

Item name: Dungog Dairymen's and Farmer's Milk And Ice Company**Location:** 291 Dowling Street Dungog 2420

Dungog

Address: 291 Dowling Street**Planning:** Hunter & Central Coast**Suburb/nearest town:** Dungog 2420**Local govt area:** Dungog**Parish:****State:** NSW**County:****Other/former names:****Area/group/complex:****Group ID:****Aboriginal area:****Curtilage/boundary:****Item type:** Archaeological-Terrestrial**Group:****Category:** Factory/ Plant**Owner:****Admin codes:****Code 2:****Code 3:****Current use:** Norco Rural Store**Former uses:** Milk and ice factory**Assessed significance:** Local**Endorsed significance:**

Statement of significance: The study site contains the potential for archaeological remains pertaining to an early 20th century dairy factory, which is considered to be of potential local (or less) archaeological significance. The site represents the development of the dairy industry within the city centre of Dungog.

The Dairymen's and Farmer's Milk and Ice Company, located on Dowling Street (or Stroud Hill Road), is representative of the growing trend of cooperative companies within the dairy industry at Dungog during the early 20th century. The company also significantly demonstrates the changing nature of agricultural and pastoralism methods in the greater Dungog region, in direct correlation with consumer needs and environmental conditions between the 19th and 20th centuries. The shift from tobacco and wheat growing to dairy farming was a change undertaken by many farmers across the entirety of Dungog, due to the failing quality of tobacco and wheat crops, alongside the fact that dairy farming produced more regular payments to farmers and their families.

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Historical notes of provenance: By the second half of the 19th century, the greater area of Dungog experienced a significant shift concerning the main sources of income production for the community. Initially focused on tobacco production, wheat growing and sheep rearing during the first half of the 19th century, these agricultural exploits had predominantly dried up or relocated to more prominent and better suited inland areas.¹ As the community required more agricultural enterprises in order to sufficiently survive, a heavy shift in focus towards dairying and the production of milk by-products quickly became one of the largest and valued business enterprises to the Dungog region.

At the turn of the 20th century, a large number of milk factories, creameries and butter factories were being established in the town centre of Dungog to take advantage of the demands of the dairy industry. The establishment of the North Coast railway during the early 20th century can be considered the main reason as to why so many companies chose to centre themselves at Dungog, as rail was considerably faster than transport by river. The Dungog Dairymen's and Farmer's Milk and Ice Company selected the study site as the rear of the property backed onto the train line, therefore allowing workers to offload stock directly from their site through a ramp rather than having to transfer goods.² The Dungog Cooperative Dairy Factory and the Dungog Cooperative Butter Factory also utilised this same principle, having taken advantage of their position further along Stroud Hill Road.

At the time of opening, Mr Horace Burrows was manager of the factory.³ The company stated that it sold milk exclusively to Sydney, rather than trying to compete for suppliers in the Dungog region and nearby Newcastle areas. While this sale method was initially effective, by the late 1920s the Dungog factory was beginning to lose profit margins and was barely breaking even each year.⁴ This may have been caused by retailers in Sydney choosing to find local suppliers to reduce delivery and waiting times. The company shut down in approximately 1930-1932, as the monetary losses from the factory outweighed its worth.

1 "Vacy Creamery", Paterson River History, online resource accessed 2nd March 2013
<http://www.patersonriver.com.au/places/vacycreamery.htm>

2 The Dungog Chronicle (1st August 1913).

3 Sydney Morning Herald (31st May 1917), p. 5.

4 Sydney Morning Herald (17th February 1926), p. 17.

Themes:	National theme	State theme	Local theme
	3. Economy	Agriculture	
	3. Economy	Industry	

Designer:

Builder:

Year started: 1911

Year completed: 1913

Circa: Yes

Physical description: The study site is located on the southern side of Dowling Street, whereby it joins with Stroud Hill road and has the North Coast railway running through the rear of the property. The site is currently used as a rural store by the Norco company and the buildings are weatherboard and timber cladding. It is not known whether any of the buildings constructed for use by the Dairymen's and Farmer's Milk and Ice Company still stand.

Physical condition level:

Physical condition: The site currently contains three buildings owned and used by Norco. Based on the original construction date of the milk factory and the site's subsequent use, it can be suggested that there exists a low to moderate potential for archaeological features and evidence pertaining to the use of the site as a milk factory. Archaeological evidence may be found in the form of footings for walls (if the current standing buildings are not the original buildings), occupation deposits pertaining to the industrial use of the site as a milk factory, and rubbish pits associated with discard and waste from industrial processes. Documentary evidence infers that a greater part of the milk factory burnt down during the 1940s however it is not known whether the rest of the buildings were demolished or retained and repaired for its current occupation.

