MUSWELLBROOK HERITAGE STUDY Inventory 1996

'BENGALLA' - MUSWELLBROOK

REFERENCE No BENG/R002 PRESENT NAME Bengalla PREVIOUS REFERENCE No MUSW/R028 - Hunter REP PREVIOUS/OTHER NAMES 'Inglebrae' Sch. 4 Review DATE INSPECTED 22nd February 1996 SITE SKETCH PLAN III LOCATION STREET No 183 STREET NAME Bengalla Road TOWN/SUBURB Muswellbrook POSTCODE 2333 LOCALITY Bengalla LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA MUSWELLBROOK TYPE Private PROPERTY DETAILS: REAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION Psh Clannicard Lot 22 DP77675 SITE AREA **EXISTING ZONING** 1(a) - Rural 'A', and 7(L1) - Environment Protection -Alluvial Areas '56' 297400E, 6426580N AMG MAP REFERENCE CATEGORY Building(s) Muswellbrook 9033-II-N SUB CATEGORY Homestead; Stable; Garden; Farm Cottage DATE OF CONSTRUCTION c.1877 ARCHITECT/DESIGNER Unknown BUILDER J.H. Keys

PHOTOGRAPH



HERITAGE LISTING HISTORICAL PERIOD REGISTER OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE (AHC) - REGISTERED BUILT USED REGISTER OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE OF AUST. (AHC) - INTERIM PERIOD 1 REGISTER OF NATIONAL TRUST (NSW) PRE 1800 REGISTER OF SIGNIFICANT TWENTIETH CENT. ARCHITECTURE (RAIA) 1800 - 1825 0 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS HERITAGE AND CONS. REGISTER 1826 - 1850 COMMONWEALTH HISTORIC SHIPWRECKS ACT (DECLARED SITE) 1851 - 1875 HERITAGE COUNCIL REGISTER - PERMANENT CONS. ORDER 1876 - 1900 HERITAGE COUNCIL REGISTER - INTERIM CONS. ORDER 1901 - 1925 HERITAGE COUNCIL REGISTER - SECTION 130 ORDER 1926 - 1950 HERITAGE COUNCIL REGISTER - NOMINATION 0 1951 - 1975 0 NSW GOVT DEPT HERITAGE REGISTER (\$170 HERITAGE ACT) POST 1975 NP&WS HISTORIC SITES REGISTER NP&WS ABORIGINAL SITES REGISTER (CONTACT SITES) HISTORICAL THEMES 0 INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS (NSW) HERITAGE REGISTER EXISTING HERITAGE STUDY (WRITE NAME BELOW) S.H.I.P. THEMES LOCAL THEMES REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN HERITAGE SCHEDULE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN HERITAGE SCHEDULE The opening up of the Baerami Creek area Pastoralism OTHER to cattle breeding Eminent mid-19th century pastoralists of Persons the Muswellbrook area New techniques in cattle raising and Technology agriculture in the Muswellbrook area

HISTORICAL NOTES Baerami Creek (or James Creek) is a tributary of the Goulburn River and a grant of 2,560 acres was selected there by Captain Emmanuel Hungerford. He arrived in the colony in 1828 with a large family and settled in the Maitland area and the Baerami grant was not developed intensively until it passed over to Thomas Hungerford in 1852. This son of the grantee built up a vast pastoral empire and is credited with the introduction of the swinging gate as a method of drafting cattle. The 'Australian Dictionary of Biography' states that "at Baerami he successfully introduced ring-barking on a systematic scale into Australia and following his example, it became widespread in the Hunter Valley'. As he prospered, Hungerford built several residences and a village grew up around the homestead. There was a post office from 1883 until 1973 and a school of arts, flour mill, etc. According to the well researched 'Hunter Valley News', the 1850s house was replaced in 1863 by a new house 400 yards west of the first and adjacent to the present homestead which was built in 1875 and still survives. Around the homestead were stables, stockyards, men's quarters, etc. Hungerford was an outstanding figure, serving in the NSW Parliament and having Hungerford on the NSW-Queensland border named after him. The history of Baerami is: Hungerford died in 1904; Baerami bought by E.R. White of Merton; 1918, two sections sold for soldier settlement; 1926, Baerami subdivided into 32 blocks; 1962, Electric lights installed; 1963, Douglas Staff bought the house from Stuart McFarlane; 1973-78, Staff family restored house.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS / DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS

a	ARCH. STYLE	Victorian	Georgian
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MATERIALS:

Exterior Stone with timber verandahs and verandah floors and detailing. Metal Roof. Interior Twin marble fireplaces to living room. Ironbark floors, cedar joinery.

- b OTHER DETAILS OF PHYSICAL APPEARANCE Mid-19th century (1863) cottage at rear. Recent timber cottage and garage on west.
- c MODIFICATIONS

d CURRENT CONDITIONS

✓ INTACT

☐ REPAIRS REQUIRED

✓ ALTERED - UNSYMPATHETIC

□ ALTERED - SYMPATHETIC

✓ ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: Single storey 'additions' adjacent.

INFORMATION SOURCES

WRITTEN

National Trust Classification Sheet Newcastle Morning Herald, 2.6.1962

Hunter Valley News, 26.7.1978, *Old Baerami Beauty Combines Sandstone and Cedar*

ORAL GRAPHIC

EVALUATION CRITERIA

(S) = STATE (R) = REGIONAL (L) = LOCAL

 HISTORIC
 RARE ✓ (R) REPRESENTATIVE □

 AESTHETIC
 RARE ✓ (R) REPRESENTATIVE □

 SOCIAL
 RARE ✓ (R) REPRESENTATIVE □

 SCIENTIFIC
 RARE ✓ (R) REPRESENTATIVE □

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Historically the property itself is of regional significance for its place in the pioneering settlement of the Baerami Valley, the current mansion being the third home built on the same estate by the one owner, the latter two surviving adjacent to each other. Aesthetically the homestead is of regional significance for the unusual ground floor facade and for its overall outstanding craftsmanship as well as for combining two stages and styles of the property's development. Socially it is of significance to Hungerford and White family descendants throughout the region. Scientifically the property, including remnant gardens and orchard, are of great regional significance because of their potential to contribute unique information which could lead to an understanding of the history of the development of the Baerami Creek Valley and of the emerging fortunes of the area's pioneer and his lifestyle.