

# MUSWELLBROOK HERITAGE STUDY

## Inventory 1996

### CREEK SHALE MINE AND RETORT - BAERAMI

<p><b>PRESENT NAME</b> <i>Baerami Shale Mine</i></p> <p><b>PREVIOUS/OTHER NAMES</b> <i>R and R Retort</i></p>	<p><b>REFERENCE No</b> <i>BAER/R005</i></p> <p><b>PREVIOUS REFERENCE No</b></p> <p><b>DATE INSPECTED</b> <i>13th February 1996</i></p>
<p><b>LOCATION</b></p> <p><b>STREET No STREET NAME</b> <i>Baerami Creek Road</i></p> <p><b>TOWN/SUBURB</b> <i>Baerami</i> <b>POSTCODE</b> <i>2328</i></p> <p><b>LOCALITY</b> <i>Baerami (Wollemi National Park)</i></p> <p><b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA</b> <i>MUSWELLBROOK</i></p>	<p><b>SITE SKETCH PLAN</b></p>
<p><b>PRESENT OWNER</b> <i>National Parks and Wildlife Service</i> <b>TYPE</b> <i>Federal Government</i></p> <p><b>OWNERS ADDRESS</b> <i>Upper Hunter District</i></p> <p><b>STREET No STREET NAME</b></p> <p><b>TOWN/SUBURB</b> <i>Muswellbrook</i> <b>POSTCODE</b> <i>2333</i></p>	<p><b>PROPERTY DETAILS:</b></p> <p><b>a REAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION</b> <i>N/A</i></p> <p><b>b SITE AREA</b> <i>N/A</i></p> <p><b>c EXISTING ZONING</b> <i>N/A</i></p>
<p><b>CATEGORY</b> <i>Area</i></p> <p><b>SUB CATEGORY</b> <i>Mine Refinery</i></p> <p><b>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION</b> <i>1925, 1937, 1941</i></p> <p><b>ARCHITECT/DESIGNER</b> <i>Unknown</i></p> <p><b>BUILDER</b> <i>Shale and Oil Products Co. Op. Ltd. / Standard Oil Co. of Australia</i></p>	<p><b>MAP REFERENCE</b> <i>N/A</i></p>

**PHOTOGRAPH**



<b>HERITAGE LISTING</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> REGISTER OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE (AHC) - REGISTERED <input type="checkbox"/> REGISTER OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE OF AUST. (AHC) - INTERIM <input type="checkbox"/> REGISTER OF NATIONAL TRUST (NSW) <input type="checkbox"/> REGISTER OF SIGNIFICANT TWENTIETH CENT. ARCHITECTURE (RAIA) <input type="checkbox"/> DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS HERITAGE AND CONS. REGISTER <input type="checkbox"/> COMMONWEALTH HISTORIC SHIPWRECKS ACT (DECLARED SITE) <input type="checkbox"/> HERITAGE COUNCIL REGISTER - PERMANENT CONS. ORDER <input type="checkbox"/> HERITAGE COUNCIL REGISTER - INTERIM CONS. ORDER <input type="checkbox"/> HERITAGE COUNCIL REGISTER - SECTION 130 ORDER <input type="checkbox"/> HERITAGE COUNCIL REGISTER - NOMINATION <input type="checkbox"/> NSW GOVT DEPT HERITAGE REGISTER (S170 HERITAGE ACT) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NP&WS HISTORIC SITES REGISTER <input type="checkbox"/> NP&WS ABORIGINAL SITES REGISTER (CONTACT SITES) <input type="checkbox"/> INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS (NSW) HERITAGE REGISTER <input type="checkbox"/> EXISTING HERITAGE STUDY (WRITE NAME BELOW) <input type="checkbox"/> REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN HERITAGE SCHEDULE <input type="checkbox"/> LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN HERITAGE SCHEDULE <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER	<b>HISTORICAL PERIOD</b>  <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">PERIOD</th> <th style="text-align: center;">BUILT</th> <th style="text-align: center;">USED</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>PRE 1800</td><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>1800 - 1825</td><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>1826 - 1850</td><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>1851 - 1875</td><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>1876 - 1900</td><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>1901 - 1925</td><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>1926 - 1950</td><td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>1951 - 1975</td><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>POST 1975</td><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <b>HISTORICAL THEMES</b>  <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">S.H.I.P. THEMES</th> <th style="text-align: left;">LOCAL THEMES</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Industry</td> <td>Shale Mining in the Upper Hunter</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	PERIOD	BUILT	USED	PRE 1800	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1800 - 1825	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1826 - 1850	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1851 - 1875	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1876 - 1900	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1901 - 1925	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1926 - 1950	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1951 - 1975	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	POST 1975	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	S.H.I.P. THEMES	LOCAL THEMES	Industry	Shale Mining in the Upper Hunter
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<b>HISTORICAL NOTES</b>  <p>The oil shale of Bream was discovered about 1910 but was not exploited until the 1930s. The Standard Oil Company of Australia (formed 1922) was involved in the extraction of petrol shale at Baerami from 1938. It extracted about 4 million tons of shale which was treated in the retorts at Sandy Hollow (see Item No. SAND/R001) before being railed away. Petrol was not of best quality but valuable during the war. One "R and R" type Retort as a commercial size, pilot plant was erected on the valley floor below Jaeger's mine in 1941. A fractionising and distilling plant was erected during 1942 to treat the crude oil from this retort. The retorts installed at Sandy Hollow were not of this type. Plant demolished after auction sales in 1946-47.</p>																																			
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<b>INFORMATION SOURCES</b>  WRITTEN <i>Baerami Oil Shale Mine - A Conservation and Development Plan for NPWS, NSW, J. Egloff, D. Merd and B. Egloff, AnvTech Pty Ltd, Canberra.</i> ORAL GRAPHIC																																			
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<b>STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE</b>  <p><i>Historically significant at a state level as the location of an oil shale extracting and distillation operation related to Australia's World War II petroleum needs. Scientifically significant at a state level as probably the only intact example of an "R and R" type roasting / distillation retort and for its potential to reveal information which could contribute to a greater understanding of such retorts.</i></p>																																			