MUSWELLBROOK HERITAGE STUDY Inventory 1996

BLUNT'S BUTTER FACTORY - MUSWELLBROOK

REFERENCE No BENG/R005 PRESENT NAME 'Overton' PREVIOUS REFERENCE No PREVIOUS/OTHER NAMES Blunt's Butter Factory DATE INSPECTED 21st March 1996 / 1st April 1996 SITE SKETCH PLAN LOCATION DAN STREET No 179 STREET NAME Bengalla Road TOWN/SUBURB Muswellbrook POSTCODE 2333 LOCALITY Bengalla LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA MUSWELLBROOK PROPERTY DETAILS: TYPE Private PRESENT OWNER REAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION Parish of Clannicard SITE AREA N/A c EXISTING ZONING 1(a) - Rural; and 7(L1) - Environment Protection -Alluvial Areas '56' 297700E, 6427580N AMG MAP REFERENCE CATEGORY Relic Muswellbrook 9033-II-N SUB CATEGORY Butter Factory DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1903 ARCHITECT/DESIGNER N/A **BUILDER** Thomas Blunt

PHOTOGRAPH



HERITAGE LISTING HISTORICAL PERIOD REGISTER OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE (AHC) - REGISTERED BUILT USED REGISTER OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE OF AUST. (AHC) - INTERIM PERIOD REGISTER OF NATIONAL TRUST (NSW) PRE 1800 REGISTER OF SIGNIFICANT TWENTIETH CENT. ARCHITECTURE (RAIA) 1800 - 1825 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS HERITAGE AND CONS. REGISTER 1826 - 1860 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 HERITAGE COUNCIL REGISTER - NOMINATION 1926 - 1960 0 1951 - 1976 NSW GOVT DEPT HERITAGE REGISTER (\$170 HERITAGE ACT) POST 1975 0 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 OTHER Eminent Muswellbrook area pioneers Persons The establishment of the creamery Technology and butter factory processes in the Muswellbrook area. HISTORICAL NOTES In 1903, Cox's coal mine was taken over by Thomas Blunt of "Overton" when Blunt established a butter factory at "Overton" and used coal to fire his boilers at the factory. Previously Blunt has shipped the cream to Newcastle to be made into butter. Co-operatives of the early 1930s probably resulted in the factory's closure. Blunt was also well known as an important pioneer irrigator, railway contractor and draught horse breeder. He had outstanding results with his lucerne crops. PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS / DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS ARCH. STYLE No standing structures. MATERIALS: Exterior Concrete foundations and remainders of walls. Sections of concrete with white glazed tiles attached. OTHER DETAILS OF PHYSICAL APPEARANCE. b MODIFICATIONS C d **CURRENT CONDITIONS** □ INTACT ☐ REPAIRS REQUIRED □ ALTERED - UNSYMPATHETIC □ ALTERED - SYMPATHETIC ✓ ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: Almost totally destroyed. INFORMATION SOURCES WRITTEN *From Muscle Brook to Muswellbrook, A Brief Chronological History", Muswellbrook and Upper Hunter Historical Society Inc. ORAL GRAPHIC **EVALUATION CRITERIA** (S) = STATE (R) = REGIONAL (L) = LOCAL RARE √ (L) HISTORIC REPRESENTATIVE D RARE O **AESTHETIC** REPRESENTATIVE D SOCIAL RARE D REPRESENTATIVE D SCIENTIFIC RARE / (L) REPRESENTATIVE D

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The site has local historic significance as one of the earliest Muswellbrook butter factories, and for its role in providing a local processing works for farmers who previously had to transport cream outside the area for processing. Scientifically the remains are also of local significance for their potential to reveal information which could contribute to an understanding of the role of butter factories in the economies of Upper Hunter towns in the early 20th century and to the geographical imperatives of their location in relation to transport routes and the distribution of local area dairy farms and coal mines.