

Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

1910388

Study Number

LP-01

Item Name: **LP-01 Little Pelican Row (14 Cottages)(8 demolis**

Location: **Little Pelican Reserve, Little Pelican**

Address: Little Pelican Reserve

DUAP Region: Hunter & Central Coast

Suburb / Nearest Town: Little Pelican 2281

Historic region: Lower Hunter

Local Govt Area: Lake Macquarie

Parish: Kahibah

State: NSW

County: Northumberland

Other/Former Names: 6 remaining tenanted cottages with outbuildings

Area/Group/Complex:

Group ID:

Aboriginal Area:

Curtilage/Boundary:

Item Type: Built

Group: Residential buildings (Category: Hut/Shack

Owner:

Admin Codes: LP-01

Code 2:

Code 3:

Current Use: Domestic residences (permissive occupancy tenancies or leases)

Former Uses:

Assessed Significance: **Local**

Endorsed Significance:

Statement of Significance: SIGNIFICANCE - 1993: Little Pelican Row is probably unique. It is the last surviving relic of a way of life which once prevailed in scattered settlements and isolated "boatsheds" or shanties around Lake Macquarie. When Hunter valley miners lost their jobs and houses in the Depression, hundreds of them retreated to the Lake, where they survived on fish and vegetables, in tents or shanties. The Little Pelican Row colony grew from a row of holiday boatsheds and was caused by the desperation of the Great Depression. A single cottage of the same period and inspiration, but built from adobe, is also included in the inventory (ER-05). The Little Pelican Row cottages are primitive and unconventional, but they are well cared for, much loved, and exceedingly picturesque. They vividly evoke a lost time and the Depression era lives of the unemployed miners and their families who lived in them. LEVEL of SIGNIFICANCE - 1993: Regional Signif.- moderate
Local Significance - very high
SIGNIFICANCE - 2010: It appears that 8 cottages have been demolished since 1993. This only makes more urgent the recognition and protection of the surviving stock. Their historic and social significance is almost unique in NSW. A Conservation Management Plan was completed for the site in April 2010. LEVEL of SIGNIFICANCE - 2008: State Significance - moderate
Local Significance - very high

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Historical Notes HISTORICAL NOTES - 1993:

or Provenance: A typical story is that of a present tenant who lives in the cottage his grandparents built. In 1926 a young couple from a mining family in Pelaw Main built themselves a boatshed for holidays.

The miner lost his job and house in the Depression, so they added onto their boatshed and moved in.

The other cottages have been inhabited in much the same way.

Themes: National Theme

State Theme

Local Theme

4. Settlement

Accommodation (Housing) (none)

4. Settlement

Towns, suburbs and village (none)

Designer:

Maker / Builder: D.I.Y with "found" materials

Year Started: 1920

Year Completed: 1939

Circa: Yes

Physical Description: PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS - 1993:

Architectural Style: vernacular/primitive

Materials: Frame - timber

Roof - gables and lean-to, CGI cladding

Walls/Cladding - CGI and found materials

Windows - various

Floors - ?

Interior - ?

Land is reclaimed swamp, very flat & just above water level.

The 14 cottages were mostly simple gable roofed boathouses, with lean-tos added on for holidays, and then (1930s) turned into permanent housing.

Most cottages face west across a lawn to Swansea Channel & moorings.

Vegetable patches, dunnies, primitive garages, water tanks & lawn are on the street side.

Few fences separate the dwellings.

The small & picturesque colony is approached through a pretty paperbark forest and is backed by swampland on Pelican Inlet.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS - 2006:

Said to be 9 cottages surviving of the 14 seen in 1993. Only 6 remaining in 2010.

Physical Condition:

Modification Dates: Modification of the cottages has probably been continuous. Several former cottages at the north end of the row are said to have been demolished some years ago, and the swamp has returned to their sites.

Recommended Management:

RECOMMENDATION - 2008:

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Prepare a heritage inventory, heritage assessment and a conservation management plan for the buildings and outbuildings in Little Pelican Row.
Consider nominating the Row for the State heritage Register.

Management: Statutory Instrument List on a Local Environmental Plan (LEP)
Statutory Instrument Nominate for State Heritage Register (SHR)

Further Comments:

Criteria a) The Little Pelican precinct represents a layering of historical activity from Aboriginal occupation through to the first European use of the site at the turn of the twentieth century for leisure and recreational purposes. The site is typical of the common phenomenon that occurred during the Depression era of the unemployed retreating to boat sheds on the lake foreshore to fish and grow vegetables. The site has a tangible link to the Indigenous population of Lake Macquarie in the form of a large Midden.

Criteria b)

Criteria c) The group of cottages as a whole still evokes a sense of hardship and isolation located within a picturesque landscape.

Criteria d) The settlement at Little Pelican has had strong associations with a number of social groups starting with the original land owners the Awabakal Aboriginal Community. Secondly with the original lessees and now the current lessees (many of whom have been associated with the place for a number of generations) and occupants represented by the Little Pelican Progress Association.

Criteria e) The site has the potential to reveal information on the development of temporary, vernacular weekenders adapted during the Great Depression as permanent residences for the unemployed and homeless.

Criteria f) The group of cottages at Little Pelican Row provide examples of temporary vernacular weekend architecture located on public land in a coastal setting, which is becoming increasingly rare along the NSW coast.

Criteria g)

Integrity / Intactness:

References:	Author	Title	Year
	Verrbal information from local people. CMP April 2010	Little Pelican Cottages Conservation Management Plan.	2010

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Suters Architects Snell, Dr J. Turner, C & MJ Doring Pty Ltd	City of Lake Macquarie Heritage Study	LP-01	1993

Parcels:	Parcel Code	LotNumber	Section	Plan Code	Plan Number
	LOT	7036		DP	1030788

Latitude:

Longitude:

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Location: **Little Pelican Reserve, Little Pelican**

Location validity:

Spatial Accuracy: 100 metres

Map Name: 9231-4-N SWANSEA

Map Scale: 1:25,000

AMG Zone: Zone 56

Easting: 372800 Northing: 6339200

Listings: Name:

Title:

Number:

Date:

National Trust of Australia Register

Custom Field One:

Custom Field Two:

Custom Field Three:

Custom Field Four:

Custom Field Five:

Custom Field Six:

Data Entry:

Date First Entered: 09/11/2006

Date Updated: 18/05/2010

Status: Partial

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Image/s:



Caption: A typical "handcrafted" cottage in Little Pelican Row, viewed from the north. The Swansea Channel is straight ahead on the far side of the cottage. (Doring Neg.421.34) (also see supplementary images)

Copyright:

Image by:

Image Date:

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 1910388.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File:

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Image/s:



Caption: The front of some of the cottages in the row facing west across boat moorings to the Swansea Channel. The cottages are viewed from the north end. (Doring Neg.421.33)

Copyright:

Image by:

Image Date:

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: LMQ LP-01-B 1992 421-33 LR.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File:

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Image/s:



Caption: The street (east) side of the row of cottages, viewed from the north. Some of the cottages are visible, plus garages, dunnies and water tanks. (Doring Neg.421.36)

Copyright:

Image by:

Image Date:

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: LMQ LP-01-C 1992 421-36 LR.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File:

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Image/s:



Caption: Little Pelican Cottages

Copyright:

Image by:

Image Date:

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 1910388.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File:

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Image/s:



Caption: Little Pelican Cottages

Copyright:

Image by:

Image Date:

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 1910388a.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: