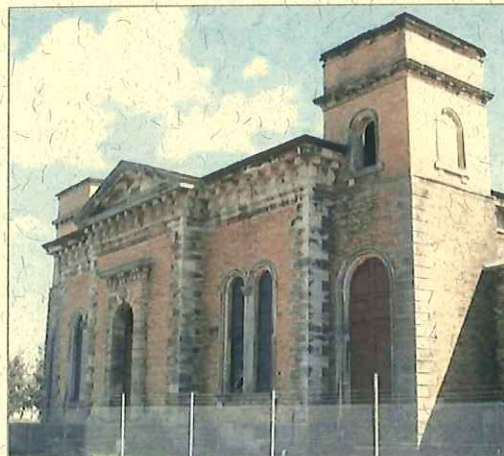


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Vol. 5.

Local Studies

Sue Rosen & Associates



## **Review of Potential Items of State Heritage Significance**

**for**

**Newcastle City Council**

**Volume Three: Updated Newcastle Heritage Inventory Forms**

**June 2008**

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## Updated Forms for the Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170170

Study Number

170

Item Name: **AMP Building**

Location: **55 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Address: 55 Hunter Street

DUAP Region: Hunter & Central Coast

Suburb / Nearest Town: Newcastle 2300

Historic region: Lower Hunter

Local Govt Area: Newcastle City

Parish:

State: NSW

County:

Other/Former Names:

Area/Group/Complex:

Group ID:

Aboriginal Area:

Curtilage/Boundary:

Item Type: Built

Group: Commercial

Category: Commercial Office/Bui

Owner:

Admin Codes: LEP

Code 2:

Code 3:

Current Use:

Former Uses:

Assessed Significance: **Local**

Endorsed Significance:

**Statement of Significance:** The AMP building has local historical and aesthetic significance as part of a group of bank and insurance buildings constructed in the Newcastle CBD in the 1910s-1930s which transformed the streetscape of Hunter Street and consolidated its status as the city's primary business thoroughfare. The AMP building, as part of this group, signalled a new phase of commerce in the city, based on heavy industry, and gave banking and insurance a modern presence in the city in purpose-built premises. As a new, larger Newcastle premises of the AMP the building demonstrates the increased importance of Newcastle in the firm's inter-war operations. The building has local aesthetic significance as a fine example of the inter-war commercial Palazzo style, combining twentieth century structure with a restrained classical façade. The building makes an important contribution to the Hunter Street streetscape as a substantial and attractive Inter-War Palazzo style structure retaining the interior fixtures and finishes which represented the public interface of the firm in the early twentieth century.

**Historical Notes or Provenance:** The AMP building is associated with the history of Australian life insurance and with the development of Newcastle as a commercial centre, with a central business district evolving around Hunter and Watt Streets from the second half of the nineteenth century.

The AMP started life in 1849 as The Australian Mutual Provident Society, a mutual company offering life insurance policies, deferred annuities and the like. It was the first Australian life insurance society, and grew up alongside the giants of life insurance in the British Empire, such as the European Assurance Society (London) and the Northern Insurance Company (Scotland) to become a major force in life insurance in Australasia and one of the first Australian firms to make an international name. (Blainey, pp. vii-viii, p. 10, 45) The AMP

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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Item Name: **AMP Building**

Location: **55 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

began with a small board of individuals giving their time voluntarily, and opening for an hour or two each day in rooms above a grocery store in George Street, Sydney. The first years were an uphill battle; Sydneysiders did not seem to understand the benefits of life insurance, and it was acknowledged in retrospect that the policies offered in the earliest years did not reflect the financial realities of most working families. For the first year, the Society survived entirely through policies taken out by board members. Almost as soon as the AMP was established, agents were sought in population centres outside Sydney. A letter was sent to clerks of petty sessions and minor legal officials across New South Wales inviting them to become agents of the Society. Eleven responses were received, including one from Maitland, where a local auctioneer became the agent. (Blainey, pp. 8-11)

By 1860 the AMP was on a stable footing, selling 500 policies in that year. The AMP's first full time insurance salesman also began work that year, travelling the country and lecturing on the virtues and virtuousness of life insurance. The AMP also purchased land in Pitt Street, Sydney, and commissioned eminent architect Edmund Blackett to design their first purpose-built premises. Charles Summers, a Melbourne based sculptor, was commissioned to provide a sculpture to adorn the building. He made a zinc cast of Greek goddess of fortune, Tyche, holding a palm branch and cornucopia and presiding over a reclining family. This became the AMP's emblem, and copies of the group of figures were to stand on the highest point of all major AMP offices over the following century, including their Newcastle buildings. (Blainey, pp. 30-4)

The 1860s also saw the establishment of AMP's first serious domestic rivals, particularly in Melbourne, where a sense of Victorian 'nationalism' attracted custom to Victorian societies such as the Mutual Life Association and National Mutual Life Association, both established in 1869. The AMP responded by setting up a Victorian board, a move which set a pattern for the decentralisation of AMP's operations. Information still travelled slowly in the colonies, and the need for the sending of medical reports, forms and applications to and from the Sydney office for the board's decision, hampered the Society's efforts in other regions. Through the 1870s the Society became a truly Australasian operation, setting up boards in New Zealand once the Maori War was deemed to be concluded (1871); South Australia (1872); Queensland, after the risks of life in the tropics had been assessed; (1875) and Tasmania (1877). (Blainey pp. 39, 46-8, 66, 74-80).

The 1880s carried this decentralisation thrust to the regions of New South Wales. The Hunter River district was to be managed from both the rival towns of Newcastle and Maitland. It would seem that a presence was soon set up in Newcastle and by the turn of the century the AMP had a main street presence on Watt Street in the form of a two storey stone clad office with a classical façade, topped with the AMP's emblematic statue (see image no.7) a scaled-down version of the grand classical edifices of the main branch offices in Sydney, Adelaide Melbourne and Hobart (Blainey, pp. 95, 136, plates 3 and 4)

The selection of Watt Street as an address for the AMP premises was no accident. Throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries the developing commercial and business life of Newcastle was for the most part concentrated on the two main thoroughfares, Hunter and Watt Streets. The penal settlement from which the city of Newcastle grew, had grown up around Watt Street (then known as George Street) which lead from the wharf to the commandant's house overlooking the small settlement. After most

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Item Name: **AMP Building**

Location: **55 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

of the convicts were moved to Port Macquarie in 1822, the settlement was re-laid out by Surveyor Dangar on a grid pattern which forms today's central Newcastle. Dangar's plan was for a town with 190 allotments, a church enclave and a marketplace, suited to fulfilling the function of main centre and port town of the rapidly developing Hunter Valley. In the event, Maitland-Morpeth proved to be the main centre of the Hunter Valley region prior to the coming of the railway. In 1829 the Australian Agricultural Company, looking for coal-bearing land, was granted 2,000 acres on the western boundary of the town (Brown Street), bringing new life to Newcastle. Up to the 1850s, the Company did not have the right to alienate any of its land, even when it was no longer useful for mining. The development of central Newcastle as a town was thus restricted to the compact area east of Brown Street. The mid 1850s saw the arrival of rail in Newcastle, and business began to take off, as the colony's economy generally boomed due to the gold rushes. (City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History, pp. 3-6)

From the mid 1850s banks began to establish branches in central Newcastle. The Bank of New South Wales was the first to commence operations in Newcastle on Watt Street in June 1853. The Bank of Australasia followed, opening an office in 1854, on the corner of Hunter and Brown Streets. (F. A. Cadell, pp. 16-17, 23) A number of other prominent banks followed and the latter decades of the nineteenth century saw a bustle of bank activity in the main business district centred on Hunter Street and Watt and Bolton Streets, with parcels of land and premises frequently changing hands between banks, as they jostled for a good position. This period also saw the construction of an important group of public buildings on the northern side of Hunter Street, between Bolton Street and Watt Street, which consolidated the status of Hunter Street as the premier business thoroughfare: an Electric Telegraph and Post Office and a new Police Station in 1861; expanded Post and Telegraph Office in 1872, which later became the Public Works Department office; and in 1903-1904 the Post Office again moved to expanded premises, the impressive classical edifice on the north eastern corner of Bolton and Hunter Streets. (Government Architect's Branch, PWD NSW, 1983, pp 3, 8; Maitland & Stafford, 1997, p 43) The banks, on the other hand, did not put their architectural stamp onto Hunter Street until later, commonly adapting existing buildings for their purposes until the 1920s and 1930s. (F. A. Cadell, Early Banking in Sydney and Newcastle pp. 19 - 24)

Following the Great War, the AMP strengthened its regional presence, opening major offices in Narrandera, Newcastle and Taree. In Newcastle, 55 Hunter Street was purchased for the erection of new, larger, premises. Its repositioning also reflected the ascendancy of Hunter Street as the main business thoroughfare. This lot had formerly hosted the first Newcastle premises of the Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney, from 1868 to 1897, when the bank moved to the corner of Hunter and Bolton Streets, and then of the City Bank of Sydney between 1897 - 1909, when this bank moved to the corner of Hunter and Watt Streets. (Blainey, p. 181; F. A. Cadell, pp. 18-20) The new AMP Society building was completed in 1927, a steel and reinforced concrete structure of six storeys presenting a Hawkesbury sandstone facade to Hunter Street. The Italian Renaissance palazzo style facade typifies the final phase of classicism in the architecture of commercial buildings. The design was prepared by Apperly and Wright. The building was originally designed with fifty offices and twenty strong rooms, reflecting the period of rapid growth in Newcastle as well as the importance of the city in AMP's business. (Maitland and Stafford, p. 125) The building sported the emblematic AMP statue, framed against the sky by a stone balustrade (see

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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Item Name: **AMP Building**

Location: **55 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

image no. 8). Its construction was part of a wave of substantial rebuilding activity particularly on Hunter Street between Newcomen and Watt Streets during the 1920s. A new period of commercial development in the city centre had been ushered in by the establishment of the BHP Steelworks at Port Waratah in the 1910s and associated heavy industry, resulting in a new influx of banks, insurance companies and other office users to the city centre. Many of the buildings constructed by these companies made use of the recently developed safety elevator and hidden steel frame to attain six or eight storeys, mostly clad in classical facades. Other buildings resulting from this activity include the NAB (or CBC) building on the corner of Hunter and Bolton Streets, and the ANZ building (former Union Bank) diagonally opposite and the T and G Building at the corner of Hunter and Watt Streets. Sydney-based architects were prominent in this effective redesign of Hunter Street. (Maitland and Stafford, pp. 18-19; F. A. Cadell, p. 19; Apperly, Irving and Reynolds, pp. 168-171, 183).

In 1998, the AMP became a public company and was listed on Australian and New Zealand stock exchanges. This has resulted in a change of business direction, transforming members into 'shareholders' and in Geoffrey Blainey's view losing the democratic structure and benevolent associations of the former Society (Blainey, p. viii) The AMP statue was removed from the building, perhaps as early as 1956, and the firm no longer occupies these offices.

Themes:	National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
	3. Economy	Commerce	(none)
	4. Settlement	Towns, suburbs and village	(none)

Designer: Apperly and Wright

Maker / Builder:

Year Started:                      Year Completed: 1927                      Circa: No

**Physical Description:** The AMP building is a six storey building with a steel and reinforced concrete structure with an inter-war Italian Renaissance Palazzo style façade. The five bay sandstone façade features Florentine arches at ground floor level, with a decorative balcony over the central main entrance. Above ground floor, the façade is characterised by plain surfaces and simple rectangular windows, making up a repetitive pattern punctuated by restrained ornamentation which, as on the ground floor, emphasises the central bay. The composition is framed by projecting pilasters finishing in a pair of cartouches under the deep cornice which terminates the building against the sky. Half-round roof tile copings soften the formality of the façade. Remnants of the rooftop balustrade which once framed the AMP statue are visible from the street.

The building retains impressive timber doors to the former service area and to the marble faced stair providing access to the upper levels. The interior of the former service area is opulently finished, featuring timber panelling, moulded ceilings, an inlaid marble floor and

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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Item Name: **AMP Building**

Location: **55 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

elaborately carved service counter.

Newcastle's CBD is of predominantly Victorian scale, and thus the AMP building and its fellow bank and insurance company buildings of the 1920s and 1930s retain their sense of grandness on the Hunter Street streetscape. The AMP building forms part of an early twentieth century commercial streetscape complementing the important complex of Victorian public buildings on the northern side of Hunter Street between Bolton and Watt Streets.

## Physical Condition:

Modification Dates: 1956 - Removal of AMP statue and part of its stone balustrade from the roof

Recommended  
Management:

*and stone work  
at ends 14p*

Management:

## Further Comments:

- Criteria a)** The AMP building has local historical significance as part of a group of bank and insurance buildings constructed in the Newcastle CBD in the 1910s-1930s which transformed the streetscape of Hunter Street in particular, signalled a new phase of commerce in the city, based on heavy industry, and gave banking and insurance a modern presence in the city in purpose-built premises. The building demonstrates the increased importance of Newcastle in the inter-war operations of the AMP, an important Australian institution, being a new, larger premises in a more central location in terms of Newcastle's early twentieth century geography.
- Criteria b)** Within the limited research carried out for this review, the building was not found to have significance under this criterion.
- Criteria c)** The building has local aesthetic significance as a fine example of the inter-war commercial Palazzo style, combining twentieth century structure with a restrained classical façade. The building makes an important contribution to the Hunter Street streetscape as a substantial and attractive Inter-War Palazzo style structure. Like the neighbouring NAB and ANZ buildings it demonstrates the preference for classical facades by financial institutions during this period. The intact fixtures and finishes of the entrance areas and former main service area enhance the buildings capacity to demonstrate the early twentieth century commercial culture in general, and the projected self-image of the AMP in that period in particular.
- Criteria d)** Within the limited research carried out for this review, the building was not found to have significance under this criterion.
- Criteria e)** Within the limited research carried out for this review, the building was not found to have significance under this criterion.
- Criteria f)** Within the limited research carried out for this review, the building was not found to have significance under this criterion.
- Criteria g)** The AMP building is a fine example of the inter-war commercial Palazzo style and its use for financial institutions in Newcastle in particular. The multi-story classical facade and lavish

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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Item Name: **AMP Building**

Location: **55 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

interior have the capacity to represent the group of inter-war commercial buildings in Newcastle's CBD aesthetically, particularly as the interior fixtures and finishes of a number of other institutions on Hunter Street would appear to have been lost.

**Integrity / Intactness:** Facade and interior finishes and some fixtures of ground floor service area substantially intact.

References:	Author	Title	Year
		City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History	1997
	Appery, Irving and Reynolds	A pictorial guide to identifying Australian architecture	1989
	F A Cadell	Early Banking in Sydney and Newcastle	1937
	Geoffrey Blainey	A history of the AMP 1848-1998	1999
	Government Architect's Branch, Special Projects Section, Public Works Dept. NSW	Conservation Plan for Historic Buildings in Hunter Street, Newcastle	1983
	Maitland and Stafford	Architecture Newcastle	1997

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Unknown	Newcastle Heritage Study	170	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
				SP	53607

**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:** 1925

**Custom Field Two:**

**Custom Field Three:**

**Custom Field Four:** Conservation Area - NCBD

**Custom Field Five:** Archaeological Potential

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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SHI Number

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Item Name: **AMP Building**

Location: **55 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Custom Field Six:

Data Entry:

Date First Entered: 11/08/1998

Date Updated: 24/07/2008

Status: Basic

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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SHI Number

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Item Name: **AMP Building**

Location: **55 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** AMP Building 55 Hunter Street

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Sharn Harrison

**Image Date:** 2/10/1997

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170170b1.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** t\_2170170b1.jpg



# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

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Study Number

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Item Name: **AMP Building**

Location: **55 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** Detail surrounding public entrance to former bank, centre of facade.

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Emma Dortins

**Image Date:** 11/09/2007

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170170b2.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170170t2.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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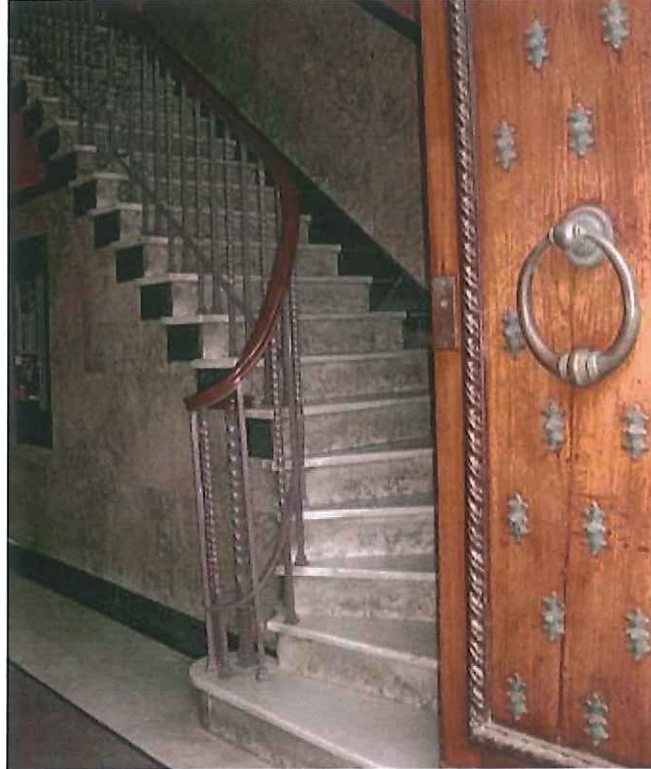
Study Number

170

Item Name: **AMP Building**

Location: **55 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** Timber door and stairway of entrance to former AMP Chambers, westernmost opening to Hunter St facade.

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Emma Dortins

**Image Date:** 11/09/2007

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170170b3.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170170t3.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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Item Name: **AMP Building**

Location: **55 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** Decorative ceiling of main service area.

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Emma Dortins

**Image Date:** 11/09/2007

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170170b4.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170170t4.jpg

# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

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Item Name: **AMP Building**

Location: **55 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** Marble faced stairs at rear of main service area, perhaps leading to former office and vault areas, with ornate timber railing.

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Emma Dortins

**Image Date:** 11/09/2007

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170170b5.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170170t5.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

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Item Name: **AMP Building**

Location: **55 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** Former bank counter.

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Emma Dortins

**Image Date:** 11/09/2007

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170170b6.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170170t6.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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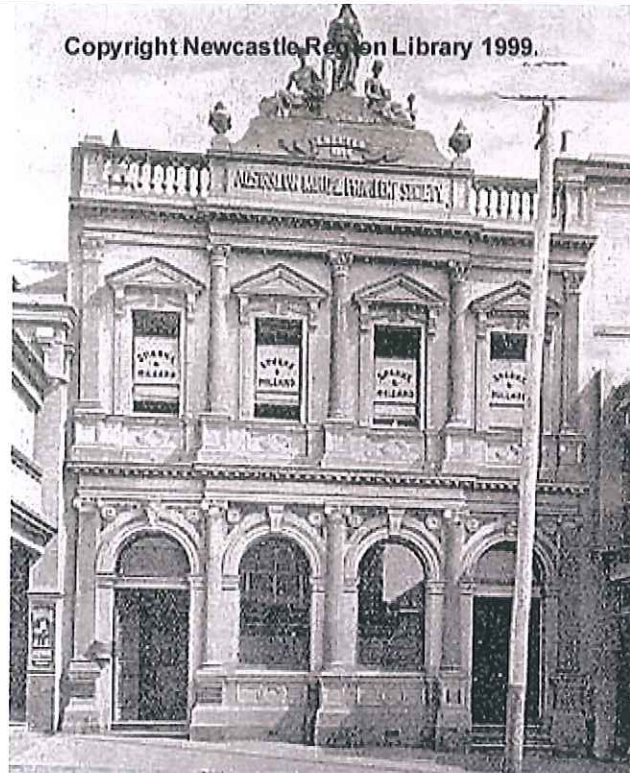
Study Number

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Item Name: **AMP Building**

Location: **55 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** Former AMP premises on Watt Street (from Hunter Photobank)

**Copyright:** Newcastle Region Library

**Image by:**

**Image Date:**

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170170b7.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170170t7.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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Item Name: **AMP Building**

Location: **55 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: AMP building with statue (Blainey, p. 181)

Copyright:

Image by:

Image Date:

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170170b8.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170170t8.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170174

Study Number

174

Item Name: **ANZ Bank**

Location: **102 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Address: 102 Hunter Street

DUAP Region: Hunter & Central Coast

Suburb / Nearest Town: Newcastle 2300

Historic region: Lower Hunter

Local Govt Area: Newcastle City

Parish:

State: NSW

County:

Other/Former Names:

Area/Group/Complex:

Group ID:

Aboriginal Area:

Curtilage/Boundary:

Item Type: Built

Group: Commercial

Category: Bank

Owner:

Admin Codes: LEP

Code 2:

Code 3:

Current Use: Bank

Former Uses:

Assessed Significance: **Local**

Endorsed Significance:

**Statement of Significance:** The ANZ bank has local historical, aesthetic and representative significance as part of a group of bank and insurance buildings constructed in the Newcastle CBD in the 1910s-1930s which transformed the streetscape of Hunter Street in particular and consolidated its position as the premier business thoroughfare in the city. The ANZ building was at the leading edge of Newcastle's new phase of commerce, riding on the back of heavy industry, and the flurry of building activity in this period, giving banking and insurance a modern presence in the city in purpose-built premises. The ANZ has the capacity to represent key characteristics of the group of 1910s-1930s bank and insurance company premises in central Newcastle. The history of the site is representative of this group, as a hotel, which then hosted banking functions before classical-style purpose-built premises were constructed. The building has local aesthetic significance as it makes an important contribution to the Hunter Street streetscape as a substantial and well-crafted Inter-War Palazzo style structure on a prominent corner. The site of the ANZ building, being formerly the site of the Ship Inn has local significance through its association with the Hannell family, in particular James Hannell who was licensee for the Ship and became Newcastle's first Mayor.

**Historical Notes or Provenance:** The ANZ building is associated with the history of Australian banking and with the development of Newcastle as a commercial centre, with a central business district evolving around Hunter and Watt Streets from the second half of the nineteenth century.

Before 1810, barter was the primary form of transaction in NSW. The colony was not provided with an adequate quantity of English coins for these alone to suffice for the purchase of imports and internal transactions, and the Governors administered the use of

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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Item Name: **ANZ Bank**

Location: **102 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

coinage originating from various parts of the world. When in 1800 a quantity of copper coin arrived in the colony, a great variety of coins including Dutch guilders, rupees and ducats were assigned specific sterling values for exchange purposes within the colony. There was great scope for counterfeiters, and barter, particularly in rum, seemed to many to be a more reliable form of exchange. In 1804, for instance, the Government brewery accepted payment for its beer in the form of wheat, barley, hops, casks or iron hoops. The consignments of coal sent from Newcastle to Calcutta though the 1810s were paid for in Bengal rum. An official system of paper money operated in parallel, with military purchases being made in 'Paymaster's notes' and 'Store receipts' given to those who lodged produce in the King's store. Private individuals began to follow suit, and issue their own 'notes' or 'cards' in a complex and flexible system of 'I.O.U.'. (F. A. Cadell, *Early Banking in Sydney and Newcastle*, pp. 2-3, 24)

Governor Macquarie endeavoured to implement monetary reform in the Colony, plagued still by a rum economy. Among his initiatives was the establishment of the colony's first banking institution: the New South Wales Loan Bank opened 8th April 1817 in Mrs Mary Reiby's house in Macquarie Place, Sydney. Although Macquarie received correspondence from the Colonial Office the following year stating that he was not legally empowered to charter a bank, he delayed replying to the Colonial Office on the subject, and the bank continued to have unofficial success, receiving favourable comments in the 1822 Bigge Report. (F. A. Cadell, pp. 7-9) This bank was incorporated as the Bank of New South Wales in 1850.

In 1819 Robert Campbell, merchant, known as the 'father of Australian commerce' and the first to have shipped Newcastle coal to Calcutta, opened Australia's first savings bank, known as 'Campbell's Bank', and by 1832 it was a roaring success. Across the mid nineteenth century a number of other Australian banks sprang up, including the Union Bank of Australia, established first in Launceston, Tasmania in 1838, and the English, Scottish and Australian Bank established in 1852. (F. A. Cadell, pp. 9, 14) By 1850, eighteen banks had been established, three were based in London, but the remainder were all based in Australian population centres. It was not until after 1850 and the gold rushes, however, that these institutions began to set up branches in NSW's larger centres in any significant numbers. Banking and investment initiatives expanded during the gold rushes, and also during the economic boom of the 1880s. (*Australian Encyclopaedia* Vol. 1, p. 412).

Although at least two banks had considered Newcastle and the Hunter Valley within their prospective sphere of business from the 1830s, it was indeed not until the mid 1850s that banks began to establish a presence in Newcastle. When they did, their focus was very much on establishing a good position on one of the town's main thoroughfares, centred on Watt Street and Hunter Street.

The penal settlement from which the city of Newcastle grew, had grown up around Watt Street (then known as George Street) which led from the wharf to the commandant's house overlooking the small settlement. After most of the convicts were moved to Port Macquarie in 1822, the settlement was re-laid out by Surveyor Dangar on a grid pattern which forms today's central Newcastle. Dangar's plan was for a town with 190 allotments, a church enclave and a marketplace, suited to fulfilling the function of main centre and port town of the rapidly developing Hunter Valley. Superimposed onto the irregular pattern of the convict settlement, the grid necessitated the demolition of even some of the more solid buildings of

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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Item Name: **ANZ Bank**

Location: **102 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

the penal settlement, none of which survive today. In the event, Maitland-Morpeth proved to be the main centre of the Hunter Valley region prior to the coming of the railway. In 1829 the Australian Agricultural Company, looking for coal-bearing land, was granted 2,000 acres on the western boundary of the town (Brown Street), bringing new life to Newcastle. Up to the 1850s, the Company did not have the right to alienate any of its land, even when it was no longer useful for mining. The development of central Newcastle as a town was thus restricted to the compact area east of Brown Street. Before 1850 this was not a problem as Newcastle was still a mere village, the home of about 1,500 people of whom some one fifth were coal miners. The mid 1850s, however, saw the arrival of rail in Newcastle, and business began to take off, as the colony's economy generally boomed due to the gold rushes. A Chamber of Commerce formed in Newcastle in 1856 and pressed for improvement of port facilities to facilitate commercial growth of the town. The local coal industry was growing steadily, and from the 1860s local manufacturing industries, processing the produce of the Hunter Valley (some of which were established in the 1840s), began to recover from the labour shortages and inflation caused by the gold rushes. (City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History, pp. 3-6)

The Bank of New South Wales was the first to commence operations in Newcastle. In 1832 the bank had selected an allotment on Watt Street. The land, however, passed through the hands of two other owners before the bank opened its Newcastle branch there in June 1853. A month earlier the bank had opened a branch in Maitland. Bowker and Tally, leading Newcastle storekeepers, were the first depositors. Similarly, the Bank of Australasia had considered commencing operations in East Maitland from 1839. A Newcastle branch was opened in 1854, supplied at the outset with cash from the East Maitland office. The bank purchased the area bounded by Hunter, Brown, King and Crown Streets, one acre, from the Australian Agricultural Company and erected a bank premises on the corner of Hunter and Brown Streets, gradually selling off the remainder of the block. The Australian Joint Stock Bank opened a branch in May 1861 on the corner of Hunter and Watt Streets, then regarded as the premier business position in town, becoming the Australian Bank of Commerce in 1910. This bank amalgamated with the Bank of New South Wales, and continued to occupy this site, now known as Bank Corner. (F. A. Cadell, pp. 16-17, 23)

The latter decades of the nineteenth century saw a bustle of bank activity on the intersection of Hunter Street with Watt and Bolton Streets, consolidating this area as Newcastle's main banking and business district. More banks opened Newcastle branches, and parcels of land and premises frequently changed hands between banks, as they jostled for a good position. This period saw the construction of an important group of public buildings on the northern side of Hunter Street, between Bolton Street and Watt Street, which further confirmed the status of Hunter Street as the premier business thoroughfare: the Electric Telegraph Office and new Police Station both constructed in 1861, and an expanded Post and Telegraph Office constructed in 1872, and then an even grander Post Office building, the impressive classical edifice on the north eastern corner of Bolton and Hunter Streets, constructed 1903/4. (Government Architect's Branch, PWD NSW, 1983, pp 3, 8; Maitland & Stafford, 1997, p 43) The banks, on the other hand, did not generally put their architectural stamp onto Hunter Street until later, but instead adapted existing buildings for their purposes until the 1920s and 1930s. The London Chartered Bank, for example, operated for at least a decade from 1873 in a weatherboard building on the corner of Bolton and Scott Streets, previously occupied by a Seaman's Outfitter. Similarly, the Commercial Bank of Australia

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170174

Study Number

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Item Name: **ANZ Bank**

Location: **102 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Ltd, occupied the School of Arts Building in Hunter Street for several decades to 1918; and the Bank of New Zealand and then the Commercial Banking Co. operated from the Prince of Wales Hotel on the south-eastern corner of Hunter and Bolton Streets between 1876 and 1921 when a purpose-built premises was constructed. (F. A. Cadell, pp. 18 - 24) This is in contrast to many other regional centres in NSW where purpose-built Victorian bank buildings formed a significant part of the late nineteenth century streetscape, for example the CBC buildings at Dubbo, Bega and Bourke, dating from the 1860s - 1880s and the Union Bank building at Orange constructed in 1858.

The building now occupied by the Australia and New Zealand Bank (ANZ) is located on the north western corner of Bolton and Hunter Streets, facing the 1903 Post Office on the other side of Bolton Street; with the Colonial Mutual Life building to the west; and diagonally opposite the NAB building, constructed for the Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney in 1921. The site was granted to Samuel Lyons in 1836, and purchased later the same year by John Butler Hewson who later constructed a hostelry on the site. In 1846 James Hannell, licensee of the Ship Inn, Newcastle's first hotel, which had been located at the foot of Watt Street since 1823, constructed a new Ship Inn on this site, and it became an important meeting place for the community. Hannell was a prominent Newcastle businessman and citizen, and after playing a leading role in achieving Municipal status for Newcastle in 1859, he was elected Newcastle's first Mayor. The Hannell family sold the land to the Union Bank of Australia in 1885, but it appears that the bank had been operating from the hotel building on a leasehold basis since November 1879. The bank continued to trade from the Ship Inn building, adapted to suit their operations, until 1912, when it was demolished to make way for the existing purpose-built premises. (F. A. Cadell, p. 20; Turner, *A Pictorial History of Newcastle*, pp. 34-5)

The new building was completed in 1914, to an attractive Inter-War Commercial Palazzo style design by Scott and Green, featuring a carefully crafted stone facade and perhaps being the first building in Newcastle to make use of concrete flooring. It was perhaps initially designed as a four storey building, which was then increased to five. Its construction was on the leading edge of a wave of substantial rebuilding activity particularly on Hunter Street between Newcomen and Watt Streets during the first decades of the twentieth century. A new period of commercial development in the city centre had been ushered in by the establishment of the BHP Steelworks at Port Waratah in the 1910s and associated heavy industry, resulting in a new influx of banks, insurance companies and other office users to the city centre. Many of the buildings constructed by these companies made use of the recently developed safety elevator and hidden steel frame to attain six or eight storeys, mostly clad in classical facades. Other buildings resulting from this activity include the NAB (or CBC) building diagonally opposite; the T and G Building at the corner of Hunter and Watt Streets, and the AMP building at 53 Hunter Street. (Maitland and Stafford, pp. 18-19; F. A. Cadell, p. 19; Apperly, Irving and Reynolds, pp. 168-171, 183).

In 1951 the Union Bank of Australia merged with the Bank of Australasia, which had been operating in Newcastle, as noted above, since 1854, to form the ANZ, which continues to occupy the building.

Themes:	National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
	3. Economy	Commerce	(none)

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

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Study Number

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Item Name: **ANZ Bank**

Location: **102 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

4. Settlement

Towns, suburbs and village (none)

**Designer:** Scott and Green

**Maker / Builder:**

**Year Started:**

**Year Completed:**

1914

**Circa:**

No

**Physical Description:** The ANZ building is a five storey sandstone building in the Inter-War Commercial Palazzo style. The external walls are load bearing, faced with sandstone above a granite base. The lower two storeys feature rusticated stonework and florentine arches, below a minor entablature, while the upper three storeys are unified by a vertical emphasis, shallow pilasters, smooth stonework and a pattern of rectangular windows which diminish in height with each change of level. The building is topped by a classical bracketed cornice.

The building addresses the corner of Hunter and Bolton Streets, with the main public entrance opening onto the corner under a small triangular portico in granite and marble. A pair of columns links the third and fourth levels on the chamfered corner above the main entrance. The public service area is entered via double timber doors, the inner pair having 'UBA' inscribed into the central glass panel.

Newcastle's CBD is of predominantly Victorian scale, and thus the NAB building and its fellow bank and insurance company buildings of the 1920s and 1930s retain their sense of grandness on the Hunter Street streetscape. The NAB forms part of an early twentieth century commercial streetscape complementing the important complex of Victorian public buildings on the northern side of Hunter Street between Bolton and Watt Streets.

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

**Modification Dates:**

**Recommended Management:**

**Management:**

**Further Comments:**

**Criteria a)** The ANZ bank has local historical significance as part of a group of bank and insurance buildings constructed in the Newcastle CBD in the 1910s-1930s which transformed the streetscape of Hunter Street in particular, signalled a new phase of commerce in the city and gave banking and insurance a modern presence in the city in purpose-built premises. The Union Bank was at the forefront of this building activity with the construction of the present ANZ chambers in 1914, and its likely that later bank and insurance buildings in Hunter Street were planned and designed very much with reference to it.

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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Item Name: **ANZ Bank**

Location: **102 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

- Criteria b)** The site of the ANZ building, being formerly the site of the Ship Inn has local significance through its association with the Hannell family, in particular James Hannell who was licensee for the Ship and became Newcastle's first Mayor. This association is commemorated by a plaque mounted on the building.
- Criteria c)** The building has local aesthetic significance as it makes an important contribution to the Hunter Street streetscape as a substantial and well-crafted Inter-War Palazzo style structure on the prominent corner of Hunter and Bolton Streets. Like the neighbouring AMP and NAB buildings it demonstrates the preference for classical facades by financial institutions and the projected-self image of banks as solid, permanent and wealth-creating entities during this period.
- Criteria d)** Within the limited scope of this review, the building was not found to have significance under this criterion.
- Criteria e)** Within the limited scope of this review, the building was not found to have significance under this criterion.
- Criteria f)** Within the limited scope of this review, the building was not found to have significance under this criterion.
- Criteria g)** The ANZ has local representative significance as an early and fine example of the Inter-War Commercial Palazzo style in Newcastle. The ANZ also has the capacity to represent key characteristics of the group of 1910s-1930s bank and insurance company premises in central Newcastle. The history of the site is representative of this group, as a hotel, which then hosted banking functions before classical-style purpose-built premises were constructed.

**Integrity / Intactness:** The exterior of the building appears to have a high level of integrity.

References:	Author	Title	Year
		Citywide Heritage Study, Thematic History	2007
	Aperly, Irving and Reynolds	A pictorial guide to identifying Australian architecture	1989
	F A Cadell	Early Banking in Sydney and Newcastle	1937
	Government Architect's Branch, Special Projects Section, Public Works Dept. NSW	Conservation Plan for Historic Buildings in Hunter Street, Newcastle	1983
	J W Turner	A Pictorial History of Newcastle	1997
	Maitland and Stafford	Architecture Newcastle	1997
	The Grolier Society of Australia	Australian Encyclopaedia, Vol 1.	1963

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Unknown	Newcastle Heritage Study	174	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		DP	131741

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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Study Number

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Item Name: **ANZ Bank**

Location: **102 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Latitude:

Longitude:

Location validity:

Spatial Accuracy:

Map Name:

Map Scale:

AMG Zone:

Easting:

Northing:

Listings: Name:

Title:

Number:

Date:

Local Environmental Plan

Heritage study

National Trust of Australia register

8/08/2003

Custom Field One: 1914

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: 24/07/2008

Status: Basic

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Date: 24/07/2008

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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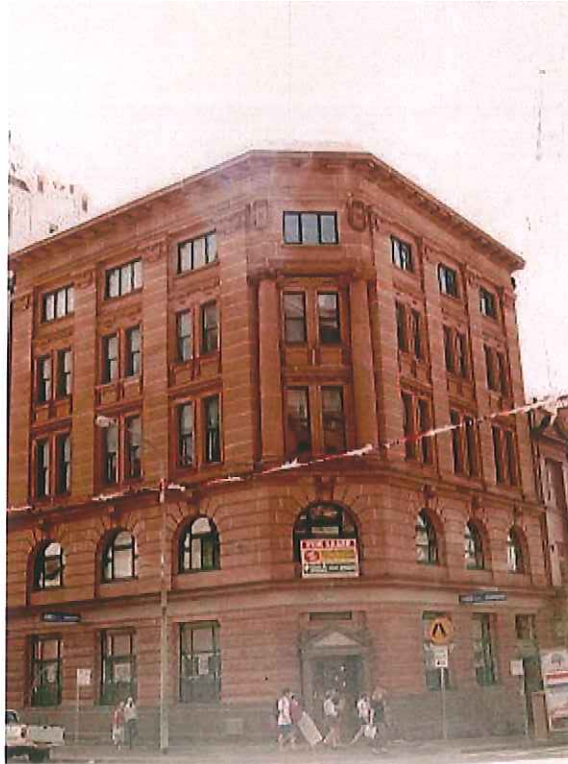
Study Number

174

Item Name: **ANZ Bank**

Location: **102 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: ANZ Bank 102 Hunter Street

Copyright:

Image by: Sharn Harrison

Image Date: 2/10/1997

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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Item Name: **ANZ Bank**

Location: **102 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** ANZ bank in context, with CML building behind and War Memorial in the foreground.

