

Item name: House (Tallula)

Location: 92 Duncan Street Tenterfield 2372

Tenterfield

Address: 92 Duncan Street

Planning: Northern

Suburb/nearest town: Tenterfield 2372

Local govt area: Tenterfield

State: NSW

Parish:

County:

Other/former names:

Area/group/complex:

Group ID:

Aboriginal area:

Curtilage/boundary: The property boundary

Item type: Built

Group: Residential buildings (private) **Category:** House

Owner: Private - Individual

Admin codes:

Code 2:

Code 3:

Current use: Residence

Former uses: Residence in former larger holding, now subdivided.

Assessed significance: Local

Endorsed significance: Local

Statement of significance: This substantial timber and iron residence demonstrates significance in the historical development of Tenterfield NSW around the late 1890s as a quality dwelling likely to have been built for someone of means and was later the home of Jane Skinner, the sister of John and Edward Skinner from Mt Mackenzie. John and Edward made the ultimate sacrifice and died in the Sandakan PoW camp in British North Borneo during WW2. The building is aesthetically significant as a intact historic dwelling which retains a high degree of original fabric set on an elevated position in a spatial garden setting with early Cypress plantings. It makes a very positive contribution to the streetscape and sits in an area containing other historic homes on generous allotments.

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Historical notes Local Historical Background

of provenance: A number of Aboriginal groups occupied the Tenterfield area at the time of European contact, including the Badjalang people (Bundjalung), from the headwaters of the Clarence and Richmond Rivers to Tabulam and Baryugil; Kitabal (Githabul, a dialect group of the Bundjalung) whose territory included Urbenville, Woodenbong and Tooloom, south to Tabulum and Drake; and the Ngarabal, people who traditionally occupied the land from Bolivia to Stonehenge. The Jukambal people were known for historic seasonal movement through the shire.

European exploration to the region started in the early 1800s dominated by major pastoralists with land controlled by Governor Macquarie. By 1836 the first squatting licences were issued and the 1862 Land Acts, then enabled the free selection of unalienated land by selectors. Early homesteads often included a complex of buildings with their own butchers, bakers and blacksmiths. Closer settlement occurred during the 19th century with the Returned Soldiers Settlement Act 1916 which allowed larger estates to be cut up for smaller family farms.

A network of crown villages and reserves was laid out by Government surveyors, although some never developed beyond early mining settlements. Evidence of the gold, silver, tin, silica and arsenic mining history of the region is evident in many locations. The completion of the railway line to Tenterfield in 1886 boosted the development of Tenterfield as a regional centre and the development of smaller villages on the route such as Bolivia and Sandy Flat.

Early industries were developed for processing of agricultural products for local use and economic gain. Meatworks, flour mills, and bakeries are still evident from these early days whilst other processes such as brickworks and timber mills may now yield only archaeological evidence.

The township of Tenterfield boomed between 1870s and 1930s, with the development of the School of Arts, several large hotels, banks and a majestic Post Office. A Victorian complex of police station, courthouse and gaol were added to the town. The town is well known for its association with Henry Parkes and the foundation of the Federation of Australia movement. The development of accommodation, commerce, education and health, religion, and leisure are all illustrated by a variety of original buildings and sites throughout the area. The impact of politics and economic tariffs by Queensland, triggered developments such as the tobacco industry from the 1930s.

Tenterfield has strong association with defence through early recruiting and cavalry training. During World War 11, Tenterfield was a location for large military encampments and evidence still exists of some significant structures such as the Tank Traps and several drill halls.

In terms of economy, traditional processing and local manufacturing has declined in recent decades due to centralisation. The Tenterfield area has developed an increasingly important economic role with more service industry, and as a tourist destination based on its high altitude location, abundant natural heritage in the varied national parks and reserves, and its appealing collection of well conserved historic buildings from the 19th and 20th centuries.

This Item

The historical Town Map 1851 shows the land to be associated with Richard Henry Bloomfield who was owner of Lot 2 Section 47.

Further research is warranted on this property and for whom this late Victorian style dwelling was built. Reportedly it was originally the home of the manager of Tenterfield Station.

