




# Heritage Assessment Mount Taurus

65 Woodbridge Road, Menangle NSW

Submitted to Wollondilly Shire Council

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*This report has been reviewed and approved for issue in accordance with City Plan's quality assurance policy and procedures.*

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background

City Plan Heritage (CPH) was engaged by Wollondilly Shire Council to undertake a heritage assessment for 'Mount Taurus' located at 65 Woodbridge Road, Menangle NSW (subject site) to determine if the site demonstrates heritage values at a level to warrant listing at the State and /or Local level.

The subject site is the landscape encompassed within Lot 100 DP 1276755, which recently was the subject of the *Mulpha* Mount Taurus Planning Proposal. This Planning Proposal sought the amendment of the Land Use Zoning Map, the Lot Size Map, the Height of Buildings Map, and the Heritage Map to accommodate urban expansion of Menangle village. This proposed for approximately 1,856 low and medium density residential houses, as well as retail, commercial, educational, and open space facilities to be built on 'Mount Taurus'. This Planning Proposal was refused by the Council in July 2022.

The Menangle township had recently been the subject of the Wollondilly Stage 1 Heritage Study, whereby the dairy cottage at 65 Woodbridge Road, Menangle was identified as a potential heritage item.

This assessment will inform the future development within 'Mount Taurus' providing understanding of the level of heritage significance of the subject site. The heritage assessment will further provide guidance with respect to sensitive development approaches, appropriate development controls, and heritage interpretation where applicable.

### 1.2. Location

The subject site is located at 65 Woodbridge Road, Menangle NSW. The suburb of Menangle is located within the Wollondilly Shire LGA and is bound to the north by the suburbs of Camden Park and Menangle Park, to the east by the Campbelltown LGA, to the south by the suburb of Douglas Park and to the west by the Suburbs of Razorback and Cawdor. It is approximately 50 kilometres southwest of Sydney's Central Business District. The Mount Taurus complex at 65 Woodbridge Road is located at the southern side of the west-east oriented Woodbridge Road. It is situated approximately 650m southwest of Menangle Railway Station and is bounded to the north by Woodbridge Road and Menangle Road to the east. It is surrounded by agricultural lands from the south and west.

The subject site is described in documents held by NSW Land Registry Services as Lot 100 DP 1276755. The lot is occupied by several structures, including a cottage, milking shed, farm buildings adjoining double silo with gabled roof. Another cottage which forms part of the site is located along Menangle Road adjoining a row of residential dwellings at the north.

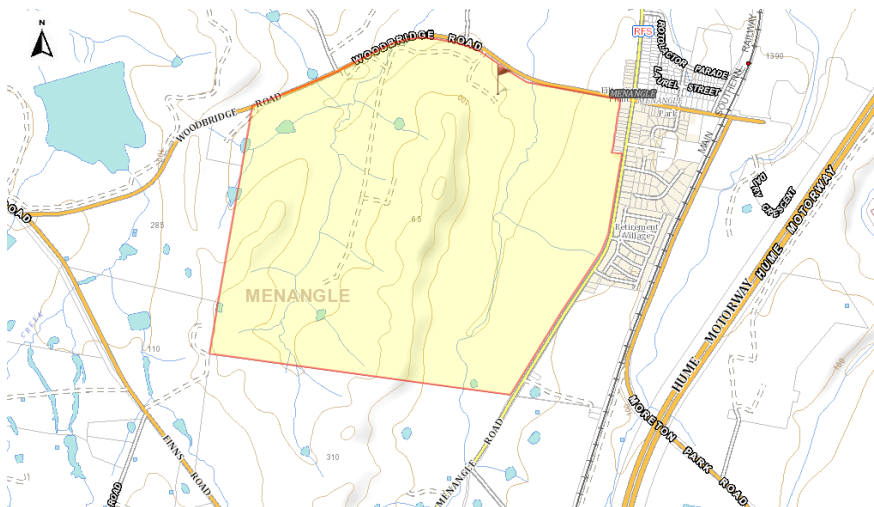


Figure 1: Cadastral map showing the location of the subject site (highlighted in yellow) within its surrounding context, adjacent to Menangle Township (Source: SIX Maps, accessed May 2023).

### 1.3. Methodology

The methodology used in this heritage assessment is consistent with the guidelines and recommendations set out by Heritage NSW and the Heritage Council of NSW for assessing the heritage significance of places and objects in New South Wales.

It has also taken into consideration the principles, methodology, and terminology contained in *the Burra Charter* (Australia ICOMOS, 2013). The *Burra Charter* defines significance as the:

*Aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations. Cultural significance is embodied in the place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects. Places may have a range of values for different individuals or groups.*

The methodology adopted for the preparation of this report is generally consistent with that set out in the following documents:

- Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (*The Burra Charter*) 2013.
- The Conservation Plan by Dr James Semple Kerr (7th Edition, 2013) published by the National Trust of Australia (NSW).
- Assessing Heritage Significance, NSW Department of Planning and Environment (June 2023)

City Plan Heritage undertook the following key stages in preparation of this heritage assessment of 'Mount Taurus':

#### Desktop Research

- Review relevant documentary sources to understand the historical development of the site, and to identify relevant historic themes.
- Additional desktop research of comparable places within the Wollondilly Shire Local Government Area where appropriate to provide a contextual overview to identify the rarity/representativeness of the place, its setting, and its components.

#### Inspections

- Undertake a visual inspection to confirm, where appropriate, the approximate date of building fabric, the condition and location of surviving architectural features, and elements that contribute to the overall visual character of the place.

#### Assessment of the properties against the heritage criteria adopted by the Heritage Council of NSW

- Assess 65 Woodbridge Road against the heritage criteria adopted by the Heritage Council of NSW
- Summarise the findings into a heritage assessment report.

### 1.4. Author Identification

The following report has been prepared by Asmita Bhasin (Heritage Consultant) MURbanism (HerCons), BArch, M.ICOMOS; in association with Alexandra Gangan (Assistant Heritage Consultant) MSCE, BCE, CertIVBusAdmin; Kurt Dixon (Heritage Consultant), BA (History), LLB; and Kerime Danis (Director - Heritage) MHeritCons (Hons), BArch, Associate RAlA, M.ICOMOS, NMAS, ICOMOS AdCom who has provided input, reviewed, and endorsed its content. All photographs are undertaken by Kerime Danis on 31 March 2023, unless otherwise stated.

### 1.5. Limitations

The following are the limitations of this study:

- Inspections of the buildings was limited to visual inspections from ground level. No building fabric was disturbed as part of the inspection process. Roof spaces, sub-floor areas (in part) and interior were not accessible at the time of the inspection by CPH but they were visible from the windows to some extent.
- Ground conditions around the Dairy Cottage were not suitable to view the cottage to its full extent externally hence some of the images utilised from the Wollondilly Shire Council Officers who have also attended the site inspection at the same time.
- Limited resources for historical research allowed for only brief historical notes for the subject site and comparative analysis.
- Natural heritage and Indigenous archaeological heritage were not assessed as part of the commission.

## 1.6. Acknowledgements

CPH would like to acknowledge the following people that supported and assisted in the preparation of this report:

- Lisa Howard - Strategic Planner, Wollondilly Shire Council
- Christopher Morris - Strategic Planner, Wollondilly Shire Council
- Christine Halfpenny, owner of the Mount Taurus Complex

## 1.7. Documentation

The following reports and studies were considered during the preparation of this report:

- 'Wollondilly Shire LGA, Appin, Thirlmere, Warragamba, Menangle - Heritage Study' prepared for Wollondilly Shire Council by Extent Heritage Advisors Pty Ltd in 2021
- Menangle Planning Proposal, Heritage Opportunities and Constrains Analysis prepared by Austral Archaeology in 2022 for Mulpha Menangle Pty Ltd
- Menangle Landscape Conservation Area Assessment of Significance & Proposed Boundaries, prepared by MUSEcape Pty Ltd for Wollondilly Shire Council in 2012.

Additional resources have also been accessed and considered as part of this study and have been referenced accordingly where required.



## 2. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

### 2.1. Brief Suburb History of Menangle

The Wollondilly Shire was occupied by three Aboriginal groups, including the Dharug, Gundaungurra, and the Tharawal tribes.

*For many thousands of years, the Traditional Owners of this region drew upon and maintained the rich and diverse local natural resources. Water, food, shelter, lotions, medicines, tools and clothing were all provided for by the local rivers, lakes and tributaries as well as the numerous streams and swamplands and the forest lands. Local fauna were hunted for food and skins such as possums, lizards, kangaroos, echidnas and wallabies. There was an abundance of fish and shellfish in the rivers, and the inland lagoons were a source of frogs, yabbies, tortoises and eels. Birds also provided meat and eggs. Other resources came from foraging for yams, fruits, roots, berries and seeds. They mined sites for the natural clays and ochres, and certain stones were important for making tools and implements. Natural shelters such as caves, overhangs and ledges formed by the erosion over time of the sandstone, were important for shelter, protection and warmth. They were also important for cultural reasons, with the walls often decorated with images and hand stencils using the local red ochre, white clay or charcoal. In the areas the flat, open plains, the Traditional Owners lived in open campsites.<sup>1</sup>*

The history of the suburb of Menangle have been summarised from 'Wollondilly Shire LGA, Appin, Thirlmere, Warragamba, Menangle - Heritage Study' prepared for Wollondilly Shire Council by Extent Heritage Advisors Pty Ltd in 2021 (pp. 27-283)<sup>2</sup> and Menangle Planning Proposal, Heritage Opportunities and Constraints Analysis prepared by Austral Archaeology in 2022 for Mulpha Menangle Pty Ltd (p.13-14).<sup>3</sup>

The first ventures of the British to this area were very much associated with a particular event in the early history of the colony of New South Wales. This was when cattle brought over with the First Fleet in 1788 strayed from the Farm Cove settlement in Sydney. Two bulls and four cows escaped from Sydney and headed south, eventually travelling some 40 miles through undeveloped country to the area around present day Menangle.

Search parties sent out to try and locate the lost cattle ventured to this region where the cattle were eventually discovered in 1795. The area became known as The Cow Pastures, and the tracking down of the cattle was the start of British exploration and subsequent settlement in what would become Wollondilly Shire.