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Emma Dortins

**Image Date:** 11/09/2007

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170174b2.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170174t2.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

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Study Number

127

Item Name: **Original Timber Wharves**

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

single piles were replaced with 22 pairs of piles. Similar repairs to headstocks and beams were undertaken through the 1930s. In 1937 an ore bridge was constructed at Berth 2 and some steel elements were introduced to strengthen the wharf structure. A similar strengthening procedure was carried out at Berth 1 six months later. In 1938 49 piles were renewed in turpentine of first class quality and three piles were fitted with Monier pipes as an experimental measure against the ravages of teredo worm, which at Newcastle could completely destroy timber at water level within 30 years. (EJE, Archival Record ...Main Site BHP, Wharves, p. 9-11)

Stimulated by the Steel Industry, the population of Newcastle (excluding Lake Macquarie Shire) grew from 54,000 in 1911, to 84,000 in 1921 and 104,000 in 1933. With such significant industrial and demographic development, the CBD responded with new commercial buildings, particularly hotels and stores, and Newcastle City Council constructed a town hall and Civic theatre worthy of the State's second city in 1929. (Citywide Thematic History, p. 7-8)

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

World War II had a profound effect on Newcastle which became a key industrial area of great strategic importance. Anticipating the outbreak of hostilities in the Pacific, Essington Lewis began to prepare BHP for its wartime role after his 1934 overseas tour. Facilities for the production of munitions were installed at the steelworks and the Company's metallurgists had to cope with the new technologies involved in the manufacture of special alloys not previously made in Australia. Magnesium, which was vital for aircraft production, was made for the first time, and tungsten carbide, an essential cutting and shaping agent in precision engineering, began to flow from a pilot plant at the steelworks in 1941. Looking towards this important wartime role the Company also acquired the steelworks at Port Kembla, and thus became the sole integrated iron and steel producer in Australia. Newcastle steel was used in the manufacture of a wide range of military items from shells to ships and the overall effect of the war was to greatly stimulate metals manufacture in the city. The immediate post war years saw a contraction of activities, as plans were hampered by shortages of coal and manpower. (Citywide Thematic History, p. 8; Conservation Plan: BHP Steelworks, p. 24; ADB Online, Essington Lewis)

1950 saw the beginning of a new era of development. The following decades saw the Steelworks expand, diversify and adopt new technologies. (Conservation Plan: BHP Steelworks, p. 24) The size of carrying vessels began to increase dramatically. The BHP fleet was expanded by four bulk carriers of 12,500 tons capacity between 1948 and 1953. These vessels required a deeper draft, and the depth alongside the wharf facilities, at 26 feet below low water, was not always sufficient when ships were fully loaded. Careful timetabling of shipping activity was required - ships were berthed at high tide, and up to 10,000 tons needed to be unloaded before low water. But from the late 1950s the size of

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

## State Heritage Inventory

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Item Name: **Original Timber Wharves**

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

bulk carriers began to increase rapidly. In 1959, and again in 1964 the wharves underwent major modification to address the need for larger vessels to be accommodated. In 1959 the ore unloader runways were reconstructed, as a structure independent of the wharf, where previously they were integral to the wharf. The runways were constructed with provision in the piling design for a future dredged depth of 35 feet. In 1964 the ore yard was also reconstructed as an independent structure supported on steel caissons filled with concrete. The wharves continued to be an essential part of the steelworks up until the last steel ingot was produced in 1999. Today much of the site has been cleared, and the wharves themselves survive, with some evidence of the waterfront rail system, but cranes, and all associated storage and transport structures behind the wharves appear to have been demolished. Nevertheless, the surviving timber wharves exist as a reminder of this highly significant industry and its lifelong association with water transport and the Port of Newcastle. It has been proposed that the site be redeveloped as a major Container Handling Terminal servicing the East Coast of Australia. This would require the demolition of all above ground structures within the waterfront section of the former BHP site including the wharf, and construction of new wharf facilities.

Themes:	National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
	3. Economy	Industry	(none)
	3. Economy	Transport	(none)

**Designer:**

**Maker / Builder:**

**Year Started:** 1912      **Year Completed:** 1999      **Circa:** Yes

**Physical Description:** The original length of wharf constructed in 1912 was 600ft long, and of orthodox timber construction supported on turpentine piles. Several extensions, of similar construction were added to the south-east over subsequent years. The continuous heavy use of the structure up to 1999 has resulted in generations of ad hoc maintenance, which can be seen in cut off piles, the inclusion of steel beams and concrete members at some locations, and more recent rubber membrane collars on the piles at at water level to prevent teredo worm attack.

**Physical Condition:**

**Modification Dates:** Original wharf of 1912 extended at many points incl: 1916-17 and 1922.

1959 - reconstruction of ore unloader runways independently of wharf (where they had previously been integral with the wharf)

1964 - reconstruction of ore yard, independently supported (ditto)

**Recommended Management:**

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Study Number

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Item Name: **Original Timber Wharves**

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

## Management:

## Further Comments:

- Criteria a)** The timber wharves have local historical significance as a vital part of the BHP Steelworks, demonstrating the importance of river transport to and from the facility throughout its lifetime. The wharves were extended and adapted at many points since the beginning of their construction in 1912, reflecting the success and growth of the Steelworks across the first half of the twentieth century in particular, as well as the changes in the nature of loading and unloading operations and the growing size of the ships that serviced the site.
- Criteria b)** The wharves were not found to have significance under this criterion.
- Criteria c)** The wharves are of traditional timber construction, reflecting wharf-building and maintenance practices of the early twentieth century. While the structure is very unobtrusive from land, from the water it is aesthetically distinctive as a traditional, low level timber wharf, a sight which is probably increasingly rare along the highly industrialised Newcastle waterfront. The wharves also demonstrate visually the highly utilitarian nature of their construction and the 'quick response' style of maintenance that was employed to maintain the structure continually in operation.
- Criteria d)** The wharves were not found to have significance under this criterion within the limited scope of this review. The EJE Archival Record of the site indicates that the wharves, like other remaining structures on the BHP site, may have social significance for several generations of local BHP workers.
- Criteria e)** The wharves were not found to have significance under this criterion.
- Criteria f)** The timber wharves are likely to have rarity value locally, as early twentieth century waterfront structures.
- Criteria g)** The wharves were not found to have significance under this criterion.

**Integrity / Intactness:** The wharves were a continually evolving structure, repaired and extended at many points in their history, with members replaced as a matter of course over its life time. It is believed that little of the 1912 fabric remains, and that most of the members in situ date from after WW2. While the wharves themselves are intact, and some of the rail tracks leading to the wharves appear to remain, all the cranes and above ground structures associated with the wharves have been removed.

References:	Author	Title	Year
		Newcastle City Wide Heritage Study - Thematic History	2007
	Blainey, Geoffrey and Smith, Ann G	Entry for Essington Lewis, Australian Dictionary of Biography Online	1986
	Docherty, J. C.	Newcastle: The Making of an Australian City	1983
	EJE Architecture	Archival Record, Wharves	2000
	The EJE Group	Conservation Plan for BHP Steelworks, Port Waratah Site	1991

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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Item Name: **Original Timber Wharves**

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

Unknown	Newcastle Heritage Study	127	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	221		DP	1013964

Latitude:

Longitude:

Location validity:

Spatial Accuracy:

Map Name:

Map Scale:

AMG Zone:

Easting:

Northing:

Listings: Name:

Title:

Number:

Date:

Local Environmental Plan

8/08/2003

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: 11/08/1998

Date Updated: 23/05/2008

Status: Basic

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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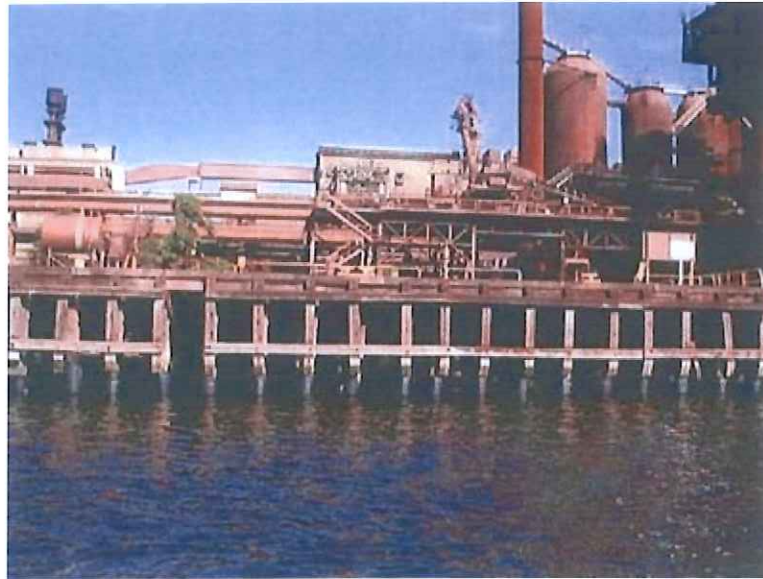
Study Number

127

Item Name: **Original Timber Wharves**

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

Image/s:



**Caption:** Timber Wharves in location of original 1912 wharves (from Archival Recording, May 2000, p. 17)

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** EJE Architecture

**Image Date:** 30/05/2000

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170127b1.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170127t1.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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Item Name: **Original Timber Wharves**

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

Image/s:



**Caption:** Timber Wharves in location of first and second extensions to the south east of 1912 construction (from Archival Recording, May 2000, p. 16)

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** EJE Architecture

**Image Date:** 31/05/2000

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170127b2.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170127t2.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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Item Name: **Original Timber Wharves**

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

Image/s:



Caption: View of substructure (Archival Recording, May 2000, p. 21)

Copyright:

Image by: EJE Architecture

Image Date: 31/05/2000

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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Item Name: **Original Timber Wharves**

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

Image/s:



**Caption:** Aerial photograph showing extent of timber wharf structures, and demolition of associated buildings behind the waterfront since 2000.

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Google Earth

**Image Date:** 26/03/2008

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170127b4.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170127t4.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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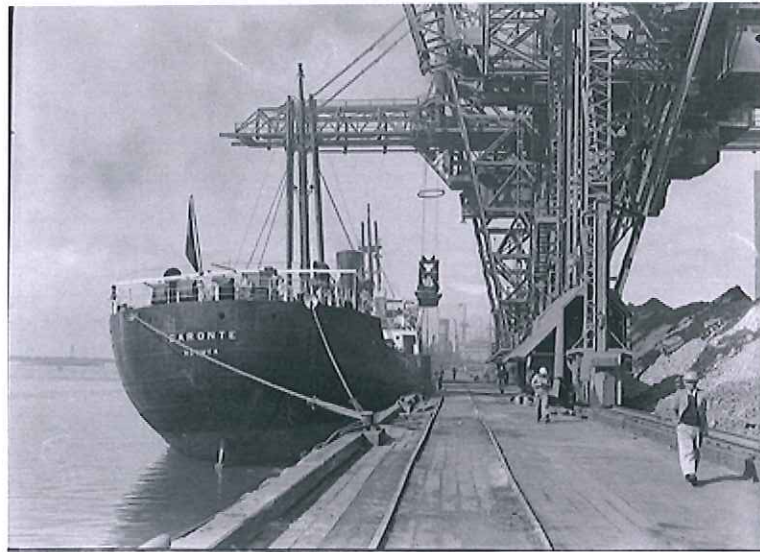
Study Number

127

Item Name: **Original Timber Wharves**

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

Image/s:



Caption: Historic photograph showing the ore ship Coronte at the wharf (Hunter Photobank)

Copyright:

Image by:

Image Date:

Image Number:

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Image File: 2170127b5.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170127t5.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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Item Name: **Original Timber Wharves**

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

Image/s:



Caption: Historic photograph showing BHP's Iron Wyndham at the wharf. (Hunter Photobank)

Copyright:

Image by:

Image Date:

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170127b6.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170127t6.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

## State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number  
**2170305**  
Study Number  
**305**

Item Name: **Obelisk**

Location: **3 OrdnanceStreet, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

Address: 3 OrdnanceStreet

DUAP Region: Hunter & Central Coast

Suburb / Nearest Town: The Hill 2300

Historic region: Lower Hunter

Local Govt Area: Newcastle City

Parish:

State: NSW

County:

Other/Former Names:

Area/Group/Complex:

Group ID:

Aboriginal Area: Awabakal

Curtilage/Boundary: The area around the obelisk within a 10m radius is recommended as a minimum curtilage area.

Item Type: Built

Group: Transport - Water

Category: NAVAIID

Owner:

Admin Codes: LEP

Code 2:

Code 3:

Current Use:

Former Uses:

Assessed Significance: **Local**

Endorsed Significance:

**Statement of Significance:** The Obelisk has local historical significance to Newcastle as it was an important navigational device for the shipping community during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Its location on the same site as the first windmill in Newcastle gives it historical continuity with the development of Newcastle during the early nineteenth century. It has associations with a number of important events in the history of Newcastle, such as the shipping disaster of 1866 and has considerable local aesthetic appeal.

**Historical Notes or Provenance:** In 1819, Colonel Morisset, the Commandant at Newcastle, requested permission to build a windmill for the purpose of grinding flour. This windmill, the Government Flour Mill, was built in 1820 and was the first windmill in Newcastle. In strong winds, it was able to grind 10 bushels of wheat per hour. Its purpose was to replace the existing hand mills, which were unsatisfactory. (Newcastle City Council, website). Situated at the top of a steep hill overlooking the water, ships that were approaching the port of Newcastle used it as a navigational device.

It was not long before the windmill was superseded by the more efficient windmills in the Hunter Valley. In 1847, the windmill was demolished (Newcastle City Council, website). This resulted in protests and petitions from the shipping community. Newcastle's main line of communication was the sea and the windmill had become an essential visual aid for entering the harbour. In 1850, in response to the reaction of the shipping community, the NSW Government established an Obelisk to be used as a navigational marker. The existing obelisk is a stone structure and has possibly been rebuilt on various occasions due to lightning damage and later earthquake damage.

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

## State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170305

Study Number

305

Item Name: **Obelisk**

Location: **3 Ordnance Street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

The obelisk on The Hill formed was an important part of a system of visual reference points. The following is an excerpt from the Government Gazette on 12th June, 1850, which quotes Merion Moriarty, Port Master, using the obelisk in reference to other features when entering the Port of Newcastle:

"When the Obelisk is in with the tower by the light you are nearly off the rocks east-southerly of the Nobby's; and when the Nobby's is in with the same you are off the rocks north-west of the same.

"The Obelisk open to the west of the Queen's Wharf will head you clear off the rock on the port land going in.

"The Obelisk open to the eastward of the Wesleyan Chapel will clear the Oyster Bank and the North Bank, and will lead in from twenty-four to fourteen feet of water as you approach the Oyster Bank on the starboard side going in, and from eighteen to twelve feet as you approach the North Bank, also on the starboard side." (Newcastle City Council, website)

Other navigational devices for entering Newcastle included two Beacon Towers, one of which is still extant on The Hill, a navigation point on Flagstaff Hill, and Nobby's lighthouse at Nobby's Head.

As the highest point in the vicinity, the obelisk has served as a good observation point to watch events in the port of Newcastle. In 1866, people stood on Obelisk Hill and watched as one of the worst coastal disasters in Australia unfolded. Five ships that were trying to reach the port during a strong south-westerly wind all landed on the Oyster Bank sandpit on the northern side of the harbour entrance. One hundred people were killed (Newcastle City Council, website).

Two accidents have occurred at the site of the Obelisk. One was in 1906 when pillars of old mine workings collapsed, leading to land creep across The Hill. This damaged some houses close by in The Terrace and fractured the underground reservoir that was built next to the Obelisk in 1884. In 1985, a build up of gas in the reservoir led to an explosion which injured a group of children (B. Maitland and D Stafford, 1997, p.32).

The use of visual markers for navigation in the mid 19th century was common to harbours up and down the east coast. Newcastle was a heavily used and significant port for vessels under sail and steam by this time, and was similar to Port Jackson, where a set of stone obelisks were also set up in c1850 to make harbour traffic more efficient and safer. (Emma Dortins, 2006, p. 185).

The obelisk form was robust, highly visible and also had the potential to be decorative, and has been employed for a range of official and commemorative purposes in NSW across the 19th and 20th centuries. The Georgian style obelisk in Sydney's Macquarie Place also was used as a reference point. It was constructed in 1818 and marked the point from where all public roads from Sydney were measured (Macquarie Place Precinct, State Heritage Inventory, 758942). Various obelisks in NSW commemorate soldiers who served in war, such as the Meadowbank Park Obelisk in Ryde. Although not intended to be a memorial, the obelisk in Newcastle has in a sense become one, as it is a physical reminder of the maritime history of Newcastle. The obelisk is a landmark within the boundaries of King Edward Park,

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

## State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170305

Study Number

305

Item Name: **Obelisk**

Location: **3 Ordnance Street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

because it is situated on one of the highest points of this historic park. Its presence accentuates the dramatic contrast between the cliffs of the park and the enclosed gullies.

Themes:	National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
	3. Economy	Technology	(none)
	3. Economy	Transport	(none)
	8. Culture	Leisure	(none)

Designer:

Maker / Builder:

Year Started: 1850      Year Completed: 1850      Circa: No

**Physical Description:** The obelisk stands alone at the peak of The Hill and has views of the sea and the city. It is a stone structure with an elongated pyramid set on a square pedestal. It is painted white.

**Physical Condition:** The Obelisk is in good condition.

**Modification Dates:** The Obelisk has been damaged at various times by lightning and also by the 1989 earthquake and was repaired or possibly rebuilt.

**Recommended Management:**

**Management:**

**Further Comments:**

**Criteria a)** The Obelisk has historical significance at a local level because it is closely associated with Newcastle's maritime history. Its presence on Obelisk Hill is a physical reminder of 19th Newcastle, when the main line of communication to Newcastle was via the sea and when in harbour navigation guided by using this structure as a referee point. The obelisk also has local significance because it served as a lookout during events in Newcastle's maritime history. It has historical continuity with the development of Newcastle during the 19th and early 20th century.

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

**Criteria c)** Due to its construction as a navigational device, the Obelisk is naturally a prominent feature when approaching the harbour. It stands alone at the top of the hill and its clean, classical lines give it a striking presence. Its location offers wide views across the water and city. The obelisk has local technical significance as an important part of example of the navigation system of the 19th century in Newcastle Harbour.

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

## State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170305

Study Number

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Item Name: **Obelisk**

Location: **3 Ordnance Street, The Hill [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)** Within the limited research carried out for this review, the site was not found to be significant under this criteria.

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

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

**Integrity / Intactness:** The obelisk has a high level of integrity.

References:	Author	Title	Year
		The Australian Encyclopaedia, Volume VI	1963
		Sydney's sewerage-vent obelisk celebrates 150 yrs	2007
		Macquarie Place Precinct, State Heritage Inventory, Database Number: 758942	
	B. Maitland, D. Stafford	Architecture Newcastle	1997
	Emma Dortins	South Head Thematic History in South Head - draft conservation management plan	2006
	Newcastle City Council	Plaque on obelisk	
	Newcastle City Council	Obelisk	

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Unknown	Newcastle Heritage Study	305	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
				DP	54152

**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:** 1850

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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Item Name: **Obelisk**

Location: **3 OrdnanceStreet, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

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: Basic

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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Study Number

305

Item Name: **Obelisk**

Location: **3 OrdnanceStreet, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Obelisk 3 OrdnanceStreet

Copyright:

Image by:

Image Date:

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170305b1.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170305t1.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170305

Study Number

305

Item Name: **Obelisk**

Location: **3 Ordnance Street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: View of the coastline from The Hill

Copyright:

Image by: Julia Kensy

Image Date: 17/12/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170305b4.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170305t4.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170305

Study Number

305

Item Name: **Obelisk**

Location: **3 Ordnance Street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: View of ocean from The Hill

Copyright:

Image by: Julia Kensy

Image Date: 17/12/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170305b2.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170305t2.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170127

Study Number

127

Item Name: **Original Timber Wharves**

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

Address: 99 Selwyn Street

DUAP Region: Hunter & Central Coast

Suburb / Nearest Town: Mayfield North 2304

Historic region: Lower Hunter

Local Govt Area: Newcastle City

Parish:

State: NSW

County:

Other/Former Names: BHP wharves

Area/Group/Complex:

Group ID:

Aboriginal Area:

Curtilage/Boundary:

Item Type: Built

Group: Transport - Water

Category: Wharf

Owner:

Admin Codes: LEP

Code 2:

Code 3:

Current Use:

Former Uses:

Assessed Significance: **Local**

Endorsed Significance:

**Statement of Significance:** The timber wharves have local historic, and aesthetic and technical significance, and rarity value in the context of the Port of Newcastle. The timber wharves have local historical significance as a vital part of the BHP Steelworks, demonstrating the importance of river transport to and from the facility throughout its lifetime. The wharves were extended and adapted at many points since the beginning of their construction in 1912, reflecting the success and growth of the Steelworks across the first half of the twentieth century in particular, as well as the changes in the nature of loading and unloading operations and the growing size of the ships that serviced the site. The distinctive traditional timber construction of the wharves and the readily interpretable evidence of the 'quick response' style of maintenance that was employed to maintain the structure continually in operation, have aesthetic and technical significance locally, evoking the waterfront operations of the early twentieth century.

**Historical Notes or Provenance:** The Steelworks was one of BHP's longest running operations, and constituted a major venture for the Company when begun in the 1910s. The venture was also a significant one for the State, and for NSW's first Labour government, which backed the Steelworks. The Newcastle Steelworks were a large scale, modern integrated steel and iron works, quite different to the existing operation at Lithgow and earlier one at Mittagong, which had struggled and failed against competition from imported iron. The wharves were one of the first structures built on the Steelworks site.

The Broken Hill Mining Company (hence: BHP) was established in 1883 on the discovery of silver, zinc and lead deposits near Broken Hill, NSW. Two years later the Company was incorporated. BHP began its venture into steelmaking in the search for ironstone as a flux in

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

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Study Number

127

Item Name: **Original Timber Wharves**

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

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

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

The BHP Company had purchased a site on the river at Newcastle in the late 1890s, with a view to relocating their copper smelting works from Broken Hill. This site had previously housed the Port Waratah copper smelter, which had failed in the mid 1890s due the combined impact of a massive fall in the world copper price, and damage from flooding. Copper smelting operations of the late nineteenth century were also attracted to Newcastle because of access to cheap coal. Copper was shipped from South Australia where coal cost 23 to 24 shillings per ton to Newcastle where it cost less than 3 shillings per ton. (Conservation Plan: BHP Steelworks, p. 12)

Newcastle was in a precarious position in the first decade of the twentieth century. As the South Maitland coalfield boomed, the inner Newcastle collieries continued to close. By 1910, several thousand miners had moved out of the Newcastle municipality to the new mines at Cessnock and Kurri Kurri. It appeared that the city might have to rely on its function as a port, and service and leisure centre for the Hunter Region for its survival. A steelworks at Newcastle had been repeatedly advocated through the 1890s. One such scheme culminated in the formation of an English syndicate in 1896 for the purpose of building a steelworks with a proposed capacity of 60,000 tons annually, and with a contract to supply the NSW with steel rails. However the depressed state of the economy and lack of positive government action resulted in the non-eventuation of all proposals. The Broken Hill Proprietary Company transformed the local economy by opening its Steelworks at Port Waratah. NSW's first Labour government, under Premier McGowen, was instrumental in the opening of the steelworks. A state-owned steelworks had been part of the party's election platform, and McGowen had commissioned Frederick W. Paul, general manager of the Steel Company of Scotland, to assess the feasibility of a state-owned works in 1910. But the cost

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

## State Heritage Inventory

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2170127

Study Number

127

Item Name: **Original Timber Wharves**

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

of establishing a plant of a size large enough to be efficient was to be enormous. In May 1912, Delprat made overtures to the government, asking for assistance in setting up the BHP Steelworks. After much debate, the McGowen government put aside its own plans for a steelworks, and put its backing behind the BHP venture. The government turned its focus towards the creation of a state dockyard at Newcastle, on Walsh Island, opposite the BHP site, and the other harbour improvements undertaken to support the BHP venture. (Citywide Thematic History, p. 7; Docherty, 1983, pp. 30-34)

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

One of the first requirements was a landing facility for heavy plant and equipment that had been ordered from overseas. The wharf facilities would also be a vital part of the operation of the works, for the delivery of raw materials and shipping of the finished product. As early as October 1912, plans for the wharf were completed, and in November Delprat reported that construction of the wharf had begun where the Government dredging operation had increased the depth of the channel to 25 feet at low tide. The wharf was 600 feet long and of an orthodox timber construction, supported on turpentine piles. A travelling steam crane capable of lifting 60 tons was to be installed on the wharf to receive the heavy plant machinery. The construction of the plant proceeded rapidly. In December 1913, the 11,000 ton Anglo Egyptian arrived at the new pier and discharged 2300 tons of construction material for the furnace. The Steelworks Act of 1912 had decreed that the works be built in five years, it was in fact completed in less than half that time. The Company was anxious to be in a position to tender for the supply of rails for the Transcontinental railway. The first cargo of iron ore from South Australia was delivered in January 1915. Following the production of the first rail on 24 April 1915, the works were officially opened by the Governor General on 2 June 1915. (Conservation Plan: BHP Steelworks, p. 16; EJE, Archival Record ...Main Site BHP, Wharves, p. 7)

Opened in the middle of the Great War, the steelworks was profitable from the beginning. In a little over four months from the commencement of smelting operations the plant had produced 36, 865 tons of pig iron, 17, 442 tons of steel blooms and billets and 11, 782 tons of rails. The Federal Munitions Committee arranged that the Newcastle Steelworks should

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170127

Study Number

127

Item Name: **Original Timber Wharves**

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

provide rail which was urgently required in France, as well as munitions steel. During the Great War, BHP supplied approximately 16, 300 tons of steel rails abroad, and the same tonnage of munitions. This ready market provided by the War helped to put the BHP Steelworks on a strong footing, and the plant expanded more rapidly than the Company had planned. Four additional open hearth furnaces were constructed in 1917, then a second blast furnace, additional coke ovens and a 1000 ton mixer. To provide plate to the shipbuilding industry, and for the building of the No. 2 Blast Furnace, the Bloom Mill was modified enabling the manufacture of more than 13,000 tons of steel. The Rod Mill, second blast furnace and a 100 ton blast furnace to provide ferro-manganese iron (made unavailable by the War) were all commissioned in 1918. The wharf facilities were expanded to service the burgeoning operation. The wharf's length was extended in November 1916, and further in the following year, so that it was 1,300 feet in length in total, and could accommodate four steamers simultaneously. Rail tracks ran along the length of the wharf to carry wagons pulled by steam powered engines to receive the ships' cargo and deliver it to the plant. Further expansion of the works occurred to satisfy post-war demands. (Citywide Thematic History, p. 7; Conservation Plan: BHP Steelworks, p. 16; EJE, Archival Record ...Main Site BHP, Wharves, p. 8)

By 1919 the BHP Steelworks and the State dockyard on Walsh Island had a combined labour force of 7,300. Such economic expansion created the impression that jobs were plentiful in Newcastle and migrants from other parts of Australia and overseas flooded into the Hunter, creating a housing shortage and forcing up rents. This led in turn to new subdivisions and to more intensive development of older residential areas in the 1920s. The end of the war caused a severe contraction in the demand for steel, and as coal exports did not recover, the 1920s were marred by periods of recession. The BHP Steelworks continued to prosper until 1922, when severe overseas competition caused many sections of the works to be closed down, reducing the workforce from 5,500 men to 840. There were signs, however, that the steel industry would eventually recover. Essington Lewis, an outstanding industrialist, now head of the BHP, embarked on a programme of diversification and cost cutting. (Citywide Thematic History, p. 7) Encouraging overseas firms, mainly from Britain, to establish steel processing plants on the fringe of the steel works, Lewis gradually expanded the demand for its produce. Thus, in the 1920s and 1930s, Newcastle acquired the works of the Titan Manufacturing Company, the Australian Wire Rope Works Company, Bullivants Australian Company, the Commonwealth Steel Company, Ryland Brothers, Lysaght Brothers and Stewarts and Lloyds. At the same time he sought to control the cost of raw materials and shipping by buying collieries and ships so that, by the 1930s, his company began to fulfil David Baker's forecast of 1912 by producing some of the world's cheapest steel. (Citywide Thematic History, p. 7)

The original wharf and berthing facilities continued to service all unloading requirements until the early 1950s, coping with a more than twenty fold increase in steel production at the works. But as an intensively used structure, subject to heavy weights and the attentions of Newcastle Harbour's notoriously virulent teredo worms, the wharf was in need of repair and strengthening throughout the period, as well as being improved and extended to cope with the growing demand for raw materials and production. In 1925 the wharf was extended by a further 225 feet, and equipment was installed on the ore wharf for screening the lump manganiferous ore. A section of the wharf was also reinforced with concrete at this time. In 1928 a number of the supporting piles were found to be broken or badly damaged, and

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

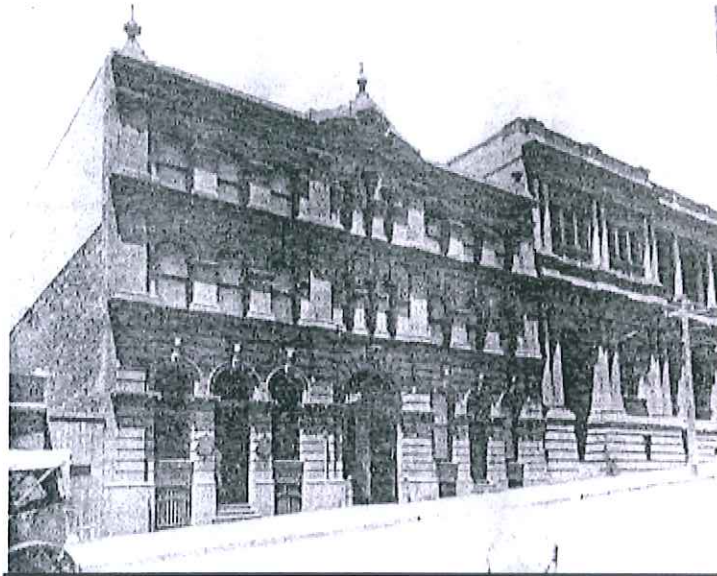
State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number  
2170142  
Study Number  
142

Item Name: **Newcastle Post Office Annexe**

Location: **5 Bolton Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** Post Office Annex c. 1943 [Cadell Collection, Newcastle Region Library, reproduced in Ecotecture, 2000, Plate 4]

**Copyright:** Newcastle Region Library

**Image by:** Greenham Studio

**Image Date:**

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170142b6.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170142t6.jpg

# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2173890

Study Number

Item Name: **Newcastle War Memorial Culture Centre**

Location: **1 Laman Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Address: 1 Laman Street

DUAP Region: Hunter & Central Coast

Suburb / Nearest Town: Newcastle 2300

Historic region: Lower Hunter

Local Govt Area: Newcastle City

Parish:

State: NSW

County:

Other/Former Names:

Area/Group/Complex:

Group ID:

Aboriginal Area:

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

Item Type: Built

Group: Monuments and Mem Category: War Memorial

Owner:

Admin Codes:

Code 2:

Code 3:

Current Use:

Former Uses:

Assessed Significance: **Local**

Endorsed Significance:

**Statement of Significance:** The Cultural Centre has a high level of historical, aesthetic and probably social significance for the City of Newcastle. Its history demonstrates a growing sense of civic pride in Newcastle in the mid 1930s, and again in the post-war period, and a public-mindedness and generosity on the part of aldermen, professionals, artists, citizens and the business community, which enabled the construction of this combined Cultural Centre and War Memorial facility in a period of labour and materials shortages. In providing the city with a public library, art gallery and purpose built home for the conservatorium, the opening of the Cultural Centre was a significant cultural landmark for Newcastle. The building is also a local architectural landmark, which brings variety and interest to the civic precinct. The foyer offers a highly distinctive commemorative space to Newcastle, an unusual war memorial in terms of its mood, configuration and its acknowledgement of women in war. While the Centre's social significance has not been investigated, it is likely the centre has rich associations for the local community in the present.

**Historical Notes or Provenance:** A cultural centre for Newcastle was first conceived in 1936. The 1930s saw a burgeoning interest in public libraries and cultural centres across the State and the nation, associated with the rise of a new class of educated Australians with an interest in enriching local cultural resources. In the mid 1930s Australia could only claim one public reference library in each capital city, with the culture of purchasing books much stronger than that of borrowing. The public-minded of Newcastle, with a maturing sense of civic pride in their city as a regional capital, felt entitled to cultural facilities comparable to those in Sydney. In 1935 the Australian Council of Education Research had issued a report on library facilities based on a survey by Ralph Munn, Director of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh and Ernest Pitt, Chief Librarian of the Public Library of Victoria. The report was very critical of the School of Arts

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number  
**2173890**  
Study Number

Item Name: **Newcastle War Memorial Culture Centre**

Location: **1 Laman Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Library, which formed the chief library facility in Newcastle at that time. The Minister for Education, David Drummond gave an address to the School of Arts Committee in 1936, advocating the establishment of a free public library. Drummond proposed that the School of Arts and Technical College be sold to fund a free public library, and he remained in correspondence with Newcastle Aldermen on the matter over the following months. Newcastle Council established a Cultural Centre Advisory Committee to investigate the establishment of such a centre, incorporating a free public library. The centre was visualised as an integral part of the civic precinct, and in 1938 a site was chosen on the parkland opposite City Hall. Designs were prepared by the City Architect. However, World War II intervened, and the project was not pursued at that time. (Newcastle War Memorial Cultural Centre 50th Anniversary booklet, p. 9; Miller, *The Newcastle Cultural Centre Movement*, pp. 1-9; Maitland and Stafford, *Architecture Newcastle*, p. 148)

The project was quickly revived after the close of hostilities. On July 31 1945, a public meeting was held, chaired by Alderman Norris, at which it was decided that the cultural centre should incorporate a war memorial. A Newcastle War Memorial Cultural Centre Committee was appointed at this meeting. The Cultural Centre was to encompass a lending, reference and children's libraries; a conservatorium of music; an art gallery; a concert hall; and a memorial foyer. (Newcastle City Council, *The Newcastle War Memorial Cultural Centre*, p. 5).