The property also has a link with the Skinner family at Mount Mackenzie. A John and Jane Skinner purchased the house in 1965. Jane was the sister of Frederick John and Isabella Skinner of Mt Mackenzie, parents of John and Edward Skinner who were taken prisoner of war by the Japanese after the fall of Singapore in February, 1942. John and Edward were in the Sandakan prison of war camp. In 1945 Edward took his own life after escaping from an enforced march of enfeebled POWs from the prison camp. Another escapee, Owen Campbell, who had stayed with Edward who was suffering from dysentery, buried his body in a shallow grave. John, meanwhile, was the last POW alive at the Sandakan camp. He was force-marched to nearby trenches and decapitated by the guard commander. Five hours later Emperor Hirohito announced on radio that Japan had unconditionally surrendered. John's body was placed in an unmarked grave. This history was documented by Lynette Silver a military historian in her book 'Sandakan: A Conspiracy of Silence and Deadly Secrets: The Singapore Raids'.

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Council's earliest records on the property file only go back to 1951. Early rate records and title deed searches may provide more information.

The owner of the property in 1951 was PITKIN Charles Roy purchased from Rupert Charles McDONALD. C R Pitkin subdivided the original parcel of land in 1956, followed by other subdivisions in 1965. 1981 & 1985 to finally create Lot 8 in DP 711846.

John & Jane SKINNER (Frederick John -Father and Jane -daughter, after the mother and sister passed away), purchased the land from Heather Christina PITKIN in 1965.

Ian Geoffrey & Elizabeth BROWN purchased the land from Jane Frederica SKINNER in 1990.

Brenda Catherine MULLARKEY & Janelle Marie JONES purchased the land from Ian Geoffrey & Elizabeth BROWN in 2000

Uwe & Helen Comrie WILKEN purchased the land from Brenda Catherine MULLARKEY & Janelle Marie JONES in 2003.

The first Council record of development is in 1951 when CR PITKIN constructed a garage (BA 1951.137). In 1962 Heather C PITKIN made application for general renovations (BA 1962.010) and again in 1964 for and extension to the dwelling (BA 1964.001), she also lodged an application to construct a toilet in 1962 (BA 1962.35). Ian Geoffrey & Elizabeth BROWN lodged an application with Council on 24 June 1996 to construct a shed (BA 1996.047).

Themes: **National theme**
4. Settlement

State theme
Towns, suburbs and villages

Local theme
Housing the People

Designer:

Builder:

Year started: 1890

Year completed:

Circa: Yes

Physical description: The dwelling is located on an elevated site on the western side of the township, well setback from Duncan Street frontage with a large garden setting. (It originally occupied a larger parcel block prior to subdivisions and infill development occurring around it. It has a traditional hipped roof with a pair of prominent unpainted brick corbelled chimneys to each side. The building has a traditional symmetrical double fronted form with central entry and rooms to each side and encircling skillion verandahs. Verandah joinery to entry features curved brackets and double post detail.

There is lattice insert panels within the posts. Early photographs would be of assistance to verify original details. The masonry rendered and painted steps create an impressive entry. The front skillion verandah is open on the corner returns and enclosed in part beyond.

The entry door is a 4 paneled heavy timber with two glass arches to top panels.

Hallway has vertical tongue and grooved timber lining to chair rail height and horizontal lining above. Arched fanlight over entry door. Ceiling height is 12 feet, Ceilings and walls are timber lined with timber cornice mouldings. Central hallway has an arched detail and small nib wall between two pairs of rooms, which visually breaks the length of the corridor. Rooms feature intact timber paneling, fireplaces, and original joinery. French doors with arched fanlight which open onto an enclosed verandah. The kitchen dining room at the rear has been extended. The pressed metal ceiling lining is non-original. A laundry to the southern side is original. The timber garage to the northern side likely to date to 1951 as per approval record. Single width and storage.

Physical condition level: Excellent

Physical condition: Well maintained with a good garden setting.

Archaeological potential level:

Archaeological potential Detail:

Modification dates: Subdivided from original parcel. Kitchen -dining room extended to rear with 'new' pressed metal ceiling lining.

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Recommended management: Carefully retain all original fabric and maintain house to original form and details including garden setting. Consider re opening of enclosed verandahs. Maintain early cypress plantings for as long as possible, and sympathetic replacements for drought affected trees.