These cattle would have been seen by the local indigenous people but it was not until 1795, seven years after they had escaped, that the cattle were sighted by a convict hunter. By then they had multiplied to about forty cows and two bulls. That same year Governor Hunter visited the area to see the cattle, climbing a hill which he named Mount Taurus, after the Latin word for bull and he named the area 'The Cowpastures'.

Once the location of the cattle had been confirmed, the New South Wales government restricted the settlement of the region they occupied. The region was used to ensure that the cattle population could grow unhindered, securing the colony's meat supply (Liston 1988). A guard was assigned to the cattle, a role that was allocated to John Warby. Warby was a convict stockman and during his time as the guardsman, he was able to gain extensive knowledge about the land due to his work and his relationship with the Dharawal people (Liston 1988). A count of the cattle was conducted in 1801, estimating their numbers between 500 and 600 and in 1803 the cattle were deemed government property, which lead to people requiring to obtain permission to enter the area. Another count in 1805 estimates the cattle population to have grown to between 3000 and 5000 (Belgenny Farm n.d.).

<sup>1</sup> 'Wollondilly Shire LGA Appin, Thirlmere, Warragamba, Menangle - Heritage Study' prepared for Wollondilly Shire Council by Extent Heritage Advisors Pty Ltd in 2021 (pp. 26-27).

<sup>2</sup> Paul Davies Pty Ltd (2007), 'Penrith Heritage Study', Penrith City Council, Vol. 3, pp. 274 - 283.

<sup>3</sup> Menangle Planning Proposal, Heritage Opportunities and Constrains Analysis prepared by Austral Archaeology in 2022 for Mulpha Menangle Pty Ltd (p.13-14).

[illegible]

<sup>4</sup> Menangle Planning Proposal, Heritage Opportunities and Constrains Analysis prepared by Austral Archaeology in 2022 for Mulpha Menangle Pty Ltd (p.13-14).



Early explorations were also made for the purpose of identifying and recording local flora and fauna, good farming land and other resources. One of the earliest explorers into the Wollondilly area was George Cayley. Cayley was sent by Sir Joseph Banks to Sydney in the early 1800s to collect specimens of local flora and fauna to be shipped back to London. A gardener by trade, Cayley embarked on expeditions in the country all around Sydney from his base in Parramatta, keen to find all manner of new specimens to send to Banks.

In 1805, limited land grants in the region were awarded to settlers, most notably to John Macarthur and Walter Davidson. John Macarthur was granted 10,000 acres in the Cowpastures area with frontage to the Nepean River, which was regarded as the best land in the Colony. Macarthur and Davidson prepared their grants for wool production by clearing and burning the land. Under Governor Macquarie, land grants were no longer allocated from 1811, and in 1812, access to the area was restricted further, from which the Macarthurs and Davidsons families were exempt. An adjoining 2000-acre grant was also later incorporated into Macarthur's grant. The property was named Camden Park after Colonial Secretary Lord Camden, a powerful ally of Macarthur's who was instrumental in him receiving this land grant and also in having his Court Martial case dismissed. Having resigned from the Corps, Macarthur focused his attentions on farming with Camden Park quickly becoming the country's most highly regarded and admired sheep station and experimental farm. Camden Park drew much curiosity and interest from other farmers whom the Macarthurs would invite to visit the property and inspect the work being done there. By the late 1830s the land holding had expanded to around 28,000 acres.

Menangle was the result of a private development enterprise of John Macarthur's sons, James and William Macarthur in the 1830s to create associated villages out of their Camden Park Estate. Proposals to build a private village at the Camden Park Estate were opposed by John Macarthur. It was not until after his death in 1834 that his sons, James and William Macarthur, supported a private subdivision that began in 1841 and which would become Menangle. Once the private-venture village was approved, a street plan was drawn up and parcels of land went on the market.

In the first half of the nineteenth century, Menangle was still little more than a small parish village, lightly populated with mostly small farms located along the Nepean River. Some of the early land holders included William Howe and James Harrex who took up small grants of land with the intention of gradually building up large estates. However, the poor soil there hindered the success of these early farms. Menangle's development and growth was directly connected with the success of Camden Park and the patronage and wealth of the Macarthurs. Menangle provided a place for their workers to live and for essential supplies and services. Many of the fine buildings in Menangle were an outcome of this symbiotic relationship including St James Church, the General Store, the Camden Estate Central Creamery and the village school. The General Store was originally established as the buying agent for the Camden Park Estate to supply provisions such as stores, seeds and fuel. Even after the influence of the Macarthurs had dissipated, the store would continue on as a general store for the local community.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid, p. 76.



Figure 4: Menangle General Store, Curry & Son, c1930-1939, Campbelltown City Council 001760.

The arrival of the Great Southern Railway also contributed to Menangle's success. In 1865 a railway line was built through the eastern farms and a railway station set down at Menangle. The Macarthurs' headquarters were then moved from Camden Park Estate to Menangle. The railway quickly became the commercial focus of the village facilitating the growing dairy industry and changing the historic character from a village to a railway centered town by the late nineteenth century.<sup>6</sup>

Early farms in Menangle had mostly concentrated on sheep, however, after the opening of the railway, many, like Camden Park, turned to dairy cattle. Menangle was to benefit from the Macarthurs' continued success with the brothers James and William and their descendants continuing the innovative enterprises started by their parents, developing Australia's first commercial vineyard and laying the foundations for what would be '...Australia's finest orchard and largest dairy.'<sup>7</sup>

Macarthur family innovation continued and culminated with yet another first – the nation's first rotary dairy. The Menangle rotolactor was started by Edward Macarthur-Onslow, who went on to develop it into a tourist attraction visited by practically every Sydney resident of the 1960s and 1970s.<sup>8</sup>

Over the years, many of the original farming properties established in the earliest years of colonial settlement had changed hands, changed purpose, or been merged or subdivided. Farming practices adapted from grain growing to grazing and dairying as determined by local conditions, disease (such as rust in wheat), market demand, and the boom and decline of other non-sustainable industries such as timber felling.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid, pp. 75-76.

<sup>7</sup> Trench, B. 'Welcome to the Menangle Community Website.' Menangle, the Birthplace of Australian Agriculture (blog), accessed May 2023. <http://menangle.com.au/>.

<sup>8</sup> Trench, B. 'Welcome to the Menangle Community Website.' History of Menangle, accessed May 2023. [https://menangle.com.au/?page\\_id=325](https://menangle.com.au/?page_id=325).

Villages like Menangle had retained a simple “English style village” feel, with its village railway station, a church on the hill a grand manor, and creameries and workers’ cottages dotted around the landscape.<sup>9</sup> Writers, artists and poets noted the English nature of the town. In 1927, the visiting Duchess of York stated: ‘It’s Little England, a model of an old English village...[just] like home.’<sup>10</sup>



Figure 5: Aerial view of Menangle 1935, National Library of Australia

In the early 1970s, the agricultural enterprise of the Macarthur-Onslow family underwent upheaval with a large portion of the estate being sold to developers in the 1980s. This included selling off the famous Rotolactor which had been a major drawcard to the region as well as the private village of Menangle.

Due to these sales, especially those made in the 1980s, the Macarthurs were no longer the primary landholder, with land being bought by the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI). The DPI uses the land for agricultural research and the Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute, which covers 1600 hectares, is one of the world’s leading veterinary pathology laboratories and agricultural research centres. Located on its land is the historic Belgenny Farm which preserves historical developments of agriculture within Australia. Land that is not held by the DPI is still used for grazing cattle.<sup>11</sup>

## 2.2. History of the Subject Site

### Colonial History

As mentioned prior, Mount Taurus was the site where Governor Hunter first discovered the wild herd of cattle in 1795. This herd, which numbered approximately forty, had expanded from the 2 bulls and 4 cows that escaped captivity from Sydney 7 years prior in June 1788. In his first year of Governor of New South Wales, John Hunter travelled south-west of Sydney with a small party to confirm the prior sightings of the escaped cattle. Upon climbing the hill at the subject site, Governor Hunter found the herd grazing

<sup>9</sup> Willis, I. 2018. ‘Utopia or Dystopia: A Contested Space on Sydney’s Urban Frontier.’ Paper presented at the 14th Australasian Urban History Planning History Conference 2018, Melbourne, 30 May. Viewed 5 January 2021, <https://ro.uow.edu.au/lhapapers/3490/>.

<sup>10</sup> Sydney Morning Herald, 4 April 1927, cited in Willis, Ian Dr, ‘Utopia or Dystopia: A Contested Space on Sydney’s Urban Frontier’, School of Humanities and Social Inquiry, University of Wollongong, p.1.

<sup>11</sup> Menangle Planning Proposal, Heritage Opportunities and Constrains Analysis prepared by Austral Archaeology in 2022 (p.14).

in the valley south-west of the summit. To commemorate this discovery, he declared the site to be known as 'Mount Taurus', with Taurus being the Latin term for bull.

In the early explorations of the Wollondilly region following this discovery, Mount Taurus is mentioned in the journals of various visitors, including that of Governor Lachlan Macquarie, who visited the area multiple times. In November 1810, the year in which he was appointed Governor of NSW, Lachlan Macquarie and his wife Elizabeth Macquarie undertook a tour of the Cowpastures region to see firsthand how settlement of the area had undergone. Mention of Mount Taurus is seen in his entry for Sunday 18 November:<sup>12</sup>

*Being rather a little fatigued after our Excursion of yesterday, we took a good long sleep and did not Breakfast till Nine o'clock this morning; and while we were at it, we were visited by Mrs. McArthur, who had come the Evening before to the Cow Pastures to look after her Farms and fine numerous Flocks of Sheep in this part of the Country. — As we asked Mrs. McArthur to dine with us today, she expressed a desire to ride about the Country with us during this day's Excursion, which was of course readily assented to. — We accordingly set out on Horseback from Bundie at 11 o'clock to visit Mount Taurus and Mount Hunter, both of which are close in the vicinity of our little Camp; the former being about 4 miles S.W. of it, and the latter about 6 miles N. West of it. — We first ascended Mount Taurus, riding to the very top of it, from which we had a very fine extensive Prospect of the whole of circumjacent Country. — From Mount Taurus we proceeded by a long Ridge of Hills to Mount Hunter, and on the way thither met two or three Herds of the Wild Cattle, which allowed us to come very near them; and one of the Herds at first made directly at us but were scared away from us by the noise and shouting of our Guide and other Attendants. The view from the summit of Mount Hunter was also very fine and extensive; but I confess I was much disappointed with respect to the Height of both it and Mount Taurus, which hardly deserve to be called Mountains, and would only be classed as Hills in most other Country.*

In October 1815, Governor Macquarie again visited many of the earliest farms established in the area, including that of Mr and Mrs Macarthur at Lower Camden, Mr Davidson's at Menangle and Mr Hassall's 'Macquarie Grove,' Mention of Mount Taurus is seen in his entry for Saturday 7 October:<sup>13</sup>

*After travelling over several beautiful high Ridges alternatively, we ascended at the Southern Extremity of Mount Taurus at half past 9 o'clock, and soon after reaching the Top of that mountain, we came up with and apprehended two men named Michael McGrath, a Freeman, and Denis Bryan, a Convict, both residing on a Farm in the District of Appin through which we had passed a few days before. Each of these men had a Bag containing fresh Beef on his Back, and which they acknowledged was part of one of the Heifers belonging to the Wild Herds the Property of the Crown, and which Heifer they had killed early this morning, having come hither from their Farm for this purpose. I ordered them to be sent in the first instance to Mr Hassall's Farm, in order to be sent from thence to the Gaol at Sydney and committed by Mr Cox to take their Trial.*

## Camden Park History

The discovery of the wild cattle at Mount Taurus "grazing in a pleasant and apparently fertile pasturage"<sup>14</sup> led to the early settlement of the Cowpastures region by pastoralists. Without controlling them, the wild herd had made their home to the south-west of the Nepean River, thus pastoralists saw this land as prime real estate for the establishment of farms.