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**Archaeological
potential level:**

**Archaeological
potential Detail:**

Modification dates:

Recommended management: Prior to the approval of any development of the study location an archaeological assessment and, if appropriate, relevant endorsements from the Heritage Branch should be sought where archaeological remains may be affected. Assessment of the site should be made prior to impact or disturbance being made to the current ground level surface.

Management: **Management category**

Management name

Further comments:

Criteria a): The site holds local historical significance as it signifies the economic development of Dungog at the turn of the 20th century. Having been established as a cooperative, the Dungog Dairymen's and Farmer's Milk and Ice Company is an example of a congregation of local farmers and business enterprises in and around Dungog, creating a company which benefits a large number of individuals.
[Historical significance]

Criteria b):
[Historical association significance]

Criteria c): Archaeological site and this criteria does not apply.
[Aesthetic/ Technical significance]

Criteria d): The study site may hold some local significance to the residents of Dungog. This may include descendants and workers of the factory.
[Social/Cultural significance]

Criteria e):
[Research significance]

Criteria f): It can be suggested that the presence of a dairy factory on the study site is not considered rare or uncommon to this area. Many dairy factories were operating around the Dungog region during this time as agricultural ventures were readily progressing in this direction. This subsequently resulted in many small scale butter and dairy factory sites opening and operating to keep up with the new production demands.
[Rarity]

Criteria g): The dairy factory owned and occupied by the Dungog Dairymen's and Farmer's Milk and Ice Company is representative of the economic change to the greater area of Dungog at the turn of the 20th century. Based on the nature of the surrounding environment, along with the capability of production turn over, it appears that a shift from tobacco and wheat growing to the dairy industry was a change welcomed by many individuals. The study site can be considered to be of local significance under this criterion.
[Representative]

Intactness/Integrity: Archaeological: Extent of archaeological remains and their integrity is unknown.

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References:	Author	Title	Year
	Caste Studio Pty Ltd: Williams, Micha	A History of Three Rivers. Dungog Shire Heritage Study- Ther	2012
	Walsh, Brian	"Vacy Creamery" in Paterson River History	2013
	Sydney Morning Herald	"Dungog"17th February 1926	1926
	Dungog Chronicle	1st August 1913	1913
	Sydney Morning Herald	31st May 1917	1917

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Carste Studio	Dungog Heritage Study Review		2013

Parcels:	Parcel code	Lot number	Section number	Plan code	Plan number
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Latitude:

Longitude:

Location validity:

Spatial accuracy:

Map name:

Map scale:

AMG zone:

Easting:

Northing:

Listing: Name

Title
Heritage study

Number

ListingDate

Data entry: Data first entered: 18/04/2013

Data updated: 19/11/2013

Status: Partial

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Image:



Caption: Dungog Dairymen's and Farmer's Milk And Ice Company - Study site from across the road

Copy right:

Image by: AMAC

Image date:

Image number:

Image url: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/3456ca140a29443453696a035d173463a51.jpg>

Thumbnail url: http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/Thumb_test3456ca140a29443453696a035d173463a51.jpg

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Image:



Caption: Dungog Dairymen's and Farmer's Milk And Ice Company - section of site at east

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Image by: AMAC

Image date:

Image number:

Image url: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/345899b1e152e59441d908c55d8b7798b63.jpg>

Thumbnail url: http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/Thumb_test345899b1e152e59441d908c55d8b7798b63.jpg

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Image:



Caption: Dungog Dairymen's and Farmer's Milk And Ice Company - current buildings

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Image url: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/345b1b0f42a40a2446ba77a7d219e78a931.jpg>

Thumbnail url: http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/Thumb_test345b1b0f42a40a2446ba77a7d219e78a931.jpg

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Image:



Caption: Dungog Dairymen's and Farmer's Milk And Ice Company - edge of site closest to road

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Image by: AMAC

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Image number:

Image url: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/345efa44c38e43547fdab35f459b72d29f8.jpg>

Thumbnail url: http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/Thumb_test345efa44c38e43547fdab35f459b72d29f8.jpg

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Image:



Caption: Dungog Dairymen's and Farmer's Milk And Ice Company - rear of the site and rail line

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Image by: AMAC

Image date:

Image number:

Image url: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/345986e2a8eb8a54d0788ca120af3f050ed.jpg>

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