MUSWELLBROOK HERITAGE STUDY Inventory 1996

ST JOHNS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - MUSWELLBROOK

REFERENCE No MUSW/R019a PRESENT NAME St Johns Presbyterian Church PREVIOUS REFERENCE No PREVIOUS/OTHER NAMES DATE INSPECTED 18th March 1996 LOCATION SITE SKETCH PLAN STREET No STREET NAME Hill Street, north side and mid-way between SOWERBY ST. Bridge and Sowerby Streets BRIDGE TOWN/SUBURB Muswellbrook POSTCODE 2333 TS LOCALITY Muswellbrook LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA MUSWELLBROOK PRESENT OWNER TYPE Church PROPERTY DETAILS: REAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION Lot 21 DP828480 SITE AREA 5391m2 **EXISTING ZONING** 5(a) - Special Uses - Church CATEGORY Building MAP REFERENCE '56' 301220E, 6428480N AMG Muswellbrook 9033-II-N SUB CATEGORY Church DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1913-15 ARCHITECT/DESIGNER W.L. Pender - Designer; James Hicks BUILDER Barrett and Sons





HISTORICAL PERIOD HERITAGE LISTING USED REGISTER OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE (AHC) - REGISTERED BUILT PERIOD REGISTER OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE OF AUST. (AHC) - INTERIM П REGISTER OF NATIONAL TRUST (NSW) PRE 1800 REGISTER OF SIGNIFICANT TWENTIETH CENT. ARCHITECTURE (RAIA) 1800 - 1826 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS HERITAGE AND CONS. REGISTER 1826 - 1850 П 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 1 1926 - 1950 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 establishment of the Presbyterian OTHER Religion Church in Muswellbrook HISTORICAL NOTES A testimony to the strength of the Presbyterian community in the town, this precinct includes the 1840's church (site selected, July 1843), the manse, and early graveyard and the current church (1913-15). Associated with the first church were several of the district's most significant pioneers, particularly George Bowman, J.H. Keys, T.S. Hall, Ebenezer Hall and Donald McIntyre. The present church was designed by W.L. Pender and is constructed of red brick with a slate roof, decorated Gothic windows, parapets and an ornamented iron and brick fence. The interior is very fine and complex for a Presbyterian Church as it features a double hammer beam roof, a herring bone ceiling and a complete set of stained glass windows. On the west side of the curch are the headstones of early Presbyterian pioneers. PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS / DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS Exterior Brick with stone details, slate roof ARCH. STYLE Federation Gothic MATERIALS: and zinc sheeting to spire. Interior Double hammer beam timber roof with herring bone ceiling. OTHER DETAILS OF PHYSICAL APPEARANCE Ornamental gothic cast iron and brick fence/entry gates h MODIFICATIONS C ☐ REPAIRS REQUIRED d **CURRENT CONDITIONS** ✓ INTACT ☐ ALTERED - SYMPATHETIC ☐ ALTERED - UNSYMPATHETIC ☐ ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: INFORMATION SOURCES Muswellbrook Chronicle: 15.3.1978; Cameron, James: Centenary History of the Presbyterian Church in NSW (1905) WRITTEN National Trust Classification Sheet *Centenary History of the Presbyterian Church in NSW*, J. Cameron, Angus and Robertson, 1905 ORAL GRAPHIC **EVALUATION CRITERIA** (S) = STATE (R) = REGIONAL (L) = LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE [HISTORIC RARE / (L) RARE / (R) REPRESENTATIVE [**AESTHETIC** RARE / (L) REPRESENTATIVE [SOCIAL RARE / (L) REPRESENTATIVE [SCIENTIFIC

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Historically the building has local significance representing the development of the Presbyterian Church in the post-railway, boom-period of Muswellbrook. Aesthetically the well-proportioned and detailed tower and spire as well as the expensively-detailed interior, give the building regional rarity and significance. Its local social significance derives from its continuing importance to generations of local Presbyterians, while its local scientific significance relates to its potential to reveal information about the scale and characteristics of Presbyterian worship in the early 19th century in a major upper-Hunter town.