Most of the subject site occupies part of Portion 3 being 2,750-acre land grant issued to John Macarthur on 18 December 1805 and known as Upper Camden (Serial 3 Page No.179). The small portion at the north is located at Walter Davidson 2000-acre grant known as Belmont.

<sup>12</sup> Macquarie, Lachlan, Memoranda & Related Papers, 22 December 1808-1823, original held in the Mitchell Library, Sydney, available from: <https://www.mq.edu.au/macquarie-archive/lema/1810/1810nov.html#nov18>.

<sup>13</sup> Macquarie, Lachlan, Journal of a Tour of the Cow Pastures and other parts of the Interior in the Mont of Oct. 1815, available from: <https://www.mq.edu.au/macquarie-archive/lema/1815/1815oct.html#oct7>.

<sup>14</sup> Collins, D (1990), An Account of the English Colony in New South Wales, p. 365.



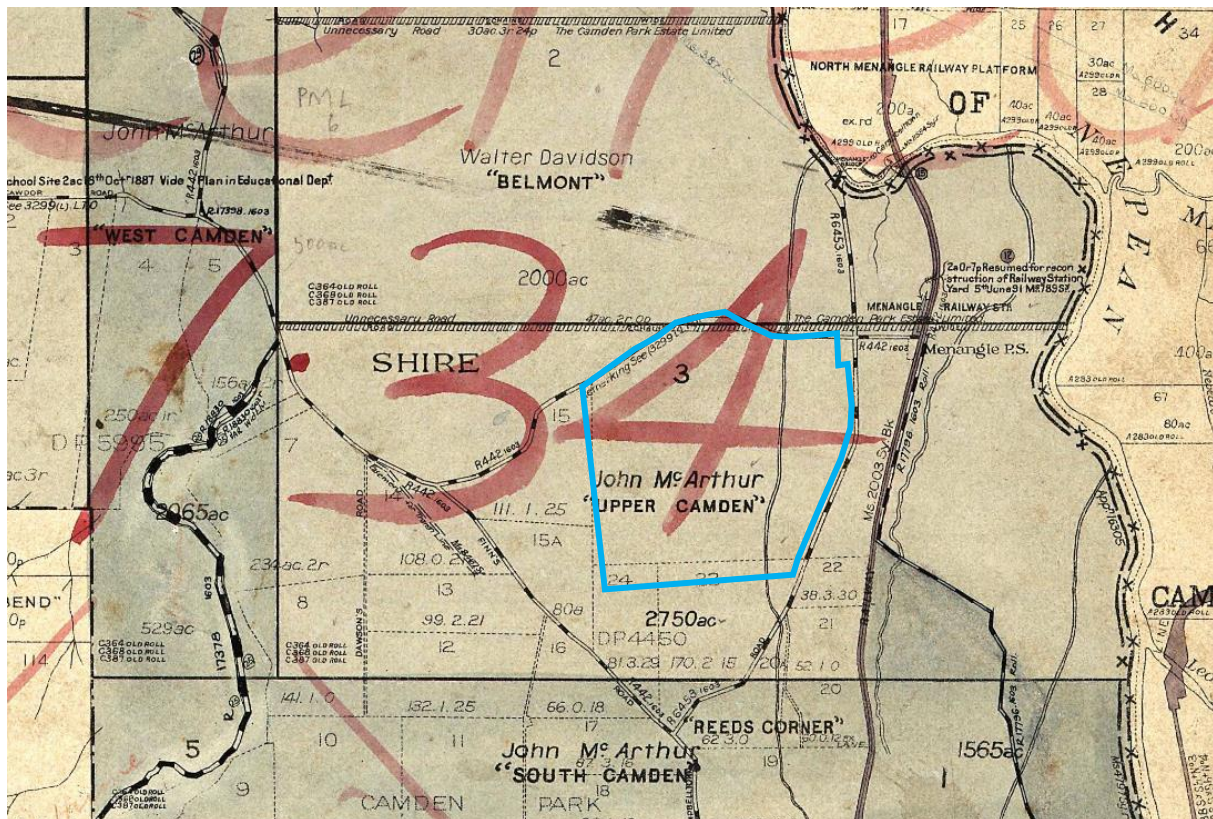


Figure 6: Parish of Camden, County of Camden, Land District of Picton, Second Edition Map showing approximate borders of the subject site (indicated in blue) (Source: NSW Land Registry Services, AO Map No.20223).

The following history is summarised from *Menangle Planning Proposal, Heritage Opportunities and Constrains Analysis* prepared by Austral Archaeology in 2022 and *Menangle Landscape Conservation Area Assessment of Significance & Proposed Boundaries*, prepared by MUSEcape Pty Ltd for Wollondilly Shire Council in 2012.

In 1809 John Macarthur was required to return to England, however, under the management of his wife Elizabeth, the Camden flock grew to between 3500 and 5500 when he returned in 1817 (Betteridge 2012). During this time Davidson had also returned to England and had given the Macarthur family permission to use his land. Upon the return of John Macarthur, the agricultural production of the family expanded with the introduction of Vines, olives, and other crops (Thorp 1989, p.198). In 1824 and 1825 the land held by the Macarthurs grew to just over 25,000 acres when they purchased more of the Cowpastures from the government. This led them to expand their produces further into fruits, tobacco, and vegetables, but the primary focus was on wool and Dairy (Thorp 1989).

*In 1837, with borrowed funds, James and William finally purchased Walter Davidson's grant Belmont that been worked by the family since Davidson left the Colony in 1809.<sup>15</sup> The price was £4000 for 2000 acres of good land 'fit for every purpose whether of grazing or agriculture and well watered.'<sup>16</sup> With this purchase the Macarthur estates at Camden reached their maximum extent; ten separate grants totalling some 27,698 acres.<sup>17</sup>*

With the increase in the land came an increase in the number of workers needed to run the farm. Quarter acre plots of land were left to families and men who moved to the estate to work for the Macarthur family. Between 1837 and 1839 William and James brought out to Camden a total of 41 families of agricultural

<sup>15</sup> NSW Land Registry Services, Book 10 Page No.277.

<sup>16</sup> Land Boards report No. 437 of 18 September 1830, 30/7071, Colonial Secretary re: land, Walter Stevenson Davidson, 2/7839, Reel 18, (State Records NSW).

<sup>17</sup> MENANGLE LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION AREA ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE & PROPOSED BOUNDARIES prepared by MUSEcape Pty Ltd for Wollondilly Shire Council, June 2012 (p.41).

labourers from Dorset and Kent in England, vine dressers from the Rhineland in Germany and a few single men. Each family was provided with a cottage, allowed a milking cow, a pig and poultry and was bound to work for the Macarthurs for three or five years.<sup>18</sup>

During these times land usage would vary from cultivating wheat and orchards to using to graze cattle and sheep. The Macarthurs invested in the infrastructure of the estate including the subject site. This aided in the handling of animals and the upkeep of crops, including in the construction of lanes to move cattle without allowing them in the fields. From 1850 they began to focus on crops, dairy, horticulture, and wine, with sheep no longer being run on the property. The cropping and horticulture were reduced due to the effects of flooding and drought that occurred in the 1870s, which led to a number of tenants living in the Macarthur estate to relocate. In the 1880s wine production at the estate was forced to stop when phylloxera decimated vineyards (Belgenny Farm n.d.). These events lead to the decrease in the Macarthurs' influence over the area.

Despite the effects of the environmental events that had occurred, under the management of Elizabeth Macarthur Onslow the estate was able to continue to thrive. Between her take over in 1882 and 1890, Elizabeth was able to clear the estate of all its debt. She introduced the concept of share farming and grew the number of cooperative dairy farms on the estate with creameries having been constructed at Menangle (1892), Cawdor (1895), and Home Farm (1898). This made way for Elizabeth to establish the company Camden Park Estate Pty Ltd in 1899 with the shareholders being her children. In 1901 the land held by Camden Park Estate Pty Ltd began to be subdivided with the land of the subject site being purchased by Elizabeth's son, Francis Arthur Macarthur-Onslow in 1917 (Volume 2728 Folio 178).

Francis Arthur Macarthur-Onslow, known as Arthur, was born on 7 June 1879 and was educated at Rugby and Exeter College, Oxford. On 29 April 1897 he was commissioned in the New South Wales Mounted Rifles and in July 1899 promoted lieutenant. He returned to Australia in 1902 after recuperating in London from rheumatic fever. In 1907 he transferred to the reserve of officers and in 1919 was placed on the retired list with the rank of lieutenant. Engaged at first in sheep-raising, from 1916 at Macquarie Grove, he became a director of Camden Park Estate Pty Ltd. He was three times mayor of Camden.