Impetus was given to the renewal of the project by Dr Roland Pope's gift to the City of Newcastle of 200 paintings and 3000 books in 1945. Pope was a widely travelled man, a keen cricketer and patron of cricket, and an ophthalmic surgeon by profession. His art collection included figurative and landscape works by Australian artists including George Lambert, Arthur Streeton, Thea Proctor, and Lloyd Rees, and the personal library which he donated included volumes on cricket, ornithology, ballet, music and art. Newcastle had no suitable place to accommodate the books and paintings and it was a condition of the gift that a library and art gallery be established to house the collection. (Newcastle City Council, *The Newcastle War Memorial Cultural Centre*, pp. 5, 10; Newcastle War Memorial Cultural Centre 50th Anniversary booklet, p. 24)

Funds for the construction of the Cultural Centre were raised partly by means of a public appeal, launched on 13 February 1947 with speeches and a concert. This major fundraising effort, co-ordinated by the Cultural Centre Committee, collected 78,753 pounds in donations from the community. Six thousand pounds was also raised by the Cultural Centre Women's Auxiliary to fund memorial artwork for the foyer of the building. An official organiser was appointed to assist in the fundraising endeavour; a man with a cultural background as well as excellent business and organising skills was required. Mr J. G. D. McNeill, a former Brigadier, was selected. He had come to Newcastle for a holiday in 1922 and had decided to stay, becoming involved in the city's public and cultural life. McNeill secured major donations from the large industrial companies operating in Newcastle, the largest contributions coming from BHP and the Joint Coal Board. A quota contribution scheme was established via which local employees could make a donation by having six pence deducted from their wages each week until they had contributed a pound. The Women's Auxiliary, under president Mrs D. Thomson, conducted hundreds of fundraising events including card parties, afternoon teas and flower shows. Council had been confident that some assistance would be forthcoming from the State Government. However, when the time came, the McGirr

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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Location: **1 Laman Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Government refused to support the project, later making a small contribution to be used for the construction of the Conservatorium. Newcastle City Council footed the remainder of the bill. (Newcastle War Memorial Cultural Centre 50th Anniversary booklet, pp. 7-8)

The two purposes of the proposed building, to be both a memorial and a cultural centre, were strongly brought together by the Mayor Ald. Roy Norris in his radio address of 14 February 1946, following the official launch of the fundraising appeal for the Cultural Centre:

'I feel that every section of the community will desire to take advantage of this opportunity to show your appreciation to those to whom we owe so much [those who paid the supreme sacrifice during the war and those who have returned] and at the same time, enrich our city with a centre for the study and dissemination of beauty, knowledge and the cultural arts which will play such an important part in the future education of our children' (Newcastle War Memorial Cultural Centre 50th Anniversary booklet, p. 5)

These two elements were also brought together during the opening celebrations discussed below, and have also been blended architecturally in the building itself.

The building was designed by a team of local architects, known as 'NEWMEC', made up of Messrs. Castleden and Sara; Hoskins and Pilgrim; Jester, Rodd and Hay; R.G. Lees; Pitt and Merewether, and P. Thelander. The firms took part in an internal competition and a winning design was selected, with the best features of the other designs being incorporated, and improvements made by the team. This unusual arrangement did result in some difficulties in reaching consensus along the way. Although no single architect from the team was singled out for credit, Mr C Hay was particularly involved in seeing the project through construction to completion. The construction work was carried out under V. Doran Pty Ltd, commencing in May 1955. (Newcastle City Council, The Newcastle War Memorial Cultural Centre, p. 4)

As before the war, the post-war vision for a cultural centre was very much connected to the desire for a civic square incorporating the Cultural Centre in a precinct with the City Hall and parkland in between, which has since been developed to form the present Civic Park. After the investigation of a number of other sites, the current site on Laman Street above Civic Park was selected as the most desirable. Part of the site was occupied by the Baptist Tabernacle, and proposals for its demolition or relocation were mooted, but rejected, and this building still stands adjacent to the Cultural Centre. The construction of the Cultural Centre necessitated the demolition of a number of residences along Laman Street. NSW was in the grip of a severe housing shortage post-war. The Minister for Secondary Industries and Building Materials, W. E. Dickson, whose authority was needed to release the bricks and reinforced steel needed for construction, was reluctant to approve the project due to the loss of dwellings involved. Eventually, he consented on the condition that alternative accommodation be found for the tenants. He also required that imported steel be used as local steel was urgently required for other projects. (Newcastle War Memorial Cultural Centre 50th Anniversary booklet, pp. 9-10, 13-14)

A foundation stone had been laid in 1949, prior to the preparation of plans for the building, with the aim of stimulating public interest in the project. It was laid at the eastern end of the area having been resumed by Council for the project and was unveiled by the Governor of

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New South Wales, Sir John Northcott. When the building was actually constructed, however, the stone was left adrift some distance from the building. It was eventually incorporated into the entrance to the Cultural Centre, and the date of construction added to the inscription. (Newcastle War Memorial Cultural Centre 50th Anniversary booklet, p. 13)

A sculpted frieze and central feature 'symbolical of the spirit of sacrifice, peace or some other suitable motif' were to adorn the foyer of the building in keeping with the war memorial function of this part of the building. Five eminent Australian sculptors were invited to take part in a competition in June 1954; Paul Beadle, Wendy Solling, Tom Bass, Lyndon Dadswell and Daphne Mayo. The judging panel included the Lord Mayor, Frank Purdue, Joan Bellette, a Sydney art critic, J. A. Tuckson of the National Gallery of New South Wales, Gerard McDonnell of Sydney University of Technology, and E. C. Sara of the panel of NEWMEC architects. Lyndon Dadswell's entry was selected as the winner. His proposed central feature for the foyer, the two tall bronze figures, man and woman, looking upwards in hope for the future, are the defining feature of the entrance to the library today. His initial proposal also included sculpted friezes depicting maps of parts of the world in which Australians had served during both World Wars. However, Dadswell himself suggested that these may not be necessary, and that he would prefer that the walls be minimally designed, and function as a backdrop to the figures. This preference was borne out in the final design of the war memorial. Controversy surrounded the proposal. Critical comment on Dadswell's design was led by Alderman H Rundle who felt that the figures were a 'monstrosity'. Others also found the figures a distorted representation of the human form which did not tally with their idea of what a war memorial should be. Paul Beadle, fellow competition entrant, was vocal in his support of Dadswell's design, and most significantly, the Women's Auxiliary which had raised the lion's share of funds for the artwork also favoured Dadswell's design, partly because it acknowledged women's role in the war. A public competition was held to find an appropriate inscription for the memorial. Jessie Sheridan-McLaughlin's winning entry: 'In minds ennobled here/The noble dead shall live' adorns the wall above the entrance to the building, held in the steady gaze of the two bronze figures. (Newcastle War Memorial Cultural Centre 50th Anniversary booklet, pp. 16-21)

The facade of the building includes two decorative sandstone panels, sculpted by Paul Beadle, which depict the activities of the Cultural Centre in bas-relief, showing figures, mostly children, reading, talking and playing musical instruments. Due to his interest in the project, and sympathy towards the funding situation, Beadle donated 400 pounds to partly offset the cost of this work. (Newcastle War Memorial Cultural Centre 50th Anniversary booklet, p. 14)

The Newcastle War Memorial Cultural Centre was opened in October 1957 by the Governor of New South Wales, Lieutenant-General Woodward, the ceremony being attended by about 1,000 people. A Newcastle Festival week was planned around the opening and included a mixture of cultural activities and commemorative events. For example, the performance of 'A Prelude to a Ceremony', music written by Frank Hutchens specially to mark the opening of the cultural centre, by the Newcastle Conservatorium students' orchestra; and the 'parade of loyalty', led by eight senior members of Legacy. When opened, the Cultural Centre incorporated a reference and lending library on the ground floor, a children's library and art gallery on the second floor and conservatorium of music on the third floor. (Newcastle War Memorial Cultural Centre 50th Anniversary booklet, pp. 14, 29-30)

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The thriving cultural life of Newcastle over the next decades rendered the space of the building insufficient for combined library, art gallery and conservatorium purposes. In 1964 an extension was made to the basement of the building, in re-inforced concrete and brick, to create a stack room for the library. However, the following year the lending library was forced to move out, to the ground floor of the School of Arts building due to space limitations and lack of car parking facilities. In 1975 the construction of a separate art gallery building was commenced beside the Cultural Centre on the corner of Laman and Darby Streets. This building was completed two years later, and the space previously occupied by the Art Gallery was given over to library purposes. The lending library moved back in to the building. In 1981 the Conservatorium moved to new premises on the nearby corner of Laman and Auckland Streets. With the space now entirely occupied by the library, works on the internal reorganisation of the library layout began in 1982. The most important alteration was the addition of a mezzanine level reference library constructed over the new concrete floor of the children's library. The extensions and alterations were completed in June 1984. Newcastle Public Library has also expanded since its inception and has opened many suburban branches in addition to this thriving library headquarters. (Newcastle City Council, *The Newcastle War Memorial Cultural Centre*, pp. 8-10)

Themes:	National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
	4. Settlement	Towns, suburbs and village	(none)
	6. Educating	Education	(none)
	8. Culture	Creative endeavour (Cultur	(none)
	8. Culture	Leisure	(none)
	8. Culture	Social institutions	(none)

**Designer:** NEWMEC consortium of Newcastle architects

**Maker / Builder:** V. F. Doran and Sons

**Year Started:** 1955      **Year Completed:** 1957      **Circa:** No

**Physical Description:** The Cultural Centre is a three storey steel framed building with basement, comprised of a rectilinear mass, the 'matchbox on its end' shape so often favoured by the sharp edged Post-War International style. The more nuanced treatment of surface and finish on the facade perhaps draws on the Inter-War Functionalist Style. The main facade, facing Laman Street, presents a panel of rounded terracotta ribs protecting recessed aluminium framed windows. The projecting two storey entry facade is faced with a smooth concave curve. The entire Laman Street facade is finished in ceramic glazed terra cotta tiles, which have a light pinkish-brown mottled appearance. The return and rear walls are in plain brick with simple fenestration.

The building is approached via a terrace facing Laman Street, featuring a sandstone porch

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and trachite steps, with ramp added at a later stage. Two bas-relief panels by Paul Beadle flank the entrance - the right hand panel illustrates the activities of the library and art gallery, and the left hand panel the activities of the conservatorium.

The entrance foyer forms the war memorial. Lyndon Dadswell's pair of tall bronze figures, male and female, dominate this space, extending up into the double height space of the foyer. They stand facing Laman Street with chins tilted up towards bronze lettering above the main entrance reading: 'In minds ennobled here/The noble dead shall live'. The foyer is the most richly finished part of the building, featuring red and black terrazzo paving and highly polished travertine (yellow/white) wall panels. The stair from foyer to first level is also in marble with apple green steel balusters and silky oak handrails.

The building looks across Civic Park towards the City Hall, forming part of the civic precinct which is the heart of Newcastle's public life, and providing an architectural contrast to that building's highly classical statement.

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

**Modification Dates:** 1964 - basement extended and modified for library stack room

1982-1984 - alterations and additions. Internal rearrangement of library space, relocation of partition walls, construction of a mezzanine level for the reference library.

1989 - fire safety upgrading works

1990 - extensive repairs necessitated by 1989 earthquake

**Recommended  
Management:**

**Management:**

**Further Comments:**

**Criteria a)** The Cultural Centre has a high level of historical significance for the City of Newcastle. Its conception in the mid 1930s was associated with an Australia-wide growth in interest in public, local cultural resources, as well as a growing civic pride in Newcastle and sense of entitlement to the facilities befitting a modern city. This interwar mentalite came together with the commemorative needs of Newcastle post-war in the bringing to fruition of the Newcastle War Memorial Cultural Centre in the 1950s. The combined function of the building, as expressed in its title and its architecture and artwork, and its central place in the civic precinct of the city continue to demonstrate these historical associations. In providing the city with a public library, art gallery and purpose built home for the conservatorium, the opening of the Cultural Centre was a significant cultural landmark for Newcastle.

**Criteria b)** The Cultural Centre has local significance through its association with a number of eminent Newcastle architecture firms, including Castleden and Sara and Pitt and Merewether, who worked in collaboration to produce the designs for the building.

**Criteria c)**

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The building is a local architectural landmark, as a major, well-finished, public building in a distinctive post-war modern style which brings variety and interest to the civic precinct, providing a counterpoint to the classical City Hall, and the Art Deco Nesca House in particular. The foyer offers a highly distinctive commemorative space to Newcastle. The lofty interior space, with Dadswell's striking civilian figures evoking a contemplative optimism, remains an unusual memorial in terms of its mood, configuration and its acknowledgement of women in war.

**Criteria d)** While this aspect of the centre's significance has not been investigated, it is likely that many older members of the community retain a sense of ownership of the Cultural Centre resulting from the high level of public involvement in fundraising for the centre, and excitement surrounding the competitions for its design, as well as more personal associations with the building's commemorative function. The continued occupation of the building by the Newcastle Region Library, which is well-utilised by local residents, and its bold architectural statement as a prominent part of the civic precinct make it likely that the centre has rich associations for the local community in the present.

**Criteria e)** The Centre has not been found to be significant under this criterion.

**Criteria f)** The Centre has not been found to be significant under this criterion.

**Criteria g)** The Centre has not been found to be significant under this criterion.

**Integrity / Intactness:** The internal structure of the building has evolved somewhat since completion, but the Centre retains a high level of integrity in terms of its overall structure, main facade and significant interior and exterior finishes.

References:	Author	Title	Year
	Barry Maitland and David Stafford	Architecture Newcastle	1997
	Margaret Miller	'The Newcastle Cultural Centre Movement 1935-1957', Honours Thesis submitted to University of Newcastle	1988
	Newcastle City Council	The Newcastle War Memorial Cultural Centre Conservation Study	1996
	Newcastle Region Library	Newcastle War Memorial Cultural Centre, 50th Anniversary	2007

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

Parcels:	Parcel Code	LotNumber	Section	Plan Code	Plan Number
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Latitude:

Longitude:

Location validity:

Spatial Accuracy:

Map Name:

Map Scale:

AMG Zone:

Easting:

Northing:

Listings: Name: Title: Number: Date:

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

## State Heritage Inventory

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Study Number

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Location: **1 Laman Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Local Environmental Plan

8/08/2003

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: 11/09/2003

Date Updated: 24/07/2008

Status: Basic

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Location: **1 Laman Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** Newcastle War Memorial Cultural Centre facade showing panelled wall and curved foyer entrance.

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** S.Skillen

**Image Date:** 11/10/2006

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2173890b1.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** t\_2173890.jpg

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Location: **1 Laman Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** Newcastle War Memorial Cultural Centre main entrance viewed through avenue of fig trees Laman Street

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Emma Dortins

**Image Date:** 18/12/2007

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2173890b2.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2173890t2.jpg

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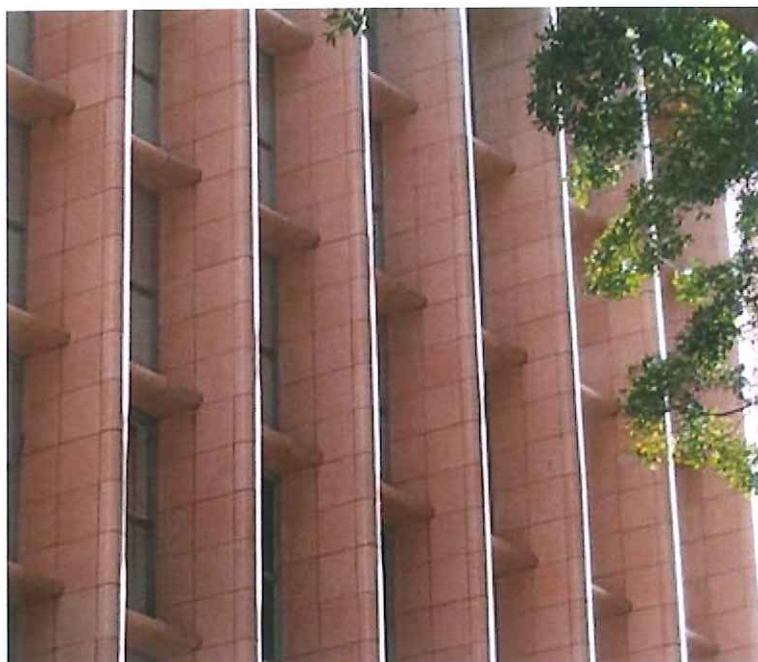
State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number  
2173890  
Study Number

Item Name: **Newcastle War Memorial Culture Centre**

Location: **1 Laman Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** Close view of the ceramic glazed terra cotta tiled panels of the Laman Street facade.

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Emma Dortins

**Image Date:** 18/12/2007

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2173890b3.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2173890t3.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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Location: **1 Laman Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** Bas-relief panel to right side of main entrance by Paul Beadle, depicting adults and children sculpting, painting and reading.

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Emma Dortins

**Image Date:** 18/12/2007

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2173890b4.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2173890t4.jpg

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Item Name: **Newcastle War Memorial Culture Centre**

Location: **1 Laman Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Pair of bronze figures inside war memorial foyer, and showing marble finished walls and flooring

Copyright:

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 18/12/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2173890b5.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2173890t5.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170198

Study Number

198

Item Name: **Newcastle Hospital North Wing**

Location: **21 Pacific Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** Photograph illustrating proximity to the coast

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Julia Kensy

**Image Date:** 22/04/2008

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170198b6.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170198t6.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

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Study Number

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Item Name: **Newcastle Hospital North Wing**

Location: **21 Pacific Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** Newcastle Hospital North Wing from Pacific Street

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Julia Kensy

**Image Date:** 22/04/2008

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170198b7.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170198t7.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

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Study Number

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Item Name: **Newcastle Hospital North Wing**

Location: **21 Pacific Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** Newcastle Hospital North Wing 1 King Street

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Sharn Harrison

**Image Date:** 2/10/1997

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170198b1.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** t\_2170198b1.jpg

# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

## State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170142

Study Number

142

Item Name: **Newcastle Post Office Annexe**

Location: **5 Bolton Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Address: 5 Bolton 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: Postal and Telecomm Category: Post Office

Owner: Private - Corporate

Admin Codes: LEP

Code 2:

Code 3:

Current Use:

Former Uses: Warehouse; bond store; offices and commercial premises; postal services

Assessed Significance: **Local**

Endorsed Significance:

**Statement of Significance:** The Post Office Annex is locally significant as it represents key phases in Newcastle's commercial history and demonstrates the growth and importance of this major regional commercial centre from the late nineteenth century. It is associated with a number of prominent individuals and institutions that have played an important role in Newcastle and the region, including: entrepreneurs, John and Joseph Wood, architects, Mansfield Bros and Pitt and Merewether; the Castlemaine Brewery, Tooth & Co. Ltd., the AML Company and the Postmaster General / Australia Post. The Annex is aesthetically significant as one of few remaining buildings in the Newcastle CBD in the Victorian Classical style with a finely detailed complete sandstone facade. It is a particularly fine example of its style and with the adjoining Post Office building, it makes a significant and harmonious contribution to the streetscape. Throughout its many incarnations, the Post Office Annex has been an integral part of the fabric of commercial and social life in the Newcastle CBD since the mid-1870s.

**Historical Notes or Provenance:** The former Newcastle Post Office Annex is situated at 5 Bolton Street, on land originally granted to Edward Flood in December 1854. By April 1859, when John Rayden Bingle acquired the property through inheritance, a three-storeyed stone, slated roofed warehouse was in the process of being built. Part of the building was leased in 1865 and converted to a bonded store by the Wood brothers, John and Joseph, who began trading in that year as wholesale wine and spirit merchants and went on to become two of Newcastle's wealthiest and most influential residents. That warehouse was destroyed by fire in August 1874, the liquor fuelling the flames, which also destroyed the property of a Mr Innes, who had occupied the upper storey, for storing ships' chandlery; as well as a storeroom utilised by the Railway Department., and the ground floor store of a Mr Gardiner, which held furniture, fancy goods, pictures and flour. (Ecotecture, 2000, pp 1-2)

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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Item Name: **Newcastle Post Office Annexe**

Location: **5 Bolton Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Five months after the fire the Wood brothers purchased the land on which the former store had stood and by July 1875 their new store was almost complete. It is possible that the new building was designed by Sydney firm, Mansfield Bros., who designed several prominent Newcastle buildings, including premises for the Commercial Banking Company. The new store was described as 'one of the principal ornaments of the city'. It was constructed of stone with a slate roof and contained a cellar, ground floor and two upper floors. The foundations were 24 inches thick and the upper walls were 18 inches thick. A cart dock at the entrance to the building provided access to a discharge platform. (Ecotecture, 2000, pp 1-2)

In 1874, in partnership with Robert Prendergast and Nicholas Fitzgerald of the Castlemaine Brewery, Sydney, the Wood brothers, who had been agents for Castlemaine ale since 1868, expanded their business to include brewing. Trading as Prendergast, Wood & Co. And Wood Bros and Co. Merchants and Importers, the company constructed the Castlemaine Brewery, which commenced production in 1876. (Ecotecture, 2000, p 2)

Following John Wood's sudden death in 1887 ownership of the business and properties, including the Bolton Street store passed to the newly formed Castlemaine Brewery and Wood Brothers & Co. In 1921 all the Company's assets were acquired by Tooth & Co. The building continued to be used as a bond store until the cessation of brewing at Newcastle led to its closure in late 1931. The building was then surplus to the needs of Tooth & Co., and it was offered to the Postmaster General's Department for 12,000 pounds, but this was rejected. The main Post Office occupied the large and imposing building constructed on the corner of Hunter and Bolton Streets, in 1904, however, the Department had to rent additional office space for some functions due to overcrowding. During the next few years, the building remained empty, and while architects, Pitt & Merewether were engaged to produce plans for the conversion of the store to office accommodation, the alterations were not carried out. (Ecotecture, 2000, pp 2-3)

In February 1936 the building was finally sold to Australian Metropolitan Life Assurance Co. Ltd. (AML), one of Australia's major life assurance companies, which, like other such institutions at the time, such as AMP, T&G and CML, sought to establish a presence in Newcastle with prominent, purpose-built buildings. Local architects, John W. Oldham and Lees prepared plans for remodelling, transforming the building internally from a store to offices. Oldham was responsible for many significant buildings in Newcastle, including the Hamilton Wesley Uniting Church, extensions to the Co-Operative Store and Blackall House. Alterations were carried out by J. E. Parry of Hamilton, transforming the store internally. The interior was refloored, ceilings replaced, walls plastered, the floor space divided with partitions and toilets provided on each floor. Externally, the rough cast sandstone walls that had weathered considerably were cement-coated, while the freestone front was cleaned down; and the slate roof replaced with corrugated asbestos. It is likely that modifications to the facade were also made at this time as the creation of a new 'artistic vestibule' eliminated the need for the two doors one either side of the former cart dock. These doors were replaced with windows and additional stonework was inserted to match that below the existing windows, although this may not have been done until the collonade was created by the Post Office at a later date. Occupants of the newly remodelled building included Evelyn Bower's 'Bowery Coffee Shop', the Maisonette Beauty Parlour and the Linwood School of

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Location: **5 Bolton Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Physical Culture, the latter leasing the entire top floor in 1942. During World War 2 the basement was adapted for use as an air raid shelter. (Ecotecture, 2000, pp 3-4, 10)

Despite rejecting the offer made in the 1930s to acquire the Bolton Street building, the Postmaster General's Department had continued to face accommodation problems, into the 1940s and was chastised in the local newspaper for losing an opportunity to provide Newcastle with a large post office, commensurate with the importance of the district. In 1943 the continuing shortage of accommodation brought the Postmaster General to Newcastle to assess the situation. It was then decided to acquire the AML building, though ongoing difficulties with negotiations resulted in the compulsory acquisition of the property from AML in September 1943. Existing tenants were ordered to vacate the building within two weeks. With Christmas approaching, congestion at the Post Office was increasing and at the end of November 1943 temporary alterations were nearing completion to enable the parcels and packets section to be transferred to the Bolton Street building. Over the next twelve months the Post Office was remodelled extensively, with works including the connection of the Post Office and Bolton Street building, repairs to the heavy timbering installed as an air raid precaution and the installation of a central heating system. (Ecotecture, 2000, pp 3-5)

The basement of the Bolton Street annex included a classroom and recreation room for the Postal Institute, accommodation for postwomen and the postmen's overseer, an area for cleaning staff, and toilets. The ground floor included areas for pensions and custom parcels, female toilet facilities and a locker room. An area for private mail boxes on the southern side of the building where the door and two windows were removed to create an open colonnade. The first floor was used primarily as a mail room and small offices for the superintendent and his assistant. On the second floor, the District Inspector and his staff occupied the southern side, while the Postal Institute and library were located on the northern side. The Radio Inspector occupied the area behind the library, with the rear section of the floor housing male and female lunchrooms, each with adjoining toilet facilities. In order to facilitate surveillance of the parcel and mail sorting areas by the Customs Department, the back area of those sections was fitted with a false wall containing peep holes, which were accessed from a series of concealed ladders extending from the basement to the first floor. (Ecotecture, 2000, p 5)

When the Newcastle Mail Centre opened at Broadmeadow in 1973, followed by the removal of the Telecom Accounts Section to new premises in Hunter Street in 1974, the Bolton Street annex was largely unused, with the exception of the male and female lunch rooms. In 1983 the area vacated by Telecom was used as a conference room for the Australia Post Training Section. At this time, consideration was given to leasing part of the building, but this plan did not eventuate. A building inspection in 1983 revealed it to be structurally sound with no cracking in the facade, though extensive cracking along the interior of the facade was noted. White ant infestation had also damaged the timber beams and rising damp on the west wall of the basement was noted. Following the 1989 earthquake, repairs entailed tying the facade of the building back to the main structure. In 1996 the building ceased to be used by Australia Post and in 1999 it was sold to a private owner. (Ecotecture, 2000, p 5)

The Post Office Annex is one of very few buildings in the Newcastle CBD with full sandstone facades - the Post Office itself, the National and ANZ Bank buildings and the AMP building are other examples. However the Post Office Annex is considered to be one of the finest

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

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Study Number

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Item Name: **Newcastle Post Office Annexe**

Location: **5 Bolton Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

examples of these in terms of its architectural design and mastery of the classical style. (Ecotecture, 2000, p10) The Annex is highly representative of the Victorian Academic Classical style found in many corporate and civic buildings around Australia, including the former Hibernian Hall in Swanston Street Melbourne (Apperley, Irving & Reynolds, 1994, p 55) reflecting the exuberant corporate aggrandisement of the late nineteenth century. The Annex is situated close to a precinct of important nineteenth and early twentieth century civic buildings fronting Hunter Street in the block between Watt and Bolton Streets, which include: the Post Office, Police Station, former Telegraph Office and Public Works Department buildings.

Themes:	National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
	3. Economy	Commerce	(none)
	3. Economy	Communication	(none)
	4. Settlement	Towns, suburbs and village	(none)
	4. Settlement	Utilities	(none)
	9. Phases of Life	Persons	(none)

**Designer:** Mansfield Bros. (1875 - probably); Oldham & Lees (1936)

**Maker / Builder:** J E Parry (1936)

**Year Started:** 1875      **Year Completed:** 1944      **Circa:** No

**Physical Description:** The Post Office Annexe is a substantial three storey structure, plus basement, constructed of finely dressed sandstone, with an ornate carved stone facade in the Victorian Academic Classical style, fronting Bolton Street. It sits adjacent to the side facade of the Newcastle Post Office, though it is set back slightly further from the street than the Post Office. While the main Post Office was built in 1904 in the Federation Academic Classical Style, the Annex blends harmoniously with the Post Office, having been subsequently modified and integrated more fully, functionally and aesthetically with its neighbour. The Annex building is built hard to all allotment boundaries and is arranged in three bays, the side bays being wider than the central bay, reflecting the original internal layout of two wings either side of a central carriageway. Each side bay is divided into three openings, featuring elongated windows, creating the impression of columns forming a colonnade at ground level. The central bay features columns at the upper levels. The ground floor is the most intensely detailed, featuring arched entryway and openings, with heavily carved keystones; moulded architraves and deep sills and panels above the basement openings. The window sill is continued as a heavy bracketed string course across the whole facade on both the upper levels, giving the impression of squat 'collonades' at each level. Other detailing, including moulded architraves and keystones on the first floor level are very plain, while on the top floor, more detail is reintroduced, though windows feature flattened arches without keystones. The entablature formed by the parapet wall emphasises the symmetry of the building by the arched and stepped pediment above the central bay. The whole is capped

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Item Name: **Newcastle Post Office Annexe**

Location: **5 Bolton Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

with simple finials to the end pilaster and pediment, which are prominent against the skyline. The massing and variation in detailing of the facade make it a highly refined piece of architecture. The roof is of traditional timber framing or trusses clad with corrugated iron. It follows the pattern of three bays with individual hipped roofs over each. (Ecotecture, 2000, pp 6-7)

Internally, the layout of the building is consistent throughout all four levels, being two matching wings either side of a central spine. Walls are plastered with decorative tiling to foyer and staircase; floors are timber-framed and ceilings are mainly pressed metal. There is a central lift and staircase as well as secondary staircases in various locations. The most striking feature of the interior is the entrance foyer, with its terrazzo floor laid in an intricate geometric pattern in green, black, yellow and red highlights; glazed ceramic walls; double doors to the entry lobby and to the northern wing, timber framed with bevelled glass panels and circular features; and a timber panelled vestibule at the entry doors. (Ecotecture, 2000, pp 6-8)

**Physical Condition:** The building appears to be in good physical condition externally. No internal inspection was carried out during the present study (2007-8). The study carried out by Ecotecture in 2000 indicated that an inspection carried out in 1983 found the building to be structurally sound, though with extensive cracking to the interior of the facade on the second floor, with the ceiling moving away from the wall. The cracks were believed to have been caused by drying out of foundations. The cracks were patched. White ant infestation had damaged timber floor beams and render on the west wall of the basement had softened due to rising damp. These problems were addressed at the time. (Ecotecture, 2000, p 5)

**Modification Dates:** 1936 - alterations to facade and interior during refurbishment undertaken by Australian Mutual Life Ltd., included modification of main entrance, which was the former carriageway; lowering of the three openings to southern bay to floor level to form an open colonnade. Externally, the rough cast sandstone walls that had weathered considerably were cement-coated, while the freestone front was cleaned down; and the slate roof replaced with corrugated asbestos. The two stone window sills and panels removed were recut to fit the doorway of the northern bay. The interior was refloored, ceilings replaced, walls plastered, the floor space divided with partitions and toilets provided on each floor. The original goods lift was replaced with another lift at this time.

1942 - basement converted for use as air raid shelter.

1943-44 - major internal remodelling to suit requirements of Post Office functions. Bolton Street building was physically connected to the Post Office; internal spaces reconfigured; additional toilet facilities provided; repairs made to the heavy timbering installed as an air raid precaution and central heating system installed.

1989 - repairs included tying facade back to main structure.

**Recommended Management:**

Item should be considered as part of the group of Victorian buildings, including PWD Building, former Telegraph Office, Police Station and Post Office in the block along Hunter Street between Watt and Bolton Streets.

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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Item Name: **Newcastle Post Office Annexe**

Location: **5 Bolton Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Management:

Further Comments:

- Criteria a)** The Post Office Annex is historically significant at a local level as it is associated with Newcastle's commercial and industrial history. Built as a bond store and warehouse for brewers, Wood Bros, the Castlemaine Brewery and Tooth & Co., it subsequently served as offices for Australian Mutual Life, one of Australia's major life insurance companies; also accommodating smaller local businesses before incorporation into the Post Office. Thus, it has been part of the fabric of commercial life in Newcastle almost continuously from its construction in the mid-1870s, reflecting changes in the commercial development of the city and particularly reflecting its growth and status in the late nineteenth century as an important regional centre. Its architectural style represents the corporate aggrandisement that characterised many of the commercial premises constructed in Newcastle, and the state during the late-nineteenth century.
- Criteria b)** The Annex has local significance for its association with several individuals and institutions that played a prominent role in Newcastle, including: businessmen, John and Joseph Wood; architects, Mansfield Bros and Pitt and Merewether; the Castlemaine Brewery, Tooth & Co. Ltd., the AML Company and Australia Post.
- Criteria c)** The Annex is aesthetically significant at a local level as its Victorian Classical facade one of the finest examples of mid-nineteenth century carved sandstone in the Newcastle CBD, surviving in good repair and fundamentally intact. The interiors, particularly the style and detailing of the entrance foyer, staircase and pressed metal ceilings are good examples of their era. Both the interior and exterior attest to the prominent status assumed by corporate institutions such as AML seeking to establish an impressive presence in major regional centres as well as capital cities. The building makes a significant contribution to the Bolton Street streetscape. Its close proximity and physical harmony with the 1904 Post Office which, together with a number of important Victorian-era public buildings in Hunter Street, form an outstanding intact streetscape, add to its significance as part of this precinct.
- Criteria d)** The Annex is likely to have a high level of social significance locally as an integral part of the commercial and social life of the Newcastle CBD, particularly during its period of occupation by the AML Company and various local businesses including a coffee shop, beauty parlour and physical culture school in the 1930s, then as part of the Post Office from the 1940s until 1996. The site would thus have been a regular part of business and social life for generations of Novocastrians.
- Criteria e)** The building has research significance for its ability to demonstrate construction techniques of mid-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It also has the ability to demonstrate aspects of post office operations from the mid to late twentieth century. It is also possible that evidence of earlier phases of the site's history may exist.
- Criteria f)** The building is rare locally as one of few examples of a facade constructed completely in sandstone.
- Criteria g)** The Annex is representative of the Victorian Academic Classical style of architecture.

Integrity / Intactness: High

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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**142**

Item Name: **Newcastle Post Office Annexe**

Location: **5 Bolton Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

References:	Author	Title	Year
	Apperley, Richard, Irving, Robert & Reynolds, Peter	A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture	1994
	Ecotecture	Post Office Annex 5 Bolton Street, Newcastle NSW, Conservation Management Plan	2000
	Maitland, Barry & Stafford, David	Architecture Newcastle - A Guide	1997

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Unknown	Newcastle Heritage Study	142	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		DP	430746

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		000640	
	Heritage study			
	National Trust of Australia register			
	Register of the National Estate			

Custom Field One: 1870

Custom Field Two:

Custom Field Three:

Custom Field Four:

Custom Field Five: Archaeological Potential

Custom Field Six:

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

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Item Name: **Newcastle Post Office Annexe**

Location: **5 Bolton Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** Newcastle Post Office Annexe 5 Bolton Street

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Sharn Harrison

**Image Date:** 2/10/1997

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170142b1.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** t\_2170142b1.jpg

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Item Name: **Newcastle Post Office Annexe**

Location: **5 Bolton Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** Newcastle Post Office Annexe blends harmoniously with adjoining Post Office

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Rosemary Kerr

**Image Date:** 2/04/2008

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170142b3.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170142t3.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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Item Name: **Newcastle Post Office Annexe**

Location: **5 Bolton Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** Early (undated) photo of Post Office on corner of Hunter & Bolton Streets with Annexe in Bolton Street [Source: Hunter Photo Bank]

**Copyright:** Newcastle Regional Library

**Image by:**

**Image Date:**

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170142b4.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170142t4.jpg

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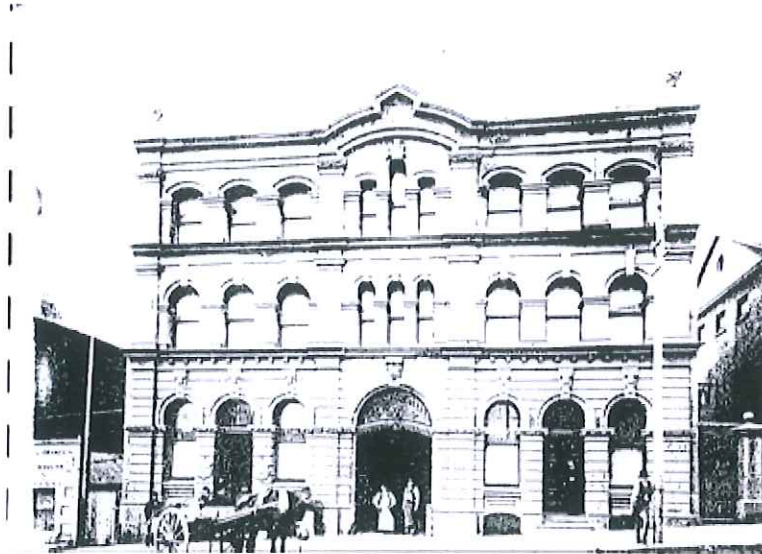
Study Number

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Item Name: **Newcastle Post Office Annexe**

Location: **5 Bolton Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** The building in 1888 as built for Woods Bros as a warehouse. Entranceway was originally a cart access opening. [Published in 'Illustrated Sydney News' Feb 16 1886, reproduced in Ecotecture, 2000, p63]

**Copyright:**

**Image by:**

**Image Date:** 16/02/1886

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170142b5.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170142t5.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170189

Study Number

189

Item Name: **National Australia Bank**

Location: **73 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** View across former service area

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Emma Dortins

**Image Date:** 22/04/2008

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170189b3.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170189t3.jpg

# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170189

Study Number

189

Item Name: **National Australia Bank**

Location: **73 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** View across main service area

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Emma Dortins

**Image Date:** 22/04/2008

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170189b4.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170189t4.jpg



# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

## State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170003

Study Number

3

Item Name: **Newcastle Crematorium**

Location: **176 Anderson Drive, Beresfield [Newcastle City]**

**Address:** 176 Anderson Drive  
**Suburb / Nearest Town:** Beresfield 2322  
**Local Govt Area:** Newcastle City  
**State:** NSW

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

**Other/Former Names:** Beresfield Crematorium

**Area/Group/Complex:**

**Group ID:**

**Aboriginal Area:**

**Curtilage/Boundary:** The recommended curtilage would follow the boundaries of the rectangular formally landscaped garden area in which the crematorium sits.

