory

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Date: 24/07/2008

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Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number
2171658
Study Number
0040

Item Name: **PWD Buildings**

Location: **74 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

formerly Post Office

Colheart, Lenore	A Guide to the History of the Public Works Department, New South Wales	1991
Ecotecture	Newcastle Police Station Museum - Upgrade to Museum and Gallery, Heritage Impact Assessment	2005
Government Architect's Branch, Special Projects Section, Public Works Dept. NSW	Conservation Plan for Historic Buildings in Hunter Street, Newcastle	1983
Maitland, Barry & Stafford, David	Architecture Newcastle - A Guide	1997
McDonald, D. I.	'James Johnstone Barnet (1827-1904) Australian Dictionary of Biography - Online Edition	2006
Reinberger, P. A. Of Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited	Research Design Relating to the development of part of Lot 3224 DP 729951, 74-90 Hunter Street - The Electric Telegraph Office	1998

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Suters, Lavelle, Doring, Turner	Newcastle Archaeological Management Plan	0040	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

LOT 3224 DP 729951

Latitude:

Longitude:

Location validity:

Spatial Accuracy:

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: 13/05/1000 Date Updated: 24/07/2008 Status: Basic

Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2171658

Study Number

0040

Item Name: **PWD Buildings**

Location: **74 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Data Entry: Date First Entered: 19/07/1999

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Date: 24/07/2008

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Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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SHI Number

2171658

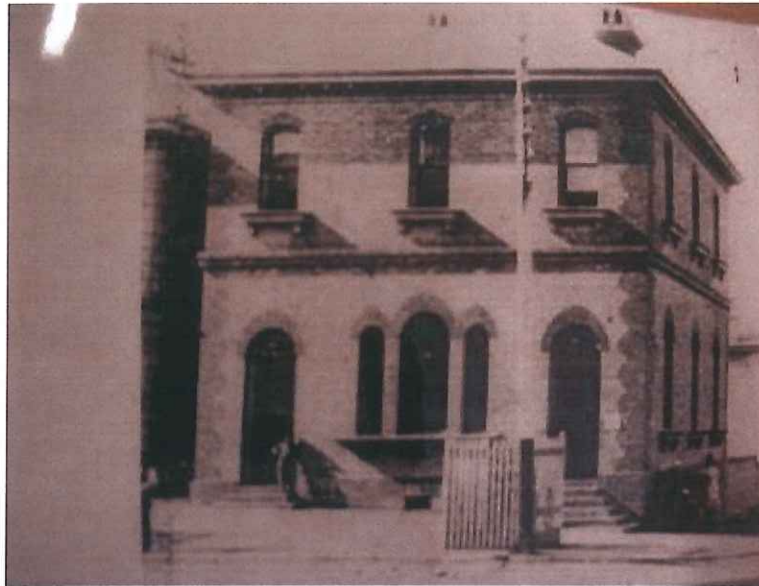
Study Number

0040

Item Name: **PWD Buildings**

Location: **74 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Original Post Office building on corner of Watt and Hunter Streets, constructed 1873 [Source: J. W. Thomson Government Architect, Special Projects Section, 'Conservation Plan for Historic Buildings in Hunter Street, Newcastle', April 1983]

Copyright:

Image by: J. W. Thomson, Government Architect

Image Date: 31/12/1873

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2171658b1.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2171658t1.jpg

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Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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SHI Number

2171658

Study Number

0040

Item Name: **PWD Buildings**

Location: **74 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Public Works Department building on corner of Watt and Hunter Streets with adjoining former Electric Telegraph Office

Copyright:

Image by: J. W. Thomson, Government Architect

Image Date: 1/04/1983

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2171658b2.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2171658t2.jpg

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SHI Number

2171658

Study Number

0040

Item Name: **PWD Buildings**

Location: **74 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Former PWD Building, with 1921 addition at rear (Watt Street)

Copyright:

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

Image Date: 17/12/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2171658b3.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2171658t3.jpg

Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2171658

Study Number

0040

Item Name: **PWD Buildings**

Location: **74 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: The former Electric Telegraph Office (left) and Public Works building, linked by pedimented doorway in 1903-4. Hunter Street facades, closely matching.

Copyright:

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

Image Date: 17/12/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2171658b4.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2171658t4.jpg

Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2171658

Study Number

0040

Item Name: **PWD Buildings**

Location: **74 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Public Works building with 1921 addition, Watt Street elevation.

Copyright:

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

Image Date: 2/04/2008

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2171658b5.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2171658t5.jpg

Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2171658

Study Number

0040

Item Name: **PWD Buildings**

Location: **74 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: The former Post Office building (right) with former Electric Telegraph Office in 1891, following alterations by James Barnet, completed late 1880s. [Source: Hunter Photo Bank]

Copyright:

Image by: Ralph Snowball

Image Date: 31/12/1891

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2171658b6.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2171658t6.jpg

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Date: 24/07/2008

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Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170873

Study Number

ISLI.007

Item Name: **Regent Picture Theatre (Former)**

Location: **80 Maitland Road, Islington [Newcastle City]**

Address: 80 Maitland Road

Suburb / Nearest Town: Islington 2296

Local Govt Area: Newcastle City

State: NSW

Address: Beaumont street

Suburb / Nearest Town: Islington 2296

Local Govt Area: Newcastle City

State: NSW

DUAP Region: Hunter & Central Coast

Historic region: Lower Hunter

Parish: Newcastle

County: Northumberland

DUAP Region: Hunter & Central Coast

Historic region: Lower Hunter

Parish:

County:

Other/Former Names: Regent Renovations

Area/Group/Complex:

Group ID:

Aboriginal Area: Awabakal

Curtilage/Boundary: Follows property boundary.

Item Type: Built

Group: Recreation and Entert Category: Theatre

Owner: Private - Corporate

Admin Codes:

Code 2: Draft LEP

Code 3:

Current Use: Commercial

Former Uses: Picture theatre

Assessed Significance: **State**

Endorsed Significance:

Statement of Significance: The former Regent Theatre, Islington has historical, associative and aesthetic significance at a state level as one of few 1920s picture palaces in NSW and possibly Australia, remaining substantially unaltered since its construction, and as the sole remaining theatre built for William Herbert, a prominent picture theatre proprietor who operated locally and internationally. With its unique facade and classical detailing, the building occupies a prominent corner site, giving it landmark qualities. Internally, its grand spatial quality and elaborate classical features, including proscenium, dress circle, balconies, and ornate ceilings recall the heyday of cinema-going, one of the most significant forms of entertainment in Australia, particularly in the 1950s. These features evoke the grand aesthetic experience and sense of occasion that was part of the cinema experience from the 1920s to 1960s. It is thus representative of an important phase in NSW and Australian social and cultural history. It is rare in NSW and possibly Australia as a space that remains recognisable as an original theatre with little adaptation or alteration of its interior or exterior form since the 1920s.

Historical Notes or Provenance: The site on which the former Regent Picture Theatre stands at the corner of Maitland Road and Beaumont Street, Islington, has been the site of a picture theatre since December 1911. The first theatre to open on the site was Herbert's Pictures No. 2 Show, which opened on 16

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Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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SHI Number

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Study Number

ISLI.007

Item Name: **Regent Picture Theatre (Former)**

Location: **80 Maitland Road, Islington [Newcastle City]**

December 1911 under the proprietorship of Mr William Herbert, prominent picture theatre proprietor of Hamilton, Broadmeadow, Islington & Newcastle. The venue proved popular, even though it was not roofed until later in 1912. (Cork & Tod, 1993, p 48)

In 1928 plans were prepared by Mr E. F. Hewitt for a major rebuilding of the Islington theatre. Hewitt was a designer of industrial buildings and worked for BHP, so this project gave him the opportunity to revel in a more creative and flamboyant style in designing this theatre. (Personal communication, Terry Harrison, September 2007). The theatre closed in June 1929 and the new building was constructed around the old one, as had been done at Herbert's Broadmeadow Theatre in 1924. The new theatre as built differed from Hewitt's plans and was a substantial brick theatre with a frontage of 85 feet to Maitland Road and 136 feet to Beaumont Street. Second-hand bricks from a demolished colliery were reputedly used in the building (Personal communication, Terry Harrison, September 2007). The new Regent was opened on 9 December 1928 by the Mayor and Mayoress of Wickham, Alderman and Mrs A. E. Young. The Newcastle Herald provided a detailed description: 'The facade is boldly treated in a classical manner, featuring the complete Roman Tuscan order of architecture. It has a cement facing with a dark brick relief which will gain in effect from the flood lighting at night. A large electric sign, displaying the rising sun formation which is mounted on the parapet above the entrance will serve as a prominent landmark...' The theatre had a seating capacity of 1,600 people, with 540 in the dress circle. The ceiling was described as being 'of a distinctive design of a coved formation, set out in...massive mock beams with ornamental fibrous plaster and pierced pattern panels, diminishing towards the proscenium...with its massive fluted columns' in Greek Ionic style. The elliptical arch of the proscenium featured perforated filigree work in the crown, with a centre ornament in the form of a lyre. Two large flower vases were set in panels on either side. The curtain was of a royal blue and gold setting. There were two shops to the Maitland Road frontage, one being a refreshment room with access to the auditorium. (Cork & Tod, 1993, pp 48, 50)

The new Regent was built to show 'talkies' and it was reported in the Newcastle Herald that the 'synchronisation from the "talkie" equipment was excellent.' The opening night programme included Fox's Big Synchronised Special, 'The Air Circus' and 'The Melody of Love' ('100 percent TALKING and SINGING!') The large electric sign on the top of the parapet proudly advertised 'TALKIES'. (Cork & Tod, 1993, p 50)

Mr Herbert arranged a first release contract with MGM from May 1932 to give his three theatres (Hamilton, Islington and Broadmeadow De-Luxe) exclusive rights to MGM films. This only lasted until November that year, however, when the three theatres were sold to Newcastle Amusements. Later, the Regent came under the control of Newcastle Theatres Ltd and in 1941/42 Hoyts acquired a major interest in that company. (Cork & Tod, 1993, p 50)

The advent of television signalled the decline for the big picture theatres and, like many others, the Regent closed down in June 1964. By that time, seating capacity was 1,543. It is possible that Hoyts used the building as a store for a time after its closure. In 1968 a proposal to turn the cinema into a dance hall fell through. In August 1969, S and A Harrison purchased the property and converted it into a supply store for builders and renovators. Although the exterior and interior remained virtually unaltered, the street awning was removed. The earthquake of 1989 caused some damage to the curved parapet at the front

State Heritage Inventory

Date: 24/07/2008

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Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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SHI Number

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Study Number

ISLI.007

Item Name: **Regent Picture Theatre (Former)**

Location: **80 Maitland Road, Islington [Newcastle City]**

and rear stage wall. The building has since been restored and repainted externally. (Cork & Tod, 1993, p 50)

Relatively few large picture theatres dating from the 1920s remain in Newcastle or NSW in any intact form. The Civic Theatre, Newcastle also dates from 1929, like the Regent, but is a much more fantastical design, more akin to the State Theatre in Sydney. The Athenium Theatre (now Jadda Centre), in Junee, built in 1929 and listed on the State Heritage Register is perhaps the closest in style to the Regent. It appears to be in good condition, though its original ornate ceilings have been covered, unlike the Regent, which, though its fabric is in poor condition, retains its original detailing and form. The Saraton Theatre in Grafton, which is listed on the State Heritage Register was built in 1926, with a 1930s interior, and still operates as a cinema, though it is of a different style to the Regent. Most of the theatres in regional areas already listed on the SHR are of also of a slightly later era and style to the Regent, with more dating from the 1930s in Art Deco style. In the heyday of cinema-going in the 1950s there were 385 enclosed movie theatres in 295 country towns in NSW. By 1999 only 66 country towns possessed 83 cinema buildings. Most cinemas in the Sydney and Newcastle region dating from the 1920s have also been demolished. (Heritage Office NSW SHR Item: Saraton Theatre, Grafton

http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/07_subnav_01_2.cfm?itemid=5044690, Cork & Tod, 1993)

It is rare to find a cinema where the internal spaces survive in the relatively unaltered form as exists at the Regent in Islington. It is thus a rare example in NSW of a former picture theatre where the grand internal spatial quality remains, representing the era of the hey-day of cinema going as a major form of entertainment and a grand experience.

Themes:	National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
	8. Culture	Leisure	(none)

Designer: E. F. Hewitt

Maker / Builder: Messrs Campbell & Gillon, Mayfield (brickwork); Mr James Mullen (steelwork & erection) various other

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

Physical Description: The theatre is predominantly a three-storey cement rendered and painted masonry building, in an Edwardian classical style that curves around Beaumont Street. Broad and profuse variations of classical motifs appear on the external facade. Three narrow panelled segments divide the facade into two main elements, each with four pilasters delineating three panels over which is a wide entablature and cornice. In each is a row of circular accent windows with arched label mouldings and classical profile columns with wide projecting sills, emphasising small square window openings. Vertical pediments accent the parapet. (Suters Architects, Newcastle City Wide Heritage Study, 1997, ISLI.007; Thorne, Tod & Cork, 1996, p269)

State Heritage Inventory

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Item Name: Regent Picture Theatre (Former)

Location: 80 Maitland Road, Islington [Newcastle City]

Internally, the theatre retains much of its original form and spatial layout. The form of the main theatre, including aisles, dress circle, proscenium, projection room, male and female toilets and stairway to the dress circle remain, together with original detailing, including the ornamental ceiling and crown of the proscenium. The ceiling almost curves across the auditorium in five panelled segments. The central segment possesses square latticed panels set at 45 degrees in which are large plaster ceiling roses (from which originally hung light fittings). On each side of the central segment, the row of panels are again lattice, but at 90 degrees to the main structural system. The rows of panels adjacent to the external walls are full plaster. It is a highly decorative ceiling which removes any barn-like feel that can be generated by such a large space. There is little wall decoration and the dress circle balustrade is modestly classical (Thorne, Tod & Cork, 1996, p269). All seating has been removed as have light fittings. Movable heritage items such as lolly trays also exist. No attempt has been made at restoration, and so, the paintwork, now a green and white colour scheme, is peeling badly.

Physical Condition: External condition is good and has been recently repainted.

Internally, the condition of paintwork is poor. There is evidence of some cracking in the walls as a result of the 1989 earthquake damage. The owner also reported water and termite damage. Nevertheless, the original form and fabric is clearly readable.

Modification Dates: Some modifications to stage area and other spaces have occurred from the 1960s in association with the change of use to renovators' supply store and showroom.

Recommended Management: The property should be restored and used for compatible purposes - i.e. entertainment. It would be desirable if essential repairs and maintenance were carried out to prevent further deterioration. Opportunities for interpretation exist.

Management:

Further Comments:

- Criteria a)** The former Regent Picture Theatre is historically significant as one of very few 1920s picture theatres in NSW and possibly Australia, that has remained relatively unaltered in its fundamental form with interior spaces recalling the era of large-scale picture theatres when cinema-going was one of the most popular forms of entertainment in Australia, particularly from the 1920s to 1960s. It recalls the era when cinema-going was both a grand aesthetic experience with a sense of occasion as well as entertainment, before the advent of television and multiplexes, which changed the nature of this cultural activity forever. It is also significant for its association with the development of talking pictures, with its present incarnation being constructed specifically to show the new 'talkies' in the late 1920s. The site was used for cinema presentations from 1911, with the present building operating continuously as a cinema from 1929 to 1964.
- Criteria b)** The Regent has associative significance at a state level as the sole remaining theatre built for William Herbert, a prominent picture theatre proprietor who operated locally and internationally.
- Criteria c)** The theatre is aesthetically significant in the Newcastle region and the state as a rare

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Item Name: Regent Picture Theatre (Former)

Location: 80 Maitland Road, Islington [Newcastle City]

example of a classically designed late 1920s picture theatre. With its distinctive form and classical detailing the building has landmark qualities as a handsome building on a prominent corner siting. Its interior exhibits the grand spatial qualities and elaborate design features of cinemas built in the 1920s. Key elements such as the proscenium with its decorative crown, dress circle, ground floor space and ornate ceiling remain largely in their original form. Original interior spaces, including male and female toilets remain and seat numbers painted on the dress circle floor remain visible. Although seats have been removed and the building is no longer used as a theatre, it is rare as a space that remains recognisable as an original theatre with little adaptation or alteration of its interior or exterior form, which captures something of the spatial and aesthetic qualities of the cinema-going experience from the 1920s to the 1960s. According to Thorne, Tod and Cork's heritage study, there is no other theatre in the state of equivalent architectural style and quality in this style of theatre.

- Criteria d)** Although no investigations have been carried out for this review, the former theatre is likely to have social significance at a local level for the many people who would have patronised the theatre and for locals who know the landmark.
- Criteria e)** The theatre has the capacity to yield information about cinema design in the late-1920s and the cinema-going experience from the 1920s to the 1960s.
- Criteria f)** The former theatre is rare at a state and local level for its unique exterior and as a largely intact example of a 1920s picture theatre with its internal form in particular, still evocative of the era of grand cinemas. It is also rare as the only theatre designed by E F Hewitt, better known as a designer of industrial buildings.
- Criteria g)** The item, particularly its interior, is representative picture theatres designed in the flamboyant style of the late 1920s before the Depression era.

Integrity / Intactness: Reasonable

References:	Author	Title	Year
		Personal communication - Terry Harrison (owner) 11 September 2007	
		Heritage Office NSW: State Heritage Register - Athenaeum Theatre (Jadda Centre), Junee	
		Heritage Office NSW: State Heritage Register - Saraton Theatre, Grafton	
	Cork, K. J. And Tod, L. R.	Front Stalls or Back? The History and Heritage of the Newcastle Theatres	1993
	Thorne, Ross, Tod, Leo and Cork, Kevin	Movie Theatre Heritage Register for NSW 1896-1996	1996

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Suters Architects Snell	Newcastle City Wide Heritage Study	ISLI.007	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
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Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number
2170873
Study Number
ISLI.007

Item Name: **Regent Picture Theatre (Former)**

Location: **80 Maitland Road, Islington [Newcastle City]**

LOT 1 DP 88359

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			

Custom Field One:

Custom Field Two:

Custom Field Three: Inter-War Free Classical

Custom Field Four: Principal Dates 1929

Custom Field Five: No

Custom Field Six: Cinerma Centre, Albury NSW. pg 161 PGIAA. Public Nomination No 32

Data Entry: Date First Entered: 14/08/1998 Date Updated: 24/07/2008 Status: Completed

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Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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SHI Number

2170873

Study Number

ISLI.007

Item Name: **Regent Picture Theatre (Former)**

Location: **80 Maitland Road, Islington [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Exterior from Maitland Road

Copyright:

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 11/09/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170873b11.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t11_2170873.jpg

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Item Name: **Regent Picture Theatre (Former)**

Location: **80 Maitland Road, Islington [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Former Regent Picture Theatre 80 Maitland Road

Copyright:

Image by: unknown

Image Date:

Image Number: 156A

Image Path:

Image File: 2170873b1.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t_2170873.jpg

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Item Name: **Regent Picture Theatre (Former)**

Location: **80 Maitland Road, Islington [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Detail of proscenium arch

Copyright:

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 11/09/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170873b3.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t3_2170873.jpg

Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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SHI Number

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Study Number

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Item Name: **Regent Picture Theatre (Former)**

Location: **80 Maitland Road, Islington [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Projection area

Copyright:

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 11/09/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170873b4.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t4_2170873.jpg

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ISLI.007

Item Name: **Regent Picture Theatre (Former)**

Location: **80 Maitland Road, Islington [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Stairway to dress circle

Copyright:

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 11/09/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170873b5.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t5_2170873.jpg

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Item Name: **Regent Picture Theatre (Former)**

Location: **80 Maitland Road, Islington [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: View from dress circle looking towards stage and proscenium arch, including ceiling detail.

Copyright:

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 11/09/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170873b6.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t6_2170873.jpg

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Item Name: **Regent Picture Theatre (Former)**

Location: **80 Maitland Road, Islington [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Dress circle and ceiling

Copyright:

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 11/09/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170873b7.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t7_2170873.jpg

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SHI Number

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Study Number

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Item Name: **Regent Picture Theatre (Former)**

Location: **80 Maitland Road, Islington [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Dress Circle - balcony detail

Copyright:

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 11/09/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170873b8.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t8_2170873.jpg

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Study Number

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Item Name: **Regent Picture Theatre (Former)**

Location: **80 Maitland Road, Islington [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Ground floor area

Copyright:

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 11/09/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170873b9.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t9_2170873.jpg

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SHI Number

2170873

Study Number

ISLI.007

Item Name: **Regent Picture Theatre (Former)**

Location: **80 Maitland Road, Islington [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Projection room windows

Copyright:

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 11/09/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170873b10.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t10_2170873.jpg

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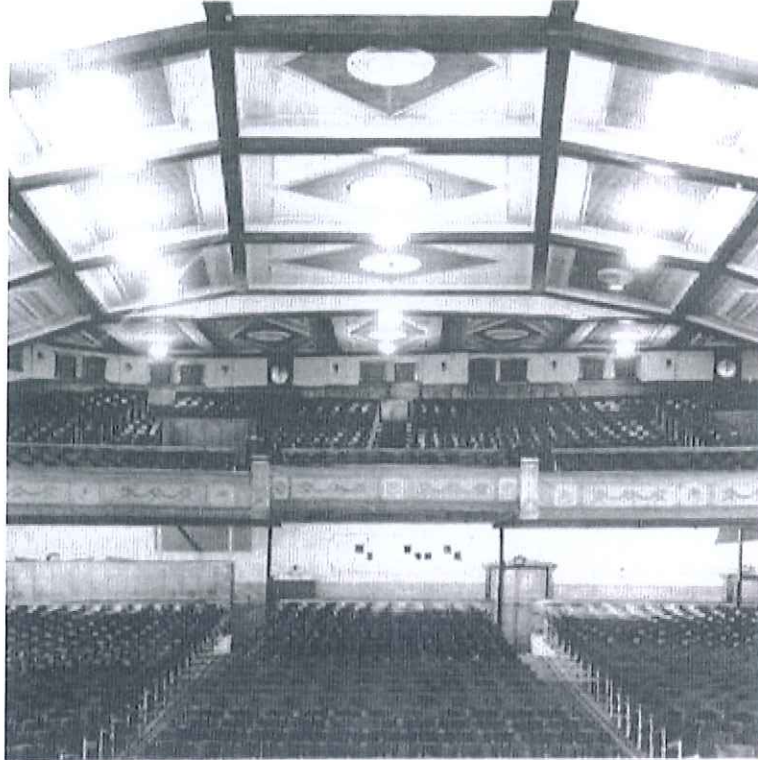
Study Number

ISLI.007

Item Name: **Regent Picture Theatre (Former)**

Location: **80 Maitland Road, Islington [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Interior of theatre, 1954. Main form and features still visible today. (From Cork & Tod, 1993, p 54)

Copyright:

Image by:

Image Date: 31/12/1954

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170873b12.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t12_2170873.jpg

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Study Number

ISLI.007

Item Name: **Regent Picture Theatre (Former)**

Location: **80 Maitland Road, Islington [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:

*Interior Regent Islington - 1954. (Courtesy Hoyts Corp Pty Ltd)
Final advertisement NMH 27.6.64.*



Caption: Stage and proscenium arch, 1954. Main form and features still visible today. Includes final ad from Newcastle Morning Herald, 27 June 1964. (From Cork & Tod, 1993, p 54)

Copyright:

Image by:

Image Date: 31/12/1954

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170873b13.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t13_2170873.jpg

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Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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SHI Number

2170222

Study Number

Item Name: **Shepherds Hill Group**

Location: **41 The Terrace, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Address: 41 The Terrace
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: Includes Residence, Observation Post and Gun Placement

Area/Group/Complex:

Group ID:

Aboriginal Area: Awabakal

Curtilage/Boundary: Southern and south-eastern boundaries are the cliff, the western boundary is the wire fence just east of The Terrace. The northern boundary is just beyond the intersection of York Drive and the Terrace and passes approximately 5 meters along parallel to the access road to the site. It follows the 67 meter contour around to the edge of the cliff. See image no.7.

Item Type: Built
Group: Defence
Category: Defence Base Naval

Owner: State Government

Admin Codes: LEP
Code 2:
Code 3:

Current Use: Cottage is used by the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol

Former Uses:

Assessed Significance: State

Endorsed Significance:

Statement of Significance: The Shepherds Hill Group is historically significant at a State level because its history forms an important part of the story of Australian coastal defences during the late 19th and early to mid 20th centuries. During this time, the site was a key defence post and its history provides an insight into the way that NSW defence policy reacted to changing technologies, threats and types of warfare. During WWII, the fortifications at Shepherds Hill played a co-ordinating role in the defence of Newcastle. Defence of Newcastle during this time was of high significance to the state, because Newcastle had become an area of great strategic and industrial importance in NSW. The fact that the site was simultaneously manned by members of the Navy, Army and the Airforce for a variety of functions is rare and possibly unique in Australia.

Historical Notes or Provenance: The name 'Shepherd's Hill' is derived from the name 'Sheep Pasture Hills' which was given to the place by Lieutenant Colonel Paterson when he first visited the site in 1801, because the steep grassy slopes reminded him of England. The area was mined for coal during the 1840s, with a copper smelting works operating on the site (Bathers Way: Surveillance, interpretive sign at Shepherds Hill). Huts were constructed for miners and their families.

Military occupation of the site began in the 1890s, with the construction of an 8-inch disappearing gun emplacement with underground rooms. This was developed in response

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Item Name: **Shepherds Hill Group**

Location: **41 The Terrace, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

the threat of an attack from Russia. A cottage was also built, and this was first inhabited by Master Gunner Wollitt, when he was master to the gunner for the Shepherds Hill and Fort Scratchley emplacement (G. Browne, 1984, p.11). There were two batteries in operation at Shepherds Hill, one to the south of the site near Cliff Street and one to the north, above York Drive. The second battery has since been demolished. These two batteries were established as part of an integrated project to advance the defences of the city of Newcastle. This project included the strengthening of fortifications at Fort Scratchley.

In 1879, Colonel Scratchley proposed a self-contained and self-defensible fort with the purpose of protecting the settlement as well as the Newcastle coalfields from foreign attack. In 1896 a gun was constructed at Shepherds Hill one mile south of Scratchley in order to strengthen Newcastle's defence system.

The disappearing gun, also known as a 'jumper' or 'hydro-pneumatic gun' had been developed in 1883 and seemed to offer cheap, effective protection with the benefit of being discreet. Major General Scratchley ordered many of these new guns for the Australian colonies, despite the reservations that the War Office had about the guns. The gun was supported above the gun pit by a carriage and after firing, the gun would contract down below the parapet to be reloaded. The energy of this contraction was absorbed in compressing hydraulic rams which then returned the gun to firing position. However, this weapon had two significant drawbacks. Firstly, it only offered limited elevation and secondly, the time taken to reload the gun was a hindrance. The new warships that had been developed demanded a faster rate of fire which could only be achieved by a gun which stayed in position and could be simultaneously fired and loaded (P. Oppenheim, 2005, p.139-140). The British Government discontinued this system of defence in Australian colonies after a few years. In 1906, the Shepherds Hill gun was deemed unsafe, and this, in combination with the fact that Fort Scratchley did not have a clear view of Stockton Bight led to the establishment of Fort Wallis at Stockton (G. Browne, 1984, p. 12).

By 1939, Newcastle was one of the primary sources of munitions production for NSW and during WWII Newcastle 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 an overseas trip in 1934. 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 (NSW Heritage Inventory, Administration Building, SHI number 2173907). Thus, the defence of Newcastle had an importance beyond the immediate area and was significant to Australia as a whole. The majority of the state's shells were produced in Newcastle and it was also the site of the NSW Dockyards. In order to protect these productions, a new system of defence was undertaken, which included the strengthening of Fort Wallis and the construction of two new close defence batteries Shepherd's Hill and Fort Scratchley. Both sites were armed with 6 inch MK VII ex naval guns and controlled from an observation post on the site of the old 8 inch battery on Shepherd's Hill. All defences in area were controlled by Post on Shepherds Hill (J. R. Graham, 1969, p.64).

As part of the strengthening of the defence system of Newcastle, various new projects were

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Location: **41 The Terrace, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

undertaken at Shepherds Hill during WWII, such as accommodation for troops stationed on the site. The cottage was used as an Officers Mess for troops stationed at Shepherds Hill. The most important construction was that of an Observation Post. The natural height of the hill as well as the ruggedness of the hills made Shepherds Hill a good location for this construction. The Post was 106m above sea level and was used as a range finder for Fort Wallis, which had an observation post only 22m above sea level. This was unusual because it meant that the post was 6000 yards away from the guns that it controlled, but the extra height of Shepherds Hill was necessary in order to have a clear view of targets. (G. Browne, 1984, p.14) New technologies in instant communication via electric telegraph made this possible.

During WWII the Observation Post was simultaneously run by all three services; the Royal Australian Navy, the Army and the Royal Australian Air Force. The Port War Signal Station was controlled by the Navy, and was used to collect information on ship movements. The Early warning radar was manned by the Air Force. Those functions manned by the Navy were the Fire Commander's Post, Officer Commanding Searchlights, a Fortress Observation Post, a Battery Observation Post for Fort Wallace as well as one for Park Battery and a searchlight direction station for Park Battery.

The development of the post at Shepherds Hill during WW II, reflects Australia's growing fear of invasion. One of the reasons for this concern was the realisation that Australia could not rely as heavily on Britain for protection as it had in the past. There seemed a real threat of a Japanese invasion, especially since the League of Nations mandate, which allowed Japan to administer various Islands in the Pacific. Thus, defence of the coast was a priority. Fort Scratchley, which had close ties to Shepherds Hill, responded to an attack on the city by a Japanese submarine in June 1942. This is the only place on the mainland of Australia that is known to have returned fire. (NewcastleCity Council, 2007, section 1.6.3.). The batteries at Shepherds Hill formed an integrated system with the batteries at Fort Scratchley, Fort Wallace at Stockton and at Tomaree on Port Stephens. Shepherds Hill had the role of co-ordinating the system.

In 1946, a policy of classifying the defences of Australia in three different categories was adopted. The defences of Newcastle were classified in category B which meant that defences were to be kept fully operational and stored in such a way that they could be quickly installed in the appropriate location during wartime. The only other city in NSW that was classified as 'B' was Sydney. (P. Oppenheim, 2005, p. 291). In 1956, following orders from the British Government, Coast Artillery was disbanded. In the 1950s to early 1960s, the cottage at Shepherds Hill was inhabited by Jack Green, the Officer Commanding the School Cadets. It was used by the Army until the 1960s. Following this, it housed Newcastle's 'Artist in Residence', as part of a program aimed towards promoting young local artists. The land is now held by the State Government's Department of Lands, with the Newcastle City Council appointed as Trustee. The cottage has been renovated and is now used by the Newcastle branch of the Volunteer Coastal Patrol.

Along with Fort Scratchley and South Head in Sydney, Shepherds Hill is one of the few sites in NSW where fortifications are still in tact. As with Shepherds Hill, South Head is a natural defence point of the coast. South Head formed part of an integrated system of defence of the Sydney coast line with other sites of strategic importance being Middle Head and North

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Head. The remaining fortifications at South Head are illustrative of an open system of defence. Open batteries were cheaper to construct than closed batteries or casemates and were also effective against new warfare technologies such as explosive shells (NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, 2007, p. 164). This system of defence was implemented at South Head during the 1870s. Although South Head, North Head and Middle did have disappearing guns, these were replaced in the 1890s by Quick Firing Guns, which were in open concrete pits (NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, 2007, p.167). In contrast, the system of defence at Shepherds Hill is illustrative of a closed system of defence, with the disappearing gun and underground passages providing physical evidence of this system. Thus, if South Head and Shepherds Hill are looked at together, an archaeology of changing military technologies becomes apparent.

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

Designer:

Maker / Builder:

Year Started: 1890 Year Completed: 1940 Circa: Yes

Physical Description: The Shepherds Hill Group comprises a cottage, gun emplacement and Observation Post. It is located on a cliff at the southern end of King Edward Park and is one of the best lookout points in Newcastle. The site is 70m above sea level and extends from The Terrace approximately 110m eastwards to the top of the cliff.

The Cottage is a small brick and concrete structure. It is a gothic style building, but because of a lack of detailing, it has an institutional character, reminiscent of its military associations. It has recently been painted yellow with a white roof and there is a yellow fence surrounding it. It contains a living room, a dining room, three bedrooms, two sunrooms, a kitchen, a bathroom, a laundry and a porch. The garage, store and toilet are detached from the Cottage. All roofs are made of corrugated asbestos cement (G.Browne, 1984, p.17) The sunrooms and the bathroom are additions, which is evident from the more contemporary style of windows. The garage is also an addition.

The Observation Post is made of reinforced concrete and has 5 levels with 8 observation rooms. It is approximately 8 meters tall and is an interesting structure due to its many interlocking levels.

The Gun Emplacement, which is located behind the Observation Post has a gun pit and two magazines behind it. One of these is for the storage of shells and the other for the storage of

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Item Name: **Shepherds Hill Group**

Location: **41 The Terrace, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

propellant charges. These are linked to the gun-pit by underground cables. There is sandstone detailing at the entry area and casemate. The entry is through the casemate via a vehicular ramp. It also has depression range finding stations which are symmetrically placed along a central corridor. There is another depression range finding station which is above-ground and is to the north of the main building.

Physical Condition: The grounds are in poor condition, with rubble and rubbish spread over the site. It is also overgrown by bitou bush. The Cottage has a sound structure of concrete and brick and is in very good condition. To various depths, the gun emplacement has been filled with sand and rubble. There is a tunnel entrance to the emplacement as well as other underground tunnels and chambers. (Browne, p.20). Despite the overall poor conditions, these underground tunnels are still visible as are the cables.

The watch tower is also in a poor condition, and its lower level is filled with rubbish and water. Salt air has corroded the embedded steel reinforcing which has led to large areas of spalling concrete. This corrosion has also occurred on areas of exposed steel.

Modification Dates: The sunroom, bathroom and garage are all additions to the cottage. The cottage was used to house Newcastle's artist in residence and is now used to house the Royal Volunteer Coastal Safety branch of Newcastle.

**Recommended
Management:**

Management:

Further Comments:

Criteria a) The Shepherds Hill Group is historically significant at a state level because of its important role in the coastal defence of NSW. It was an important defence post for the state during the time of the Crimean War. Shepherds Hill Group formed an integral part of Newcastle's integrated defence system, and changes made to this system since the 1880s reflect the way that NSW defence policy responded to new threats as well as technological developments. It was also crucial that Newcastle be defended during periods of war, due to the fact Newcastle was an important industrial centre. The Newcastle Steelworks formed an important part of the economy of NSW and were a significant part of the war effort.

The site has a significant association with all three of the armed forces. It is also associated with Fort Scratchley, another highly significant defence site and the only place on the mainland of Australia that is known to have returned fire. This occurred when the city was under attack by a Japanese submarine in June 1942 (Newcastle City Council, 2007, section 1.6.3).

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

Criteria c) The site has aesthetic significance due to the impressive views it offers along the Newcastle coastline. The Gun Encampment and Observation Post occupy a prominent position in King Edward Park, Newcastle's major historic park and are visible from the tourist drive.

Criteria d)

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Item Name: **Shepherds Hill Group**

Location: **41 The Terrace, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

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

Criteria e) The site is scientifically significant because the 8-inch Breach Loading Hydro Pneumatic Disappearing Gun emplacement in is an example of the developing technology during the latter years of the 19th Century. This has the potential to yield important information about changing military technologies in NSW.

Criteria f) The site is rare as it contains the only unmodified 8-inch Disappearing Gun Emplacement in NSW. This gun emplacement provides a rare example of the disappearing guns that were a new and fleeting development in military technology. Although other sites such as South Head had disappearing guns, these were replaced in the 1890s. Shepherds Hill is possibly unique in in Australia because during WWII, it was simultaneously manned by the R.A.N, Army and R.A.A.F for a variety of functions.

Criteria g) Shepherds Hill is representative of the integrated coastal defence systems that was essential to the defence of NSW. Such an integrated system is also evident in the coastal defences of Sydney during the 19th and early to mid 20th centuries. Improvements in technologies allowed for both the Newcastle and Sydney coastal defence systems to communicate effectively.

Integrity / Intactness: Apart from the Cottage, the items at Shepherds Hill are have not been well maintained. However, despite this it is still possible to gain an idea of the way that military operations were conducted from Shepherds Hill.

References:	Author	Title	Year
	John R. Graham	The Coastal Devences of NSW 1901-1969	1969
	Newcastle City Council	Newcastle City Wide Heritage Study - Thematic History	2007
	NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service	South Head - draft conservation management plan	
	Peter Oppenheim	The Fragile Forts: The Fixed Defences of Sydney Harbour	2004

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
		State Heritage Inventory, Administration Building (2173907)		2007
		State Heritage Inventory, Administration Building (2173907)		2007
	Gardner Browne, also Megan Dewsnap, George McFarlane, David Hillard	Shepherds Hill Cottage and Surrounds: Conservation Study		1980

Parcels:	Parcel Code	LotNumber	Section	Plan Code	Plan Number
	LOT	3116		DP	755247

Latitude:

Longitude:

Location validity:

Spatial Accuracy:

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Item Name: **Shepherds Hill Group**

Location: **41 The Terrace, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Map Name:

Map Scale:

AMG Zone:

Easting:

Northing:

Listings:

Name:

Title:

Number:

Date:

National Trust of Australia register

Register of the National Estate

8/08/2003

Custom Field One:

Custom Field Two:

Custom Field Three:

Custom Field Four: Conservation Area - TH

Custom Field Five:

Custom Field Six:

Data Entry:

Date First Entered: 11/08/1998

Date Updated: 24/07/2008

Status: Partial

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Item Name: **Shepherds Hill Group**

Location: **41 The Terrace, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Shepherds Hill Observation Post

Copyright:

Image by: Julia Kensy

Image Date: 17/12/2007

Image Number: 1

Image Path:

Image File: 2170222b1.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170222t1.jpg

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Item Name: **Shepherds Hill Group**

Location: **41 The Terrace, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: View of fortifications from Shepherds Hill

Copyright:

Image by: Julia Kensy

Image Date: 17/12/2007

Image Number: 2

Image Path:

Image File: 2170222b2.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170222t2.jpg

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Item Name: **Shepherds Hill Group**

Location: **41 The Terrace, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: The Cottage which is now The Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol Newcastle

Copyright:

Image by: Julia Kensy

Image Date: 17/12/2007

Image Number: 3

Image Path:

Image File: 2170222b3.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170222t3.jpg

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Item Name: **Shepherds Hill Group**

Location: **41 The Terrace, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Gun Pit

Copyright:

Image by: Julia Kensy

Image Date: 17/12/2007

Image Number: 4

Image Path:

Image File: 2170222b4.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170222t4.jpg

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Item Name: **Shepherds Hill Group**

Location: **41 The Terrace, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Underground cables

Copyright:

Image by: Julia Kensy

Image Date: 17/12/2007

Image Number: 5

Image Path:

Image File: 2170222b5.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170222t5.jpg

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Item Name: **Shepherds Hill Group**

Location: **41 The Terrace, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Underground entry to defence system

Copyright:

Image by: Julia Kensy

Image Date: 17/12/2007

Image Number: 6

Image Path:

Image File: 2170222b6.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170222t6.jpg

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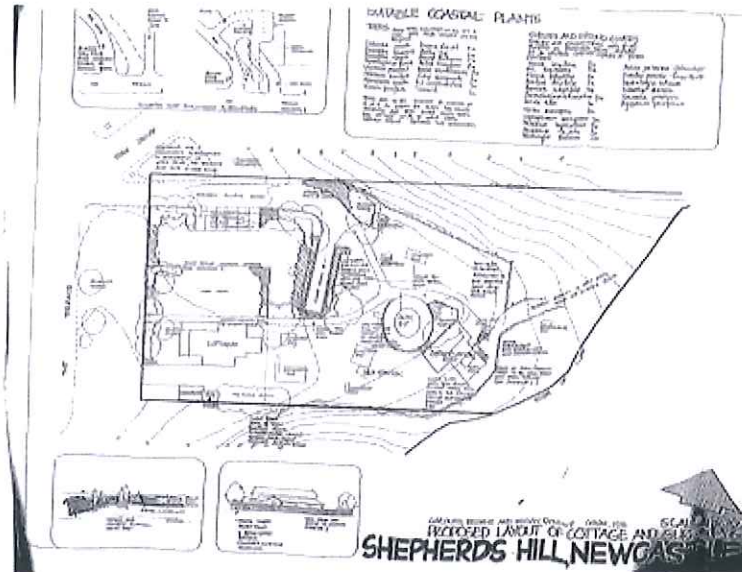
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Item Name: **Shepherds Hill Group**

Location: **41 The Terrace, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Curtilage Map

Copyright:

Image by: 'Shepherds Hill Cottage and Surrounds - Conservation Plan', Site Plan

Image Date: 31/12/1984

Image Number: 7

Image Path:

Image File: 2170222b7.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170222t7.jpg

Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170253

Study Number

253

Item Name: **Soldiers Baths**

Location: **35 Nobbys Road, Newcastle East [Newcastle City]**

Address: Shortland Esplanade

Suburb / Nearest Town: Newcastle East 2300

Local Govt Area: Newcastle City

State: NSW

DUAP Region: Hunter & Central Coast

Historic region: Lower Hunter

Parish: Newcastle

County: Northumberland

Address: 35 Nobbys Road

Suburb / Nearest Town: Newcastle East

Local Govt Area: Newcastle City

State: NSW

DUAP Region: Hunter & Central Coast

Historic region: Lower Hunter

Parish:

County:

Other/Former Names: Newcastle Public Baths, Fortification Baths

Area/Group/Complex:

Group ID:

Aboriginal Area: Awabakal

Curtilage/Boundary: Curtilage should follow the perimeter of the built up rocks visible at low tide. An accurate curtilage map was unable to be prepared within the limits of this study.

Item Type: Built

Group: Community Facilities Category: Other - Community Fa

Owner:

Admin Codes: LEP

Code 2:

Code 3:

Current Use: Scuba Diving, Fishing

Former Uses: Sea Baths

Assessed Significance: **State**

Endorsed Significance:

Statement of Significance: The Soldiers Baths are historically significant at a State level as they are one of the earliest large public ocean baths constructed in New South Wales and among the earliest beachside developments in Australia. Along with the Bogey Hole in King Edward Park the Soldiers Baths are rare survivors of such a public amenity built during the Victorian era, predating those at Bondi and Bronte. The baths are also highly significant for their association with the soldiers based at nearby Fort Scratchley, who were frequent users and for whom the baths were named. The name recalls the military's role in Newcastle's history, particularly as a key defence outpost in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The baths represent the era in which public sea bathing was gaining popularity and acceptance as a legitimate health giving and leisure activity, preceding the rise of surfing and beach culture that has figured so prominently in Australian social and cultural history. The baths continue to be used, though to a lesser extent, as a site for aquatic recreation, popular with scuba divers and fishing enthusiasts. Their commemoration in a heritage plaque on the Bathers Way indicates that they are also likely to have social significance for the local community and visitors, contributing, with other beachfront sites to Newcastle's sense of place as a

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Study Number

253

Item Name: **Soldiers Baths**

Location: **35 Nobbys Road, Newcastle East [Newcastle City]**

major coastal city on NSW's eastern seaboard.

Historical Notes or Provenance: The health-giving and therapeutic benefits of bathing in cold salt water had been extolled in England since the late eighteenth century. However, seaside bathing was an intimidating prospect for the early European inhabitants of New South Wales, who faced the unfamiliar threats of waves, currents and sharks. The development of public bathing places in NSW arose partly in response to the need to protect bathers from the physical dangers of the ocean as well as the perceived need to restrict the public display of bathing bodies on the grounds of nineteenth century standards of decency and morality. While men swam naked in the early days of the Colony, in 1810 Governor Macquarie described such bathing as 'an indecent and improper custom'. (Suters Architects, 'Ocean Baths CMP', 2002, p 3)

In Newcastle, for the early European inhabitants of the penal outpost, activity revolved around the harbour rather than the beachfront, though communications between Governor Macquarie and Commandant Major James Morisset in 1818 indicate that some bathers had ventured into the ocean and drowned in dangerous surf. Instructions sent by Macquarie to Morisset advised him to warn bathers to avoid the surf and keep to the harbour. The Bogey Hole, a rock pool at the foot of Shepherd's Hill is one of the landmarks of Newcastle's convict era, and is believed to have been excavated by convict workers around 1820 for Morisset's personal use. (Suters Architects, 'Ocean Baths CMP', 2002, pp 3-4)

In Newcastle's post-convict era, the area's sandy beaches and convenient bathing were used to promote the town, which was hailed by the author of one article in the Sydney Gazette in 1828 as 'the future Brighton of New South Wales'. The town's leaders, keen to foster Newcastle's tourism potential, bemoaned the lack of 'a suitable bathing place for the city.' From the late 1850s, several schemes to erect public sea baths at Newcastle were proposed by private syndicates. Between 1850 and 1880 male and female bathers were obliged to use separate areas of Newcastle's beaches or bathe at separate times and agitation for public sea baths grew. By 1880, bathing in the ocean behind the Newcastle Hospital was permitted at any hour, provided bathers wore 'suitable bathing dress.' (Suters Architects, 'Ocean Baths CMP', 2002, p 5; Australian Heritage Database: Soldiers Baths - www.environment.gov.au)

In 1879 a public meeting called on Newcastle Borough Council to build public baths to protect residents from having to bathe in the open sea. At a meeting between a Mr Mullen and the Council, later that year, the City Engineer tabled a report outlining seven schemes for sea baths on various sites stretching along the Newcastle coastline. A site was finally chosen early in 1882 and the Lands Department gave permission for the Council to occupy 'a portion of the foreshore under the Signal Hill'. Construction soon began on the excavation of what became known as 'the Soldiers' Baths' beneath Fort Scratchley, funded by the Council at a cost of around £2,000. The baths were dedicated on 12 January 1883 and are reputedly the first ocean baths (as distinct from pools excavated from rock, and harbour pools) built in New South Wales. The baths consisted of large rocks forming a seawall defining an oval pool approximately 180 yards in length with a floor of coal shale and sands. Bathing sheds were erected and soon after the baths were completed, work began on a road to provide access. Originally known as the Newcastle Public Baths, this name generally fell out of use and the more popular name, 'Soldiers' Baths' became accepted because soldiers from nearby Fort Scratchley frequently used the baths. The Soldiers' Baths and the

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Item Name: **Soldiers Baths**

Location: **35 Nobbys Road, Newcastle East [Newcastle City]**

development of a beach promenade along Nobbys Beach are among the earliest beach developments in Australia. (Suters Architects, 'Ocean Baths CMP', 2002, pp 5, 30; Australian Heritage Database: Soldiers Baths - www.environment.gov.au; McDermott, 'Newcastle - Soldiers Baths' - New South Wales Ocean Baths - website: www.nswoceanbaths.info/pools/b006.htm)

The Soldiers Baths were managed by the Council, but were plagued with problems from the start, when in June 1882 heavy seas washed away the partly constructed baths. Incidents of near-drowning meant that the baths were considered dangerous, and by the end of the nineteenth century storms had damaged the sea wall and the pool had filled with sand, making the baths unswimable. The Soldiers Baths were still being used in 1909, when a cliff overhanging the baths gave way and soldiers bathing in the pool were lucky to survive. (Suters Architects, 'Ocean Baths CMP', 2002, p 5; Australian Heritage Database: Soldiers Baths - www.environment.gov.au; McDermott, 'Newcastle - Soldiers Baths' - New South Wales Ocean Baths - website: www.nswoceanbaths.info/pools/b006.htm)

As other baths and swimming pools were built in Newcastle, and as surf bathing gained popularity, use of the Soldiers Baths declined. Presently the baths are rarely used except by scuba divers and fishing enthusiasts. Comparison with a 1907 photograph of the baths indicates that they have not been substantially altered throughout the twentieth century. The baths remain highly visible at low tide. (Australian Heritage Database: Soldiers Baths - www.environment.gov.au; McDermott, 'Newcastle - Soldiers Baths' - New South Wales Ocean Baths - website: www.nswoceanbaths.info/pools/b006.htm)

Themes:	National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
	1. Environment	Environment - naturally evo	(none)
	3. Economy	Environment - cultural land	(none)
	8. Culture	Leisure	(none)

Designer:

Maker / Builder:

Year Started: 1882 Year Completed: 1883 Circa: No

Physical Description: The pool is formed by a rubble sea wall around a depression in the rocks. The area enclosed measures 550 square feet, with a depth of 9 feet in the middle. Landslides have deposited large rocks in the baths and these have remained. The baths are highly visible at low tide. (Australian Heritage Database - Soldiers Baths, 1980)

Physical Condition: Reasonable

Modification Dates:

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Item Name: **Soldiers Baths**

Location: **35 Nobbys Road, Newcastle East [Newcastle City]**

**Recommended
Management:**

Management:

Further Comments: It has been suggested that the Soldiers' Baths could be grouped with the Newcastle Ocean Baths complex, including the Canoe Pool and Square Hole as all share the same rock platform.

Criteria a) The Soldiers Baths are historically significant as one of the first ocean baths to be built for public use in New South Wales and are amongst the earliest beach developments in Australia. They represent the evolution of public bathing and the emergence of the beach as a focus of leisure activities in Newcastle, NSW and Australia, from the late nineteenth century. They also evoke Newcastle's military past through their association with the soldiers stationed at Fort Scratchley, an important phase in Newcastle's and NSW's history as a major defence post for the port of Newcastle and the eastern coastline.

Criteria b) The baths have a strong association with soldiers stationed at Fort Scratchley, who were frequent users of the baths and for whom they were named. They are also spatially associated with Fort Scratchley, which is close by, and this proximity facilitated the soldiers' use of the baths.

Criteria c) Within the limited research carried out for this review, the baths were not found to be significant under this criteria.

Criteria d) While the baths' popularity as a swimming spot declined as other pools were built and surfing gained momentum, they continue to be used for scuba diving and fishing. The baths are commemorated by a heritage interpretation panel on the Bathers Way, which suggests that they are esteemed in community memory and contribute to a sense of place for Novocastrians, in a city where the beach and waterfront leisure has contributed to its identity, particularly in recent years.

Criteria e) The baths may provide evidence of the construction of early ocean baths.

Criteria f) The baths are a rare example of large public ocean baths built in NSW, predating those at Bondi and Bronte.

Criteria g) Within the limited research carried out for this review, the baths were not found to be significant under this criteria.

Integrity / Intactness: Good

References:	Author	Title	Year
		Australian Heritage Database: Soldiers Baths	1980
	McDermott, Marie-Louise	Assessment of Significance of Newcastle region Ocean baths - 'Soldiers Baths'	
	Suters Architects	Ocean Baths, Newcastle, NSW Conservation Management Plan	2002

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Unknown	Newcastle Heritage Study	253	1990

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Item Name: **Soldiers Baths**

Location: **35 Nobbys Road, Newcastle East [Newcastle City]**

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	7060		DP	1118739

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: 1883

Custom Field Two:

Custom Field Three:

Custom Field Four: Conservation Area - NE

Custom Field Five:

Custom Field Six:

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

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Study Number

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Item Name: **Soldiers Baths**

Location: **35 Nobbys Road, Newcastle East [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Soldiers Baths

Copyright:

Image by: unknown

Image Date:

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170253b1.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t_2170253.jpg

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SHI Number

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Study Number

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Item Name: **Soldiers Baths**

Location: **35 Nobbys Road, Newcastle East [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption:

Copyright:

Image by: unknown

Image Date:

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170253b2.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t2_2170253.jpg

Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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Item Name: **Soldiers Baths**

Location: **35 Nobbys Road, Newcastle East [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: View to Nobby's Head from Soldiers' Baths.

Copyright:

Image by: unknown

Image Date:

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170253b3.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t3_2170253.jpg

Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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Item Name: **Soldiers Baths**

Location: **35 Nobbys Road, Newcastle East [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Soldiers' Baths viewed at near high tide - looking towards Nobby's Head

Copyright:

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 10/09/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170253b4.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t_2170253b4.jpg

Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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Study Number

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Item Name: **Soldiers Baths**

Location: **35 Nobbys Road, Newcastle East [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Partial view of baths, near high tide, looking out to sea.

Copyright:

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 10/09/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170253b5.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t_2170253b5.jpg

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Item Name: **Soldiers Baths**

Location: **35 Nobbys Road, Newcastle East [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Partial view of baths looking south

Copyright:

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 10/09/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170253b6.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t_2170253b6.jpg

Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

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Study Number

208

Item Name: **The Newcastle Club & 'Claremont'**

Location: **40 Newcomen Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Address: 40 Newcomen Street

DUAP Region: Hunter & Central Coast

Suburb / Nearest Town: Newcastle 2300

Historic region: Lower Hunter

Local Govt Area: Newcastle City

Parish: Newcastle

State: NSW

County: Northumberland

Other/Former Names: 'Claremont'

Area/Group/Complex:

Group ID:

Aboriginal Area: Awabakal

Curtilage/Boundary: Follows property boundary and includes stone retaining wall.

Item Type: Built

Group: Community Facilities Category: Community Club/ Club

Owner: Private - Corporate

Admin Codes: LEP

Code 2:

Code 3:

Current Use: Newcastle Club

Former Uses: Residence

Assessed Significance: State

Endorsed Significance:

Statement of Significance: The Newcastle Club is of outstanding historical, associative and aesthetic significance to the state. The site as a whole, encompassing the former residence, 'Claremont' has been associated with some of the most prominent members of the business, industrial and professional community in the city and state, including former managers of the A A Company, an organisation of utmost importance in the history of Newcastle, NSW and Australia. With its prominent siting, high on the hill overlooking the city, the club is a landmark site and makes an imposing and impressive contribution to the street and townscape. Its interior detailing, which exhibits the finest quality materials, design and craftsmanship, as well as the considerable collection of moveable heritage housed within the building, also represents the tastes and philosophies associated with the British tradition of 'gentlemen's clubs' of the late nineteenth century. The Newcastle Club clearly articulates the wealth, status, power and outlook of those associated with it; and makes a powerful statement regarding Newcastle's emergent confidence, economic importance and place in the state and nation, particularly from the nineteenth to early twentieth century. The existing buildings and remains of earlier structures that may still exist on the site provide a rare archaeological resource that could shed further light on social and domestic life and building techniques from the 1840s to the present. The site as a whole is unique in the Newcastle area and its level of intact detail, scale and grandeur makes it one of NSW's and Australia's finest club premises.

Historical Notes or Provenance: The site now occupied by the Newcastle Club comprises the main clubhouse building on the corner of Newcomen and King Streets and the former residence, 'Claremont', which adjoins the clubhouse. The Club, formed in 1885, acquired 'Claremont' in 1916 in exchange for its former Pacific Street premises. This exchange also gave the Club the corner lots (i.e. historic

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Location: **40 Newcomen Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Lots 90 to 95) on which stood another residence, 'Beresford' and a cottage between that home and 'Claremont'. In 1918 both the cottage and 'Beresford' were demolished to make way for the new clubhouse, while Claremont became part of the Club premises in 1921 and was adapted for the Club's use. (EJE Group, 1992, p 7)

'Claremont' was built in the 1840s, either by artist, Richard Read, who purchased the land in 1835, or, more likely, by Alexander Brown, who acquired the site from Read in 1843. Brown had arrived in Newcastle in 1837 and was engaged as a colliery manager for the Australian Agricultural Company. Brown was a very important figure in the coal industry, managing the A A Company's mines until 1853, when he founded the Newcastle Wallsend Coal Company, one of Australia's foremost coal mining companies in the nineteenth century. Brown linked the northern portion of Lot 90 to Lot 91 to form a site large enough to permit coach access to 'Claremont', a 'gentleman's residence, with large detached kitchen, servants rooms, wash-house, coach-house, stabling, etc., etc.' The residence was a two-storey stuccoed brick Victorian Georgian style building. A Victorian two storey front verandah of timber and cast iron panels replaced the original single storey verandah in the later part of the nineteenth century. A number of 'gentleman's residences' were built in this area, 'The Hill', occupying two or more lots, including 'Beresford', built for Beresford Hudson and in existence by 1853 on the site adjoining 'Claremont'. 'Claremont' is thus one of Newcastle's oldest surviving residences. It represented the beginning of a succession of houses to be built on The Hill for the managers and merchants of the emergent city. (EJE Group, 1992, pp 2-4; Maitland & Stafford, 1997, pp 8, 9, 30)

By the early 1850s 'Claremont' was owned and occupied by William Croadsill, who began work as a clerk for the A A Company from 1827, and the first clerical worker in its coal department, becoming Colliery superintendent in Newcastle in 1835. Croadsill married Mary Henderson, the daughter of the A A Company's first mine manager, John Henderson. Croadsill began to acquire land in Newcastle from 1835. An astute investor, he constructed shops and business premises for rental purposes and by the time he acquired 'Claremont' he was one of the city's leading businessmen. In 1843 he became one of the six original councillors in Newcastle District Council. He also represented Bishop Broughton, the Bishop of Australia, in disputes at Christ Church. He retired from the A A Company in 1852. (EJE Group, 1992, pp 5-6)

In January 1854, Croadsill purchased Lot 92 between 'Claremont' and 'Beresford', on which at that time stood a cottage occupied by Miss Green's Boarding School. Plans of 'Claremont' in 1854 show it to be an 'L' shaped building. By 1858, it had been modified and extended. In that year, when Croadsill was planning to leave New South Wales to return to England, he offered 'Claremont' and the adjoining cottage for rent, along with other properties he owned. (EJE Group, 1992, pp 4-7)

From about 1858 until 1920, Claremont was rented to various tenants. Some of the more important occupants include: Richard Bowker, physician, senior surgeon at Newcastle Hospital and member of the borough council, recognised for his services to the community, particularly campaigning for better sanitation. Bowker was responsible for the selection of Sandgate as the site for Newcastle's Cemetery to prevent intramural burials of the dead which contaminated Newcastle's wells and drinking water. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace and was MLA in 1858-59 and 1877-80. (EJE Group, 1992, Appendix 3; Australian

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Item Name: **The Newcastle Club & 'Claremont'**

Location: **40 Newcomen Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Heritage Database - Claremont: www.environment.gov.au). Other notable residents include: Herbert Cross, a Wallsend Coal Company Manager, Captain Timothy O'Sullivan, proprietor of the Stockton Shipyard, the Reverend Sydney Grime, and Dr Wilfred Nickson, of the Boer War and World War 1 Army Ambulance Corps. (EJE Group, 1992, p 7)

The Newcastle Club was founded in 1885 as a gentlemen's club based on the British model. It first rented rooms above offices at 11 Watt Street until 1892 when it moved to larger premises at the corner of Watt and King Streets. In 1911, purpose-built Federation-style accommodation was completed in Pacific Street, designed by one of its members, Newcastle architect, F. G. Castleden. However, during World War 1 the severe accommodation shortage for nurses and resident doctors at the neighbouring Royal Newcastle Hospital led the Club to offer its premises to the State Government in return for suitable accommodation elsewhere. In 1916 the Club agreed to exchange its Pacific Street premises for 'Claremont', the cottage on Lot 92 and 'Beresford', the home on the corner of Newcomen and King Streets, which the Government agreed to purchase for the Club. In 1918 part of this agreement was enacted and the Club acquired the cottage and 'Beresford', which were later demolished to make way for the new clubhouse. The Club also took over two houses on the opposite side of Newcomen Street: one to be used as sleeping quarters for members; the other for staff accommodation. On 1 January 1921 'Claremont' was made available as sleeping quarters for members and was fairly fully occupied for some years. The building of the new clubhouse was delayed for some years due to World War 1 and financial constraints experienced by the Public Works Department. (Maitland & Stafford, 1997, p 124; Newcastle Club website: <http://www.newcastleclub.com.au>; EJE Group, 1992, p 7; Rankin, 1949, pp 2, 3)

The new clubhouse on the Newcomen Street site was designed by Robin (Robert) Smith Dods and supervised by F. G. Castleden. Dods was born in New Zealand, educated in Brisbane and London and gained distinction as an architect in Queensland, where he had a practice focusing mainly on church and domestic work before moving to Sydney in 1913. In his subsequent work he concentrated mainly on Georgian and Edwardian styles. Frederick Castleden was a prominent Newcastle architect, who worked in partnership with renowned and prolific architect, Frederick Menkens from the early twentieth century. Dods died in 1919 before seeing his work on the Newcastle Club completed. His partners, Spain and Cosh, continued the work after Dods' death. (Maitland & Stafford, 1997, p 124; ADB online - Robert Smith Dods - <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A080339b.htm>)

The first portion of the new building, comprising bedrooms and a large dining room was made available for occupation on 13 September 1921 and an 'unofficial' opening dinner was held on 14 October 1921. That year also saw the unveiling of the Honour Roll by Lieutenant-General Sir Harry Chauvel in June at a large gathering of members. The Club was anxious that a fitting memorial should await members returning from the War, and so the construction of the Honour Roll was a priority, even before the rest of the building was complete. (Rankin, 1949, pp 2, 4)

A number of alterations had been made to the original plans and the new building provided for twenty-five bedrooms instead of only eleven. A large dining room, billiard room and card rooms and a lower verandah opening onto a bowling green were provided as well as kitchen, laundry and domestic quarters. A wooden staff building once existed adjoining the

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Item Name: **The Newcastle Club & 'Claremont'**

Location: **40 Newcomen Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

graveyard, at the rear of the clubhouse. The final cost of the building was just over 20,000 pounds (Rankin, 1949, pp 5-6).

The magnificent new clubhouse, built on grand beaux artes lines, was officially opened in August 1924 by His Excellency Lord Forster, then Governor General of Australia (Newcastle Club website: <http://www.newcastleclub.com.au>). It is an excellent example of the Inter-War Georgian Revival style, also strongly represented in Newcastle by the BHP Administration Building and Civic Theatre. The building's symmetry, classical elements and dark red-brown brickwork give it considerable presence on its elevated site overlooking the city. (Maitland & Stafford, 1997, p 124)

The former residence, 'Claremont' was used as accommodation for club members. Over the years, the property was modified according to the needs of the Club and its grounds assimilated by the Club, so there is little to distinguish the site as once being distinct. The rear connection from 'Claremont' to the Club further reinforces the notion of unity. The stairs that once led from Newcomen Street to Claremont's front door were covered over and the front retaining wall made complete, strengthening the association between 'Claremont' and the Club. Much of the surrounding area has also been altered - in particular, bitumen roads and car parking have been installed. It is possible that remnants of old buildings and walls may still exist under the surface of these areas. In fact, the present-day carpark behind the main club premises was constructed on top of part of the adjoining graveyard and this section of the property is still owned by the Anglican Church. There is also the likelihood that grave sites exist in this area. (EJE Group, 1992, pp 35, 36, 47, 49; personal communication: Sarah Cameron)

In 1965 restoration work was carried out to renovate and preserve almost all of 'Claremont's architectural features. After the 1989 earthquake, the Club sought permission to demolish 'Claremont', but this was rejected. Subsequently, 'Claremont' along with other significant Newcastle buildings was granted heritage assistance funding. The Club decided to include the restoration and reuse of 'Claremont' in an overall upgrade of the entire club facilities carried out in 1993. The proposal included the provision of dining / meeting rooms on the ground floor, with accommodation units with ensuites on the upper floor to accommodate members and guests. Thus, it was a venue for smaller private meetings and dinners and extended the type of overnight accommodation already provided on the upper floor of the club. (EJE Group, 1992, pp 35, 36, 47, 49)

The Club has remained one of Newcastle's most exclusive institutions, with membership by invitation only and restricted to men. The only exception to this rule was that the General Manager of Newcastle City Council was automatically granted membership of the Club. When Janet Dore became the first female GM, the Club, recognising the number of women in prominent positions in Newcastle, began to think about changing its constitution to admit women to membership and a survey was sent to members on this matter in 2000. There was strong support for the proposal and in 2002, women were accepted as members for the first time in the Club's history. While the membership profile of the Club has changed over time, the membership represents community leaders and key figures in the professions and business, including particularly strong representation from the mining industry. (Personal communication, Sarah Cameron and Ian Baker; Newcastle Club website: <http://www.newcastleclub.com.au>; Newcastle Herald, 19 August 2000)

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Item Name: **The Newcastle Club & 'Claremont'**

Location: **40 Newcomen Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

The Newcastle Club, including the former residence, 'Claremont' is an important site, representative of key phases in Newcastle's past, particularly reflecting the wealth and power associated with Newcastle's emergence as a hub of commercial and industrial enterprise, largely stimulated by the coal and steel industries, and its recognition of itself, by the 1920s, as the state's second city, worthy of institutions and architecture embodying that sense of civic pride and achievement. The site as a whole is unique in the Newcastle area and its level of intact detail, scale and grandeur makes it one of NSW's and Australia's finest club premises.

Themes:	National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
	3. Economy	Commerce	(none)
	8. Culture	Domestic life (new theme)	(none)
	8. Culture	Leisure	(none)
	8. Culture	Social institutions	(none)
	9. Phases of Life	Persons	prominent individuals

Designer: Robin Dodds, F. G. Castleden (Clubhouse)

Maker / Builder: NSW Department of Public Works

Year Started: 1843 **Year Completed:** 1924 **Circa:** Yes

Physical Description: The Newcastle Club comprises the main clubhouse and former residence, 'Claremont'. The main clubhouse was completed in 1924 in Colonial Georgian / Georgian Revival style in dark brick with stone dressings and marseilles tile roof with a central gable. The main entrance is flanked by an impressive stone portico with stone pillars. The interior has great distinction with high quality well finished joinery and plasterwork. Details such as door furniture, light fittings, carpets and furniture appear to be original. (Australian Heritage Database - The Newcastle Club: www.environment.gov.au)

Claremont House is a two storey Victorian Georgian style building constructed around 1843. Its external walls are of handmade sandstock bricks with a later cement render. A Victorian two storey front verandah of timber and cast iron panels has replaced the original single storey verandah in the later part of the nineteenth century but on the lower verandah the original sandstone column plinths still remain. The wall at the southern end of the verandah was constructed prior to 1897. The cast iron balustrading and frieze work appears to be contemporary with the construction of the verandah. Externally Claremont House is symmetrical, and presents five bays to Newcomen Street, with an original six panelled front door and glazed french doors with timber shutters to the ground floor and a later central glazed french door leading to the upstairs verandah; the windows are twelve paned and both original doors and windows are constructed of Australian cedar. The shutters to the upper level windows and door are modern additions and were installed after 1924. It is thought that

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Location: **40 Newcomen Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

the original entrance stairway connecting 'Claremont' to Newcomen Street may still exist and is partly visible at the base of the stone retaining wall. (EJE Group, 1992, pp 9, 35)

The roof is a simple four sided hipped roof of 30 degrees pitch and a shingle roof remains intact for the full coverage of the roof under the present spandek roof sheeting. Early photographs indicate an iron roof has been part of the fabric for a very long time, even at the turn of the century, the iron roof appears substantially rusted and decayed. The chimneys were demolished to below roof level, circa 1964, but have been rebuilt to the original design. (Australian Heritage Database - Claremont: www.environment.gov.au)

Internally the original Georgian cedar staircase remains intact with only a few of the square timber balusters being replaced. The majority of the internal joinery, architraves, picture rails, skirtings doors and windows remain intact. Five fireplaces remain, three on the ground floor. Of these, four are original, with 1840's cast iron grates and original cedar surrounds, and one fireplace has been modified and a later Victorian marble surround has been fitted. (Australian Heritage Database - Claremont: www.environment.gov.au)

The curtilage is the boundary of the property and includes the stone wall to Newcomen Street constructed from 1869.

Physical Condition: Good

Modification Dates: Late 19th century - a Victorian two storey front verandah of timber and cast iron panels replaced the original single storey verandah at 'Claremont'

1965 - restoration work at 'Claremont'

1921 - present - various modifications to 'Claremont' to suit needs of Newcastle Club

1993 - major renovations including new reception area at rear of main premises, modification to bedroom accommodation in Claremont, including addition of ensuite bathrooms.

Recommended Management:

Management:

Further Comments: The Newcastle Club also holds a valuable collection of furniture, art works, and ornaments, many of which have been in the Club's ownership for much of its life and some of which have been donated by Club members. These items also form an important part of the Club's heritage and could be considered worthy of assessment and listing as a collection of considerable heritage significance.

Criteria a) The Newcastle Club is historically significant at a state level. The site as a whole, encompassing the former residence, 'Claremont' has been continuously associated with and is representative of the power, wealth and status of Newcastle's commercial, industrial and professional elite. Both 'Claremont' and 'Beresford', the latter being demolished for the 1920s clubhouse, were built in the 1840s as the first of many residences built on The Hill for

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Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170208

Study Number

208

Item Name: **The Newcastle Club & 'Claremont'**

Location: **40 Newcomen Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

the emergent managerial and merchant class as Newcastle developed as a regional capital, founded on the coal industry. 'Claremont' is thus one of Newcastle's oldest surviving residences. Both it and the 1920s clubhouse, built as the third premises for the Club, founded in 1885 as a 'gentlemen's club in the British tradition, articulate the outlook of Newcastle's ruling class in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The premises are symbolic of the confidence, economic strength and sense of pride and status associated with Newcastle's key role in the regional, state and national economy.

Criteria b) The site is associated with a number of prominent figures in the history of Newcastle and NSW. 'Claremont' was most likely built for Alexander Brown, a key figure in the coal industry as manager of the A A Company mines, and later, founder of the Newcastle Wallsend Coal Company, two of Australia's foremost coal mining companies in the nineteenth century. William Croadsill, another A A Company manager owned and occupied the residence in the early 1850s. Croadsill was also one of the city's leading businessmen and an original councillor in Newcastle District Council. Other prominent residents include Dr R R S Bowker, surgeon, physician, and MLA; Herbert Cross, a Wallsend Coal Company Manager, Captain Timothy O'Sullivan, proprietor of the Stockton Shipyard.

The 1920s clubhouse is also significant for its association with architects, Robin Smith Dods, who designed the building, and F. G. Castleden, a club member and supervising architect. Both Dods and Castleden were prominent in the Newcastle area, with Dods being particularly adept at the Georgian style both in Newcastle and elsewhere in Australia and overseas. The Newcastle Club is particularly significant as one of Dods' last works before his death in 1919.

Criteria c) The Newcastle Club is of outstanding aesthetic significance as one of the finest club buildings in Australia. The 1920s clubhouse is an excellent example of the Inter-War Georgian Revival style, while 'Claremont' is rare in the Newcastle area for its level of intact detail, portraying the unsophisticated aesthetic of early Victorian Georgian domestic architecture. The interior of both 'Claremont' and the 1920s clubhouse exhibit the highest quality materials, craftsmanship and design. With its prominent siting, high on the hill overlooking the city, its symmetry, classical elements and dark red-brown brickwork, the club is a landmark site and makes an imposing and impressive contribution to the street and townscape. The Newcastle Club clearly articulates the wealth, status, power and outlook of those associated with it; and, together with other examples of the Georgian Revival architecture in the city, particularly the BHP Administration Building and the Civic Theatre, it makes a powerful statement regarding Newcastle's emergent confidence, economic importance and place in the state and nation, particularly from the nineteenth to early twentieth century.

Criteria d) While no investigations have been carried out during this review, the Newcastle Club would undoubtedly hold significance for the generations of members associated with the Club, as well as for the local community as a prominent landmark and key townscape element.

Criteria e) The site provides a rare archaeological resource, as it is highly likely that evidence of former building elements remain, which may shed further light on the social aspects of its former owners and occupiers as well as life in Newcastle, NSW and Australia from the 1840s to the present.

Criteria f)

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Item Name: **The Newcastle Club & 'Claremont'**

Location: **40 Newcomen Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

The Newcastle Club is extremely rare in Newcastle and NSW as a highly intact example of a gentleman's club in the British tradition, one of the finest club premises in Australia. The former residence, 'Claremont' is also unique in itself as one of the earliest surviving Georgian gentleman's residences in Newcastle.

Criteria g) In the Newcastle Club are fine representative examples of both Victorian Georgian ('Claremont') and Inter-War Georgian Revival (1920s Clubhouse) styles of architecture. The hipped roof, verandah and iron lacework are key features of the former, while the pitched roof and simple rectangularity is particularly representative of the latter. (Apperly, Irving & Reynolds, 1994, pp 63, 151)

Integrity / Intactness: High

References:	Author	Title	Year	
		Personal Communication - Ian Baker	2007	
		Personal Communication - Sarah Cameron	2007	
		'Men's Bastion May Fall', Newcastle Herald 19 August 2000	2000	
		ADB online - Robert Smith Dods - http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A080339b.htm		
		Newcastle Club website: http://www.newcastleclub.com.au		
		Australian Heritage Database - Claremont		
	Apperley, Richard, Irving, Robert, Reynolds, Peter	A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture	1989	
	EJE Group	Claremont: A Conservation Plan	1992	
	Mailland, Barry & Stafford, David	Architecture Newcastle, A Guide	1997	
	Rankin, A A	'Newcastle Club' - Article in Newcastle Regional Library Local Studies Folder - 'Newcastle - Clubs'	1949	
Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Unknown	Newcastle Heritage Study	208	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
	LOT	1 & 2		DP	997519

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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Date: 24/07/2008

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Study Number

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Item Name: **The Newcastle Club & 'Claremont'**

Location: **40 Newcomen Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Heritage study

National Trust of Australia register

Register of the National Estate

Custom Field One: 1924

Custom Field Two:

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: Completed

State Heritage Inventory

Date: 24/07/2008

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Study Number

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Item Name: **The Newcastle Club & 'Claremont'**

Location: **40 Newcomen Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: The Newcastle Club 40 Newcomen Street

Copyright:

Image by:

Image Date:

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Image File: 2170208b1.jpg

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Study Number

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Item Name: **The Newcastle Club & 'Claremont'**

Location: **40 Newcomen Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Newcastle Club

Copyright:

Image by:

Image Date:

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Image File: 2170208b2.jpg

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SHI Number

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Study Number

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Item Name: **The Newcastle Club & 'Claremont'**

Location: **40 Newcomen Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: 'Claremont' 42 Newcomen St

Copyright:

Image by: Sarah Skillen

Image Date: 8/08/2006

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170209b1.jpg

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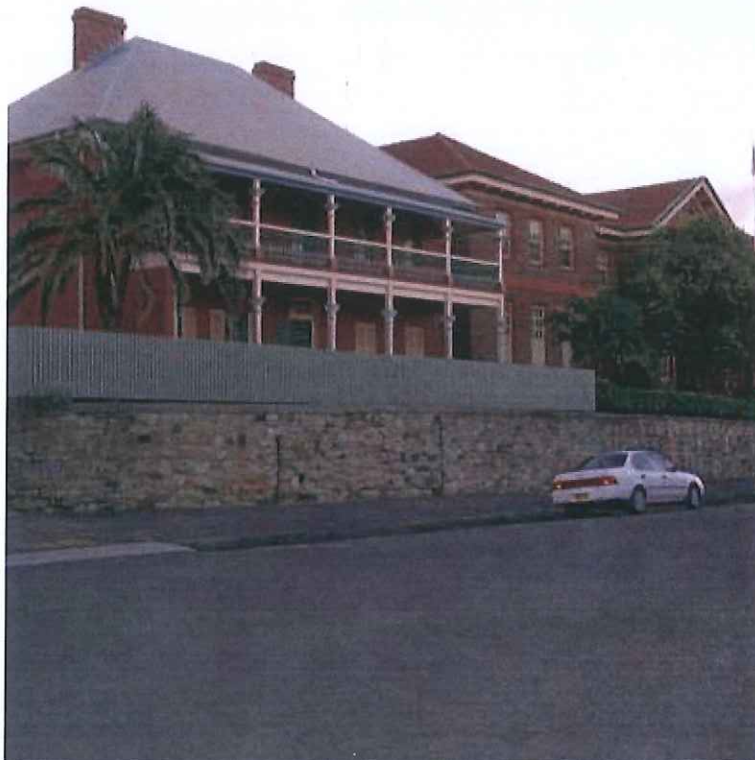
Study Number

208

Item Name: **The Newcastle Club & 'Claremont'**

Location: **40 Newcomen Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Newcastle Club with the former residence, 'Claremont' in foreground

Copyright:

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

Image Date: 11/09/2007

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Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170208

Study Number

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Item Name: **The Newcastle Club & 'Claremont'**

Location: **40 Newcomen Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Newcastle Club with the Victorian / Georgian 'Claremont' (left) and Inter-War Georgian Revival of 1920s clubhouse (right).

Copyright:

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

Image Date: 11/09/2007

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Item Name: **The Newcastle Club & 'Claremont'**

Location: **40 Newcomen Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Newcastle Club - main dining room

Copyright: Rosemary Kerr

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

Image Date: 2/11/2007

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Item Name: **The Newcastle Club & 'Claremont'**

Location: **40 Newcomen Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Ceiling detail - main dining room

Copyright: Rosemary Kerr

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

Image Date: 2/11/2007

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Study Number

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Item Name: **The Newcastle Club & 'Claremont'**

Location: **40 Newcomen Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Fireplace and mirror in main dining / lounge room

Copyright: Rosemary Kerr

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

Image Date: 2/11/2007

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Item Name: **The Newcastle Club & 'Claremont'**

Location: **40 Newcomen Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Hallway with marble flooring and antler wall decorations

Copyright: Rosemary Kerr

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

Image Date: 2/11/2007

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SHI Number

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Item Name: **The Newcastle Club & 'Claremont'**

Location: **40 Newcomen Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Staircase inside main entrance foyer with antique lamp stand

Copyright: Rosemary Kerr

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

Image Date: 2/11/2007

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Item Name: **The Newcastle Club & 'Claremont'**

Location: **40 Newcomen Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Detail over main entrance doorway

Copyright: Rosemary Kerr

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Study Number

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Item Name: **The Newcastle Club & 'Claremont'**

Location: **40 Newcomen Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Detail of leadlight panelling at side of entrance doorway

Copyright: Rosemary Kerr

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Image Date: 2/11/2007

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Item Name: **The Newcastle Club & 'Claremont'**

Location: **40 Newcomen Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Detailing on sandstone pillars at main entrance

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Item Name: **The Newcastle Club & 'Claremont'**

Location: **40 Newcomen Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: War memorial and sideboard

Copyright: Rosemary Kerr

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

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Item Name: **The Newcastle Club & 'Claremont'**

Location: **40 Newcomen Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Lounge area with cedar wall panelling. The Club houses a valuable collection of moveable heritage including ornaments and art works.