In 1928 he established Camden Vale Milk Co. Later the Camden Vale Milk Cooperative Co was amalgamated Dairy Farmers' Co-operative Milk Co. Ltd, as the concept of model dairies were being developed at Camden Park. The first of these Model Dairies, Model Dairy No.1, was constructed close to the Menangle Creamery which is 600 meters from the dairy no. 3 site. Model Dairy No.3 was constructed within the site between 1926 and 1932 and 90 to 140 cows would have been milked at the facility (Attenbrow 2010, p.74). These dairies were established to be examples of best practices, implementing new management practices and construction guidelines to increase the hygiene of dairies. Having the dairies constructed from brick and concrete made it easier for farmers to clean the stalls, and ensuring the cattle were clean when they entered reduced the potential for the milk to be contaminated. With the milk in Sydney varying greatly in quality due to the conditions of the dairy facilities, the milk from the Camden Estate used their new hygiene standards as a selling point, especially since 1924 the herd at Camden Park was certified as Tuberculosis-Free (Belgenny Farm n.d.). In 1934, the site was bought back by the Camden Park Estate company. Camden Park was also one of the first dairy companies to adopt thin neck bottles with foil caps in 1935, replacing the bottles that had wide necks and cardboard caps.

<sup>18</sup> Alan Atkinson: Camden, Oxford University Press Australia, 1988, pp 38-41.



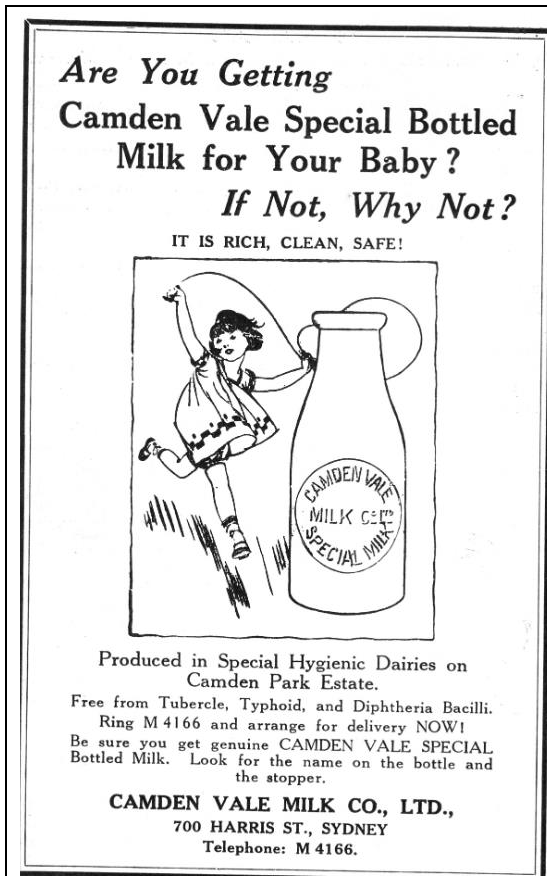


Figure 7: An advertisement promoting bottled milk placed by Camden Vale Milk Company Limited in the 1931 Health and Baby Welfare Booklet as part of Sydney Health Week. Health Week ran from 10 October 1931 to 23 October 1931 across New South Wales. (Source: Camden History Notes available via <https://camdenhistorynotes.com/tag/dairying/>, accessed May 2023).

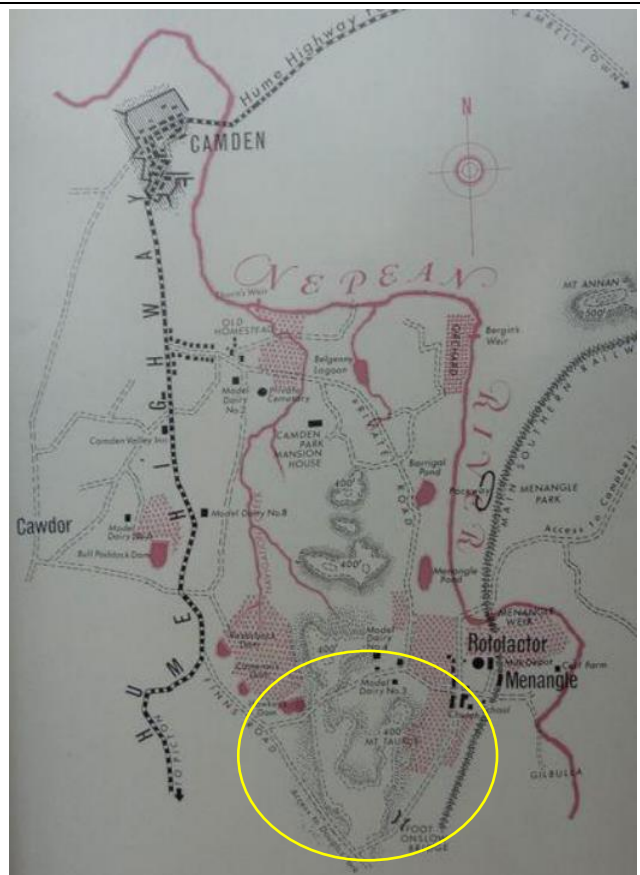


Figure 8: A simplified plan of the Camden Park Estate in the 1960s, after a keyline system had been installed, with irrigated areas shown in pink, including the river flats north of Menangle Village. (Reproduced from Camden Park Estate 1795-1965. Australia's oldest pastoral property, Camden Park Estate Pty Ltd, Menangle, 1965) (extracted from Menangle Landscape Conservation Area Assessment of Significance & Proposed Boundaries, prepared by MUSEcape Pty Ltd for Wollondilly Shire Council in 2012).

In the 1950s and 1960s, the Macarthurs started to invest in improvements across the estate. This was to mitigate the effects of drought, which had impacted the area in the mid 20th century. It included the application of the management strategy that implemented the Keyline System. The Keyline system was developed in Australia by P.A. Yeomans in the 1950s and focused on improving soil conditions and water retention of the land to reduce the effects of drought. This system used a series of man-made contours, strategic ploughing with specialised ploughs, such as a chisel plough, and constructing dams on 'keylines'. Keyline dams are often located on slopes allowing the water they store to feed gravitational irrigation, and the ploughing allows water, air, and minerals into the soil. The eastern portion of the site was included in these improvements with it being most likely subjected to ploughing with a chisel plough. To fund these improvements, the Macarthur family sold off portions of land from the estate. In the 1970s, dairy prices started to fall, reducing the number of dairies operating in NSW. From this time, the Macarthurs started to look at conserving the historical value of the estate and invested in agricultural research.

The subject site was owned by Macarthur-Onslow family until 1988, when the entire allotment was transferred to Len Peel Pty Ltd.

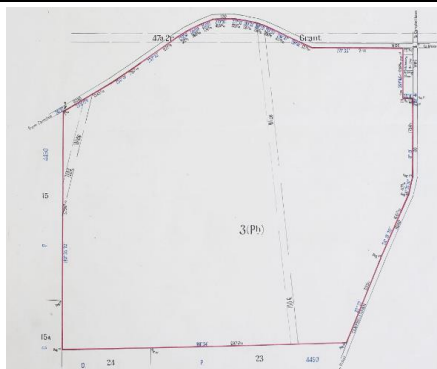


Figure 9: Sketch attached to the Certificate of Title Volume 2728 Folio 178 identifying the land transferred to Len Peel Pty Ltd in 1988 (Source: NSW Land Registry Services).

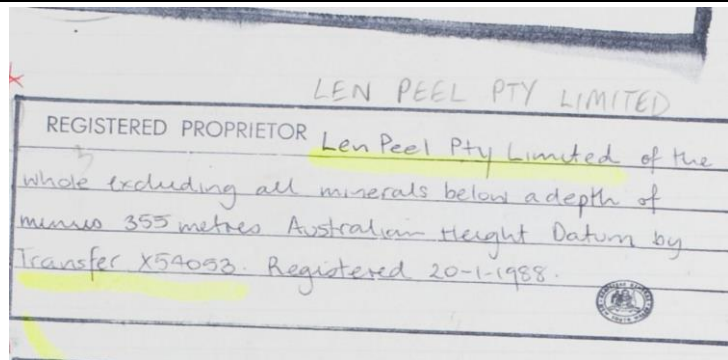


Figure 10: Transfer on the Certificate of Title Volume 2728 Folio 178 identifying change of ownership to Len Peel Pty Ltd in 1988 (Source: NSW Land Registry Services).

Table 1: Summary of Chronological Events Relating to the Subject Site

Book and Number	Transferred to	Date
	1795 – 1805: The area was a part of the Cowpastures	1795-1805
	The study area became a part of Upper Camden and Belmont, like land grants to Macarthur and Davidson	1805
	Area was cleared, and Sheep were grazed in the area.	1805-1882
	Portion of the subject site was leased to smallholders who worked for the Macarthurs. The tenant would grow a variety of crops or graze life stock on their holdings.	1837-1882
	The subject site became one of the share farms in Macarthur's co-operative dairy.	1882-1988
	Model Dairy No. 3 was constructed in the study area.	1926-1932
	Keyline Management system was implemented on the eastern area of the site which mainly involved specialised ploughing of the area.	1950-1960
Volume 2728 Folio 178 (p.4)	The subject site was sold by the Macarthurs to Len Peel Pty Ltd	1988
	2001-2014: A number of gas wells were installed on the subject site as a part of the Camden Gas project, which is currently being discontinued.	2001-2014



Little is known about early structures on the subject site. The earliest aerial imagery of the site dates back to 1947. By that time, the Model Dairy No.3 containing the milking shed, farm buildings, double silo and cottage were well established (Figure 13 & Figure 14).



Figure 11: Mount Taurus, undated (Source: 'Helen's Photos', Menangle Community Website, available from [https://menangle.com.au/?page\\_id=217](https://menangle.com.au/?page_id=217), accessed May 2023).

