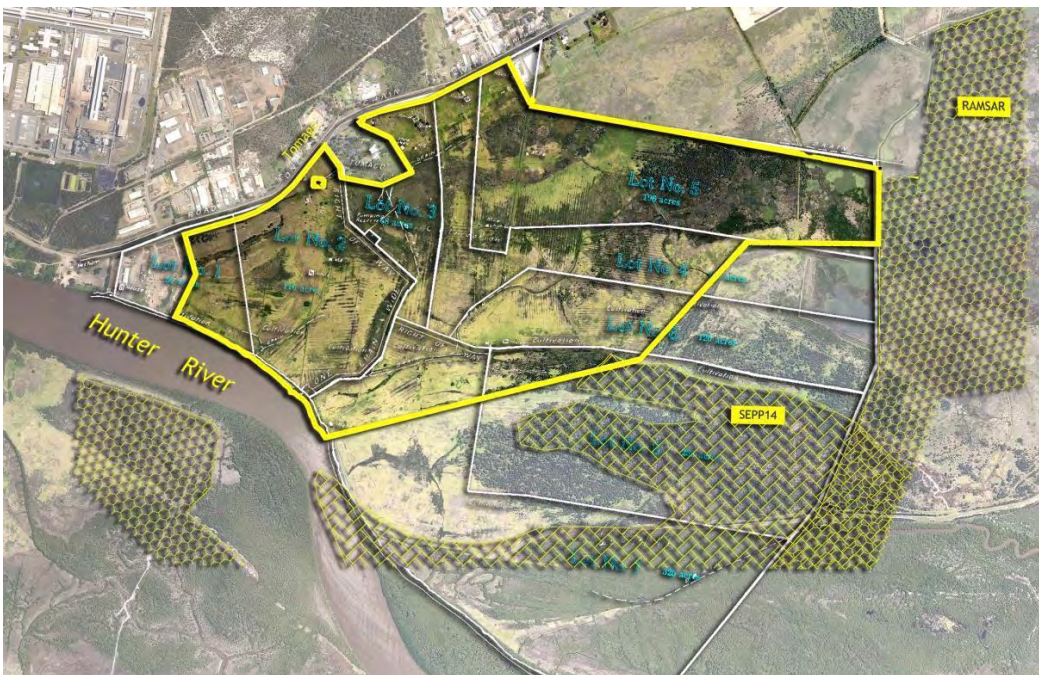


HERITAGE ASSESSMENT AND STATEMENT OF HERITAGE IMPACT

Northbank Enterprise Hub Tomago, NSW



Prepared by EJE Heritage
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Appendix A - Heritage Listing Inventory Sheets



1. INTRODUCTION

EJE Heritage have been requested to provide a Heritage Assessment and subsequent Heritage Impact Statement for the proposed development of land known as Lot 1001 DP 1127780, Tomago Road, Tomago NSW.

The Heritage Assessment forms the investigative stage of the report; it places the site within an historical context, and includes the history of the site. The physical condition and context of the current building also informs the initial stage of the Heritage Assessment. With the history and physical condition and context of the building understood an assessment of the site can be completed using the NSW Heritage Branch guidelines encompassing the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter heritage values; historical significance, aesthetic significance, scientific significance and social significance.

The Heritage Impact Statement follows the Heritage Assessment and examines the proposed works and identifies any impacts the proposal will have on the significance of the heritage items and any measures which should be taken to mitigate any negative impacts.

The Historical Research for this report was prepared by Hunter History Consultants.

This Statement of Heritage Impact was prepared by EJE Heritage. The project team consisted of:

- Barney Collins – (Director), Conservation Architect
- Shea Hedley – Environmental Consultant
- David Campbell – (Revisions), Heritage Consultant

1.1 METHODOLOGY

This report has been undertaken in accordance with the guidelines for Assessing Heritage Significance and Statement of Heritage Impact as issued by the NSW Heritage Branch, and the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter (1999).

1.2 HERITAGE LISTINGS

The subject site is not known to be listed on any statutory or non-statutory heritage lists.

Adjacent Heritage Items to the site include:

- Tomago House and Tomago Chapel (State significant). State significant listed on the State Heritage Register (NSW Heritage Act 1977)
- Tomago House and its Landscape Setting listed as having State significance under the Port Stephens Local Environmental Plan
- Tomago House including Grounds and Trees and Chapel Classified by National Trust of Australia

Listing sheets are included in **Appendix A**.

1.3 SITE IDENTIFICATION

The site is identified as Lot 1001 DP 1127780, Tomago Road, Tomago NSW. The subject site is located within the Port Stephens Council Local Government Area.



Figure 1.1: Site Location

1.4 CONSTRAINTS AND LIMITATIONS

This report excludes any assessment of non-European significance. Assessment of the archaeological potential of the site has been undertaken by Austral Archaeology.

EJE Architecture is not qualified to offer structural opinions and this report is not intended to convey any opinion as to the structural adequacy or integrity of the structure, nor should it be construed as doing so in any way. Similarly, the author's observations were limited to the fabric only and no comment is made as to the capacity, adequacy, or statutory compliance of any building services.

1.5 ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviations used throughout the text are as follows:

LEP	Local Environmental Plan
SOHI	Statement of Heritage Impact

1.6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

EJE would like to thank the following consultants for their assistance and information in preparing this report:

- Rosemary Melville of Hunter History Consultants who wrote the historical context section of this report; and
- Linda Babic of Heritas Architecture who wrote the Draft Northbank Enterprise Hub Tomago, NSW December 2010, of which was one of the primary reference sources of information for this assessment.

2. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

NORTHBANK ENTERPRISE HUB DEVELOPMENT, TOMAGO¹

2.1 OVERVIEW

The site of the proposed Northbank Enterprise Hub Development is located on parts of Lots 7 and 10 in the Parish of Stockton, which were acquired by barrister Richard Windeyer in the late 1830s. Windeyer planned to develop a grand rural estate but his death and the subsequent revelation of his parlous financial situation left his widow and son with only their home, Tomago House, and a fraction of the family's original land. Maria Windeyer successfully managed her Tomago property until her death in 1878 when ownership passed to her only child, William, who became a Justice of the Supreme Court of New South Wales. His wife, Lady Mary Windeyer, was known for her involvement in charitable and philanthropic causes. In 1939 the Tomago Estate was subdivided and sold, but the family retained ownership of Tomago House for some years thereafter. As a result of the 1939 subdivision, the portion of the Tomago Estate which now comprises the study site was divided into eight farms ranging in size from 50 acres to 324 acres.

During World War II, Tomago House, together with some buildings on the surrounding farms, was occupied by the military authorities. Following the Japanese attack on Newcastle in June 1942, the decision was made to construct an anti-aircraft battery on one of the farms immediately to the east of Tomago House. The battery complex included four brick and concrete gun emplacements with associated underground command centre, and three ammunition shelters which were erected close by. The entire complex still stands in the open fields, an access road which was also constructed at the time providing a clear indication of the battery's location.

During the post-war period, industrial development in the Tomago area increased. Numerous small industries were established, as well as large industries such as Courtaulds, followed by Tomago Aluminium which made a significant impact on the landscape and the environment. Fallout from the aluminium smelter led to the departure of dairy farmers from the study site. A proposal to establish a steel mill on the land was unsuccessful, and the site is now the subject of a new industrial development proposal.

2.2 INDIGENOUS OCCUPATION

The Aboriginal history in relation to the site is beyond the scope of this study, but it is noted that the area was close to the boundary of the Awabakal and Worimi groups.² The Hunter River formed a boundary between the lands of the two groups, the Awabakal occupying lands to the south of the river, and the Worimi lands to the north.³

Information located in the course of research provides an insight into the relationship between Richard Windeyer and the Worimi people. Windeyer was a member of the colonial elite and had begun buying land in the Hunter Valley in the late 1830s in the hope of establishing a profitable rural enterprise, so his belief in the concept of "terra nullius", which led him to declare "that the aboriginals had no legal rights to the soil or the wild animals of New South Wales" is not surprising.⁴

However, Windeyer was also hailed by the *Atlas* newspaper as "That indefatigable friend of the Aborigines ...", a reputation he had earned by defending them in the courts and by trying to secure medical treatment for them when Governor Gipps claimed he had no funds available for that purpose. In 1845 Windeyer sought the appointment of a select committee "to consider the condition of the Aborigines, and the best

¹ © History prepared by Hunter History Consultants Pty Ltd for Heritage Impact Statement and Assessment by Heritas Architecture. December 2010. Not to be used for any other purpose without written permission of the author.

² Jo Hanley, 'Newcastle: Place of History, Landscape of Memory', in R. John Moore & Michael J. Ostwald (eds.), *Hidden Newcastle, Urban Memories and Architectural Imaginaries*, Ultimo, 1997, p. 19.

³ Anon, "Beyond the Smelter: the cultural landscapes of Tomago", n.d.

⁴ Cited in D. Hartley, *From Fullerton Cove to Motto Farm*, Newcastle, 1987, p.19

means of promoting their welfare." The committee, under his chairmanship, collected valuable data about the problems of the original inhabitants but Windeyer's death in 1847 led to the termination of its proceedings. His explanation of his acceptance of the chairmanship of this Inquiry remains an eloquent testimonial to his humanity and the Aborigines' desperate need. He took it "not indeed with the hope of effecting much good, but because they were so utterly friendless and helpless, that it was inhuman to pass them by in silence."⁵

The Windeyer family befriended the local aboriginal people and assisted them in various ways. According to a member of the Windeyer family,

The aboriginal King of Tomago, Toocooyoo, said that he "had given the land to his bruder R. Windeyer" whom he told that Tomago meant Sweet Water. This old blackfellow asked for trousers to wear at William Charles Wentworth's funeral, and he was given the old trousers of the uniform of Captain W.C. Windeyer of the No.2 Company of the first Volunteer Force in Australia. Toocooyoo used to come every Queen Victoria's birthday for his new blanket and tobacco. He was buried on the estate.⁶

2.3 ESTABLISHMENT OF EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT: 1801

A settlement was established at Newcastle in 1801 as a place of secondary punishment for convicts who had re-offended after transportation to New South Wales. This first attempt at settlement was abandoned in January 1802, apparently for want of an effective leader. A permanent settlement was established in 1804 following a convict rebellion at Castle Hill when thirty offenders, considered too dangerous to remain within contact of the main settlement, were transported to Newcastle where they were primarily engaged in mining coal, cutting cedar and burning oyster shells to produce lime.⁷

During the convict period, settlement in the Newcastle area was concentrated on the southern side of the harbour. However, convict timber gangs worked in the Stockton area and the presence of large deposits of oyster shells led to the establishment of a limeburners' camp at Fullerton Cove, close to Tomago. This camp was noted by Governor Lachlan Macquarie during a visit in 1812:

Saturday 4th Jany. 1812. At 7 a.m. set out with Mrs. M. and the gentlemen of our party and Lieut. Skottowe in two boats on an excursion up Hunter's River, which we explored as far as the first branch, twenty miles from the settlement of Newcastle, being as far as the tide of flood carried us. We then landed and tiffed on shore, remaining for two hours to rest the boats crews and give them time to cook and eat their dinners. We returned by the camp of the lime burners at Newcome Pipers Reach, 7 miles from Newcastle, where we landed and remained for some time to view the lime kilns, and the cedar and rose-wood timber growing.⁸

The camp was also mentioned by Hunter Valley pioneer James Mudie during questioning by the Select Committee on Transportation, 1837-8:

Independent of flogging, they had a place which they called the lime-burners, about a mile from Newcastle, across the river, on the opposite side of the river Hunter; there the men of the very worst description were sent to burn lime; they used to pick shells upon the beach and burn lime, and these men it would be impossible to describe in consequence of the depravity of their appearance; you cannot conceive anything like it ...⁹

⁵ J.W. Turner, "History of Ash Island", unpublished manuscript . J.B. Windeyer, "Windeyer, Richard (1806-1847) *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, online edition, 2006

⁶ "An Old House", Typescript by Jane Windeyer dated October 1943, Papers of Jane Windeyer, ML MSS:186/20

⁷ D. O'Donnell, *The History of Early Newcastle 1800-1870*, Newcastle, 1969, pp. 8-11.

⁸ L. Macquarie, *Journals of his Tours*, Sydney, 1979, p.87.

⁹ cited J. Tucker, *Ralph "Rashleigh, or the Life of an Exile*, edited with introduction and notes by C. Roderick, Sydney, 1952, p.242.

By 1815 the focus of limeburning activities moved from the Stockton peninsular to the river islands, as the shells on the peninsular were nearly worked out.¹⁰

In order to maintain the isolation of the penal station the Hunter Valley remained closed to free settlers but by 1821 agitation was increasing for the release of the fertile valley land. This coincided with a decline in Newcastle's effectiveness as a place of punishment, as it became increasingly difficult to find profitable work for the convicts and large numbers of escaping convicts were finding their way back to the main settlement in Sydney. Consequently, the secondary transportation of convicts to Newcastle ceased in 1823 and at the same time, the surrounding lands were released for free settlement.¹¹

In a period when roads were still being made into many areas of the colony, allotments of land with river frontages were highly prized. From 1823 settlers began to acquire land to the north of Newcastle along the Hunter and Williams Rivers, and by 1838 seventeen landholders had acquired properties.¹² A new settler to enter the area at that time was Richard Windeyer. Being a relative latecomer, he found that the best land had already been taken up, and there was a significant proportion of swampy land on the site which he chose for his estate.

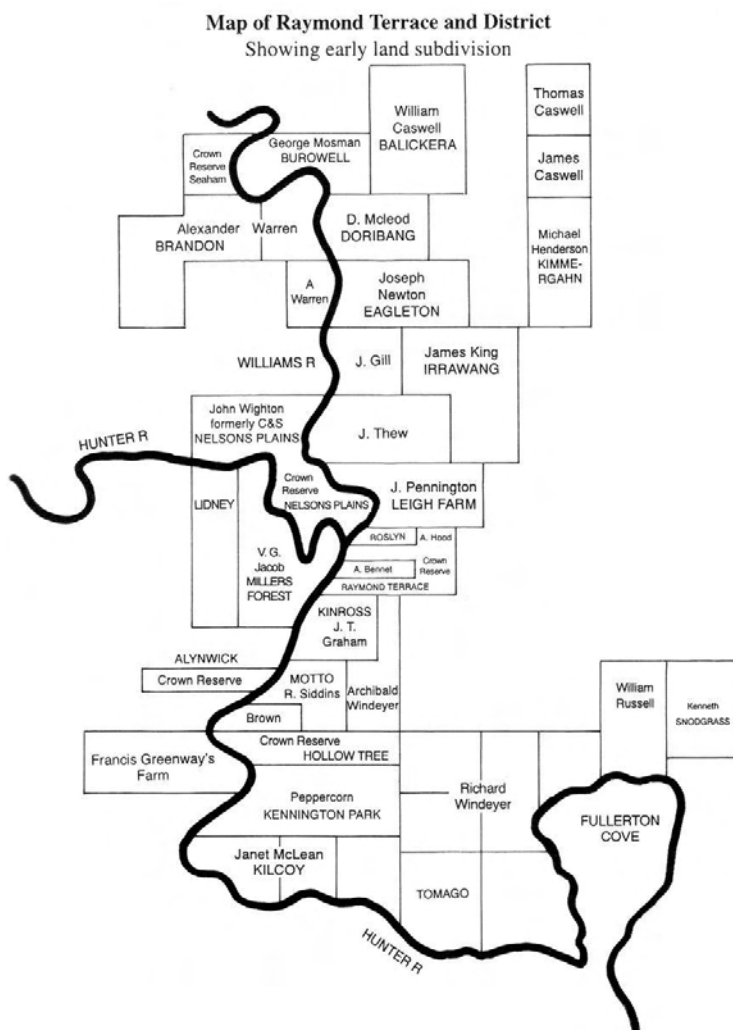


Plate 1 Map of Raymond Terrace and District showing early landholders.
Source: C. Hunter, *Raymond Terrace and District: History and Heritage*

¹⁰ J.W. Turner, *Newcastle as a Convict Settlement: The Evidence Before J.T. Bigge, 1819-1821*, Council of the City of Newcastle, 1973, p. 21

¹¹ Goold, *The Birth of Newcastle*, Newcastle District Historical Society, 1981

¹² C. Hunter, *Raymond Terrace and District: History and Heritage*, Raymond Terrace and District Historical Society, 1996, p. 12

2.4 TOMAGO ESTATE AND THE WINDEYER FAMILY¹³

Richard Windeyer's Tenure: 1839-1847

Richard Windeyer (1806-1847) worked as a journalist and parliamentary reporter in London before he was called to the Bar in 1834. In the following year he and his wife, Maria, nee Camfield and their only son, William Charles, migrated to New South Wales. Windeyer became a leading barrister and a prominent member of the first Legislative Assembly of New South Wales.¹⁴

In 1838 Windeyer began to acquire land in the Hunter Valley, accumulating 30,000 acres by 1842. He bought land in several localities but most of his estate lay in the Raymond Terrace district. He had a large holding north-east of Raymond Terrace at Grahamstown as well as two small islands in the Hunter River, but as the site of his homestead he chose Lot 7, an 850 acre lot on the Hunter River, eight miles north of Newcastle. Originally promised to Adam Beveridge in 1834, this allotment was transferred to Windeyer in 1839 when the Aboriginal name for the area, "Tomago" meaning sweet waters, was applied to it.



Plate 2 Richard Windeyer.
Source: Newcastle Region Library

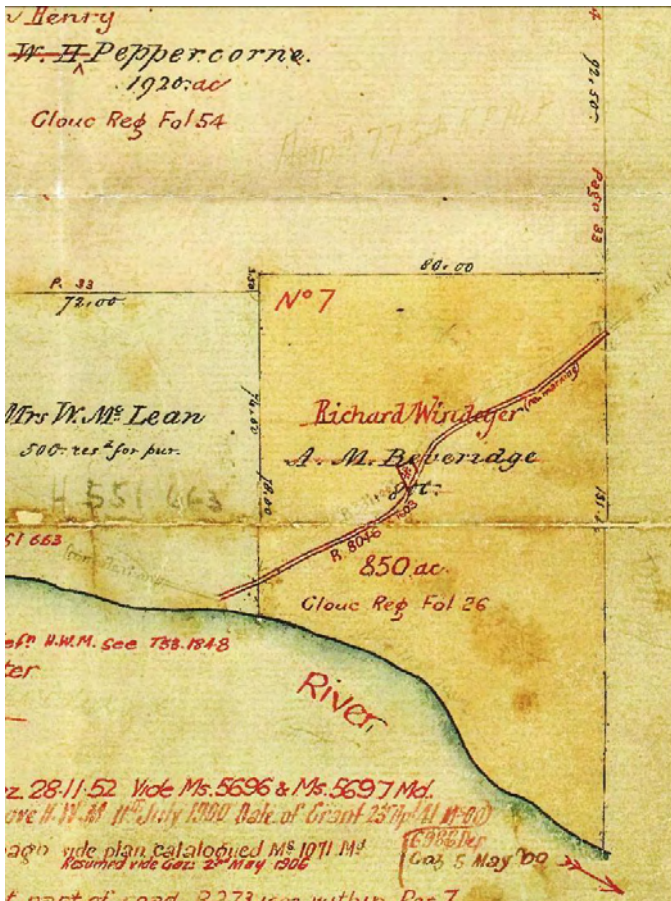


Plate 3 Plan showing Lot 7.
Source: Plan 3-663 NSW Land & Property Information (NSW LPI)

¹³ This section of the history was produced by J.W. Turner, Hunter History Consultants, for inclusion in the Tomago House Conservation Analysis, June 1987. Additional information included is referenced accordingly.

¹⁴ J.W. Turner, "History of Ash Island", unpublished manuscript

Also of relevance to this study is an adjoining allotment, Lot 10 which was originally sold to William A'Beckett but subsequently acquired by Windeyer.

