

Item Details

Name
The Poplars - Old Slab Cottage, Pise House and Garden

SHR/LEP/S170
LEP #CR-8

Address
108-110 Wrights Lane CASTLEREAGH NSW 2749

Local Govt Area
Penrith

Local Aboriginal Land Council
Unknown



| Item Type | Group/Collection | Category |
|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Complex / Group | 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 |
|-----------|--------------|----------------------|------------------|---------|--------|--------|------------|-----------------|
| 108-110 | Wrights Lane | CASTLEREAGH/NSW/2749 | Penrith | Unknown | | | Unknown | Primary Address |

Significance

Statement Of Significance

The Poplars is of State historical and aesthetic significance as a rare collection of early Georgian and vernacular buildings surrounded by a remnant and now rare farm landscape. The overall setting is significant as a very fine parkland of unusual and in some cases rare species that has created a form of eclectic botanical garden. Several plants on the Poplars site are of State historical and aesthetic significance as they are of quite early origin and are a collection of plant species from neighbouring properties, from nurseries across Sydney, from the Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney and from further afield. The layout of the garden is of historical aesthetic significance in reflecting the attitude towards gardening portrayed in gardening magazines and books during the 1940-1960s, that Mrs Salmond and her son Andrew Salmond relied upon in selecting species and plantings for the Poplars. The Lombardy Poplars are a locally significant visual landmark clearly illustrating their direct relationship to the naming of the property.

The main residence is of State historical, aesthetic and technical significance having retained several architectural elements of the original pise building. The garage slab hut and slab barn are of State historical, aesthetic and technical significance in demonstrating techniques of early timber slab hut building construction. The pise and slab construction techniques are now both rare surviving forms of early nineteenth architecture in NSW. The orientation of these structures to the east, on a slight rise, overlooking the former lagoon is of local aesthetic significance indicating the attitude at the time in providing a both pleasant aspect for rural residences and protection from the effects of flooding. The cattle/milking shed and silage and dairy are of State and local historical and social significance as surviving early to mid-nineteenth century structures that illustrate the former function of the site as a dairy and fruit and vegetable farm that supplied produce to the Sydney and local market.

The Poplars association with the Terry's family Mount Pleasant estate is of State and local historical significance as European occupation of the area is one of the oldest occupations in Australia. The remaining view line between the Poplars site, the McCarthy's Cemetery and the windbreak of Olive trees associated with the Mount Pleasant Estate illustrates the visual and historic affinity between the Poplars, the Mount Pleasant Homestead and the town of Cranebrook.

The Poplars is of local historical significance having been owned /leased by the Salmond family for over 80 years, over three successive generations, under whom the farmstead came to fruition. The initial working of the farm to produce timber and wattle bark is of local social significance with the produce supplying local residences, bakeries in Penrith and tanneries at Kingswood and St Marys. The well is of State historical and technical significance as a result of its continuous operation since c1840s. The 1950s irrigation system and connection of the site to town water is indicative of the techniques implemented in the mid-nineteenth century to combat the devastating effects of drought in the farming industry. The supply of water to farms continues as a prevalent issue throughout NSW today.

Criteria a)

Historical Significance

The Poplars is of historical significance being once part of Rosetta Marsh's 150 acres grant in 1809. This original grant is of state significance as European occupation of this area is one of the oldest occupations in Australia.

The Poplars is of historic significance as one of a number of land grants within the 2,000 acre Mount Pleasant Estate put together by Samuel Terry and his wife Rosetta (nee Marsh) during 1810-1820 which effectively separated the northern and southern halves of the Castlereagh district.

The sale of the Islington grant (The Poplars) in 1875 to Richard Cosgrove is of historic significance as one of the first alienations of land from the Mount Pleasant Estate owned by the Terry family.

The Poplars is of State historical significance as a very early collection of Georgian buildings of pise and slab construction some of which are the oldest in the locality and NSW.

The collection of buildings lie within a historically significant early setting that is a remnant and rare farm landscape.

The Garage Slab Hut (c1820-40s), Slab Barn (c1820-40s), Main Residence (c1840-60) and Well (c1840s) are of State historical significance indicating that the land was operated as leasehold farm which was occupied, built upon and farmed in c1820-40s.

The property is of historical significance having been used for stock grazing, timber getting and small scale fruit and vegetable growing and dairying activity from 1905 under initial ownership by Edward Cass and then under ownership by the Salmond family from 1921 until the 1970s.

The diagonally aligned public road reserve (now removed) evident on early aerials is of historical importance in indicating that the Poplars was originally linked to the old village centre of Cranebrook, including the Public School. The fenced road is significant in indicating that the Poplars had a close association with Terry's Mount Pleasant Homestead with the road originally transecting the holding and connecting with Farrells lane and Castlereagh Road and continuing its north-west alignment across Terry owned land.

The remnant lanes and public right of ways (existing or now removed) are significant in providing historical evidence of nineteenth century land holding patterns of tenant farmers and were a significant feature of the local topography up until the onset of extractive gravel mining.

The Poplars is of historical significance having been owned/leased by the Salmond family for over 80 years, under three successive generations, with the farmstead coming to fruition under their ownership.

The name "The Poplars" is of historic significance having been derived from the creation of the entry drive of Lombardy Poplars in the 1960s and so named by the Salmonds

Several of the plantings on the site are of State historic significance as they appear to be quite early in origin even though they may not originate from the site. Several of the species have been gathered from neighbouring properties and from nurseries across Sydney and further afield creating a rare eclectic collection of plant species.

The modest botanical form and layout of the garden is of historic significance in reflecting the attitude toward gardening in the 1940-1960s as portrayed in gardening magazines, particular the popular Your Garden magazine, and books of the time. These publications were avidly read by Esme and Andrew Salmond and guided them in their selection of species and plantings for the Poplars site.

The current mature landscape around the Poplars is of historic significance in indicating the change of occupation from a farm, where the landscape was sparse with the modest farm buildings set in native grasses with dirt access path and tracks and the lagoon a key feature of the landscape, to the progressively heavily planted site by the Salmond's.

The oral history recorded by Bob and his son Andrew Salmond is of historic significance as it includes detailed descriptions of the layout of the property in the c1920s providing further evidence of the relationship of the Poplars to the Mount Pleasant era. It also provides details of the Salmond's farming and gardening activities.