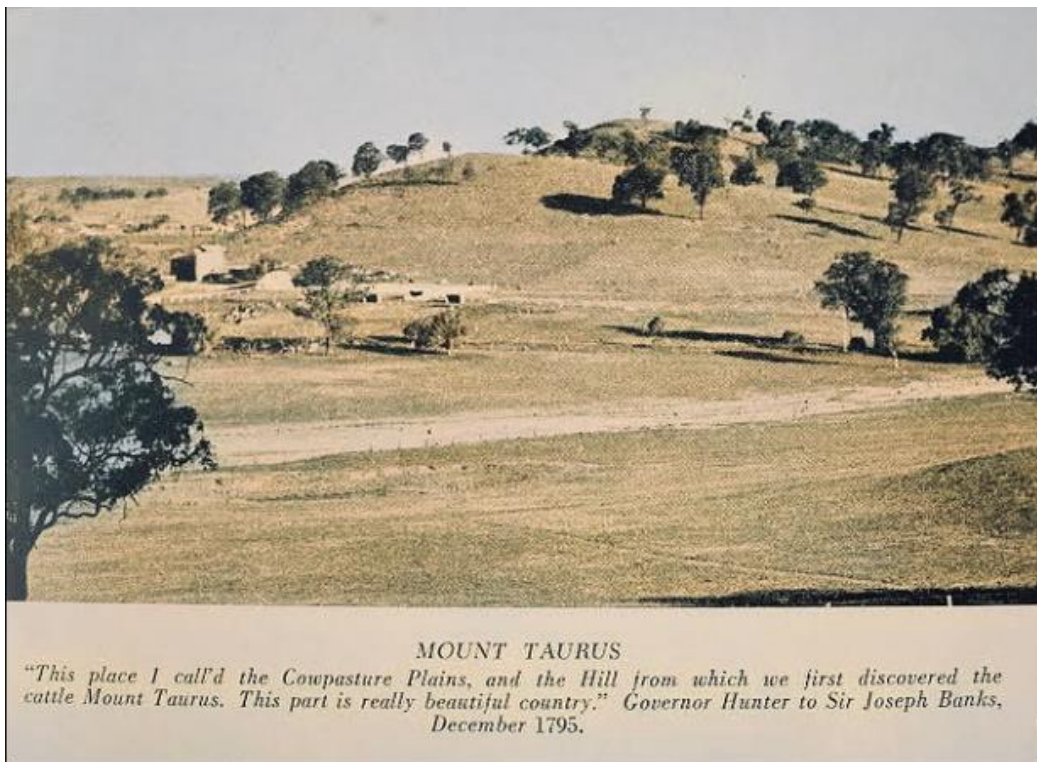


Figure 12: This appears to be a coloured photograph of the above figure, with a quote accompanying it from Governor Hunter (writing to Sir Joseph Banks in December 1795). Source: Facebook, The Sore Menangle, 19 February 2021, available from: <https://www.facebook.com/113782637071912/photos/a.165313138585528/242418470874994/?type=3>.



Figure 13: Historical aerial image showing part of the subject site with Model Dairy No.3 and cottage in 1947 (Source: Historical Imagery, accessed May 2023).

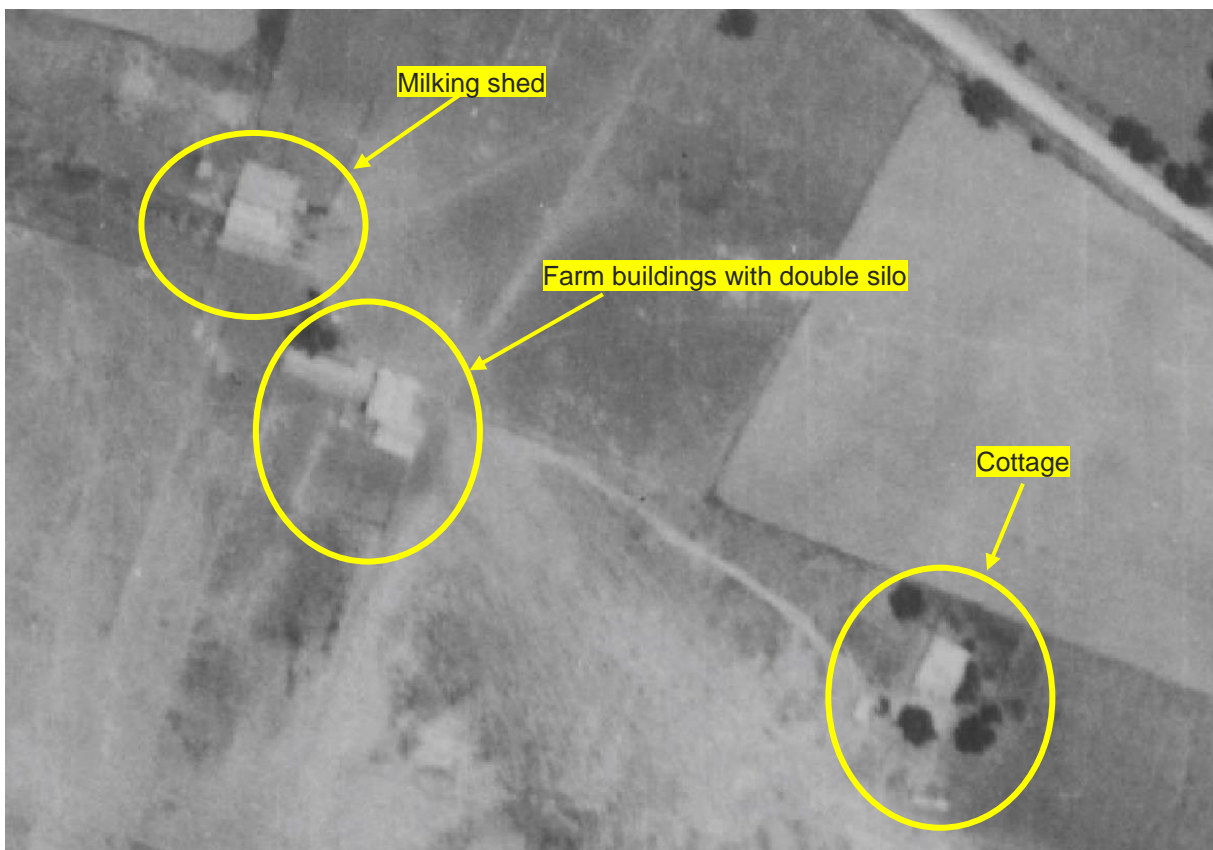


Figure 14: Enlarged historical aerial image showing part of the subject site with Model Dairy No.3 and cottage in 1947 (Source: Historical Imagery, accessed May 2023).



The site remained little altered in late 1940s and early 1950s (Figure 15). By 1956 a cottage facing Menangle Street was erected (Figure 17).

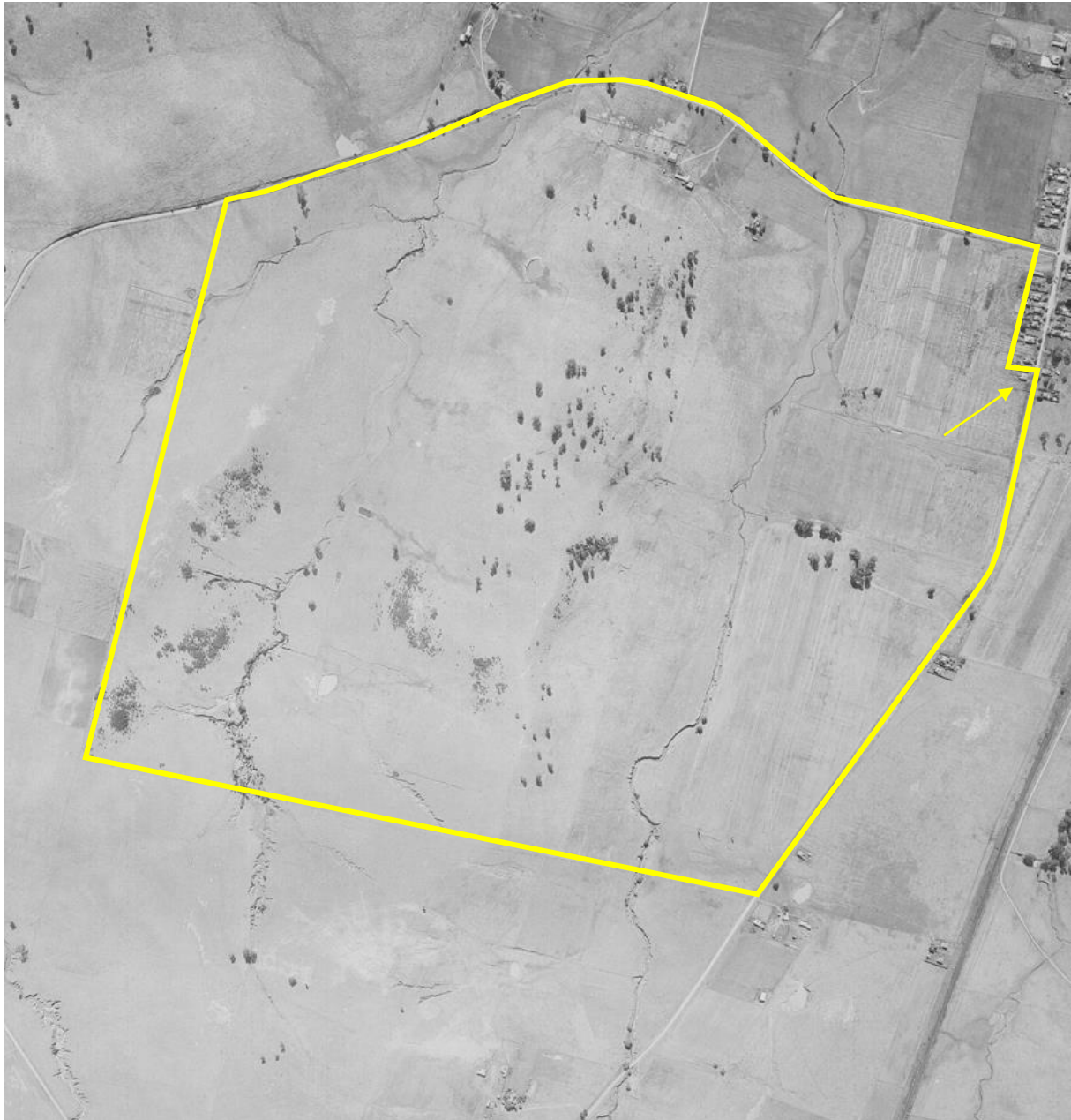


Figure 15: Historical aerial image showing the subject site in 1956 (secondary cottage along Menangle Street is indicated with yellow arrow) (Source: Historical Imagery, accessed May 2023).