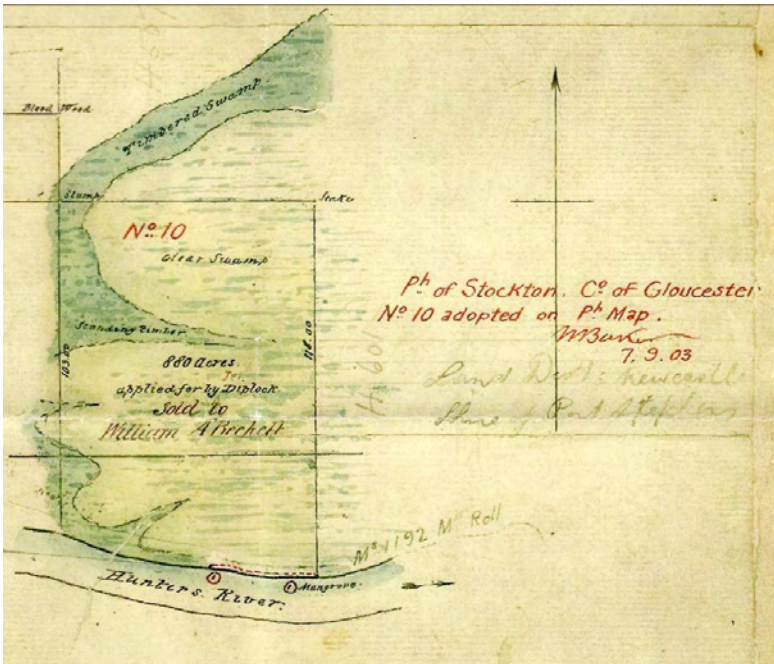


Plate 4 Plan showing Lot 10.
Source: Plan H.434.663, NSW LPI

The development of the Tomago Estate was commenced in 1839 and by the following January 30 acres of vines had been planted. At about this time, plans were drawn for the centrepiece of the estate, a house which was described by Samuel Bartlett, its builder, in a letter to Richard Windeyer in August 1840 as the “grand design”. Contemporary records are silent as to the identity of the architect of Tomago House but Bartlett played a large part in its construction and he may have been its architect, although architectural historian James Broadbent attributes the design to Mortimer Lewis.¹⁵ Following Bartlett’s death, Richard Windeyer expressed his gratitude through a generous tribute which appears on the gravestone:

SACRED
to
THE MEMORY
of
Mr SAMUEL BARTLETT
BUILDER
INTELLIGENCE AND EDUCATION HAD
BY GOD’S GRACE PRODUCED IN HIM
AS THEIR FRUITS PRUDENCE AND
INTEGRITY A THOROUGH SENSE OF
JUSTICE TEMPERED BY A MERCIFUL
AND CHRISTIAN CONSIDERATION FOR
THOSE LESS FAVOURED
HE DIED AT RAYMOND TERRACE ON
THE 14th DAY OF MARCH A.D. 1844
AGED 38 YEARS
RESPECTED AND BELOVED
THIS STONE WAS ERECTED TO HIS
MEMORY BY A GRATEFUL EMPLOYER

¹⁵ J. Broadbent, *The Australian Colonial House: Architecture and Society in New South Wales 1788-1842*, Sydney, 1997, p.221

In 1838 Bartlett travelled to New South Wales on the same ship, *James Pattison*, as Archibald Windeyer, Richard Windeyer's uncle, and by 16 February 1839 he appears to have been working for Archibald. Described as a carpenter, he was sent from Sydney to "Bendolba", Archibald Windeyer's property on the Williams River, but it is not clear how long he remained there. However, by August 1840 Bartlett was working for Richard Windeyer at Tomago, probably on the construction of the house. At that stage he was unable to drag stone from the riverbank to the site because of the poor condition of the bullocks but two months later Maria Windeyer commented that the cost of building "keeps us poor". She may have been referring to the expense of site preparation and the timber foundations as it was not until December 1841 that her husband called tenders for the conveyance by water of 1300-1500 tons of stone from Raymond Terrace to Tomago. Prior to the construction of public roads, access to Tomago House would have been via the Hunter River, then by foot across the fields surrounding the house.

Whether Windeyer was able to arrange such a contract is not known but by January 1842 stone was arriving on the site and so was cedar. In the following May when Edward Irby visited the estate, he recorded that Windeyer "is about to build a house" to cost five or six thousand pounds. Four months later, in October 1842, a stonemason was being sought for the project but whether this marks the commencement of stonework is not known. Presumably, the walls of the house were being built during 1843 but they were far from complete when Samuel Bartlett died in March 1844. Five months later Maria reported that the house was progressing slowly and it was not until June 1845 that William Charles Windeyer, then about ten years old, wrote: "Papa is getting the slates, house to a good height". During construction of Tomago House, the family lived in a wooden house which had been built close by.¹⁶

The slow pace of construction suggests the employment of a small workforce and this may have been due to the depressed state of the colonial economy after 1842. Given the severe depression and the fact that bankruptcies were commonplace, the continuation of Tomago was a testimony to Richard Windeyer's financial strength at that time. Moreover, although he was reported to have reduced the workforce engaged in draining swamps on his estates in February 1843, this work was still proceeding on a big scale in March 1844. In addition there had been considerable expenditure on other buildings on the Tomago Estate which Irby described, before the house had begun to rise, as resembling a small village.



Plate 5 Plan drawn by Richard Windeyer, showing land on the northern portion of Windeyer's Estate in the area of the current Grahamstown Reservoir 8 kilometres north of the subject site.

Source: Windeyer Papers, A155: Mullen Archives, NRL.

¹⁶ "The Story Behind a Document", undated newspaper clipping, NRL.

A school had also been established at Tomago by Windeyer, and the cultivation of the vineyards went on so that the first wine was produced early in 1845. The increasing yield of the vines in the summer of 1845-46 created a new pressure for completion of the house so that its cellars could be utilised for storage. Some twelve thousand gallons of wine (1844 value = four shillings per gallon) were expected and in January 1846 Maria reported a big rush to finish a part of the roof to provide for the harvest. However, the end was not yet in sight and it was not until July, August and September 1847 that Sydney hardware merchants were called upon to provide the large quantities of galvanised iron, galvanised nails, locks and hinges needed to bring Tomago to the lock-up stage. In October there were more purchases, particularly of plaster, whiting, galvanised iron and pipes but a stone mason, John Goswell, was also still at work.

By then Richard Windeyer was seriously ill and he died on 2 December 1847 while visiting relatives in Tasmania. However, the finishing of the house continued, at least until the insolvent nature of his estate was realised and his creditors met in April 1848.

Planned as a grand home costing five or six thousand pounds, Tomago House, with its outbuildings and 850 acres, was valued at £2,950 by R.W. Goodall when Richard's estate was found to be insolvent. As the worst effects of the 1843 depression were over and property prices had recovered considerably by 1847, the bid of £1,000 made on behalf of Maria Windeyer was not all that unrealistic given the fact that Tomago was mortgaged for £1,200 at 10% interest. It would appear that for sentimental reasons, other potential purchasers did not bid against Richard's widow but there can be little doubt that the house had not been completed according to the original concept. If the land and outbuildings were worth, say, half Goodall's estimated value of £2,950, the house would have been worth about one quarter of its original estimated cost.



Plate 6 Tomago House.

Source: J. Sullivan collection, NRL

It is hard to escape the conclusion that Tomago House, although complete enough to justify the description “a substantially-built stone Mansion, with slated roof and spacious cellars” was incomplete. There was also a large quantity of building materials, valued at about £200, presumably intended for the further development of the house. This evidence tends to confirm the belief that a second storey was part of the original plan for Tomago House.

As well as the main house, the 850 acre homestead block included an “excellent garden, and several paddocks, the largest and oldest portion of the vineyard, and several tenanted farms, producing a rental of about £45 per annum”, and “outbuildings consisting of superintendent’s house, brick-built and shingles, containing two rooms, laundry and kitchen; brick-built store and storekeeper’s residence, a stone-built Gothic cottage in the vineyard, a double weather-boarded cottage, gardener’s cottage, and eight huts and

stabling".¹⁷ Unfortunately, available records do not indicate the location of the vineyard or early buildings. Property descriptions on leases tended to be informed by landmarks which no longer exist, as can be seen on the following extract from a lease to one of the Windeyer tenants:

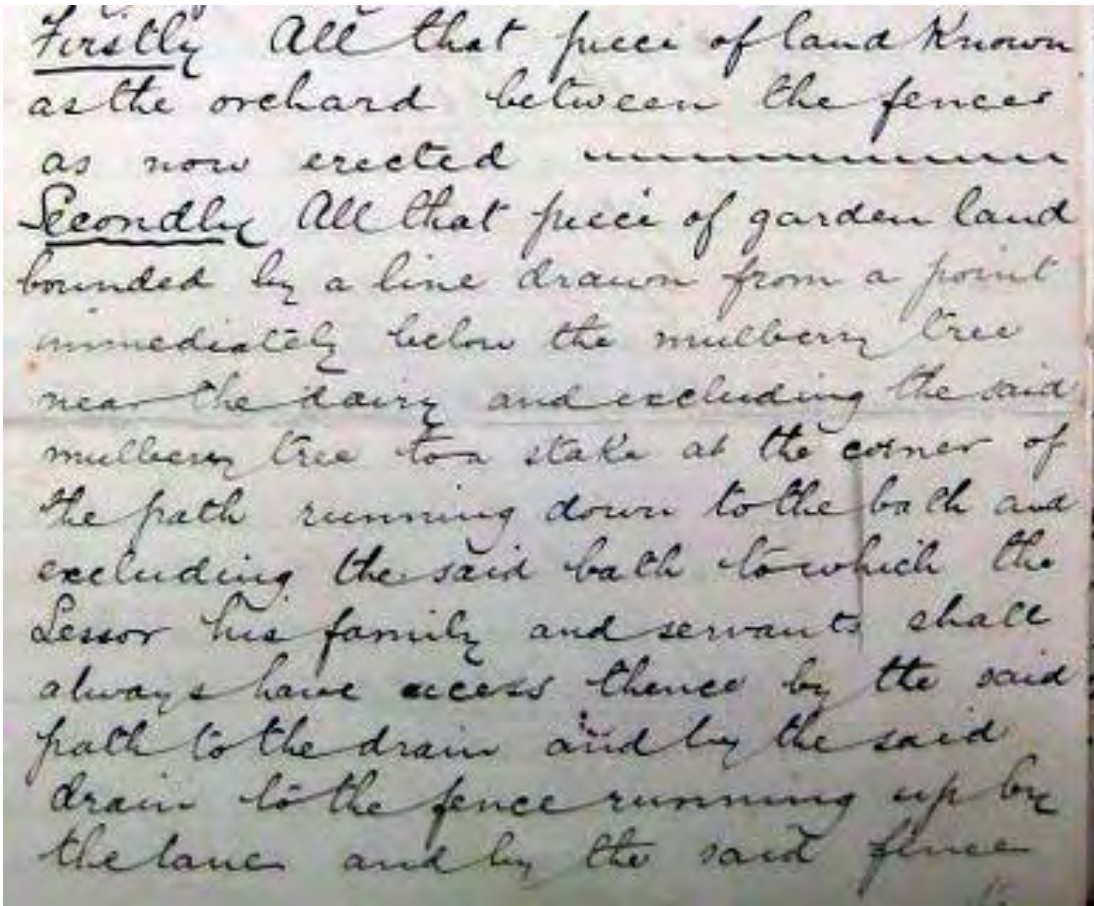


Plate 7 Extract from 5 year lease to Jo Sum Coll, 20 April 1888
Source: Windeyer Papers, A155:Mullen Archives, NRL

Maria Windeyer's Tenure: 1847-1878

The early death of Richard Windeyer in 1847 transformed the role Tomago House had been designed to play. Conceived as the centrepiece of an extensive agricultural estate and the grand country residence of one of the colony's leading politico-legal figures, it now had to sustain his widow and son in relatively stringent circumstances.

Stripped of the rest of the Windeyer lands, the house became the permanent home and main means of support of Maria and her son, William Charles Windeyer (1834-1897). It would be a mistake to argue that they were poor since Maria would have gained an income from the property and from rentals. Maria's own family in England was also able to assist her financially and although Tomago House was mortgaged and William Charles had to be educated, she appears to have managed well enough. Moreover, the death of her father in 1850 and consequent migration of her sister, Eliza, who also



Plate 8 Maria Windeyer
Source: NRL

¹⁷ *Maitland Mercury*, 9 August 1848

lived at Tomago, would have made additional resources available.

In September 1851, Maria leased to the Board of National Education, "for the term of her natural life" and for the sum of ten shillings, the school which had been established on the Windeyer Estate, described as:

All that building at Tomago now used as the National School 50 ft. from the Public Road leading from the River Hunter to Raymond Terrace and at the back of a building now used as a place or worship - the Schoolhouse is of weatherboard and is 24ft. x 12ft., the land being 68ft. x 61ft. - bounded by a fence dividing it from Mr. Pepper's Farm - being part of a Grant of 850 acres made on 12.7.1839 to Richard Windeyer dec'd."¹⁸

The document and accompanying plan indicate the previously unrecorded presence of a church at Tomago, prior to construction of the existing chapel.

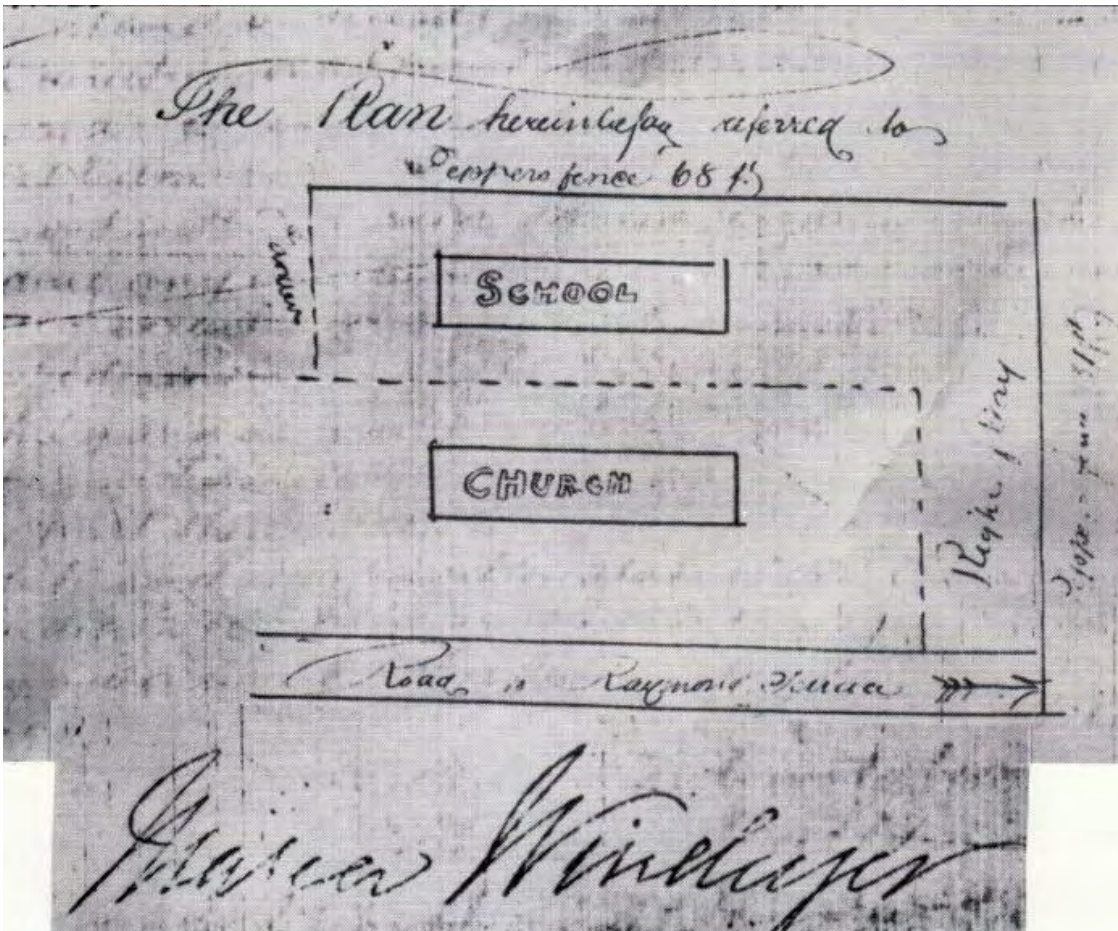


Plate 9 Plan showing location of school and church on Windeyer property, 1851.

Source: cited in D. Hartley, *From Fullerton Cove to Motto Farm*, p.23.

A subsequent plan of the site, produced in 1903 in support of a new school, shows the school building close to Tomago House, fronting a road leading from the river to the Raymond Terrace-Williamstown road.

¹⁸ Book 50, No.795, NSW Land and Property Information (LPI), cited in D. Hartley, *From Fullerton Cove to Motto Farm*, p.23.

William Charles Windeyer's Tenure: 1878-1897

For the illustrious but sometimes controversial career of William Charles Windeyer, Minister of the Crown, Justice of the Supreme Court of New South Wales¹⁹.

Within six years of his mother's death, Windeyer was winning prizes for his Alderney cattle, "bred and exhibited by his honour, Judge Windeyer, Tomago, Hexham". In July 1884, Tomago House was described as "the squire's mansion" and Justice Windeyer's splendid residence". His tenants were "well housed", there was a school, a teacher's residence, "an ancient post office", a church and many hay stacks and the whole estate was well fenced. All in all, this newspaper description suggests a prosperous estate in excellent condition, one befitting the judge and his wife, who were leading figures in Sydney society. Naturally, their permanent home was in the capital where all but one of their children were born but Tomago was their country residence.

A plan of the area in 1893 however, describes the area around Tomago House as "swampy moor".

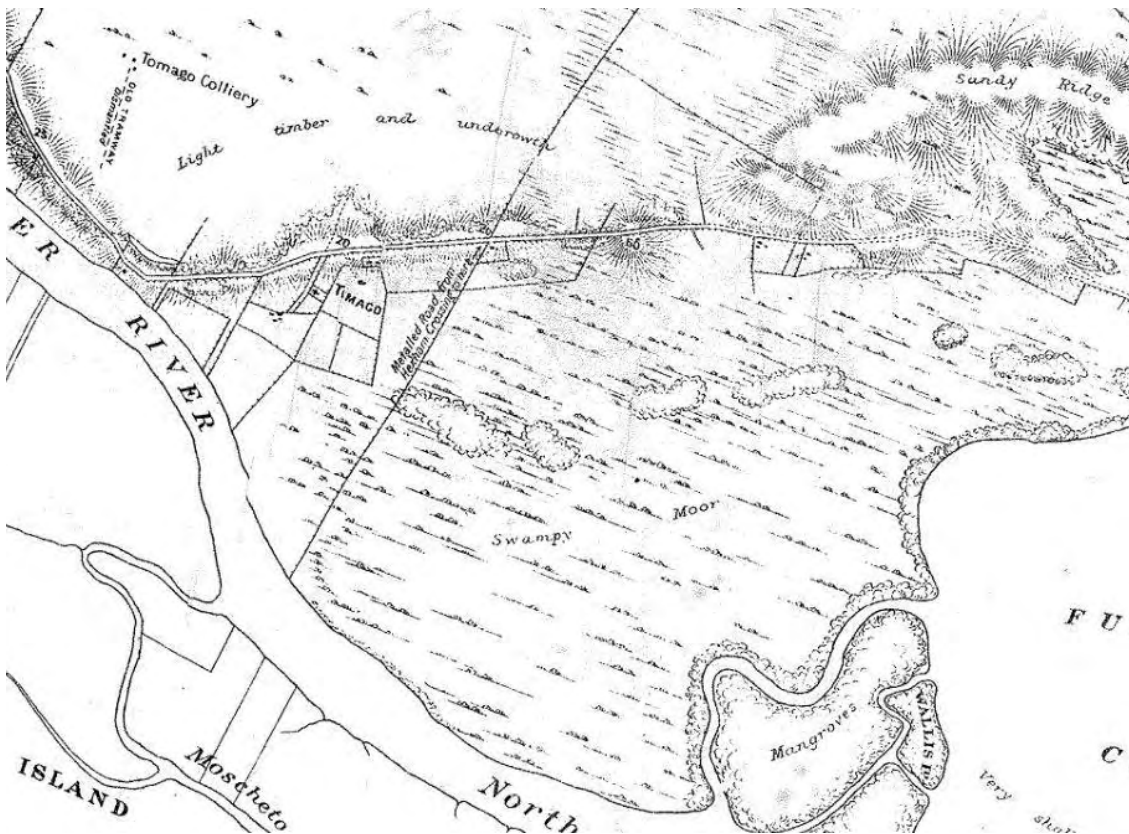


Plate 11 Plan of the Tomago area in 1893

Source: Major T.S. Parrott, Map of the Country around Newcastle NSW, 1893 NRL

It seems likely, also, that the gardens were extensively developed in the judge's period. How much Maria had achieved in this respect is difficult to establish but her letters and family tradition stress her practicality and frugality. However, Margaret Traill Bartleet, who knew the home up until 1946, records that the gardens and orchards were "extensive and very lovely" and that there was a lovers' walk, "great magnolia trees at the side of the house", orchards made up of date palms, love apples, lemon and other citrus trees, mulberries and other fruit. The flower gardens were on one side, terraced down towards the river. Margaret's father, R.J. Traill (born 1882), remembered two swimming pools in his youth but Sir Brian Windeyer, who was a regular visitor there between 1914 and 1918 has no recollection of these pools.