Criteria b)

Historical Association

Significance

The Poplars is of State significance for its association with the Terry Family's Mount Pleasant Estate (Rosetta Marsh, to whom the property was originally granted, later married Samuel Terry). The Terry's were known throughout the state for their property acquisitions having accumulated ownership of 19,000 acres of land by 1820. The Terry's not only developed Mount Pleasant but also other country properties in the Illawarra, Box Hill, Liverpool, Yass and Bathurst area as well as owned a large townhouse in Pitt Street, Sydney. The Islington (The Poplars) grant is of historical significance for its association with the well known and respected Rouse family as Ellen Rosetta Hughes, daughter of John Terry Hughes (1st cousin of Samuel Terry) who married a Rouse, inherited the Islington (The Poplars) grant in 1873.

The Poplars is significant for its association with Richard Cosgrove (?-1911), farmer of Penrith, from 1875-1905 and with Edward Cass (18?-1929), farmer of Penrith until 1921.

The Poplars is of local significance for its association with the Salmond family for over 80 years (1921-2007) with 50 years under direct ownership by the Salmond's and the remaining 36 years as lessees.

Robert Salmond, second generation owner of the Poplars married Esme Willett who was a member of local pioneer families the Willetts and the Plunketts.

The lanes that were originally part of the Poplars site, one of which remains, are significant having been named after influential local families. Farrell's Lane which currently bounds the Poplars on the south is associated with William Farrell a tenant farmer in the district over the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The former Wrights lane, which bounded the property on the north is associated with a Castlereagh district pioneer farming family.

The current mature landscape of the Poplars, originally established in the 1940s, is of high local significance for its intimate association with Mrs Salmond and her son Andrew Salmond (who maintained the landscape on his mothers passing). The site evidences their keen interest in gardening with Mrs Esme Salmond establishing a form of botanical garden with specimen trees and some areas of shrub planting with a particular emphasis on a variety of rose plantings. Andrew Salmond maintained this interest but placed particular emphasis in trees. With the 1960s winding down of dairying on the property Andrew devoted his attention to developing the site and expanding the plantings to cover most of the site.

Criteria c)

Aesthetic/Technical Significance

The landscape that remains around the Poplars is of State aesthetic significance as a remnant and now rare farm landscape set on the 5 acres that immediately surrounded the house and farm buildings that has survived within the extensive and site denuding excavation for gravel quarrying.

The landscape that remains around the Poplars is of State aesthetic significance as a very fine parkland of unusual and in some cases rare specimens that as a collection appear to be quite rare. The overall effect is a form of eclectic botanical garden.

The main residence is of aesthetic and technical significance with several original architectural elements, features and materials illustrative of pise building construction.

The large brick fireplace with ornate mantelpiece (c1860s-1890s) is of aesthetic significance.

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The main residence is of aesthetic and technical significance with several original architectural elements, features and materials illustrative of pise building construction.

The large brick fireplace with ornate mantelpiece (c1860s-1890s) is of aesthetic significance.

The garage slab hut is of aesthetic and technical significance in demonstrating early techniques of early timber slab hut construction.

The slab barn with complete original roof framing is of aesthetic and technical significance in demonstrating techniques of early timber slab hut construction.

The cattle/milking shed and sillage with its numerous enlargements is of aesthetic and technical significance as the largest structure on site that is clearly indicative of the chronological development of site in relation to farming and dairying.

Remnant milk urns and mechanisms for locking cows in stalls in the milking shed are of technical and aesthetic significance as they illustrate the former uses of the building.

The cut top posts in the ceiling of the dairy and western wall with ledged doors, timber framing and horizontal boards are of technical and aesthetic significance in interpreting the original use of the structure.

The aesthetic significance of the heritage buildings is enhanced by the post 1940 landscape of mature planting, significant shrubs and remnant original paths and access routes

The view line between the Poplars site and the windbreak of olive trees associated with the site of the Mount Pleasant Homestead is of high aesthetic significance indicating the visual and historic affinity between the two sites.

The entry drive of Lombardy Poplars is of landmark significance in signifying the location of the site after which the site is so named "The Poplars".

The view line between the main residence and McCarthy's Cemetery is of high aesthetic significance indicating the sites former close association with the town of Cranebrook.

The orientation of the main residence and garage slab hut to the east, on a slight rise over looking the former lagoon is of aesthetic significance having been selected to provide a pleasant aspect for the residences as well as providing protection from flooding.

The Poplars site was irrigated in the 1950s and is indicative of the systems put in place throughout the State in order to combat the effects of drought in the farming industry.

The c1840s brick lined well is of high technical significance demonstrating early construction and having never failed, even in the severe drought of 1900, and is still in current use.

The remnant 6 silo pits (c1940s) are of technical significance in indicating initiatives introduced by the Salmond's to secure winter feed for a stock of up to 40-60 cows a month.

The use of Lombardy Poplars along the lining of the drive is of aesthetic significance indicating the general popularity of poplars from after World War I and particularly in the Castlereagh area in the 1930s on private properties and along public roads.

Criteria d)

Social/Cultural Significance

The Poplars is of local social significance with the Salmond's originally supplying timber cut on site to residences and bakeries in Penrith

The Poplars is of local social significance as the Salmond's supplied wattle bark for the tanneries at Kingswood and St Marys.

The Poplars is of State social significance with crops of peas, beans, cabbages, pumpkins, watermelons and tomatoes supplied to Sydney market when the site was worked as a farm by the Salmond's.

The dairy farm at the Poplars is of State and local social significance having supplied milk to the Nepean Co-operative milk factory in Penrith (established 1894) from the early 1940s until the early 1970s. The Co-operative distributed supplies to local townships and the Sydney market via rail. The Poplars dairy farm was instrumental in assisting the expansion of the Dairy Co-operative, which in turn provided a place of employment for many in town during an economic downturn.

The remnant landscape that survives around the Poplars is of social significance to local gardeners, historical societies and gardening societies throughout NSW.

Criteria e)

Research Potential

The east face has a verandah along the face of the original section with a brick base covered with a concrete screed, steel or cast iron pipe

columns, a simple lean-to corrugated iron roof with a decorative timber valence at one end over a timber partition with glass louvres. Little if any of the verandah fabric is original.

The original part of the house has thick external walls in a simple rectangular configuration enclosing a space about 36' (11m) by 12' (3.5m). The north west corner of the pisé walls shows large vertical cracks on the north and west faces indicating that the corner has subsided.

Within this space is a large brick fireplace that is attached to the west wall, which divides the space into a 10' (3.0m) section to the south and a larger space to the north. The fireplace addresses the north space, which appears to have been the original living area. The chimney is bagged, but the mantelpiece is ornate plasterwork with a large scroll bracket at either side with a pronounced mantle. The fireplace may have been added in the mid-late Victorian period (c1860-1890) and the chimney above roof has some similarity to the c1920s chimney in the addition.