**Item Type:** Area/Complex/Group **Group:** Cemeteries and Buria **Category:** Crematorium

**Owner:** Private - Corporate

**Admin Codes:** LEP

**Code 2:**

**Code 3:**

**Current Use:** Crematorium

**Former Uses:** Crematorium

**Assessed Significance:** Local

**Endorsed Significance:**

**Statement of Significance:** The Newcastle Crematorium has a high level of historical and aesthetic significance for Newcastle and the wider Hunter Region. Its construction was associated with the introduction of the modern practice of cremation to the region, as this form of funerary rite became more widely accepted across the State in the 1930s. As part of a small group of NSW crematoria of that decade, the Newcastle Crematorium thus helps to demonstrate the changing understandings of and responses to death associated with the practice. The Newcastle Crematorium represents a high level of architectural and landscaping achievement within Newcastle and the wider Hunter region, as a fine example of the Art Deco style, set in a formally landscaped garden. Along with the other crematoria designed by Robertson, and the C. Bruce Dellitt's Anzac Memorial (Sydney), it forms part of a small group of commemorative buildings in NSW that employ the Art Deco style to create a dignified and solemn atmosphere. Along with other architectural landmarks in Newcastle, the Crematorium is a marker of the status of Newcastle as NSW's second city as the city matured in the first half of the twentieth century.

**Historical Notes or Provenance:** The Newcastle Crematorium was constructed c1936 for Cremations (Newcastle) Limited, on a site of 25 acres at Beresfield, ten miles from central Newcastle. The Crematorium and its landscaped grounds are associated with the themes of Phases of Life, Birth and Death, and Creative Endeavour. The Crematorium was designed by a prominent Sydney architect, Louis Leighton Robertson, in a similar style to his Woronora and Eastern Suburbs Crematoria in Sydney, using the Art Deco style in a restrained fashion to create a peaceful and respectful atmosphere. The Crematorium is among those constructed in the Inter-war

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

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Item Name: **Newcastle Crematorium**

Location: **176 Anderson Drive, Beresfield [Newcastle City]**

period, just as cremation was becoming mainstream in Australia.

Burial had become strongly associated with Christian beliefs from late antiquity, against a background of generally practiced cremation in the ancient Greek and Roman civilizations. From the fifth century AD, cremation became almost unknown in Christianized western Europe. Interest in cremation was reawakened in the western world in the late nineteenth century. The Cremation Society of England was established in 1874, and a small group of proponents worked against considerable opposition towards the acceptance of the practice. The proponents of the practice argued that cremation was more hygienic and modern than traditional earth burial. Their campaigns were assisted by the application of new technology which saw the development of specially designed furnaces and purpose built crematoria. Cremation was pronounced legal in the United Kingdom in 1884, as the result of a trial of a man for cremating the body of his dead child in Wales. The first official British cremation took place the following year. (Cremation Society of Great Britain website)

In Australia, cremation was advocated seriously from the 1860s onwards, particularly by a series of prominent medical practitioners like Dr John Le Gay Brereton, and Dr John Mildred Creed in Sydney, Dr James Neild in Melbourne, and Dr Robert Wylde in Adelaide. Dr Creed became known as the father of cremation in Australia. He tried unsuccessfully to have cremation legislation passed in NSW in 1886 and 1887, and in 1890 he formed Australia's first Cremation Society to promote the cause. The cremationists had to counter considerable opposition. Many people thought cremation was at best irreligious and at worst barbaric. The strongest opponents came from the Catholic Church which banned cremation for its members in 1886, and did not finally remove the ban until the 1960s. Others argued that Australia had plenty of land for earth burials and there was no need for change. Supporters came from a surprisingly broad range within the community. They included medical practitioners, politicians, scientists, public health officials, religious figures, educationists, social reformers and women's rights campaigners, successful businessmen and lawyers. Many were from Australia's professional and social elite, creating an early image problem for the cremationists in their attempts to get all classes interested. South Australia achieved the first Cremation Act in 1891 and, after a decade of fund raising, built the first modern crematorium, adjacent to Adelaide's West Terrace Cemetery. The first cremation there was on 4 May 1903. In Victoria, after a Cremation Bill was passed in 1903, a simple outdoor furnace was constructed at Melbourne's Springvale Cemetery and used from 1905 onwards. But it was many more years before a second modern crematorium was available. The only alternative was open-air funeral pyre cremations, and several of these were conducted on the outskirts of Melbourne, Sydney and Perth in the 1890s. (The Cemeteries & Crematoria Association of NSW website)

In NSW, Dr Creed reformed the cremation campaign and the Cremation Society in 1908, but their work was sidelined by the outbreak of World War I. After the war, the local cremationists formed a private cremation company and eventually obtained the lease on some government land in Rookwood Cemetery. They raised funds and commissioned local architect Frank l'Anson Bloomfield to draw up plans for a modern crematorium. In 1923 a NSW Cremation Act was finally passed and building work began on a simple design which allowed for future expansion. The first cremation at Rookwood Crematorium was conducted on 28 May 1925. There were 122 cremations in the first year of operation and the success set off something of a crematorium building boom around Australia. In Melbourne, Fawcner

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Item Name: **Newcastle Crematorium**

Location: **176 Anderson Drive, Beresfield [Newcastle City]**

Crematorium was opened in 1927. In Sydney, Northern Suburbs Crematorium was opened in 1933, Woronora Crematorium in 1934, and Eastern Suburbs Crematorium in 1938. The Newcastle Crematorium at Beresfield was opened in 1936. There were also modern crematoria built in Brisbane in 1934, at Melbourne's Springvale in 1936, Hobart in 1936, Perth in 1937 and Launceston in 1939. Rookwood and Northern Suburbs were run by the Cremation Society and its private company, Eastern Suburbs and Woronora by their Cemetery Trusts, and Beresfield by another private company established by Newcastle businessmen. By the 1950s cremation was being widely accepted by Australians. From the 1960s it began to overtake earth burial as the first choice of a majority of people. Depending on proximity to a crematorium around Australia it can now be the choice for anywhere between 50% and 70% of people. (The Cemeteries & Crematoria Association of NSW website)

The NSW crematoria at this time were all architecturally designed large-scale undertakings. The Northern Suburbs Crematorium, like that at Rookwood was designed by Frank Bloomfield. The Newcastle Crematorium was designed by prominent Sydney based firm, Louis Leighton Robertson, which was also responsible for the designs of the roughly contemporary Woronora, and Eastern Suburbs Crematoria in Sydney.

Louis Leighton Robertson (1897 - 1966), was son of prominent architect Louis Spier Robertson. Robertson senior was born in Sydney in 1868, son of Louis Robertson, a draughtsman in the New South Wales Colonial Architect's Office, and practised in Sydney as an architect and building surveyor from c.1890, possibly in partnership with F.G. Castleden as Castleden and Robertson. Later he moved to Rockhampton where he married Elizabeth Frances Leighton on 26 April 1896 and began a successful architectural practice in January 1897. In 1905 he moved back to Sydney, but continued to undertake Queensland work. In 1910 he designed the first self-supporting fully steel-framed building in Australia, Nelson House erected in Clarence Street, Sydney. Robertson senior died in 1932, and Louis Leighton Robertson, who had worked in partnership with his father, continued the practice. As well as for his three beautiful crematoria, the younger Robertson was well known as a practitioner of the Inter-war Chicagoesque style, which was most frequently employed on unpretentious commercial buildings. (RAIA NSW Architects Bibliographical Information; Apperly, Irving and Reynolds, *Identifying Australian Architecture*, p. 183; Freeland, *Architecture Australia*, pp. 249-50)

From the early decades of the twentieth century, Newcastle began to take on the status of NSW's second city. Newcastle's splendid City Hall and Civic Theatre, completed in 1929, were architectural markers of this status. (Citywide Thematic History, p. 8) The Crematorium at Beresfield, constructed as the city climbed out of the Depression on the back of the steel industry, was another such marker, being a significant Art Deco building, and the first crematorium in the State to be constructed outside the Sydney region.

Newcastle Crematorium originally comprised a chapel, columbarium, cremating chamber, rest pavilion, and offices and retiring rooms. The chapel, flanked by colonnades, was designed to accommodate about 200 people, seated. Provision was made for the addition of a second chapel at a later date. The columbarium was designed to house memorial urns and tablets. The cremating chamber is located to the rear of the chapel, and originally housed two Gibbons coke-fired cremation retorts. The layout of the site was also carefully

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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Item Name: **Newcastle Crematorium**

Location: **176 Anderson Drive, Beresfield [Newcastle City]**

designed with car parking, drives, lawns and plantings, developed as a 'Garden of Remembrance'. (Architecture, 1st April, 1936, Building, 24th April 1937)

Maitland and Stafford note that although the Art Deco style had more commonly been 'associated with places of leisure, such as hotels and cinemas, its potential for more sombre and contemplative building types was demonstrated in the Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park, Sydney designed by C. Bruce Dellitt' in 1934. The 1920s-30s crematoria took on the Art Deco, or sometimes the Inter-war Mediterranean style, as simple and dignified architectural language with which to create a sense of clarity and tranquillity through a modern interpretation of classicism. The Newcastle Crematorium adopted an Art Deco design similar to that of the slightly larger Woronora Crematorium, and it was again repeated for the Eastern Suburbs Crematorium. The Woronora Crematorium was described in a 1930s promotional booklet as a place where 'beauty softens grief', and this same effect has been achieved at Newcastle. (Maitland and Stafford, Architecture Newcastle, p. 137); Graham Jahn, Sydney Architecture, p. 127; Architecture, 1st March, 1936).

The three Louis Roberston crematoria are similar in style, construction and feel, and employ similar materials, although the Woronora Crematorium was designed with two chapels, giving the building a different layout and massing. The contracting engineer, Norman R Smith, of Bexley, also worked on both the Woronora and Newcastle projects. In c1937, the firm designed a third Crematorium, the Eastern Suburbs (Botany) Crematorium, which is again very similar in spirit. He also worked on a rest pavilion and crematorium at Northern Suburbs Cemetary (Architecture, 1st March, 1936; RAI NSW Architects Bibliographical Information)

The Newcastle Crematorium was already of interest in architectural circles when it was in process of construction, with an article appearing in Architecture magazine in April 1936, which described the design and intent of the building, and its affinities with the Woronora Crematorium. An article also appeared in Building magazine in April 1937, when the Crematorium was complete. This review was very admiring of the restrained elegance, and minute attention to detail of the exterior and interior design, finding 'nothing out of place', creating an appropriate 'atmosphere of reverence'. (Architecture, 1st April, 1936, Building, 24th April 1937)

The building and its grounds have continued to operate as a memorial park, cemetery and crematorium for the Newcastle region. In 1977 a second chapel was added, sympathetically designed by Maitland architect Ian Pender.

Themes:	National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
8. Culture		Creative endeavour (Cultur	(none)
9. Phases of Life		Birth and Death	(none)

Designer: Louis S Robertson & Son, Architect

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

## State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170003

Study Number

3

Item Name: **Newcastle Crematorium**

Location: **176 Anderson Drive, Beresfield [Newcastle City]**

Maker / Builder: Norman R Smith, Bexley

Year Started: 1936      Year Completed: 1936      Circa: No

**Physical Description:** The building is of rendered brick construction on reinforced concrete foundations. An informal plan of wings extends out from the square central tower. The building originally comprised a chapel, columbarium, cremating chamber, rest pavilion, and offices and retiring rooms. The chapel, flanked by colonnades, was designed to accommodate about 200 people, seated. Provision was made for the addition of a second chapel at a later date (which was undertaken in 1977). The columbarium was designed to house memorial urns and tablets. The cremating chamber is located to the rear of the chapel, and originally housed two Gibbons coke-fired cremation retorts.

The building is Art Deco in style with clean lines and carefully considered proportions, with restrained detailing provided by columns and fluting. Original joinery and furnishings are generally of polished Queensland maple. Windows are of steel frame glazed with tinted Cathedral glass.

The Crematorium is set in a large remembrance garden, in a formal style, which complements the architecture of the building. Drives, paths, lawns, plantings, and remembrance walls are laid out around a central medallion shape fronting the main chapel. The plantings are low and formally arranged, providing a clear view to the building from most viewpoints.

**Physical Condition:** Very good

**Modification Dates:** Additions carried out sympathetically by Maitland architect Ian Pender in 1977. A second chapel has been added, as well as covered porticoes at the entrance to each chapel, to allow protected entry in the rain.

The cremation equipment has been updated.

**Recommended Management:**

**Management:**

**Further Comments:**

**Criteria a)** The Newcastle Crematorium has historical significance for Newcastle and the wider Hunter Region as it is associated with the introduction of the practice of cremation to the region. It is one of a number of Crematoria built in a similar spirit in the 1920s and 1930s in NSW, as cremation began to gain widespread acceptance in Australia, and together with the Woronora and Eastern Suburbs, and Northern Suburbs Crematoria in particular, the Newcastle Crematorium helps to demonstrate the changing understandings of and responses to death associated with this practice in NSW. Along with other architectural landmarks in Newcastle, the Crematorium is a marker of the status of Newcastle as NSW's second city as the city matured in the first half of the twentieth century.

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number  
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3

Item Name: **Newcastle Crematorium**

Location: **176 Anderson Drive, Beresfield [Newcastle City]**

- Criteria b)** The Newcastle Crematorium has a strong association with the prominent Sydney architect Louis Leighton Robertson, who designed the Newcastle Crematorium as well as the Woronora and Eastern Suburbs Crematoria. Alongside Bloomfield's crematorium architecture, Robertson's vision for a dignified and serene, yet highly modern, crematorium architecture, as expressed through the Art Deco designs of these three buildings, dominates the creative response to this form of funerary rite in NSW.
- Criteria c)** The Crematorium has a high level of aesthetic significance. The clean, classical lines, and fine attention to detail creates an atmosphere of reverence both inside and outside the building. The formally laid out gardens that surround the building provide a richly coloured and textured setting for its pure white surfaces and geometrical shape. Like the Woronora and Eastern Suburbs Crematoria, it employs a modern Art Deco style to create a dignified and serene place of mourning and commemoration. As such it is one of a small group of buildings in NSW which have used the Art Deco vocabulary for solemn purposes.
- Criteria d)** Social significance has not been investigated within this review, but it is likely that the Crematorium has significance to the people of Newcastle and the wider Hunter Region as a place where departed loved ones are commemorated.
- Criteria e)** Within the limited scope of this review crematorium was not found to have significance under this criterion.
- Criteria f)** The Newcastle Crematorium has some rarity value for the State as one of a small group of crematoria constructed in the 1920s and 1930s, and one of a small group of buildings in NSW which have used the Art Deco vocabulary for solemn purposes.
- Criteria g)** The Newcastle Crematorium has some representative significance at a State level as it has the capacity to demonstrate the key characteristics of a small group of crematoria constructed in the 1920s and 1930s, and a small group of buildings in NSW which have used the Art Deco vocabulary for solemn purposes.

**Integrity / Intactness:** Several additions have been made to the building. These are very sympathetic to the style and form of the building and have allowed it to maintain its aesthetic integrity. It is understood that the original cremation equipment has been replaced and updated.

References:	Author	Title	Year
		Building, 24th April 1937	1937
		'Woronora Crematorium' in Architecture, 1st March 1936	1936
		'The Newcastle Crematorium', in 'Architecture', 1st April 1936	1936
	Cremation Society of Great Britain	History of Modern Cremation in Great Britain from 1874: The First Hundred Years, viewed 21 August 2007	1974
	Higham, Anne	RAIA NSW Architects Bibliographical Information, Louis Spier Robertson	
	Mailland.B., & D.Stafford	Architecture Newcastle: A Guide	1997
	The Cemeteries & Crematoria Association of NSW	'History of Cremation in Australia', The Cemeteries & Crematoria Association of NSW website, revised November 2004, viewed 21 August 2007	2004

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

## State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number  
**2170003**  
Study Number  
**3**

Item Name: **Newcastle Crematorium**

Location: **176 Anderson Drive, Beresfield [Newcastle City]**

Unknown Newcastle Heritage Study 3 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		DP	186908
	LOT	1		DP	221744
	LOT	29		DP	29481
	LOT	11		DP	553141

Latitude:

Longitude:

Location validity:

Spatial Accuracy:

Map Name:

Map Scale:

AMG Zone:

Easting:

Northing:

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

Custom Field One: 1936

Custom Field Two:

Custom Field Three:

Custom Field Four:

Custom Field Five:

Custom Field Six:

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

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170003

Study Number

3

Item Name: **Newcastle Crematorium**

Location: **176 Anderson Drive, Beresfield [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** Newcastle Crematorium, 176 Anderson Drive, view from the north east in garden setting

**Copyright:** Newcastle City Council

**Image by:** Emma Dortins

**Image Date:** 11/09/2007

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170003b1.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170003t1.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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2170003

Study Number

3

Item Name: **Newcastle Crematorium**

Location: **176 Anderson Drive, Beresfield [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** View to the north from the portico of the main chapel.

**Copyright:** Newcastle City Council

**Image by:** Emma Dortins

**Image Date:** 11/09/2007

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170003b2.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170003t2.jpg

# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170003

Study Number

3

Item Name: **Newcastle Crematorium**

Location: **176 Anderson Drive, Beresfield [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** Close view of door frame detail.

**Copyright:** Newcastle City Council

**Image by:** Emma Dortins

**Image Date:** 11/09/2007

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170003b3.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170003t3.jpg



# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170003

Study Number

3

Item Name: **Newcastle Crematorium**

Location: **176 Anderson Drive, Beresfield [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** View across the collonade and atrium forming the south-eastern wing of the building.

**Copyright:** Newcastle City Council

**Image by:** Emma Dortins

**Image Date:** 11/09/2007

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170003b4.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170003t4.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170003

Study Number

3

Item Name: **Newcastle Crematorium**

Location: **176 Anderson Drive, Beresfield [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** Aerial view (from Google Earth 5/12/2007) showing the footprint of the Crematorium and the formal garden setting which forms its heritage curtilage.

**Copyright:** Newcastle City Council

**Image by:** Emma Dortins

**Image Date:** 11/09/2007

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170003b5.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170003t5.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

## State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170247

Study Number

247

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

Location: **63 Scott Street, Newcastle East [Newcastle City]**

Address: 63 Scott Street

DUAP Region: Hunter & Central Coast

Suburb / Nearest Town: Newcastle East 2300

Historic region: Lower Hunter

Local Govt Area: Newcastle City

Parish: Newcastle

State: NSW

County: Northumberland

Other/Former Names: Joy Cummings Centre

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: Community Centre

Former Uses: Water Police barracks; Police Station; Government offices

Assessed Significance: **Local**

Endorsed Significance:

**Statement of Significance:** The former Newcastle East Police Station is of local significance as an example of accommodation originally erected for water police in the late nineteenth century, a time when the Newcastle East precinct was developing and closely associated with the harbour and maritime activities, an important part of Newcastle's history. The site is significant for its long and continuous association with the administration of law and order in Newcastle and is articulate about the nature of accommodation and living conditions of police in the nineteenth century. It is representative of similar police accommodation constructed in regional areas of NSW by the Government Architect's office in the late nineteenth century. The simple, symmetrical cottages retain a high degree of original character externally, making a positive, though understated contribution to the streetscape. Buildings of such scale and character form a rare and pleasant contrast to much of the more modern development in the Newcastle CBD. With buildings such as the former Coultts Sailors' Home and Superintendent's residence opposite, and the Customs House, the former Water Police headquarters form a modest, but elegant reminder of this precinct's strong associations with Newcastle's maritime history. The site continues to be important part of the local community as the Joy Cummings Community Centre, providing accommodation and services to a wide range of community groups and their clients.

**Historical Notes or Provenance:** The former Newcastle East Police Station (now Joy Cummings Community Centre) comprises two single-storey pavilions originally built in the 1870s as residences for the Water Police. Located in Scott Street, Newcastle East, opposite the former Coultts Sailors' Home and Superintendent's residence, the cottages are located in a precinct with a long and significant association with Newcastle's harbour and maritime activities. The harbour and port at Newcastle have played a vital role in the city's history, from its earliest days as a

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

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Study Number

247

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

Location: **63 Scott Street, Newcastle East [Newcastle City]**

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. 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. Piloting, lighthouse keeping, life boat services, tug boat services, customs administration - with the Customs House built in 1876 - wharf labouring and ship chandlery have flourished in the eastern section of Newcastle, establishing strong links with the sea and maritime activities. (Architectural Projects Pty Ltd, 2002, pp 2, 16)

The Water Police was established as a separate policing function in 1840 in association with an Act for the further and better Regulation and Government of Seamen within the Colony of New South Wales and its dependencies and for establishing a Water Police, 1840 [4 Vic, No 17]. The Act authorised the appointment of Justices of the Peace to supervise the Water Police and of Water Policemen themselves. The Water Police were a specialist branch of the force stationed in Sydney, Newcastle and other ports. Their duties were to maintain order amongst shipping, to enforce port regulations, to supervise the shipment of dangerous cargo, to prevent the escape of criminals and to see that both civil and criminal law was upheld on the waterways. The original act was amended by An Act to amend the laws relating to the engagement discharge and desertion of seamen and for the regulation of Seamen's lodging houses and for the better management of the Water Police Department, 1853. [17 Vic, No 36] This Act made the water police magistrate a Superintendent under the Police Act 1852, responsible to the Inspector-General of Police, therefore bringing the Water Police under the control of the Police Department. (State Records website: Archives Investigator search: 'Newcastle water police:')

'<http://investigator.records.nsw.gov.au/Entity.aspx?Path=\\Activity\\4>

The water police residences at Newcastle were designed by the office of Colonial Architect, James Barnet in the late 1870s or early 1880s. Barnet, who served in that role from 1862 to 1890 insisted on personal control of the design of projects originating from his office, and he stamped the character of public buildings through the mid and late Victorian period with his taste for dignified classical design, his masterpiece being the GPO in Sydney. Barnet also designed several court-houses, lock-ups, police stations and post offices throughout New South Wales as well as a number of major works in Newcastle, including Customs House. The pair of water police houses represents the opposite end of Barnet's scale of public works, being modest examples of restrained Victorian Georgian architecture, similar to the Commandant's cottage and barracks at Fort Scratchley, completed a few years later. (Maitland & Stafford, 1997, p 56)

The cottages housed the Water Police for many years, subsequently serving as a police station as well. By the 1950s it accommodated the Traffic Police offices, until being vacated in 1982. The premises were then utilised for offices by the Education Department and the Department of Youth and Community Services. These organisations had also occupied the former Coutts Sailors' Home at 88 Scott Street in this period. In the mid-1980s plans were developed for the former police buildings to be refurbished for use by eleven community groups, including the Pensioner Advisory Service, Hunter Region Home and Community Care Forum, Parents Without Partners, Newcastle Halfway House Project and Newcastle Family Support Service. The facility was to be known as the Community Group Centre, which would also occupy the former Coutts' Sailors Home and Superintendent's Residence

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

## State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170247

Study Number

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

Location: **63 Scott Street, Newcastle East [Newcastle City]**

across the road at 88 Scott Street. The premises at 61-63 Scott Street would provide a number of meeting rooms, a printing room, private consulting room and children's play area ('Newcastle Herald' 13/9/1986 in Newcastle Regional Library, Local Studies Collection - Newspaper Clippings File: 'Newcastle - Community Centres - Joy Cummings Centre').

The refurbishment and reuse of the historic buildings was the result of collaboration between state and local government and the community. Department of Public Works architects worked closely with the National Trust to ensure the character of the complex was retained, while allowing for the installation of modern facilities, including facilities for the disabled. An apex was constructed to link the two buildings, without affecting their appearance in the streetscape. ('Newcastle Post' 24/9/1986 in Newcastle Regional Library, Local Studies Collection - Newspaper Clippings File: 'Newcastle - Community Centres - Joy Cummings Centre')

The premises were officially opened in October 1986 by Minister for Youth and Community Services, John Aquilina. The centre was named the Joy Cummings Community Centre after the former Lord Mayor of Newcastle, and Australia's first female Lord Mayor. (Newcastle Regional Library, Local Studies Collection - Newspaper Clippings File: 'Newcastle - Community Centres - Joy Cummings Centre')

Themes:	National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
	4. Settlement	Towns, suburbs and village	(none)
	7. Governing	Government and administra	(none)
	7. Governing	Law and order	(none)
	7. Governing	Welfare	(none)
	9. Phases of Life	Persons	(none)

Designer: James Barnet

Maker / Builder: Colonial Architect

Year Started:                      Year Completed: 1880                      Circa: Yes

**Physical Description:** The former Newcastle East Police Station comprises two single storey pavilions of Victorian Georgian style in painted English bond brick on a stone base. Both have symmetrical five-bay fronts, central half-glazed door with transom light and large pane windows with stone sills and brick lintels. Roofs are hipped iron, with chimneys and a single straight-pitched verandah runs across both blocks on squared chamfered posts. An outbuilding which appears to date from the same period as the original buildings remains at the rear of the block.

The buildings are located on the corner of a vacant block of land to the east.  
The site is enclosed by a picket fence at the front and brick wall with stone capping at the

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

## State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170247

Study Number

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

Location: **63 Scott Street, Newcastle East [Newcastle City]**

rear. The cottages are not highly visible from Scott Street as trees have now grown up to obscure the facades.

**Physical Condition:** The buildings have been restored to good condition externally. Some original internal fixtures remain, though interiors have been altered substantially.

**Modification Dates:** The buildings are likely to have undergone modifications over their life in keeping with changes in use, however no documentary evidence of alterations before the 1980s was found during the current study.

1980s - The site has been adapted for its current purpose by internal modifications and the addition of an annex linking the two buildings and car parking facilities on the western side. The additions are generally sympathetic and not highly visible from the street.

**Recommended Management:**

**Management:**

**Further Comments:**

- Criteria a)** The former Newcastle East Police Station is historically significant at a local level as a highly intact example of Victorian era water police residences. These cottages within the Newcastle East precinct represent the area's strong association with Newcastle's maritime history that was played an extremely important role in the city's economic, social and cultural development. Having functioned as police residences and police offices from the late nineteenth to late-twentieth century, the site has a long and continuous association with the administration of law and order in Newcastle and is articulate about the nature of accommodation and living conditions of police in the nineteenth century.
- Criteria b)** The former police station is associated with Colonial Architect, James Barnet, one of the most important architects responsible for the design of several civic buildings in NSW in the late nineteenth century. The Newcastle East buildings are on a far more modest scale than Barnet's typical works, however. The site is more recently associated with Joy Cummings, for whom the Community Centre is named, recalling the former Newcastle Lord Mayor and Australia's first female Lord Mayor, who was involved in developing the site for use by various community groups.
- Criteria c)** The former police station is aesthetically significant with its symmetrical cottages restored to retain a high degree of their original character as modest single-storey Victorian dwellings. They make a positive, though understated contribution to this precinct, contrasting pleasantly with other nineteenth century commercial, Italianate and gothic buildings in the vicinity.
- Criteria d)** While this aspect of significance has not been investigated within the limited scope of this review, the site is likely to have significance for the local community, particularly for the users of the several community organisations represented at the site since the 1980s.
- Criteria e)** The site may have archaeological potential to yield information about former structures or internal configurations of the buildings to shed further light on living and working conditions

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

## State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170247

Study Number

247

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

**Location:** 63 Scott Street, Newcastle East [Newcastle City]

for police in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

**Criteria f)** The former police station is rare locally as it unusual for a building of its style, scale and character to have survived in a location so close to the Newcastle CBD.

**Criteria g)** The site is representative of dwellings constructed for police accommodation in the late nineteenth century in regional centres across NSW.

**Integrity / Intactness:** High

References:	Author	Title	Year
		Newcastle Regional Library, Local Studies Collection - Newspaper Clippings File: 'Newcastle - Community Centres - Joy Cummings Centre'	
		State Records website: Archives Investigator search: 'Newcastle water police'	
	Architectural Projects Pty Ltd	Conservation Management Plan for Newcastle Former Coutts Sailor's Home	2002
	Maitland, Barry & Stafford, David	Architecture Newcastle - A Guide	1997

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Unknown	Newcastle Heritage Study	247	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	328		DP	758769

**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		000654	
	Heritage study			
	National Trust of Australia register			
	Register of the National Estate			

**Custom Field One:** 1880

**Custom Field Two:**

**Custom Field Three:**

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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

Location: **63 Scott Street, Newcastle East [Newcastle City]**

Custom Field Three:

Custom Field Four: Conservation Area - NE

Custom Field Five: Archaeological Potential

Custom Field Six:

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

Date Updated: 10/06/2008

Status: Completed

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

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Study Number

247

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

Location: **63 Scott Street, Newcastle East [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** Former Newcastle East Police Station 63 Scott Street

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** unknown

**Image Date:**

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170247b1.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** t1\_2170247.jpg

# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170247

Study Number

247

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

Location: **63 Scott Street, Newcastle East [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Newcastle East Police Station (Former)

Copyright:

Image by: unknown

Image Date: 23/11/2006

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170247b2.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t2\_2170247.jpg



# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170247

Study Number

247

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

Location: **63 Scott Street, Newcastle East [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Original buildings with recent addition linking the two.

Copyright:

Image by: unknown

Image Date:

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170247b3.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t3\_2170247.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

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Study Number

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

Location: **63 Scott Street, Newcastle East [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** Former Newcastle East Police Station - view from street is largely obscured by trees.

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Rosemary Kerr

**Image Date:** 18/12/2007

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170247b4.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170247t4.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170247

Study Number

247

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

Location: **63 Scott Street, Newcastle East [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** Former Newcastle East Police Station - detail of verandah & endposts.

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Rosemary Kerr

**Image Date:** 18/12/2007

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170247b5.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170247t5.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170247

Study Number

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

Location: **63 Scott Street, Newcastle East [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** Former Newcastle East Police Station - outbuilding and wall at rear of property.

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Rosemary Kerr

**Image Date:** 18/12/2007

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170247b6.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170247t6.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170247

Study Number

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

Location: **63 Scott Street, Newcastle East [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** Former Newcastle East Police Station - western elevation and car park.

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Rosemary Kerr

**Image Date:** 18/12/2007

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170247b7.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170247t7.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170198

Study Number

198

Item Name: **Newcastle Hospital North Wing**

Location: **21 Pacific Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Address: 21 Pacific Street

DUAP Region: Hunter & Central Coast

Suburb / Nearest Town: Newcastle 2300

Historic region: Lower Hunter

Local Govt Area: Newcastle City

Parish:

State: NSW

County:

Other/Former Names:

Area/Group/Complex:

Group ID:

Aboriginal Area: Awabakal

Curtilage/Boundary:

Item Type: Built

Group: Health Services

Category: Hospital

Owner:

Admin Codes: LEP

Code 2:

Code 3:

Current Use:

Former Uses:

Assessed Significance: **Local**

Endorsed Significance:

**Statement of Significance:** The North Wing has local historical, associative and aesthetic significance. The wing marks the transformation of Newcastle Hospital into a modern institution with improved facilities and public funding. The influence of the beliefs of Florence Nightingale, an important individual in the formation of modern nursing and improvement of hospital hygiene is evident in the layout of the North Wing. The wing is a striking building and is a local landmark which has for many years provided a pleasing backdrop for Novocastrians relaxing at the beach.

**Historical Notes or Provenance:** Newcastle became a permanent penal settlement in 1804, accommodating prisoners from New South Wales and Tasmania. It had a small population until approximately 1814, with about 100 convicts and guards, but over the next few years it became the principal penal settlement of the Australian colonies, accommodating up to one thousand prisoners at a time (Newcastle Thematic History, p. 45). The building that was later to become the hospital was initially a gaol; a small stone and weatherboard structure. Commissioned by Lieutenant Thompson, it was the first known gaol in Newcastle. Only a few years later, the gaol was relocated under the direction of Lieutenant James Wallis of the 46th Regiment, who was the Commandant of the Newcastle settlement. The former gaol was used as a hospital from 1817. In its early years, it accommodated exiles and convicts.

Along with Australia's first hospital, established in 1796 in Sydney, Newcastle hospital had mediaeval features similar to those lingering in eighteenth and early nineteenth century European hospitals, whereby sick people were looked after as an act of charity, without much hope of recovery (Susan Marsden, 2005, p. 4-5). The hospital originally had 2 large rooms, each with approximately 25 beds. There were also 2 smaller rooms, one of which was used for female patients and the other for grinding wheat. The hospital was situated on

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Item Name: **Newcastle Hospital North Wing**

Location: **21 Pacific Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

a hill between the sea and the port of Newcastle and although an aesthetically pleasing location, it was exposed to the north-west wind, which meant that windows and doors often needed to be kept shut in order to prevent clouds of sand from coming inside. According to the clergyman, Reverend S. Low, the building was 'hardly suitable for a scullery... Many gentlemen in England would not put a pet or favourite horse in such a place!' (John Lewis, 1997, p.7)

The hospital's dilapidated condition and inadequate size led to a new hospital being constructed in 1866 on the site of the original hospital. This construction of this larger hospital signified the beginnings of modern hospital practices during a time of significant growth in settlement and trade in Newcastle. The North Wing, which housed Pathology and Outpatient Departments as well as ENT and Casualty, was constructed during World War I. Expansion of the hospital was in response to the growth of Newcastle into a suburban and industrial city (Marsden, 2005, p. 1, 80). Buildings extant, or in the process of construction at the same time as the North Wing were the Hannel Wing, the Nurses Home, the Operating Wings, the Mortuary as well as a kitchen and laundry (Marsden, 2005, p. 79). Construction of the North Wing was delayed as a result of the tight finances of the NSW government during the war, which led to the government imposing a 'half-time system'; with construction taking place on a half-weekly basis. The western section of the building was completed by May 1915, but it was not until March 1917 that the whole of the North Wing was opened. However, it was another ten years before the wing was completely finished (Marsden, 2005, p. 92). This sometimes placed patients at risk, for example, the passage from the main building to the operating theatre was highly exposed to the elements, which put patients at risk of contracting a cold when being transferred from one area to the other.

The wing contained large 'Nightingale wards', which resulted from Nightingale's belief that diseases resulted from stagnant air, and as such, cross ventilation was deemed essential. By the 1890s, Florence Nightingale's beliefs about hospital hygiene and layout were infiltrating hospital design and organisation in NSW. Nightingale, an influential British health reformer, was a crucial figure in the transformation of hospital hygiene and as well as the establishment of modern nursing. The Nightingale School of Nursing was opened at St Thomas' Hospital in London in 1860 and was the first one to be opened that did not have a religious affiliation. She believed that contagious diseases could be cured by cleanliness and fresh air. Her influence led to the introduction of Nightingale-trained matrons at Newcastle Hospital (Marsden, 2005, p. 7).

The North Wing was four stories and was in the Federation Free Style. Its interior had large, well-ventilated wards, and wide verandahs, in keeping with Nightingale's beliefs about discipline, better hygiene and ventilation. There were ablution areas in the two octagonal corner towers and the floors were fireproof and damp resistant. The disadvantages of 'Nightingale' wards were that they required much walking from staff and also put patients at risk of illness from exposure.

At the same time as the construction of the North Wing, new facilities were installed at the hospital, government funding came to play an important role in the hospital and a workers' contribution scheme was introduced, which alleviated the hospital from its dire financial predicament. The era of the hospital as a charitable institution had passed; it was no longer viable to depend upon subscriptions from the upper classes, but instead government

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Location: **21 Pacific Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

expenditure was essential (Role of Hospital Changing, Newcastle , Health Services, Royal Newcastle Hospital, 1986). These interwar changes saw a significant transitional era in western medicine and in NSW's hospital system and these factors were evident at Newcastle in the form of increased government support and regulation of the hospital. The construction of the North Wing marked the development of the hospital into a larger, more modern hospital with an important role in the Newcastle and the region.

Along with the York Wing, constructed in 1927, the North Wing transformed the hospital into a physical landmark. The Hospital formed a backdrop for Novocastrians partaking in swimming, picnics and carnivals at Newcastle Beach (Marsden, 2005, p.82). By the time that the North Wing was built, the most rapidly growing areas of the city's population were no longer in close vicinity to the hospital. This led to the establishment of other hospitals in Newcastle's suburbs and the relocation of the Newcastle Hospital was considered (Marsden, 2005, p. 15). This resulted in the hospital opening new wings in other locations such as New Lambton. By 1950, Newcastle hospital comprised North Wing, York Wing (1927), Nickson Wing (under construction until 1953), Doctors Quarters, Laundry (1946), a Boiler House, Workshops and a mortuary (all 1938-39). Offsite there was an outpatients department as well as nurses' quarters (Marsden, 2005, p. 129). In 1949, on a visit to Australia, George VI bestowed the title 'Royal' on the Newcastle Hospital (Marsden, 2005, p. 231).