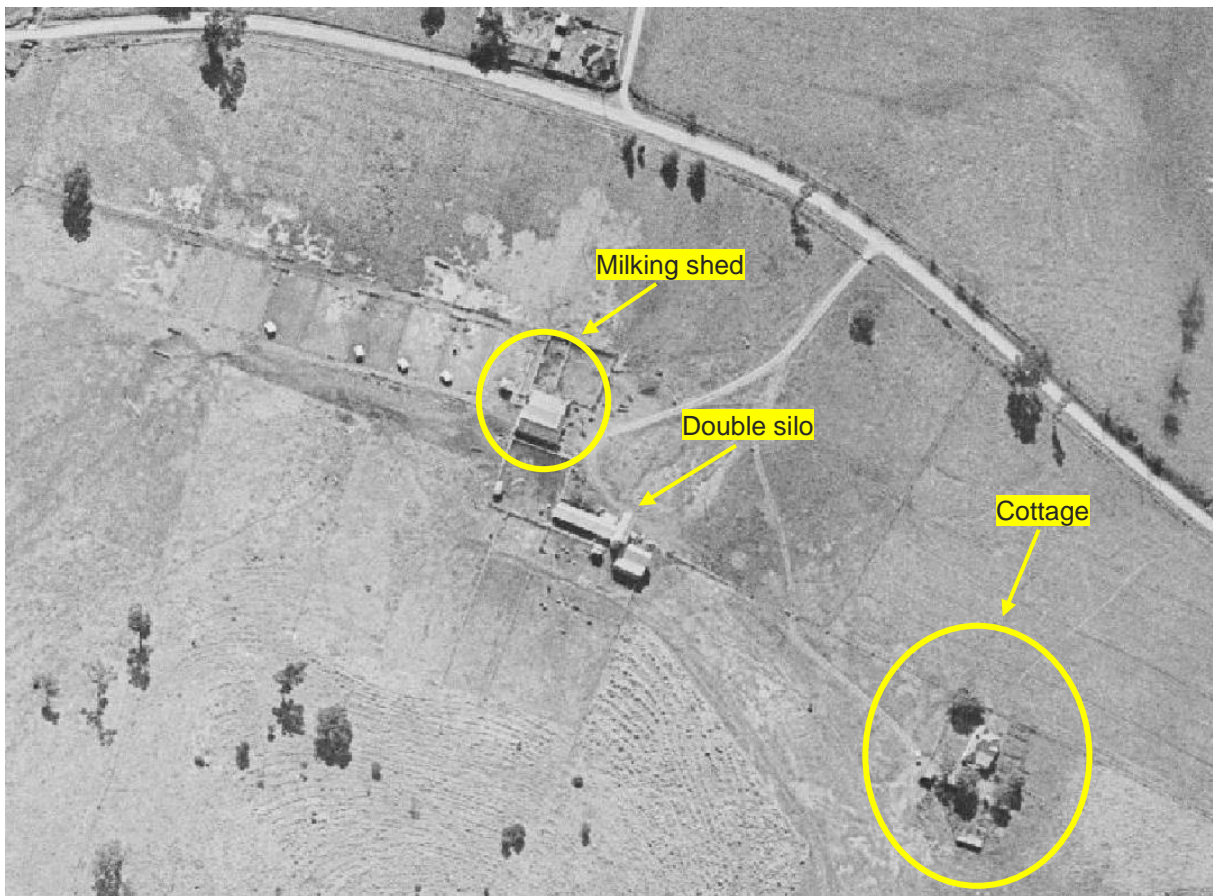


Figure 16: Enlarged historical aerial image showing part of the subject site with Model Dairy No.3, milking shed and cottage in 1956 (Source: Historical Imagery, accessed May 2023).



Figure 17: Enlarged historical aerial image showing part of the subject site with cottage facing Menangle Street in 1956 (Source: Historical Imagery, accessed May 2023).



By 1990, the milking shed was modified or rebuilt to its current L-shape and a few outbuildings were demolished or replaced (Figure 18). The cottage facing Menangle Street was also altered at the rear elevation. It appears that the cottage and Dairy No.3 remained largely unaltered, however, an awning was erected on the northeast elevation of dairy and some roof repairs were undertaken (Figure 19).



Figure 18: Enlarged historical aerial image showing part of the subject site with cottage, Dairy No.3 and modified or rebuilt milking shed (circled in yellow) in 1990 (Source: Historical Imagery, accessed May 2023).



Figure 19: Enlarged historical aerial image showing part of the subject site and cottage facing Menangle Street (with altered at the rear elevation) in 1990 (Source: Historical Imagery, accessed May 2023).

By 2002, a portion of the farm building adjoining the double silo was reroofed and an awning or addition was constructed along the southern elevation. Other structures appear to remain unaltered (Figure 20 and Figure 21).



Figure 20: Enlarged historical aerial image showing part of the subject site with cottage, Dairy No.3 and milking shed in 2002 (Source: Historical Imagery, accessed May 2023).



Figure 21: Enlarged historical aerial image showing part of the subject site with cottage facing Menangle Street (circled in yellow) in 2002 (Source: Historical Imagery, accessed May 2023).



Currently, the subject site contains the original milking shed, farm buildings adjacent to double silo and cottage erected pc.1926-1932, a cottage facing Menangle Street erected by 1956 and various outbuilding across the site erected at different dates.



Figure 22: 2018 aerial image showing part of the subject site with milking shed and dairy No.3 erected prior to 1947 and outbuildings (Source: Six Maps accessed May 2023).



Figure 23: 2018 aerial image showing part of the subject site with cottage erected prior to 1947 and outbuildings (Source: Six Maps accessed May 2023).



*Figure 24: 2018 aerial image showing part of the subject site with cottage facing Menangle Street erected by 1956 (Source: Six Maps accessed May 2023).*



### 3. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

#### 3.1. Generally

CPH heritage staff inspected the property at 65 Woodbridge Road on 31 March 2023. The inspection was limited to visual observations of the interiors and exterior views from within the grounds of the site. Inspections were carried out from ground level, and no building fabric was disturbed during the inspection. Roof spaces, sub-floor area (in part) and interior were not accessible during the inspection but were visible from the windows to some extent.

#### 3.2. Site Context

The Mount Taurus complex at 65 Woodbridge Road consists of several structures, including a cottage, milking shed, farm buildings adjoining double silo with gabled roof. Another cottage which forms part of the site is located along Menangle Road adjoining a row of residential dwellings at the north.



Figure 25: General view along Menangle Road from the intersection with Woodbridge Road, looking South. (Source: Google Street View, dating April 2021, accessed May 2023).



Figure 26: General view along Woodbridge Road, looking east towards Menangle Village. Looking from subject site entry gate.





Figure 27: General view from Woodbridge Road looking east towards Menangle Village (subject site indicated with yellow arrow).



Figure 28: View along Woodbridge Road showing cottage at 60 Woodbridge Road located opposite from the subject site.

### 3.3. Site Description

#### 3.3.1. Description of the Exterior

The subject site currently contains several structures, predominately related to the Model Dairy No.3. The structures include a Federation Arts and Craft style cottage, an L-shaped milking shed, feed sheds, machinery sheds, a double silo with gabled roof and other farming outbuildings. Another cottage which forms part of the site is located along Menangle Road adjoining a row of residential dwellings at the north.



Figure 29: General view of Mount Taurus Group.

#### 3.3.1.1. Double silos

The double silos are twin concrete towers under a gabled roof. These are clad in corrugated iron. Several other timber framed sheds under corrugated iron roofs are connected to the silos.



Figure 30: Double silo, north elevation (Source: Wollondilly Shire Council).





Figure 31: Double silo and adjoining timber framed shed, west elevation (Source: Wollondilly Shire Council).



Figure 32: Double silo and adjoining timber framed shed, west elevation.

### 3.3.1.2. Milking Shed

The milking shed is an L-shaped brick structure located to the west of the silos. The structure features a hipped corrugated iron roof with small gable and a series of skylights along the roof. The small gable is decorated with a curved timber bargeboard. The building is constructed of face brick and is set on a concrete platform. Several large double-hung timber doors/gates are located along the southern elevation, with a multi panelled sash window at the eastern end. The western elevation features a roller



door at the southern end and a single hung timber window next to it. The northern end features a part brick extension, with the top section clad in fibre cement and another single hung timber window. The north elevation features an awning between the wings, and the western elevation has a single multi panelled window. The structure contains disused milking equipment.



Figure 33: Milking shed, east elevation.



Figure 34: Milking shed, south elevation.





Figure 35: Milking shed, north and east elevations, showing fibre cement extension.



Figure 36: Milking shed, west elevation (Source: Wollondilly Shire Council).





Figure 37: Milking shed, west and north elevations (Source: Wollondilly Shire Council).



Figure 38: Milking shed, covered area at north elevation (Source: Wollondilly Shire Council).



### 3.3.1.3. Dairy Cottage

The dairy cottage is a single storey L-shaped residence constructed on brick piers and clad in fibre cement with an extension between the wings and at the rear. It features a hipped corrugated iron roof with projecting gables at the north and east elevations and small gables decorated with curved timber bargeboards of the same design as the milking shed. A veranda under a separate corrugated iron skillion roof, supported by simple square timber posts with timber brackets, encircles part of the northern elevation and part of the eastern elevation. The veranda is decorated with a timber frieze. The projecting gable at the front (northern) elevation has imitation shingle gable detailing and a multi panelled double hung casement window with multicoloured lead lights. This is shaded by a timber bracketed awning with imitation timber shingles. The front door is a timber five panelled door (with top panels glazed) and a screen door (with top panels featuring mosquito screens). Next to front door is a multi-panelled sash window. The east elevation features another projecting gable with multi panelled double-hung casement window (without shading) and a second entrance door of similar design as the front door (but without a screen door). The remainder of the house features double-hung sash windows. The house has two simple corbelled brick chimneys, at the front and rear of the house, and is accessed by a set of concrete stairs, which provide access to the veranda and main door.

There are also two simple outbuildings clad in corrugated iron and used as garages/sheds at the rear of the Cottage.



Figure 39: Dairy cottage, east and north elevations, showing encircling veranda, both projecting bays with flying gables and small decorative gablet to the main roof.





Figure 40: Dairy cottage, north elevation (Source: Wollondilly Shire Council).



Figure 41: Dairy cottage, west elevation, showing the extension at the rear, chimneys and small gablet.





Figure 42: Dairy cottage, east elevation.



Figure 43: Dairy cottage, east and south elevations.