Early partitions have been erected in the house, enclosing the southern bedroom, and partitioning off a northern room which is also 10' (3m) wide. The windows on the east wall appear centred on the north room, which may suggest that the partitioning was part of the original design intent, although the fenestration is not as regular as Georgian models. The partitions themselves are framed in timber but consist only of vertical beaded boards running from the head to the floor, without support framing. This is similar to the construction technique employed in a slab hut and is somewhat unusual. The width of the boards is however more in keeping with the mid-late Victorian period.

The ceiling in the main room is a beaded board type similar to the partitions, and once again appears to be early fabric. The boards are only painted at the edges and appear very dark from smoke. The ceiling in the northern room is also finished with beaded timber boards with edges painted. These boards are a light colour and may be kauri pine. There are sections of both ceilings that have been recently patched by panels or replaced with boards. We were unable to view the flooring material.

The door to the north room is a simple timber ledged door without a frame. The door to the south room is also a simple ledged door but consists of very wide vertical battens that indicates it is early fabric. The front door to the east is a Georgian six panel door with sunken panels and panel moulds, which also may be original fabric. This door has an early rimlock. The door to the west wall is a four panel door, once again with sunken panels. This door matches other four panel doors in the c1920s additions. One of the doors to the additions could be a modified six panel door that may have been salvaged from the original building, but is now quite damaged.

The window in the north room appears to be an original twelve pane Georgian window in its original frame. The window has sash cords, but the upper sash may be missing. The window in the main living space has been converted to glass louvres and would date from late 20th century. We were unable to assess the southern room window. Windows on the west wall have been filled in and the south opening has been sheeted over, possibly during the c1920s additions.

Of the additions the skillion extension to the west appears to have been added in the 1920s, complete with brick fireplace with timber mantle, now damaged. This chimney is a large element of exposed brickwork on the west elevation. The southern skillion extension may also date from this period although the simple linings, glass louvres and casement windows may be from any period in the 20th century. The skillion to the south end of the east verandah and that to the north of the main building appear to date from late 20th century. The additions are partly clad in fibre cement (AC sheet) and partly in vertical corrugated iron.

The garage slab hut is a timber framed timber slab building of very early construction (c1820-40s). The main framing is in timbers that have not been dressed, sawn or adzed, and are largely trimmed tree trunks. The framing consists of uprights, cross pieces and a small number of props at the top of the walls spanning across the space. Supported on this frame are large adzed timber slabs (approx 12inches x 3 inches [300x75mm]) that span from the top frame to the ground. These are exposed internally, and were originally finished externally with thin sections of corrugated sheet to cover the joints. Most of the exterior has since been sheeted with vertical corrugated iron.

The plan of the slab hut has similar dimensions to the pisé section of the main house, and is 38' (11.6m) long and about 12' (3.5m) wide. The small porch to the west gives credence to the story that this was the precursor to the main house and provided accommodation while the main house was being built. The interior has been divided into a southern room of about 13'x12' (4mx3.5m) by an original partition of timber slabs that extend up to the cross piece of the frame. Above this the void of the roof has been infilled with beaded boards similar to those seen in the main house, only on this occasion the partition is framed structurally and the boards run horizontally.

The hipped roof structure is of later construction with sawn timbers fitted into the unsawn top plate member. Two beaded boards run around the eaves above the rafters, and may have been an early gutter or flashing support, a remnant of a sarking board layer, or have some other unknown purpose. There is a central timber batten and the roofing is corrugated iron, exposed underneath. The roofing extended out across the porch and was supported on posts. The porch has since collapsed.

The building now features a large opening to the north to allow car entry as a garage. This may have been introduced at the expense of some timber slabs in this area, which in turn may have contributed to the instability of the structure. There are two doors to the south room, both of which are timber ledged doors. The opening at the porch appears to have been infilled.

There are some sash type windows in the structure, but most appear relatively recent. One window has a rudimentary timber louver, which may be the original opening treatment.

The building as a whole has collapsed to the east by some margin and has been temporarily propped to prevent further collapse.

Extensive vine growth has been removed but regrowth appears to be rapidly reestablishing itself.

The slab barn has the same construction type as the garage slab hut, but is more complete with its original roof framing. Once again the main framing elements, the posts, top plate and roof framing members are not machined and are only marginally adzed, and still have the character of tree trunks notched together. The ridge beam and battens are sawn timbers, and support the corrugated iron roofing. There is a large opening to the north, but in this case this is framed by very large posts and beams and appears an original feature. The large timber slabs (approx 12"x3" – 300x75mm) are well dressed by means of an adze and span from top plate to ground. Most are in very good condition, but some have been the track of termites and have serious degradation.

The workshop has a slighter greater width than the garage, and is approx 14' x 28'6" (4mx9m) in plan area. A more recent wing has been added to the east which measures about 2.5mx3m, and is framed in sawn timbers with corrugated iron cladding to walls and roof.

The central section of the roof of the original wing has collapsed, but otherwise the structure is relatively upright and in no immediate danger of collapse. The collapsed section of roof prevents use of the space.

The former dairy is a utilitarian structure made up of the c1920s stalls for cows and a later brick room that was connected by a brick wall in the late 20th century.

The milking stall section is flanked by double brick rendered walls at either end with a simple pitched roof supported on timber posts. The roof has a wide overhang on the east side that continues as a verandah to the masonry section. The framing for the cow stalls has been removed but the cut tops of the post remain evident in the ceiling. Much of the western wall remains with ledged doors, timber framing and horizontal boards. This wall assists in reading the original use but much of the fabric has been removed. The attached masonry room is a simple box with an east door and south window, it also has a sheeted ceiling. Much of the fabric is dilapidated and in disrepair. The building is overgrown with vines.

The cattle shed is the largest structure on the site and is the result of numerous enlargements over many years. This building is also the most dilapidated with large parts of it collapsed and missing. The remainder of the structure has a tenuous stability. The building is a simple framed structure with large timber posts at wide spacing with similar undressed round timber used as top plates and main roof framing members. Later additions to the sheds have used an identical construction method for the main frame. Intermediate rafters in the older sections are undressed round timber, while in the new sections they are all sawn. Battens are sawn throughout and the roofing and wall cladding is corrugated iron. The gable ends have a deep corrugated iron verge. Within the planning there were feed troughs and storage areas, including deep pits. There are also old milk urns, heavily rusted, that are scattered in the debris. There are some remnants, seriously damaged and falling apart, of the mechanism for locking cows in stalls.

The Well is a roughly timber framed structure (6 by 2m) related to a tank structure. The studs, rafters and battens are all sawn indicating this is a recent structure. The enclosure is clad with corrugated iron. One long wall is clad with plywood over the corrugated iron. The well within the enclosure is still in use.