Although Newcastle Hospital had features characteristic of large metropolitan hospitals, it was essentially a community hospital. During the first few decades of the twentieth century, the hospital became the largest regional hospital in NSW and its size and organisational style were similar to Sydney's teaching hospitals. While its distance from Sydney allowed easy contact, it also allowed the hospital to grow somewhat independently of the medical establishment in Sydney (Marsden, 2005, p.81). The year 1982 represents the culmination of the development of the hospital. Buildings on the site included the David Maddison Building (1981), a midwifery unit, intensive care and recovery wards, a childcare unit and the McCaffrey Wing (1971) (Marsden, 2005, pp. 231-232). Other nineteenth and early twentieth century parts of the hospital had been demolished to make way for these newer facilities. The North Wing is the oldest building of the hospital that still stands (Sale of the Century, Herald, Sat July 12, 2003).

The North Wing of the hospital was used for over 70 years, the damage done in the 1989 earthquake marking its closure. The construction of the North Wing reflected the development of Newcastle from a declining coal port to a thriving industrial region. It was also the most prominent sign of a variety of reforms such as new facilities, improved treatment, funding, and a workers' contribution scheme (Marsden, 2005, p. 80). Under threat of demolition in 1990, the hospital was classified by the National Trust, which is recognised as an independent and authoritative statement of an item's heritage value (SMH, 46 Newcastle Buildings Place On National Trust's Heritage List, Geraldine O'Brien, 6/2/90). It has been converted into a block of residential units.

Themes:	National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
	3. Economy	Health	(none)
	4. Settlement	Accommodation (Housing)	(none)

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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Item Name: **Newcastle Hospital North Wing**

Location: **21 Pacific Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

**Designer:**

**Maker / Builder:**

**Year Started:**

**Year Completed:** 1917

**Circa:** No

**Physical Description:** The North Wing is an impressive four-storey building in the 'Federation free style'. It is of a deep red-brown brick with stone trimming. The building is on an elongated rectangle plan with projecting octagonal corner towers. A four storey, deep verandah stretches along the northern side, supported by brick pillars. Its fenestration is varied, featuring different sized multi-paned windows, ranging from tiny ones beneath the eaves to larger windows on corner towers arranged in a pattern of two and three paned windows on alternating facets of the tower. The two-toned façade formed by the contrasting brick and stone as well as the varied fenestration are characteristic features of the Federation free style.

The site is on the eastern side of Newcastle CBD, overlooking Newcastle Beach and Pacific Park. It is situated on the corner of Ocean and Pacific streets and the Shortland Esplanade.

**Physical Condition:**

**Modification Dates:** Has been converted to a block of residential units.

**Recommended  
Management:**

**Management:**

**Further Comments:**

- Criteria a)** The North Wing is significant at a local level because its establishment represented the need to expand the hospital in line with the growth of Newcastle as an industrial and suburban city. It was one of the most important buildings of Newcastle Hospital to be constructed in the early twentieth century; a period in which the modern hospital, featuring improved facilities, treatment, funding emerged. It is the oldest remaining building of Newcastle Hospital.
- Criteria b)** The North Wing has local associative significance because of the influence of Florence Nightingale's belief on its designs. Nightingale was highly influential in the founding of modern nursing and played an important role in raising hygiene standards in hospitals across Australia from the 1890s. The design of the North Wing demonstrates the ideals of cleanliness and cross-ventilation which were espoused by Nightingale as implemented in Newcastle.
- Criteria c)** The North Wing has local aesthetic significance as a fine building in the Federation free-style. It has a commanding presence on the eastern end of the CBD and since the early

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20th Century has been a local landmark.

**Criteria d)** The item was not found to be significant under this criterion.

**Criteria e)** The item was not found to be significant under this criterion.

**Criteria f)** The item was not found to be significant under this criterion.

**Criteria g)** The item was not found to be significant under this criterion.

**Integrity / Intactness:** From what could be determined from the exterior, the building has a high degree of integrity.

References:	Author	Title	Year
		Newcastle City Wide Heritage Study: Thematic History	2007
	John Lewis (ed.)	Reminiscences of the Royal : Royal Newcastle Hospital : celebrating 180 years of health and healing	1997
	not provided	Role of Hospital Changing	1986
	not provided	Sale of the Century	2003
	Susan Marsden (assisted by Cynthia Hunter)	The Royal: A castle grand, a purpose noble	2005

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Unknown	Newcastle Heritage Study	198	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	22		DP	880526
	LOT	1		SP	71894

**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		000977	
	Heritage study			
	National Trust of Australia register			

**Custom Field One:** 1913

**Custom Field Two:**

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Item Name: **Newcastle Hospital North Wing**

Location: **21 Pacific Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Custom Field Three:

Custom Field Four: Conservation Area - NCBD

Custom Field Five: Archaeological Potential

Custom Field Six:

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

Date Updated: 24/07/2008

Status: Basic

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Item Name: **Newcastle Hospital North Wing**

Location: **21 Pacific Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** Newcastle Hospital North Wing

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Julia Kensy

**Image Date:** 22/04/2008

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170198b5.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170198t5.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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SHI Number

2170189

Study Number

189

Item Name: **National Australia Bank**

Location: **73 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** View across former service area

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Emma Dortins

**Image Date:** 22/04/2008

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170189b3.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170189t3.jpg

# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170189

Study Number

189

Item Name: **National Australia Bank**

Location: **73 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: View across main service area

Copyright:

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 22/04/2008

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170189b4.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170189t4.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

## State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

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Item Name: **Newcastle Crematorium**

Location: **176 Anderson Drive, Beresfield [Newcastle City]**

Address: 176 Anderson Drive

DUAP Region: Hunter & Central Coast

Suburb / Nearest Town: Beresfield 2322

Historic region: Lower Hunter

Local Govt Area: Newcastle City

Parish:

State: NSW

County:

Other/Former Names: Beresfield Crematorium

Area/Group/Complex:

Group ID:

Aboriginal Area:

**Curtilage/Boundary:** The recommended curtilage would follow the boundaries of the rectangular formally landscaped garden area in which the crematorium sits.

**Item Type:** Area/Complex/Group **Group:** Cemeteries and Burial **Category:** Crematorium

**Owner:** Private - Corporate

**Admin Codes:** LEP

**Code 2:**

**Code 3:**

**Current Use:** Crematorium

**Former Uses:** Crematorium

**Assessed Significance:** Local

**Endorsed Significance:**

**Statement of Significance:** The Newcastle Crematorium has a high level of historical and aesthetic significance for Newcastle and the wider Hunter Region. Its construction was associated with the introduction of the modern practice of cremation to the region, as this form of funerary rite became more widely accepted across the State in the 1930s. As part of a small group of NSW crematoria of that decade, the Newcastle Crematorium thus helps to demonstrate the changing understandings of and responses to death associated with the practice. The Newcastle Crematorium represents a high level of architectural and landscaping achievement within Newcastle and the wider Hunter region, as a fine example of the Art Deco style, set in a formally landscaped garden. Along with the other crematoria designed by Robertson, and the C. Bruce Dellitt's Anzac Memorial (Sydney), it forms part of a small group of commemorative buildings in NSW that employ the Art Deco style to create a dignified and solemn atmosphere. Along with other architectural landmarks in Newcastle, the Crematorium is a marker of the status of Newcastle as NSW's second city as the city matured in the first half of the twentieth century.

**Historical Notes or Provenance:** The Newcastle Crematorium was constructed c1936 for Cremations (Newcastle) Limited, on a site of 25 acres at Beresfield, ten miles from central Newcastle. The Crematorium and its landscaped grounds are associated with the themes of Phases of Life, Birth and Death, and Creative Endeavour. The Crematorium was designed by a prominent Sydney architect, Louis Leighton Robertson, in a similar style to his Woronora and Eastern Suburbs Crematoria in Sydney, using the Art Deco style in a restrained fashion to create a peaceful and respectful atmosphere. The Crematorium is among those constructed in the Inter-war

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Item Name: **Newcastle Crematorium**

Location: **176 Anderson Drive, Beresfield [Newcastle City]**

period, just as cremation was becoming mainstream in Australia.

Burial had become strongly associated with Christian beliefs from late antiquity, against a background of generally practiced cremation in the ancient Greek and Roman civilizations. From the fifth century AD, cremation became almost unknown in Christianized western Europe. Interest in cremation was reawakened in the western world in the late nineteenth century. The Cremation Society of England was established in 1874, and a small group of proponents worked against considerable opposition towards the acceptance of the practice. The proponents of the practice argued that cremation was more hygienic and modern than traditional earth burial. Their campaigns were assisted by the application of new technology which saw the development of specially designed furnaces and purpose built crematoria. Cremation was pronounced legal in the United Kingdom in 1884, as the result of a trial of a man for cremating the body of his dead child in Wales. The first official British cremation took place the following year. (Cremation Society of Great Britain website)

In Australia, cremation was advocated seriously from the 1860s onwards, particularly by a series of prominent medical practitioners like Dr John Le Gay Brereton, and Dr John Mildred Creed in Sydney, Dr James Neild in Melbourne, and Dr Robert Wylde in Adelaide. Dr Creed became known as the father of cremation in Australia. He tried unsuccessfully to have cremation legislation passed in NSW in 1886 and 1887, and in 1890 he formed Australia's first Cremation Society to promote the cause. The cremationists had to counter considerable opposition. Many people thought cremation was at best irreligious and at worst barbaric. The strongest opponents came from the Catholic Church which banned cremation for its members in 1886, and did not finally remove the ban until the 1960s. Others argued that Australia had plenty of land for earth burials and there was no need for change. Supporters came from a surprisingly broad range within the community. They included medical practitioners, politicians, scientists, public health officials, religious figures, educationists, social reformers and women's rights campaigners, successful businessmen and lawyers. Many were from Australia's professional and social elite, creating an early image problem for the cremationists in their attempts to get all classes interested. South Australia achieved the first Cremation Act in 1891 and, after a decade of fund raising, built the first modern crematorium, adjacent to Adelaide's West Terrace Cemetery. The first cremation there was on 4 May 1903. In Victoria, after a Cremation Bill was passed in 1903, a simple outdoor furnace was constructed at Melbourne's Springvale Cemetery and used from 1905 onwards. But it was many more years before a second modern crematorium was available. The only alternative was open-air funeral pyre cremations, and several of these were conducted on the outskirts of Melbourne, Sydney and Perth in the 1890s. (The Cemeteries & Crematoria Association of NSW website)

In NSW, Dr Creed reformed the cremation campaign and the Cremation Society in 1908, but their work was sidelined by the outbreak of World War I. After the war, the local cremationists formed a private cremation company and eventually obtained the lease on some government land in Rookwood Cemetery. They raised funds and commissioned local architect Frank l'Anson Bloomfield to draw up plans for a modern crematorium. In 1923 a NSW Cremation Act was finally passed and building work began on a simple design which allowed for future expansion. The first cremation at Rookwood Crematorium was conducted on 28 May 1925. There were 122 cremations in the first year of operation and the success set off something of a crematorium building boom around Australia. In Melbourne, Fawkner

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Crematorium was opened in 1927. In Sydney, Northern Suburbs Crematorium was opened in 1933, Woronora Crematorium in 1934, and Eastern Suburbs Crematorium in 1938. The Newcastle Crematorium at Beresfield was opened in 1936. There were also modern crematoria built in Brisbane in 1934, at Melbourne's Springvale in 1936, Hobart in 1936, Perth in 1937 and Launceston in 1939. Rookwood and Northern Suburbs were run by the Cremation Society and its private company, Eastern Suburbs and Woronora by their Cemetery Trusts, and Beresfield by another private company established by Newcastle businessmen. By the 1950s cremation was being widely accepted by Australians. From the 1960s it began to overtake earth burial as the first choice of a majority of people. Depending on proximity to a crematorium around Australia it can now be the choice for anywhere between 50% and 70% of people. (The Cemeteries & Crematoria Association of NSW website)

The NSW crematoria at this time were all architecturally designed large-scale undertakings. The Northern Suburbs Crematorium, like that at Rookwood was designed by Frank Bloomfield. The Newcastle Crematorium was designed by prominent Sydney based firm, Louis Leighton Robertson, which was also responsible for the designs of the roughly contemporary Woronora, and Eastern Suburbs Crematoria in Sydney.

Louis Leighton Robertson (1897 - 1966), was son of prominent architect Louis Spier Robertson. Robertson senior was born in Sydney in 1868, son of Louis Robertson, a draughtsman in the New South Wales Colonial Architect's Office, and practised in Sydney as an architect and building surveyor from c.1890, possibly in partnership with F.G. Castleden as Castleden and Robertson. Later he moved to Rockhampton where he married Elizabeth Frances Leighton on 26 April 1896 and began a successful architectural practice in January 1897. In 1905 he moved back to Sydney, but continued to undertake Queensland work. In 1910 he designed the first self-supporting fully steel-framed building in Australia, Nelson House erected in Clarence Street, Sydney. Robertson senior died in 1932, and Louis Leighton Robertson, who had worked in partnership with his father, continued the practice. As well as for his three beautiful crematoria, the younger Robertson was well known as a practitioner of the Inter-war Chicagoesque style, which was most frequently employed on unpretentious commercial buildings. (RAIA NSW Architects Bibliographical Information; Apperly, Irving and Reynolds, *Identifying Australian Architecture*, p. 183; Freeland, *Architecture Australia*, pp. 249-50)

From the early decades of the twentieth century, Newcastle began to take on the status of NSW's second city. Newcastle's splendid City Hall and Civic Theatre, completed in 1929, were architectural markers of this status. (Citywide Thematic History, p. 8) The Crematorium at Beresfield, constructed as the city climbed out of the Depression on the back of the steel industry, was another such marker, being a significant Art Deco building, and the first crematorium in the State to be constructed outside the Sydney region.

Newcastle Crematorium originally comprised a chapel, columbarium, cremating chamber, rest pavilion, and offices and retiring rooms. The chapel, flanked by colonnades, was designed to accommodate about 200 people, seated. Provision was made for the addition of a second chapel at a later date. The columbarium was designed to house memorial urns and tablets. The cremating chamber is located to the rear of the chapel, and originally housed two Gibbons coke-fired cremation retorts. The layout of the site was also carefully

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Item Name: **Newcastle Crematorium**

Location: **176 Anderson Drive, Beresfield [Newcastle City]**

designed with car parking, drives, lawns and plantings, developed as a 'Garden of Remembrance'. (Architecture, 1st April, 1936, Building, 24th April 1937)

Maitland and Stafford note that although the Art Deco style had more commonly been 'associated with places of leisure, such as hotels and cinemas, its potential for more sombre and contemplative building types was demonstrated in the Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park, Sydney designed by C. Bruce Dellitt' in 1934. The 1920s-30s crematoria took on the Art Deco, or sometimes the Inter-war Mediterranean style, as simple and dignified architectural language with which to create a sense of clarity and tranquillity through a modern interpretation of classicism. The Newcastle Crematorium adopted an Art Deco design similar to that of the slightly larger Woronora Crematorium, and it was again repeated for the Eastern Suburbs Crematorium. The Woronora Crematorium was described in a 1930s promotional booklet as a place where 'beauty softens grief', and this same effect has been achieved at Newcastle. (Maitland and Stafford, Architecture Newcastle, p. 137); Graham Jahn, Sydney Architecture, p. 127; Architecture, 1st March, 1936).

The three Louis Roberston crematoria are similar in style, construction and feel, and employ similar materials, although the Woronora Crematorium was designed with two chapels, giving the building a different layout and massing. The contracting engineer, Norman R Smith, of Bexley, also worked on both the Woronora and Newcastle projects. In c1937, the firm designed a third Crematorium, the Eastern Suburbs (Botany) Crematorium, which is again very similar in spirit. He also worked on a rest pavilion and crematorium at Northern Suburbs Cemetary (Architecture, 1st March, 1936; RAI NSW Architects Bibliographical Information)

The Newcastle Crematorium was already of interest in architectural circles when it was in process of construction, with an article appearing in Architecture magazine in April 1936, which described the design and intent of the building, and its affinities with the Woronora Crematorium. An article also appeared in Building magazine in April 1937, when the Crematorium was complete. This review was very admiring of the restrained elegance, and minute attention to detail of the exterior and interior design, finding 'nothing out of place', creating an appropriate 'atmosphere of reverence'. (Architecture, 1st April, 1936, Building, 24th April 1937)

The building and its grounds have continued to operate as a memorial park, cemetary and crematorium for the Newcastle region. In 1977 a second chapel was added, sympathetically designed by Maitland architect Ian Pender.

Themes:	National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
8. Culture		Creative endeavour (Cultur	(none)
9. Phases of Life		Birth and Death	(none)

Designer: Louis S Robertson & Son, Architect

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Item Name: **Newcastle Crematorium**

Location: **176 Anderson Drive, Beresfield [Newcastle City]**

Maker / Builder: Norman R Smith, Bexley

Year Started: 1936      Year Completed: 1936      Circa: No

**Physical Description:** The building is of rendered brick construction on reinforced concrete foundations. An informal plan of wings extends out from the square central tower. The building originally comprised a chapel, columbarium, cremating chamber, rest pavilion, and offices and retiring rooms. The chapel, flanked by colonnades, was designed to accommodate about 200 people, seated. Provision was made for the addition of a second chapel at a later date (which was undertaken in 1977). The columbarium was designed to house memorial urns and tablets. The cremating chamber is located to the rear of the chapel, and originally housed two Gibbons coke-fired cremation retorts.

The building is Art Deco in style with clean lines and carefully considered proportions, with restrained detailing provided by columns and fluting. Original joinery and furnishings are generally of polished Queensland maple. Windows are of steel frame glazed with tinted Cathedral glass.

The Crematorium is set in a large remembrance garden, in a formal style, which complements the architecture of the building. Drives, paths, lawns, plantings, and remembrance walls are laid out around a central medallion shape fronting the main chapel. The plantings are low and formally arranged, providing a clear view to the building from most viewpoints.

**Physical Condition:** Very good

**Modification Dates:** Additions carried out sympathetically by Maitland architect Ian Pender in 1977. A second chapel has been added, as well as covered porticoes at the entrance to each chapel, to allow protected entry in the rain.

The cremation equipment has been updated.

**Recommended Management:**

**Management:**

**Further Comments:**

**Criteria a)** The Newcastle Crematorium has historical significance for Newcastle and the wider Hunter Region as it is associated with the introduction of the practice of cremation to the region. It is one of a number of Crematoria built in a similar spirit in the 1920s and 1930s in NSW, as cremation began to gain widespread acceptance in Australia, and together with the Woronora and Eastern Suburbs, and Northern Suburbs Crematoria in particular, the Newcastle Crematorium helps to demonstrate the changing understandings of and responses to death associated with this practice in NSW. Along with other architectural landmarks in Newcastle, the Crematorium is a marker of the status of Newcastle as NSW's second city as the city matured in the first half of the twentieth century.

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Location: **176 Anderson Drive, Beresfield [Newcastle City]**

- Criteria b)** The Newcastle Crematorium has a strong association with the prominent Sydney architect Louis Leighton Robertson, who designed the Newcastle Crematorium as well as the Woronora and Eastern Suburbs Crematoria. Alongside Bloomfield's crematorium architecture, Robertson's vision for a dignified and serene, yet highly modern, crematorium architecture, as expressed through the Art Deco designs of these three buildings, dominates the creative response to this form of funerary rite in NSW.
- Criteria c)** The Crematorium has a high level of aesthetic significance. The clean, classical lines, and fine attention to detail creates an atmosphere of reverence both inside and outside the building. The formally laid out gardens that surround the building provide a richly coloured and textured setting for its pure white surfaces and geometrical shape. Like the Woronora and Eastern Suburbs Crematoria, it employs a modern Art Deco style to create a dignified and serene place of mourning and commemoration. As such it is one of a small group of buildings in NSW which have used the Art Deco vocabulary for solemn purposes.
- Criteria d)** Social significance has not been investigated within this review, but it is likely that the Crematorium has significance to the people of Newcastle and the wider Hunter Region as a place where departed loved ones are commemorated.
- Criteria e)** Within the limited scope of this review crematorium was not found to have significance under this criterion.
- Criteria f)** The Newcastle Crematorium has some rarity value for the State as one of a small group of crematoria constructed in the 1920s and 1930s, and one of a small group of buildings in NSW which have used the Art Deco vocabulary for solemn purposes.
- Criteria g)** The Newcastle Crematorium has some representative significance at a State level as it has the capacity to demonstrate the key characteristics of a small group of crematoria constructed in the 1920s and 1930s, and a small group of buildings in NSW which have used the Art Deco vocabulary for solemn purposes.

**Integrity / Intactness:** Several additions have been made to the building. These are very sympathetic to the style and form of the building and have allowed it to maintain its aesthetic integrity. It is understood that the original cremation equipment has been replaced and updated.

References:	Author	Title	Year
		Building, 24th April 1937	1937
		'Woronora Crematorium' in Architecture, 1st March 1936	1936
		'The Newcastle Crematorium', in 'Architecture', 1st April 1936	1936
	Cremation Society of Great Britain	History of Modern Cremation in Great Britain from 1874: The First Hundred Years, viewed 21 August 2007	1974
	Higham, Anne	RAIA NSW Architects Bibliographical Information, Louis Spier Robertson	
	Maitland.B., & D.Stafford	Architecture Newcastle: A Guide	1997
	The Cemeteries & Crematoria Association of NSW	'History of Cremation in Australia', The Cemeteries & Crematoria Association of NSW website, revised November 2004, viewed 21 August 2007	2004

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
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Date: 24/07/2008

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170003

Study Number

3

Item Name: **Newcastle Crematorium**

Location: **176 Anderson Drive, Beresfield [Newcastle City]**

Unknown Newcastle Heritage Study 3 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		DP	186908
	LOT	1		DP	221744
	LOT	29		DP	29481
	LOT	11		DP	553141

Latitude:

Longitude:

Location validity:

Spatial Accuracy:

Map Name:

Map Scale:

AMG Zone:

Easting:

Northing:

Listings: Name:

Title:

Number:

Date:

Local Environmental Plan  
Heritage study

8/08/2003

Custom Field One: 1936

Custom Field Two:

Custom Field Three:

Custom Field Four:

Custom Field Five:

Custom Field Six:

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

Date Updated: 24/07/2008

Status: Basic

State Heritage Inventory

Date: 24/07/2008

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170003

Study Number

3

Item Name: **Newcastle Crematorium**

Location: **176 Anderson Drive, Beresfield [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** Newcastle Crematorium, 176 Anderson Drive, view from the north east in garden setting

**Copyright:** Newcastle City Council

**Image by:** Emma Dortins

**Image Date:** 11/09/2007

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170003b1.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170003t1.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170003

Study Number

3

Item Name: **Newcastle Crematorium**

Location: **176 Anderson Drive, Beresfield [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** View to the north from the portico of the main chapel.

**Copyright:** Newcastle City Council

**Image by:** Emma Dortins

**Image Date:** 11/09/2007

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170003b2.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170003t2.jpg

# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170003

Study Number

3

Item Name: **Newcastle Crematorium**

Location: **176 Anderson Drive, Beresfield [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** Close view of door frame detail.

**Copyright:** Newcastle City Council

**Image by:** Emma Dortins

**Image Date:** 11/09/2007

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170003b3.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170003t3.jpg



# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170003

Study Number

3

Item Name: **Newcastle Crematorium**

Location: **176 Anderson Drive, Beresfield [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** View across the collonade and atrium forming the south-eastern wing of the building.

**Copyright:** Newcastle City Council

**Image by:** Emma Dortins

**Image Date:** 11/09/2007

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170003b4.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170003t4.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170003

Study Number

3

Item Name: **Newcastle Crematorium**

Location: **176 Anderson Drive, Beresfield [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** Aerial view (from Google Earth 5/12/2007) showing the footprint of the Crematorium and the formal garden setting which forms its heritage curtilage.

**Copyright:** Newcastle City Council

**Image by:** Emma Dortins

**Image Date:** 11/09/2007

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170003b5.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170003t5.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

## State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number  
2170247  
Study Number  
247

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

Location: **63 Scott Street, Newcastle East [Newcastle City]**

**Address:** 63 Scott Street  
**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

**Other/Former Names:** Joy Cummings Centre

**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:** Community Centre

**Former Uses:** Water Police barracks; Police Station; Government offices

**Assessed Significance:** Local

**Endorsed Significance:**

**Statement of Significance:** The former Newcastle East Police Station is of local significance as an example of accommodation originally erected for water police in the late nineteenth century, a time when the Newcastle East precinct was developing and closely associated with the harbour and maritime activities, an important part of Newcastle's history. The site is significant for its long and continuous association with the administration of law and order in Newcastle and is articulate about the nature of accommodation and living conditions of police in the nineteenth century. It is representative of similar police accommodation constructed in regional areas of NSW by the Government Architect's office in the late nineteenth century. The simple, symmetrical cottages retain a high degree of original character externally, making a positive, though understated contribution to the streetscape. Buildings of such scale and character form a rare and pleasant contrast to much of the more modern development in the Newcastle CBD. With buildings such as the former Coutts Sailors' Home and Superintendent's residence opposite, and the Customs House, the former Water Police headquarters form a modest, but elegant reminder of this precinct's strong associations with Newcastle's maritime history. The site continues to be important part of the local community as the Joy Cummings Community Centre, providing accommodation and services to a wide range of community groups and their clients.

**Historical Notes or Provenance:** The former Newcastle East Police Station (now Joy Cummings Community Centre) comprises two single-storey pavilions originally built in the 1870s as residences for the Water Police. Located in Scott Street, Newcastle East, opposite the former Coutts Sailors' Home and Superintendent's residence, the cottages are located in a precinct with a long and significant association with Newcastle's harbour and maritime activities. The harbour and port at Newcastle have played a vital role in the city's history, from its earliest days as a

## State Heritage Inventory

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

## State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170247

Study Number

247

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

Location: **63 Scott Street, Newcastle East [Newcastle City]**

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. 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. Piloting, lighthouse keeping, life boat services, tug boat services, customs administration - with the Customs House built in 1876 - wharf labouring and ship chandlery have flourished in the eastern section of Newcastle, establishing strong links with the sea and maritime activities. (Architectural Projects Pty Ltd, 2002, pp 2, 16)

The Water Police was established as a separate policing function in 1840 in association with an Act for the further and better Regulation and Government of Seamen within the Colony of New South Wales and its dependencies and for establishing a Water Police, 1840 [4 Vic, No 17]. The Act authorised the appointment of Justices of the Peace to supervise the Water Police and of Water Policemen themselves. The Water Police were a specialist branch of the force stationed in Sydney, Newcastle and other ports. Their duties were to maintain order amongst shipping, to enforce port regulations, to supervise the shipment of dangerous cargo, to prevent the escape of criminals and to see that both civil and criminal law was upheld on the waterways. The original act was amended by An Act to amend the laws relating to the engagement discharge and desertion of seamen and for the regulation of Seamen's lodging houses and for the better management of the Water Police Department, 1853. [17 Vic, No 36] This Act made the water police magistrate a Superintendent under the Police Act 1852, responsible to the Inspector-General of Police, therefore bringing the Water Police under the control of the Police Department. (State Records website: Archives Investigator search: 'Newcastle water police:

'<http://investigator.records.nsw.gov.au/Entity.aspx?Path=\\Activity\\4>)

The water police residences at Newcastle were designed by the office of Colonial Architect, James Barnet in the late 1870s or early 1880s. Barnet, who served in that role from 1862 to 1890 insisted on personal control of the design of projects originating from his office, and he stamped the character of public buildings through the mid and late Victorian period with his taste for dignified classical design, his masterpiece being the GPO in Sydney. Barnet also designed several court-houses, lock-ups, police stations and post offices throughout New South Wales as well as a number of major works in Newcastle, including Customs House. The pair of water police houses represents the opposite end of Barnet's scale of public works, being modest examples of restrained Victorian Georgian architecture, similar to the Commandant's cottage and barracks at Fort Scratchley, completed a few years later.(Maitland & Stafford, 1997, p 56)

The cottages housed the Water Police for many years, subsequently serving as a police station as well. By the 1950s it accommodated the Traffic Police offices, until being vacated in 1982. The premises were then utilised for offices by the Education Department and the Department of Youth and Community Services. These organisations had also occupied the former Coutts Sailors' Home at 88 Scott Street in this period. In the mid-1980s plans were developed for the former police buildings to be refurbished for use by eleven community groups, including the Pensioner Advisory Service, Hunter Region Home and Community Care Forum, Parents Without Partners, Newcastle Halfway House Project and Newcastle Family Support Service. The facility was to be known as the Community Group Centre, which would also occupy the former Coutts' Sailors Home and Superintendent's Residence

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

## State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170247

Study Number

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

Location: **63 Scott Street, Newcastle East [Newcastle City]**

across the road at 88 Scott Street. The premises at 61-63 Scott Street would provide a number of meeting rooms, a printing room, private consulting room and children's play area ('Newcastle Herald' 13/9/1986 in Newcastle Regional Library, Local Studies Collection - Newspaper Clippings File: 'Newcastle - Community Centres - Joy Cummings Centre').

The refurbishment and reuse of the historic buildings was the result of collaboration between state and local government and the community. Department of Public Works architects worked closely with the National Trust to ensure the character of the complex was retained, while allowing for the installation of modern facilities, including facilities for the disabled. An apex was constructed to link the two buildings, without affecting their appearance in the streetscape. ('Newcastle Post' 24/9/1986 in Newcastle Regional Library, Local Studies Collection - Newspaper Clippings File: 'Newcastle - Community Centres - Joy Cummings Centre')

The premises were officially opened in October 1986 by Minister for Youth and Community Services, John Aquilina. The centre was named the Joy Cummings Community Centre after the former Lord Mayor of Newcastle, and Australia's first female Lord Mayor. (Newcastle Regional Library, Local Studies Collection - Newspaper Clippings File: 'Newcastle - Community Centres - Joy Cummings Centre')

Themes:	National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
	4. Settlement	Towns, suburbs and village	(none)
	7. Governing	Government and administra	(none)
	7. Governing	Law and order	(none)
	7. Governing	Welfare	(none)
	9. Phases of Life	Persons	(none)

**Designer:** James Barnet

**Maker / Builder:** Colonial Architect

**Year Started:**                      **Year Completed:** 1880                      **Circa:** Yes

**Physical Description:** The former Newcastle East Police Station comprises two single storey pavilions of Victorian Georgian style in painted English bond brick on a stone base. Both have symmetrical five-bay fronts, central half-glazed door with transom light and large pane windows with stone sills and brick lintels. Roofs are hipped iron, with chimneys and a single straight-pitched verandah runs across both blocks on squared chamfered posts. An outbuilding which appears to date from the same period as the original buildings remains at the rear of the block.

The buildings are located on the corner of a vacant block of land to the east.  
The site is enclosed by a picket fence at the front and brick wall with stone capping at the

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

## State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number  
2170247  
Study Number  
247

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

Location: **63 Scott Street, Newcastle East [Newcastle City]**

rear. The cottages are not highly visible from Scott Street as trees have now grown up to obscure the facades.

**Physical Condition:** The buildings have been restored to good condition externally. Some original internal fixtures remain, though interiors have been altered substantially.

**Modification Dates:** The buildings are likely to have undergone modifications over their life in keeping with changes in use, however no documentary evidence of alterations before the 1980s was found during the current study.

1980s - The site has been adapted for its current purpose by internal modifications and the addition of an annex linking the two buildings and car parking facilities on the western side. The additions are generally sympathetic and not highly visible from the street.

**Recommended  
Management:**

**Management:**

**Further Comments:**

- Criteria a)** The former Newcastle East Police Station is historically significant at a local level as a highly intact example of Victorian era water police residences. These cottages within the Newcastle East precinct represent the area's strong association with Newcastle's maritime history that was played an extremely important role in the city's economic, social and cultural development. Having functioned as police residences and police offices from the late nineteenth to late-twentieth century, the site has a long and continuous association with the administration of law and order in Newcastle and is articulate about the nature of accommodation and living conditions of police in the nineteenth century.
- Criteria b)** The former police station is associated with Colonial Architect, James Barnet, one of the most important architects responsible for the design of several civic buildings in NSW in the late nineteenth century. The Newcastle East buildings are on a far more modest scale than Barnet's typical works, however. The site is more recently associated with Joy Cummings, for whom the Community Centre is named, recalling the former Newcastle Lord Mayor and Australia's first female Lord Mayor, who was involved in developing the site for use by various community groups.
- Criteria c)** The former police station is aesthetically significant with its symmetrical cottages restored to retain a high degree of their original character as modest single-storey Victorian dwellings. They make a positive, though understated contribution to this precinct, contrasting pleasantly with other nineteenth century commercial, Italianate and gothic buildings in the vicinity.
- Criteria d)** While this aspect of significance has not been investigated within the limited scope of this review, the site is likely to have significance for the local community, particularly for the users of the several community organisations represented at the site since the 1980s.
- Criteria e)** The site may have archaeological potential to yield information about former structures or internal configurations of the buildings to shed further light on living and working conditions

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

## State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170247

Study Number

247

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

**Location:** 63 Scott Street, Newcastle East [Newcastle City]

for police in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

**Criteria f)** The former police station is rare locally as it unusual for a building of its style, scale and character to have survived in a location so close to the Newcastle CBD.

**Criteria g)** The site is representative of dwellings constructed for police accommodation in the late nineteenth century in regional centres across NSW.

**Integrity / Intactness:** High

References:	Author	Title	Year
		Newcastle Regional Library, Local Studies Collection - Newspaper Clippings File: 'Newcastle - Community Centres - Joy Cummings Centre'	
		State Records website: Archives Investigator search: 'Newcastle water police'	
	Architectural Projects Pty Ltd	Conservation Management Plan for Newcastle Former Coultts Sailor's Home	2002
	Maitland, Barry & Stafford, David	Architecture Newcastle - A Guide	1997

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Unknown	Newcastle Heritage Study	247	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	328		DP	758769

**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		000654	
	Heritage study			
	National Trust of Australia register			
	Register of the National Estate			

**Custom Field One:** 1880

**Custom Field Two:**

**Custom Field Three:**

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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

Location: **63 Scott Street, Newcastle East [Newcastle City]**

Custom Field Three:

Custom Field Four: Conservation Area - NE

Custom Field Five: Archaeological Potential

Custom Field Six:

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

Date Updated: 10/06/2008

Status: Completed

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

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Study Number

247

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

Location: **63 Scott Street, Newcastle East [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** Former Newcastle East Police Station 63 Scott Street

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** unknown

**Image Date:**

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170247b1.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** t1\_2170247.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170278

Study Number

278

Item Name: **Jesmond House (Residence)**

Location: **10 Barker street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

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: Late 1870s

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: 06/06/2008

Status: Basic

State Heritage Inventory

Date: 24/07/2008

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170278

Study Number

278

Item Name: **Jesmond House (Residence)**

Location: **10 Barker street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** Tower of Jesmond House

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Julia Kensy

**Image Date:** 8/04/2008

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170278b2.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170278t2.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170278

Study Number

278

Item Name: **Jesmond House (Residence)**

Location: **10 Barker street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Jesmond House

Copyright:

Image by: Julia Kensy

Image Date: 8/04/2008

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170278b3.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170278t3.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170278

Study Number

278

Item Name: **Jesmond House (Residence)**

Location: **10 Barker street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** Back of Jesmond house - former servants quarters to the left.

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Julia Kensy

**Image Date:** 8/04/2008

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170278b4.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170278t4.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170189

Study Number

189

Item Name: **National Australia Bank**

Location: **73 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Address: 73 Hunter Street

DUAP Region: Hunter & Central Coast

Suburb / Nearest Town: Newcastle 2300

Historic region: Lower Hunter

Local Govt Area: Newcastle City

Parish:

State: NSW

County:

Other/Former Names: CBC Bank

Area/Group/Complex:

Group ID:

Aboriginal Area:

Curtilage/Boundary:

Item Type: Built

Group: Commercial

Category: Bank

Owner:

Admin Codes: LEP

Code 2:

Code 3:

Current Use:

Former Uses:

Assessed Significance: **Local**

Endorsed Significance:

**Statement of Significance:** The NAB has local historical, aesthetic and representative significance as part of a group of bank and insurance buildings constructed in the Newcastle CBD in the 1910s-1930s which transformed the streetscape of Hunter Street in particular and consolidated its position as the city's premier business thoroughfare. As part of this group it signalled a new phase of commerce in the city, based on heavy industry, and gave banking and insurance a modern presence in the city in purpose-built premises. The building has local aesthetic significance, making an important contribution to the Hunter Street streetscape as a substantial and attractive Inter-War Palazzo style structure on the prominent corner of Hunter and Bolton Streets. The NAB has the capacity to represent key characteristics of the group of 1910s-1930s bank and insurance company premises in central Newcastle, both historically and aesthetically, occupying the site of a hotel, which then hosted banking functions for a number of financial institutions before classical-style purpose-built premises were constructed in the 1920s. The multi-story classical facade and lavish interior have the capacity to represent the group aesthetically, particularly as the interior fixtures and finishes of a number of other institutions on Hunter Street would appear to have been lost.

