

Item Details

Name
Government Depot (Ruins)
SHR/LEP/S170
s170

Address
Dunsmore Street ROOTY HILL NSW 2766

Local Govt Area
Blacktown
Local Aboriginal Land Council
Unknown

Item Type	Group/Collection	Category
Built	Farming and Grazing	Homestead Complex

All Addresses

Addresses								
Records Retrieved: 1								
Street No	Street Name	Suburb/Town/Postcode	Local Govt. Area	LALC	Parish	County	Electorate	Address Type
	Dunsmore Street	ROOTY HILL/NSW/2766	Blacktown	Unknown			Unknown	Primary Address

Significance

Statement Of Significance

The site has potential State significance for its association with Governor Macquarie and is certainly of Regional significance as the former residence of the Superintendent of the stock farm. The site also has local significance through its association with early travellers and settlers in the district.

Criteria a)

Historical Significance

The (former) Government Depot site is of historical significance for its association with Governor Macquarie and other travellers and early settlers in the Blacktown/Rooty Hill district. It is also of significance for its former role as a government stock farm.

Criteria c)

Aesthetic/Technical Significance

The (former) Government Depot site is considered to have little, if any, remaining fabric, and site therefore has little aesthetic significance, at present.

Criteria d)

Social/Cultural Significance

The (former) Government Depot is of social significance for its association with early settlers and travellers through the Blacktown/Rooty Hill district. It has further significance for the role it played in the raising of stock for the young colony and for its association with early industry in the district. It would have provided employment for many early settlers.

Criteria e)

Research Potential

The (former) Government Depot maybe of technical significance should the existence of any early structures be confirmed, and for its association with early farming and stock raising techniques - which may be demonstrated through any remains on the site which are yet to be discovered.

Criteria f)

Rarity

Cannot be assessed at this point in time.

Criteria g)

Representative

Cannot be assessed at this point in time.

Integrity/Intactness

It is considered that there is very little, if anything remaining and the site cannot therefore be considered to be intact.

Owners

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

Description

Designer	Builder/Maker
Not known	Not known

Physical DescriptionUpdated

The site once comprised the former Government stock farm and associated Superintendent's residence built in 1815. From a walk around the overgrown area where the original building is thought to have been, there is little visible evidence remaining of any structures above ground. The area is almost completely overgrown with thorn bushes. The only evidence found included several timber posts, from a post and rail fence and a large cement rendered brick pit (possibly a well). It has been filled with various items and debris. Remnants of the garden which would have served the main building, are discernable as is the overall form of the garden.

A 1992 DUAP listing described the remains of the depot to include: mounds of bricks, stone flagging, timber slabs, and a five metre diameter well, however, with the exception of the well, none of these structures are visible and appear unlikely to have survived.

Physical ConditionUpdated 03/01/1999

The residence is a ruin, although its exact condition cannot be ascertained owing to the overgrown condition of the site. The site has high potential archaeological value associated with its former use as a stock farm.

Modifications And Dates

Governor Macquarie's times: two rooms added for the Governors convenience.
Demolished c. 1960s.

Further Comments

Very little is known about the site and a detailed physical survey does not appear to be have been carried out to date. Owing to the site's former use and its association with Governor Macquarie, further investigation is warranted. It should be noted that due to the uncertainty whether there is anything left of the building at all, there is some urgency attached to this. What remains of the site should be carefully documented. If there is very little remaining, there may be potential for the site's removal from the register. Refer to Historical notes for management recommendations and to Action Plan for more detailed short term management guidelines.

Current Use

Vacant/ruin

Former Use

Stock farm and residence

Listings

Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Records Retrieved: 1		
			Gazette Date	Gazzette Number	Gazzette Page
Heritage Act - s.170 NSW State agency heritage register		3490010	10/28/1998 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

Very little is known about the history of the site other than that it was a stock farm, whose original boundary was the present City of Blacktown perimeter. The original building on the site was the Superintendent's residence and was also used by Governor Macquarie and other passing travellers. The site was later known as "Thornleigh" and then "Stratton" although the origin of these names is not known.

It is noted in "Demolished for the Public Good" that two rooms were added for Governor Macquarie's convenience. It was in a ruinous state in the 1960s, and was demolished.

As previously noted, the site cannot be accurately assessed in its current condition. Should the Department wish to explore either the possible removal of the site from their s.170 register, or possible future uses for the site. It is recommended that the site first be cleared, under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist. Following this, archaeological investigation of the site should take place in areas considered most likely to have significant sub-surface artifacts. A full historical analysis of the site should be undertaken in conjunction with the archaeological investigation. The clearance and investigation of the site should be fully recorded and documented along with any findings. Following the results of the investigation, a suitably qualified conservation architect or archaeologist should be consulted regarding recommendations for future use and the site's status as a heritage item. Further assessment should be undertaken prior to a clearance taking place as to future use.

Historic Themes

Records Retrieved: 2

National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
7. Governing	Government and Administration	Unknown
3. Economy	Agriculture	Unknown

Recommended Management

Management Summary

Further assessment of the site by an archaeologist, once the overgrown vegetation has been removed by a clearance team. This is considered urgent and should be undertaken before the site deteriorates any further. (Refer to Action Plan for further details).

Management

Records Retrieved: 0

Management Category	Management Name	Date Updated
No Results Found		

Report/Study

Heritage Studies

Records Retrieved: 3

Report/Study Name	Report/Study Code	Report/Study Type	Report/Study Year	Organisation	Author
S.170 Register DUAP			1999		Paul Davies Pty Ltd
SHI Inventory Sheet			1998		(not known)
SHI Inventory Sheet			1998		(not stated)

Reference & Internet Links

References

Records Retrieved: 2

Type	Author	Year	Title	Link
Written				
Written				

Data Source

The information for this entry comes from the following source:

Data Source	Record Owner	Heritage Item ID
State Government	Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (Heritage & Conservation Register)	3490010

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