Other structures include, the small privy associated with the pise house which dates from c1920s and appears to be of timber frame and corrugated iron cladding.

Garage 1 is a more recent structure that dates from the late 20th century. This structure is still in use. It is of steel and timber frame construction, clad in corrugated iron. The garage appears to be in reasonable condition for its age.

Garage 2 is derelict, has a collapsed roof, but the walls are still standing. The structure is considered unsafe and was not entered.

The landscape that remains around the Poplars is unusual for a number of reasons. It is a remnant and now rare farm landscape set on the 5 acres that immediately surrounded the house and farm buildings that has survived within the extensive and all consuming excavation for gravel quarrying that has changed the character of the river flats of Castlereagh. It is also a very early setting with some of the oldest buildings in the locality. Layered on this is the defined and now mature parkland of trees and shrubs that occupy much of the remaining land. In contrast to the starkness of the surrounding landscape the mature plantings stand out.

The poplars landscape was not always a planted landscape however. For most of the life of the farm the landscape was sparse with the modest farm buildings set in probably not much more than native grasses with dirt access paths and tracks. The earliest aerial photos from the 1940 period show the sparseness of the setting with ploughed fields in close proximity to the buildings and patterns of stock movement evident. A key feature of the landscape was the lagoon to the east over which the main dwelling looked. This is now hard to understand due to the density of planting and the quarrying, but the siting of the house, both the slab cottage and the later pise house were oriented to the east and to the water with both buildings set on the slight rise that would have served to provide aspect and set the buildings on the highest ground above flooding. Most of the subtlety of the landscape setting has been lost over time.

The current landscape is also hard to understand due to the advanced state of neglect and noxious plant infestation that obscures everything within it. The current form of the landscape requires substantial recovery but from close inspection there remains a very fine parkland of unusual and in some cases rare specimens that as a collection appear to be quite rare.

The current mature landscape was established in the 1940 period with the change of occupation of the farm and the interest in gardening from the Salmond's. The successive aerial photos show the gradual increase in planted area around the house and the initial specimen trees reaching maturity with ongoing additions. This interest, particularly in trees, was maintained by Andrew Salmond, the current occupant, who took over the gardens and their planting following the death of his mother. Over the last period of occupation and the winding down of dairying from the 1960's as farms were sold for quarrying Andrew Salmond has devoted his attention to developing the site and expanding the plantings to cover most of the site. In the most recent period of the last ten years the site has deteriorated but the mature plantings generally have survived.

The surrounding quarry activities have had a major impact on the Poplars both visually and also by changing the water table and the balance of the site. Traditionally water was provided from a deep well but with the encroaching quarry water dried up and the site is now connected to town water. This reflects the lowering of the water table which has affected a number of trees. Despite this most plantings have survived.

One of the later additions to the property has been the entry drive of Lombardy Poplars, from which the property derived its most recent name. These have suffered from lack of water but also from disease and are now almost lost on the site. Interestingly and probably for convenience the current entry drive is relatively recent and accesses the service or farm area where the earliest aerial photograph shows a curved dirt entry drive across the front of the house.

Another later change has been the addition of the former McCarthy's Lane adjacent to the south boundary into the property holding. This area has modest planting that is largely self-sown.

The intent of the landscape is of an open and spacious parkland with specimen trees and some areas of shrub planting, in particular a variety of roses. Some of these appear to be quite early in origin even though they may not originate from the site. One of the characteristics of the planting is its eclectic nature and the desire of the Salmond's to establish a form of botanical garden – albeit of modest pretension. To achieve this they gathered specimens from neighbouring properties and from nurseries across Sydney and possibly further afield. The result is hard to define except through its eclecticism. Detailed plant studies have not been undertaken but it appears that a number of plantings are rare and are the only remnant plants from some of the earliest farms and gardens in the district. This was

advised by Andrew Salmond who can recollect with clarity the origins of many of the trees and shrubs from his childhood to the present day.

The Salmonds were also well informed about their garden with an extensive collection of gardening magazines and books that guided them in current planting trends and species.

The landscape at this point requires substantial work to remove the understorey of privet, vines and other noxious species. Careful clearing of much of the area is also required to uncover the smaller shrubs and plantings of value and considerable tree surgery and arborculturalist input will be required to save a number of the nature plantings that have been subject to water loss and lightening strikes. The several site visits were used to identify the more major elements of the setting and a planting list was verbally advised by Andrew Salmond. The observed and noted plantings are set out below, this is not a complete list of trees and plants but covers the major plantings:

Ribbon tree
Fiejoa
Louis van Hoot elm
Eucalypt Lemon Scented gum
Variegated elm
Eucalypt Spotted gum
Common elm
Eucalypt Alata
Lombardy Poplars
Eucalypt iron Bark
Slash Pine (Ellioti Pine?)
Eucalypt Sydney red gum
Bunyah Pine
Flowering Apricot
Kauri Pine
Wild Plum
Canary Island Pine
Flowering Peach
Signus Pine
Cactus (various)
Pin Oak
Tabibooijal
Jacaranda purple and white
Camellias
Robinia from Cranbrook House
Magnolia Grandiflora
Tree of Heaven
Flowering Apple
Cocos Palm
Nyssa
Fan palm
Native Blackbean
Chimera poplar
Giant Strelitzia blue and white
Native Pittosporum
Della Donna Lilies
Pink Kurrajong
Day Lilies
Kurrajong
Crepe Myrtle
Various roses, some from surrounding properties.

The significant form of this landscape is contained within the defined planting area seen in the c 1960 -1980 period aerial photographs that extended to the present eastern boundary, the southern alignment of the former laneway, the western alignment of the present entry drive and the current northern boundary. Ideally this would be an open grassed park area retaining the significant buildings with the mature tree plantings and identified shrubs of interest. This would allow the paths and access routes to be reinstated. In contrast the undergrowth infestation is undesirable and has resulted in damage to the property. This should be removed and managed.

Main Residence

Generally in fair structural condition with the exception of brick chimney attached to the cottage and sagging of ceiling panels inside of the cottage.

The brick chimney on the external side of the south perimeter wall has cracking in the bedding and perpend in the northern face of masonry. The chimney itself is leaning to the south, away from the cottage. Timber framed bracing was installed recently to stabilise the chimney in its position. Sagged ceiling panels inside of the cottage may indicate potential instability of roof framing.

Little if any of the verandah fabric to the main residence is original. The north west corner of the pisé walls of the main residence shows large vertical cracks on the north and west faces indicating that the corner has subsided. There are sections of both ceilings in the main residence that have been recently patched by panels or replaced with boards.