Copyright: Rosemary Kerr

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

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Item Name: **The Newcastle Club & 'Claremont'**

Location: **40 Newcomen Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Marble fireplace - one of several original features of the former residence, 'Claremont'.

Copyright: Rosemary Kerr

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

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SHI Number

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Study Number

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Item Name: **The Newcastle Club & 'Claremont'**

Location: **40 Newcomen Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Hallway at top of staircase, 'Claremont'.

Copyright: Rosemary Kerr

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

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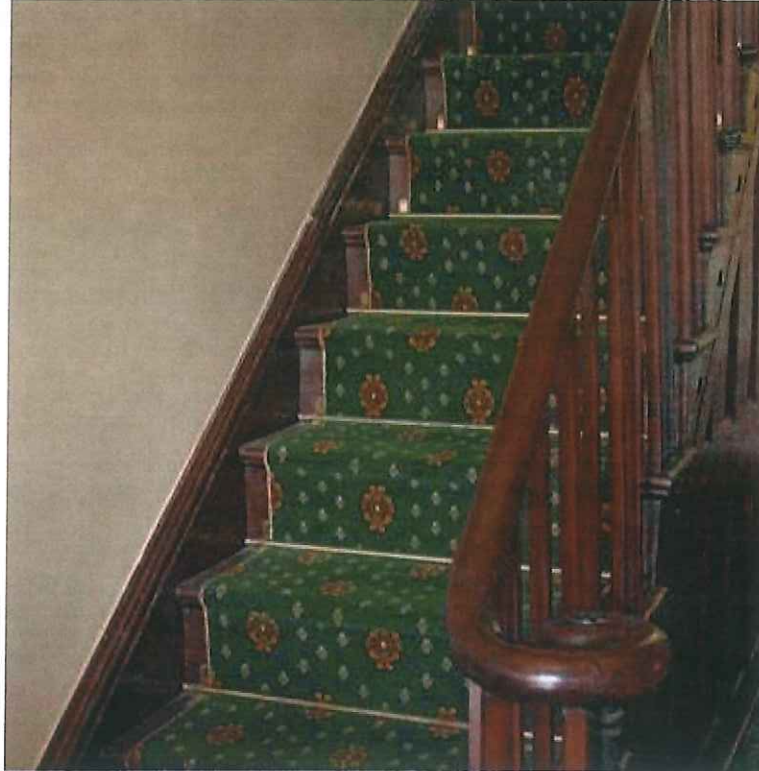
Study Number

208

Item Name: **The Newcastle Club & 'Claremont'**

Location: **40 Newcomen Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Cedar staircase, 'Claremont'.

Copyright: Rosemary Kerr

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

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Item Name: **The Newcastle Club & 'Claremont'**

Location: **40 Newcomen Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Detail of verandah and balcony - 'Claremont' - restored / replaced 1993

Copyright: Rosemary Kerr

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

Image Date: 2/11/2007

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Item Name: **The Newcastle Club & 'Claremont'**

Location: **40 Newcomen Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Rear of main clubhouse with 1993 extensions

Copyright: Rosemary Kerr

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

Image Date: 2/11/2007

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Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170423

Study Number

NEWC.026

Item Name: **Theatre Royal (Former)**

Location: **669 Hunter Street, Newcastle West [Newcastle City]**

Address: 669 Hunter Street

DUAP Region: Hunter & Central Coast

Suburb / Nearest Town: Newcastle West 2300

Historic region: Lower Hunter

Local Govt Area: Newcastle City

Parish: Newcastle

State: NSW

County: Northumberland

Other/Former Names:

Area/Group/Complex:

Group ID:

Aboriginal Area: Awabakal

Curtilage/Boundary: Follows property boundary. A former study refers to the following map: NEWC.026 Field survey number 0071

Item Type: Built

Group: Recreation and Entert Category: Theatre

Owner: Private - Corporate

Admin Codes:

Code 2:

Code 3: Additional

Current Use: Furniture storage / office

Former Uses: Picture & Vaudeville Theatre (1920s); Cinema

Assessed Significance: **State**

Endorsed Significance:

Statement of Significance: The former Theatre Royal has historical, associative, aesthetic, rarity and representative significance at a state level. It is one of few 1930s cinemas in the Art Deco / Moderne style remaining with many key features which exemplify that style and era surviving in relatively good condition, particularly its interior wall detailing and staircase railings. It is also the only remaining cinema in Australia designed by Charles Bohringer, a well-known practitioner of the Art Deco style. The theatre is representative of a number of phases in the history of cinema and cinema design in Australia, having been remodelled from an earlier classical picture and vaudeville theatre to the current Art Deco style, with later modifications reflecting changes in cinema technology and design in response to a number of social and economic factors. These factors include the decline of large-scale cinemas in response to competition from television and other forms of entertainment from the 1950s and 1960s onwards; and the move toward multiplexes as the cinema-going experience was transformed from one associated with grand aesthetics and sense of occasion, to one of increasing standardisation and commercialism. The former Theatre Royal remains as a rare and fine example of a 1930s Art Deco / Moderne cinema, when style and design of the theatre was as much a part of the cinema-going experience as the films themselves.

Historical Notes or Provenance: The original Theatre Royal that existed on the site prior to the present Art Deco style theatre, was built in 1924 in the elaborate classical style, for Edgar Betts, a Sydney theatrical entrepreneur. The Theatre Royal Amusement Company was incorporated on 11 January 1923 and intended to acquire Mr E. E. Tighe's property in Hunter Street West, demolish the existing buildings and erect a modern theatre. When the Theatre Royal opened on 16 June 1924 it was the pride of the city of Newcastle. With the opening of this theatre, Newcastle

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Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170423

Study Number

NEWC.026

Item Name: **Theatre Royal (Former)**

Location: **669 Hunter Street, Newcastle West [Newcastle City]**

entered the era of architectural flamboyance in theatre and cinema design. The original theatre was an outstanding example of a classical style cinema with its antecedents in 'live' theatre design. The facade, with its classically derived features was remarkable for its imposing columns, braid, balconettes and decorative shields and insignia. (Thorne, Tod & Cork, 1996, p 297; Cork & Tod, 1993, p 138)

The Royal featured a full orchestra and was designed by architect, Charles Bohringer, who was later to become famous for his classical and Art Deco theatre designs. In June 1927 the Royal hosted the world premier of the Australian silent classic film, 'For the Term of His Natural Life'. In 1929 'talkies' were installed for 'The Jazz Singer', starring Al Jolson. In the 1920s and 1930s it was common for a fifteen minute 'live' show (usually a juggler, trapeze act or vocalist) to precede interval. Later, community singing was also popular. Vaudeville artists such as Long Tack Sam and Hassan's Blue Arabs performed at the Royal. (Cork & Tod, 1993, p 138; Thorne, Tod & Cork, 1996, p 297)

When the even more fantastic Civic Theatre opened in 1929, it was decided to renovate the Royal to make it more competitive. The theatre closed in late 1930 to undergo extensive renovations and redecorating before reopening in January 1931. In addition to major feature films, the theatre also hosted vaudeville artists from leading theatres of the world. (Cork & Tod, 1993, p 141)

In 1938 the Royal was leased to Newcastle Theatres Pty Ltd, and in 1939, architect, Charles Bohringer was recalled to completely remodel and upgrade the theatre. Bohringer designed a number of important theatres in regional Australia and New Zealand, of which only the grand Civic Theatre in Auckland remains as a functioning theatre. Bohringer was also one of the main architects involved in revamping old cinemas or building new suburban cinemas in the 1930s 'modern' style. (Cinema Treasures website: cinematreasures.org/architect/427; Thorne, Tod & Cork, 1996, p 208) Classically inspired architecture was now considered old hat, so Bohringer designed a completely new Theatre Royal in the Art Deco / Moderne style. The proscenium opening was reduced and the arch, dome and all wall decorations demolished. Instead, the new design, both internally and externally relied heavily on deep horizontal and vertical lines and geometrical motifs with tubed, indirect neon lighting to wash the pastel walls. A cry room was constructed at the rear of the stalls where mothers could take their babies and still watch the film without distracting other patrons. The theatre was equipped with a Western Electric Mirrophonic 'living sound' system. When the Theatre Royal opened on 9 March 1939 it was a showpiece and the 'pride of Newcastle'. (Cork & Tod, 1993, p 141)

In 1941 Hoyts Theatres Ltd gained a shareholding in Newcastle Theatres Pty Ltd which gave it an interest in operating the Royal. Eventually, Hoyts acquired all the shares in the company. Under Hoyts' ownership, it was promoted as one of Hoyts' flagship cinemas & equipped with CinemaScope in 1954. (Cork & Tod, 1993, p 141)

In 1962 it became one of only two cinemas outside Sydney to be equipped with the huge Todd-AO 70mm screen process recognised as the ultimate in projection and sound reproduction. This necessitated extensive alterations and renovations, particularly in the proscenium area, which had to be enlarged for the wider, taller screen. The seating capacity was reduced from 1,381 to 962 because of the screen size. (Thorne, Tod & Cork, 1996, p

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Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

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Study Number

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Item Name: **Theatre Royal (Former)**

Location: **669 Hunter Street, Newcastle West [Newcastle City]**

197; Cork & Tod, 1993, p 141)

In 1979 the property was sold, but still leased by Newcastle Theatres Pty. Ltd. It still operated under Hoyts' name but in partnership with local TV station NBN. In keeping with the trend to smaller cinemas in complexes, it was decided to convert the Royal into a twin cinema by extending the dress circle to create upper and lower auditoria. To do this the old proscenium was destroyed and the floor realigned. Much of the Art Deco remained intact, particularly in the extensive foyers. The theatre was known as the Royal Twin. (Cork & Tod, 1993, p 141)

Cinema 2 (upstairs) incorporated most of the wall and ceiling decoration of the 1939 remodelling, but was painted in green, pink and white. Cinema 1 (downstairs) featured a low ceiling and the circular Moderne wall motifs dating from 1939. The upper and lower foyers incorporated much of the 1939 stairway grillework and chrome railings. The former Green Room, used by visiting vaudevillians, remained sealed up along with several dressing rooms and the flytower, all dating from 1924. (Cork & Tod, 1993, p 145)

Hoyts closed the Royal Twin in December 1989. Having opened a new six cinema multiplex at Charlestown, it no longer required the Royal, which was also experiencing social difficulties due to its West End location, with loutish, drunken behaviour keeping patrons away. (Cork & Tod, 1993, p 145)

In later incarnations, the former theatre has been used as a Christian ministry centre and is currently used as a furniture storeroom and office, though much of the form and fabric of the 1939 cinema remain visible, particularly the exterior facade, staircase, the upstairs cinema section and wall detailing. It is thus one of few 1930s cinemas remaining in the Newcastle area and NSW, where several internal features remain relatively unaltered. While other 1930s cinemas such as the Cremorne Orpheum, Randwick Ritz, and Scone Civic Theatre continue to function as cinemas, the former two have been modified internally and converted to multiple cinemas. The former Savoy Theatre at New Lambton dates from the same era as the Royal and also retains its external form, though its function has also changed. A number of Newcastle's older cinemas were demolished following damage in the earthquake of 1989. (NSW Heritage Office website: Heritage Databases: <http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au>; Cork & Tod, 1993) The Royal, therefore, remains an important example of the Art Deco style cinema design in the Newcastle locality and in NSW. It is also important as the sole surviving cinema in Australia designed by Charles Bohringer.

Themes:	National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
	8. Culture	Creative endeavour (Cultur	(none)
	8. Culture	Leisure	(none)

Designer: Charles Bohringer

Maker / Builder:

State Heritage Inventory

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Date: 24/07/2008

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Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

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Study Number

NEWC.026

Item Name: **Theatre Royal (Former)**

Location: **669 Hunter Street, Newcastle West [Newcastle City]**

Year Started: 1923 Year Completed: 1939 Circa: No

Physical Description: The former Theatre Royal is a two-storey building in rendered and painted brick with stepped skyline in the Art Deco style, featuring strong vertical and horizontal line detailing on its facade revealing Expressionist influences. The cinema name is promoted vertically in stylised lettering. There are five windows above the awning, three to the left of the tallest part of the facade, and two to the right, reflecting the proportions of each section of the facade. The awning is stepped with pressed metal underneath, the middle section patterned in a colour scheme of orange, green and white, matching the facade.

Internally, while the foyer area has been altered, details of the 1939 cinema remain, such as the stepped ceiling pattern. The staircase still exists with its Art Deco patterned grillework and chrome handrails. The former Cinema 2 (upstairs) still retains its seating dating from the theatre's conversion to a twin in 1979, but many of the 1939 features remain, particularly the strong horizontal line decorative patterning on the walls, the art deco lighting and the stepped timber balustrades at the side staircases as well as the stage area. The projection room and other spaces at the rear of this cinema also remain. The upstairs foyer area has been converted to office space with lounge area and kitchenette, but the space itself and wall features remain.

In the former cinema 1 (downstairs) no seating remains and the space is currently being used as a storage area, but the stage remains as do the Moderne circular wall motifs, painted in pastel pink. The projection room also remains and fragments of the 1962 70mm screen remain behind the 1980s wall.

Elements of the 1924 theatre, such as the Green Room also remain (Thorne, Tod & Cork, 1996, p 297).

Physical Condition: The theatre is in reasonably good condition, particularly internally, especially Cinema 2

Modification Dates: 1931 - original Theatre Royal underwent extensive renovations and redecoration to compete with recently opened Civic Theatre
1938-39 - Theatre completely remodelled in Art Deco style
1954 - Theatre equipped with Cinemascope
1962 - modifications to proscenium area to accommodate new 70mm screen. Seating capacity was reduced from 1,381 to 962.
1979 - Theatre converted to twin cinema by extending the dress circle to create upper and lower auditoria. The old proscenium was destroyed and the floor realigned.

Recommended Management:

Management:

Further Comments:

Criteria a) The former Theatre Royal is historically significant at a state and local level as one of few 1930s Art Deco cinemas remaining in the Newcastle region and NSW that retains significant

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Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

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Study Number

NEWC.026

Item Name: **Theatre Royal (Former)**

Location: **669 Hunter Street, Newcastle West [Newcastle City]**

original features. The cinema is representative of an important phase in NSW's and Australia's social and cultural history, particularly the 1930s to the 1950s, when cinema-going was one of the most popular forms of entertainment. The theatre demonstrates various phases of its history and the history of cinema, having begun as a classically styled theatre hosting vaudeville as well as cinematic entertainment, then undergoing remodelling reflecting the changing fashions and style of picture theatres in the 1930s, with later changes reflecting technological developments in sound and screen. Its twinning in 1979 is representative of the cinema industry in Australia and elsewhere responding to changing social and economic conditions.