¹⁹ see his biography at <http://adbonline.anu.edu.au/biogs/A060452b.htm>

Lady Mary Windeyer's Tenure: 1897-1912

Descriptions of the house are rare during Lady Mary Windeyer's tenure but it is unlikely that there were many changes in this period. As the ex-judge left his estate valued at £18,733 to his wife, she would have been well provided for but there was a mortgage. In his will Windeyer directed that on no account were his lands in County Gloucester to be sold, indicating his regard for the Tomago Estate as the seat of the family.



Plate 12 Lady Mary Windeyer

Source: NRL

Before the death of her husband Lady Mary had won a considerable reputation for charitable work and for her championship of women's rights. She was particularly eloquent in support of the vote for women. However, the cause which Lady Mary admitted was closest to her heart was the care of orphans. In 1879, with the aid of some friends, she initiated an experiment in boarding out children instead of committing them to "the old barrack establishments" and this led to the establishment by the government of a board to administer the new system. Lady Windeyer was a prominent member of this board which had 2000 children under its care by 1890, the older large orphanages having been emptied by then. Already active in good works in the Hunter Valley before making Tomago House her home after 1897, she was to continue this role until her death in 1912.

The Newcastle Free Kindergarten, an organisation dedicated to the care of poor children of pre-school age, was a particular interest of Lady Mary and she appealed to "the pastoralists of the north" for funds:

... the future of our country is best safeguarded by laying the foundations of a strong and law-abiding community in the young children, before a bad environment has sown the seeds of vicious habits. In the Newcastle Free Kindergarten this is our untiring aim, but, hampered by lack of funds, we cannot extend our work to the many poor suburbs where children too young for the public schools are greatly in need of our help.

In the work of this organisation, which was also involved in the training of kindergarten teachers, Lady Mary was assisted by the former leading actress, Essie Jennyns who lived in one of Newcastle's grand homes, "Jesmond House" in the 1890s after her marriage to John Wood.

During Lady Mary's widowhood Tomago House appears to have been her principal residence though she also visited Sydney from time to time. Prominent in local society, she and her children played an important part on such occasions as Empire Night celebrations and in charity functions. When she died at Tomago in December 1912, the *Newcastle Morning Herald* commended that "Lady Windeyer was widely known for her charitable and kindly nature, and took an active part in social and philanthropic movements".

A series of photographs taken at Tomago House in 1909 provide an impression of the house and surrounds at that time.



Plate 13 The verandah, Tomago House
Source: Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW, PXA163



Plate 14 The hall, Tomago House
Source: Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW, PXA163



Plate 15 The Back of Tomago House
Source: Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW, PXA163



Plate 16 Tomago Church
Source: Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW, PXA163



Plate 17 The Dairy and Lovers' Lane
Source: Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW, PXA163



Plate 18 The Other end of Lovers' Lane
Source: Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW, PXA163



Plate 19 The Farm.1

Source: Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW, PXA163



Plate 20 The Farm.2

Source: Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW, PXA163



Plate 21 The Farm.3
Source: Mitchell Library,
State Library of NSW, PXA163



Plate 22 The Cow Bails
Source: Mitchell Library,
State Library of NSW, PXA163

Richard Windeyer's Tenure: 1912-1946

The Tomago Estate was inherited by Richard Windeyer (1868-1959) who was pursuing the traditional family occupation, the law. Admitted to the Bar of New South Wales in 1891, Windeyer was a highly successful barrister, specialising in the criminal law and taking silk in 1917.

Tomago House was Richard's country house until he sold it in 1946 and during this period members of his family made regular visits to the estate, sometimes residing there for considerable periods. Two of his grandchildren, Philip and Ruth Windeyer, were born to Richard's son Humphrey (born 1899) and his wife Wanda at Tomago in the mid-twenties, suggesting that they were then in residence.

Richard Windeyer's tenure was remarkable for the disposal of the family chapel to the Methodist Church and for the sale of the Tomago Estate. Both these developments created tension within the extended Windeyer family.

2.5 SUBDIVISION AND SALE OF THE TOMAGO ESTATE

In 1939 the Tomago Estate (parts of Portions 7 and 10) was subdivided into 14 allotments ranging in size from 20 acres to just under 235 acres. Tomago House and Chapel were excluded from the subdivision.

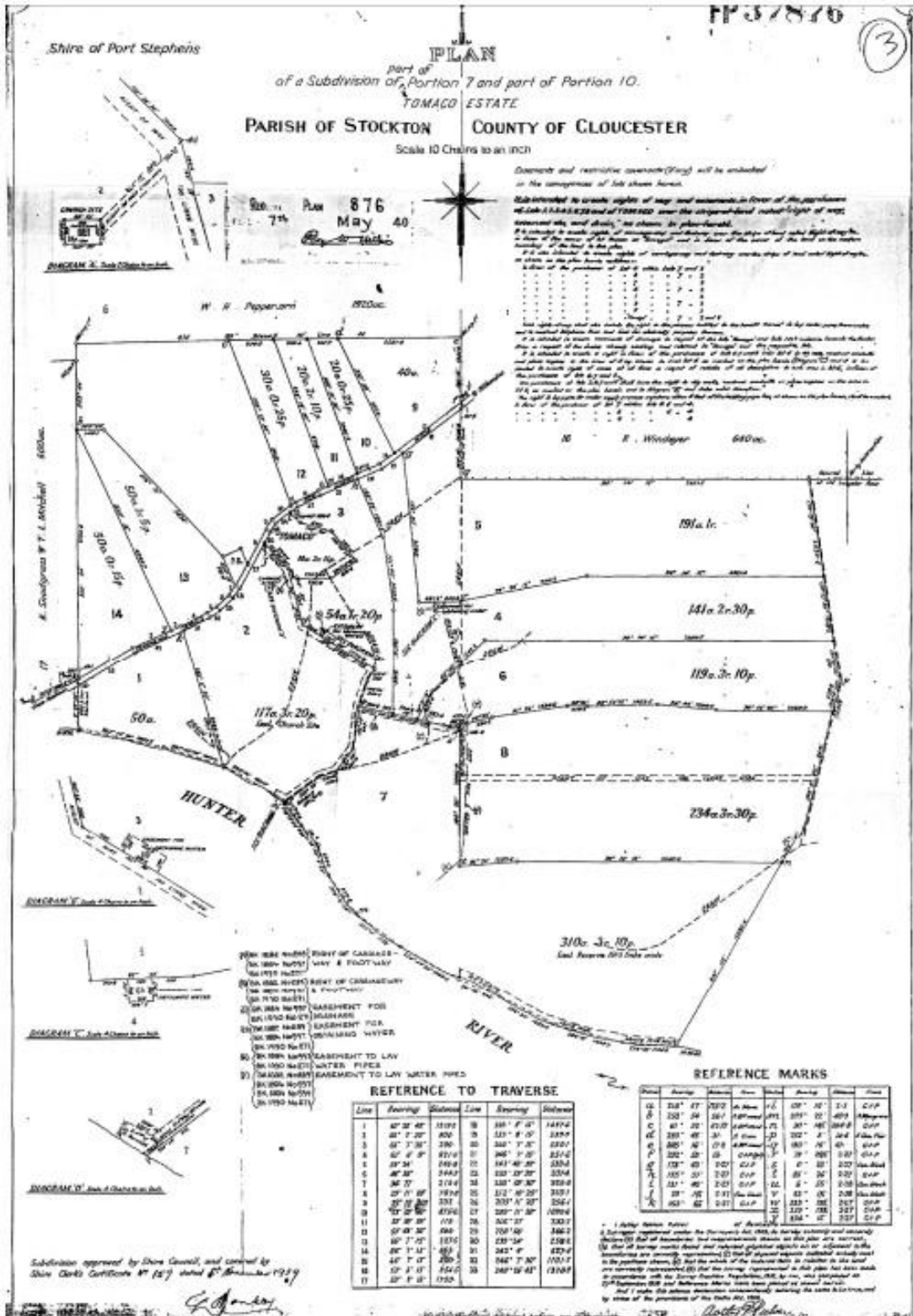


Plate 23 Plan of subdivision, showing access roads and drainage channels
 Source: Plan of Part of Portion 7 and part of Portion 10, FP37876, 6 November 1939, NSW LPI

The south-eastern portion, which is the subject of this study, was divided into eight large allotments which were offered for sale as "rich dairy and agricultural farms", ranging in size from 50 to 325 acres. This portion of the estate was auctioned by a member of the Windeyer family, Raymond Terrace estate agent E. Windeyer on 6 May 1939, who announced that successful bidders would be given possession on 1 October 1939. A poster produced for the sale shows existing buildings at the time of sale, as well as drains and an access road to allotments without a road frontage.²⁰

TOMAGO ESTATE
RICH DAIRY AND AGRICULTURAL FARMS
FOR SALE BY AUCTION, SATURDAY, 6th MAY, 1939, at 2.30 p.m.
at "TOMAGO HOUSE"

Auctioneers: E. WINDEYER RAYMOND TERRACE IN CONJUNCTION WITH E. W. SPARKE PTY. LTD. WEST MAITLAND

DATE OF POSSESSION, 1st OCTOBER, 1939

TERMS:
15 per cent. on the fall of the hammer.
10 per cent. on date of possession.
Balance 75 per cent. in Twelve equal Half-Yearly Payments. First of such Payment of Balance to be made on January 1st, 1941. Such Balance and Interest to be secured by Mortgage.
Interest at the rate of 5½ per cent. to run from date of possession—payable Half-Yearly.

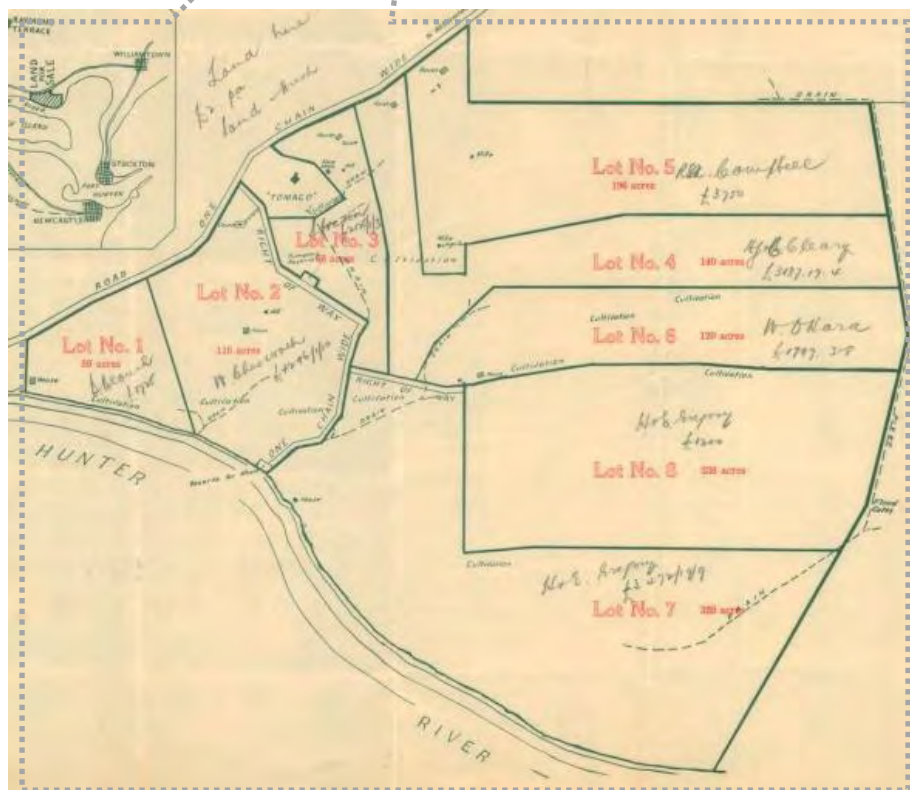
VENDOR'S SOLICITORS: MacKENZIE & CUNNINGHAM RAYMOND TERRACE in conjunction with N. E. P. COHEN SYDNEY

ALL DIMENSIONS SUBJECT TO SURVEYOR'S PLAN

SURVEYORS: W. R. PULVER & SONS NEWCASTLE

The map shows eight lots: Lot No. 1 (50 acres), Lot No. 2 (110 acres), Lot No. 3 (60 acres), Lot No. 4 (140 acres), Lot No. 5 (190 acres), Lot No. 6 (130 acres), Lot No. 7 (300 acres), and Lot No. 8 (230 acres). The Hunter River is shown flowing through the estate.

Plate 24 Advertising poster for sale of the Tomago Estate, 6 May 1939 (callout to right). Source: Hunter History Consultants collection



²⁰ Tomago Estate sale notice, April/May 1939, Hunter History Consultants Collection

Details of the various allotments and purchasers is as follows:

Lot No.	Area (acres)	Improvements	Purchaser	Purchase Price
1	50	house	B. Blanch	£1,725/0/0
2	116	house mill cultivation drain right of way	W. Chesworth	£4,296/1/10
3	68	house stone stable mill cultivation drain	S. Iveson	£2125/1/3
4	140	house	H. & C. Cleary	£3187/19/4
5	196	house, outbuildings Mills (2)	R. Campbell	£3,750/0/0
6	120	house cultivation drain	W. O'Hara	£1797/3/8
7	325	house cultivation drains (2) right of way	H. & E. Gregory	£3472/19/9
8	238	-	H. & E. Gregory	£1200/0/0

With the exception of the houses on Lots 3 and 4, all the structures noted above have since been demolished.

Within a few years of purchasing their properties, several of the new owners found that their peaceful farming life was interrupted when Tomago was drawn into preparations for a feared Japanese attack on Australia.

2.6 MILITARY OCCUPATION:1941-1945

Newcastle: A Significant Role Player in the War Effort

Following the outbreak of World War II in 1939, the Newcastle heavy industries played an increasingly important role in the allied defence programme. This intensified after the fall of France in June 1940 when the Australian government moved to increase the preparedness of the home defence force in the event of attack, and also adopted a policy of providing maximum material support to AIF divisions rather than relying on Britain. These developments led to a significant increase in the demand for equipment, and the consequent construction of additional factories specialising in munitions production.²¹

At the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited (BHP) steelworks at Port Waratah, production increased to meet the demands of war, with metallurgists working to develop special steels for use in bullet proof armour plate, aircraft, weapons and ammunition manufacture. To support the increased need for coal, the plant also manufactured electric colliery locomotives, and from the beginning of the war the Newcastle plant was involved in the manufacture of engines, crankshafts and stern frame castings for ships, including four minesweepers, which were constructed at the company's Whyalla shipyard.²² A small shipbuilding

²¹ A.T. Ross, *Armed and Ready: The Industrial Development and Defence of Australia 1900-1945*, Sydney, 1994, pp.239-160

²² C. Jay, *A Future More Prosperous: A History of Newcastle Steelworks 1912-199*, Newcastle, 1999, p.160; D. Riley, *The Iron Ships: A Maritime History of BHP 1885-1992*, Melbourne, pp.47-49

facility was also established on the banks of the Hunter River where BHP made 164 barges and 8 tugs for the US Army, and 7 tugs for the British Army.²³

Forgings were made for a wide range of ammunition as well as components for various guns, including the Owen gun which was produced at the nearby Lysaghts plant. Manufacture of Anderson air raid shelters for Britain, portable aircraft hangars, pontoons, aircraft components, as well as bush knives and machetes made from high carbon steel for use in jungle warfare, was also undertaken at Lysaghts.²⁴ Nearby, Stewarts and Lloyds specialised in the production of ammunition shells, Commonwealth Steel produced 180 types of steel and made 2 million steel helmets for the Australian, New Zealand and Indian armies, while Goninans focussed on refrigeration barges and Bren gun carrier parts. At Rylands, various wire products were produced, including barbed wire used at Tobruk and Singapore, wire for telephone field cables and torpedo nets, including the net which captured a Japanese submarine in Sydney Harbour in 1942.²⁵

By 1941 the need for shipbuilding and repair facilities had intensified, leading the newly elected NSW State Government to re-establish the industry as a State enterprise. An earlier dockyard, established by a previous State Government in 1913 on Walsh Island in the estuary of the Hunter River, had been abandoned in 1933 and fallen into disrepair.²⁶ Construction of the new State Dockyard at Dyke Point, on the northern shores of Newcastle Harbour began in January 1942 and the first vessel was launched on 12 July 1943. However, ship repairs had been undertaken from January 1942 using a floating dock which had previously operated at Walsh Island. By the end of World War II, over 20 vessels had been built at the dockyard and over 600 had been docked and repaired, many of them heavily damaged by enemy action.²⁷ Also overlooking Newcastle harbour was the Zaara Street power station, which was an important link in the NSW electricity supply system.²⁸

Further up the Hunter Valley, a large shell factory was built at Rutherford in 1941. It comprised a complex of buildings in which the various stages of shell production were carried out. Included in the complex were a Hull Shop, No.1 Case Shop, 3.7 Case Shop, 25 Pounder Case Shop, Component Shop, Shell Forge Shop and Shell Machine Shop, together with ancillary buildings. The Rutherford factory was the largest of six such enterprises in the New South Wales Division, which stretched from the Victorian border to the New South Wales tablelands.²⁹

Newcastle's Defence System

In his paper on the defence of Australia, published in 1935, Major H.C. Robinson speculated on the forms of attack which could threaten the country, and produced plans outlining defence strategies. It was anticipated that immediately after landing the enemy would establish a base outside the relatively well defended coastal area between Newcastle and Port Kembla, before invading other areas overland. Robinson therefore suggested that defences be concentrated on key industrial areas.³⁰

Newcastle's coastline defences already included Fort Scratchley, built in 1882 to repel a feared Russian invasion, and Fort Wallace, built in 1913 (updated in 1938/9) to cover a blind point in the Fort Scratchley defence. Until the construction of Fort Wallace, vessels anchored on the western side of the breakwater were shielded by Nobbys, and out of sight from Fort Scratchley. An 8 inch gun had also been installed on Shepherd's Hill in 1890.³¹

²³ C. Jay, *A Future More Prosperous ...* p.164

²⁴ Stewart Howard and Associates Pty Ltd., *Lysaght Venture*, Sydney, 1955, P.36

²⁵ The Battle for Australia Commemorative Committee Inc., *Newcastle's World War II Sites of Significance*, Newcastle, 2009, p.12.

²⁶ S. Ford, R. Crain and B. Cook, *Walsh Island State Dockyard & Engineering Works 1913-1933*, www.hiha.org.au

²⁷ Anon, *The State Dockyard: Its Wartime Establishment and Production; January 1942-December 1945*, 18-20

²⁸ M. Fetscher, *The Power Makers*, Newcastle, n.d., p.44

²⁹ Hunter History Consultants Pty Ltd., *History of former Rutherford Munitions Factory*, 2003

³⁰ J.R. Graham, "The Coastal Defences of New South Wales 1901-1969", Undergraduate Thesis, Architecture Degree V, The University of New South Wales School of Architecture and Building, 1969, p.16

³¹ Watt, Colonel A.D., *Fort Wallace, Newcastle, History and Recollections*, Sydney, 1995, p.1

In a publication identifying World War II sites in the Newcastle area, light and heavy anti-aircraft battery sites have been recorded at Mayfield West, Lambton Park, Glebe Hill, King Edward Park and Stockton. Those located at Mayfield West, Waratah and Stockton (two batteries, known as “Links”, near the golf course, and “Wave”, near the wave trap) were heavy anti-aircraft batteries. The four gun emplacements and command centre that formed the “Links” battery can still be seen in the sandy area to the north of Stockton.³²

The military presence at Tomago during World War II, however, was overlooked in this comprehensive survey of defence activities in the Newcastle area.

Tomago Defences

The impact of the War on farms around Tomago House remained relatively insignificant until the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour on 7 December 1941 which signalled an escalation of the war in the Pacific, prompting the military authorities to upgrade Australia’s defences. Forward coastal areas were “urgently manned by troops”, and the Tomago area was well sited to play a role in the defence of the industries concentrated in the Newcastle area. Richard Windeyer had no time to travel from Sydney to remove personal effects and valuable furniture from Tomago House before it was occupied on 9 December, to serve as a temporary headquarters for the 1st Australian Infantry Brigade.³³

The military occupation continued until December 1942 when the Tomago headquarters was relocated. While a Court of Enquiry was held into the loss of personal property and damage to some furniture, Tomago House escaped relatively unscathed. For some of the surrounding farmers, however, the impact on their properties was significant and some physical evidence remains today.

