

GLEN INNES HERITAGE STUDY
HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPONENT

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CONTENTS OF THE REPORT

1.0	Preface to the Report	1
1.1	Parameters of the Study	1
1.2	Initiative for Study	1
1.3	Objectives	1
1.4	Methodology and Constraints	1
2.0	Historical Archaeology as Part of the Planning Process	2
2.1	Definition of Historical Archaeology	2
2.2	What the Archaeological Resource Can Reveal	2
2.3	How This Information Can Be Used	3
3.0	The Survey: Archaeological Sites Demonstrating Historical Development	5
3.1	The Historical Context	5
3.1.1	Developing Urbanisation	5
3.1.2	Industrial Influences: Primary And Secondary	6
3.1.3	Transportation and Communications	8
3.2	Archaeological Sites: A Summary	8
4.0	Recommendations	10

1.0 PREFACE TO THE REPORT

1.1 PARAMETERS OF THE STUDY

This study is concerned only with those sites within the shire of Glen Innes identified by various members of the study team.

1.2 INITIATIVE FOR STUDY

It has been undertaken as one component of a heritage study being prepared for the Glen Innes Shire Council.

1.3 OBJECTIVES

Three major objectives have been defined for this work. These are:

1.3.1 To visually assess those archaeological sites recommended by the team as a potential historic resource.

1.3.2 To provide a broad assessment of the potential archaeological resource and its significance within the study area.

1.3.3 To provide general recommendations for future management of this resource.

1.4 METHODOLOGY AND CONSTRAINTS

The work carried out for the purposes of this study was not an archaeological survey. Time and financial constraints precluded a detailed assessment of this type.

The procedures used to select the sites were non-archaeological, hence the sample is of limited validity as a cross-section of the potential sites within the study area. However, it was considered the only means of demonstrating the archaeological potential of the area within the limitations imposed by the constraints.

At best it may be said that this sample serves as a demonstration that sites of archaeological potential, some of high significance, do exist within the study area and, therefore, other sites are likely to be located when a true archaeological survey is undertaken within the municipality.

2.0 HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY AS PART OF THE PLANNING

PROCESS

The archaeological resource, in the Australian context, is a little understood or identified element of environmental heritage. However, it is capable of providing significant contributions to the cultural landscape and understanding of past communities when exploited in a responsible manner and when it is embodied in the planning process. This section defines the resource, its role and contribution to environmental heritage.

2.1 DEFINITION OF HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Historical archaeology is one branch of the wider disciplines of archaeology and anthropology. It shares many similar aims and methods with them. Historical archaeology is concerned with documented periods of history. In terms of Australian development it is associated with European or other ethnic settlement of the country from 1788 to the present time.

In broad terms archaeology seeks to examine past human behaviour and culture in its many aspects by using physical remains such as buildings, small artefacts and changes in the natural landscape to define these processes of change and adaptation and to describe changing culture and lifestyle. The physical record of past settlement and culture can be, and often is, complemented by documentary and oral sources.

However, the reliance on physical evidence ensures that an accurate and unbiased account of what occurred in the past is pieced together. Furthermore, in cases of expanding urban development, the archaeological resource is often the only tangible and reliable evidence of earliest settlement.

2.2 WHAT THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE CAN REVEAL

Physical evidence reflects the diverse needs, desires and whims of a society and the increasingly sophisticated responses to these stimuli through time. The discipline of historical archaeology, by utilising this evidence, can be useful and informative on several levels.

It can be used to uncover evidence which gives

physical form to "paper-bound" historical information or provide new information available through no other means. For example, during building programmes, archaeological methods can be used to recover details long lost or uncover parts never known to exist.

It can be used to validate, query or expand the documentary and oral record. For example, analysis of artefacts found and recorded in context can provide intimate insights into and demonstrations of the daily life of the people who lived or worked on the building or site. This provides tangible and familiar links between past and present communities which may only be known through myth or folk lore.

It can be used to study aspects of human history not normally studied through other historical means, to look at the conscious or unconscious processes of human behavior such as settlement, social stratification, resource utilisation, production of goods, social change. For example, comparison between the development of similar sites in a region can reveal much about past inhabitants' growing awareness and management of their home; perhaps an ethnic settlement's adaptation of old practices to a new climate and conditions and the effect of this on the established communities.