- Criteria b)** The theatre is significant at a state and national level as the only surviving theatre in Australia designed by Charles Bohringer, a prominent designer of Art Deco style cinemas. Of the several cinemas in Australia and New Zealand that Bohringer designed, only the Civic Theatre, Auckland remains as a functioning theatre.
- Criteria c)** The theatre exhibits key features of the Art Deco / Moderne style in both its exterior and interior form. Most striking are the prominent vertical and horizontal motifs on the facade and in the upper cinema; and the circular wall motifs in the lower cinema, as well as lighting, railings, ceilings and the pressed metal awning. Such features, remaining in relatively good condition provide one of few examples of this style of cinema remaining in Australia. It is an excellent example of a 1930s Art Deco cinema that has been sympathetically twinned. It is an important component of Newcastle's architectural and entertainment heritage and is a landmark building with an outstanding exterior making a significant contribution to this section of Hunter street, which is otherwise unremarkable.
- Criteria d)** Although no investigations have been carried out for this review, the former theatre is likely to have social significance at a local level for the many people who would have patronised the theatre.
- Criteria e)** The theatre has the capacity to yield information about cinema design in the 1930s. There is also the possibility that remnants of the 1924 cinema exist on the site.
- Criteria f)** The theatre is rare as one of few 1930s Art Deco / Moderne cinemas in NSW existing with substantial original features from that era remaining intact.
- Criteria g)** The theatre is a good example of a 1930s Art Deco / Moderne cinema exhibiting key elements of the style, particularly in its decorative elements.

Integrity / Intactness: Fair

References:	Author	Title	Year	
		NSW Heritage Office website: Heritage Databases		
		Cinema Treasures website: Entry re Charles Bohringer		
	Cork, K. J. And Tod, L. R.	Front Stalls or Back? The History and Heritage of the Newcastle Theatres	1993	
	Thorne, Ross, Tod, Leo and Cork, Kevin	Movie Theatre Heritage Register for NSW 1896-1996	1996	
Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Suters Architects Snell	Newcastle City Wide Heritage Study	NEWC.02	1996

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Item Name: **Theatre Royal (Former)**

Location: **669 Hunter Street, Newcastle West [Newcastle City]**

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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	111		DP	75158

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			

Custom Field One:

Custom Field Two:

Custom Field Three:

Custom Field Four:

Custom Field Five: No

Custom Field Six:

Data Entry: Date First Entered: 14/08/1998 Date Updated: 24/07/2008 Status: Completed

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Study Number
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Item Name: **Theatre Royal (Former)**

Location: **669 Hunter Street, Newcastle West [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Former Royal Theatre 667-669 Hunter Street

Copyright:

Image by: unknown

Image Date:

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170423b1.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t_2170423.jpg

Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170423

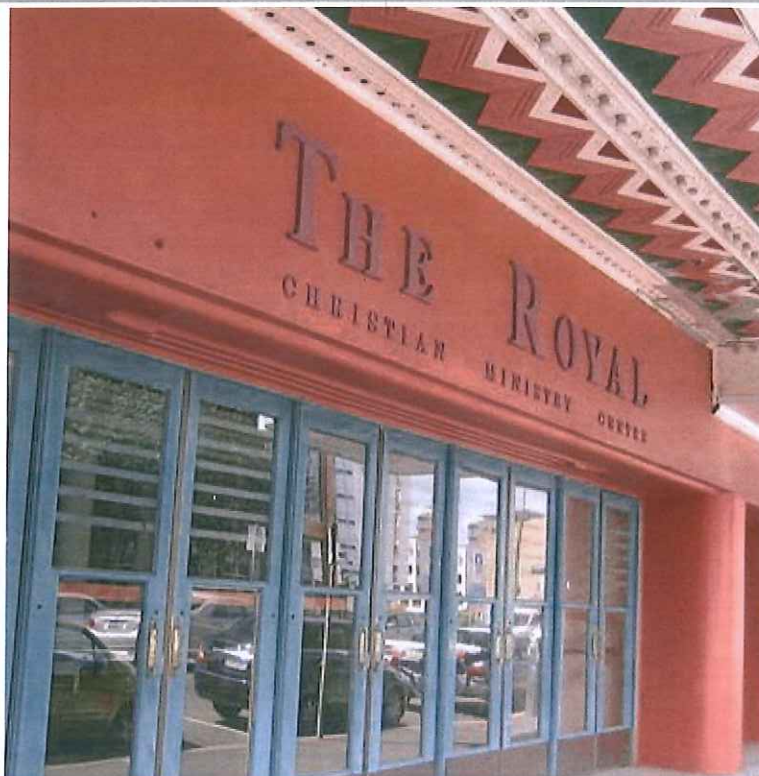
Study Number

NEWC.026

Item Name: **Theatre Royal (Former)**

Location: **669 Hunter Street, Newcastle West [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Pressed metal underneath awning over main entrance

Copyright:

Image by: unknown

Image Date:

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170423b2.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t2_2170423.jpg

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NEWC.026

Item Name: **Theatre Royal (Former)**

Location: **669 Hunter Street, Newcastle West [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Top of facade showing stepped skyline & name

Copyright:

Image by: unknown

Image Date:

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170423b3.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t3_2170423.jpg

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Item Name: **Theatre Royal (Former)**

Location: **669 Hunter Street, Newcastle West [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Exterior with strong horizontal and vertical design

Copyright:

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 12/09/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170423b4.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t4_2170423.jpg

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State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170423

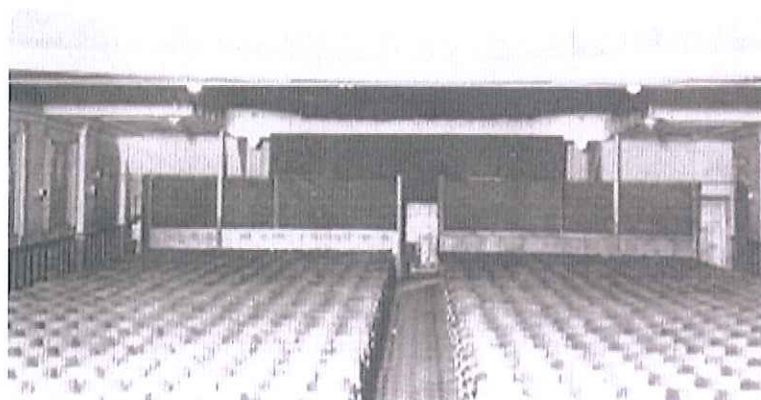
Study Number

NEWC.026

Item Name: **Theatre Royal (Former)**

Location: **669 Hunter Street, Newcastle West [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Theatre Royal 1930s before remodelling in Art Deco / Moderne style. View from stage to projection box (Cork and Tod, 1993, p 140)

Copyright:

Image by:

Image Date:

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170423b13.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t13_2170423.jpg

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Item Name: **Theatre Royal (Former)**

Location: **669 Hunter Street, Newcastle West [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: The Royal in the process of being twinned - 1980 Cork and Tod, 1993, p 143)

Copyright:

Image by:

Image Date:

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170423b14.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t14_2170423.jpg

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Item Name: **Theatre Royal (Former)**

Location: **669 Hunter Street, Newcastle West [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Cinema 1 - circular Moderne wall motif dating from 1939

Copyright:

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 12/09/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170423b11.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t11_2170423.jpg

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Item Name: **Theatre Royal (Former)**

Location: **669 Hunter Street, Newcastle West [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Main entrance foyer - 1939 ceiling detail & staircase

Copyright:

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 12/09/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170423b12.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t12_2170423.jpg

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Item Name: **Theatre Royal (Former)**

Location: **669 Hunter Street, Newcastle West [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Upstairs foyer area including staircase detail, featuring Art Deco / Moderne grillework and chrome handrails

Copyright:

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 12/09/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170423b9.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t9_2170423.jpg

Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number
2170423
Study Number
NEWC.026

Item Name: **Theatre Royal (Former)**

Location: **669 Hunter Street, Newcastle West [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Cinema 1 (downstairs). Now used as furniture storage area

Copyright:

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 12/09/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170423b10.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t10_2170423.jpg

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State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170423

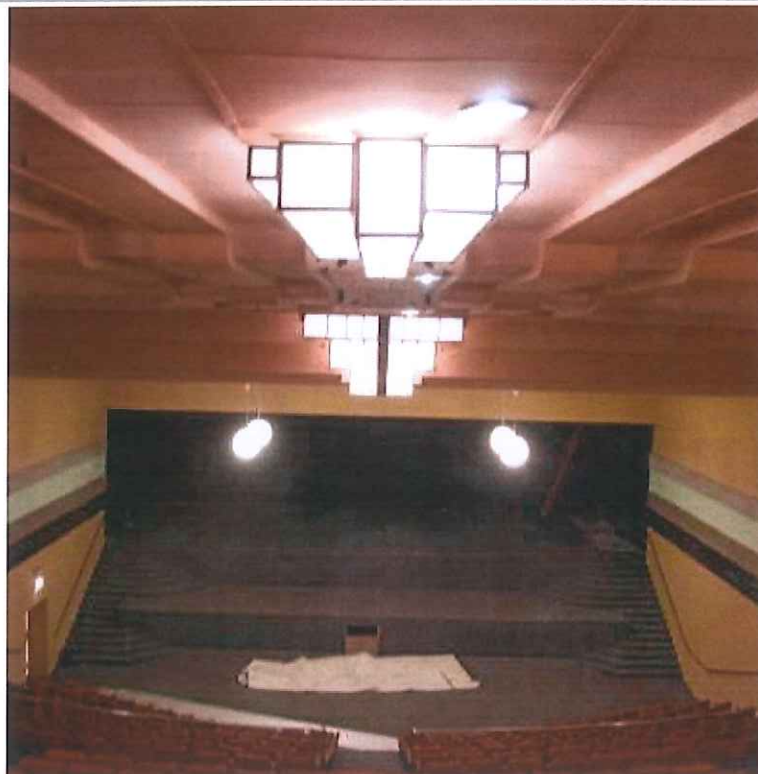
Study Number

NEWC.026

Item Name: **Theatre Royal (Former)**

Location: **669 Hunter Street, Newcastle West [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Cinema 2 looking toward proscenium. Lighting dates from 1939.

Copyright:

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 12/09/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170423b7.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t7_2170423.jpg

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Item Name: **Theatre Royal (Former)**

Location: **669 Hunter Street, Newcastle West [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Lighting detail - Cinema 2

Copyright:

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 12/09/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170423b8.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t8_2170423.jpg

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Item Name: **Theatre Royal (Former)**

Location: **669 Hunter Street, Newcastle West [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Pressed metal under awning. Section near main entrance matches colour scheme of exterior facade

Copyright:

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 12/09/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170423b5.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t5_2170423.jpg

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State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170423

Study Number

NEWC.026

Item Name: **Theatre Royal (Former)**

Location: **669 Hunter Street, Newcastle West [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Cinema 2 (upstairs), created by extending dress circle during 1979 twinning. Retains original Art Deco detailing on walls, lighting, balustrades etc.

Copyright:

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 12/09/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170423b6.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t6_2170423.jpg

Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170147

Study Number

147

Item Name: **Toll Cottage (Formerly Rose Cottage)**

Location: **51 Bolton Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Address: 51 Bolton Street

Suburb / Nearest Town: Newcastle 2300

Local Govt Area: Newcastle City

State: NSW

Other/Former Names: Rose Cottage

Area/Group/Complex:

Aboriginal Area: Awabakal

Curtilage/Boundary: Includes cottage, outbuildings and entire courtyard area including garden. The boundaries should follow the edge of the sunken courtyard area - there were no maps or serviceable aerial photographs available for the preparation of a curtilage map.

Item Type: Built

Group: Residential buildings

Category: Cottage

Owner: Private - Corporate

Admin Codes: LEP

Code 2:

Code 3:

Current Use: Legal Office

Former Uses: Residence

Assessed Significance: **State**

Endorsed Significance:

Statement of Significance: Toll Cottage is rare in Newcastle, NSW and possibly Australia as an example of some of the earliest housing stock built in the colony and the oldest surviving dwelling in Newcastle. It demonstrates the early application of the Georgian architectural style, developed in Britain but utilised in a simplified manner in Australia, yet exhibiting key features of that style, particularly its symmetrical, orderly features and balanced proportions. The cottage is particularly rare as an early example of this Colonial Georgian style surviving in an urban setting. Built during the late convict or colonial era (c. 1820 to 1840s) when Newcastle was undergoing a transformation from penal outpost to free town, the cottage articulates the domestic living conditions of 'gentlemen' settlers of the era, having been built for an official or free settler. It has a historical association with prominent Novocastrian, Simon Kemp, a key figure in Newcastle's economic and political history, serving as Mayor in the 1860s. Kemp was also part of a campaign to open the port of Newcastle to free direct trade, the success of which had a significant impact on Newcastle's and NSW's economic development. The site and its history also has the capacity to yield information about the early urban development of Newcastle, as well as building techniques and construction methods of the era, which can contribute to a greater understanding of the colonial era in NSW and Australia.

Historical Notes or Provenance: Permanent settlement was established at Newcastle in 1804 after official and unofficial exploration revealed its abundant resources of coal and timber as well as its suitability as a penal settlement. Over the next two decades, while coal, lime, timber and salt were

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Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

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Study Number

147

Item Name: Toll Cottage (Formerly Rose Cottage)

Location: 51 Bolton Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]

extracted from the region by gangs of convicts, the vast agricultural potential of the well-watered, fertile Hunter Valley was also revealed. Until 1822, however, the vast majority of Newcastle's inhabitants were convicts. Governor Lachlan Macquarie's decision to open up the Hunter Valley to free settlers necessitated the closure of the penal settlement, and during 1822 most of Newcastle's convicts were moved away to Port Macquarie. As the town was expected to serve its hinterland as a port, a government surveyor, Henry Dangar, was directed in 1823 to prepare a town plan on the site of the convict settlement. Dangar imposed a regular grid plan on the rather haphazardly arranged settlement of 1804-1823. Making provision for a town of 190 allotments with a church enclave and market place at its centre, Dangar established the layout of central Newcastle as it is today. Free settlers were allowed to select a town allotment and land was also offered for sale. (Suters Architects, 2007, pp 1-4, 27)

Newcastle was declared a free town in 1824, however development proceeded slowly. Most of the early free settlers were farmers, who bypassed Newcastle for the fertile Hunter Valley; thus, Newcastle experienced a decline in population, which for several years hovered around 1,100 people in the wider Newcastle area. When visiting Newcastle in 1825, Reverend Threlkeld wrote that 'the town has more the appearance of a deserted village.' By 1827 Newcastle was being described in terms of 'ruin' and 'decay', as most of the buildings of the convict era had not been constructed well. (Hanley, 1997, p 27)

Toll Cottage (formerly Rose Cottage), tucked away behind modern developments off Bolton Street, was probably built towards the end of the convict period. Some have dated the building to as early as 1828, which would make it the oldest surviving building in the city. The land on which Toll Cottage stands was originally part of town allotment number 35 and was owned by grant, promise or purchase by A. Beveridge. The original title to the property, dated in the 1820s, stipulated that it had to be developed within two years. It is probable that the cottage was erected in the late 1820s or around 1830 for Beveridge or other persons. At that time there were about fifty houses scattered about the town, which was centred around what is now Newcastle East, extending only as far as present-day Brown Street to the west. The town's population at the time was approximately 400, including the military guard and those prisoners that had been retained to mine coal and work on the breakwater. Other investigations have dated the cottage to the 1830s - 1840s era. (Maitland & Stafford, 1997, pp 7, 3; Hanley, 1997, p 27; Newcastle Regional Library, Local Studies Collection - Newspaper Cuttings File: 'Newcastle - Historic Houses - Rose Cottage' - Minutes of Works & Planning Committee Meeting 22/11/1971)

Built of lime-washed colonial bond brick, it is a modest Colonial Georgian dwelling consisting of four rooms and a loft, with twelve-pane sash windows, a shingle roof and no verandah. Early Australian architecture was based on a simplified version of the classical style of British architecture that had evolved during the reigns of the first three Kings George. The essence of this style of classical architecture was order, with all parts of a building harmonising visually. While the early Australian buildings were quite rudimentary, even the simplest structures exhibited something of the orderliness of the Georgian style, such as in the plain uniformity of brick walling and the simple rectangularity of sash windows. Georgian buildings possess a pleasantly human scale, rectangular and prismic shapes, symmetrical facades and balanced proportions (Apperley, Irving & Reynolds, 1994, p 24). While Toll Cottage is a modest structure, it exhibits many of these features characteristic of the

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Item Name: **Toll Cottage (Formerly Rose Cottage)**

Location: **51 Bolton Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Georgian style. The fenestration is also typical of the first half of the nineteenth century when, due to the scarcity and cost of glass, windows were glazed by placing small sheets of glass between slender lengths of timber fixed vertically and horizontally into the sashes. A separate two-storey weatherboard structure to the rear of the cottage housed the kitchen, with the upper floor used as accommodation for domestic servants. This was typical of early colonial housing which emulated living conditions in other colonies, especially India, where the hot climate dictated separate kitchens. It was also a precaution against the risk of fire. The dwelling would have been a 'gentleman's cottage', probably built for an Army officer or other official. The cottage demonstrates the simple design and construction of the earliest colonial period housing in Newcastle and in the colony of New South Wales. Such symmetrical Georgian cottages erected during the early period of settlement did not offer the degree of climate control that was found necessary in most areas - the hot sun bearing down on bare facades made these dwellings unbearable in summer and so verandahs soon became a feature of Australian architecture. It was only in Tasmania, with its cooler climate, that the unadorned face of the Georgian house continued to be seen in large numbers. Thus, this simple cottage, constructed without a verandah, is a rare and early example of its type surviving in an urban setting in NSW and probably Australia. (Maitland & Stafford, 1997, pp 7, 3; Hanley, 1997, p 27; Newcastle Regional Library, Local Studies Collection - Newspaper Cuttings File: 'Newcastle - Historic Houses - Rose Cottage' - Minutes of Works & Planning Committee Meeting 22/11/1971; Evans, 1983, pp 8, 54; Stapleton & Stapleton, 1997, p 11).

