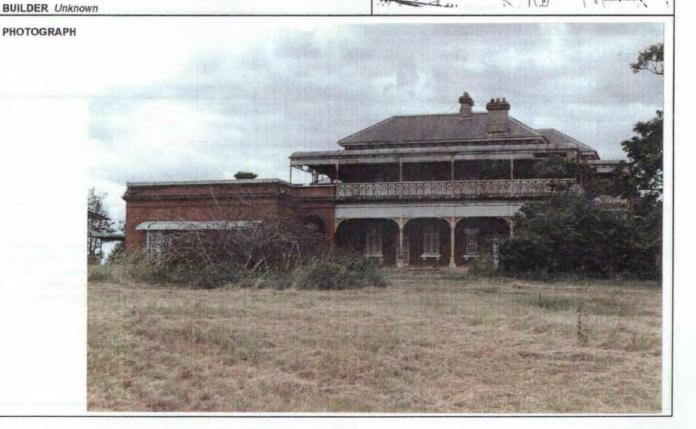
## MUSWELLBROOK HERITAGE STUDY Inventory 1996

## 'SKELLATAR' (ST JAMES SCHOOL) - TINDALE STREET - MUSWELLBROOK

PRESENT NAME St James Catholic School REFERENCE No MUSW/R037 PREVIOUS REFERENCE No PREVIOUS/OTHER NAMES 'St Marys Catholic School'; 'Skellatar' DATE INSPECTED 14th February 1996 LOCATION SITE SKETCH PLAN STREET No STREET NAME 17 Fitzgerald Avenue TOWN/SUBURB Muswellbrook POSTCODE 2333 LOCALITY Muswellbrook LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA MUSWELLBROOK PRESENT OWNER TYPE Church Property PROPERTY DETAILS: REAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION Lot 18 DP702560 b SITE AREA 8520 m2 c EXISTING ZONING 2(c) - Residential 'C' CATEGORY Building MAP REFERENCE '56' 300760E, 6426760N AMG Muswellbrook 9033-II-S SUB CATEGORY Homestead **DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1881** ARCHITECT/DESIGNER Cyril Blacket



## HISTORICAL PERIOD HERITAGE LISTING BUILT USED REGISTER OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE (AHC) - REGISTERED PERIOD REGISTER OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE OF AUST. (AHC) - INTERIM REGISTER OF NATIONAL TRUST (NSW) PRE 1800 REGISTER OF SIGNIFICANT TWENTIETH CENT. ARCHITECTURE (RAIA) 1 1800 - 1825 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS HERITAGE AND CONS. REGISTER 1826 - 1850 COMMONWEALTH HISTORIC SHIPWRECKS ACT (DECLARED SITE) 1851 - 1875 D HERITAGE COUNCIL REGISTER - PERMANENT CONS. ORDER 1876 - 1900 HERITAGE COUNCIL REGISTER - INTERIM CONS. ORDER 1901 - 1925 0 HERITAGE COUNCIL REGISTER - SECTION 130 ORDER 1926 - 1960 HERITAGE COUNCIL REGISTER - NOMINATION 1951 - 1975 NSW GOVT DEPT HERITAGE REGISTER (\$170 HERITAGE ACT) POST 1976 NP&WS HISTORIC SITES REGISTER NP&WS ABORIGINAL SITES REGISTER (CONTACT SITES) HISTORICAL THEMES INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS (NSW) HERITAGE REGISTER EXISTING HERITAGE STUDY (WRITE NAME BELOW) LOCAL THEMES S.H.I.P. THEMES REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN HERITAGE SCHEDULE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN HERITAGE SCHEDULE The spread of settlement OTHER **Townships** in Muswellbrook CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MAITLAND HERITAGE REGISTER Eminent 19th century Muswellbrook Persons families HISTORICAL NOTES The name 'Skellatar' was first applied by Sir Francis Forbes to his grant on the Hunter in the 1820s: after its purchase by the Bowman family the name was applied to this country home by Arthur and Edward Bowman in 1881-1883 when Cyril Blacket was engaged as architect. The building was described by Ron Bown as "a two storey late Victorian residence designed by Blacket ... the building is constructed of brick and has a hipped slate roof. It has two storey verandahs with cast iron supporting columns and decorative lacework and bullnosed corrugated iron roofing. It also includes a brick ballroom. Most detail including interior joinery is intact". The stables have been demolished. In 1983 the Catholic Church built St James school at Skellatar. PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS / DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS Exterior Brick with slate roof rendered ARCH. STYLE Victorian Filigree MATERIALS: chimneys, timber shutters and cast iron verandah columns and balustrades. OTHER DETAILS OF PHYSICAL APPEARANCE Verandahs are in poor condition with much iron lace decoration missing. b MODIFICATIONS See below C **CURRENT CONDITIONS** ✓ INTACT ✓ REPAIRS REQUIRED d ✓ ALTERED - UNSYMPATHETIC ☐ ALTERED - SYMPATHETIC ✓ ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: Brick ballroom and separate double-storey brick 'extension' are of later periods INFORMATION SOURCES WRITTEN R. Bown in 'Bengalla' Heritage Report; M. Herman, 'Blackets' ORAL GRAPHIC **EVALUATION CRITERIA** (S) = STATE (R) = REGIONAL (L) = LOCAL RARE V (R) REPRESENTATIVE [ HISTORIC RARE / (R) REPRESENTATIVE [ **AESTHETIC** RARE [ REPRESENTATIVE [ SOCIAL REPRESENTATIVE D SCIENTIFIC RARE / (R)

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Historically the name of the homestead has links to one of the very early land grants in the Hunter Valley and is therefore regionally significant. The homestead was built by the direct descendants of the pioneering George Bowman, the design commissioned from Sydney's most eminent private architects. For these reasons it is regionally significant historically. It is of aesthetic significance to the region as one of few Blacket designs of its scale and because it evolved through a series of designs, all of which remain on record. Scientifically it is also of regional significance for its potential to reveal information which could contribute to an understanding of the lifestyle of wealthy pastoralists in the late 19th century and their relationship with their architects. The building is of a type and origin rare locally and regionally.