2.3 HOW THIS INFORMATION CAN BE USED

Archaeological material is largely a "hidden resource" in that it is not immediately visible in the same way that a monument or building is. However, it is a critical factor in establishing the historical and cultural contexts of the latter as well as expanding our understanding of past communities and individual's lives.

The information provided on the several levels can be directly used by site managers and/or interpreters. For example it can be used to plan in advance for site or area development in a way that preserves or records historical archaeological material important to regional development.

It can be used to uncover or validate evidence useful to specific site projects. It can aid in interpreting local history in a direct and meaningful way for both local and tourist consumption and to actively encourage participation in local heritage matters by providing a visually interesting and material demonstration of a community's past.

Historical archaeology plays an important role by providing an accurate new or expanded data base and establishing the site and its significance within an historical context. It is a means by which members of the public can immediately see their own history uncovered or discovered and then how the raw data is used and studied to become "consumer" history. It often provides an opportunity for community involvement.

The historical archaeological resource is an integral part of the environmental heritage of an area and should be part of the planning process. Archaeological material is a fragile resource. It is easily destroyed through ignorance and lack of recognition. It is critical, therefore, that it be incorporated in the planning process to both protect and exploit the information it has to offer.

3.0 THE SURVEY: ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES DEMONSTRATING HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

3.1 THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Glen Innes has had a long period of settlement and development from c. 1840. During this time certain factors or themes are evident which are critical in understanding and explaining the current heritage landscape of Glen Innes. Most are closely interconnected; these are, in particular:

Developing Urbanisation

Industrial Influences: Primary and Secondary

Transportation and Communication

The few archaeological sites examined during this work may be seen to significantly contribute to these historical themes and add an important physical demonstration of the role of these factors in the shire's development. Each theme and its associated sites are discussed in the following sections.

3.1.1 Developing Urbanisation

Glen Innes in the nineteenth century was remote from the administrative centre of the settlement, isolated by distance. Distance, and the gradual breakdown of isolation, were dominant elements in determining the expansion of urban settlement. It was not until the 1830s that permanent settlement was established in the district, in the form of large stock stations. The individual head stations formed the nucleus of later villages.

However, it was not until the 1840s that moves were made to establish formal villages and towns. Glen Innes was surveyed in 1851. Its position, on the main north-south road, determined its success. Its population grew steadily during the next two decades.

Between 1870 and 1890 mining transformed the settlement. During these years the village grew to a town and gained all the symbols of expanding urbanisation including public buildings, service and commercial outlets, improved sanitary facilities and lighting and power for example the Glen Innes District Hospital (History House) was constructed at this time. Earlier features were often replaced by

later works. The local political system was established at this time.

Town development grew steadily to the 1920s, including soldier settlements. The latter were repeated after WWII. Urban settlement has declined and stabilized since then.

Two symbols of the expanding and declining urban character of the town may be seen. The Power Station symbolises the increasingly sophisticated urbanisation and the decline experienced after the 1920s is seen in the Beardy Weir a dam constructed in the 1930s as a scheme for Depression work programmes.

3.1.2 Industrial Influences: Primary and Secondary

Primary industry, in the form of pastoralism, was the reason for the establishment of Glen Innes. Wool production in particular financed the development of the area throughout much of the nineteenth century. The wealth brought through wool production encouraged the development of the town and the urban facilities associated with it.

The earliest stock yards have been removed and the site redeveloped, however, the Lang Street yards, although of comparatively recent origin are important in that they underline the importance of the industry to the town both by the location and scale of the work.

Pastoralism also encouraged the growth of some related secondary industry such as cheese factories, wool scouring, tanneries and flour mills. The later, in particular, because of the close proximity of wheat growing centres remained important in the twentieth century and was the earliest of these industrial types to be established in the district.

Henderson's Mill is an important site associated with the milling industry. Substantial remains of a two roomed building remain although the upper floor has since fallen in. The ground floor is largely intact to the ceiling level and details such as window frames are still intact. Surrounding the building are a number of sites which are clearly former building areas. Mounds of broken masonry may also be found here. The mill is a highly significant and complex site associated with one of the important early industries.

A second mill, at 177 Bourke Street, in the town is

structurally intact (less additions to the back which have been removed) although the milling machinery has been removed. It is significant because of its landmark quality in the town and how this may be interpreted in terms of its economic importance. The car park may also be the location of sub-surface evidence associated with the former extensions.