For Samuel Iveson the military occupied an old house and a barn, while on Wilfred Chesworth’s farm it was a galvanised iron barn.³⁴ For some of their neighbours, however, the use of their property had a more significant effect on the operation of their farms.

During April 1942 and for the duration of the war, the RAAF operated a practice bombing range on the eastern portions of farms owned by Cleary, Campbell and O’Hara (Lots 4, 5 and 6). This activity resulted in each farmer losing 26, 15 and 20 acres respectively for the duration of the occupation. Moreover, clearing by the RAAF resulted in a more long-lasting loss in the form of shade trees and thick windbreaks used for shelter by cattle. Two searchlight crews were also active on the Cleary and O’Hara properties during much of 1942, leading to severe damage by heavy vehicles over several acres of pastures on each farm.³⁵ However, the impact of the bombing range and searchlight crews was soon overshadowed by a more significant intrusion into the landscape.

Following the Battle of the Coral Sea in April 1942, Japanese submarines moved into the waters off eastern Australian, focussing attention on the busy shipping lanes off the New South Wales coast.³⁶ Their attack on Newcastle on 7 June 1942 drew a swift response from the guns at Fort Scratchley and an equally rapid reassessment by those in command of the region’s defences. The following day, plans were put in hand for the construction of an anti-aircraft battery at Tomago, to increase protection of the Newcastle industries which were playing such a vital role in the war effort.

The Tomago battery would most likely have been built to house 3.7" or 4.5" guns which were the most commonly used in New South Wales. The battery conformed to the British model, typically located close to a road with access via a short spur road, either looping back to the main road or ending in a circular sweep in open country:

³² The Battle for Australia Commemorative Committee Inc., *Newcastle’s World War II Sites of Significance*, Newcastle, 2009, pp 40, 48.

³³ Court of Enquiry, Damages and Deficiencies at Tomago House, Tomago. NAA:SP16/4,708

³⁴ D.A.D. of Hirings, Newcastle, to D.A.D. of Hirings, Paddington, 20 May 1942, NAA:SP16/4,1138

³⁵ Claim for compensation for damage by H and C. Cleary, NAA:SP857/6, PH2014;

D.A.D. of Hirings, Newcastle to D.A.D. of Hirings, Paddington, 15 August 1942, NAA:SP857/6,PH/2011; Compensation Claim, W. O’Hara, 7 December 1942, NAA:SP857/6,PH/2011

³⁶ D. Riley, *The Iron Ships ...*47-49



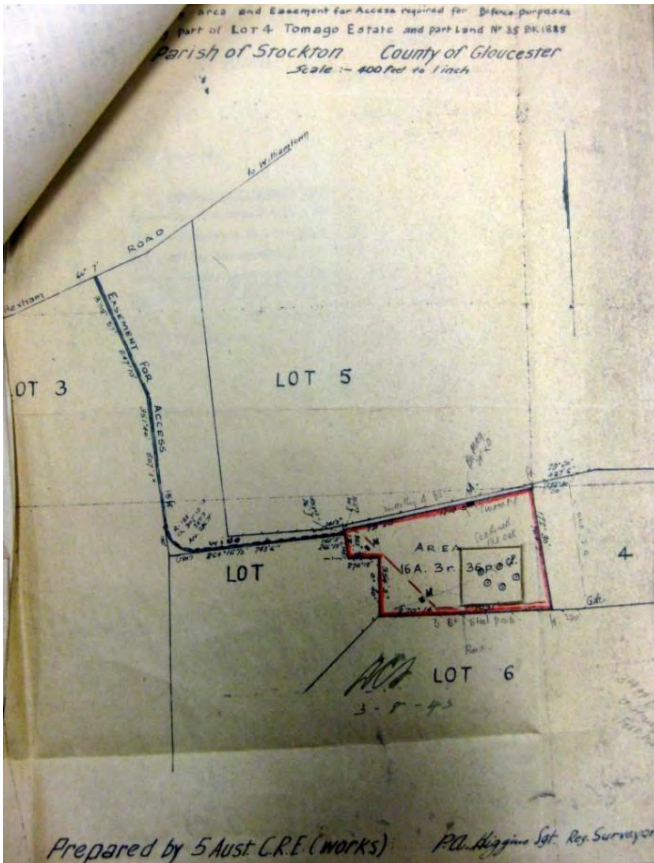


Plate 27 Plan showing location of anti-aircraft battery at Tomago
 Source: NAA:SP16/4,2515

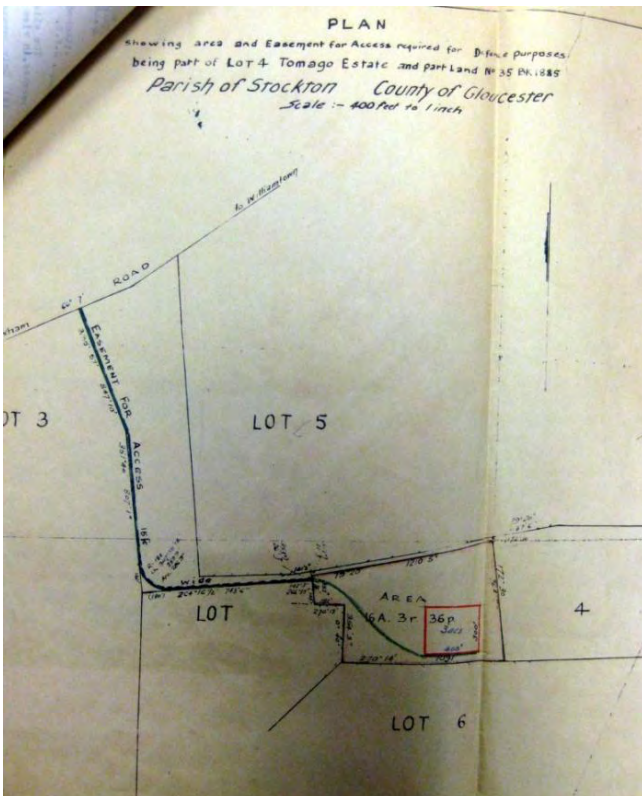


Plate 28 Plan showing access road to battery
 Source: NAA:SP16/4,2515

Approval was given for the expenditure of £8,000 for the construction of access roads, four gun emplacements, a command post and three ammunition shelters on the Clearys' farm. The gun emplacements were described as comprising 14" brick revetment walls 33'6" between faces with seven ammunition recesses each holding 28 rounds". Similar structures were built at the Stockton Links anti-aircraft battery.

The command post was to be constructed "as per Dept. Interior Drg. D.E.F. 30619 in brick and concrete" while the ammunition shelters, approximately 24' x 9' with concrete floors and roofs, were "as per E.S.B. Drg. 623". Research to date has not located the relevant drawings but it is possible that they are included in National Archives Australia files relating to similar sites.⁴¹

However, before work could commence heavy rains left the whole area awash and it became obvious that the roadway would need to be built up by 12" to 18", and that gravelling would be required for a width of 12'. It was also decided to alter the route, necessitating the construction of five concrete pipe culverts and a cattle pit at the entrance from the road. Due to the presence of ground water close to the surface it was also necessary to dewater the building foundations and to waterproof the command post. In the gun emplacements, the planned concrete gun bases were replaced with static steel platforms on 5' concrete foundations, and additional concrete was used in the revetment walls.⁴²

Accommodation was not built on the site as personnel were transported from Newcastle for training purposes, but a few tents were provided for a maintenance crew.⁴³ By the end of February 1943 the guns and magazine buildings had been completed.⁴⁴ An emergency airfield was also constructed to the west of Tomago House, but it was not used.



Plate 29 Aerial photograph showing the site in 1944 shortly after construction of gun emplacements and ammunition shelters

Source: NCC Plan Room

Cleary was described by Major B.G. Littler, the commanding officer at Tomago, as "a man of good type, and old soldier with long service in the last Great War and very willing to co-operate".⁴⁵ With part of his land fenced off for a bombing range and several acres already badly damaged by the searchlight crews,

⁴¹ Claim Nos. P575 & G838, NAA SP16/4, 2515

⁴² Tomago NSW A.A. Bty - Memo 39233, 4 February 1944, NAA:SP16/4,2515

⁴³ Memo re Tomago A.A. Battery, Overexpenditure, 23 June 1943, NAA:SP16/4,2515

⁴⁴ D.A.D. of Hirings, Newcastle to D.A.D. of Hirings, Paddington, 24 February 1943, NAA:SP16/4,736

⁴⁵ D.A.D. of Hirings, Newcastle to D.A.D. of Hirings, Paddington, 21 July 1942, NAA:SP16/4,2515

this third intrusion must surely have tested his “willingness”. The siting of the anti-aircraft battery divided his remaining land into two parts, connected by a 20' wide strip along the northern boundary of the acquisition. In order to prevent the narrow strip being “converted into an impassable quagmire by the daily passage of the dairy herd between the two parts in wet weather”, the army proposed to gravel a 12' wide strip to provide a firm surface.⁴⁶

The occupation of his land had a devastating effect on Cleary’s dairying business and by September 1942, he had been forced to sell half of his herd. The farm was mortgaged to Richard Windeyer, who wrote a personal note to the authorities seeking “favourable consideration” of Cleary’s case. According to Windeyer, the loss of half his herd had “ruined” Cleary and “broken the heart of a very worthy dairy farmer doing good work”. There was also a potential issue for Windeyer, who wrote: “I have no personal interest in the matter except this, that if he were ruined that farm comes back into my possession which I need not say I don’t wish to happen”.⁴⁷

Cleary remained on his farm, but at the end of the war, only an igloo hut and two galvanised iron sheds were removed by the authorities. Due to the cost involved in demolition of the gun positions, which were erected of 5' of concrete, the command post which was a solid concrete underground chamber, and the three ammunition shelters, Cleary agreed to allow them to remain on his land, in return for £30 in compensation. The structures remain today, providing what is probably the only intact example of a World War II anti-aircraft installation, command post and associated ammunition shelters of that type.⁴⁸

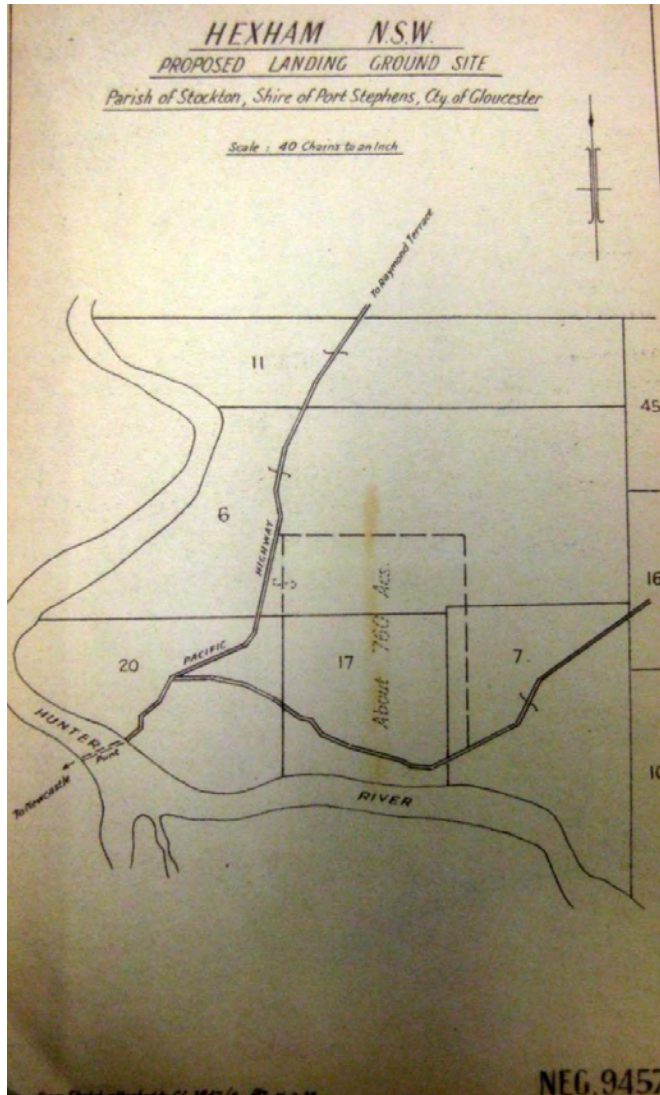


Plate 30 Location of emergency landing field
Source: NAA SP35/1,3847

2.7 POST WORLD WAR II INDUSTRIALISATION

In the years immediately following the war there were several changes of ownership on the Tomago farms in the study area. Henry and Cecilia Cleary, perhaps worn out by the difficulties of the previous few years, sold their farm to Arnold Moxey in 1948.⁴⁹ The Moxey family had been farming in the Williamstown area for many years and was linked by marriage to local farming families the Ivesons, Chesworths and Campbells.⁵⁰ Bernard Blanch moved away in 1950 after selling his farm (Lot 1) to his neighbour, Wilfred Chesworth (Lot 2), while in the same year, W. O’Hara sold his property (Lot 6) to adjoining owner, Robert

⁴⁶ Acting Deputy Commissioner of Taxation to Land Valuation Committee, Department of the Interior, 10 December 1943, NAA:SP16/4,2515

⁴⁷ R. Windeyer, personal note addressed to “My dear Martin”, 8 September 1942NNS:SP857/6,PH2015

⁴⁸ Submission for Compensation, H. & C. Cleary, NAA:SP16/5, 2515

⁴⁹ Conveyance No.645, Book 2044, 6 February 1948, NSW LPI

⁵⁰ Marea Moxey, *Richard and Mary Moxey and their Kindred, 1849-1987*, Singleton, 1987

Campbell.⁵¹ Further consolidations occurred in 1962 with the sale of Campbell's Lot 6 to Arnold Moxey, and in 1964 when Samuel Iveson retired and sold a large portion (54 acres) of his farm to Wilfred Chesworth. Iveson retained his home which stood on an allotment of just under 3 acres.⁵²

At the end of the 1950s farming was the primary landuse at Tomago, where 18 dairies were in operation but by the 1970s, the area was becoming increasingly industrialised.⁵³ Two of the farmers on the study site were among those who sold their properties during this period. In 1974, Lots 7 and 8 were sold to a company known as Boyvemo Pty. Ltd., which established a turf farm on the site. The company was later known as Australian Buffalo Grass Pty Ltd. Robert Campbell's farm, on Lot 5, was sold to Elders Nominees in 1975.⁵⁴

The co-existence of industry and agriculture was not new to Tomago. Following the discovery of coal in the area, in 1855 Robert Gordon sank a shaft on his land to the west of Tomago House. However, after limited success the colliery ceased to operate in 1864. In 1888 the mine came back into production briefly, and again in 1923.⁵⁵

In the post-war period, the British textiles firm, Courtaulds Ltd., established a plant close to the old Tomago coal mine.⁵⁶ The company bought Tomago House from the Windeyer family in 1944, and it served as a residence for the general manager from 1953 until 1969.⁵⁷ At its peak the company employed over 1500 people but changes in legislation which allowed the importation of foreign goods contributed to a decline in the fortunes of the Courtaulds plant, which closed in 1976.⁵⁸ The Port Stephens Shire Council encouraged the expansion of industry in the area, and in 1978 it allocated land along a 4km stretch of Tomago Road for industrial development.

In 1980 Courtaulds sold their Tomago property to Tomago Aluminium, a firm which was to have a major impact on the area.⁵⁹ A buffer zone was created around the smelter site and Tomago Aluminium began progressively purchasing the properties involved.

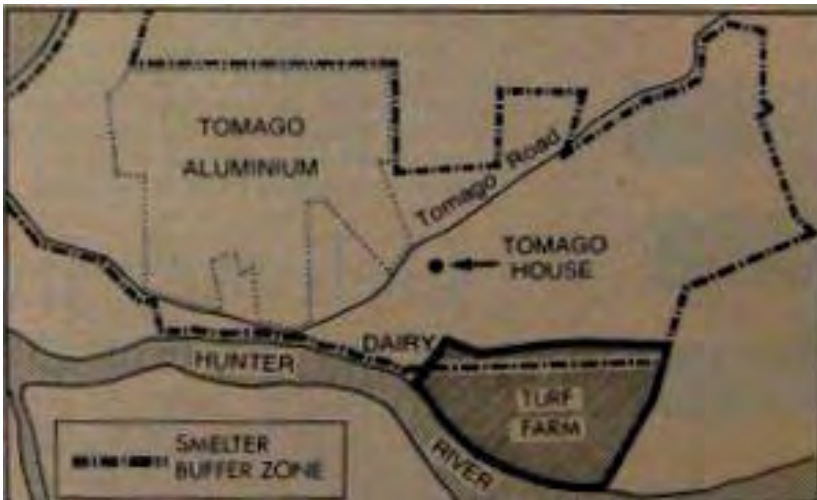


Plate 31 Plan of the area showing the Tomago smelter's buffer zone.
Source: *Newcastle Herald*, 27 October 1984

⁵¹ Conveyance No.958, Book 2631, 10 October 1962, NSW LPI

⁵² *Ibid.*,

⁵³ *Port Stephens Examiner*, 9 March 1980

⁵⁴ Conveyance No.921 Book 3175, 6 September 1974, NSW LPI

⁵⁵ D. Hartley, *From Fullerton Cove to Motto Farm*, Newcastle, 1987, p.16-18

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 59.

⁵⁷ C. Hunter, "Tomago House", Tomago vertical file, NRL

⁵⁸ C. Hunter, *Raymond Terrace and District: History and Heritage*, Raymond Terrace, 1996, p.121

⁵⁹ D. Hartley, *From Fullerton Cove to Motto Farm...* p.59

By the end of 1984, 30 of the 40 allotments within the buffer zone had been purchased by Tomago Aluminium. The purchased properties included Samuel Iveson's home "Ninnerdale" (1982) and Elders Nominees' property, Lot 5 (1984). In 1985, Arnold Moxey's property (Lots 4 and 6) was also purchased.⁶⁰

Chesworth's property, encompassing Lots 1, 2 and the majority of Lot 3, was purchased by Paranet Pty Ltd in 1982. The directors of that company were also directors of Australian Buffalo Grass Pty Ltd., which owned the adjoining Lots 7 and 8. They continued to operate a dairy, with a herd of more than 80 cows, on the former Chesworth property, and from 1982 one of the company's directors lived in the farmhouse. While the dairy was included in the Tomago Aluminium buffer zone, the turf farm was not. Following concerns about unacceptable levels of fluoride on grazing lands, the dairy herd was hand fed on fodder provided by Tomago Aluminium for several months in 1984, and Tomago Aluminium subsequently purchased the dairy in 1985.⁶¹ However, the directors remained unhappy about the possible impact of fluoride on their buffalo turf business, and also on the thoroughbred horses which were stabled and spelled on the paddocks.

Proposed Austeel Development: 2001

In February 2001, Premier Bob Carr visited Newcastle to launch the Austeel project, which was to involve construction of a steel plant on 150ha of land between the Hunter River and Tomago House. The land was part of a 550ha parcel of land which had been purchased from Tomago Aluminium by the NSW Government, and involved the site which is the subject of this study.⁶² It was proposed to transport processed iron from Western Australia to the Tomago plant, which would produce steel for domestic and overseas markets.



Plate 32 Plan showing the layout of the proposed Austeel plant

Source: Raymond Terrace Historical Society

⁶⁰ Conveyance No.812, Book 3507, 6 May 1982; Certificate of Title, No.35, Book 12941, 24 November 1975 with updates; Certificate of Title, No.41 Book 14335, Conveyance No.481, Book 3636, 20 August 1985

⁶¹ *Newcastle Herald*, 27 October 1984; Certificate of Title No.195, Book 14839, 18 August 1982 with updates, NSW LPI

⁶² *NH* 25 July 2002

By March 2004, the NSW government and management of Austeel were on opposing sides in the Supreme Court over disagreements which resulted in the failure of the Tomago proposal. The site is now the subject of a new development proposal known as Northbank Enterprise Hub.

