

**Item name:** Trenayr Farm Building Complex including Tobacco Curing Barns.

**Location:** 2021 Mole River Road MOLE RIVER 2372

Tenterfield

**Address:** 2021 Mole River Road

**Planning:** Northern

**Suburb/nearest town:** MOLE RIVER 2372

**Local govt area:** Tenterfield

**Parish:**

**State:** NSW

**County:**

**Other/former names:** Trenayr

**Area/group/complex:**

**Group ID:**

**Aboriginal area:**

**Curtilage/boundary:** The farm building complex

**Item type:** Complex / Group

**Group:** Farming and Grazing

**Category:** Homestead Complex

**Owner:** Private - Individual

**Admin codes:**

**Code 2:**

**Code 3:**

**Current use:** Farming

**Former uses:** Farming including wool, beef and former tobacco production.

**Assessed significance:** Local

**Endorsed significance:** Local

**Statement of significance:** This collection of farm buildings is significant as an example of rural vernacular architecture in association with a historical pastoral holding. The buildings illustrate a former way of life and farming practices. The property holds association with Frank Smith who named the property Trenayr in 1908. The buildings also demonstrate scientific /technical significance for use of materials and innovation available at the time to meet specific needs of a working property. The tobacco curing barns are particularly significant as a form of development in response to high import tariffs which created a demand for local production.

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**Historical notes** HISTORICAL CONTEXT

**of provenance:** The following extracts from Mole River Dam Feasibility Study August 2017 provides a referenced background history to the Mole River area as follows:

'Ethnographic sources indicate while a number of Aboriginal groups occupied the Mole River region at the time of European contact, the Ngarabal people traditionally occupied the south of the assessment area, from Bolviasouth to Stonehenge in Glen Innes LGA (MacPherson 1905:679; Tindale 1974). In an interview for an anthropological study undertaken in 1998, elder Keith Byrne indicated that the northern boundary of Ngaraba territory was marked by the Mole River, and that the north eastern boundary was within Bolivia Station (Kerr et al. 1999:25). Parts of the assessment area may have also occupied by the Jukambal in the south east and Gee-en-yun in the north (Tindale 1974; Gardner 1978 [1842-54]:245; MacPherson 1905:679). Tindale's descriptions of tribal boundaries are based on the distribution of language groups in this area, which are derived largely from linguistic evidence published from 1854 to 1969; however, the boundaries are approximate, and probably varied over time (Tindale 1974). It should also be recognised that traditional land were not delineated by treaties but rather defined by the people who occupied them and their associated traditions

Under the direction of Governor Darling botanist Allan Cunningham was set to explore the area in April of 1827. It was during his return of his exploration of the area that Cunningham crossed the Dumaresq River just west of Tenterfield near the Mole River Valley. Soon settlement of the wider area began to ensue and this catalysed the further exploration of the area, including that of Mole River by pastoralists, their employees and associated agents (Rich and Rosen, 1991). Prior to 1839 the New England region was considered outside the limits of NSW settlement. Those people that squatted in outer limit areas such as this were required to pay a 10 pound licence fee, but owing to the remoteness of the region this law was not properly enforced. Between 1848 and 1858 new stations were established between 1848 and 1858 along the eastern falls and from this settlement and tenure of the land began to quickly proliferate (Rich and Rosen, 1991). An increased demand for Australian wool in the British market resulted in an influx of British capital which motivated growth of the NSW colony. In particular, the Mole Station was registered in 1848 under the Bank of Australasia and assessed by Macdonald as comprising 55,000 acres holding 892 sheep. This quickly expanded to over 60,000 acres with 10 horses and 16,000 sheep (Rich and Rosen, 1991).

Rich and Rosen (1991) identified several historic heritage sites within the Mole River area including the cottage site, smithy site, the woolshed, the tennis court, the school site, the selectors hut and post office, the shepherd's hut site, the shepherd's grave, the mine and processing works, the manager's office, the selector's hut and school and the tobacco curing barns at Mole Station. Surrounding this the station area they also identified; the dingo fence at Wynella, the house/cottage, selector's hut site, the selector's hut and dairy site, the woolshed, the tin mine and buddles, the miner's hut and the corn sheller in the Bondonga, Alister, Braeside and Pyes Creek areas (Table H.15).

**TRENAYR**

Frank Smith who named the property Trenayr in 1908 and he had a relationship to the property Trenayr in Grafton which became the Agricultural Research Station. Further historical research is required on this item.

**Themes:** National theme

3. Economy

3. Economy

**State theme**

Industry

Agriculture

**Local theme**

Making a Living

Settling and Managing the Land

**Designer:**

**Builder:**

**Year started:**

**Year completed:**

**Circa:** Yes

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**Physical description:** A complex of early to later farm buildings including early slab buildings, blacksmiths shop, a shearing shed, shearers quarters, and 4 tobacco curing barns in the area around the homestead and creek.  
The tobacco curing barns are believed to have been constructed during the 1930s and two are made of cypress pine logs and mud and two of concrete.

A description from a National Trust report for timber Tobacco Barns at Mole Station reported;  
'For each curing, cracks and openings were sealed with mud. The entire process took 5 days and required continuous supervision. Tobacco processing involved curing the leaf using temperature and moisture controls, hot air, was induced into the barns via flues. Control was achieved via the opening and closing of the flues. These barns are located in the former tobacco fields and there are the remains of mechanical tobacco processing equipment on the site'.