Figure 44: Dairy cottage, sub-floor with brick piers and timber bearers, joists and floorboards.



Figure 45: Dairy cottage and corrugated iron outbuildings and carport at the rear of the cottage.





Figure 46: Dairy cottage, carport.

#### 3.3.1.4. Menangle Road Cottage

The cottage facing Menangle Road is a single storey weatherboard residence under a low-pitched corrugated iron roof which houses a central face brick chimney. The property is bounded by a wire mesh fence and was not accessible during the inspection.



Figure 47: Menangle Road cottage, front elevation (Source: Google Street View, dated April 2021, accessed May 2023).

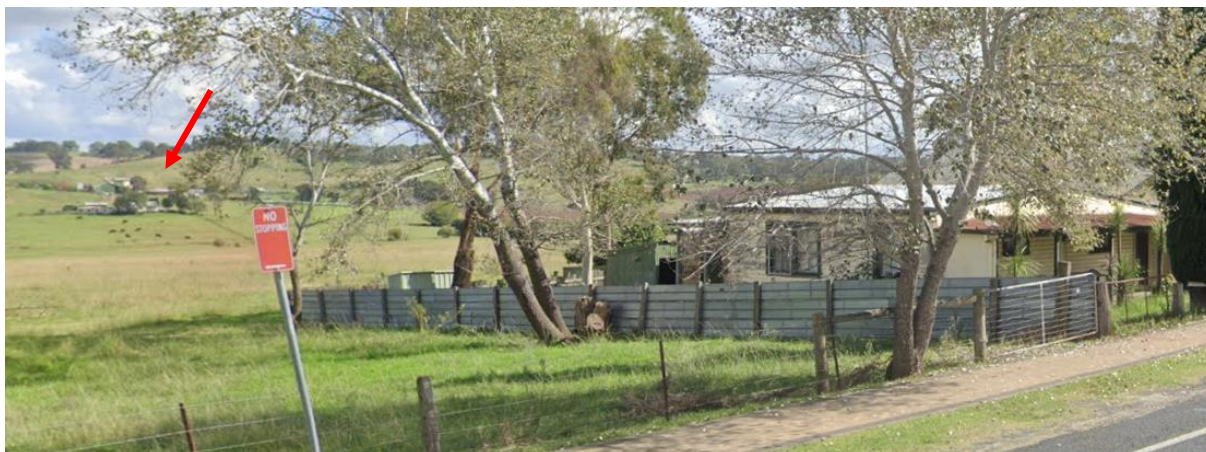


Figure 48: Menangle Road cottage, south elevation. Dairy buildings indicated with red arrow (Source: Google Street View dated April 2021, accessed May 2023).

### 3.3.1.5. Other Features

The following description was extracted from 'Menangle Planning Proposal, Heritage Opportunities and Constraints Analysis' prepared by Austral Archaeology in 2022:<sup>19</sup>

*There are several other notable features across the landscape of the study area. This includes remnant timber fence posts and fence lines that define existing or historic paddocks. There are also two creeks that bisect the property, roughly in a north-south direction, on either side of Mount Taurus. The creek to the east is known as Foot Onslow Creek, while the creek to the west is unnamed. At the northern end of the study area, at a small creek crossing, there are the remains of a timber bridge crossing.*

*Along the ridge of Mount Taurus, at the northern peak, there is a memorial base constructed of sandstone blocks and set on a sandstone surface. The sandstone is in good condition, although the memorial is missing a circular top plate, which is in the possession of the current owners of the property (Pers. Comm, 2022). The base contains another brass plaque, which states that the memorial was unveiled on 3 September 1967 by the Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia, and marks the location of the discovery of the herd of wild cattle, in the area to become known as the Cowpastures.*

<sup>19</sup> 'Menangle Planning Proposal, 'Heritage Opportunities and Constrains Analysis' prepared by Austral Archaeology in 2022 (p.30).





Figure 49: Timber post near main entrance to Mount Taurus group.



Figure 50: Memorial base at approximately the middle of Mount Taurus property.



Figure 51: Top plate of Memorial base at approximately the centre of Mount Taurus property.



Figure 52: Plaque on memorial base, identifying Mount Taurus and the Cowpastures.

### 3.3.2. Interior Description

#### 3.3.2.1. Dairy Cottage

Due to the poor conditions of the cottage, it was unsafe to access the interior for a detailed assessment. Photos were taken from window and door openings as much as possible and practicable.

The interior of the cottage features herringbone patterned wainscoting and timber skirting in all rooms. Internal doors mainly appear to be four panelled timber doors with traditional configuration of longer upper panels, smaller bottom panels and doorknobs. In one of the rooms is a simple boarded-up fireplace with timber mantel piece supported on iron brackets. Another fireplace with a cooking stove is located in the kitchen. This fireplace features a timber mantel piece above it, which is supported on decorative brackets. Walls are clad in fibre cement panels with herringbone patterned timber wainscoting. Flooring varies from carpet in some rooms, timber in others and possibly linoleum in the kitchen. The ceilings are fibro panels with battens.

The following images provide information about interiors of the Dairy cottage.





Figure 53: Dairy cottage, interior.



Figure 54: Dairy cottage, interior details (Source: Wollondilly Shire Council).





Figure 55: Dairy cottage, kitchen (Source: Wollondilly Shire Council).



Figure 56: Dairy cottage (Source: Wollondilly Shire Council).



### 3.3.2.2. Milking Shed

Due to the poor condition and existence of equipment inside the shed, it was unsafe to access the interior for a detailed assessment. Photos were taken from the door openings.

The interior of the milking shed features a gabled ceiling with skylights and iron beams. There is redundant milking equipment and system along the walls.

The following images provide information about interiors of milking shed.



Figure 57: Milking shed, interior (Source: Wollondilly Shire Council).

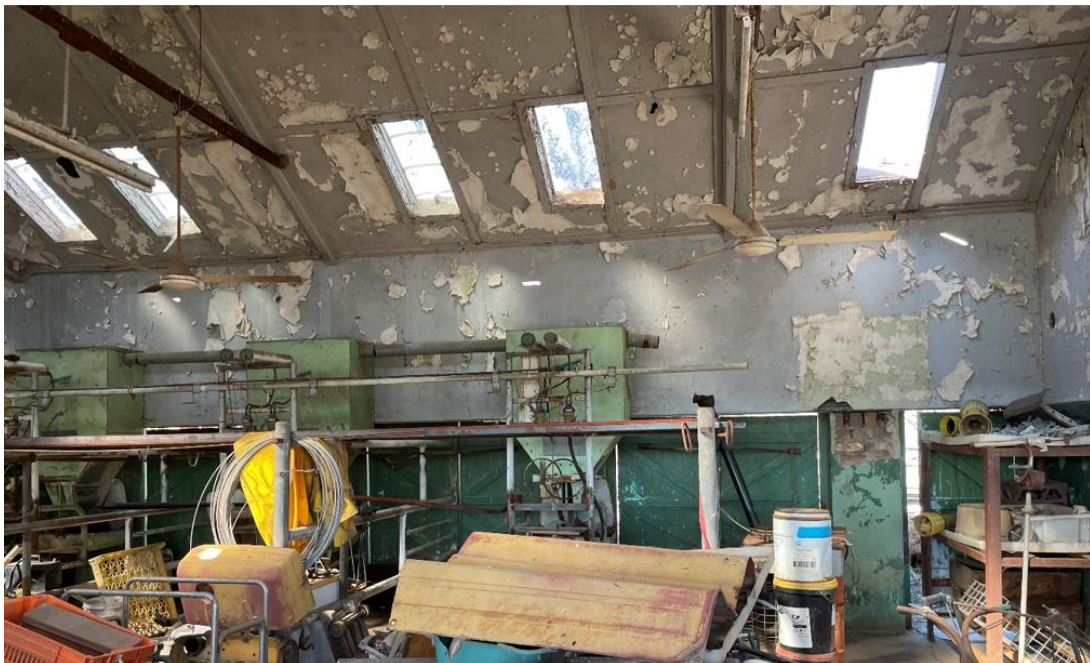


Figure 58: Milking shed, interior (Source: Wollondilly Shire Council).



## 4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

The study area at 65 Woodbridge Road includes a range of landforms, several of which are sensitive for Aboriginal archaeology. The study area has a prominent ridgeline that runs north-south through the centre of the property, and is also flanked by another north-south orientated ridgeline along its western boundary. The two ridgelines are separated by an unnamed second order creek line, a tributary of Foot Onslow Creek, which itself flows through the property south to north along a floodplain that runs parallel to the prominent central ridgeline on the eastern side of the property. The unnamed second order creek joins Foot Onslow Creek approximately one kilometre north of the study area. The unnamed creek is located within a valley flat landform (i.e. a narrow, confined floodplain), whilst Foot Onslow Creek itself is located on a wider floodplain. The study area therefore incorporates a suite of landforms indicative of a toposequence which incorporates all landforms from a ridgeline, slopes and valley flat/floodplain.

The geology of the study area is composed of the Wianamatta Shale's which weather to form residual soils, whilst the floodplain of Foot Onslow Creek is also likely to include extensive deposits of alluvial sediments. The shales weather to form the Blacktown residual soil landscape and Luddenham erosional soil landscape, whereas the alluvial deposits give rise to the Theresa Park alluvial soil landscape. The topsoil A horizons of the two shale soils are considered to contain potential archaeological deposits (PAD), particularly along ridgelines and on flat, level bench areas on slopes. Whereas the alluvial soils of the Theresa Park soil landscape are likely to include several metres of PAD because floodplains are highly sensitive landforms for Aboriginal archaeology, as preferred locations for former Aboriginal settlement. The central ridgeline of the study area continues south of the study area for several kilometres and as such is likely to represent a former travel route for Aboriginal People, again reinforcing the potential Aboriginal heritage sensitivity of the study area. Finally, the Foot Onslow Creek was likely to have been what is known colloquially as a chain-of-ponds (known as 'swampy meadows' formations in geological terms) prior to the settlement of the area by Europeans, and these are resource rich landscapes well known for their attractiveness for long-term or seasonal settlement by the local Aboriginal tribes.