The cessation of dairy farming and agricultural activities at Tomago led to environmental problems in some areas, as the drains which carried away rain and floodwaters were no longer cleared and maintained. As they became choked with weeds, surplus water could not drain away and the land reverted to its original, swampy condition, perhaps echoing the landscape familiar to Richard Windeyer in the 1830s.⁶³

⁶³ C. Hunter, *Port Stephens Heritage*, Port Stephens Council, 2000, p.55



3. PHYSICAL CONDITION AND CONTEXT ANALYSIS

3.1 THE SITE

Tomago is located within the Port Stephens Local Government Area in the Hunter Region of New South Wales. The Hunter River flows around the western and southern borders of the suburb. To the east is Fullerton Cove. The site is located adjacent to one of the main routes between Sydney and the tourist towns of the Port Stephens peninsula, the Newcastle airport and a developing industrial area. Major industrial sites in the area Tomago Aluminium Smelter, FORGACS Shipyard and the Tomago Sandbeds water treatment works.

Originally rural properties, land within the suburb of Tomago is currently a combination of industrial and semi-rural properties.

3.2 EXISTING REMNANT FABRIC

The site retains fabric from various historic phases related to former uses of the site, including both agricultural and military. Specific areas of fabric inspected in relation to this assessment are described in more detail below.



Figure 3.1: Locations of Existing Remnant Military and Agricultural Fabric.

3.2.1 Remaining Evidence of Former Agricultural Uses

As described in the history (Section 2 of this report) the site has been extensively farmed for crops, dairy and turf. Remnants of former farm buildings, drainage lines and fencing remain as physical evidence of this former use. A 1974 Department of Lands Ortho- photo overlaid with a 2009 Google aerial image shows visible row cropping and the extent to which the site was farmed (Figure 3.4).



Figure 3.2: 2009 Google Image overlaid with the 1974 Department of Lands Orthophoto Map Image. Green: Range between 7.5, 10 and 15m; Orange: Approx 20m plus.

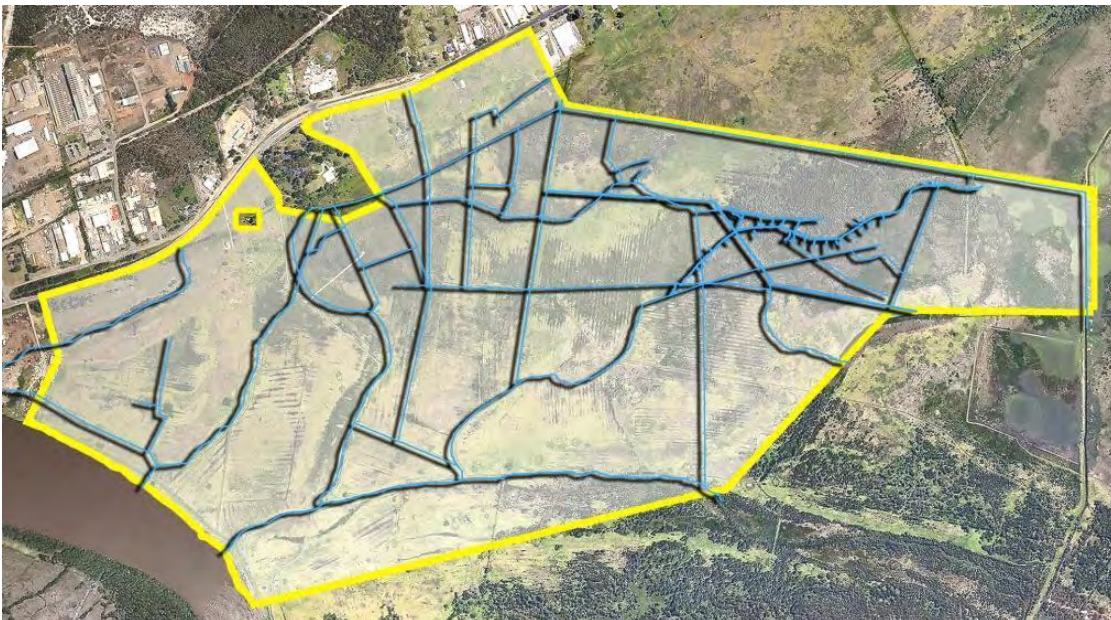


Figure 3.3: Extent of drainage lines remaining on the site.

On the northern boundary of the site, fronting Tomago Road the site until recently retained four dwellings, all of which have been removed or demolished.

Numerous farm buildings dating to the subdivision of the Windeyer Estate and the subsequent development of individual farms have been demolished. Fabric sighted in relation to these demolished structures was sighted during site inspections along the southern boundary of the site revealed exposed concrete and brick structures. An analysis of the fabric, historical documentation and aerial photographs revealed that these structures were the remnants of former farm buildings (refer Figure 3.4). They include concrete slabs, concrete foundations, and the remainder of a small shed or dairy structure, brick and cement rendered water troughs, concrete lined corrugated iron water tanks and concrete piers.



Figure 3.4: Location of Remnant fabric related to former agricultural uses within the subject site.



Figures 3.5: Remnant farm building structure located at Point 1 on Figure 3.4
Source: EJE Architecture



Figure 3.6: Remnant concrete lined tank located at Point 2 on Figure 3.4



Figure 3.7 – 3.8 (above): Remnant Concrete piers located at Point 2 on Figure 3.4
Source: EJE Architecture



Figure 3.9: Remnant concrete foundations and tank location at Point 3 on Figure 3.4
Source: EJE Architecture

At various points throughout the site area series of partially buried shallow tank-like structures of varying sizes (Figures 3.10 – 3.12). These structures were former water troughs, two of which located in the same location of former mills (refer Figure 3.13). The other two troughs are located in the same location as an easement for obtaining water and in the vicinity of a former house site (refer Figure 3.13).



Figures 3.10 – 3.12: partially buried water troughs located at Points 4, 5, 6, and 7 of Figure 3.4.

3.2.2 Fabric Related to Military Occupation of the Site

During site inspections remnants of four octagonal brick and concrete gun emplacements were identified. They are arranged in a semi-circle around a partly buried concrete building which was the command post.

Approximately 250 metres from these remnant structures are three reinforced concrete, above ground structures, which were used for the storage of ammunition.



Figure 3.14: Aerial image showing location of military fabric.

Gun Emplacements (G1 – G4)

Each octagonal gun emplacement structure is constructed of light coloured English bonded bricks, in walls approximately 1.2 metres high and three bricks thick (350mm). Each side of the octagon is approximately 3.9 metres long, making the width of each emplacement structure approximately 9.4 metres⁶⁴.

Emplacement (G1) was cleared of overgrowth for the purpose of site inspection. This particular emplacement revealed three sides of the structure having earth revetments. The entrance to the emplacement structure is via one open side of the octagon. Some concrete fabric at the entrances is remnant of the former concrete sandbagged dog leg entrance that would have protected the entrance. The emplacement also revealed remnant concrete wall structures within the outer brick walls, which would have formed the internal ammunition storage areas.⁶⁵



Figure 3.15: Anti-aircraft battery and command post

⁶⁴ Draft Heritage Assessment and Heritage Impact Statement Northbank Enterprise Hub Tomago, Heritas Architecture 2010, Issue B, Second Draft 13 December 2010

⁶⁵ *ibid.*



Figure 3.16: Gun Emplacement (G1)
Source: EJE Architecture 2011

The cleared emplacement revealed a gun mounting plate, which takes the form of an octagonal steel plate with a hole in the centre and 8 holding lugs around the perimeter. A further triangular piece of steel plate stretches along the ground off each flat of the octagon.



Figure 3.17: Gun Emplacement mounting plate (G1)
Source: EJE Architecture 2011

Each internal face of the brick octagon appears to have the remains of metal flashing engaged into the top mortar joint, spanning across 6 brick lengths.

The external face of brickwork revealed some metal bolts remaining, and on one face a timber member slowly releasing from those bolts due to deterioration. Twisted metal lengths of steel wire were also found; use unknown.

The amount of fabric extant in the other three emplacements is uncertain, due to vegetation overgrowth.



Figure 3.18: Gun Emplacement (G2)
Source: EJE Architecture 2011



Figure 3.19: Gun Emplacement (G3)
Source: EJE Architecture 2011



Figure 3.20: Gun Emplacement (G4)
Source: EJE Architecture 2011

The Command Post (CP)

The Command Post is a freestanding, rectangular, monolithic, in-situ concrete structure partially buried into the ground. Access within the structure was not possible at the time of the inspection as it was full of water and weed growth. All openings including windows and doors are protected by concrete blast walls. The structure was accessed from narrow concrete stairs. A small metal shutter remains on one of the openings.



Figure 3.21: The Command Post
Source: EJE Architecture 2011



Figure 3.22- 3.23: Stairway entry and opening to the Command Post
Source: EJE Architecture 2011

The Ammunition Magazines

The ammunition magazines are freestanding, rectangular, monolithic, in-situ concrete structures above ground consisting of a single room with two entry points at opposite ends protected by blast walls. Internally they are full of wasp nests.



Figure 3.24: Ammunition Magazine
Source: EJE Architecture 2011



Figure 3.25: Ammunition Magazine
Source: EJE Architecture 2011



Figure 3.26: Ammunition Magazine
Source: EJE Architecture 2011

3.3 EXISTING LANDSCAPE AND VIEWS

The majority of the subject site is cleared of native bushland with exception of some native wetland grass species in the north-western corner and southern boundary. The majority of the site is covered in pasture grasses that are currently being utilized by grazing cattle. However, patches of Buffalo grass were also observed throughout the site, associated with the former turf farm.

A number of introduced plant species and natives can be found throughout the site. From analysis of historic aerial photographs and maps the introduced plant species were more than likely associated with former use of the site for farming. They include a large Fig Tree, a cluster of oleanders, and blackberries. While the oleanders would have most certainly been planted, it is probable that the figs were also planted to provide shelter for livestock.



Figure 3.27 – 3.28: Remnant plantings of Oleanders and Fig Tree. (Location - refer Point 3, Figure 3.4)
Source: EJE Architecture 2011

The subject site has a relatively small visual catchment despite being largely cleared for rural occupation. The ground is relatively flat and cleared of vegetation allowing for uninhibited views into the site. The site is located in a mix of rural and industrial surrounds, an industrial subdivision is located to the west and further again to the west are larger industrial developments which includes Tomago Aluminium Smelter.

The eastern approach is the most sensitive visually due to rural landscapes that stretch back to Nelson Bay Road. The site is partially screened on this approach, by a combination of pockets of vegetation and bends in the road.



Figure 3.29: Views looking north-west from the southern boundary. Source: EJE Architecture 2011
Source: EJE Architecture 2011



Figure 3.30: Views looking north from the southern boundary. *Source: EJE Architecture 2011*
Source: EJE Architecture 2011



Figure 3.31: Views looking north-east from the southern boundary. *Source: EJE Architecture 2011*
Source: EJE Architecture 2011



Figure 3.32: Views looking east from the southern boundary. *Source: EJE Architecture 2011*
Source: EJE Architecture 2011

3.4 SURROUNDING CONTEXT – TOMAGO HOUSE⁶⁶

Tomago House and nearby Tomago Chapel are set in a rural property landscape within the Raymond Terrace District, located off Tomago Road, approximately 12 kilometres north (as the crow flies) of the City of Newcastle. The house itself is obscured by trees as one approaches from Tomago Road, however the property is heralded by the small, isolated sandstone and slate roof Tomago Chapel which stands further down in an adjacent flat, clear and grassy field. The setback and slightly elevated location of Tomago House is accessed via an informal gravel loop drive amidst the shrouding trees.



Figure 3.33: Aerial view of Tomago House and Chapel and area of pleasure garden.
Source: EJE Architecture 2011

Tomago House is a fine example of a single storey dwelling in the colonial regency style of architecture. The house also consists of an attic in the roof space, extensive basement rooms and attached/adjacent brick caretaker's cottage. It is construction mainly of highly crafted sandstone, corrugated galvanised metal roof sheeting and timber floor / roof framing.

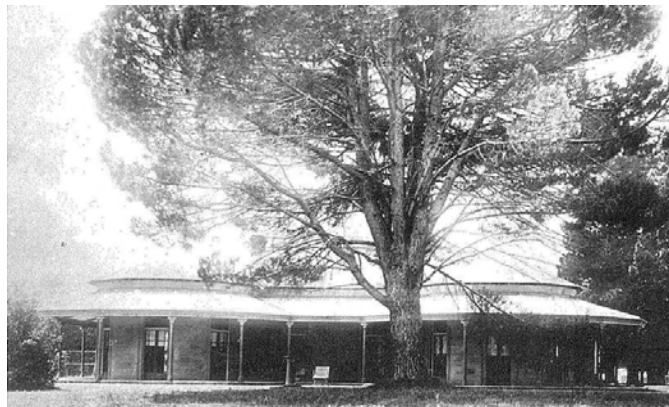


Figure 3.34 : Tomago House, Tomago. Undated photograph.
Source: Royal Australian Historical Society.

The design of the building is based on symmetry about one axis perpendicular to the main entry lobby and central hall. All rooms of the house are accessed from either the entry lobby or central hall. The symmetrical central hall is crowned with a barrel vaulted roof and highlight windows around the perimeter of the double height space.

⁶⁶ Tomago House and Chapel Conservation Management Plan, EJE Architecture, June 2001

Externally the building is characterised by a verandah wrapping around the three (3) major sides of the building supported by cast iron columns. The verandah and roof over the two (2) semi-circular rooms (one at the end of the symmetrical arms of the building) are a distinctive matching pair of segmented roof forms.

The surrounding lawn, gardens and mature trees are reminiscent of a once extensive and diverse landscape.

Tomago Chapel is a crudely constructed sandstone and slate rectangular building with a steeply pitched gable roof. Three (3) slender windows, in-filled with a basic Edwardian lead light glazing flank each side of the symmetrical building. Three (3) more closely spaced narrow windows with decorative lead lighting, feature behind the pulpit end of the chapel. All windows have gothic arched heads. The entry façade features one double timber door with gothic arched timber head panelling. Internally the chapel space is defined by a timber lined vaulted ceiling, various pieces of timber joinery / furniture and marble wall plaques. The surrounds of the chapel include an area to the front defined by a white picket fence with adjacent, freestanding bell tower frame.

4. ARCHAEOLOGY

Austral Archaeology has performed a Historical Archaeological Assessment of the site; the findings have been considered in this Statement of Heritage Impact.

Windeyer Occupation

Buildings relating to the Windeyer Estate, aside from Tomago House and that are known to have been demolished, include a stone stable building to the northeast of Tomago House, and two additional buildings. These can be seen on aerial photographs dating to 1944 and 1961⁶⁷.



Figure 4.1 and 4.2: 1944 (left) and 1961(right) Aerial photographs with the two additional buildings highlighted in red.

Although the historical research describes the burial of an Aboriginal chief on the Windeyer Estate, the exact location of that burial is unknown. The burial occurred in the 1860s, at which time Maria Windeyer retained 850 acres of the original Windeyer Estate, which would have been the original Lot 7. This original Lot 7 takes in land within the current study site, and land across the current Tomago Road, therefore Aboriginal Chief Toocooyoo could be buried on any portion of that original Lot 7⁶⁸. A newspaper report of 1953, at which time the property was owned by Courtalds Australia Ltd, refers to Richard Windeyer's good relationship with the local Indigenous people, and tentatively notes the supposed 1860s burial place of Toocooyoo:

When the tribal chief, Toocooyoo, died in the 60s, he left all his property to the Windeyers, and, according to local legend, was buried just beyond the house under an enormous pine tree which still stands.⁶⁹

Given that the pine trees formed part of the ornamental plantings, there is therefore good reason to believe that the burial place of Toocooyoo is within the existing curtilage of Tomago House.

⁶⁷ Draft Northbank Enterprise Hub Tomago, Heritas Architecture 2010

⁶⁸ *ibid*

⁶⁹ *Sunday Herald*, 16 August 1953, p. 21.

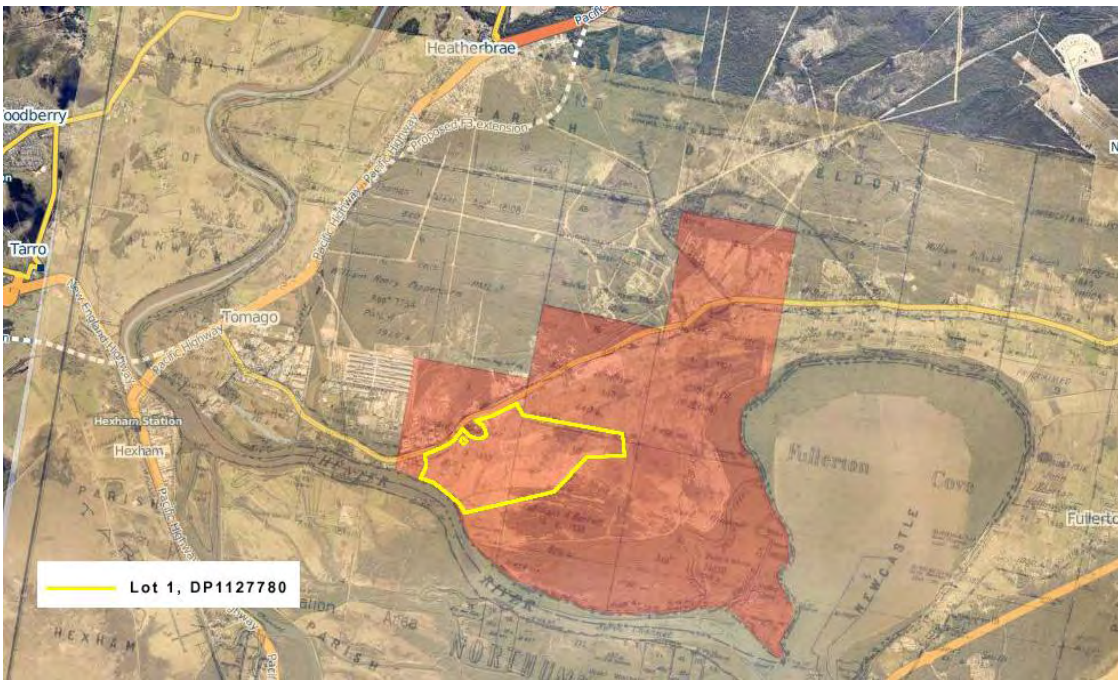


Figure 4.3: Parcels overlay of Windeyer's holdings including lot 7.

Source: Linda Babic, Heritas Architecture 2011

The existence of two school buildings near the Tomago Chapel (refer to Plate 10 of Section 2 HISTORICAL CONTEXT of this report), dating to different times, presents potential for archaeological relics at this location.⁷⁰

Military Occupation

The extent of remaining ammunition or related relics on the eastern portion of the site, which was used for a bombing range, is unknown but there is potential for the presence of unexploded RAAF practice bombs within and adjacent to the former bombing range; this is outside the area of the proposed development.⁷¹ The site also has the potential to contain archaeological relics.

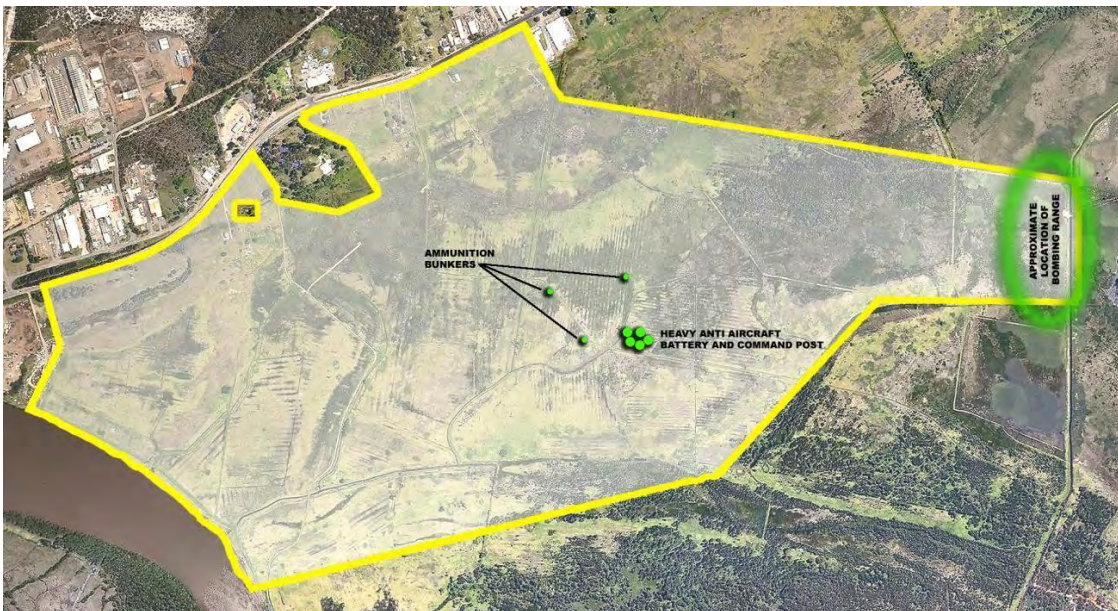


Figure 4.4: Aerial image showing location of former bombing range, and other remaining military fabric.