Garage Slab Hut

The building as a whole has collapsed to the east by some margin and has been temporarily propped to prevent further collapse.

Regrowth of vine growth which had been removed recently is rapidly reestablishing itself. The entrance porch on the west side has collapsed. The hut is structurally unsafe.

Slab Barn

Derelict. Had collapsed roof but the walls are still standing. The structure is relatively upright and in no immediate danger of collapse.

Termite attack to timber

Dairy

The brick walls appear sound. One timber rafter near the entrance is broken and the condition of the rest of the timber frame is uncertain.

Building is overgrown with vines. Much of the fabric is dilapidated and in disrepair.

Cattle/Milking Shed and Sillage

Very dilapidated with large parts of it collapsed and missing. The remainder of the structure has a tenuous stability. The roof has collapsed but the walls are still standing.

Garage 1

Garage appears to be in reasonable condition for its age.

Garage 2

Garage is derelict with collapsed roof but walls are still standing. The structure is considered unsafe and should not be entered into.

Modifications And Dates

The subject property has undergone several changes since its establishment in the mid 1800s, with several buildings added to the site in the 1940s and 1960s and extensive landscaping added around the house in 1940.

MAIN RESIDENCE

Fireplace in main residence may have been added in the mid-late Victorian period (c1860-1890) and the chimney above roof has some similarity to the c1920s chimney in the addition.
The window in the main living space has been converted to glass louvres and would date from late 20th century. Windows on the west wall have been filled in and the south opening has been sheeted over, possibly during the c1920s additions.
Of the additions the skillion extension to the west appears to have been added in the 1920s, complete with brick fireplace with timber mantle, now damaged.
The skillion to the south end of the east verandah and that to the north of the main building appear to date from late 20th century. The additions are partly clad in fibre cement (AC sheet) and partly in vertical corrugated iron.

GARAGE SLAB HUT c1820-40s

The porch has collapsed.
Hipped roof is later construction
Large opening to north to allow car entry
Opening of porch infilled
Exterior been sheeted with vertical corrugated iron

SLAB BARN

A recent wing has been added to the east

DAIRY

Framing for cow stalls has been removed but the cut tops of the post remain evident in the ceiling.

CATTLE/MILKING SHED and SILLAGE

Numerous enlargement to structure over the years. Later additions to the shed have used an identical construction method for the main frame. Rafters in new sections are all sawn.

GARAGE 1

Recent structure dates from the late 20th century

Further Comments

Current Use

Former Use

Listings

Listings

| Records Retrieved: 3 | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|----------------|---------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Heritage Listing | Listing Title | Listing Number | Gazette Date | Gazette Number | Gazette Page |
| Heritage study | | 2260044 | 11/1/2007 12:00:00 AM | | |
| Local Environmental Plan | The Poplars old slab cottage pise house and garden | CR-8 | 12/20/1991 12:00:00 AM | 180 | |
| Heritage study | | | | | |

Procedures/Exemptions

| Section of Act | Description | Title | Comments | Action Date | Outcome |
|------------------|-------------|-------|----------|-------------|---------|
| No Results Found | | | | | |

History

Historical Notes or Provenance

Updated

he district of Cranebrook is located a few kilometres to the north of Penrith and to the east of the Nepean River. Today the area forms part of the regional development of the Nepean Lakes Scheme which has been extensively quarried over the last forty years to extract gravel for Sydney’s building industry.

European occupation of the area is one of the oldest in Australia dating back to around 1800. The myriad of Crown grants made over the first years of the nineteenth century were intended to encourage viable agricultural and pastoral activities to feed and clothe the penal settlement centred on the southern shore of Port Jackson. The first grants along the eastern bank of the Hawkesbury/Nepean River were issued in the late 1790s and confirmed by Governor King over 1803-04. Many of these early farming ventures were devastated by a succession of floods and droughts that occurred between 1799 and 1811.

The Poplars is sited within the 150 acres granted to Rosetta Marsh on 18th March 1809. The grant is one of a number dispersed around a system of lagoons and creeks on higher ground to the east of the Nepean River. In an area otherwise characterised by less fertile soils the water supply offered some opportunity for human habitation and traditional farming activities. The largest grant in this area was made to Governor King’s secretary William Neate Chapman in 1805. Chapman’s grant of 1300 acres is framed by the Cranebrook and Castlereagh Roads. To the north of this grant were a number of grants of between 60 to 100 acres sited up to the township reserve of Castlereagh set aside by Governor Macquarie in 1810 to provide relief in times of flood for the farmers of the lowlands fringing the Nepean River. To the south of the reserve was a glebe of 400 acres which was reserved for the Anglican Church, but later granted to the Rev. Henry Fulton, the local church representative. The dispersal of the land grants

James McCarthy’s Cranebrook is one of the oldest of these grants and is one of the most historically significant in the region, with the name of the present day suburb being derived from the name of the farm. McCarthy, who had arrived in the colony in 1794 to serve a term of seven years’ transportation, is of particular historic note for his contribution to the development of Roman Catholicism in Australia with services being held at his homestead and a small parcel of land being set aside as a Catholic cemetery. McCarthy was a successful farmer and the property was retained by the family until 1965, and the old house was destroyed by fire in 1971. McCarthy and his descendents were one of the very few of the original grantees who managed to retain their land as the nineteenth century progressed. With minor exceptions, most of the land grants were acquired by Samuel Terry.

The Poplars is sited within Rosetta Marsh’s grant of 150 acres named Islington of 1809. The farmhouse, now within a land holding of five acres, is historically associated with a land holding of 100 acres formed by subdivision undertaken in 1875. However for most of the nineteenth century the grant was one of a number within the huge Mount Pleasant estate put together by Samuel Terry and his wife Rosetta (nee Marsh) over the 1810s and 1820s.

Samuel Terry (1776-1838) has been considered the 'The Botany Bay Rothschild' for his business acumen in acquiring a personal fortune in land dealings. He arrived in Sydney in 1801 to serve his sentence of transportation for seven years but by the time his sentence had expired in 1807 he had already served as a soldier, entered into trade as a stonemason and set up a shop at Parramatta. By 1809 he had a farm on the Hawkesbury River and moved to Sydney in the following year and became an inn keeper. In March 1810 he married the widow Rosetta Marsh, née Pracey, who had come free to the colony in 1799, probably as the wife of the convict Edward Madden who died enroute at Cape Town. In Sydney she married another convict, Henry Marsh, but was again widowed soon after. Rosetta was an innkeeper when she married Terry. The Terrys’ appetite for property evidently knew no bounds for by the time of Commissioner Bigge’s enquiry into the colony in 1820 they owned 19,000 acres (7689 ha). In addition to Mount Pleasant, the Terrys developed country properties in the Illawarra, Box Hill, Liverpool, Yass and Bathurst and possessed a large townhouse in Pitt Street.

