

Item Details

Name
Explosives storehouse
SHR/LEP/S170
LEP #869

Address
146 Dunheved Circuit ST MARYS NSW 2760

Local Govt Area
Penrith
Local Aboriginal Land Council
Unknown

Item Type	Group/Collection	Category
Built	Manufacturing and Processing	Munitions/ Explosives Manufacture

All Addresses

Addresses

Records Retrieved: 1

Street No	Street Name	Suburb/Town/Postcode	Local Govt. Area	LALC	Parish	County	Electorate	Address Type
146	Dunheved Circuit	ST MARYS/NSW/2760	Penrith	Unknown			Unknown	Primary Address

Boundary Description

The site extends to the property boundary to the south and east. The northern boundary is formed by the wall of the factory building. The western boundary is a northern continuation of the property boundary to the south that divides Nos. 1 & 5 Severn Street.

Significance

Statement Of Significance

The explosives storehouse was an integral part of the High Explosives section of the St Marys Munitions Filling Factory. Erected in 1941-42 to fill shells, bombs and cartridges, the High Explosives Section continued to operate until the end of the war.

The factory and associated storage buildings are significant for their deliberate use of standardised details and modular design so that the buildings could be rapidly erected by a relatively unskilled labour force.

The explosives storehouse falls within the area of factory buildings re-used for civilian purposes immediately after World War II, part of Walter Bunning’s town planning scheme for St Mary’s.

The explosives storehouse is part of the second most intact remaining World War II munitions factory in Australia (after Salisbury in South Australia where a larger version of the same layout exists).

Criteria a)

Historical Significance

The explosives storehouse was an integral part of the High Explosives section of the St Marys Munitions Filling Factory. Erected in 1941-42 to fill shells, bombs and cartridges, the High Explosives factory continued to operate until the end of the war.

The explosives storehouse was an integral part of the High Explosives section of the St Marys Munitions Filling Factory. Erected in 1941-42 to fill shells, bombs and cartridges, the High Explosives factory continued to operate until the end of the war.

The explosives storehouse was an integral part of the High Explosives section of the St Marys Munitions Filling Factory. Erected in 1941-42 to fill shells, bombs and cartridges, the High Explosives factory continued to operate until the end of the war.

The explosives storehouse was an integral part of the High Explosives section of the St Marys Munitions Filling Factory. Erected in 1941-42 to fill shells, bombs and cartridges, the High Explosives factory continued to operate until the end of the war.

Criteria b)

**Historical Association
Significance**

The subdivision of the storage complex, including the remaining explosives storehouse, is associated with architect, town planner and advisor to the Commonwealth Government on Post War Reconstruction, Walter Bunning, and is part of his pioneering scheme for a designed industrial estate at St Marys immediately after World War II that utilised existing factory buildings.

Criteria c)

Aesthetic/Technical Significance

Believed to have been designed by the NSW Department of the Interior under G. S. Cook, the surviving explosives storehouse shows the use of standard layouts and buildings, with a similar but larger complex erected at Salisbury in South Australia. When in full operation these two munitions factories were amongst the largest factory complexes in the Southern Hemisphere. This standard explosives storehouse form had been developed during World War I.

Criteria d)

Social/Cultural Significance

No associations have been identified.

Criteria e)

Research Potential

Further research may reveal how the complex was used during the war.

Criteria f)

Rarity

One of two similar explosives storehouses and storage complexes, the only other known example with a similar layout being the former Salisbury Explosives Factory, South Australia. Recent aerial photographs indicate that the overall layout of Salisbury is more intact than the layout of buildings at St Marys, however, further comparative analysis would be required to confirm which site (Salisbury or St Marys) retained buildings which were more intact.

Criteria g)

Representative

The overall layout of the former Munitions Filling Factory at St Marys remains evident, as do the standard building types used. This is the only surviving example of an explosives storehouse to survive in the High Explosives Section.

Integrity/Intactness

The exterior of the building is substantially intact.The interiors were not inspected.

Owners

Records Retrieved: 0		
Organisation	Stakeholder Category	Date Ownership Updated
No Results Found		

Description

Designer

Dept of Interior NSW; NSW
Works- G Stanton Cook;
Engineer EN Gallop; Drawings
for munition factories

Builder/Maker

Unconfirmed

Physical Description**Updated**

The explosives store is a square building with face brick walls and a pyramidal roof covered in corrugated fibre cement sheeting with large profile, rolled top fibre cement hip cappings. The brick walls are modulated by engaged piers on the exterior of each of the four corners and an engaged pier in the centre of each of the three walls not containing the door.

The unlined eaves cantilever for approximately one metre beyond the face of the walls and the cantilever is supported on timber struttet brackets.