⁷⁰ *ibid*

⁷¹ Greg Guthrie, Lt Col (Ret'd), *Unexploded Ordnance Assessment, Tomago New South Wales*. G-Tek Australia Pty Ltd, 2003, p. 10.

Due to the intact nature of the anti-aircraft gun emplacement and command post site, as well as the associated ammunition magazines, the potential for general military relics within and around these sites is expected to be high. There is a potential for the presence of items of military origin, including small arms ammunition, pyrotechnics and non-explosive waste within this site.⁷²

Fabric relating to additional structures may exist under the current overgrowth. For example, a gun store & workshop, oil store and straw store are all labelled as existing on a 1943 plan, in close proximity to the gun emplacements and command post. However, it is noted on the same plan that the building plan was cancelled and a number of proposed structures are crossed out.

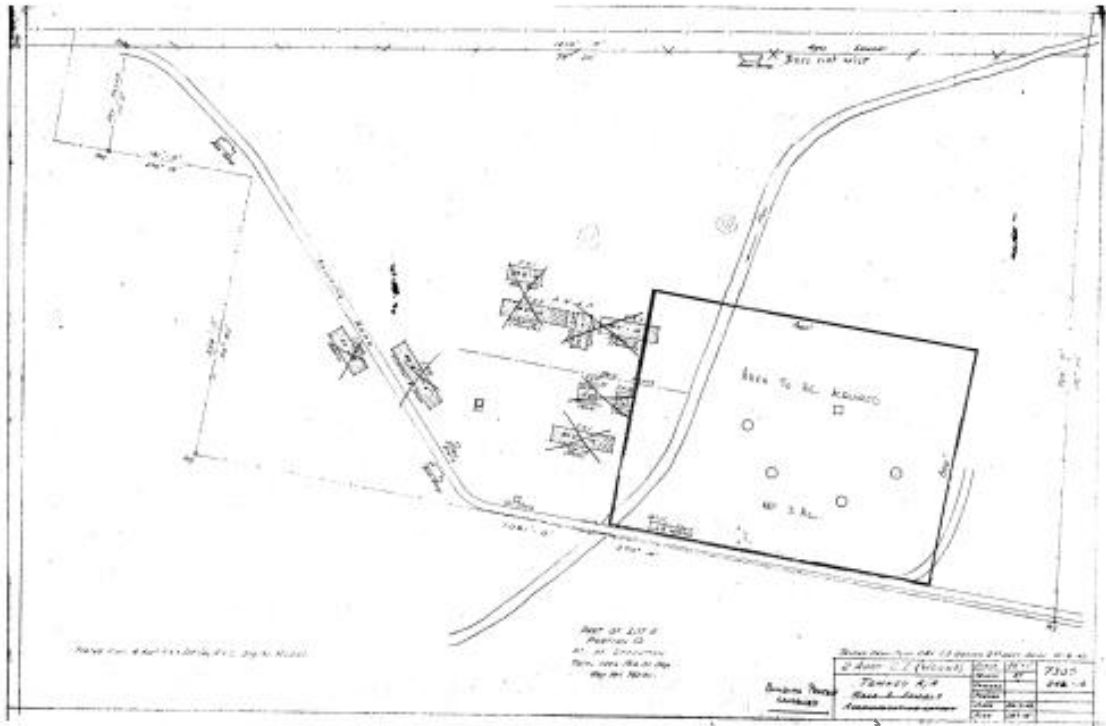


Figure 4.5: 1943 plan of anti-aircraft gun emplacement site, indicating existing structures and cancelled new building project (callout shown at right).
 Source: Linda Babic, Heritas Architecture 2011

TRACED FROM PLAN 1161 C.E. BRANCH 2 ND AUST ARMY 10.9.43			
BUILDING PROJECT CANCELLED	2 AUST. C.E. (WORKS)	SCALE	50'-1"
	TOMAGO A/A	TRACED BY	AT 7305
	MALE & FEMALE	CHECKED	262-15
	ACCOMMODATION EMPLOY	DESIGNED	
		DATE	24-3-43
	SIZE	20' x 15'	

⁷² Greg Guthrie, Lt Col (Ret'd), *Unexploded Ordnance Assessment, Tomago New South Wales*, p. 10.

5. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

This comparative analysis identifies sites and places that display similar features, characteristics and values. By doing so, an informed assessment can be carried out of the relative rarity of the subject site.

5.1 MILITARY OCCUPATION FABRIC

Listed following are various anti-aircraft artillery defence locations comparable in their function or form to the Tomago battery. Because of their relevance to the regional context, some fixed coast defence batteries that are part of permanent fortifications are listed also for comparison.

5.1.1 Stockton Links Battery⁷³

The Stockton Links Battery at Fern Bay NSW was part of the Stockton Rifle Range site, which "came into service in 1940 as a training range for service personnel. The site was also linked to the coastal defence system with the installation of an anti-aircraft battery", which saw anti-aircraft guns set up in 1941.^{74 75}



Figure 5.1: Stockton Links anti-aircraft battery.
Source: Nearmap, February 2011

⁷³ Heritas Architecture, *Northbank Enterprise Hub, Tomago NSW, Heritage Assessment and Heritage Impact Statement (Draft)*, December 2010.

⁷⁴ Suters Architects, *Stockton Rifle Range, Fern Bay, NSW Heritage Assessment*, June 1999, p. 5.

⁷⁵ Robertson & Hindmarsh, *World Wars 1 & 2: Survey of Buildings, Sites & Cultural Landscapes in NSW, Volume 2 Thematic History*, June 2006, p. 2-76.



Figures 5.2 and 5.3: Stockton Links anti-aircraft battery.
Source: EJE Architecture, February 2011

The site is presently owned by the Commonwealth Government, and does not appear to be recognised on any heritage listings, statutory or otherwise. The site was recognised in a heritage assessment of the Stockton Rifle Range, prepared by Suters Architects in June 1999. That report states "the group of five reinforced concrete structures that lie overgrown in bushland approximately 80m north of the 900 yard firing line originally supported a battery of four Vickers 3.7" Anti-aircraft Guns. The four gun emplacements were arranged in a semi-circle about a control bunker. All that remains on site now are portions of the concrete emplacements, the most easy to define being the control post, which has the most remaining structure.

Typical supporting structures to the Links Anti-aircraft Battery, such as ammunition storage and searchlight/machine gun posts, may not have survived due to subsequent and adjacent residential development of Fern Bay.

5.1.2 Wangi Wangi Battery

The Wangi Wangi ridge bushland reserve contains "an anti-aircraft battery which was constructed during WWII for the defence of the Rathmines Air Base. There are several gun sites plus an ammunition bunker* on the site. At the time of construction a lot of supplies for the gun site came by boat and the remains of the wharf can be seen in the National Park Reserve"⁷⁶.

(* EJE note – the authors of this report suspect that the quoted reference to an "ammunition bunker" is erroneous. Our site inspections have identified only the command centre bunker and four gun emplacements.)



Figures 5.4 and 5.5: Wangi Wangi anti-aircraft battery.

Source: <http://www.lakemacquarielandcare.org/Files/Uploads/File/Resources/Wangi%20Ridge%20Case%20Study.pdf>

⁷⁶ A case study of Wangi Ridge Preservation Board Landcare: WANGI PENINSULA GREEN CORRIDOR PROJECT



Figure 5.6: Wangi Wangi anti-aircraft battery gun emplacement.
Source: EJE Architecture, February 2011



Figure 5.7: Wangi Wangi anti-aircraft battery command centre.
Source: EJE Architecture, February 2011

5.1.3 Tomaree Head Fortifications⁷⁷

Tomaree Head Fortifications formed part of the coastal defence network protecting the area between Port Stephens and Jervis Bay during WWII. The complex site was constructed by 1942 and included the Australian Army seafront and beach front installation, RAN seawards defences, and RAAF long-range air search radar. The Army installation included "observation posts, radar installations, command and control areas plotting room data coordination, machine gun emplacements, anti-aircraft emplacements, mortar emplacements and three-man weapons pits."⁷⁸

Although Tomaree Head Fortifications included an anti-aircraft component, the topography of the site necessitated the layout of the anti-aircraft emplacements and their relationship to the other fabric on that site to be different to the layout on the flat land at Tomago. The extent of remaining anti-aircraft fabric at this site is to be confirmed, however is assumed to be minimal due to continued use of the site since the end of WWII.



Figure 5.8: Tomaree Headland battery.

Source: http://www.aicomos.com/wp-content/uploads/2009_UnlovedModern_Robertson_Scott_War_at_Home_Slides.pdf

⁷⁷ Heritas Architecture, *Northbank Enterprise Hub, Tomago NSW, Heritage Assessment and Heritage Impact Statement(Draft)*, December 2010.

⁷⁸ Heritage listing sheet for Tomaree Head Fortifications, www.heritage.nsw.gov.au, item id 5060961.

5.1.4 Shepherds Hill

The Shepherds Hill military fortifications, first established in the 1890's, on the coastline to the south of the Newcastle City Centre, were part of HMAS Maitland, a shore based depot that comprised the training ship "Tobruk", the Newcastle Customs House, and the naval-controlled portion of the Shepherds Hill facility.⁷⁹

The facility currently comprises a cottage (now occupied by the Volunteer Coastal Patrol), remains of a disappearing 8 inch gun, large observation post complex, and remains of a searchlight position and engine room connected by tunnels.⁸⁰ During WW2 it was jointly manned by the Navy, Army and Air Force.⁸¹



Figure 5.9: Shepherds Hill fortification, King Edward Park, Newcastle.
Source: Nearmap, February 2011.

⁷⁹ <http://www.ozatwar.com/ran/hmasmaitland.htm>

⁸⁰ http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/07_subnav_02_2.cfm?itemid=5061075

⁸¹ <http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/DesktopModules/MediaCentre/getdocument.aspx?mid=362>

5.1.5 Fort Scratchley

A military facility at the Fort Scratchley site was established as early as the 1860's, while construction of the permanent fort facility began in 1881, including gun emplacements, underground powder magazines, and shell stores. Soon after, Barracks, Commandant's Quarters, dry moats and defensive walls were constructed. A Battery Observation Post housing a command centre and range finder was constructed in 1914, with an additional level added to improve its capability in 1939.

In the early morning of 8 June 1942 Newcastle was shelled by a Japanese submarine. The Mark VII 6 inch guns at Fort Scratchley returned fire, forcing the retreat of the submarine. These guns were later relocated to a nearby park. Military use of the site ceased in 1972. In recent times various original guns have been returned to the site, and the site has been restored and opened to the public.⁸² In 2008 the site was handed by the Commonwealth to the ownership and control of Newcastle City Council.⁸³



Figure 5.10: Fort Scratchley, Newcastle.
Source: Nearmap, February 2011.

⁸² <http://www.fortscratchley.org.au/files/history.pdf>

⁸³ <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/commonwealth/nsw.html#scratchley>

5.1.6 Fort Wallace

Fort Wallace at Stockton was developed in the 19th century to provide defence of a blind spot in the Fort Scratchley coverage caused by the nearby Nobbys Headland. In 1913, two 6 inch guns were installed, and prior to the outbreak of WW2 these were replaced with two 9.2 inch guns.⁸⁴

Fort Wallace was part of an integrated local defence system, with the purpose of protecting the Newcastle steelworks and dockyard infrastructure from attack during WW2. Elements remaining on site include gun emplacements with their magazines, a powerhouse and tunnels, an observation tower, wireless room, casualty station, a plotting room and an underground plotting room.⁸⁵



Figure 5.11: Fort Wallace, Stockton.
Source: Nearmap, February 2011.

⁸⁴ <http://www.ozatwar.com/bunkers/fortwallace.htm>

⁸⁵ <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/commonwealth/nsw.html#wallace>

5.1.7 Lithgow Batteries⁸⁶

Lithgow NSW has a significant amount of extant anti-aircraft fabric, contained within the Bowenfels Battery (and dummy battery) and the Clwydd (or Scenic Hill) Battery. These defences protected the Lithgow Small Arms Factory - the first of the large inland munitions factories in New South Wales.⁸⁷ Both of these sites are described in the Robertson & Hindmarsh 2006 study.

The Bowenfels Battery was "one of two anti-aircraft gun batteries constructed in a matter of week in late 1941 and early 1942 to protect the Lithgow Valley and its wartime assets of small arms factory, coal mines and major railway infrastructure. The battery consists of four octagonal reinforced concrete gun emplacements for 3.7" anti-aircraft guns arranged around a central reinforced concrete command bunker consisting of a square, three level building connected to a smaller two level octagonal building. A dummy battery was constructed about one kilometre away out of timber and steel pipes to resemble gun emplacements. This dummy battery has recently been destroyed with the construction of a new residential subdivision."⁸⁸



Figure 5.12: Bowenfels anti-aircraft battery.
Source: Google Maps, February 2011.

⁸⁶ Heritas Architecture, *Northbank Enterprise Hub, Tomago NSW, Heritage Assessment and Heritage Impact Statement (Draft)*, December 2010.

⁸⁷ Robertson & Hindmarsh, *World Wars 1 & 2: Survey of Buildings, Sites & Cultural Landscapes in NSW, Volume 1 Final Report*, June 2006, p. 1-38.

⁸⁸ Robertson & Hindmarsh, *World Wars 1 & 2: Survey of Buildings, Sites & Cultural Landscapes in NSW, Volume 1 Final Report*, June 2006, p. 1-115, 1-116.



Figures 5.13, 5.14 and 5.15: Bowenfels anti-aircraft battery.
Source: EJE Architecture, February 2011

The Clwydd (or Scenic Hill) Battery "consists of four octagonal reinforced concrete gun emplacements for 3.7" anti-aircraft guns arranged around a central reinforced concrete command bunker consisting of a square, three level building connected to a smaller two level octagonal building."⁸⁹ The Clwydd Battery also had a dummy battery associated with it, however the status of remaining fabric is unknown.⁹⁰



⁸⁹ Robertson & Hindmarsh, *World Wars 1 & 2: Survey of Buildings, Sites & Cultural Landscapes in NSW, Volume 1 Final Report*, June 2006, p. 1-116.

⁹⁰ The Clwydd Dummy Battery was not inspected during the course of the Robertson & Hindmarsh study.

Figures 5.16 and 5.17: Scenic Hill anti-aircraft battery.

Source: <http://home.brisnet.org.au/~dunn/bunkers/lithgowaa.htm>

The Lithgow Anti-aircraft Gun Battery A has been nominated to the State Heritage Register, and that nomination was supported by Lithgow City Council in May 2010.

5.1.8 Illowra Battery, Hill 60

The Illowra Battery on Hill 60 at Port Kembla was established in 1942, when two gun emplacements were constructed to house BL 6 inch Mk XI guns⁹¹. These guns have been removed, but the emplacements, bunker and connecting underground tunnel system remain. These tunnels contained a small gauge tramway to transport shells to the gun emplacements⁹².



Figure 5.18: Illowra battery, Hill 60.

Source: http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/58/Hill_60._battery_port_kembla.jpg

5.1.9 Hummock Hill Battery, Whyalla

The Hummock Hill battery at Whyalla, SA was developed during WW2 to defend Whyalla's BHP steel mill and shipyards, and comprised four anti-aircraft guns and a command post. In the 1980's the site was restored by BHP and given to the local council as recreational facilities, and includes a 3.7" and a Bofors gun⁹³.



Figures 5.19 and 5.20: Hummock Hill Whyalla anti-aircraft battery.

Source: <http://home.brisnet.org.au/~dunn/locations/hummockhillbattery.htm>

⁹¹ <http://www.ww2museums.com/article/8061/Illowra-Battery.htm>

⁹² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illowra_Battery

⁹³ *Hummock Hill Battery Whyalla, SA during WW2*

(<http://home.brisnet.org.au/~dunn/locations/hummockhillbattery.htm>) accessed 21 February 2011.



Figure 5.21: Hummock Hill Whyalla anti-aircraft battery.
Source: <http://www.panoramio.com/photo/23203705>

5.1.10 Mount St John Battery, Townsville

The Mount St John battery at Townsville was established in April 1942 as the Australian 16 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery. It was called into action on 1 May 1942 to fire on enemy reconnaissance aircraft. The site contained four 3.7" anti-aircraft guns in emplacements, four concrete ammunition bunkers, and an underground command centre. By 1999, two of the ammunition bunkers, originally constructed to be partly underground, had been completely exposed by having the earth around them removed. The four hexagonal gun emplacements all have the metal gun mounting bolts intact. The command centre is in sound condition with its metal entrance door intact. Evidence of the original service road also exists.^{94 95}



Figure 5.22: Mount St John battery
Source: Google Maps, February 2011



Figures 5.23 and 5.24: Mount St John battery
Source: <http://home.brisnet.org.au/~dunn/ozatwar/mtstjohn.htm>

⁹⁴ Queensland EPA Heritage Register listing sheet.

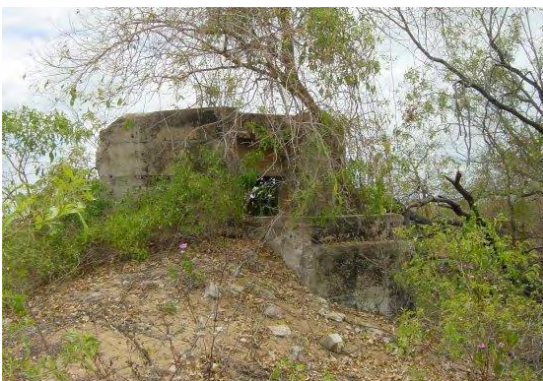
⁹⁵ <http://www.ozatwar.com/ozatwar/mtstjohn.htm>

5.1.11 Ross River Battery, Townsville

The Ross River anti-aircraft battery was established by the 208th Coastal Artillery (AA) Regiment in 1942 on the southern edge of the Ross River mouth. The tidal river has since reclaimed the site of the gun emplacements, but the associated concrete bunkers remain in place, in varying degrees of intactness.⁹⁶



Figure 5.25: 1959 aerial view of Ross River gun battery (with sewerage treatment station adjacent). Gun emplacements have since been reclaimed by river. Remaining concrete bunkers not visible in this view. Source: <http://home.brisnet.org.au/~dunn/bunkers/rossriverbunkers.htm>



Figures 5.26 and 5.27: Remaining Ross River battery concrete bunkers. Source: <http://home.brisnet.org.au/~dunn/bunkers/rossriverbunkers.htm>

⁹⁶ <http://home.brisnet.org.au/~dunn/bunkers/rossriverbunkers.htm>

5.1.12 Other Sites

Other comparative sites identified include the 6 (390) Australian Anti-Aircraft Battery in Brisbane; Garden Island, off Fremantle, WA; Rottneest Island, off Fremantle, WA; and, the Quarantine Anti-Aircraft Battery Site in Darwin⁹⁷.

Further investigation by EJE of the *Australia @ War* website⁹⁸ identifies many other anti-aircraft and searchlight batteries around Australia. Note that this website does not reference some of the local sites identified in this report.

(Beginning of excerpt from *Australia @ War* website)

Fixed Coast and Anti-Aircraft defences in Australia in September 1943 were organised as follows:-

New South Wales	2nd Australian Army
Northern Territory	<u>NT Force</u>
Queensland	1st Australian Army
Victoria	2nd Australian Army
Western Australia	3rd Australian Corps

QUEENSLAND

BRISBANE AREA

The Australian Heavy Anti-aircraft Batteries in the Brisbane area were manned by the following Batteries of the 2/2nd HAA Regiment:-

- 6th HAA Battery
- 38th HAA Battery
- 2/5th HAA Battery

The Australian Light anti-aircraft Batteries in the Brisbane area were manned by:-

- 113th LAA Regiment
- 114th LAA Regiment

US Anti-aircraft Gun positions in the Brisbane area were manned by:-

94th Coastal Artillery (AA) Regiment,
40th Anti-aircraft Brigade

Abattoirs Bofors Anti-

Anti-aircraft Guns

Archerfield Airfield

⁹⁷ Identified in Heritas Architecture, *Northbank Enterprise Hub, Tomago NSW, Heritage Assessment and Heritage Impact Statement(Draft)*, December 2010.