**Physical condition level:** Fair

**Physical condition:** Last inspected 2012.

**Archaeological potential level:**

**Archaeological potential Detail:**

**Modification dates:** New steel roof added to one Tobacco Barn and timber trusses.

**Recommended management:** Carefully conserve the complex and its setting. Repairs should be 'like for like' to original details and materials with an aim to minimise the loss of original fabric. A Conservation Management Plan would be of benefit to guide the future conservation and maintenance of this entire complex of buildings.

**Management:** **Management category** **Management name**

**Further comments:** There are also some Tobacco Curing Barns at Mole Station approx 17km away.

**Criteria a):** This complex of farm buildings are historically significant to the development of this pastoral holding and illustrate a former way of life and farming practices and availability of materials.  
[Historical significance]

**Criteria b):** They are significant socially for its association with Frank Smith the pioneer of the property Trenayr in 1908.  
[Historical association significance]

**Criteria c):** The collection of buildings is significant as an example of historical rural vernacular architecture and contributes strongly to the rural landscape setting of this pastoral property. The buildings also demonstrate scientific /technical significance for use of materials and innovation available at the time to meet specific needs of a working property including the specific needs of tobacco growing and drying.  
[Aesthetic/ Technical significance]

**Criteria d):** The collection of buildings is important in relation to the early pioneer of the property Trenayr Mr Frank Smith and subsequent generations of this family. The construction of the tobacco sheds and associated crop holds links with Dutch, Italian and Greek migrants settlement of the district.  
[Social/Cultural significance]

**Criteria e):** The farm buildings are significant for the historical evolution of use and purposes. The shearing shed, quarters and barns strongly demonstrated the importance of the wool industry, and the tobacco barns demonstrate materials and innovation in the harvesting and drying of the tobacco crop and associated building design.  
[Research significance]

**Criteria f):** Becoming rare.  
[Rarity]

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**Criteria g):** Representaive of verancular rural purpose built structures composed predominantly of timber and iron. There are various remaining tobacco barns in this region.  
**[Representative]**

**Intactness/Integrity:** The complex has a high degree of integrity and intactness, notwithstanding maintnance requirements.

References:	Author	Title	Year
	Jacobs	Site meeting D.Wray and pers. comm Sandra Smith owner	2012
		Mole River Dam Feasibility Study	2017

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
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Parcels:	Parcel code	Lot number	Section number	Plan code	Plan number
	LOT	10		DP	751508
	LOT	70		DP	705186

**Latitude:**

**Longitude:**

**Location validity:**

**Spatial accuracy:**

**Map name:**

**Map scale:**

**AMG zone:**

**Easting:**

**Northing:**

**Listing: Name**

**Title**

**Number**

**ListingDate**

Potential Heritage Item

**Data entry:** Data first entered: 29/09/2020

Data updated: 10/10/2020

Status: Partial

**Item name:** Trenayr Farm Building Complex including Tobacco Curing Barns.

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**Image:**



**Caption:** 4 Tobacco Barns

**Copy right:**

**Image by:** D.Wray

**Image date:** 04/08/2012

**Image number:**

**Image url:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/34569638181ed4e4378b69345cff1938ab8.jpg>

**Thumbnail url:** [http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/Thumb\\_test34569638181ed4e4378b69345cff1938ab8.jpg](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/Thumb_test34569638181ed4e4378b69345cff1938ab8.jpg)

**Image:**

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**Caption:** 2 timber tobacco barns

**Copy right:**

**Image by:** D.Wray

**Image date:** 04/08/2012

**Image number:**

**Image url:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/345382456ddaef04b0a8bedf85fbc07fea3.jpg>

**Thumbnail url:** [http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/Thumb\\_test345382456ddaef04b0a8bedf85fbc07fea3.jpg](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/Thumb_test345382456ddaef04b0a8bedf85fbc07fea3.jpg)

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**Caption:** tobacco shed side rear elevation

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**Image url:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/3459761a26d640146f0bcfc4411056f4e66.jpg>

**Thumbnail url:** [http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/Thumb\\_test3459761a26d640146f0bcfc4411056f4e66.jpg](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/Thumb_test3459761a26d640146f0bcfc4411056f4e66.jpg)

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**Caption:** Slab Cottage

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**Image url:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/34534832f3d714f447283aee04f7f69b31e.jpg>

**Thumbnail url:** [http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/Thumb\\_test34534832f3d714f447283aee04f7f69b31e.jpg](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/Thumb_test34534832f3d714f447283aee04f7f69b31e.jpg)

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**Caption:** Brick fireplace and flue

**Copy right:**

**Image by:** D.Wray

**Image date:** 04/08/2012

**Image number:**

**Image url:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/3454e78771d06e247f4be9b06df72b81a2e.jpg>

**Thumbnail url:** [http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/Thumb\\_test3454e78771d06e247f4be9b06df72b81a2e.jpg](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/Thumb_test3454e78771d06e247f4be9b06df72b81a2e.jpg)

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**Caption:** historic timber barn

**Copy right:**

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**Image number:**

**Image url:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/3459fcb2e3cf6a44580b7b7d27b71750237.jpg>

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**Caption:** interior and drying racks

**Copy right:**

**Image by:** D.Wray

**Image date:** 04/08/2012

**Image number:**

**Image url:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/3457b9908a834e9457bb766a14f12077664.JPG>

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