**Historical Notes or Provenance:** The NAB building is associated with the history of Australian banking and with the development of Newcastle as a commercial centre, with a central business district evolving around Hunter and Watt Streets from the second half of the nineteenth century.

Before 1810, barter was the primary form of transaction in NSW. The colony was not provided with an adequate quantity of English coins for these alone to suffice for the purchase of imports and internal transactions, and the Governors administered the use of coinage originating from various parts of the world. When in 1800 a quantity of copper coin

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170189

Study Number

189

Item Name: **National Australia Bank**

Location: **73 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

arrived in the colony, a great variety of coins including Dutch guilders, rupees and ducats were assigned specific sterling values for exchange purposes within the colony. There was great scope for counterfeiters, and barter, particularly in rum, seemed to many to be a more reliable form of exchange. In 1804, for instance, the Government brewery accepted payment for its beer in the form of wheat, barley, hops, casks or iron hoops. The consignments of coal sent from Newcastle to Calcutta though the 1810s were paid for in Bengal rum. An official system of paper money operated in parallel, with military purchases being made in 'Paymaster's notes' and 'Store receipts' given to those who lodged produce in the King's store. Private individuals began to follow suit, and issue their own 'notes' or 'cards' in a complex and flexible system of 'I.O.U.'. (F. A. Cadell, *Early Banking in Sydney and Newcastle*, pp. 2-3, 24)

Governor Macquarie endeavoured to implement monetary reform in the Colony, plagued still by a rum economy. Among his initiatives was the establishment of the colony's first banking institution: the New South Wales Loan Bank opened 8th April 1817 in Mrs Mary Reiby's house in Macquarie Place, Sydney. Although Macquarie received correspondence from the Colonial Office the following year stating that he was not legally empowered to charter a bank, he delayed replying to the Colonial Office on the subject, and the bank continued to have unofficial success, receiving favourable comments in the 1822 Bigge Report. (F. A. Cadell, pp. 7-9) This bank was incorporated as the Bank of New South Wales in 1850.

In 1819 Robert Campbell, merchant, known as the 'father of Australian commerce' and the first to have shipped Newcastle coal to Calcutta, opened Australia's first savings bank, known as 'Campbell's Bank', and by 1832 it was a roaring success. Across the mid nineteenth century a number of other Australian banks sprang up, including the Union Bank of Australia, established first in Launceston, Tasmania in 1838, and the English, Scottish and Australian Bank established in 1852. (F. A. Cadell, pp. 9, 14) By 1850, eighteen banks had been established, three were based in London, but the remainder were all based in Australian population centres. It was not until after 1850 and the gold rushes, however, that these institutions began to set up branches in NSW's larger centres in any significant numbers. Banking and investment initiatives expanded during the gold rushes, and also during the economic boom of the 1880s. (Australian Encyclopaedia Vol. 1, p. 412).

Although at least two banks had considered Newcastle and the Hunter Valley within their prospective sphere of business from the 1830s, it was indeed not until the mid 1850s that banks began to establish a presence in Newcastle. When they did, their focus was very much on establishing a good position on one of the town's main thoroughfares, centred on Watt Street and Hunter Street.

The penal settlement from which the city of Newcastle grew, had grown up around Watt Street (then known as George Street) which led from the wharf to the commandant's house overlooking the small settlement. After most of the convicts were moved to Port Macquarie in 1822, the settlement was re-laid out by Surveyor Dangar on a grid pattern which forms today's central Newcastle. Dangar's plan was for a town with 190 allotments, a church enclave and a marketplace, suited to fulfilling the function of main centre and port town of the rapidly developing Hunter Valley. Superimposed onto the irregular pattern of the convict settlement, the grid necessitated the demolition of even some of the more solid buildings of the penal settlement, none of which survive today. In the event, Maitland-Morpeth proved to

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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Location: **73 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

be the main centre of the Hunter Valley region prior to the coming of the railway. In 1829 the Australian Agricultural Company, looking for coal-bearing land, was granted 2,000 acres on the western boundary of the town (Brown Street), bringing new life to Newcastle. Up to the 1850s, the Company did not have the right to alienate any of its land, even when it was no longer useful for mining. The development of central Newcastle as a town was thus restricted to the compact area east of Brown Street. Before 1850 this was not a problem as Newcastle was still a mere village, the home of about 1,500 people of whom some one fifth were coal miners. The mid 1850s, however, saw the arrival of rail in Newcastle, and business began to take off, as the colony's economy generally boomed due to the gold rushes. A Chamber of Commerce formed in Newcastle in 1856 and pressed for improvement of port facilities to facilitate commercial growth of the town. The local coal industry was growing steadily, and from the 1860s local manufacturing industries, processing the produce of the Hunter Valley (some of which were established in the 1840s), began to recover from the labour shortages and inflation caused by the gold rushes. (City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History, pp. 3-6)

The Bank of New South Wales was the first to commence operations in Newcastle. In 1832 the bank had selected an allotment on Watt Street. The land, however, passed through the hands of two other owners before the bank opened its Newcastle branch there in June 1853. A month earlier the bank had opened a branch in Maitland. Bowker and Tally, leading Newcastle storekeepers, were the first depositors. Similarly, the Bank of Australasia had considered commencing operations in East Maitland from 1839. A Newcastle branch was opened in 1854, supplied at the outset with cash from the East Maitland office. The bank purchased the area bounded by Hunter, Brown, King and Crown Streets, one acre, from the Australian Agricultural Company and erected a bank premises on the corner of Hunter and Brown Streets, gradually selling off the remainder of the block. The Australian Joint Stock Bank opened a branch in May 1861 on the corner of Hunter and Watt Streets, then regarded as the premier business position in town, becoming the Australian Bank of Commerce in 1910. This bank amalgamated with the Bank of New South Wales, and continued to occupy this site, now known as Bank Corner. (F. A. Cadell, pp. 16-17, 23)

The latter decades of the nineteenth century saw a bustle of bank activity on the intersection of Hunter Street with Watt and Bolton Streets, consolidating this area as Newcastle's main banking and business district. More banks opened Newcastle branches, and parcels of land and premises frequently changed hands between banks, as they jostled for a good position. This period saw the construction of an important group of public buildings on the northern side of Hunter Street, between Bolton Street and Watt Street, which further confirmed the status of Hunter Street as the premier business thoroughfare: the Electric Telegraph Office and new Police Station both constructed in 1861, and an expanded Post and Telegraph Office constructed in 1872, and then an even grander Post Office building, the impressive classical edifice on the north eastern corner of Bolton and Hunter Streets, constructed 1903/4. (Government Architect's Branch, PWD NSW, 1983, pp 3, 8; Maitland & Stafford, 1997, p 43) The banks, on the other hand, did not put their architectural stamp onto Hunter Street until later, but generally adapted existing buildings for their purposes until the 1920s and 1930s. The London Chartered Bank, for example, operated for at least a decade from 1873 in a weatherboard building on the corner of Bolton and Scott Streets, previously occupied by a Seaman's Outfitter. Similarly, the Commercial Bank of Australia Ltd, occupied the School of Arts Building in Hunter Street for several decades to 1918; and the Union Bank

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of Australia adapted the Ship Inn for bank purposes until constructing its own premises. (F. A. Cadell, pp. 19 - 24) This is in contrast to many other regional centres in NSW where purpose-built Victorian bank buildings formed a significant part of the late nineteenth century streetscape, for example the CBC buildings at Dubbo, Bega and Bourke, dating from the 1860s – 1880s and the Union Bank building at Orange constructed in 1858.

The building now known as the National Australia Bank (NAB) is located on the south eastern corner of Bolton and Hunter Streets, opposite the 1903 Post Office and diagonally opposite the ANZ bank building (1914). It was constructed for the Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney (CBC), which initially opened business in Newcastle in July 1868. The bank's first Newcastle premises were located where the former AMP bank is now situated, on the same side of Hunter Street, a few doors to the east. The CBC purchased the site on the corner of Hunter and Bolton Streets in 1897 for 7450 pounds. The Hudson family had built their Prince of Wales Hotel on the site some time after 1848, and had sold their hotel to the Bank of New Zealand in 1878 for 5000 pounds, at which point the bank had already been in tenancy of the building for two years. The Bank of New Zealand continued to operate from the hotel building until the branch closed in 1894, the CBC then operated from the hotel building for several decades. (F. A. Cadell, pp. 18-19).

The CBC erected the present (NAB) building in 1921, occupying other temporary premises in Hunter street during its construction. It is a six storey stone-clad building designed by Kent and Massie in the Inter-War Commercial Palazzo style, a style developed for the classical treatment of multi-storey commercial buildings, and favoured by banks, insurance companies and other well-established and conservative financial institutions. The CBC had an ongoing association with this firm, which designed its head office in Sydney in 1923 and a number of other branches including those at Cessnock and Albury. The firm were prominent designers of commercial buildings in the Inter-War Chicagoesque and Palazzo styles. The construction of the building was part of a wave of substantial rebuilding activity particularly on Hunter Street between Newcomen and Watt Streets during the 1920s. A new period of commercial development in the city centre had been ushered in by the establishment of the BHP Steelworks at Port Waratah in the 1910s and associated heavy industry, resulting in a new influx of banks, insurance companies and other office users to the city centre. Many of the buildings constructed by these companies made use of the recently developed safety elevator and hidden steel frame to attain six or eight storeys, mostly clad in classical facades. Other buildings resulting from this activity include the ANZ building diagonally opposite; the T and G Building at the corner of Hunter and Watt Streets, and the AMP building at 53 Hunter Street. (Maitland and Stafford, pp. 18-19; F. A. Cadell, p. 19; Apperly, Irving and Reynolds, pp. 168-171, 183).

The NAB is now Australia's largest financial institution. It was established in Victoria in 1858, registered under the Victorian Companies Act 1890 in 1893. From the early twentieth century it absorbed a series of other banks, including the Royal Bank of Queensland, Colonial Bank of Australasia Ltd, and Ballarat Banking Company Ltd. In 1983/4 it was known as National Commercial Banking Corporation of Australia Ltd, and took on its current name in 1984. (Guide to Australian Business Records website, <http://www.gabr.net.au/biogs/ABE0218b.htm>) The NAB did not commence operations in Newcastle until 1919, when it took over the premises of the City Bank of Sydney on the north eastern corner of Hunter and Watt Streets. It was some time after 1937 that the NAB

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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Item Name: **National Australia Bank**

Location: **73 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

purchased the premises of the CBC on the corner of Hunter and Bolton Streets, continuing to utilise the lower level as a public service area and bank offices and to lease out space on the upper levels, the bank 'chambers', to local solicitors and other businesses. (F. A. Cadell, pp. 20, 22). At the time of writing the building has been out of use as a bank for several years, and the upper levels are also mostly vacant.

Themes:	National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
	3. Economy	Commerce	(none)
	4. Settlement	Towns, suburbs and village	(none)

**Designer:** Kent and Massie

**Maker / Builder:**

**Year Started:** 1921      **Year Completed:**      **Circa:** No

**Physical Description:** The NAB building is a six storey stone-clad building in the Inter-War Commercial Palazzo style, and was the tallest in the city at the time of its construction. External walls are load bearing faced with sandstone above an igneous base. The lower level features rusticated stonework around arched windows, which contrasts with the lighter colour and smooth texture of the sandstone facing above with its pattern of rectangular fenestration punctuated by decorative stonework - string course, pilasters, and a decorative balcony on the third floor.

The ground floor banking chamber retains its layout, with a long service counter running along the the western side, and banking offices on the eastern side. The area features large doric columns and extensive timber & polished marble panelling.

Newcastle's CBD is of predominantly Victorian scale, and thus the NAB building and its fellow bank and insurance company buildings of the 1920s and 1930s retain their sense of grandness on the Hunter Street streetscape. The NAB forms part of an early twentieth century commercial streetscape which complements the important complex of Victorian public buildings on the northern side of Hunter Street between Bolton and Watt Streets.

**Physical Condition:** Appears to be in good physical condition.

**Modification Dates:**

**Recommended  
Management:**

**Management:**

**Further Comments:**

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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Location: **73 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

- Criteria a)** The NAB has local historical significance as part of a group of bank and insurance buildings constructed in the Newcastle CBD in the 1910s-1930s which transformed the streetscape of Hunter Street in particular, signalled a new phase of commerce in the city, based on heavy industry, and gave banking and insurance a modern presence in the city in purpose-built premises.
- Criteria b)** Within the limited scope of this review, the building has not been found to have significance under this criterion.
- Criteria c)** The building has local aesthetic significance, making an important contribution to the Hunter Street streetscape as a substantial and attractive Inter-War Palazzo style structure on the prominent corner of Hunter and Bolton Streets. Like the neighbouring AMP and ANZ buildings it demonstrates the preference for classical facades by financial institutions during this period. Both the exterior and the ground floor interior demonstrate the projected-self image of banks as solid, permanent and wealth-creating entities.
- Criteria d)** Within the limited scope of this review, the building has not been found to have significance under this criterion.
- Criteria e)** Within the limited scope of this review, the building has not been found to have significance under this criterion.
- Criteria f)** Within the limited scope of this review, the building has not been found to have significance under this criterion.
- Criteria g)** The NAB has the capacity to represent key characteristics of the group of 1910s-1930s bank and insurance company premises in central Newcastle. The history of the site is representative of this group, as a hotel, which then hosted banking functions for a number of financial institutions before classical-style purpose-built premises were constructed in the 1920s. The multi-story classical facade and lavish interior have the capacity to represent the group aesthetically, particularly as the interior fixtures and finishes of a number of other institutions on Hunter Street would appear to have been lost.

**Integrity / Intactness:** Exterior and ground floor have a high level of integrity, interiors of upper levels were not viewed.

References:	Author	Title	Year	
		Guide to Australian Business Records website, viewed 17 April 2008		
		City Wide Heritage Study - Thematic History	2007	
	Apperly, Irving and Reynolds	Identifying Australian Architecture	1989	
	Barry Maitland and David Stafford	Architecture Newcastle	1997	
	F A Cadell	Early Banking in Sydney and Newcastle	1937	
	Government Architect's Branch, PWD NSW	Conservation Plan for Historic Buildings in Hunter Street, Newcastle	1983	
	Grolier Society of Australia	The Australian Encyclopaedia, Vol 1	1963	
Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Unknown	Newcastle Heritage Study	189	1990

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Item Name: **National Australia Bank**

Location: **73 Hunter Street, Newcastle [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	A		DP	60510

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: 1921

Custom Field Two:

Custom Field Three:

Custom Field Four: Conservation Area - NCBD

Custom Field Five: Archaeological Potential

Custom Field Six:

Data Entry: Date First Entered: 11/08/1998 Date Updated: 29/05/2008 Status: Basic

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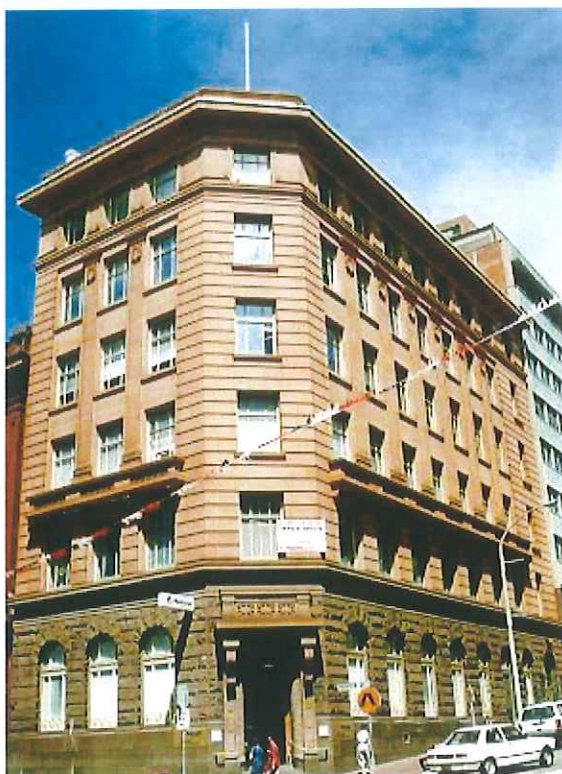
Study Number

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Item Name: **National Australia Bank**

Location: **73 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** National Australia Bank 73-75 Hunter Street

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Sharn Harrison

**Image Date:** 2/10/1997

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170189b1.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** t\_2170189b1.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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Item Name: **National Australia Bank**

Location: **73 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Main entrance to service area

Copyright:

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 22/04/2008

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170189b2.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170189t2.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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Study Number

115

Item Name: **Delprat's Quarters**

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

with BHP as a consulting engineer for a further two years. He was succeeded by Lewis who brought the Company through the post war slump, which hit BHP in 1922, when severe overseas competition caused many sections of the works to be closed down, reducing the workforce from 5,500 men to 840. Lewis embarked on a programme of diversification and cost cutting, buying up and taking over the many independent manufacturers who Baker and Delprat had encouraged to set up plants alongside the BHP Steelworks. By the 1930s, the Company began to fulfil David Baker's forecast of 1912 by producing some of the world's cheapest steel. (Citywide Thematic History, p. 7)

The Steelworks stimulated growth of the Newcastle region in the interwar period, and enhanced the city's position as a regional and industrial centre. The population of Newcastle (excluding Lake Macquarie Shire) grew from 54, 000 in 1911, to 84,000 in 1921 and 104,000 in 1933. With such significant industrial and demographic development, the CBD responded with new commercial buildings, particularly hotels and stores, and Newcastle City Council constructed a town hall and Civic theatre worthy of the State's second city in 1929. The general optimism of the 1920s was dispelled by the Great Depression which brought the construction industry to a halt and severely affected the steelworks and its dependant plants. With high unemployment, estimated at 30% of the workforce, hundreds of people moved into shanty towns at Nobbys Beach, Stockton, Carrington and Adamstown, Lambton, Waratah and Hexham. Partly because of the Depression the State Dockyard closed in 1933 but the steelworks gradually increased its production, leading the city out of the slump as the decade progressed. (Citywide Thematic History, p. 8)

Newcastle again became a key industrial area of great strategic importance in World War II. Anticipating the outbreak of hostilities in the Pacific, Essington Lewis began to prepare BHP for its wartime role after his 1934 overseas tour. Facilities for the production of munitions were installed at the steelworks and the Company's metallurgists had to cope with the new technologies involved in the manufacture of special alloys not previously made in Australia. Magnesium, which was vital for aircraft production, was made for the first time, and tungsten carbide, an essential cutting and shaping agent in precision engineering, began to flow from a pilot plant at the steelworks in 1941. Looking towards this important wartime role the Company also acquired the steelworks at Port Kembla, and thus became the sole integrated iron and steel producer in Australia. Newcastle steel was used in the manufacture of a wide range of military items from shells to ships and the overall effect of the war was to greatly stimulate metals manufacture in the city. (Citywide Thematic History, p. 8; Conservation Plan: BHP Steelworks, p. 24; ADB Online, Essington Lewis)

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

The Steelworks had become very much a part of Newcastle, as Docherty writes: "Newcastle is still BHP" proclaimed the Australian Financial Review in 16 April 1973. No one disagreed. Since 1915 when the steelworks of the Broken Hill Proprietary Co Ltd were opened, heavy industry has imprinted itself on every aspect of Newcastle's life as thoroughly as coalmining had done in the 19th century. By the mid-1920s it was common for inner city residents to check their clocks and watches by the whistle of the steelworks...' (Docherty, 1983, p. 27)

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Docherty, in his book 'Newcastle: The Making of an Australian City', also supplies a dark account of work at the steelworks, and the relationship between the Company and its workers, especially in the early years. Shift work characterised the life of the steelworker, with three shifts of workers maintaining the operation of the works, commencing at 7am, 3pm and 11pm. Through the 1920s, many worked seven days a week. Workers were also vulnerable to injury. In 1917, with about 2,700 employees, there were 2 deaths, 520 injuries requiring hospital treatment, and a further 720 'slight' injuries. Workers faced low wages, and participation in protracted union-Company disputes as well as intermittent unemployment. (Docherty, 1983, pp. 62-67)

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

Delprat's Quarters are currently closed and out of use within the One Steel precinct which operates within part of the former BHP site. Much of the vast former BHP site has been cleared, and Delprat's Quarters remains, along with the immense Administration Building, constructed in the early 1920s; the remnant No. 1 Blast Furnace; and original parts of the timber wharves as the only remaining structures which demonstrate the establishment phase (1913 - 1922) of the Steelworks. (Conservation Plan: BHP Steelworks, pp. 103-104)

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

Designer: Unknown

Maker / Builder: Unknown

Year Started: 1913      Year Completed: 1913      Circa: Yes

Physical Description: Delprat's Quarters is a single story red brick and tile Federation Bungalow. The generous

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Item Name: **Delprat's Quarters**

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

verandah links two wings, the main part of the house (to the east) on a square floorplan, with a separate wing comprised of a single spacious room, perhaps intended as a study or office. Each wing is under a hipped roof with gablets housing roof ventilators. The house features unpretentious decorative elements - exposed rafter ends, simple timber balustrade to the verandah and plain timber posts atop brick bases, tall roughcast chimney with decorative brickwork. The fenestration consists of small six paned windows in groups of two and three with heavy stone lintels with terracotta brow. The interior of the building appears to be characterised by the same gracious simplicity as the exterior.

A small garage outbuilding is situated adjacent, to the south west, also in brick and tile and reflecting decorative features of the main building. A section of brick and wire fence with ornamental gate runs parallel with the south eastern side of the house, with a concrete footpath leading to the modest, porticoed entrance.

The house is sited on a slope which overlooks the former BHP Steelworks, and is orientated towards this vista. The view across the Steelworks site is now screened to a large extent by the stand of mature *Ficus rubiginosa* to the north of the house.

**Physical Condition:** The house appears to be in fair physical condition.

**Modification Dates:**

**Recommended  
Management:**

**Management:**

**Further Comments:**

**Criteria a)** Delprat's Quarters has historical significance for Newcastle as one of the few surviving structures with the capacity to demonstrate the development of the BHP site during its establishment phase, 1913-1922. The Newcastle Steelworks were highly influential in the State's economic, and sometimes political history, and confirmed decisively Australia's ability to sustain domestic industries based on domestic primary resources. Delprat's Quarters, constructed for his accommodation while visiting the site, was probably also the seat of executive power on the site until Delprat's retirement and construction of the Administration Building in 1921, making it the nerve centre of one of NSW's largest and most influential industrial entities in its early years. Delprat's Quarters was the first in a series of quarters for the senior management of the Steelworks at Newcastle, and is the only one of these that remains intact within the former Steelworks site.

**Criteria b)** Delprat's Quarters has a strong and special association with Guillaume Daniel Delprat, General Manager of the BHP 1899-1921, being his residence when in Newcastle to visit the BHP site. Delprat is generally acknowledged as the father of the Australian steel industry. He led the BHP into iron ore extraction and processing, and established the Newcastle Steelworks, a large scale, modern integrated steel and iron works, which broke new ground on the Australian industrial scene and had a lasting impact on the State's economy and capacity for self-sufficiency, and the nature of work and unionism in NSW. Delprat's Quarters is physically representative of the way in which he presided over the planning and

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

construction of the Steelworks in its establishment phase. The cottage overlooks the vast riverfront site of the former Steelworks, and its amenable proportions but simple bungalow style are perhaps evocative of his progressive leadership style.

**Criteria c)** Within the limited scope of research carried out for this review the building has not been found to have significance under this criterion.

**Criteria d)** Within the limited scope of research carried out for this review the building has not been found to have significance under this criterion.

**Criteria e)** Within the limited scope of research carried out for this review the building has not been found to have significance under this criterion.

**Criteria f)** The cottage has local rarity value as one of a small number of standing structures which are associated with the establishment phase of the BHP Steelworks at Newcastle. Much of the vast site has been cleared in recent years.

**Criteria g)** The cottage has the capacity to historically represent the domestic accommodation provided for the executive staff of the BHP at the Steelworks. Although other examples may be extant, they are no longer physically associated with the BHP site.

**Integrity / Intactness:** The cottage appears to have a moderate to high level of integrity.

References:	Author	Title	Year
		Newcastle City Wide Heritage Study - Thematic History	2007
	Docherty, J. C.	Newcastle: The Making of an Australian City	1983
	Graeme Osborne	'Delprat, Guillaume Daniel (1856 - 1937)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 8.	1981
	The EJE Group	Conservation Plan for BHP Steelworks, Port Waratah Site	1991

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Unknown	Newcastle Heritage Study	115	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	221		DP	1013964

Latitude:

Longitude:

Location validity:

Spatial Accuracy:

Map Name:

Map Scale:

AMG Zone:

Easting:

Northing:

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

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Item Name: **Delprat's Quarters**

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

Custom Field One:

Custom Field Two:

Custom Field Three:

Custom Field Four:

Custom Field Five:

Custom Field Six:

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

Date Updated: 24/07/2008

Status: Basic

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Item Name: **Delprat's Quarters**

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

Image/s:



**Caption:** Delprat's Quarters, north eastern elevation.

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Emma Dortins

**Image Date:** 12/09/2007

**Image Number:** 1

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170115b1.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170115t1.jpg

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Item Name: **Delprat's Quarters**

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

Image/s:



Caption: Delprat's Quarters, south eastern elevation.

Copyright:

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 12/09/2007

Image Number: 2

Image Path:

Image File: 2170115b2.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

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Date: 24/07/2008

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170115

Study Number

115

Item Name: **Delprat's Quarters**

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

Image/s:



**Caption:** Delprat's Quarters, south western elevation with main wing in foreground and study wing to the left hand side of the picture.

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** S. Skillen

**Image Date:** 18/10/2006

**Image Number:** 3

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170115b3.jpg

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**Thumb Nail File:** 2170115t3.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170115

Study Number

115

Item Name: **Delprat's Quarters**

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

Image/s:



**Caption:** View of the commodious verandah linking the two wings of the cottage, with main house on left and study wing on right.

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Emma Dortins

**Image Date:** 12/09/2007

**Image Number:** 4

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170115b4.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170115

Study Number

115

Item Name: **Delprat's Quarters**

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

Image/s:



**Caption:** Delprat's Quarters, view from the verandah into the mature fig trees planted to the north of the cottage.

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Emma Dortins

**Image Date:** 12/09/2007

**Image Number:** 5

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170115b5.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170115t5.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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Item Name: **Delprat's Quarters**

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

Image/s:



Caption: Garage to the southwest of the cottage.

Copyright:

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 12/09/2007

Image Number: 6

Image Path:

Image File: 2170115b6.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170115t6.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170278

Study Number

278

Item Name: **Jesmond House (Residence)**

Location: **10 Barker street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

Address: 10 Barker street

DUAP Region: Hunter & Central Coast

Suburb / Nearest Town: The Hill 2300

Historic region: Lower Hunter

Local Govt Area: Newcastle City

Parish:

State: NSW

County:

Other/Former Names:

Area/Group/Complex:

Group ID:

Aboriginal Area: Awabakal

Curtilage/Boundary: Follows property boundary

Item Type: Built

Group: Residential buildings Category: House

Owner:

Admin Codes: LEP

Code 2:

Code 3:

Current Use: Flats

Former Uses:

Assessed Significance: **Local**

Endorsed Significance:

**Statement of Significance:** Jesmond house has historic, associative and aesthetic significance for the city of Newcastle. The house has local historical significance in its association with the well known Wood family, who lived in Jesmond House for over thirty years. It also has historical significance at a local level due to its reputation as the social hub for Newcastle's eminent citizens during the late 19th century. Jesmond House is significant in its association with pre- eminent Newcastle architect, Frederick Menkens. Aesthetically, it has local significance, as its elaborately decorated tower can be seen from afar.

**Historical Notes or Provenance:** The land on which Jesmond House stands was originally part of a 2000 acre grant given to the Australian Agricultural Company in 1829. Up to the 1850s, the Company did not have the right to alienate any of its land, even when it was no longer useful for mining. The development of central Newcastle as a town was thus restricted to the land east of Brown Street, but with a tiny population, this was not at first a significant problem. Coal mining was Newcastle's main pursuit for the duration of the first half of the nineteenth century and in the mid-1850s, Newcastle was still a mere village, the home of about 1,500 people of whom some one fifth were coal miners. (City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History, pp. 4-5, 27) From the mid 1850s however, the Company began to sell land in what is now the heart of Newcastle and it was at one of these sales in 1855 that Thomas Cormack purchased the piece of land on which Jesmond House would later be built. He built a single storey dwelling. (Home of a wealthy brewer, NMH, 10/1977).

Jesmond House was built for Henry Rouse in the late 1870s. It was later purchased by John Wood who renovated the house. Wood, together with his brother Joseph, was one of Newcastle's most successful businessmen. Together the brothers opened a brewery in

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

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Study Number

278

Item Name: **Jesmond House (Residence)**

Location: **10 Barker street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

Newcastle in 1876, known as Wood's Brewery or Castlemaine Brewery, which became a prosperous Newcastle business, employing a large workforce. Both brothers became prominent citizens of Newcastle (EJE Architecture, p. 4). Joseph Wood was one of the contributors to the establishment of the Sailors' Home in Scott Street. His house, Woodlands, was constructed in the late 1870s and also overlooked the ocean and town. Woodlands and Jesmond House were the grandest homes to be built on The Hill (Barry Maitland and David Stafford, p. 11).

John Wood died in 1887 and his son, John Robert Wood, inherited Jesmond House. In the late 1880s, Wood added a tower to the house, possibly because he was interested in photography and the parapet would offer impressive views (Jesmond House, Ordnance Street Newcastle, A Historical Perspective, 1997, p. 5- 6). A 36 square feet billiard room was also added to the building. In 1894, Frederick Menkens, the pre eminent architect in Newcastle at the time, designed further extensions, including two double storey rear wings to be used as a kitchen and servants quarters. A dispute between the electrical subcontractor, Harry Hyde Kingsbury and Menkens during this job led to Kingsbury suing Menkens for slander (Barry Maitland, David Stafford, p. 46). Menkens refused to pay damages, choosing instead to spend a year in Maitland Gaol in 1895 (Jesmond House, Ordnance Street Newcastle, A Historical Perspective, 1997, p. 6).

The construction of Jesmond House is representative of a period of significant population growth and increasing wealth in Newcastle. It also signifies a shift in the nature of The Hill area from an old mining district to an attractive residential area, enhanced by the adjacent King Edward Park (EJE Town Planning, 1997). The grounds of Jesmond House included gardens, terraces, a tennis court and lawn, a coach house and stables. Many social events were hosted at Jesmond House, including music and theatre, and it gained a reputation amongst residents of Newcastle as being a centre of cultural life (Jesmond House, Ordnance Street Newcastle, A Historical Perspective, 1997, p. 6 - 7). John Robert's wife, Essie Jenyns, was a well known Shakespearean actress. Occasionally, Shakespearean plays were performed on the lawns of the house, with proceeds going to charity (EJE Architecture, p. 3).

In 1906, Robert and Essie decided to leave Newcastle and their property was advertised for sale in five lots. No buyer was found. After their departure, Joseph Wood donated the elaborate wrought iron gates to the city and they were erected at the entrance of King Edward Park. Several thousand people gathered to watch the official opening of the gates (EJE Architecture, p. 6-7). The furnishings left behind by the Woods were auctioned off, in a sale that lasted for five days, and attracted art purchasers from Sydney and Melbourne (EJE Architecture, p. 3).

In 1936, Jesmond House, which had been divided into three flats, along with other properties of the John Wood Estate was submitted to auction but again no buyers came forward. During the Second World War, Jesmond House was occupied by the army. In 1945, the house was bought by Mr Desmond Stead and in 1955 it was sold to Victor and Norma Wamsley (Allan Watkins, NMH, 28/10/1977).

The buildings have been adapted for use as twelve flats in recent decades.

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

## State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170278

Study Number

278

Item Name: **Jesmond House (Residence)**

Location: **10 Barker street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

Themes:	National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
	4. Settlement	Accommodation (Housing)	Housing

Designer:

Maker / Builder:

Year Started: 1875      Year Completed:      Circa: Yes

**Physical Description:** Jesmond House is a grand mansion located on the corner of Ordnance and Barker Streets, crowning the hilltop. It is a two storey rendered brick house with corrugated iron roof and has a centrally placed square tower with Italianate detailing over the entrance.

An elaborate staircase leads to the second storey main entrance. The tall Italianate tower, designed by James Henderson, looms over the long staircase. The house is in a mid century vernacular style, based upon the Georgian building tradition. It has a symmetrical design, and with the exception of the tower, is fairly simple in design. On either side of the tower on the second floor are two long windows and its chimney is in a simple Italianate style. Menkens is responsible for the design of the tall, narrow wings located at the rear of the house. There is a garden to the side of the house and a rear courtyard. The former service wing is located on the opposite side of this courtyard, connected to the house by a sheltered walkway.

The landscape surrounding Jesmond House is dominated by steep topography. The Obelisk, King Edward Park and the city are visible from Jesmond House. Due to its prominent location, the tower of Jesmond House is visible from many parts of Newcastle.

**Physical Condition:** From what could be ascertained from its exterior, Jesmond House appears to be in good condition.

**Modification Dates:** Jesmond House was renovated during the 1880s, and a tower was added. In 1894, two double storey rear wings were added. The slate roof has been replaced with corrugated iron and the lower section of the first floor balcony has been enclosed. Stables were originally located on the opposite side of Barker Street, and were later converted to units. Jesmond House has been divided into a number of flats. Although the interior of the house was not inspected, it is assumed that various internal modifications, such as the addition of bathroom and kitchen facilities, have been necessary.

**Recommended Management:**

**Management:**

**Further Comments:**

Criteria a)

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

## State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

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Study Number

278

Item Name: **Jesmond House (Residence)**

Location: **10 Barker street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

Jesmond House has local historical significance as the former home of prominent Novacastrians John Robert Wood and Essie Jenyns and became a focal point for functions such as music and theatre performances as well as parties during their residence. It is also significant as a remaining mansion of the 1880s, with impressive views across Newcastle. Construction of Jesmond House, along with Woodlands, marked the historic transformation of The Hill from an old mining district into a popular residential area. The intricately designed tower of Jesmond House has assumed the status of a local landmark since it was constructed in the late 19th century.

- Criteria b)** Jesmond House is significant in its association with Frederick Menkens, who designed the rear wings of the house. At the time, he was the pre-eminent architect of the Hunter region. It was while engaged in designs for Jesmond House that a dispute began which led him to spend a year in gaol rather than pay fines which he believed were unfair.
- Criteria c)** This impressive house has aesthetic significance at a local level, commanding a prominent position on the Hill. Its tower has landmark qualities, being recognisable from many viewpoints in central Newcastle. Along with Woodlands, it is one of the two grandest homes built on The Hill in Newcastle.
- Criteria d)** Within the limited research undertaken for this review, the item was not found to have significance under this criterion.
- Criteria e)** Along with Woodlands, Jesmond House is testament to the transformation in the nature of The Hill, and as such remains an important structure when studying the changing nature of The Hill.
- Criteria f)** Within the limited research undertaken for this review, the item was not found to have significance under this criterion.
- Criteria g)** Within the limited research undertaken for this review, the item was not found to have significance under this criterion.

**Integrity / Intactness:** Many changes have been made to Jesmond House, however a high level of integrity has been maintained.