There are two high openings on the east façade which are covered by solid shutters and a double door on the west façade.

The building is surrounded by a concrete path on all four sides.

The high earth mound surrounding the building in the 1943 aerial photograph is no longer in existence.

This is the only remaining explosives storehouse within the High Explosives Section; the other examples have been demolished.

Brick explosives storehouses with wide eaves were developed for use at Bantry Bay in Sydney during World War I. A similar but more utilitarian version of the same design was utilised throughout Australia during World War II. Explosives storehouses or magazines were utilised at airbases, storage complexes like Bantry Bay and at the munitions factories.

Groups of explosives storehouses survive at Salisbury in South Australia, a number of which still retain their mound and entrance tunnel. The surviving explosives storehouse at Dunheved is a rare surviving example, within the former Munitions Filling Factory, of a once common building type. The High Explosives section alone once contained 15 storage buildings, each surrounded by earth mounds. This is the only surviving example in this section. The (Kingswood) magazine area to the north-west has been demolished in its entirety.

Physical Condition**Updated 10/17/2008**

The exterior of the building appears to be well maintained. The site has a limited archaeological potential, falling within the extent of the King family farm but not within the area occupied by the homestead.

Modifications And Dates

The dates of modifications have not been determined.

Further Comments**Current Use**

Unknown but possibly warehouse/storage

Former Use

Part of the High Explosives Section. Original use is believed to have been as an Explosives storehouse.

Listings

Listings

				Records Retrieved: 2	
Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazzette Number	Gazzette Page
Local Environmental Plan	Penrith Local Environmental Plan 2010	869	9/22/2010 12:00:00 AM		
Heritage study		2260869	11/1/2007 12:00:00 AM		

Procedures/Exemptions

Records Retrieved: 0					
Section of Act	Description	Title	Comments	Action Date	Outcome
No Results Found					

History

Historical Notes or Provenance

Updated

King Farm / Dunheved

The site upon which this factory building was constructed was part of the extensive King farm established circa 1806. The site is south east of the site of the Dunheved homestead and was used for agricultural purposes until its resumption in 1941. At the time of the resumption this land was part of the substantial Dunheved holding of F.C. Pye. The valuers recommended that Pye be compensated at the rate of 7 pounds 10 shillings per acre.

Resumption

In 1941 the land that had once formed the King farm was compulsorily resumed by the Commonwealth Government for defence purposes. The Commonwealth resumed land at St Marys in stages, the first resumption, which was gazetted in August 1941, was the lots granted to the former Governor of NSW Philip King (660 acres) and his daughter Maria King (280 acres). The Dunheved Industrial Estate falls within these two lots. Additional resumptions occurred in late 1941-1942, including the land to be occupied by the pyrotechnic section to the north and the peace workers’ housing and hostels to the east. Plans showing these resumptions are held on file at the NAA Sydney (SP857/8 PM/203, P/204 and P/205).

St Marys Explosives Filling Factory (SMF)

The construction of the infrastructure for the proposed munitions factory was undertaken by the NSW PWD. The overall master planning and the construction and design of the individual buildings at the factory was undertaken by the Commonwealth Department of the Interior NSW Works Office under the direction of G. Stanton Cook. The supervising engineer for the munitions factory was E. N. C. Gallop. No detailed designs for the individual factory buildings have been located as the surviving Commonwealth files are scattered between the NAA in Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne.

The factory buildings appear to have largely been constructed by the Civilian Construction Corps, with a camp established specifically for the purpose of rapidly constructing the factory. Certain more specialised tasks were tendered including the installation of steam plant and electricity. The tender notices in the Commonwealth Gazette were deliberately obscure, so as to not reveal the extent of the complex. Tenders were invited for projects to be erected 30 miles from Sydney and the initials SMF included.

The exact date of construction of this explosives storehouse has not been determined, nor any original drawings or specifications located. The storage buildings (now in Severn Street) and the two explosives storehouses can be seen in the 1947 aerial photograph and are likely to have been constructed in 1941-42.

High Explosives Section

The High Explosives Section was divided into four zones: bomb filling, shell filling, cartridge assembly and cartridge filling. No detailed plans have yet been located to determine which zone was which, or the exact purpose of the saw tooth factory and other store buildings. Materials used in the manufacturing process could be delivered and removed by road or rail, with a platform running the length of the saw tooth factory and brick divided store buildings. The explosives storehouses were all located on the perimeter of the two factory complexes, within the High Explosives Section. Without the original plans it is not possible to be definitive about the use of each building on the site but it could possibly be assumed, given the function of similar buildings on other military sites, that the explosives storehouse building stored completed product.