Mount Pleasant was put together through acquisition of a number of small holdings, with the homestead being located within William Baker’s 140 acre grant, purchased in 1819, sited to the east of present day Cranebrook Road. The full extent of Mount Pleasant has not been fully addressed in historical studies prepared to date, and there are remarkably few contemporary written and pictorial accounts. In the Census of New South Wales of 1828 the estate was stated to comprise 2,000 acres. It is clear from land records relating to different portions of the estate that collectively the western boundary was the Nepean River and the eastern boundary was the watercourse of South Creek. Between these important topographical features was an almost contiguous line of individual land grants only broken by the Old Northern Road; Mount Pleasant therefore effectively separated the northern and southern halves of the Castlereagh district. The homestead, which was demolished in the 1950s, was located on the highest point of the estate, being the prominent ridge to the east of present day Cranebrook public school. Accounts of the homestead are few, the best being the diary entry of 1832 of the Wesleyan minister the Rev. Joseph Orton who considered it as ‘the most Anglo sized in appearance of any that I have yet seen in the colony; very similar to an extensive farming establishment in the mother Country’. A large windbreak of olive trees (*Olea europaea*) and an associated track are all that remains of the estate today; the trees continue to be a conspicuous element in the landscape as perhaps they were intended.

On Terry’s death in 1838 his son, Edward, was appointed principal heir, but died childless soon after Terry himself. Terry’s daughter Martha Foxlowe, who had married the merchant John Hosking in 1829, then became heiress-in-law. John Hosking was the partner of John

Terry Hughes trading as Hughes & Hosking. John Terry Hughes was Samuel Terry's nephew and had married Samuel Terry's step daughter Esther Marsh. A son by this marriage, John Terry, married into the respected Rouse family. A daughter, Ellen Rosetta Hughes, on her mother's death in 1873 inherited the Islington (The Poplars) grant. Martha Hosking (nee Foxlowe) died at Mount Pleasant in 1877 and her husband, John, in 1882; 300 acres of the estate inclusive of the homestead were then offered for sale.

Throughout the extended Terry family period of ownership details on the use and occupation of the Islington (the Poplars) grant are not known. However, it is probable that parts of the Mount Pleasant estate lands were leased to tenant farmers. This is implied by the aforementioned Rev. Orton's observation that it was 'very similar to an extensive farming establishment in the mother Country'. The nature of the rural economy of this time within the Castlereagh district reflected the varying productiveness of the land and the demands of the city market. The river edge lands to the west provided for growing wheat and other cereals, but the less fertile soils to the east, such as The Poplars holding, was more limiting with stock grazing and timber getting the main activities.

Morris and Britton have noted in their detailed study of the Castlereagh region that the practice of leasehold farms became increasingly common from the 1840s coinciding with both the end of convict transportation to the colony and the depressed rural economy. Morris and Britton cite the Cawdor Estate of the Macarthur family's land around Camden as a well documented example of mid-nineteenth century small farm leaseholds, but there are closer examples of this practice with the Regentville (offered for sale in the 1860s with clearly defined farmlets) and the Lambridge estates. In the Lambridge farms, a short distance to the south of present day Cranebrook, the pattern of subdivision established in leasehold in some instances evidently continued when the lands came on the market in the 1880s in freehold.

The practice of leaseholds meant more people were resident in the area than the documented land ownership evidence would otherwise imply, with fewer capital improvements such as dwellings and farm structures. Wells Gazetteer of 1848 stated that Castlereagh Parish (within which is located The Poplars) had 225 houses and 1204 inhabitants which implies a far greater population density than that perceived in the area today. The practice also makes identification of land occupants difficult to determine. The built structures at The Poplars, the slab buildings, indicate however that in all likelihood the land holding was occupied and farmed.

The homestead associated with the farm holding would seem to have always been located where the present house is sited to the north of the 'T' junction of Wrights Lane (now removed) and an unnamed road reservation. This location is approximately equidistant with the eastern and western boundaries of the land grant and offers an elevated area above the lagoon site to the east. Owing to the lagoon there was no direct vehicular road access from the east from Cranebrook.

Little is known about the precise manner the Terry family managed the Mount Pleasant estate, but Morris and Britton have noted in their study the prevalence for its land grants to retain their acreage throughout the nineteenth century. The Crown grants in the area were set out in a regular grid pattern except where bounded by a natural watercourse. These grants were margined by public rights of way which were evidently not reserved at the time of the making of grant, but research by the late George Gyford indicates they were reserved by the 1860s. The rights of way were a feature of the local topography up until the onset of extractive gravel mining and featured in the initial assessment of the cultural values of the region prepared in 1983 by Birmingham and Bentley. It is probable that the lanes were historically associated with a nineteenth century land holding pattern of tenant farmers.

The lanes were named after local families such as the Macarthys, Carters, Farrells and Longs. The original extent of The Poplars was bounded on the north by Wrights Lane and on the south by Farrells Lane (now both removed through mining). Wright's Lane was associated with a Castlereagh district pioneer farming family and Farrell's Lane recognised William Farrell a tenant farmer in the district over the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

A feature of The Poplars holding and land in its vicinity today is the view line between the site and the windbreak of olive trees associated with the site of the Mount Pleasant homestead. The eastern boundary of The Poplars land holding was transected by a diagonally aligned public road reserve (now quarried) linking the old village centre of Cranebrook, being the public school, and Farrells Lane and the Castlereagh Road beyond. Again this road reserve was not evidently established at the time of the grants and is not plotted on the early editions of the parish map, but is shown in the post 1903 edition editions. There is documentary evidence for this fenced road at one time having continued its north-west alignment across other Terry owned land. In providing an east west connection it is possible it was associated with Terry's Mount Pleasant.

Just over one hundred acres of the Islington grant (The Poplars holding) was sold in December 1875 to Richard Cosgrove, farmer of Penrith, with the balance of around 47 acres being retained by Samuel Terry Hughes. The sale was one of the first alienations from the Terry family in the area and for a number of decades it was evidently isolated and surrounded by the larger Mount Pleasant estate holding. The properties to the south (the Field and Biggers grants), north (the Marsh, Colethread and Green grants) and west (Pugh and Morris grants) were held in the one ownership of the Ebsworth family from 1876 until at least the beginning of the twentieth century. The other land owner was the McCarthy family of Cranebrook. For some time the general area was known by the Terry family association (Mount Pleasant) with the name changing to Cranebrook in 1886 on the opening of a new government school.