References:	Author	Title	Year
	Allan Watkins	Home of a wealthy brewer	1977
	EJE Town Planning	Statement of Heritage Impact - 10 Barker St, The Hill, Newcastle	1997
	K.E. Parsons, R.J. Chivell		1978
	Mailland, B and Stafford, D	Architecture Newcastle	1997

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Unknown	Newcastle Heritage Study	278	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	A & B		DP	153708

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170115

Study Number

115

Item Name: **Delprat's Quarters**

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

with BHP as a consulting engineer for a further two years. He was succeeded by Lewis who brought the Company through the post war slump, which hit BHP in 1922, when severe overseas competition caused many sections of the works to be closed down, reducing the workforce from 5,500 men to 840. Lewis embarked on a programme of diversification and cost cutting, buying up and taking over the many independent manufacturers who Baker and Delprat had encouraged to set up plants alongside the BHP Steelworks. By the 1930s, the Company began to fulfil David Baker's forecast of 1912 by producing some of the world's cheapest steel. (Citywide Thematic History, p. 7)

The Steelworks stimulated growth of the Newcastle region in the interwar period, and enhanced the city's position as a regional and industrial centre. The population of Newcastle (excluding Lake Macquarie Shire) grew from 54, 000 in 1911, to 84,000 in 1921 and 104,000 in 1933. With such significant industrial and demographic development, the CBD responded with new commercial buildings, particularly hotels and stores, and Newcastle City Council constructed a town hall and Civic theatre worthy of the State's second city in 1929. The general optimism of the 1920s was dispelled by the Great Depression which brought the construction industry to a halt and severely affected the steelworks and its dependant plants. With high unemployment, estimated at 30% of the workforce, hundreds of people moved into shanty towns at Nobbys Beach, Stockton, Carrington and Adamstown, Lambton, Waratah and Hexham. Partly because of the Depression the State Dockyard closed in 1933 but the steelworks gradually increased its production, leading the city out of the slump as the decade progressed. (Citywide Thematic History, p. 8)

Newcastle again became a key industrial area of great strategic importance in World War II. Anticipating the outbreak of hostilities in the Pacific, Essington Lewis began to prepare BHP for its wartime role after his 1934 overseas tour. Facilities for the production of munitions were installed at the steelworks and the Company's metallurgists had to cope with the new technologies involved in the manufacture of special alloys not previously made in Australia. Magnesium, which was vital for aircraft production, was made for the first time, and tungsten carbide, an essential cutting and shaping agent in precision engineering, began to flow from a pilot plant at the steelworks in 1941. Looking towards this important wartime role the Company also acquired the steelworks at Port Kembla, and thus became the sole integrated iron and steel producer in Australia. Newcastle steel was used in the manufacture of a wide range of military items from shells to ships and the overall effect of the war was to greatly stimulate metals manufacture in the city. (Citywide Thematic History, p. 8; Conservation Plan: BHP Steelworks, p. 24; ADB Online, Essington Lewis)

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

The Steelworks had become very much a part of Newcastle, as Docherty writes: "Newcastle is still BHP" proclaimed the Australian Financial Review in 16 April 1973. No one disagreed. Since 1915 when the steelworks of the Broken Hill Proprietary Co Ltd were opened, heavy industry has imprinted itself on every aspect of Newcastle's life as thoroughly as coalmining had done in the 19th century. By the mid-1920s it was common for inner city residents to check their clocks and watches by the whistle of the steelworks...' (Docherty, 1983, p. 27)

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

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Item Name: **Delprat's Quarters**

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

Docherty, in his book 'Newcastle: The Making of an Australian City', also supplies a dark account of work at the steelworks, and the relationship between the Company and its workers, especially in the early years. Shift work characterised the life of the steelworker, with three shifts of workers maintaining the operation of the works, commencing at 7am, 3pm and 11pm. Through the 1920s, many worked seven days a week. Workers were also vulnerable to injury. In 1917, with about 2,700 employees, there were 2 deaths, 520 injuries requiring hospital treatment, and a further 720 'slight' injuries. Workers faced low wages, and participation in protracted union-Company disputes as well as intermittent unemployment. (Docherty, 1983, pp. 62-67)

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

Delprat's Quarters are currently closed and out of use within the One Steel precinct which operates within part of the former BHP site. Much of the vast former BHP site has been cleared, and Delprat's Quarters remains, along with the immense Administration Building, constructed in the early 1920s; the remnant No. 1 Blast Furnace; and original parts of the timber wharves as the only remaining structures which demonstrate the establishment phase (1913 - 1922) of the Steelworks. (Conservation Plan: BHP Steelworks, pp. 103-104)

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

Designer: Unknown

Maker / Builder: Unknown

Year Started: 1913      Year Completed: 1913      Circa: Yes

Physical Description: Delprat's Quarters is a single story red brick and tile Federation Bungalow. The generous

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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Study Number

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Item Name: **Delprat's Quarters**

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

verandah links two wings, the main part of the house (to the east) on a square floorplan, with a separate wing comprised of a single spacious room, perhaps intended as a study or office. Each wing is under a hipped roof with gablets housing roof ventilators. The house features unpretentious decorative elements - exposed rafter ends, simple timber balustrade to the verandah and plain timber posts atop brick bases, tall roughcast chimney with decorative brickwork. The fenestration consists of small six paned windows in groups of two and three with heavy stone lintels with terracotta brow. The interior of the building appears to be characterised by the same gracious simplicity as the exterior.

A small garage outbuilding is situated adjacent, to the south west, also in brick and tile and reflecting decorative features of the main building. A section of brick and wire fence with ornamental gate runs parallel with the south eastern side of the house, with a concrete footpath leading to the modest, porticoed entrance.

The house is sited on a slope which overlooks the former BHP Steelworks, and is orientated towards this vista. The view across the Steelworks site is now screened to a large extent by the stand of mature *Ficus rubiginosa* to the north of the house.

**Physical Condition:** The house appears to be in fair physical condition.

**Modification Dates:**

**Recommended  
Management:**

**Management:**

**Further Comments:**

**Criteria a)** Delprat's Quarters has historical significance for Newcastle as one of the few surviving structures with the capacity to demonstrate the development of the BHP site during its establishment phase, 1913-1922. The Newcastle Steelworks were highly influential in the State's economic, and sometimes political history, and confirmed decisively Australia's ability to sustain domestic industries based on domestic primary resources. Delprat's Quarters, constructed for his accommodation while visiting the site, was probably also the seat of executive power on the site until Delprat's retirement and construction of the Administration Building in 1921, making it the nerve centre of one of NSW's largest and most influential industrial entities in its early years. Delprat's Quarters was the first in a series of quarters for the senior management of the Steelworks at Newcastle, and is the only one of these that remains intact within the former Steelworks site.

**Criteria b)** Delprat's Quarters has a strong and special association with Guillaume Daniel Delprat, General Manager of the BHP 1899-1921, being his residence when in Newcastle to visit the BHP site. Delprat is generally acknowledged as the father of the Australian steel industry. He led the BHP into iron ore extraction and processing, and established the Newcastle Steelworks, a large scale, modern integrated steel and iron works, which broke new ground on the Australian industrial scene and had a lasting impact on the State's economy and capacity for self-sufficiency, and the nature of work and unionism in NSW. Delprat's Quarters is physically representative of the way in which he presided over the planning and

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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Study Number

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Item Name: **Delprat's Quarters**

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

construction of the Steelworks in its establishment phase. The cottage overlooks the vast riverfront site of the former Steelworks, and its amenable proportions but simple bungalow style are perhaps evocative of his progressive leadership style.

**Criteria c)** Within the limited scope of research carried out for this review the building has not been found to have significance under this criterion.

**Criteria d)** Within the limited scope of research carried out for this review the building has not been found to have significance under this criterion.

**Criteria e)** Within the limited scope of research carried out for this review the building has not been found to have significance under this criterion.

**Criteria f)** The cottage has local rarity value as one of a small number of standing structures which are associated with the establishment phase of the BHP Steelworks at Newcastle. Much of the vast site has been cleared in recent years.

**Criteria g)** The cottage has the capacity to historically represent the domestic accommodation provided for the executive staff of the BHP at the Steelworks. Although other examples may be extant, they are no longer physically associated with the BHP site.

**Integrity / Intactness:** The cottage appears to have a moderate to high level of integrity.

References:	Author	Title	Year
		Newcastle City Wide Heritage Study - Thematic History	2007
	Docherty, J. C.	Newcastle: The Making of an Australian City	1983
	Graeme Osborne	'Delprat, Guillaume Daniel (1856 - 1937)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 8.	1981
	The EJE Group	Conservation Plan for BHP Steelworks, Port Waratah Site	1991

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Unknown	Newcastle Heritage Study	115	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	221		DP	1013964

Latitude:

Longitude:

Location validity:

Spatial Accuracy:

Map Name:

Map Scale:

AMG Zone:

Easting:

Northing:

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

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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Item Name: **Delprat's Quarters**

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

Custom Field One:

Custom Field Two:

Custom Field Three:

Custom Field Four:

Custom Field Five:

Custom Field Six:

Data Entry:

Date First Entered: 11/08/1998

Date Updated: 24/07/2008

Status: Basic

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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Item Name: **Delprat's Quarters**

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

Image/s:



**Caption:** Delprat's Quarters, north eastern elevation.

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Emma Dortins

**Image Date:** 12/09/2007

**Image Number:** 1

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170115b1.jpg

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**Thumb Nail File:** 2170115t1.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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Study Number

115

Item Name: **Delprat's Quarters**

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

Image/s:



Caption: Delprat's Quarters, south eastern elevation.

Copyright:

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 12/09/2007

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Image Path:

Image File: 2170115b2.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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SHI Number

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Study Number

115

Item Name: **Delprat's Quarters**

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

Image/s:



**Caption:** Delprat's Quarters, south western elevation with main wing in foreground and study wing to the left hand side of the picture.

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** S. Skillen

**Image Date:** 18/10/2006

**Image Number:** 3

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170115b3.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170115t3.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

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115

Item Name: **Delprat's Quarters**

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

Image/s:



**Caption:** View of the commodious verandah linking the two wings of the cottage, with main house on left and study wing on right.

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Emma Dortins

**Image Date:** 12/09/2007

**Image Number:** 4

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170115b4.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170115t4.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170115

Study Number

115

Item Name: **Delprat's Quarters**

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

Image/s:



**Caption:** Delprat's Quarters, view from the verandah into the mature fig trees planted to the north of the cottage.

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Emma Dortins

**Image Date:** 12/09/2007

**Image Number:** 5

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170115b5.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170115t5.jpg

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115

Item Name: **Delprat's Quarters**

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

Image/s:



Caption: Garage to the southwest of the cottage.

Copyright:

Image by: Emma Dortins

Image Date: 12/09/2007

Image Number: 6

Image Path:

Image File: 2170115b6.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170115t6.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170278

Study Number

278

Item Name: **Jesmond House (Residence)**

Location: **10 Barker street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

Address: 10 Barker street  
Suburb / Nearest Town: The Hill 2300  
Local Govt Area: Newcastle City  
State: NSW

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

Other/Former Names:

Area/Group/Complex:

Group ID:

Aboriginal Area: Awabakal

Curtilage/Boundary: Follows property boundary

Item Type: Built

Group: Residential buildings

Category: House

Owner:

Admin Codes: LEP

Code 2:

Code 3:

Current Use: Flats

Former Uses:

Assessed Significance: **Local**

Endorsed Significance:

**Statement of Significance:** Jesmond house has historic, associative and aesthetic significance for the city of Newcastle. The house has local historical significance in its association with the well known Wood family, who lived in Jesmond House for over thirty years. It also has historical significance at a local level due to its reputation as the social hub for Newcastle's eminent citizens during the late 19th century. Jesmond House is significant in its association with pre- eminent Newcastle architect, Frederick Menkens. Aesthetically, it has local significance, as its elaborately decorated tower can be seen from afar.

**Historical Notes or Provenance:** The land on which Jesmond House stands was originally part of a 2000 acre grant given to the Australian Agricultural Company in 1829. Up to the 1850s, the Company did not have the right to alienate any of its land, even when it was no longer useful for mining. The development of central Newcastle as a town was thus restricted to the land east of Brown Street, but with a tiny population, this was not at first a significant problem. Coal mining was Newcastle's main pursuit for the duration of the first half of the nineteenth century and in the mid-1850s, Newcastle was still a mere village, the home of about 1,500 people of whom some one fifth were coal miners. (City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History, pp. 4-5, 27) From the mid 1850s however, the Company began to sell land in what is now the heart of Newcastle and it was at one of these sales in 1855 that Thomas Cormack purchased the piece of land on which Jesmond House would later be built. He built a single storey dwelling. (Home of a wealthy brewer, NMH, 10/1977).

Jesmond House was built for Henry Rouse in the late 1870s. It was later purchased by John Wood who renovated the house. Wood, together with his brother Joseph, was one of Newcastle's most successful businessmen. Together the brothers opened a brewery in

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

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Study Number

278

Item Name: **Jesmond House (Residence)**

Location: **10 Barker street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

Newcastle in 1876, known as Wood's Brewery or Castlemaine Brewery, which became a prosperous Newcastle business, employing a large workforce. Both brothers became prominent citizens of Newcastle (EJE Architecture, p. 4). Joseph Wood was one of the contributors to the establishment of the Sailors' Home in Scott Street. His house, Woodlands, was constructed in the late 1870s and also overlooked the ocean and town. Woodlands and Jesmond House were the grandest homes to be built on The Hill (Barry Maitland and David Stafford, p. 11).

John Wood died in 1887 and his son, John Robert Wood, inherited Jesmond House. In the late 1880s, Wood added a tower to the house, possibly because he was interested in photography and the parapet would offer impressive views (Jesmond House, Ordnance Street Newcastle, A Historical Perspective, 1997, p. 5- 6). A 36 square feet billiard room was also added to the building. In 1894, Frederick Menkens, the pre eminent architect in Newcastle at the time, designed further extensions, including two double storey rear wings to be used as a kitchen and servants quarters. A dispute between the electrical subcontractor, Harry Hyde Kingsbury and Menkens during this job led to Kingsbury suing Menkens for slander (Barry Maitland, David Stafford, p. 46). Menkens refused to pay damages, choosing instead to spend a year in Maitland Gaol in 1895 (Jesmond House, Ordnance Street Newcastle, A Historical Perspective, 1997, p. 6).

The construction of Jesmond House is representative of a period of significant population growth and increasing wealth in Newcastle. It also signifies a shift in the nature of The Hill area from an old mining district to an attractive residential area, enhanced by the adjacent King Edward Park (EJE Town Planning, 1997). The grounds of Jesmond House included gardens, terraces, a tennis court and lawn, a coach house and stables. Many social events were hosted at Jesmond House, including music and theatre, and it gained a reputation amongst residents of Newcastle as being a centre of cultural life (Jesmond House, Ordnance Street Newcastle, A Historical Perspective, 1997, p. 6 - 7). John Robert's wife, Essie Jenyns, was a well known Shakespearean actress. Occasionally, Shakespearean plays were performed on the lawns of the house, with proceeds going to charity (EJE Architecture, p. 3).

In 1906, Robert and Essie decided to leave Newcastle and their property was advertised for sale in five lots. No buyer was found. After their departure, Joseph Wood donated the elaborate wrought iron gates to the city and they were erected at the entrance of King Edward Park. Several thousand people gathered to watch the official opening of the gates (EJE Architecture, p. 6-7). The furnishings left behind by the Woods were auctioned off, in a sale that lasted for five days, and attracted art purchasers from Sydney and Melbourne (EJE Architecture, p. 3).

In 1936, Jesmond House, which had been divided into three flats, along with other properties of the John Wood Estate was submitted to auction but again no buyers came forward. During the Second World War, Jesmond House was occupied by the army. In 1945, the house was bought by Mr Desmond Stead and in 1955 it was sold to Victor and Norma Wamsley (Allan Watkins, NMH, 28/10/1977).

The buildings have been adapted for use as twelve flats in recent decades.

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

## State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170278

Study Number

278

Item Name: **Jesmond House (Residence)**

Location: **10 Barker street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

Themes:	National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
	4. Settlement	Accommodation (Housing)	Housing

Designer:

Maker / Builder:

Year Started: 1875      Year Completed:      Circa: Yes

**Physical Description:** Jesmond House is a grand mansion located on the corner of Ordnance and Barker Streets, crowning the hilltop. It is a two storey rendered brick house with corrugated iron roof and has a centrally placed square tower with Italianate detailing over the entrance.

An elaborate staircase leads to the second storey main entrance. The tall Italianate tower, designed by James Henderson, looms over the long staircase. The house is in a mid century vernacular style, based upon the Georgian building tradition. It has a symmetrical design, and with the exception of the tower, is fairly simple in design. On either side of the tower on the second floor are two long windows and its chimney is in a simple Italianate style. Menkens is responsible for the design of the tall, narrow wings located at the rear of the house. There is a garden to the side of the house and a rear courtyard. The former service wing is located on the opposite side of this courtyard, connected to the house by a sheltered walkway.

The landscape surrounding Jesmond House is dominated by steep topography. The Obelisk, King Edward Park and the city are visible from Jesmond House. Due to its prominent location, the tower of Jesmond House is visible from many parts of Newcastle.

**Physical Condition:** From what could be ascertained from its exterior, Jesmond House appears to be in good condition.

**Modification Dates:** Jesmond House was renovated during the 1880s, and a tower was added. In 1894, two double storey rear wings were added. The slate roof has been replaced with corrugated iron and the lower section of the first floor balcony has been enclosed. Stables were originally located on the opposite side of Barker Street, and were later converted to units. Jesmond House has been divided into a number of flats. Although the interior of the house was not inspected, it is assumed that various internal modifications, such as the addition of bathroom and kitchen facilities, have been necessary.

**Recommended Management:**

**Management:**

**Further Comments:**

Criteria a)

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

## State Heritage Inventory

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**Item Name:** **Jesmond House (Residence)**

**Location:** **10 Barker street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

Jesmond House has local historical significance as the former home of prominent Novacastrians John Robert Wood and Essie Jenyns and became a focal point for functions such as music and theatre performances as well as parties during their residence. It is also significant as a remaining mansion of the 1880s, with impressive views across Newcastle. Construction of Jesmond House, along with Woodlands, marked the historic transformation of The Hill from an old mining district into a popular residential area. The intricately designed tower of Jesmond House has assumed the status of a local landmark since it was constructed in the late 19th century.

- Criteria b)** Jesmond House is significant in its association with Frederick Menkens, who designed the rear wings of the house. At the time, he was the pre-eminent architect of the Hunter region. It was while engaged in designs for Jesmond House that a dispute began which led him to spend a year in gaol rather than pay fines which he believed were unfair.
- Criteria c)** This impressive house has aesthetic significance at a local level, commanding a prominent position on the Hill. Its tower has landmark qualities, being recognisable from many viewpoints in central Newcastle. Along with Woodlands, it is one of the two grandest homes built on The Hill in Newcastle.
- Criteria d)** Within the limited research undertaken for this review, the item was not found to have significance under this criterion.
- Criteria e)** Along with Woodlands, Jesmond House is testament to the transformation in the nature of The Hill, and as such remains an important structure when studying the changing nature of The Hill.
- Criteria f)** Within the limited research undertaken for this review, the item was not found to have significance under this criterion.
- Criteria g)** Within the limited research undertaken for this review, the item was not found to have significance under this criterion.

**Integrity / Intactness:** Many changes have been made to Jesmond House, however a high level of integrity has been maintained.

<b>References:</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Year</b>
	Allan Watkins	Home of a wealthy brewer	1977
	EJE Town Planning	Statement of Heritage Impact - 10 Barker St, The Hill, Newcastle	1997
	K.E. Parsons, R.J. Chivell		1978
	Mailland, B and Stafford, D	Architecture Newcastle	1997

<b>Studies:</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Year</b>
	Unknown	Newcastle Heritage Study	278	1990
	Sue Rosen and Associates Heritage Assessment And History (HAAH)	Review of Items of Potential State Significance in the Newcastle City Area		2008

<b>Parcels:</b>	<b>Parcel Code</b>	<b>LotNumber</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>Plan Code</b>	<b>Plan Number</b>
	LOT	A & B		DP	153708

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170340

Study Number

340

Item Name: **Catholic Centre For Deaf Education**

Location: **30 Lorna Street, Waratah [Newcastle City]**

the Redemptorist Monastery and Bishop Clarke House.

Themes:	National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
	6. Educating	Education	(none)
	8. Culture	Religion	(none)

Designer:

Maker / Builder:

Year Started:

Year Completed:

Circa: No

**Physical Description:** The building was originally a lofty two stories which has now been divided into three stories. It is a symmetrical building of a warm rose brick. A colonnaded two storey verandah flanks a central tower, which is in turn framed by two gabled bays. The gables are of a dramatic gothic style, and feature contrasting yellow brickwork forming machicolation motifs. The pointed arches to the openings are repeated along the lower storey windows and up the central tower and contrast with the lower windows of the gabled bays, highlighted with yellow brick. The lower verandah features delicate brick tracery. The new double storey north and south wings added in 1934 have matching brickwork and feature pointed arches to the openings.  
The building faces the nursing home across an internal roadway and grotto area.

**Physical Condition:**

**Modification Dates:** Following the fire in 1948; upper floor was divided into two floors and the windows in the gables were altered.

**Recommended Management:**

**Management:**

**Further Comments:**

**Criteria a)** The Catholic Centre for Deaf Education has historical significance for its ability to articulate important aspects of the historic theme of education in Newcastle. Its establishment as a charitable institution illustrates the exclusion of deaf children from the education system of the NSW government until the 1920s, as part of a movement to provide education for deaf children following the establishment of the The New South Wales Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind in 1861. More generally, it demonstrates the important role that religious organisations played in Victorian education, health and welfare.

**Criteria b)** The Catholic Centre for Deaf Education has a high level of local associative significance for Newcastle and the region as one of eminent local architect Frederick Menken's major

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170340

Study Number

340

Item Name: **Catholic Centre For Deaf Education**

Location: **30 Lorna Street, Waratah [Newcastle City]**

ecclesiastic projects. Menkens was the pre-eminent architect in Newcastle in the latter decades of the nineteenth century. The contrasting colours on the striking gothic style gables display Menkens' skill and confidence. It is a fine example of the early period of Menkens' work, in which he embraced impressive ornamentation. It is also significant in its association with superior of the institute, Kathleen Mary Egan who recognised the need for improved education of deaf students and the importance of recognising deaf people and hearing people as fundamentally the same in their ambitions and character. This was significant in leading her to reform the education at the Centre.

- Criteria c)** The Catholic Centre for Deaf education has local aesthetic significance as a distinctive building in Waratah. Its ornamental machicolation motifs and tracery are striking elements of the building and its imposing size and distinctive style make it a landmark building in Waratah.
- Criteria d)** Within the limits of this research, this item was not found to be significant under this criterion.
- Criteria e)** Within the limits of this research, this item was not found to be significant under this criterion.
- Criteria f)** Within the limits of this research, this item was not found to be significant under this criterion.
- Criteria g)** Within the limits of this research, this item was not found to be significant under this criterion.

**Integrity / Intactness:** From what could be determined from the exterior, the building is intact.

References:	Author	Title	Year
		Newcastle City Wide Heritage Study; Thematic History	2007
	ADB online	Entry on Kathleen Mary Egan,	
	Barbara Lee Crickmore	An Historical Perspective on the Academic Education of Deaf Children in New South Wales 1860s-1990s	2000
	Dominican Sisters Website	<a href="http://209.85.173.104/search?q=cache:kYRN9reN7oAJ:www.cathchurch.net/religious/foundation/opeast1.htm+Institution+for+the+Deaf+and+Dumb+waratah&amp;hl=en&amp;ct=clnk&amp;cd=3&amp;gl=au">http://209.85.173.104/search?q=cache:kYRN9reN7oAJ:www.cathchurch.net/religious/foundation/opeast1.htm+Institution+for+the+Deaf+and+Dumb+waratah&amp;hl=en&amp;ct=clnk&amp;cd=3&amp;gl=au</a>	
	Ian Stuart Pellant,	'Early Works' - extract from Thesis on Frederick Menkens	1974
	Menkens' Centenary Exhibition Catalogue	Menkens; Newcastle Library	1978
	NSW Department of Education,	Sydney and the Bush	1980
	St Gabriels Website	<a href="http://www.stgabriels.nsw.edu.au/about/index.htm">http://www.stgabriels.nsw.edu.au/about/index.htm</a>	

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Unknown	Newcastle Heritage Study	340	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	1-18 incl	A		
	LOT	41		DP	1077679

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170340

Study Number

340

Item Name: **Catholic Centre For Deaf Education**

Location: **30 Lorna Street, Waratah [Newcastle City]**

LOT

31

DP

1114527

Latitude:

Longitude:

Location validity:

Spatial Accuracy:

Map Name:

Map Scale:

AMG Zone:

Easting:

Northing:

Listings:

Name:

Title:

Number:

Date:

Heritage study

National Trust of Australia register

Custom Field One: 1886

Custom Field Two:

Custom Field Three:

Custom Field Four:

Custom Field Five:

Custom Field Six:

Data Entry:

Date First Entered: 11/08/1998

Date Updated: 06/06/2008

Status: Basic

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170340

Study Number

340

Item Name: **Catholic Centre For Deaf Education**

Location: **30 Lorna Street, Waratah [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Catholic Centre For Deaf Education

Copyright:

Image by: Julia Kensy

Image Date: 21/04/2008

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170340b1.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170340t1.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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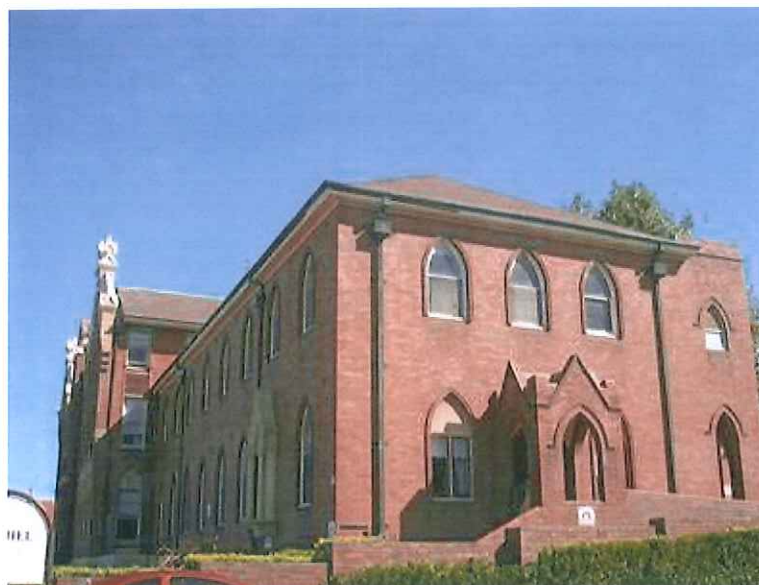
Study Number

340

Item Name: **Catholic Centre For Deaf Education**

Location: **30 Lorna Street, Waratah [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** Catholic Centre For Deaf Education

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Julia Kensy

**Image Date:** 21/04/2008

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170340b2.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170340t2.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number  
2170340  
Study Number  
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Item Name: **Catholic Centre For Deaf Education**

Location: **30 Lorna Street, Waratah [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** Entrance to the Centre

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Julia Kensity

**Image Date:** 21/04/2008

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170340b3.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170340t3.jpg



# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170340

Study Number

340

Item Name: **Catholic Centre For Deaf Education**

Location: **30 Lorna Street, Waratah [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** Catholic Centre for Deaf Education

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** B. Maitland and D. Stafford

**Image Date:**

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170340b5.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170340t5.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

## State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170192

Study Number

192

Item Name: **Colonial Mutual Life Building**

Location: **108-112 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Address: 108-112 Hunter Street

DUAP Region: Hunter & Central Coast

Suburb / Nearest Town: Newcastle 2300

Historic region: Lower Hunter

Local Govt Area: Newcastle City

Parish:

State: NSW

County:

Other/Former Names:

Area/Group/Complex:

Group ID:

Aboriginal Area:

Curtilage/Boundary:

Item Type: Built

Group: Commercial

Category: Commercial Office/Bui

Owner:

Admin Codes: LEP

Code 2:

Code 3:

Current Use: Shops and offices

Former Uses:

Assessed Significance: **Local**

Endorsed Significance:

**Statement of Significance:** The CML building has local historical and aesthetic significance and rarity value. As part of a group of bank and insurance buildings constructed in the Newcastle CBD in the 1910s-1930s it demonstrates a new phase of commerce in the city riding on the back of heavy industry. The building has aesthetic significance for Newcastle and local rarity value as a unique example of a multistorey commercial building designed in the Art Deco style, providing a significant local example of the transition away from the dominance of the classical style for the architecture of financial institutions from the 1930s. The building makes an important contribution to the Hunter Street streetscape as a substantial and attractive early twentieth century commercial building.

**Historical Notes or Provenance:** The CML building is associated with the history of Australian life insurance and with the development of Newcastle as a commercial centre, with a central business district evolving around Hunter and Watt Streets from the second half of the nineteenth century.

The first Australian life insurance society was the Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP), established in Sydney in 1849 as a mutual company offering life insurance policies, deferred annuities and the like. The AMP grew up alongside the giants of life insurance in the British Empire, such as the European Assurance Society (London) and the Northern Insurance Company (Scotland) to become a major force in life insurance in Australasia and one of the first Australian firms to make an international name. (Blainey, pp. vii-viii, p. 10, 45) The AMP began with a small board of individuals giving their time voluntarily, and opening for an hour or two each day in rooms above a grocery store in George Street, Sydney. The first years were an uphill battle; Sydneysiders did not seem to understand the benefits of life insurance, and it was acknowledged in retrospect that the policies offered in the earliest

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170192

Study Number

192

Item Name: **Colonial Mutual Life Building**

Location: **108-112 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

years did not reflect the financial realities of most working families. For the first year, the Society survived entirely through policies taken out by board members. Almost as soon as the AMP was established, agents were sought in population centres outside Sydney. A letter was sent to clerks of petty sessions and minor legal officials across New South Wales inviting them to become agents of the Society. Eleven responses were received, including one from Maitland, where a local auctioneer became the agent. (Blainey, pp. 8-11)

By 1860 the AMP was on a stable footing, selling 500 policies in that year. The AMP's first full time insurance salesman also began work that year, travelling the country and lecturing on the virtues and virtuousness of life insurance. The 1860s also saw the establishment of AMP's first serious domestic rivals, particularly in Melbourne, where a sense of Victorian 'nationalism' attracted custom to Victorian societies such as the Mutual Life Association and National Mutual Life Association, both established in 1869. The Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society (CML) was also founded in Victoria in 1873, by Thomas Jacques Martin, an Englishman of long residence in Victoria. Sir Redmond Barry, judge, and prominent man in almost every sphere of Melbourne life, became president. Like the AMP, the CML sent travelling salesmen, and even a travelling doctor who could make medical examinations on the spot, to towns all over Victoria and NSW. During the 1880s, the CML became one of the AMP's strongest competitors, planning even to open an office in London, which defied the AMP's capacity at the time. In 1905 the CML was amongst the top rank of insurance firms, behind the AMP with the National Mutual, and the Mutual Life Association, holding 11 million pounds worth of current life policies, a position it maintained through to the inter-war period. In the inter-war period, like the Temperance and General (T & G), CML thought it its duty to try to prolong the life of its members, and provided health services for members, sending nurses to visit sick members who lived in the capital cities. It is likely that the CML had a presence of some sort in Newcastle before the Great War. (Blainey pp. 30-4, 67, 98, 103, 112, 148, 184, 243).

Throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries the developing commercial and business life of Newcastle was for the most part concentrated on the two main thoroughfares, Hunter and Watt Streets. The penal settlement from which the city of Newcastle grew, had grown up around Watt Street (then known as George Street) which lead from the wharf to the commandant's house overlooking the small settlement. After most of the convicts were moved to Port Macquarie in 1822, the settlement was re-laid out by Surveyor Dangar on a grid pattern which forms today's central Newcastle. Dangar's plan was for a town with 190 allotments, a church enclave and a marketplace, suited to fulfilling the function of main centre and port town of the rapidly developing Hunter Valley. In the event, Maitland-Morpeth proved to be the main centre of the Hunter Valley region prior to the coming of the railway. In 1829 the Australian Agricultural Company, looking for coal-bearing land, was granted 2,000 acres on the western boundary of the town (Brown Street), bringing new life to Newcastle. Up to the 1850s, the Company did not have the right to alienate any of its land, even when it was no longer useful for mining. The development of central Newcastle as a town was thus restricted to the compact area east of Brown Street. The mid 1850s saw the arrival of rail in Newcastle, and business began to take off, as the colony's economy generally boomed due to the gold rushes. (City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History, pp. 3-6)

From the mid 1850s banks began to establish branches in central Newcastle. The Bank of

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

## State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170192

Study Number

192

Item Name: **Colonial Mutual Life Building**

Location: **108-112 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

New South Wales was the first to commence operations in Newcastle on Watt Street in June 1853. The Bank of Australasia followed, opening an office in 1854, on the corner of Hunter and Brown Streets. (F. A. Cadell, pp. 16-17, 23) A number of other prominent banks followed and the latter decades of the nineteenth century saw a bustle of bank activity in the main business district centred on Hunter Street and Watt and Bolton Streets, with parcels of land and premises frequently changing hands between banks, as they jostled for a good position. This period also saw the construction of an important group of public buildings on the northern side of Hunter Street, between Bolton Street and Watt Street, which consolidated the status of Hunter Street as the premier business thoroughfare: an Electric Telegraph and Post Office and a new Police Station in 1861; expanded Post and Telegraph Office in 1872, which later became the Public Works Department office; and in 1903-1904 the Post Office again moved to expanded premises, the impressive classical edifice on the north eastern corner of Bolton and Hunter Streets. (Government Architect's Branch, PWD NSW, 1983, pp 3, 8; Maitland & Stafford, 1997, p 43) The banks, on the other hand, did not put their architectural stamp onto Hunter Street until later, commonly adapting existing buildings for their purposes until the 1920s and 1930s. (F. A. Cadell, Early Banking in Sydney and Newcastle pp. 19 - 24)

A wave of rebuilding activity swept the Newcastle CBD during the 1910s and 1920s focussed most strongly on Hunter Street between Newcomen and Watt Streets. The commercial development in the city centre had been ushered in by the establishment of the BHP Steelworks at Port Waratah in the 1910s and associated heavy industry, resulting in a new influx of banks, insurance companies and other office users to the city centre. Many of the buildings constructed by these companies made use of the recently developed safety elevator and hidden steel frame to attain six or eight storeys, mostly clad in classical facades. Buildings resulting from this activity include the ANZ building (former Union Bank) adjacent to the CML; the NAB (or CBC) building diagonally opposite on the corner of Hunter and Bolton Streets, and the AMP Society building at 55 Hunter Street. Sydney-based architects were prominent in this effective redesign of the city's main commercial thoroughfare. (Maitland and Stafford, pp. 18-19; F. A. Cadell, p. 19; Apperly, Irving and Reynolds, pp. 168-171, 183).

Where the bank and insurance office buildings constructed in Hunter Street in the 1910s and 1920s made use of classical facades, the 1937 CML building was heavily influenced by the Art Deco style. This palatable form of modernism was most often used in the design of places of entertainment, and in Newcastle had first appeared on the 1929 façade of the Theatre Royal cinema at 669 Hunter Street, and then in a number of hotel designs, such as the Seven Seas Hotel at Carrington. In the CBD, the T & G building, on the corner of Hunter and Watt Streets was constructed in the Inter-War Commercial Palazzo style in 1923, but the two new storeys and the emblematic T & G tower added in 1932 showed distinct Art Deco influences. (Maitland and Stafford, p. 20) The CML offices, designed by Hennessey and Hennessey embodied the typical features of the Art Deco style applied to skyscrapers, the characteristic emphasis on the vertical, a concentration of ornament towards the top of the building and the use of non-historic decorative motifs. (Maitland and Stafford, p. 139) By way of contrast, the Australian Metropolitan Life Assurance Co. also established a presence in Newcastle in 1936, and did so by renovating a former warehouse at 5 Bolton Street, now known as the former Post Office Annex, cleaning down its Victorian Academic Classical façade, which would have projected a much more traditional image than that of the CML

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

## State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number  
2170192  
Study Number  
192

Item Name: **Colonial Mutual Life Building**

Location: **108-112 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

premises around the corner. (Ecotecture, 2000, pp. 3-4, 10)

By the time that AMP began considering abandoning the mutual structure in 1995, both Colonial Mutual and National Mutual had done so, becoming public companies with shareholders rather than members. CML became Colonial Limited between 1996 and 2000, and then Colonial First State Limited in 2000. The company no longer occupies its Newcastle offices, and the building is utilised by a range of other businesses.

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

Designer: Hennessy and Hennessy

Maker / Builder:

Year Started:                      Year Completed: 1937                      Circa: No

**Physical Description:** The CML building is an eight storey rendered brick building in Art Deco style. The exterior is substantially intact above awning level. The façade is of five bays, with the central three slightly projecting and featuring paired windows. The façade features non-historic applied decoration in keeping with the style. A decorative band across the third storey features paired arched windows with a row of gargoyle-like faces below and a zig-zag patterned frieze above. A pair of lions holding shields sits at fourth floor level, and a pair of flagpoles supported by eagles on the fifth. Applied lettering reading 'Colonial Mutual Life Building' occupies the inter-floor spaces below the fifth and sixth storey windows. On the upper two floors the piers or fins between the bays are emphasised using stepping, and project vertically to form a stepped silhouette against the sky. The upper levels are also decorated with geometric moulded zig-zag, parallel line and diamond designs. The lettering and various other features are picked out in maroon against the light cream ground. While the western wall of the building is plain and windowless, the eastern wall, which addresses a narrow laneway is decorated in similar style to the main façade, though less lavishly.