Leasing the Munitions Factory

Weapons production was wound down towards the end of the war and ceased immediately the hostilities ended. The idea to develop a planned satellite town was approved by Cabinet in October 1946 however the occupation of sites had already begun. A number of other NSW munitions factories and annexes were also leased during 1946. At North St Marys the bulk stores, administration, fuse and high explosives sections were to become an industrial area, whilst the pyrotechnic area was reserved for use by the archives and the Department of Supply and Development. Due to shortages of metal in the immediate post war years the railway sidings in front of the factory buildings were removed in the late 1940s and the industrial area was then to be primarily served by road.

The initial plan of the subdivision of the site was prepared for St Marys Council by Walter Bunning. This plan has not been located however Bunning’s layout appears to have been adopted in the County of Cumberland Plan. The four groups of factory buildings within the High Explosives Section were subdivided into lots, with ancillary buildings grouped at the rear included with each main building. A series of recreation reserves were created, some of which survive today, continuing the model factory layouts promoted by the Garden Suburb Movement at the beginning of the twentieth-century. The infrastructure inherited from the Munitions Factory continued to be used and many elements of the master plan were retained within what is now known as the Dunheved Industrial Estate.

The 1948 plan of the site does not record an occupier. The areas surrounding the explosives storehouse were designated ‘future development’. The second (and larger), explosives storehouse was removed when Severn Street was constructed.

County of Cumberland Plan

In the County of Cumberland Plan industry was deliberately decentralised to sites where expansion could occur. The number of sites outside of the Metropolitan Area but ‘within the Green Belt or Rural Areas were each chosen for important development roles within the County Plan’ (Winston p. 44). St Mary’s was one of the sites chosen, largely adopting the scheme Bunning had developed.

The County of Cumberland plan of the St Marys Industrial Subdivision shows the explosives storehouse within a large lot. The earlier subdivision shown on the 1948 plan had not occurred.

The explosives storehouse was retained on the site when the substantial factory building was constructed.

December 1954 Schedule of Leases

The schedule of the leases in the High Explosives area dated 1954 records the following details for the building at 146 Dunheved Circuit (then known as Lot 23):

H. Lawson occupied from 20/8/1951. Total annual rental 24 pounds. The building was noted as being for storage only (NAA Sydney SP 857/8 PM 478). The 1948 plan shows only the explosives store building on the site.

Historic Themes

Records Retrieved: 3

National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
7. Governing	Defence	The Homefront
7. Governing	Defence	Industrial Development
3. Economy	Industry	Industrial Development

Recommended Management

Management Summary

Management

Records Retrieved: 0

Management Category	Management Name	Date Updated
No Results Found		

Report/Study

Heritage Studies

Records Retrieved: 2

Report/Study Name	Report/Study Code	Report/Study Type	Report/Study Year	Organisation	Author
Dunheved Explosives Conservation Area Study			2008		Robertson & Hindmarsh Pty Ltd, Architects
Dunheved Explosives Conservation Area Study			2008		Robertson & Hindmarsh Pty Ltd, Architects

Reference & Internet Links

References

Records Retrieved: 10

Type	Author	Year	Title	Link
Written	Denis Winston	1957	Sydney's Great Experiment, The Progress of the Cumberland County Plan	
Written	Denis Winston	1957	Sydney's Great Experiment, The Progress of the Cumberland County Plan	
Written	Department of Post War Reconstruction, Division of Industrial Development	1948	St Mary's Munitions Factory, subdivision for factory sites	
Written	Department of Post War Reconstruction, Division of Industrial Development	1948	St Mary's Munitions Factory, subdivision for factory sites	
Written	Department of the Interior	1944	Plan of Land Acquired by the Commonwealth for the St Mary's Munitions Factory	
Written	Department of the Interior	1944	Plan of Land Acquired by the Commonwealth for the St Mary's Munitions Factory	
Written	Commonwealth of Australia	1941	Notification of the acquisition of land by the Commonwealth	
Written	Various	1941	Correspondence re Munitions Property SP 857/8 Files relating to property matters on behalf of the Department of Munitions including PM/202, PM/203, PM/204, PM/478	
Written	Commonwealth of Australia	1941	Notification of the acquisition of land by the Commonwealth	
Written	Various	1941	Correspondence re Munitions Property SP 857/8 Files relating to property matters on behalf of the Department of Munitions including PM/202, PM/203, PM/204, PM/478	

Data Source

The information for this entry comes from the following source:

Data Source	Record Owner	Heritage Item ID
Local Government	Penrith City Council	2260869

Every effort has been made to ensure that information contained in the State Heritage Inventory is correct. If you find any errors or omissions please send your comments to **council@penrith.city**

All information and pictures on this page are the copyright of the Heritage Division or respective copyright owners.