The change in ownership brings the first documentary evidence for habitation on the land for Richard Cosgrove (? -1911) is listed in Fuller's Cumberland Directory for 1885 as being resident at Castlereagh and in 1895, in an apology published in the Nepean Times (relating to the character of M. Long), his address was given as Cranebrook. Also at the time of his son William's death in 1891 the burial took place at Cranebrook. This is probably a reference to the so-called McCarthy's Cemetery to the south of The Poplars. There is a view line between the house and the cemetery. The pise cottage may reflect this change in ownership.

Cosgrove sold the property in 1905 to Edward Cass (18?-1929), farmer of Penrith. By this time, the surveyed area of the land holding had been adjusted to 101 acres and 3 roods on the conversion of the land title to Torrens in 1903.

The economy of the land holding in this period was probably a continuation of stock grazing, timber getting and small scale fruit and vegetable growing. Some dairying activity may also have been introduced towards the end of this period.

In January 1921 the 101 acre farm was purchased by Andrew Salmond. The Salmond family continues to be associated with the property and the farmstead we see today came to fruition under the Salmonds. The name, The Poplars, derives from the Salmonds era of occupation. Owing to a recorded interview with the Bob Salmond made by local historian Lorna Parr, and the continuing occupation of

the house by his son, Andrew, the history of the Salmond family at The Poplars is well documented.

Andrew Salmond came to Penrith from Murchison, a small farming district near Nelson on the west coast of the South Island of New Zealand. Andrew's early professional life was as an itinerant carpenter and labourer, but took up farming, running a few head of cattle and a small dairy. With some knowledge of Australia experienced through travel, Andrew, wife Mabel and children Robert and Annie Elizabeth (Bessie) moved to Sydney around 1920 and purchased The Poplars. Whether the Cass family was resident at this time is unclear as owing to an existing lease the Salmonds could not settle on the farm until about September 1921.

The pisé house was the principal dwelling, it then comprising three rooms but a rear addition was soon completed. Andrew and his son Roberts lived in the garage when first arriving on the property due to the lack of room in the house. On Robert Salmond (1913-c.2000) taking on the running of the farm from his father in the early 1940s, further additions were made to the house. The slab buildings throughout the Salmonds ownership have been outbuildings associated with the running of the farm and house, although on taking on the farm in 1921 there was stove in-situ in the larger slab building (and therefore a place of habitation). The Salmonds believe this cottage was built about 1850.

The Salmonds have stated the property in the 1920s had few trees, but there was a big peppercorn tree near the house and fruit trees and a large peppercorn near the lagoon. The now removed peppercorns are characteristic of nineteenth century rural properties and evidently date to the Mount Pleasant era of The Poplars history.

The Salmonds initially worked the farm in a way similar to their former Nelson property in running a few cows purchased from the previous tenant, and evidently timber cutting to supply residences and bakeries in Penrith and slashing wattle bark for the tanneries at Kingswood and St Marys. Vegetables and maize were then grown as funds became available to purchase horses and plow. The crops included peas, beans, cabbages, pumpkins, water melons, and tomatoes destined for the Sydney market

By the 1940s the greater percentage of the farm land area was under cultivation with clearly demarcated paddocks. The Salmonds initially worked the land by hand with horse and plough with mechanised machinery being acquired in 1937, a steel wheeled Fordson tractor (Figures 2.11 and 2.12). The water supply always relied on a well (converted to town water when the well level dropped due to surrounding quarrying). The property was not irrigated until the 1950s after which a well was redug and reticulation system of a pair of three-inch diameter mains fed by a six-inch diameter distributor laid. The original well was brick lined and reputedly had never failed, even in the severe drought of 1900.

The main undertaking however was dairying supplying milk to the Nepean Co-Operative milk factory at Penrith and improvements were made to the farm to secure winter feed for the stock (silo pits), machinery to cut up the stock feed (corn, sorghum or oats) and a milking machine. By the early 1940s 27 cows were being milked.

The dairy was constructed in the early 1940s. It was originally fitted with a Mitchell two stand milking plant powered by a 2hp petrol driven stationary engine. The barn was also started around 1940 with various additions being made through into the 1960s. To provide for winter feed for the cows, six silos of 12 feet diameter were sunk 12 feet deep in the 1940s. Each stored about four to five acres of crop (corn, sorghum or oats), which when heated and consolidated into silage was sufficient to feed 40-60 cows for a month.

The milk industry at Penrith was established in 1894 by the Nepean Dairy Company, but was reorganised in 1923 with the establishment of the Penrith Dairy Co-operative. The factory was one of a number developed in the region (Pitt Town (1895), Windsor (1889 and 1892) to supply the local townships and the Sydney market accessible by rail. In the Castlereagh district there were fifteen dairy farmers by 1900. The Nepean works at Penrith underwent considerable expansion in the 1920s providing a place of employment for the town at a time when the economic outlook was bleak owing to closing of the once expansive railway depot.

Andrew's son Robert became increasingly associated with the running of the farm. Robert had married Esme Willett (-1977) in 1937, a member of local pioneer families the Willetts and the Plunketts. The couple had four children, Andrew and David (who still live on the farm), John and Christine. The family initially lived in a fibro cottage (now removed) sited some distance from the main homestead at the south-west corner of the land holding. Robert's family appears to have moved into the pisé house in the 1960s.

The extensive garden planted around the house which so characterises the property today was planted from 1940 under the direction of Esme helped by her son Andrew, both self-taught gardeners and avid readers of the popular Your Garden magazine (first published in 1947). The trees and shrubs were grown from cuttings and seeds sourced from commercial nurseries and the local area and could be considered, as it has, a regional botanic garden.

A 1947 aerial photograph confirms the Salmond family's account of the garden being laid from the 1940s with this earliest photograph showing a very sparsely vegetated house precinct with a handful of shade trees and no windbreaks. A 1961 aerial photograph however shows the garden in an advanced state of maturity with plantings surrounding the main house and the margin of poplars lining the drive. Over grown today and suffering the depletions of the ongoing and prolonged drought, the garden does not have a formal plan aside from the now dying poplar trees lining the drive. Morris and Britton have noted the popularity of poplars in general from after World War I and in the Castlereagh area in the 1930s on private properties (ie Minnavale) and along public roads (Castlereagh Road).