Management: Management category

Management name

Further comments: Very well maintained.

Criteria a): The dwelling is significant as it demonstrates a late Victorian era quality residential dwelling built circa 1890s-1900.
[Historical significance]

Criteria b): The early history of this dwelling is not known but it is likely to be associated with someone of means. It was later the home of the late Jane Skinner, the sister of John and Edward Skinner from Mt Mackenzie. John and Edward Skinner made the ultimate sacrifice and died in the Sandakan PoW camp in British North Borneo during WW2.
[Historical association significance]

Criteria c): This quality historic dwelling demonstrates aesthetic significance as a quality Victorian style timber and iron dwelling which retains its scale, form and original detailing, including exterior and interior timber wall linings, double hung sash windows and paneled doors and fan lights. It is a notable dwelling in a precinct containing other contributory historic buildings. The original curtilage/boundary has been reduced over the years by subdivision and infill development a garden setting appropriate to this historic significant dwelling is retained. It makes a very positive contribution to the streetscape and sits in an area containing other historic homes on generous allotments.
[Aesthetic/Technical significance]

Criteria d): The subject building does not demonstrate this criterion.
[Social/Cultural significance]

Criteria e): The building is not likely to yield new or substantial information and is not considered to meet this criterion.
[Research significance]

Criteria f): The item does not meet this criterion.
[Rarity]

Criteria g): The dwelling is a representative example of a high quality timber and iron residence and associated detailing.
[Representative]

Intactness/Integrity: The building has a high level of intactness to its original form, proportions, and detailing and retains a high degree of original fabric.

| References: | Author | Title | Year |
|-------------|-------------------------|--|------|
| | | pers. comm Helen Geyer owner | 2020 |
| | Newsarticle SMH | Brothers who died at Sandakan get first Anzac Day service from | |
| | Australian War Memorial | John Frederick Skinner | |

| Studies: | Author | Title | Number | Year |
|----------|---------------------|------------------|--------|------|
| | Tenterfield Council | Shire Wide study | 07 | 2005 |

| Parcels: | Parcel code | Lot number | Section number | Plan code | Plan number |
|----------|-------------|------------|----------------|-----------|-------------|
| | LOT | 8 | | DP | 711846 |

Latitude:

Longitude:

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Location validity:**Spatial accuracy:****Map name:****Map scale:****AMG zone:****Easting:****Northing:****Listing:** Name**Title****Number****ListingDate**

Potential Heritage Item

Heritage study

07

Data entry: Data first entered: 17/07/2001

Data updated: 13/11/2020

Status: Completed

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Image:



Caption: Front elevation of building to streetscape

Copy right:

Image by: D.Wray

Image date: 21/08/2020

Image number:

Image url: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/345da520975b1e643c883cbdb0e57157da0.JPG>

Thumbnail url: http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/Thumb_test345da520975b1e643c883cbdb0e57157da0.JPG

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Caption: Hallway detail

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Image by: D.Wray

Image date: 21/08/2020

Image number:

Image url: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/345965ff9d876f94659bbd4a5c58008d1e9.JPG>

Thumbnail url: http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/P/Thumb_test345965ff9d876f94659bbd4a5c58008d1e9.JPG

Image:

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Caption: Front Door

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Image by: D.Wray

Image date: 21/08/2020

Image number:

Image url: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/345d8ceaf52215146d7837f575514feeae2.JPG>

Thumbnail url: http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/P/Thumb_test345d8ceaf52215146d7837f575514feeae2.JPG

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Caption: Garden including cypress plantings to front boundary

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Image by: D.Wray

Image date: 21/08/2020

Image number:

Image url: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/3458d47448e04c943cfb00ba31ee8d8ef10.JPG>

Thumbnail url: http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/Thumb_test3458d47448e04c943cfb00ba31ee8d8ef10.JPG

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Caption: Front Verandah looking south

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Image number:

Image url: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/345c8d6dcf1662644848ec49abd374daf31.JPG>

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Caption: Garden and setting

Copy right:

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Image number:

Image url: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/34599e6c71f1ff24baa8b80e79002d86b0d.JPG>

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