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

**Modification Dates:**

**Recommended  
Management:**

**Management:**

**Further Comments:**

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number  
**2170192**  
Study Number  
**192**

**Item Name:** Colonial Mutual Life Building  
**Location:** 108-112 Hunter Street, Newcastle [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	1		DP	331485

**Latitude:**

**Longitude:**

**Location validity:**

**Spatial Accuracy:**

**Map Name:**

**Map Scale:**

**AMG Zone:**

**Easting:**

**Northing:**

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

**Custom Field One:** 1935

**Custom Field Two:**

**Custom Field Three:**

**Custom Field Four:** Conservation Area - NCBD

**Custom Field Five:** Archaeological Potential

**Custom Field Six:**

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

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170192

Study Number

192

Item Name: **Colonial Mutual Life Building**

Location: **108-112 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: CML Building 108-112 Hunter Street

Copyright:

Image by: Sharn Harrison

Image Date: 2/10/1997

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170192b1.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t\_2170192.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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SHI Number

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Study Number

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Item Name: **Colonial Mutual Life Building**

Location: **108-112 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** CML building in the Hunter Street streetscape, alongside the ANZ building.

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Emma Dortins

**Image Date:** 11/09/2007

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170192b2.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170192t2.jpg



# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170192

Study Number

192

Item Name: **Colonial Mutual Life Building**

Location: **108-112 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** View along side of CML building showing continued decoration along lane access

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Emma Dortins

**Image Date:** 11/09/2007

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170192b3.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170192t3.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

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Study Number

192

Item Name: **Colonial Mutual Life Building**

Location: **108-112 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** Close view of applied ornamentation on facade.

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Emma Dortins

**Image Date:** 11/09/2007

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170192b4.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170192t4.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

## State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170115

Study Number

115

Item Name: **Delprat's Quarters**

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

Address: 99 Selwyn Street

DUAP Region: Hunter & Central Coast

Suburb / Nearest Town: Mayfield North 2304

Historic region: Lower Hunter

Local Govt Area: Newcastle City

Parish:

State: NSW

County:

Other/Former Names: BHP

Area/Group/Complex:

Group ID:

Aboriginal Area:

**Curtilage/Boundary:** A reduced curtilage is recommended, taking in the cottage itself; the garage to the south; section of wire fence with gate, to the east of the cottage (see Image No. 2); a generous land apron to the north (at least ten metres); and an apron of 5-10 metres to the west.

Item Type: Built

Group: Manufacturing and Pr Category: Industrial housing & q

Owner:

Admin Codes: LEP

Code 2:

Code 3:

Current Use:

Former Uses:

Assessed Significance: **Local**

Endorsed Significance:

**Statement of Significance:** Delprat's Quarters has historical and associative significance for the Newcastle as one of the few surviving structures with the capacity to demonstrate the development of the BHP site during its establishment phase, 1913-1922. The cottage has a significant association with Guillaume Daniel Delprat, General Manager of the BHP 1899-1921, generally acknowledged as the father of the Australian steel industry. The cottage, constructed for his accommodation while visiting the site, was probably also the seat of executive power on the site until Delprat's retirement and construction of the Administration Building in 1921, making it the nerve centre of one of NSW's largest and most influential industrial entities in its early years. Sited on a rise, overlooking the vast riverfront site of the former Steelworks, the cottage is physically representative of the way in which its occupant presided over the planning and construction of the Steelworks in its establishment phase. Delprat's Quarters was the first in a series of quarters for the senior management of the Steelworks at Newcastle, and is the only one of these that remains intact within the Steelworks site.

**Historical Notes or Provenance:** Delprat's Quarters is one of the few intact buildings associated with the Broken Hill Proprietary Mining Company's (hence: BHP) Steelworks at Port Waratah, Newcastle. The Steelworks was one of the BHP's longest running operations, and constituted a major venture for the Company when begun in the 1910s. The venture was also a significant one for the State, and for NSW's first Labour government, which backed the Steelworks. The Newcastle Steelworks were a large scale, modern integrated steel and iron works, quite different to the existing operation at Lithgow and earlier one at Mittagong, which had

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170115

Study Number

115

Item Name: **Delprat's Quarters**

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

struggled and failed against competition from imported iron. Guillaume Daniel Delprat was General Manager of the BHP 1899-1921. The Newcastle Steelworks were Delprat's crowning achievement, and he is generally regarded as the father of the Australian steel industry.

The Broken Hill Mining Company was established in 1883 following the discovery of silver, zinc and lead deposits near Broken Hill, NSW. Two years later the Company was incorporated. Smelting operations were begun at Port Pirie in South Australia in 1890, and the Company acquired two mining leases, named Iron Knob and Iron Monarch, inland from Wyalla to extract small amounts of ironstone to be used as a flux in the lead/silver smelting process. In 1891 the Company made its first export, selling lead to Fuzhou, China. BHP began its steelmaking venture under the leadership of Guillaume Daniel Delprat, General Manager of the Company 1899-1921. Delprat was born in Holland, and trained in Scotland and Holland in engineering and science before starting his career in mining in Spain at the Tharsis Sulphur and Copper Mines. By the mid 1890s he was a well known mining authority in Europe and the Americas through consultant partnerships and the publication of articles in international journals. In June 1898 Delprat accepted an offer to become assistant general manager of BHP and arrived in Adelaide in September. The following year he succeeded Sir Alexander Stewart as general manager of the Company. Delprat's wife and five of their seven children arrived in January 1899 and, after a period in Broken Hill, settled in Adelaide from 1904 where they remained until moving to Melbourne in 1913. Delprat himself spent many of these years at Broken Hill. He was naturalized in 1904. (ADB Online, G.D. Delprat)

Delprat quickly made an impact on the Company. In the early 1900s depressed prices and wasteful ore extraction methods limited profits. In partnership with C V Potter, Delprat perfected a technique that came to be known as the Potter-Delprat flotation process, which revolutionized sulphide ore treatment and brought enormous profits from the metal content of millions of tons of formerly useless tailings. Delprat secured B.H.P.'s profitability through a switch of emphasis from silver-lead to zinc and sulphur, a detailed survey of ore reserves, the sinking of another shaft, and the addition of another mill, thereby more than doubling the output of sulphide ore. (ADB Online, G.D. Delprat)

Delprat also foresaw the exhaustion of the Broken Hill mine, and sought a new resource for the Company. He made a trial of the ironstone from the Company's South Australian leases in a converted lead smelter at Port Pirie in 1908, and found that the results were very promising. The ironstone had been passed over by a previous mining company focussing its efforts on silver. These deposits were exceptionally high in metallic content, and proved to be one of the richest deposits in the world. Delprat embarked on a research trip in 1911, to investigate iron and steelmaking practices with a view to the Company's diversification in that direction. He encountered little interest in England and Europe, and moved on to the USA. Here he found David Baker, an engineer with considerable steelworks experience, and Baker was contracted for five years to report on the feasibility of BHP's entry into iron and steelmaking. If the report was favourable, Baker was to furnish plans and estimates for a steelworks, supervise construction, and manage the start-up of operations and the training of Australians to carry on the works. (Conservation Plan: BHP Steelworks, p. 12; ADB Online, G.D. Delprat)

The production of steel required such an enormous quantity of coal - in fact a greater

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

## State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170115

Study Number

115

Item Name: **Delprat's Quarters**

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

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

The BHP Company had purchased a site on the river at Newcastle in the late 1890s, with a view to relocating their copper smelting works from Broken Hill. This site had previously housed the Port Waratah copper smelter, which had failed in the mid 1890s due to the combined impact of a massive fall in the world copper price, and damage from flooding. Copper smelting operations of the late nineteenth century were also attracted to Newcastle because of access to cheap coal. Copper was shipped from South Australia where coal cost 23 to 24 shillings per ton to Newcastle where it cost less than 3 shillings per ton. (Conservation Plan: BHP Steelworks, p. 12)

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

Work began on the construction of the BHP Co. Ltd. Iron and Steelworks at Port Waratah on 3 January 1913, under the supervision of Baker, appointed Steelworks Manager in 1912. The site included the Copper Smelter land purchased by the Company in 1896, and an adjacent site of approximately 36.4 hectares, which had been set aside as a Botanical Reserve in 1868. It was mainly mangrove swamp under tidal influence, and was extensively reclaimed with sand pumped from the harbour by dredges of the Department of Public Works completing a State Government undertaking to improve the shipping channels. The proposed capacity of the works was an ambitious 150,000 ton of rails, equivalent to the

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

## State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170115

Study Number

115

Item Name: **Delprat's Quarters**

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

tonnage of rails imported into Australia in 1910. The design of the works closely followed the American pattern, which was said to be well ahead of other world steel production practices. A German plant would have been a cheaper option, but more strategically vulnerable. Delprat's decision on this matter proved to be a sound one. The initial plant comprised one 350 ton Blast Furnace, three 65 ton Open Hearth Furnaces, a battery of 66 Semet Solway By-Product Coke Ovens, one 35 inch Blooming Mill and a 28 inch Heavy Rail and Structural Mill. The high melting shop type of open hearth installation were said to be typically American, and the building of large open hearth furnaces in batteries and using machine charging were new and radical techniques. The blast furnaces and many of the building structures were pre-fabricated in America. The construction of the plant proceeded rapidly. The Steelworks Act of 1912 had decreed that the works be completed within five years. The Steelworks was in fact completed in less than half that time. Following the production of the first rail on 24 April 1915, the works were officially opened by the Governor General, with whom Delprat had forged a close relationship, on 2 June 1915. (Conservation Plan: BHP Steelworks, p. 16; ADB Online, G.D. Delprat)

Delprat's Quarters were built to overlook the construction site, and provided him with accommodation while visiting the works during construction. A tradition was thus established of providing accommodation for the senior management of the Steelworks at Newcastle. Delprat's cottage is the only one of these that remains intact within the Steelworks site, the later dwellings have all been subdivided and sold as private residences. (Conservation Plan: BHP Steelworks, p. 58)

Opened in the middle of the Great War, the steelworks was profitable from the beginning. In a little over four months from the commencement of smelting operations the plant had produced 36, 865 tons of pig iron, 17, 442 tons of steel blooms and billets and 11, 782 tons of rails. The Federal Munitions Committee arranged that the Newcastle Steelworks should provide rail which was urgently required in France, as well as munitions steel. During the Great War, BHP supplied approximately 16, 300 tons of steel rails abroad, and the same tonnage of munitions. This ready market helped to put the BHP Steelworks on a strong footing, and the plant expanded more rapidly than the Company had planned. Four additional open hearth furnaces were constructed in 1917, then a second blast furnace, additional coke ovens and a 1000 ton mixer. To provide plate to the shipbuilding industry, and for the building of the No. 2 Blast Furnace, the Bloom Mill was modified enabling the manufacture of more than 13,000 tons of steel. The Rod Mill, second blast furnace and a 100 ton blast furnace to provide ferro-manganese iron (made unavailable by the War) were all commissioned in 1918. Further expansion occurred to satisfy post-war demands. By 1919 the BHP Steelworks and the State dockyard on Walsh Island had a combined labour force of 7,300. (Citywide Thematic History, p. 7; Conservation Plan: BHP Steelworks, p. 16)

As one of Australia's foremost industrialists, Delprat was an influential figure during the War. He was on the original sub-committee which established the Commonwealth Bureau of Science and Industry and on its advisory council, and was on the defence Board for Construction of Aeroplanes and the Arsenal Construction Committee. (ADB Online, G.D. Delprat)

Delprat resigned from the position of General Manager in March 1921, after Essington Lewis criticised a number of his decisions and they were overturned by the Board, but remained

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170027

Study Number

27

Item Name: **Baptist Tabernacle**

Location: **25 Laman Street, Cooks Hill [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Cement Decoration

Copyright:

Image by: Julia Kensy

Image Date: 19/12/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170027b3.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170027t3.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

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2170027

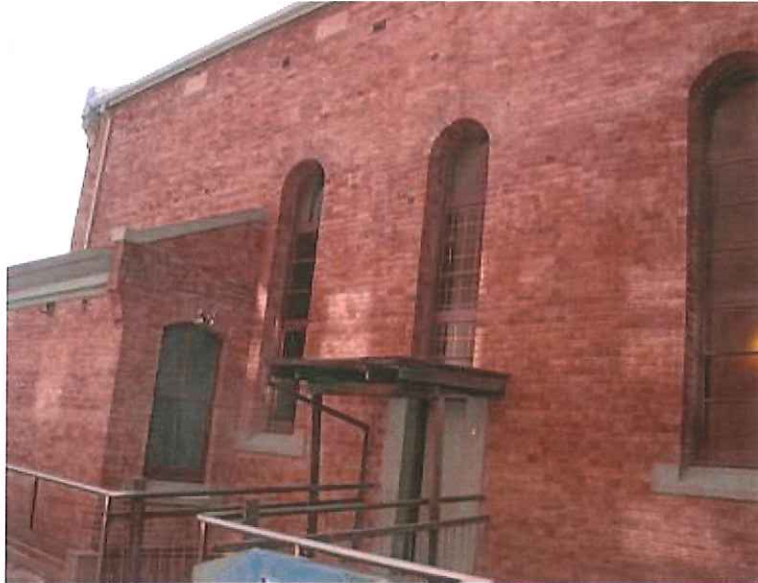
Study Number

27

Item Name: **Baptist Tabernacle**

Location: **25 Laman Street, Cooks Hill [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: View of Baptist Tabernacle from Dawson Street

Copyright:

Image by: Julia Kensy

Image Date: 19/12/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170027b4.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170027t4.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number  
2170279  
Study Number  
279

Item Name: **Beacon Tower**

Location: **76 Tyrell Street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

Address: 76 Tyrell Street  
Suburb / Nearest Town: The Hill 2300  
Local Govt Area: Newcastle City  
State: NSW

DUAP Region: Hunter & Central Coast

Historic region: Lower Hunter

Parish:

County:

Address: 36 Brown Street  
Suburb / Nearest Town: The Hill 2300  
Local Govt Area: Newcastle City  
State: NSW

DUAP Region: Hunter & Central Coast

Historic region: Lower Hunter

Parish:

County:

Other/Former Names:

Area/Group/Complex:

Group ID:

Aboriginal Area:

Curtilage/Boundary:

Item Type: Built

Group: Transport - Water

Category: Beacon

Owner: Local Government

Admin Codes: LEP

Code 2:

Code 3:

Current Use:

Former Uses:

Assessed Significance: **Local**

Endorsed Significance:

**Statement of Significance:** Beacon Tower has historical and aesthetic significance at a local level because it is closely associated with Newcastle's maritime history. Its presence on The Hill is a physical reminder of 19th Newcastle, when the main line of communication to Newcastle was via the sea and when in harbour navigation was guided by using this structure as one of two referee points. Sitting atop The Hill, it remains an important local landmark in Newcastle.

**Historical Notes or Provenance:** Beacon Tower was one of two towers erected in 1865 to be used as a navigational aid. Beacon Tower was initially 7m high but it was rebuilt in 1877 to 20m as a result of a parsonage of a church built nearby obscuring the view of the tower. The parsonage has since been demolished. Beacon Tower was designed by colonial architect James Barnet. Another navigational work for which Barnet was responsible was the Macquarie Lighthouse on South Head (ADB online).

The base of the other navigational tower remains in the front yard at 54b Perkins St, which is 70 metres away. Beacon Tower displayed a white light, while the other tower supported a red light, and by aligning the two towers, navigators could steer through the heads (EJE Architecture, p. 32). These lights were criticised by mariners, who argued that they were too close together, and that ships could stray up to 200ft. from the centre of the channel before

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

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2170279

Study Number

279

Item Name: **Beacon Tower**

Location: **76 Tyrell Street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

the lights seemed to open. After the loss of a number of ships on the Oyster Bank, the lights became known as the 'misleading lights' and were not trusted by mariners. Although there was continual pressure on the government for new lights, they were not replaced until 1917 with lights located below Church Street as well as on the harbour foreshore (EJE Architecture, p.32).

Other navigational devices for entering Newcastle which existed at the same time as the Beacon Tower were the Obelisk, which is still extant on Obelisk Hill, a navigation point on Flagstaff Hill, and Nobby's lighthouse at Nobby's Head which was constructed in 1854. The use of visual markers for navigation in the mid 19th century was common to harbours up and down the east coast. Newcastle was a heavily used and significant port for vessels under sail and steam by this time, and as such, navigational devices were essential. (Emma Dortins, 2006, p. 185).

Themes:	National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
	3. Economy	Technology	(none)
	3. Economy	Transport	(none)

Designer:

Maker / Builder:

Year Started:

Year Completed:

Circa: No

**Physical Description:** Beacon Tower is located on the corner of Tyrell and Brown Street. It is a stone structure, and has a cylindrical shape with a castellated parapet which gives it a medieval appearance. It has several small windows.

**Physical Condition:** The Tower is in fairly good condition.

**Modification Dates:** Beacon Tower was reconstructed in 1877 to a height of 20m.

**Recommended Management:**

**Management:**

**Further Comments:**

**Criteria a)** Beacon Tower has historical significance at a local level because it is closely associated with Newcastle's maritime history. Its presence on The Hill is a physical reminder of 19th Newcastle, when the main line of communication to Newcastle was via the sea and when in harbour navigation was guided by using this structure as one of two referee points.

**Criteria b)** Within the limits of this research it is not found to have significance under this criteria.

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

## State Heritage Inventory

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Item Name: **Beacon Tower**

Location: **76 Tyrell Street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

**Criteria c)** Due to its construction as a navigational device, Beacon Tower is naturally a prominent feature when approaching the harbour. Its medieval style gives it a striking presence especially in its current residential location. Beacon Tower has local technical significance as an example of the navigation system of the 19th century in Newcastle Harbour.

**Criteria d)** Within the limits of this research it is not found to have significance under this criteria.

**Criteria e)** Within the limits of this research it is not found to have significance under this criteria.

**Criteria f)** Within the limits of this research it is not found to have significance under this criteria.

**Criteria g)** Within the limits of this research it is not found to have significance under this criteria.

**Integrity / Intactness:** From what could be observed externally, Beacon Tower is intact. It was not possible to ascertain the integrity or intactness of the interior and whether the light still remains.

References:	Author	Title	Year
	EJE Architecture	Section 170 Register: Newcastle Port Corporation	2007
	Emma Dortins	South Head Thematic History in South Head - draft conservation management plan,	2006
	University of Melbourne and ADB	Australian Dictionary of Biography Online	

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Unknown	Newcastle Heritage Study	279	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	102		DP	1020129

**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:** 1865-66

**Custom Field Two:**

**Custom Field Three:**

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170279

Study Number

279

Item Name: **Beacon Tower**

Location: **76 Tyrell Street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

Custom Field Four: Conservation Area - TH

Custom Field Five:

Custom Field Six:

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

Date Updated: 24/04/2008

Status: Basic

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Date: 24/07/2008

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number  
2170279  
Study Number  
279

Item Name: **Beacon Tower**

Location: **76 Tyrell Street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Beacon Tower, view down Brown St

Copyright:

Image by: Julia Kensy

Image Date: 18/12/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170279b4.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170279t4.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170279

Study Number

279

Item Name: **Beacon Tower**

Location: **76 Tyrell Street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Beacon Tower

Copyright:

Image by: Julia Kensy

Image Date: 18/12/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170279b2.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170279t2.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170279

Study Number

279

Item Name: **Beacon Tower**

Location: **76 Tyrell Street, The Hill [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Top of Beacon Tower

Copyright:

Image by: Julia Kensy

Image Date: 18/12/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170279b3.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170279t3.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170340

Study Number

340

Item Name: **Catholic Centre For Deaf Education**

Location: **30 Lorna Street, Waratah [Newcastle City]**

**Address:** 28 Lorna Street  
**Suburb / Nearest Town:** Waratah 2298  
**Local Govt Area:** Newcastle City  
**State:** NSW

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

**Address:** 30 Lorna Street  
**Suburb / Nearest Town:** Waratah 2298  
**Local Govt Area:** Newcastle City  
**State:** NSW

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

**Other/Former Names:**

**Area/Group/Complex:**

**Group ID:**

**Aboriginal Area:**

**Curtilage/Boundary:**

**Item Type:**

**Group:**

**Category:**

**Owner:**

**Admin Codes:** LEP

**Code 2:**

**Code 3:**

**Current Use:**

**Former Uses:**

**Assessed Significance:** Local

**Endorsed Significance:**

**Statement of Significance:** The Catholic Centre for Deaf Education has local historic, associative and aesthetic significance. The building is a reminder of the prominence of charitable institutions in NSW during the 19th Century as well as a physical manifestation of the early years of deaf education in NSW. It was designed by Frederick Menkens, the pre-eminent architect in Newcastle during the latter decades of the 19th Century and is demonstrative of his highly decorative style of work.

**Historical Notes or Provenance:** Waratah started its life in 1856 as a 'navvy's' (railway worker's) tent town, when the Great Northern Railway was being built through a large hill near Thomas Groves' farm. Coal was discovered shortly afterwards and in 1862 the Grove family became the pioneers of the Waratah Coal Company. Thomas Grove also opened a hotel and sold land for residential use. The Waratah Coal Company amassed an estate of 1467 acres which became the town of Waratah. In 1870, Waratah, along with other towns such as Wickham, Hamilton and Lambton, formed its own municipality. It was not until 1938 that it was incorporated into the City of Greater Newcastle. The opening years of the twentieth century saw the booming of the South Maitland coalfield and the closure of many inner Newcastle collieries (City Wide Thematic Study, p. 7; p. 28).

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170340

Study Number

340

Item Name: **Catholic Centre For Deaf Education**

Location: **30 Lorna Street, Waratah [Newcastle City]**

In the mid 19th Century, a school for the deaf was established in Sydney, founded by Thomas Pattison (<http://www.auslan.org.au/history.html>). The New South Wales Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind was established in 1861 by a private charitable organisation and in 1870, it received a land grant and funding from the government in Sydney. This was for the purposes of a building which would serve as a school, hospital and home, and which was opened in 1872 (Department of Education, 1980, p. 75). The Catholic Church began opening schools for the hearing impaired in the late 19th Century, and the first of these was opened in 1875, in a small cottage in Newcastle. The number of students was soon too large for the premises and a block of land was purchased in Waratah with the purpose of constructing a larger building. In 1888, the Institute for the Deaf and Dumb was opened on this block of land and was run by the Dominican Sisters. A convent was located in the south wing of the building, with the school and dormitories located in the north wing. The new school was intended to provide a service for all Catholic deaf children in the colony. Funding was in the form of fees paid by those families as well as donations from members of the Catholic Church, community clubs and members of the public (Barbara Lee Crickmore, 2000, p. 52-53).

Although the Public Instruction Act of 1880 made education compulsory for children, the 'infirm', which included deaf children, were excluded from this act (Barbara Lee Crickmore, 2000, p. 54). The term 'infirm' was applied to those children who could not meet specific learning outcomes in a standard learning environment. These outcomes included reading, taking dictation and singing, all of which were obviously more difficult for deaf children than for those without a hearing impairment (Crickmore, 2000, p. 55). During the 19th Century, it was often charitable institutions that took responsibility for disadvantaged or disabled members of society; leading to the establishment hospitals and orphanages. By the end of the 19th Century, deaf education was well established in Australia as it was in Europe, with deaf people participating in the formation of community groups and national organisations as well as teaching deaf children (Bridget Mary Catry, 2005, p. 70). The NSW government did not take responsibility for educating physically or mentally handicapped children until the 1920s (Department of Education, 1980, p. 75).

Kathleen Mary Egan, appointed as superior at the institute in Waratah in 1931 recognised the need for better education of deaf students. Egan implemented various changes according to her belief that 'the deaf child has tastes, dislikes, ambitions similar to those of her unhandicapped sister'. This led her to introduce the State curriculum, including drama, art, physical culture, eurhythmics and current affairs (ADB online). By this stage, the name of the school had been changed to the Rosary Convent School for Deaf Girls, as boys were transferred to the new 'Christian Brothers School for Deaf Boys' in Castle Hill in the early 1920s. This was later to become St Gabriel's School for Hearing Impaired Children and it was established by Brothers J O'Farrell and D Allen, who had come from the Christian Brothers' School for Deaf at St Joseph's, Ireland (<http://www.stgabriels.nsw.edu.au/about/index.htm>).

In the early decades of the 20th century, deaf people were active in the establishment of organisations, as well as in opposing discrimination. They were concerned with having greater control over their institutions and their actions too place in a broader context of social movements such as campaigns for Aboriginal rights as well as women's rights. Within the limits of this research, it has not been possible to determine the impact of such action on the school at Waratah, or whether any members of this school were involved in these activities.

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170340

Study Number

340

Item Name: **Catholic Centre For Deaf Education**

Location: **30 Lorna Street, Waratah [Newcastle City]**

In 1993, in light of new teaching techniques, the school was closed and students were transferred to St Dominic's at Mayfield. St Martin De Porres Hostel was constructed on the land and the convent was converted into a nursing home, now called The Bethany Nursing Home

((<http://209.85.173.104/search?q=cache:kYRN9reN7oAJ:www.cathchurch.net/religious/foundation/opeast1.htm+Institution+for+the+Deaf+and+Dumb+waratah&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=3&gl=au>)).

The building was designed by Frederick Menkens, pre-eminent Newcastle architect in the closing decades of the nineteenth century. Menkens was born at Varel, Oldenburg in Germany in 1855. He began training in practical building craft at the age of 13 and later attended the Royal Polytechnicum in Hanover, graduating with a Diploma in Architecture in 1876. He toured Europe in 1877, studying architecture but left Europe because of developments following the Franco-Prussian war, emigrating to Adelaide in 1878. After a few months in the Colonial Architect's Office, he moved to Melbourne, but being unable to find work, he travelled through Victoria and Tasmania, working as a tradesman before establishing an architectural practice in Maitland in 1881, then at Newcastle in 1882. He soon became established and carried out several important works for prominent citizens such as Bishop Murray. As well as a number of churches, he designed five warehouses and many other commercial premises in Newcastle City.

His creative life could be divided into two periods - the decorative period of his early years where his designs included impressive ornamentation, 1884 to 1895; and the commercial or transitional period from 1896 to 1907, where his designs were more restrained. Among his works were: Mechanics Institute, Hamilton; Jesmond House; St Andrew's Presbyterian Church and The Boltons. In 1891 Menkens won a competition for the building of a new Town Hall in Newcastle, but later disagreements ended the scheme. Menkens combined a thorough understanding of architecture with a practical knowledge of the building trades. His work is notable for the use of ornament and colour, versatility in the use of architectural styles and thoroughness of workmanship. He was a well known, colourful and respected personality of his day - a highly principled man, who spent a year in a debtors' prison in 1895-1896 for refusing to pay damages to a sub-contractor he had accused of dishonest work. In 1907 he took F. G. Castleden into partnership and revisited Germany in 1908, returning to live in Sydney at his newly built house at Randwick. He died in 1910, aged 55. (Reedman, ADB Online, 2006 - Menkens; Newcastle Library, 'Frederick Burnhardt Menkens' Typescript, n.d.; Suters, 'Menkens' Centenary Exhibition Catalogue', 1978, n.p.)

Menkens was greatly praised in press releases for the design of the Deaf and Dumb Institute, however, most of the original building was destroyed by fire in 1948. There are no original drawings or photographs depicting the building. The facades of the two original wings are the only elements that remain and these exhibit a high standard of brick detailing, consistent with Menkens' enthusiasm for detail in this earlier part of his career and demonstrative of his love for dramatic gabled elements. From descriptions at the time, it appears that the building demonstrated Menkens' increasing understanding of the climate in Australia; it is possible that this building was the first one of Menkens' that had a colonnaded balcony (Ian Stuart Pellant, 1974, chapter 3). The Catholic Centre was one of a number of institutional buildings that Menkens designed for the Catholic Church, with other including

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170174

Study Number

174

Item Name: **ANZ Bank**

Location: **102 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** Detail of stonework upper storeys, capitals of columns addressing corner of Hunter and Bolton Streets

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Emma Dortins

**Image Date:** 11/09/2007

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170174b3.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170174t3.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170174

Study Number

174

Item Name: **ANZ Bank**

Location: **102 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** Closer view of stonework showing rusticated stonework along first floor of facade.

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Emma Dortins

**Image Date:** 11/09/2007

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170174b4.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170174t4.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170174

Study Number

174

Item Name: **ANZ Bank**

Location: **102 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** Double doors to public service area, opening onto corner Hunter and Bolton Streets

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Emma Dortins

**Image Date:** 11/09/2007

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170174b5.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170174t5.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170174

Study Number

174

Item Name: **ANZ Bank**

Location: **102 Hunter Street, Newcastle [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



**Caption:** Decorative ceiling to public service area.

**Copyright:**

**Image by:** Emma Dortins

**Image Date:** 11/09/2007

**Image Number:**

**Image Path:**

**Image File:** 2170174b6.jpg

**Thumb Nail Path:**

**Thumb Nail File:** 2170174t6.jpg



# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170027

Study Number

27

Item Name: **Baptist Tabernacle**

Location: **25 Laman Street, Cooks Hill [Newcastle City]**

Address: 25 Laman Street

DUAP Region: Hunter & Central Coast

Suburb / Nearest Town: Cooks Hill 2300

Historic region: Lower Hunter

Local Govt Area: Newcastle City

Parish:

State: NSW

County:

Other/Former Names:

Area/Group/Complex: Civic Park Group

Group ID:

Aboriginal Area: Awabakal

Curtilage/Boundary:

Item Type: Built

Group: Religion

Category: Church

Owner: Religious Organisation

Admin Codes: LEP

Code 2:

Code 3:

Current Use: Church

Former Uses:

Assessed Significance: **Local**

Endorsed Significance:

**Statement of Significance:** The Baptist Tabernacle has local historical, associative and aesthetic significance because it is a strong example of the diversity in the work of Frederick Menkens, who was the pre-eminent architect of Newcastle during the last third of the 19th Century. Standing in close proximity and striking contrast to St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, the two buildings illustrate the confidence and dexterity with which Menkens approached his designs. The construction of this building illustrates the growing diversity of religious composition in Newcastle during the late 19th Century as well as the flourishing economy and building industry in Newcastle during this time.

**Historical Notes or Provenance:** Since the early days of the settlement, religion has played an important role in Newcastle. The first Church in Newcastle was constructed in 1816. Until approximately 1830, the Church of England virtually monopolised formal religion but following this, other Protestant denominations as well as the Catholic Church began to construct churches. Due to the number of British, in particular, Welch migrants, who came to Newcastle to find employment in the coal industry, there was a significant number of Methodists and Baptists (City Wide Thematic History, p.56).

The Church of England, the Catholic Church, the Presbyterians and the Methodists were granted sites in the initial settlement. Religious groups that arrived later were required to purchase land from the AA Company (City Wide Thematic Study, p. 54). The Salvation Army came to Newcastle in 1883 and erected its first citadel in Auckland Street. They later moved to the corner of King and Gibson Streets. Presbyterians bought the Laman Street property where St Andrews Presbyterian Church now stands, after they found the original church too small to accommodate the increasing congregation. A Chinese Presbyterian Church was

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170027

Study Number

27

Item Name: **Baptist Tabernacle**

Location: **25 Laman Street, Cooks Hill [Newcastle City]**

opened in Devonshire Lane.

Baptists in Newcastle used the Oddfellows' hall on the corner of Laman and Darby Streets for many years (City Wide Thematic History, p.56). In 1885, they purchased a site on the corner of Laman and Dawson Street.

The Tabernacle was designed by Frederick Menkens, Newcastle's pre eminent architect at the time. He designed the Baptist Tabernacle during what is recognised as his most creative period of work; between 1884 and 1895. In contrast to the Presbyterian Church, which was a solid and simple Church in a Gothic style, the Tabernacle was to be an ornate, smaller structure, relying on an ornate facade for its architectural presence. This was due to financial reasons; the Baptists could not afford a structure like the Cathedral and The Tabernacle was to cost approximately half the price of the Presbyterian Church (Ian Pellant, Chapter 3). Standing in close proximity, the two buildings are in stark contrast to one another. Together, they illustrate the dexterity and confidence of Menkens in a variety of Victorian architectural styles (Barry Maitland and David Stafford, p. 13). Although it is exposed to Dawson Street as well, the building has a neo-classical Corinthian facade to Laman Street only (Barry Maitland and David Stafford, p. 83).

The first service was held on Christmas Day 1889 (After Coal: Notes by Astley P. Pulver, Newcastle 1979, p.3). The main entrance to the Tabernacle is from Laman Street and there is a hall beneath the church. The foundation stones were laid by the wife of William Arnott, the well known biscuit-maker (Newcastle Baptist Tabernacle, website). The 1989 earthquake damaged the Tabernacle and after repairs and restoration were completed, a service of Re-dedication and Thanksgiving was held.

Themes:	National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
	2. Peopling	Migration	(none)
	8. Culture	Religion	(none)

**Designer:** Frederick Menkens

**Maker / Builder:**

**Year Started:**                      **Year Completed:** 1890                      **Circa:** No

**Physical Description:** The Baptist Tabernacle is located on the corner of Laman and Dawson Streets. The Laman Street facade features an elaborate design, with intricate plaster and paint work. It is in the style of neo-classical Corinthian. It presents a balanced temple front to the street. Six columns support an entablature, which includes an architrave, a frieze on which 'Baptist Tabernacle' are inscribed and an elaborately decorated cornice. The sides of the building are of yellow brick and unlike the front of the building, are not elaborately decorated. Within the building is The Sanctuary, which is located on the upper level of the building, with steps leading up from Laman Street. Classrooms and a school hall were originally located in the

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170027

Study Number

27

Item Name: **Baptist Tabernacle**

Location: **25 Laman Street, Cooks Hill [Newcastle City]**

basement (Barry Maitland and David Stafford, p. 83).

**Physical Condition:** From what could be ascertained from its exterior, the Baptist Tabernacle is in good condition.

**Modification Dates:** Following the 1989 earthquake, repair and restoration work was undertaken on the Tabernacle.

**Recommended  
Management:**

**Management:**

**Further Comments:**

- Criteria a)** The Baptist Tabernacle has historical significance at a local level as its construction illustrates the increasing religious diversity in Newcastle during the late 19th Century. It is also significant as the second home of the Baptist community in Newcastle, and their first purpose built-premises. Its construction in the 1880s helps to demonstrate the flourishing economy and building industry in Newcastle during this time.
- Criteria b)** The Baptist Tabernacle has local associative significance as it was designed by pre-eminent local architect Frederick Menkens. Menkens was one of the most influential architects in Newcastle, both in quality and volume of works and this building was constructed during his most creative phase. His other works in Newcastle include St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Lance Villa, Earp Gillam Bond Store and Woods Chambers as well as various warehouses (B. Suters, 1978, chapter 4). Along with St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, which is located diagonally opposite the Tabernacle, and is one of his finest works, it shows the versatility of Menkens' designs and his sensitivity to the requests of various religious denominations.
- Criteria c)** The building has aesthetic significance due to its unusual and appealing design. It is a fine example of Classical Revivalist architecture in the Newcastle region. It also makes an interesting contribution to the streetscape, standing opposite Civic Park and in close proximity to the historic War Memorial and Library.
- Criteria d)** Although social significance has not been researched as part of this review it is probable that the Tabernacle has social significance to the local community through its important role as a religious and cultural centre.
- Criteria e)** Within the limits of this research it is not found to have significance under this criterion.
- Criteria f)** Within the limits of this research it is not found to have significance under this criterion.
- Criteria g)** Within the limits of this research it is not found to have significance under this criterion.

**Integrity / Intactness:** Although damaged in the 1989 earthquake, the integrity of the building has been restored.

References:	Author	Title	Year
		Newcastle Baptist Tabernacle Website	
	Astley P. Pulver	After Coal: Notes by Astley P. Pulver	1979

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170027

Study Number

27

Item Name: **Baptist Tabernacle**

Location: **25 Laman Street, Cooks Hill [Newcastle City]**

Barry Mailland and David Stafford	Architecture Newcastle	2007
Newcastle City Council	City Wide Heritage Study - Thematic History 2007	2007

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Unknown	Newcastle Heritage Study	27	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
	PART LOT	19	G	DP	978941

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: 1889

Custom Field Two:

Custom Field Three:

Custom Field Four: Conservation Area - CH

Custom Field Five:

Custom Field Six:

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

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Date: 24/07/2008

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170027

Study Number

27

Item Name: **Baptist Tabernacle**

Location: **25 Laman Street, Cooks Hill [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Baptist Tabernacle 25 Laman Street

Copyright:

Image by: Sharn Harrison

Image Date: 30/09/1997

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170027b1.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: t\_2170027b1.jpg

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# Newcastle Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2170027

Study Number

27

Item Name: **Baptist Tabernacle**

Location: **25 Laman Street, Cooks Hill [Newcastle City]**

Image/s:



Caption: Baptist Tabernacle

Copyright:

Image by: Julia Kensy

Image Date: 19/12/2007

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2170027b2.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: 2170027t2.jpg

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