On his father's death around 1960 the farm was left to Robert (a two third interest) and his sister (one third interest). In settling the estate, the farm had to be sold in 1962 and the purchaser was the Rio Pioneer Gravel Company Pty. Ltd. The farm was subdivided with the house and land holding of five acres being retained by Robert and his son by purchase in 1966 and the balance of the farm being leased by the Salmonds from the gravel company. The house allotment was later acquired by the government and managed by the State Planning Authority and its successors keeping the Salmonds as tenants. The dairy continued into the early 1970s when gravel excavation commenced. At this time Robert went into the second hand furniture business maintaining premises at Richmond (the Richmond Resellers).

Quarrying has been undertaken in the Penrith region since the early nineteenth century, with the first commercial large scale excavation commencing in 1884 at Emu Plains. Today much of the historic landscape of Castlereagh has been laid waste by quarrying to extract the raw materials to build the expansion of Sydney from the 1960s. In its wake has come the Penrith Lakes Scheme.

The Penrith Lakes Scheme was first mooted in the late 1970s. The work to prepare the regional planning schemes to provide the statutory framework for the proposed quarrying was undertaken over the early 1980s and it is from this time The Poplars became known to a wider community; that is after the economic use of the farm had ceased.

The European heritage of the area was addressed at this time in the Regional Environmental Study Working Paper of 1983 by Prof. Judy Birmingham and F. Bentley. This study identified the cottage and outbuildings (Item 1) as items of considerable and some local significance respectively and recommended retention if possible. The Poplars was not subsequently listed in the State Regional Environmental Plan 11 – Penrith Lakes as an item of cultural heritage, however the house allotment subsequently came under ownership of the State Planning Authority.

In 1986 another heritage assessment was undertaken by Fox and Associates, consultants architects and planners working for Penrith City Council. This review noted both the slab and pisé cottages and the garden as significant adding the slab cottage was built prior to 1850 and the garden with cuttings and seeds sourced locally and from the Botanic Gardens, Sydney. The item was subsequently entered in the heritage schedule of the Penrith Local Environmental Plan (item CR-8), gazetted in December 1991.

In the cultural landscape studies of the Cumberland region prepared by Colleen Morris and Geoffrey Britton over the late 1990s The Poplars was identified as being significant for its buildings, historic associations with the Mount Pleasant estate, for its garden, and for the visual affinities between The Poplars and olive tree windbreak of the Mount Pleasant estate and McCarthy’s Cemetery.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Slab Cottage

Slab cottages figured prominently in the early history of Australian domestic and agricultural building construction. The timber was split with a maul and wedges and then finished with an adze. Typically the vertical slabs were slotted and fixed into a top and bottom plate, although slabs laid horizontally was also practiced. Strong corner posts were set into the ground to provide a rigid frame. The gaps between the slabs were sometimes covered with a clay mixture, while the interior wall surface was covered over in cloth or paper. The roof was framed in a traditional manner although the structural members could be either sawn timber or simply bush poles. In domestic construction the ceiling lining was formed by stretched cloth or lath and plaster, while the floor was often packed earth or timber boards. The benefit of slab construction was that the raw material, timber, could be felled on the site. Bricks or similar material however was required for the fireplace.

Over time many slab cottages have succumbed to the ravages of nature especially termites and fire, while others survive under later accretions such as corrugated iron and weatherboards.

Slab construction did not necessarily die out as the nineteenth century progressed as a number of quite sophisticated slab buildings were erected for agricultural uses. At St. Marys there is a barn associated with tanner Andrew Thompson’s ‘Mimosa’ of the late nineteenth century. The date of construction of the examples at The Poplars is not known but it would seem certain that the buildings were erected during the Terry family period of ownership, the general consensus being around 1820-1840.

Other examples of slab domestic farm cottages in the region are found at Hadley Park (c.1810s), ‘Yarramundi’ (which is now basically a ruin) and ‘Puddlenook’ (RES 16 and was relocated to its present site and comprises substantially weatherboards) both on the Castlereagh Road. Further afield are ‘The Cottage’ at Mulgoa (c.1811), ‘Rose Cottage’ at Werrington (c.1810), and ‘Lenore’ at Erskine Park, which evidently dates to the late nineteenth century.

Pisé Cottage

Pisé or more correctly pisé de terre was a common form of building construction in southern France in the eighteenth century but early examples of it are rare in Australia (it enjoyed a revival over the last decades of the twentieth century). It is made from ramming a mixture of clay and sand into a wooden framework. Lime and gravel could also be added to the mixture to improve durability and examples of this are recorded in Adelaide around 1850, again based on a French building technique known as béton pisé. In the Castlereagh district a few farm houses were identified as pisé in the early 1980s but subsequent investigations have shown them to have walls constructed pisé style using sand/cement and river stones producing a form of concrete. These include the cottages known as RES 76 (at 94 Castlereagh Road) and RES 37 (near Church Lane). Their date seems to be late nineteenth century. At St. Marys there is a pisé cottage in Sainsbury Street (Moore Cottage) which can be confidently dated to the 1860s. The pisé cottage at The Poplars probably dates to the 1840-60s.

Historic Themes

Records Retrieved: 2

| National Theme | State Theme | Local Theme |
|----------------|----------------------------------|-------------|
| 4. Settlement | Accommodation | Unknown |
| 3. Economy | Environment - cultural landscape | Unknown |

Recommended Management

Management Summary

- 1 Undertake detailed study of the site plantings to identify significant trees, shrubs and plants prior to removal of any plants.
- 2 Undertake a weed management program to recover the site.
- 3 Retain the identified park setting around the heritage buildings
- 4 Manage the landscape to ensure it is cared for and is not lost.
- 5 Interpret the site as buildings within the post 1940 landscape.

Management

Records Retrieved: 3

| Management Category | Management Name | Date Updated |
|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| | | 2/7/2024 6:05:08 PM |
| | | 2/7/2024 6:05:08 PM |
| | | 2/7/2024 6:05:08 PM |

Report/Study

Heritage Studies

Records Retrieved: 1

| Report/Study Name | Report/Study Code | Report/Study Type | Report/Study Year | Organisation | Author |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------|
| Penrith Lakes Scheme RES | | | 1983 | | TBD |

Reference & Internet Links

References

Records Retrieved: 3

| Type | Author | Year | Title | Link |
|---------|-------------|------|--|------|
| Written | Bob Salmond | 1995 | Transcript of interview by Lorna Lorna Parr | |
| Written | | 1987 | Penrith Local Environmental Plan 1991 (Environmental Heritage Conservation). | |
| Written | | | Penrith Lakes Scheme Res. Item No.12 | |

Data Source

The information for this entry comes from the following source:

| Data Source | Record Owner | Heritage Item ID |
|------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Local Government | Penrith City Council | 2260044 |

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