⁹⁸ *Australia @ War* website (<http://home.brisnet.org.au/~dunn/locations/ackack.htm>) accessed 21 February 2011.



<u>aircraft gun site, Colmslie, Brisbane</u> (now in suburb of Queensport)	<u>and Searchlight Units on Mount Coot-tha</u>	<u>Heavy Anti-aircraft Battery</u> (Australian Army)
Archerfield US Anti-aircraft Battery	Balmoral Heavy Anti-aircraft Battery (3.7mm) (above Balmoral Bowls Club, Brisbane)	Brisbane River US Anti-aircraft batteries (a number of positions)
<u>Bulimba Anti-aircraft gun site</u> (end of Quay Street, Bulimba)	<u>Bulimba/Apollo Road Anti-aircraft gun site</u>	<u>Cloudland Light Anti-aircraft Battery</u> (Bowen Hills, near Luna Park)
<u>Colmslie Heavy Anti-aircraft Gun, later moved to Lytton</u> (Colmslie Beach area?, Brisbane)	<u>Colmslie Mobile Anti-aircraft Gun Site</u> southern side of Lytton Road	Eagle Farm US Anti-aircraft battery
Hemmant Heavy Anti-aircraft Battery (Fleming Road, Hemmant, Brisbane)	Hendra Heavy Anti-aircraft Battery (West of Eagle Farm airfield)	Hendra Light Anti-aircraft Battery
Kangaroo Point Light Anti-aircraft Battery	Lytton 6th H.A.A. Gun Station 385 Lytton adjacent to Fort Lytton (formerly 385 Colmslie) In service Aug 43, disbanded Jan 45	Morningside Anti-aircraft battery
<u>Mount Gravatt U.S. Searchlight Battery</u> (On top of Mount Gravatt, Brisbane) (On top of Mount Gravatt, Brisbane) (On top of Mount Gravatt, Brisbane) (On top of Mount Gravatt, Brisbane) (On top of Mount Gravatt, Brisbane)	<u>Murrarie Anti-aircraft Searchlights, US Army</u>	<u>Myrtle town Light Anti-aircraft Battery</u> (On a farm at Myrtle town)
<u>Newstead Point Light Anti-Aircraft Battery</u> (Australian)	Petrie US Anti-aircraft battery	Pinkenba Heavy Anti-aircraft Battery (east of Eagle Farm airfield)

(Newstead Park, Breakfast Creek, Brisbane - Norman Banks of 2/6 Regiment was based there)		
Victoria Park Heavy Anti-aircraft Battery (Victoria Park Golf Course, Brisbane)	<u>Whinstanes Light Anti-aircraft Battery</u>	
TOWNSVILLE AREA		
<u>79th Australian Search Light Battery</u> (Pallarenda, Townsville)	<u>208th Anti Aircraft Battalion Battery</u> (The Strand, Stanton Hill, South Townsville, mouth of Ross River and Cape Cleveland)	<u>Jimmy's Lookout Anti-aircraft Gun & Search Light Battery</u> (Townsville)
<u>Mount St. John 16 Heavy Anti-aircraft Battery</u> (Townsville)	<u>Nelly Bay Anti-aircraft Battery</u> (Magnetic Island)	Pitt's Ridge Anti-aircraft Battery (Between Oonoomba and Cluden in Townsville)
<u>Ross Battery 7 Heavy Battery</u> (southern side of the mouth of Ross River)	Stanton Hill Anti-aircraft Battery Our Ladys Mount School, Townsville	Wills Street Anti-aircraft Gun (Townsville - on a rock ledge opposite the intersection with Wills Street)
<u>114 Light Anti Aircraft Artillery Regiment, 165 Battery, 607 Troop</u> on Breakwater near Townsville Harbour		
REST OF QUEENSLAND		
<u>34th Australian Anti-aircraft Battery</u> at Kings Point, Horn Island	<u>Amberley Airfield Heavy Anti-aircraft Battery</u> (Australian Army)	<u>Lissner Park, Charters Towers American Anti-aircraft battery</u>
Lowood US Anti-aircraft Battery	<u>US Anti-aircraft Battery & Radar Station</u>	

	<u>McLelland's Lookout</u> <u>Paluma area</u>	
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NEW SOUTH WALES

<u>Anti-aircraft</u> <u>Operations Room, 69</u> <u>Milson Road,</u> <u>Cremorne, Sydney</u>	Balls Head Searchlight Battery (Sydney Area)	Camberay Searchlight Battery (Sydney Area)
Clifton Gardens Searchlight Battery (Sydney Area)	<u>Cranbrook</u> <u>Searchlight Battery</u> (Sydney Area)	Domain Searchlight Battery (Sydney Area)
<u>Dover Heights</u> <u>Searchlight Battery</u> (Sydney Area)	<u>Gore Hill Searchlight</u> <u>Battery</u> (Sydney Area)	Middle Head Searchlight Battery (Sydney Area)
Moore Park Searchlight Battery (Sydney Area)	<u>Lithgow anti-aircraft</u> <u>gun emplacements</u> <u>and bunkers</u>	Rose Bay Anti-aircraft Battery (Sydney Area)
Sydney University Searchlight Battery (Sydney Area)	Vaucluse Searchlight Battery (Sydney Area)	

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Peanut Farm Searchlight Battery	Quarantine Searchlight Battery	Ironstone Searchlight Battery
Lee Point Searchlight Battery	Nightcliffe Searchlight Battery	Fanny's Bay Searchlight Battery
Dipstone Searchlight Battery	Leanyer Searchlight Battery	<u>Bagot Searchlight</u> <u>Battery</u>
Emery Point Searchlight Battery	Dudley Point Searchlight Battery	<u>Searchlight HQ Camp</u> <u>at McMillan</u>

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

<u>Hummock Hill Battery</u>		
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VICTORIA

<u>Anti-aircraft Operations Room Preston Towns Hall, Melbourne</u>		
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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

<u>22 Australian Ack Ack Battery</u>	<u>Anti-Aircraft gun emplacement at Wembley</u>	<u>Anti-aircraft positions near Fremantle Submarine Base</u>
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(End of excerpt)

5.2 AGRICULTURAL FABRIC

The agricultural fabric remaining on site, including water tanks, stock troughs, fencing, farm building slabs, and building piers, is typical of farming fabric of that age existing throughout the Hunter Valley.

5.3 THE FORMER WINDEYER ESTATE⁹⁹

5.3.1 Tomago House & Chapel

The significance of Tomago House & Chapel, along with its landscape setting, is defined within the Tomago House and Chapel Conservation Management Plan, prepared by EJE Heritage in June 2001. A comparative analysis to aid assessment of significance is not required here. A comparative analysis of similar homesteads to aid in the establishment of a heritage curtilage for Tomago House is outside the scope of this report.

5.3.2 Existing cottages

The existing cottages on the site are of a type and style common in the area and surrounds, and are not considered to be rare. They have separately been approved for demolition, which is currently underway.

⁹⁹ Heritas Architecture, *Northbank Enterprise Hub, Tomago NSW, Heritage Assessment and Heritage Impact Statement(Draft)*, December 2010.

5.4 Comparative Analysis Summary

Battery site	Description	Use in conflict	Existing ownership (if known)	Command Centre intact	Gun emplacement intact	Ammunition bunkers/stores intact	Current heritage listing
Tomago	Temporary installation established for use during WW2	None known	Private	Yes	Yes (4)	Yes (3)	None known
Stockton Links, Stockton	Temporary installation established for use during WW2	None known	Public (Defence)	Yes	Yes (4)	No	None known
Wangi Wangi, Lake Macquarie	Temporary installation established for use during WW2	None known	Public (Nature Reserve)	Yes	Yes	Yes*	None known
Tomaree Heads, Port Stephens	Fixed battery as part of permanent fortification	None known	Public	No	Yes	Unknown	SHR, LEP
Park Battery, Shepherds Hill, Newcastle	Fixed battery as part of permanent fortification	None known	Public		Yes (1)	Yes	SHR, LEP
Fort Scratchley, Newcastle	Fixed battery as part of permanent fortification	Yes (1942 submarine attack on Newcastle)	Public (local council)	Yes	Yes	Yes	SHR (as part of Coal River Precinct)
Fort Wallace, Stockton	Fixed battery as part of permanent fortification	None known	Public (Defence)	Yes	Yes	Unknown	Commonwealth Heritage Place

Battery site	Description	Use in conflict	Existing ownership (if known)	Command Centre intact	Gun emplacement intact	Ammunition bunkers/stores intact	Current heritage listing
Bowenfels, Lithgow	Temporary installation established for use during WW2	None known	Unknown	Yes	Yes (4)	Unknown	LEP (nominated for SHR)
Scenic Hill, Lithgow	Temporary installation established for use during WW2	None known	Unknown	Yes	Yes	Unknown	LEP (nominated for SHR)
Illowra Battery, Hill 60, Port Kembla	Temporary installation established for use during WW2	None known	Public	Yes	Yes	Unknown	LEP, SHR (listed for the site's aboriginal significance)
Hummock Hill, Whyalla, SA	Temporary installation established for use during WW2	None known	Public (local council)	Yes	Yes	Unknown	State Heritage Place
Mount St John, Townsville, QLD	Temporary installation established for use during WW2	Yes (1942 firing on reconnaissance aircraft)	Private	Yes	Yes (4)	Yes	Queensland Heritage Listed Place
Ross River, Townsville, QLD	Temporary installation established for use during WW2	None known	Unknown	No	No	Yes	None known

* A case study of Wangi Ridge Preservation Board Landcare: WANGI PENINSULA GREEN CORRIDOR PROJECT

(<http://www.lakemacquarielandcare.org/Files/Uploads/File/Resources/Wangi%20Ridge%20Case%20Study.pdf>) cites the Wangi Wangi anti-aircraft battery as including an ammunition bunker intact, although this needs to be confirmed.

6. HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The NSW heritage assessment criteria encompass four generic values in the Australian ICOMOS Burra Charter, which are historical, aesthetic, scientific, and social significance.

An item will be considered to be of State or local heritage significance if, in the opinion of The Heritage Council of NSW, it meets one or more of the assessment criteria listed in the NSW Heritage Act, effective April 1999.

These criteria will be used in assessing heritage significance of the property/site.

The basis of assessment used in this report is the methodology and terminology of the Burra Charter 1999, The Conservation Plan and the criteria of the NSW Heritage Branch. Article 26.1 of the Burra Charter states that:

“Work on a place should be preceded by studies to understand the place which should include analysis of physical, documentary, oral and other evidence, drawing on appropriate knowledge, skills and disciplines.”

Once the place has been studied, the cultural significance can be assessed. Cultural Significance philosophically aids the establishment of value. Places and items of significance are those which display an understanding of the past and enrich the present. They allow values to be continually interpreted for future generations.

The significance of the place is determined by the analysis and assessment of the documentary, oral and physical evidence presented in the previous sections of this document. Having an understanding of significance allows decisions to be made about the future management of the place. However, it is important that these future decisions do not endanger the cultural significance of the place.

The NSW Heritage Manual prepared by the NSW Heritage Branch and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, outlines the same four broad criteria and processes for assessing the nature of significance, along with two criteria for assessing comparative significance of an item.

Since the preparation of the Heritage Manual, the Heritage Act 1977 (NSW) was amended in 1999. As part of this amendment, the NSW Heritage Council has adopted revised criteria for assessment of Heritage significance. The evaluation of cultural significance in the following section is based on the approach adopted by the Burra Charter and the NSW Heritage Manual, but considers whether and, if so, the study site meets the current (revised) criteria.

Heritage Significance Criteria

The NSW assessment criteria listed below encompass the following four values of significance:

- Historical significance
- Aesthetic significance
- Research/technical significance
- Social significance

Each of the four values is incorporated into a list of seven detailed assessment criteria. An item is considered of heritage significance. Upon establishing the value of heritage significance they are then graded to assess their relative contribution to the heritage value of the place. Grading's are as follows:

GRADINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE	
EXCEPTIONAL	Rare or outstanding element directly contributing to an items significance
HIGH	High degree of original fabric; demonstrates a key element of the items significance
MODERATE	Elements with little heritage value, but which contribute to the overall significance of the item
LITTLE	Alterations detract from the significance, it is difficult to interpret
INTRUSIVE	Damaging to the items heritage significance

Additionally, an Assessment of Significance requires that a level of significance be determined for the place. The detailed analysis uses the levels of significance below:

LEVELS OF SIGNIFICANCE	
LOCAL	Of significance to the local government area.
STATE	Of significance to the people of NSW.
NATIONAL	Exhibiting a high degree of significance, interpretability to the people of Australia.

6.1 PRE-EXISTING STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF TOMAGO HOUSE AND CHAPEL: NSW STATE HERITAGE REGISTER

The principal heritage significance of Tomago House relates to its association with the Windeyer family. The house was the family home for 150 years of one of the most eminent legal families in New South Wales. It was built in a style and to a standard which befitted the social status of the Windeyers in the early years of expansion and development in the colony. It is one of the most important houses of the 1840s to survive largely unaltered in a geographical context which is also intact (National Trust, 1993).

Built by Sydney barrister and politician Richard Windeyer, Tomago House formed the nucleus of what was, in the mid 19th century, a vast agricultural estate and the country residence of one of the nation's leading politico-legal figures.

Work on the house started in the early 1840s. The vineyard was established, with plantings from James King of Irrawang, who was known to be producing good wines by 1840. Windeyer died in 1847, leaving his widow Maria to complete the property, refinance it and maintain viability. This she did, adding to it with a Chapel built in 1860-1861.

Tomago House is noted for its fine verandahs looking over pastoral land; interiors which reflected the lives and times of a family of status and a social history which spans three generations (www.nsw.nationaltrust.org.au/properties/tomago/default.asp).

Tomago today retains its original form, with its trees, farmland and wetlands. Planting is historically and botanically significant, including species contemporary with the early to late European development of the site from the 1830s to the 1890s, and remnant indigenous species.

(Source: http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/07_subnav_01_2.cfm?itemid=5045718)

6.2 ANALYSIS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Historical Significance

Criterion (a) An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Criterion (b) An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

- The subject site has an historical association with the development of the Hunter Valley in the early 19th century as part of the Windeyer Estate. The early cultivation of the Windeyer Estate land established the development on the banks of the Hunter River further north from the Newcastle settlement. The subsequent subdivision of the estate in 1939 illustrates the desire for further settlement in the area.
- Part of the subject site is notable for an association with World War II defences of significant industries located at Newcastle. The anti-aircraft battery site with the Stockton links Battery and other local Batteries built the year previous provided back-up defence for the Permanent Batteries along the Coast. All sites combined with the greater defence system of the Newcastle area in the protection of defence-related industries including the BHP Steelworks, the NSW State Dockyard, the Rutherford Munitions Factory, as well as the RAAF Base at Williamtown.
- The associated ammunition magazines illustrate the use of the site for anti-aircraft defence.

- The access road into the anti-aircraft site is of some significance as a component of the WWII development of the site. The route is extant although only possible for four wheel drive and still in use today for access into the anti-aircraft site from Tomago Road.
- The place is intimately associated with the Windeyer family and Tomago House.
- The place has an association with Toocooyoo, the Aboriginal Chief of Tomago.
- The place has association with former military personnel who manned the gun emplacements.

Aesthetic And Technical Significance

Criterion (c) An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area).

- The remains of the gun emplacements, command post and ammunition magazines illustrate the technical achievement of WWII structures used for anti-aircraft warfare.

Social Significance

Criterion (d) An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

- The place has social significance to the former Military Personnel who manned the Gun Emplacements.

Research Significance

Criterion (e) An item has the potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

- The site has the potential to reveal significant and further information regarding air defence of the country during WWII.
- Archaeological potential across isolated areas of the site, for earlier domestic and rural life, the extent of the Windeyer Estate particularly around Tomago House, and for remains related to military occupation and national defence. The main gun emplacements and command post were at the centre of a defensive complex, which included ammunition magazines, stores and a workshop.

Areas of archaeological potential identified in a desktop assessment¹⁰⁰ include:

- Two low to moderately sensitive belts of housing along Tomago Road to the north-east and south-west of Tomago House;
- A highly sensitive area associated with the Tomago Estate village, immediately to the west of Tomago House;
- A highly sensitive stable site immediately to the north-east of Tomago House;
- A highly sensitive military road running through the centre of the site;
- An area of high sensitivity covering the western half of the anti-aircraft battery site, and
- A scattering of house sites of nil to low sensitivity across the area.

¹⁰⁰ Northbank Enterprise Hub, Tomago: Historical Archaeological Desktop Assessment and Sensitivity Mapping. Stanmore: Austral Archaeology Pty Ltd, July 2011, pp. li, 41-45.

Rarity Significance

Criterion (f) An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

- The remains of the anti-aircraft gun emplacements, control centre and associated ammunition storage facilities, together with access road, represent a WWII defence site surviving in its original layout.
- The anti-aircraft gun emplacements, command post and ammunition magazines appear to be typical in their construction material, being of brick and reinforced concrete as shown by other examples known to exist within New South Wales, and at other Australian locations.

Representative Significance

Criterion (g) An item is important in demonstrating the principle characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments (or a class of the local area's cultural places; or cultural or natural environments).

- The military fabric on the site is representative of air defence during WWII.

6.3 HISTORICAL THEMES

A historical theme is described by the NSW Heritage Branch as a major force or process that has contributed to our history. Themes may be identified as specific to state areas or local area. Themes can also reflect function. Historical themes specific to the assessment of the subject site are listed below in the following table:

State Theme	Association
Environment naturally evolved	Swamps which influenced human life and cultures
Aboriginal cultures and interaction with other cultures	Windeyer family association with the Aboriginal Chief Toocooyoo
Agriculture	Cultivation of paddocks during farming period
Environment Cultural landscape	Construction of channels to drain swamp
Industry	Buffer zone for Tomago Aluminium smelter
Pastoralism	Grazing cattle, agistment of horses
Accommodation	Links to Tomago House, farmhouses
Land Tenure	Roads identifying allotment boundaries of subdivision
Defence	Military occupation during World War II Construction of anti-aircraft battery and associated structures
Religion	Windeyer family chapel adjacent to site
Persons	Members of Windeyer family Former Military Personnel who manned the Gun Emplacements

6.4 INTEGRITY

The state of the extant WWII fabric, its condition and its location, supported by the documentary evidence of the place, allows for a sound assessment of significance of the military-related use of the site, at least within a State context. The reluctance of the military to remove the structures after their vacation of the site, due likely to the cost of removal, has allowed the bulk of the masonry fabric to remain as it was left, over 65 years ago; although significant collapse has occurred. With further clearing of substantial overgrowth on the site, more thorough inspection of fabric will allow further assessment against national listing criteria and other known anti-aircraft battery sites.

6.5 GRADING OF SIGNIFICANCE

Due to the isolation and lack of development on the site since the end of WWII, the military fabric retains a level of intactness. The representativeness of these items further supports an assignment of an HIGH grade of significance for this WWII fabric.

Sites of existing cottages (and potential archaeological relics) relating to the Windeyer Estate and its subsequent subdivision are assessed as having a moderate grade of significance. The former cottages believed to have been extant during the Windeyer period contribute little to the overall significance of the former estate. The remains of these cottages would not have any intuitive interpretive heritage value for the public in relation to Tomago House.

6.6 LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

The integrity and representativeness of the WWII relics provides the site with a State level of significance, for the following reasons:

- The place contains a group of structures typical in their construction material, being of brick and reinforced concrete as shown by other examples known to exist within New South Wales, and at other Australian locations known to exist elsewhere in NSW.
- The fabric retains a High level of intactness.

The adjacent sites of Tomago House and Tomago Chapel currently exist as State significant items. It must however be noted that the current Conservation Management Plan for the place (2001) does not detail the significance of a curtilage for the place.

6.7 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the subject site is summarised as follows:

Value of Significance	Grade of Significance	Level of Significance	Degree of Significance
Historical	High	State	representative
Aesthetic	High	State	representative
Research	High	State	representative
Social	n/a	n/a	n/a

6.8 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Site described as Lot 1 DP 1127780 Tomago Road Tomago NSW was originally part of a vast tract of land acquired by Sydney barrister Richard Windeyer in the late 1830's as a family rural estate. The Windeyer Family occupied, drained and developed the site as a productive farm and vineyard over three generations, resulting in built fabric that included a substantial sandstone homestead with brick servants quarters, associated farm buildings, a chapel and a school. Only the homestead, servants quarters and chapel remain. Subdivision of the Estate in 1939 saw the end of occupation by a family prominent in the politico-legal circles in NSW. The subdivided lots of the Tomago Estate, adjacent to the Hunter River, were productive dairy, grazing and agricultural (including turf) farms for approximately 40 years, eventually falling into disuse following the establishment of the Tomago Aluminium Smelter nearby.