Pastoralism continued to be a source of income for most of the nineteenth century but secondary industry, in the form of mining, provided the second major economic boost for urban development. The wealth generated by secondary industry encouraged greater urbanisation and this in turn led to further industrialisation, for example the establishment of the Glen Innes Brickworks.

The latter site is one of the most industrial sites in the state because of the intactness of its early technology and its single continued use. A number of detailed studies have already investigated and described this site.

Agricultural concerns grew in importance during the later nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The establishment of the Experiment Farm in 1902 and its successors underline the importance of this trend. Dairying also escalated from the turn of the century and associated secondary industry followed, for example the establishment of the Glen Innes Butter Factory.

This site is still intact although there is little internally to define the previous use. It is now used as a rural produce supply store. There are a number of additions to the main building, including a stone and brick constructed well. An important industrial relic from its earlier use is still located on the site. This is a butter wrapper machine which still includes a roll of the wrappers. There is no evidence of the associated ice works and little evidence on the ground to suggest further deposits. The location of the factory to the railway is an important interpretative element.

During the later twentieth century the various concerns went into decline although a revival occurred around the 1950s of some, especially pastoralism. From the 1960s and 1970s the industrial front has been depressed and many industries have closed including tanning, butter manufacture and tin mining.

3.1.3 Transportation and Communications

The foundation and expanding development of Glen Innes is closely linked with the establishment and improvement of more and better communications and transport systems.

Earliest settlement was initiated by stockmen droving far beyond the boundaries of established settlement. The town of Glen Innes succeeded when others failed because of its strategic location on the main north-south road.

The true expansion of the urban settlement during the later nineteenth century was possible through two factors; wealth generated principally by mining and secondly the arrival of the railway during the 1880s. The mining boom encouraged the growth of better communications. The transportation of goods in and out of the area became a profitable business. Equally the costs involved in transportation had an important effect on the development of industry.

The Glen Innes Railway Station group and station master's cottage is an important symbol of the significance both communications and the railway has had for the town. The dominance of the buildings emphasizes the importance of the rail. In addition, industrial relics in the form of intact switching equipment may be found in the buildings.

Improved transport led to more demands for better communications and the later nineteenth and twentieth century in Glen Innes is characterized by a break down in its isolation by improved and expanding communication networks. A telegraph line was established by 1862 and mail arrived by rail from the 1880s. The number of bridges on the roads into the town and the ford on Glenleigh Road illustrate the importance of the expanded road system.

In 1906 the first telephone exchange was established and in 1910 the first motorised transport came to the town. This in turn generated a new series of industries and support services such as garages and vehicle franchises. In the 1920s radio was introduced and the rest of the century has seen the improvement of roads and the introduction of a regular aeroplane service and airport.

3.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: SUMMARY

The sites mentioned in this discussion were selected

by other members in the team for various reasons. Some have archaeological potential others could not be classified as true archaeological sites. Many are the province of specialised areas of archaeology such as industrial archaeology.

This is not a definitive list of archaeological sites in the shire. It is clear that many more await recognition through the means of a detailed archaeological survey. This list is simply a demonstration that archaeological sites do exist within the shire, that they have a significant contribution to make to the interpretation of the cultural development of Glen Innes and that some have wider significance because of their rarity, for example the brickworks and Henderson's mill.

Summarised are the sites mentioned in this text:

- Urbanisation: Beardy Weir
The Power Station (behind Town Hall)
History House
- Industrial: Henderson's Mill
The Old Mill (177 Bourke Street)
The Butter Factory (Park Street and Gwydir Highway)
Glen Innes Brickworks
Lang Street Stockyards
- Transport and Communications:
Glen Innes Railway Station Group
Station Master's Cottage
Bridges (Emmaville Road, Martin Street, Glenleigh Road, Red Range Road, Beardy Bridge, Railway Bridge)
Ford (Glenleigh Road)

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

That those sites which have been identified in this work to be of high significance viz. the Glen Innes Brickworks, Henderson's Mill and The Old Mill be actively protected. Any development is to include an archaeological assessment of the impact on the resource.

That a detailed archaeological survey of the shire be initiated to determine significant sites and archaeological areas.