The first authenticated transfer of the land was on 30th September 1856, being a grant by purchase to Simon Kemp. Kemp was once a carpenter with the Australian Agricultural Company, who became a prominent citizen and landowner in Newcastle. In the 1840s he was part of a group that successfully campaigned for the opening of the Port of Newcastle as a free warehousing port. They wanted the right to export coal, wool and other produce, and to receive imports directly at Newcastle, instead of having to export and import through Sydney. In the 1850s Kemp was also instrumental in campaigning for the establishment of local government in Newcastle and became Mayor of Newcastle in 1866. (Newcastle Regional Library, Local Studies Collection - Newspaper Cuttings File: 'Newcastle - Historic Houses - Rose Cottage' - Minutes of Works & Planning Committee Meeting 22/11/1971 & Newcastle Morning Herald 27/10/1971; Turner, 1997, pp 21, 34)

According to newspaper sources, Joe Finney bought the cottage from Simon Kemp in the 1860s. Finney was an Ulsterman, who made his fortune as a carrier. The property at one time had frontage to a reserved road 12 feet wide, which provided access to a number of other properties, which have long since been demolished. The reserved road was never dedicated, however, and so access to the cottage was from Bolton Street via a laneway 10 feet wide. This lane was not dedicated as a public thoroughfare and has now been partially built over. Finney's daughter, a Mrs Charlotte Hodge lived in the house for many years. The cottage continued to be used as a residence until the 1970s, although it had been owned by property developer, Toll Investments Pty Ltd since the early 1950s when it became known as Toll Cottage. By the 1970s Toll had acquired the entire block of land bounded by Church, Bolton, Watt and King Streets. (Newcastle Regional Library, Local Studies Collection - Newspaper Cuttings File: 'Newcastle - Historic Houses - Rose Cottage')

Since the 1970s there have been several development proposals for the land surrounding

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Item Name: **Toll Cottage (Formerly Rose Cottage)**

Location: **51 Bolton Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Toll Cottage reflecting its prime location in the topographically confined space of the modern Newcastle CBD. While its setting has been completely obliterated by the developments that have occurred, including an office block and carpark, the cottage has survived, though it is not visible from Bolton Street, and has posed a challenge to its owners to find an appropriate use for it. The cottage has also undergone restoration works on a number of occasions. In 1976 Toll Investments decided to try to restore the dwelling as authentically as possible as a gesture of goodwill towards the City of Newcastle that had been good to the Toll family. Some sections of the walls and foundations were replaced with bricks from the old outhouse, which, though a later addition, was of the same hand-made sandstocks. The window frames and much of the internal woodwork was found to have survived under layers of paint and some of the glazing was original. The lathe plaster was replaced by a suitable equivalent and some of the original shakes (axe split hardwood square boards) for the roof still existed, though the roof had been covered with corrugated iron sheeting. (Newcastle Regional Library, Local Studies Collection - Newspaper Cuttings File: 'Newcastle - Historic Houses - Rose Cottage'; Hanley, 1997, p 27)

In the 1980s, when the surrounding commercial and residential developments were being planned, it was proposed to either dismantle the cottage and rebuild it on the site after the ground level was raised by 1.5 metres, or else to underpin and jack the building up, which would be less damaging. Fortunately, however, the cottage remained in its original position and the new developments were designed around it. In 1988 the cottage underwent further restoration before being leased as professional rooms for a legal practice. To complement the restoration work, a separate annexe with toilet and kitchen facilities and a paved courtyard covered by a pergola were added. It is likely that this addition is in a similar location to the original kitchen and domestic servant accommodation associated with the cottage. (Newcastle Regional Library, Local Studies Collection - Newspaper Cuttings File: 'Newcastle - Historic Houses - Rose Cottage'; Hanley, 1997, p 27)

The cottage survives with a much reduced site curtilage, well hidden from the street and accessible via the walkway outside the office block fronting Bolton Street. While its setting has been lost, the cottage itself remains in good condition, with many of its original features, including staircase, timber-mantled fireplaces and fuel stove.

It seems that Toll (Rose) Cottage is a rare example of a modest small-scale free standing Colonial Georgian dwelling in an urban setting in NSW and possibly Australia. A review of other 'cottages' listed on the State Heritage Register reveals very few comparable sites. Cadman's Cottage, dating from 1816 is the earliest known surviving building in Sydney and is a good example of Georgian styling. Other Colonial Georgian dwellings existing in urban areas include Reynolds' Cottages at the Rocks, however these are not free standing. A stone cottage in Merriman Street, Millers Point, Undercliffe Cottage in Argyle Street, Millers Point and Roseneath Cottage in Parramatta are much larger structures with verandahs. The most comparable items outside the metropolitan area include a group of Warders Cottages off Barrack Lane in Parramatta, though again, these are on a larger scale than Toll Cottage; a group of Government Cottages in Stanley Street, Bathurst (1830s); Hooper Cottage in Randwick (1840s) and Oldholme in East Maitland (1830s). While there are other Georgian cottages surviving in NSW they tend to be located in rural or semi-rural settings and are usually larger and grander than Toll Cottage, for example: Bowman House, Richmond (1818-1820) and Claremont Cottage, Windsor, and usually feature a verandah. Toll Cottage is

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Item Name: **Toll Cottage (Formerly Rose Cottage)**

Location: **51 Bolton Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

therefore a valuable reminder of the earliest housing stock surviving in an urban setting outside Sydney.

Themes:	National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
	2. Peopling	Convict	(none)
	4. Settlement	Accommodation (Housing)	Housing
	4. Settlement	Land tenure	(none)
	4. Settlement	Towns, suburbs and village	(none)
	8. Culture	Domestic life (new theme)	(none)
	9. Phases of Life	Persons	prominent individuals

Designer:

Maker / Builder:

Year Started: 1828 Year Completed: 1830 Circa: Yes

Physical Description: Toll Cottage is an early Georgian cottage constructed of handmade, sandstock colonial bond brick walls, now painted, on sandstone foundations, with a pitched shingled hipped roof and a central chimney. The cottage is symmetrically composed with only a few ground level rooms plus a roof attic with windows at both ends. It features twelve-pane sash windows. A separate two storey weatherboard structure originally housed the kitchen and domestic accommodation. This has not survived, although records from the 1970s indicate that remnants of the ground floor of the structure existed at the rear of the main cottage. Similar facilities have been sympathetically constructed in recent times. The cottage is set within a small courtyard below ground level and completely surrounded by more recent commercial developments and a car park, so that it is not visible from Bolton Street or other surrounding streets. It is accessed via a walkway forming part of the commercial development on Bolton Street. (Newcastle Regional Library, Local Studies Collection - Newspaper Cuttings File: 'Newcastle - Historic Houses - Rose Cottage' - Minutes of Works & Planning Committee Meeting 22/11/1971; Maitland & Stafford, 1997, pp 7, 31)

Physical Condition: The cottage has undergone a number of restorations in the 1970s and 1980s and is in good condition, having been repainted and re-roofed. Many of its original features including the twelve-pane sash windows and frames, sandstone step, doorway, staircase, fireplaces and stove remain in good condition.

Modification Dates: Restoration work was carried out on the cottage in 1976, 1983 and 1988. The cottage has been re-roofed at least twice - with corrugated iron sheeting and more recently, with shingles. The most recent refurbishment (1988) was associated with the cottage's preparation for lease as professional rooms. A separate annexe with lavatories and kitchen facilities and a paved courtyard covered by a pergola were also added at that time.

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SHI Number

2170147

Study Number

147

Item Name: **Toll Cottage (Formerly Rose Cottage)**

Location: **51 Bolton Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Recommended Management:

Management: Recommended Management Produce a Conservation Management Plan (CMP)

Further Comments:

- Criteria a)** Toll Cottage has historical significance for Newcastle and the State as an example of some of the earliest housing constructed in Newcastle and New South Wales, most likely being Newcastle's oldest surviving residence. It represents the style of housing constructed in the township of Newcastle and in NSW during the late convict and colonial era, a period in which Newcastle was undergoing a transformation from a penal outpost to a free town. The cottage demonstrates the domestic living conditions of 'gentlemen' settlers in the period from the late 1820s to the 1840s. A modest Colonial Georgian dwelling it reflects the earliest architectural style applied in Australia, based on British models, before being better adapted to suit the Australian climate.
- Criteria b)** The Cottage is most notably associated with Simon Kemp, who owned and occupied it from the mid-1850s to 1860s. Kemp was a prominent Newcastle resident, who was instrumental in lobbying for free trade in the port and for local government. He served as Mayor of Newcastle in the 1860s.
- Criteria c)** Toll Cottage exhibits a high degree of aesthetic significance as a fine example of an early Colonial Georgian cottage with many of its original features intact. While it is a modest structure, the cottage displays many of the key elements of the Georgian style of architecture, particularly its symmetrical harmonious facades, balanced proportions and simple rectangular forms of its doors and windows. Situated in a courtyard setting below ground level, the cottage survives as a simple and elegant reminder of a bygone era within the modern commercial heartland of Newcastle's CBD.
- Criteria d)** From the limited scope of research carried out for this review, it seems that Toll Cottage is valued by the people of Newcastle as possibly the city's oldest surviving residence. Development proposals surrounding the cottage at least since the 1970s have been followed with interest by the local media, with the fate of the cottage a key consideration for locals, heritage practitioners and the Council. The fact that its owner - a developer - wished to restore the cottage as a gift to the Newcastle community attests to the esteem with which it is held locally.
- Criteria e)** The site on which Toll Cottage stands is likely to have archaeological potential as it possibly contains remnants of earlier structures including the former kitchen and domestic living quarters. The site could also yield information concerning early patterns of street alignment in Newcastle. The building itself can shed light on construction methods and materials, domestic life and living conditions in the early colonial era.
- Criteria f)** Toll Cottage is a rare example of a simple small scale free standing early Colonial Georgian cottage surviving in an urban setting in NSW and possibly Australia. It is rare in NSW as such an early example of the style as most surviving cottages of this era are larger and usually feature a verandah that developed in response to the hot Australian climate. It is rare locally as the only such example in Newcastle itself and as Newcastle's oldest dwelling.

Criteria g)

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Item Name: Toll Cottage (Formerly Rose Cottage)

Location: 51 Bolton Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]

The cottage is representative of an early Colonial Georgian cottage, exhibiting some of the key characteristics of this style, including: plain uniformity of brick walling, the simple rectangularity of twelve-pane sash windows, its hipped shingled roof and stone entrance step.

Integrity / Intactness: Good

References:	Author	Title	Year
		Newcastle Regional Library, Local Studies Collection - Newspaper Cuttings File: 'Newcastle - Historic Houses - Rose Cottage'	
	Apperley, Richard, Irving, Robert & Reynolds, Peter	A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture	1994
	Evans, Ian	The Australian Home	1983
	Hanley, Jo	'Newcastle: Place of History, Landscape of Memory' in Moore, J & Ostwald, M. J., 'Hidden Newcastle - Urban Memories and Architectural Imaginaries'	1997
	Maitland, Barry & Stafford, David	Architecture Newcastle	1997
	Stapleton, Maisy & Stapleton, Ian	Australian House Styles	1997
	Suters Architects	Newcastle City Wide Heritage Study - Thematic History	2007
	Turner, John	A Pictorial History of Newcastle	1997

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Unknown	Newcastle Heritage Study	147	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
	LOT	394		DP	747410

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			

Custom Field One: c1830

Custom Field Two:

Custom Field Three:

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Study Number
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Item Name: **Toll Cottage (Formerly Rose Cottage)**

Location: **51 Bolton Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

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: Completed

Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170147

Study Number

147

Item Name: **Toll Cottage (Formerly Rose Cottage)**

Location: **51 Bolton Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Toll Cottage (formerly Rose Cottage) 51 Bolton Street

Copyright:

Image by: Sharn Harrison

Image Date: 2/10/1996

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170147b1.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t_2170147b1.jpg

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Item Name: **Toll Cottage (Formerly Rose Cottage)**

Location: **51 Bolton Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Rear of cottage viewed from walkway in adjacent commercial centre.

Copyright:

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

Image Date: 17/12/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170147b2.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170147t2.jpg

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Study Number

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Item Name: Toll Cottage (Formerly Rose Cottage)

Location: 51 Bolton Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]

Image/s:



Caption: Front facade of cottage, including 12-pane sash window

Copyright:

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

Image Date: 17/12/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170147b3.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170147t3.jpg

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Item Name: **Toll Cottage (Formerly Rose Cottage)**

Location: **51 Bolton Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Toll Cottage - western elevation

Copyright:

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

Image Date: 17/12/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170147b4.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170147t4.jpg

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Item Name: **Toll Cottage (Formerly Rose Cottage)**

Location: **51 Bolton Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Separate structure with pergola at rear of cottage, constructed in recent times in a sympathetic manner probably on the location of the original kitchen / domestic servants' quarters.

Copyright:

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

Image Date: 17/12/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170147b5.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170147t5.jpg

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Item Name: **Toll Cottage (Formerly Rose Cottage)**

Location: **51 Bolton Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Interior - Toll Cottage - Stove

Copyright:

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

Image Date: 17/12/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170147b6.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170147t6.jpg

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Item Name: **Toll Cottage (Formerly Rose Cottage)**

Location: **51 Bolton Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Interior - Toll Cottage - fireplace with timber mantle

Copyright:

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

Image Date: 17/12/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170147b7.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170147t7.jpg

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Item Name: **Toll Cottage (Formerly Rose Cottage)**

Location: **51 Bolton Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Interior - Toll Cottage - doorway

Copyright:

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

Image Date: 17/12/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170147b8.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170147t8.jpg

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Item Name: **Toll Cottage (Formerly Rose Cottage)**

Location: **51 Bolton Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Staircase - Toll Cottage

Copyright:

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

Image Date: 17/12/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170147b9.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170147t9.jpg

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Item Name: **Toll Cottage (Formerly Rose Cottage)**

Location: **51 Bolton Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Roof attic - Toll Cottage

Copyright:

Image by: Rosemary Kerr

Image Date: 17/12/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170147b10.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170147t10.jpg

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