In addition to its significant pioneering rural and domestic history the site is of some note for its association with the World War I anti aircraft defences of significant industries located in Newcastle. Occupation of the site by the Australian Military between 1941 and 1945 saw the construction of an anti-aircraft battery and associated support structures in 1943. The anti-aircraft battery provided back-up for the heavy anti-aircraft battery at Stockton and helped to protect the defence related sites in the Newcastle, Maitland and Port

Stephens area, including the BHP Steelworks, the State Dockyard on Walsh Island, the Rutherford Munitions Factory, as well as the RAAF Base at Williamstown. Deteriorated fabric including, masonry and concrete, gun emplacements, command post and ammunition magazines are extant, providing representative evidence of the defence of the lower Hunter Valley area and of Australia during WW II.

The Tomago Anti-Aircraft Battery site is of State heritage significance for its surviving gun emplacements, command post and associated ammunition magazines, together with the original track access, which as a group represent a surviving WWII defence site in its original layout in NSW, and Australia. The group of structures and fabric does contribute to a broader group of known WWII defence and anti-aircraft sites within the NSW defence area known as 'Fortress NSW', which extended from Port Kembla in the south to Port Stephens in the north and Lithgow to the west. The site also adds to the known number of extant anti-aircraft battery sites in NSW and Australia, particularly the similar sites, north of Stockton and Wangi Ridge at Lake Macquarie to the south.

7. PROPOSED WORKS¹⁰¹

The proposed development is for an industrial and business park subdivision and associated filling and earthworks, roads and services to be known as the Northbank Enterprise Hub.

The proposed development is for the following:

1. To fill the majority of the site to the 1:100 year flood level.
2. A subdivision of the land for the purpose of an industrial and business park estate. The design of the subdivision is intended to provide flexibility for future occupants of the site (currently unknown).
3. The provision of two (2) new intersections from Tomago Road and a new internal road network to access all allotments.
4. The provision of new servicing to the land including the relocation of the existing power lines that traverse the site along a portion of the Tomago Road frontage.
5. New drainage and water quality management infrastructure.
6. The provision of a constructed wetland at the southern section of the site.
7. New landscaping throughout the site including public open space areas at the south western, north western (adjacent to Tomago house) and southern sections of the site. The public open space area towards the southern boundary has been designed to retain four (4) former WWII anti aircraft gun emplacements and an underground command post.

¹⁰¹ Description of the proposal provided by ADW Johnson



8. STATEMENT OF HERITAGE IMPACT

This is the Statement of Heritage Impact for:	Subdivision of land described as Lot 1 DP 1127780 Tomago Road, Tomago NSW 2322.
Date:	This statement was completed in July 2011
Prepared by:	EJE Architecture (Barney Collins B.Sc.(Arch.),B.Arch. B.Sc.(Arch.)(Cons.) & Shea Brunt B.Env.Sc.(Management), D. Campbell), 412 King Street Newcastle, NSW 2300, (ph) 49292353.
Prepared for:	ADWJohnson , 7/335 Hillsborough Road, Warners Bay NSW 2282, (02) 4978 5100, contact: Craig Marler, as agent for Northbank Enterprise Hub Pty Ltd.

The material upon which this statement has been based includes the following:

- Sutera Architects Sketch design, subdivision plan, received 1st December 2010
- Terras Landscape Architects Sketch design for 'Gunner Park' received 7th December 2010
- Heritas Architecture, Draft Heritage Assessment and Impact Statement December 2010 Issue B Second Draft provided by Heritas Architecture (Linda Babic, B.A., B.Arch., M.Herit.Cons.)

The following aspects of the proposal respect or enhance the heritage significance of the items for the following reasons:

- Extension of the curtilage of Tomago House and outbuildings to incorporate its chapel and the site of its stables will create a buffer zone between the heritage items and the Northbank Enterprise Hub. This curtilage will not exclude the possibility of sympathetic and appropriate development that would maintain the viability of the site for present and future generations. A number of options might be considered. (For example, the provision of accommodation would support the current use of Tomago House and its chapel for weddings and other functions. Persons associated with the Tomago aluminium smelter and the expanding airport might also make use of such accommodation). These activities would publicise the existence of Tomago House, draw members of the public and create sustainable uses for the heritage items. It would also provide income for the conservation and maintenance of those items.

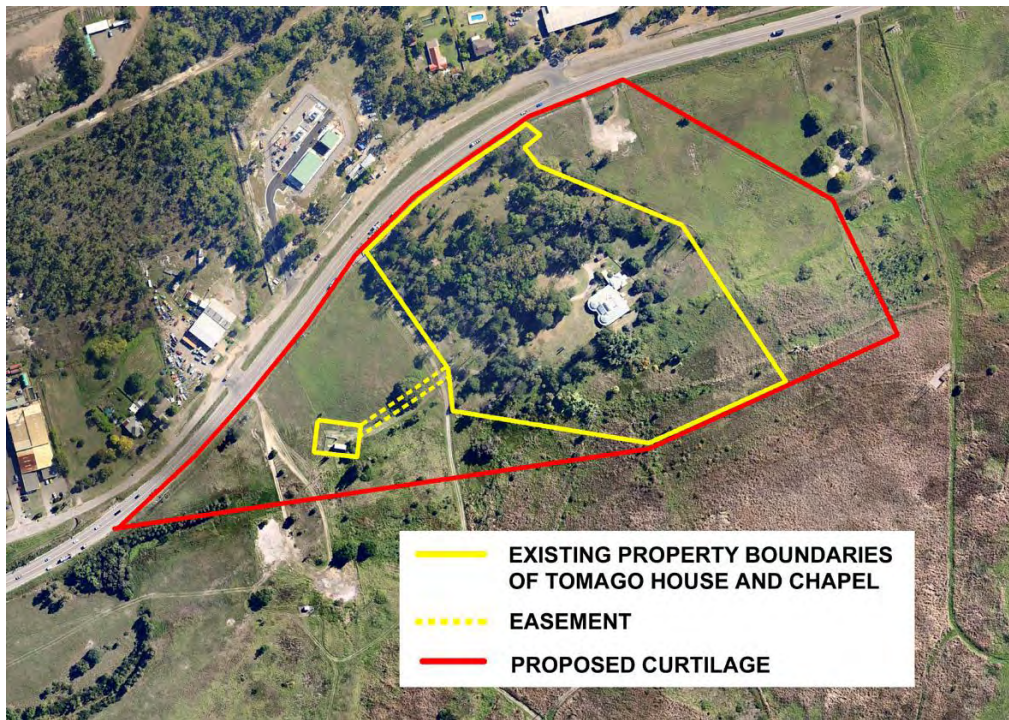


Figure 8.1 Proposed extensions to the curtilage of Tomago House, Chapel and stables site. Existing property boundaries, together with the easement between the house and chapel, are also shown.

- The subdivision allows for a green corridor of viewing and access between Tomago House and the Hunter River. This encourages retention of a vista between the river and Tomago House, which would have originally been a main access to the Estate.
- The proposed development includes for the retention and promotion of the gun emplacements and command post as a pocket park, including interpretive elements. It is proposed that the ammunition magazines remain in-situ and be protected as archaeological relics below the intended fill level of the development. It must be noted that the site is flood prone and zoned for Industrial Uses. The development proposal includes filling the site to above the 1:100 year flood level, which will allow the site to be drained and public and private access to be safely managed. The use of the place through public access will encourage a greater understanding of Tomago House, the Chapel and the WWII defence site.
- Provision of a green buffer zone around Tomago House will reduce the visual impact of buildings within the Industrial Zoned land.
- Public access to the overall site and to the protected wetlands will be improved.
- The Archaeological Assessment makes clear the statutorily-mandated action that is to occur if any archaeological relic is discovered.¹⁰² The archaeologically sensitive areas are grouped within three classifications:¹⁰³
 - The scattered house sites on the flood plain, of nil to low sensitivity, will generally be protected by the progressive filling of those areas.

¹⁰² *Northbank Enterprise Hub, Tomago: Historical Archaeological Desktop Assessment and Sensitivity Mapping*, pp. 41-46.

¹⁰³ *Ibid*, pp. 41-45.

- The housing belts along Tomago Road, of low to moderate sensitivity, will generally not be filled as they are on comparatively higher ground.
- The site of the estate village to the west of Tomago House, the stable site and the western half of the anti-aircraft battery site, all of high sensitivity, will be treated in different ways. The stable site and most of the Tomago Estate village site will be incorporated within the proposed extended curtilage of Tomago House. The western half of the battery site will form the basis of Gunners' Park. The military road, located in a low-lying area, will be protected by progressive filling. All these areas of high sensitivity will, therefore, be protected.

The following aspects of the proposal could detrimentally impact on the heritage significance of the item:

- The visual link between Tomago House and Tomago Chapel can potentially be modified by future development. These two items are intimately connected. This connection needs to be respected in all future development in the vicinity of the House and Chapel.
- Views of the protected wetlands and Hunter River from Tomago House will be changed, with public vantage points being brought closer. The proposed sub-division must provide for the continued protection and understanding of the importance of these protected wetlands.

The following sympathetic solutions have been considered and discounted for the following reasons:

- Retention and conservation and access of and to the existing ammunition magazines at their existing levels was considered but discounted as their spacing and level on flood prone land presents a significant loss of potential developable industrial land zoned by the NSW Government as important for the future of the economy of the Hunter Valley, the State of NSW and Australia. It is considered that retaining the ammunition magazines as archaeological relics below the fill level and their interpretation at "Gunners Park" will sufficiently respect this short lived WWII defence facility as a group.

8.1 SUMMARY STATEMENT OF HERITAGE IMPACT

The development of the Tomago area as a significant Industrial Zone for the State of NSW has been predicated since the 1970's. While the realisation of this Zone and Use will change the visual rural setting south and east of Tomago House and Chapel and modify the topography and former use of land adjoining the Hunter River, it is considered that Tomago House and its Chapel will benefit significantly from the local economic stimulus. The proposed development will allow Tomago House and its Chapel to benefit from the increased business and financial activities on the surrounding sites.

The Development will focus public and private attention on the extant heritage items and further will allow the WWII anti-aircraft battery site and its surviving fabric to be brought into the attention of the public, which to date has never been afforded. The raising of the land and managed drainage systems will protect the battery site from flooding and make it available for public visitation and interpretation.

The overall impact on the listed heritage items and the WWII Anti-Aircraft Battery will be positive, provided, as shown by the Suters/Terras sketch designs and sub-division plan, the

heritage items and heritage fabric identified are respected and incorporated as an integral part of the site and design outcomes for the full program of development.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the assessment of the place, the following recommendations are made in respect of the management of significant fabric on the site.

9.1 Reveal Heritage Items

Clear the overgrowth for more adequate physical assessment of each known item, including draining of the flooded battery command post; this will allow detailed design development of 'Gunners' Park' to proceed.

9.2 Assess and Interpret the Fabric

Review the assessment of significant fabric that remains hidden, against criteria for state and national heritage significance and incorporate such findings into an overall heritage interpretation strategy for the site. Amendments to the proposed subdivision layout as the design concepts develop must continue to respect the significance of the WWII fabric as a group of items. Although the gun emplacements and command post were the 'core' of the anti-aircraft battery, the additional supporting structures on the site makes the group significant in the NSW context. Their interpretation must form part of the overall interpretation of the heritage of the site and its adjoining heritage items.

9.2.1 Magazines

It is proposed to dedicate the curtilage of the anti-aircraft artillery site as a public park, to be known as Gunner's Park in commemoration of the wartime role of the artillery battery. The site is not currently known to the general public, and has consequently not yet been subjected to much damage or anti-social activity. This situation may change as the surrounding undergrowth is cleared. The magazines, which are subsidiary to the gun position itself, are to be buried in filling the surrounding land to a 1 in 100-year flood level and therefore concealed from view. This will protect them from accidental or deliberate structural damage as well as from vandalism and other anti-social conduct.

Although burial will protect the relics, it is important that their sites be marked and interpreted in their individual contexts as well as in their wider relationship with the gun position. Each magazine should be suitably marked at ground level. These markers should, within a military theme, reflect the design and fabric of the structures while providing information as to their function, significance and role.

9.2.2 Gunners' Park

It is proposed to conserve and maintain the fabric of the gun position itself, including the gun emplacements, Command Post and Director Post. The site should be cleared of undergrowth; a drainage plan should be re-established; gun pintle lugs and their base plates should be stabilised and conserved; the emplacements themselves should be stabilised, repaired as necessary and conserved. Access steps should be made safe for public use in providing access to the relics. There are few barriers to disabled access to the gun position. It is recommended that a central interpretative marker, the design and fabric of which should reflect an artillery theme, should be placed near the Command Post. This should provide information as to the history and nature of the entire site, including the relationships between all the extant visible and invisible relics.

9.3 Monitor the Effects of Development

As development proceeds in the vicinity of Tomago House and the Chapel it must respect the historic visual and cultural link between them. Development will potentially enhance the relationship between the State of NSW and these important heritage items. All care must be taken to ensure their integration into the proposed future uses of the surrounding locality.

9.3.1 View Corridors for Tomago House and Chapel

View corridors associated with the house and chapel are currently constrained by several factors, involving the nature of access to Crown land and private land as well as plantings near the house. Tomago Road is a thoroughfare accessible to the public as of right, whereas other land in the vicinity is in private hands. The house is visible from the road in only two places; in others, views are obscured by trees. The chapel is much more easily visible; yet it is not obvious that the two items are associated with one another. Other places from views of the house can be obtained are situated on private land to which public access is not available.

The subdivision proposal, far from reducing view opportunities, will actually increase them. The new roads to be built within the subdivision will greatly add to these opportunities, as land previously denied to public entry will be opened to it.

Tomago House and its chapel currently occupy separate Lots with no common boundary. The sites are linked only by a narrow easement, the Lots to either side of which are not owned by the National Trust as proprietor of the sites. Conceivably, development could take place on these Lots, obstructing view corridors between the house and the chapel. To remedy this, it is proposed to increase the curtilage of the house to the west and south-west to take in the chapel and the land between the house boundary and the nearest planned access road.

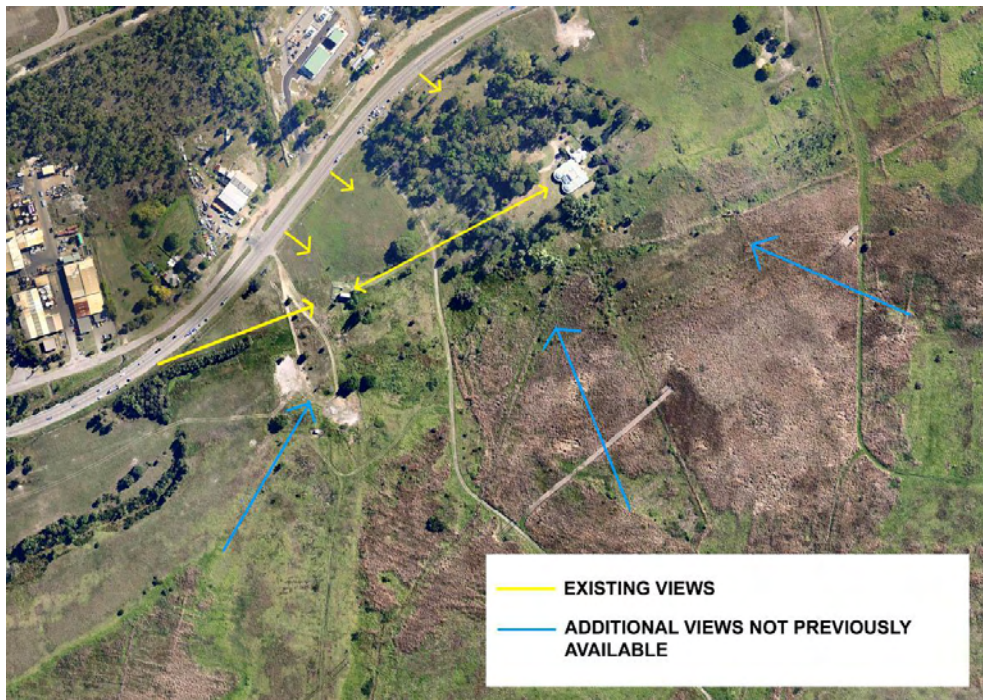


Figure 8.2. Views of the house may currently be had from Tomago Road; further views will be opened by development of the Enterprise Hub.

9.3.2 Historic Landscape

Heritage plantings near Tomago House and its chapel are concentrated within the existing property boundary of the house itself, together with a smaller area to the south which is not within the boundary. The proposed extension of the curtilage will incorporate these plantings. The extension to the south-west will incorporate a single tree, significant because of its considerable size and age.

The landscape surrounding the place has long been the subject of change. While the Windeyer family drained the previously waterlogged area so as to use it for farming, with cessation of this activity the drainage channels fell into decay and the land began to return to its original state. The present condition of the land no longer reflects its historical associations; the proposed

development, therefore, does not have any impact upon these apart from increasing the height of the surrounding land to a 1 in 100-year flood level. This has the potential to affect heritage values of the house and chapel. To safeguard against this, it is proposed to treat and disguise the sides of the embankment with appropriate plantings. It is proposed, also, to extend the setback of any development on the Lot immediately to the north-east of Tomago House. Extension of the curtilage to the southern access road will allow a buffer consisting of the width of the road plus the standard setback of development addressing it. Extension of the curtilage to incorporate the chapel will create a buffer appropriate to the heritage values of that building.

The Tomago area is currently subject to flooding. Filling of the development site to a 1 in 100-year flood level will not, therefore, expose Tomago House and its chapel to a greater risk of flooding. Indeed, the increased height of the surrounding land, together with base and camber of Tomago Road, may actually reduce vulnerability.

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11. APPENDIX A: HERITAGE LISTING INVENTORY SHEETS

“Tomago House and Tomago Chapel” (State significant)
State significant listed on the State Heritage Register (NSW Heritage Act 1977)

“Tomago House and its Landscape Setting”
listed as having State significance under the Port Stephens Local Environmental Plan

“Tomago House including Grounds and Trees and Chapel”
Classified by National Trust of Australia

Our ref: 8529 Tomago Masterplan
Date: 23 April 2012

Mr Mathew Radnidge
ADW Johnson – Hunter Office
7/335 Hillsborough Road
WARNERS BAY NSW 2282

ATTENTION: Mr Mathew Radnidge

Dear Mathew,

RE: Comments as to Adequacy of Environmental Assessment for Northbank Enterprise Hub, Tomago

Reference is made to the above the above comments, as detailed in correspondence from Chris Wilson of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure and from Vincent Sicari of the Heritage Council.

Chris Wilson's letter states that the Department considers the Environmental Assessment to be adequate for exhibition, subject to the addressing of the Director General's Requirements as set out at Attachment 1. One of these concerns a Historic Heritage Assessment, which must provide a clear statement with regard to the impact of the proposal on the significance of all identified heritage items, including Tomago House and chapel (SHR listed) and its surrounding landscape (LEP listed).

EJE considers that this requirement has already been met within the Heritage Assessment and Statement of Heritage Impact prepared by EJE in July 2011. The following sections of the document specifically address the relevant Requirement:

- (a) 6.8 Statement of Significance;
- (b) 7.0 Proposed Works;
- (c) 8.0 Statement of Heritage Impact;
- (d) 8.1 Summary Statement of Heritage Impact; and
- (e) 9.0 Recommendations for Management of Significant Fabric.

Vincent Sicari's letter concerns the draft Statement of Commitments regarding European Heritage and Historical Archaeology located in and around the major project site. The Heritage Council considers these to be adequate, so long as four additional commitments are added.

EJE considers three of these four to be appropriate. The exception is the requirement that the Heritage Interpretation Strategy be in place within one year of determination of major project approval. EJE believes such a commitment to be impractical, considering the relatively long time span over which the project is to progress. The speed at which the project proceeds is dependent upon several factors, not the least of which is the speed of take-up and development of individual sites by purchasers. This will be influenced by economic conditions and relevant approval processes.

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While the desirability of a set timeframe for implementation of the Heritage Interpretation Strategy is acknowledged, it is suggested that a limit of five (5) years is more appropriate.

Yours faithfully
EJE HERITAGE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barney Collins'.

Barney Collins
Director
Heritage Architect
BsC (Arch) (Hons) Msc (Arch)(Cons)