A basic AHIMS search of the study area revealed that there are at least six registered Aboriginal sites on the property which reinforces the sensitive nature of the study area for Aboriginal heritage. There is a very high likelihood that there will be more archaeological sites on the property, particularly within the footprint of the Foot Onslow Creek floodplain, which is likely to include several metres of PAD. The soils of the shale landscape (Blacktown and Luddenham) are limited to the survival of topsoil (A horizon) deposits for there to be any Aboriginal archaeological sensitivity in regard to PAD.

The active erosion visible in aerial photography across the study area in the form of soil creep and limited surface scalds (areas subject to wind or water erosion), as well as the entrenchment of the two creeks exposing sections through the respective creek valley flat/floodplain alluvial deposits, and the surface exposures created by the pre-existing dams on the property, are likely to have exposed additional Aboriginal artefacts (objects) across the study area.

In conclusion, the study area is considered to be a highly sensitive collection of landform elements with accompanying subsurface soils and sediments likely representing PAD, particularly in association with the ridgeline (where topsoils survive) and valley flat and floodplain landforms.

## 5. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

### 5.1. Basis of Assessment

Heritage significance, cultural significance and cultural value are all terms used to describe an item's value or importance to our own society. This value may be embodied in the fabric of an item, its setting and its relationship to other items, the response that the item stimulates to those who value it now and in the historical record that allow us to understand it in its own context.

Significance may increase as more is learnt about the past and as items become rare, endangered or are found to document or illustrate aspects that achieve a new recognition of importance.

The historical analysis provides the context for assessing significance, which is made by applying standard evaluation criteria to the development and associations of an item. The Heritage Council of NSW has produced standard evaluation criteria that are compatible with the values contained in *The Burra Charter*. This was most recently updated in the June 2023 *Assessing Heritage Significance* guidelines.

### 5.2. Two Heritage Listings

From the historical research undertaken for the site, as well as consideration of the site's current physical attributes, there are two distinct elements which appear to be worthy of heritage listing. The first of such is that of the model dairy established on the northern elevation of the site. This includes the double silos, milking shed and dairy cottage, which appear to have been constructed in the c. late 1920s and are associated with the model dairies of Camden Park Estate.

The second distinct element of the site is that of the landscape itself. Mount Taurus is associated with Australia's early colonial history, with the site identified as the location in which the wild cattle of the colony were discovered by Governor Hunter and a travelling party in 1795.

As the built elements of the model dairy and the natural element of the Mount Taurus landscape are distinctly different and from different historical periods in Australian history, it is recommended that both are assessed separately against the criteria for heritage listing. The two elements have also been comparatively assessed against other likewise heritage items to aid in determining the site's significance.

### 5.3. Model Dairy No. 3

#### 5.3.1. Comparative Analysis

The level of significance of an item or a precinct/area is determined by its value relative to other comparable items, be they in a local or international context. The rarity and/or representativeness of the item or a precinct/area are considered as part of the overall analysis of its significance. Comparisons will be made between suitable farm complexes from the same period and style for the purposes of establishing significance in relation to the rarity criteria and representativeness criteria of the NSW Heritage Council's 'Assessing Heritage Significance' guidelines.

The subject site was built as a model dairy between 1926 and 1932 by the Macarthur family and forms one of many other model dairies in the Menangle and Camden Park area. These dairies were established to be examples of best practices, implementing new management practices and construction guidelines to increase the hygiene of dairies. Each dairy featured silos, milking shed, cottage and a number of outbuildings. A comparative analysis of the other model dairies in the surrounding vicinity follows.

#### Dairy No.4 - 60 Woodbridge Road, Menangle<sup>20</sup>

<sup>20</sup> State Heritage Inventory Form, 'Dairy No 4 (EMAI Cottage 29)', Heritage item I.84, accessed June 2023 via <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=2690719>

The following description of Dairy No.4 is extracted from Menangle Landscape Conservation Area Assessment of Significance & Proposed Boundaries, prepared by MUSEcape, 2012:

*This cottage, known in EMAI as No.4 Dairy Cottage (formerly OLB 041) is located on Woodbridge Road west of Menangle village, appears to consist of two separate weatherboard buildings from the late 19th century, of which the rear section (to the west) is probably the older. The central space has weatherboards on both long walls, indicating that they were originally external. The north-west extension is evidently of later construction; it has a concrete floor and fibro-clad walls. The earlier parts of the rear building have bead-jointed boarded walls and ceilings, and wider timber floor boards than the eastern wing of the cottage. The double fireplace suggests that this was a kitchen wing. The eastern section has walls lined in fibrous plaster, with bead-jointed boarded ceilings. The timber veranda has timber stumps and posts. The 12-pane window in the south-east room appears of earlier date than the remainder of the joinery and may have been reused from the western wing. The building is in very poor condition: most of the doors have been removed, the veranda is damaged and there is a considerable quantity of cattle dung throughout the building.*



Figure 59: Dairy No.4 complex showing dairy (right), shed (centre) and silos (left).

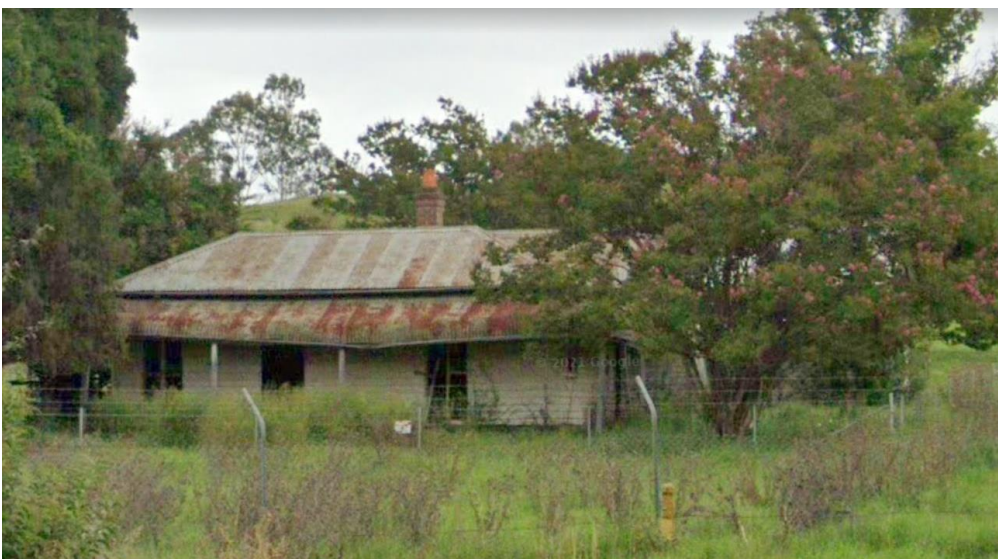


Figure 60: Dairy No.4 residence (Source: Google Street View dated February 2021, accessed June 2023).





Figure 61: Dairy No.4 residence (Source: Menangle Landscape Conservation Area Assessment of Significance & Proposed Boundaries, prepared by MUSEcape, 2012).

Similar to the subject site at 65 Woodbridge Road, Dairy No.4 cottage was constructed as workers accommodation in early 20th Century. The same as subject site, it is a timber framed construction with fibre cement cladding (part fibre cement and part weatherboard for Dairy No.4) and has hipped corrugated iron roof, however, Dairy No.4 cottage is a lot more modest in shape and detailing. It is much simpler residence with bullnosed veranda which lacks decorative frieze and post brackets. The hipped roof lacks small gables with timber details. Additionally, the addition was added to the rear of the cottage.

Dairy No.4, similar to subject site features a double silo under gable corrugated iron roof. The milking shed, looks identical to the subject site, being an L-shaped structure under a gable roof with small gables. Similarly, it has an awning between the wings and one of the wings was extended.

Additionally, both properties have strong association with Camden Park Estate.

The following statement of significance is extracted from the SHI form for Dairy No.4<sup>21</sup>:

*Cottage 29 (Dairy Number 4) has regional significance through its association with the Elizabeth Macarthur Agriculture Institute and the former Camden Park Estate dairies. It is one of a group of similar dairy cottages, all reflecting the Arts & Crafts tradition prevalent at the time, making up the dairying establishment of the Camden Park Estate. It is a good example of its type and an important component of the historic cultural landscape of Menangle and Camden. Listed items include cottage, dairy, feed sheds and silos.*

#### **Dairy No.8, 445 Remembrance Drive Menangle<sup>22</sup>**

The Dairy No.8 residence is a single storey rectangular cottage with a hipped roof clad with galvanised iron and fibre cement walls, in a style typical of early 20th Century estate housing.

The front (western) elevation features a skillion veranda roof with a gable above the front entrance, whilst the eastern elevation also features a flat roof veranda, this one is considerably larger than the front. The front veranda is supported by timber posts.

<sup>21</sup> State Heritage Inventory Form, Dairy No 4 (EMAI Cottage 29) Heritage item 184, accessed June 2023 via <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=2690719>

<sup>22</sup> State Heritage Inventory Form, Dairy No 8 (EMAI Cottage 24) Heritage item 154, accessed June 2023 via <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=2690340>

To the north-west of the cottage are two dairy shed buildings, each with gabled iron roofs.

The Dairy consists of a cottage, disused feed stall, dairy and hayshed.



Figure 62: Dairy No.8 main cottage. (Source: Google Street View, dated November 2018, accessed June 2023).

Both Dairy No.3 (subject site) and Dairy No.8 cottages are single storey structures under a hipped roof clad with corrugated iron and fibre cement walls, with verandas on timber posts. However, the subject site has more elaborated design and features more details, such as small roof gables with timber detailing, projecting gable bays, timber frieze and brackets.

Both properties have strong association with Camden Park Estate, however, Dairy No.8 does not feature the signature double silo under gable roof and other buildings, such as milking shed are lower in scale.

#### **Dairy Cottage, 1380 Moreton Park Road, Menangle<sup>23</sup>**

The following description of Dairy Cottage, 1380 Moreton Park Road Menangle is extracted from Heritage Inventory Sheet prepared by Extent Heritage Pty Ltd:<sup>24</sup>

*Federation period timber weatherboard cottage with tin roof.*

*The house at 1380 Moreton Park Road, is a single-storey, Federation period weatherboard cottage with corrugated iron roof. The dwelling is located east of Moreton Park Road and is bound by a timber post fence that is sheeted in corrugated iron. The dwelling has an overgrown front garden, bound on the street side by a timber picket fence.*

*The main dwelling has a hipped roof and features a forward-facing projecting gable. The roof has been re-sheeted in corrugated metal and features three face brick chimneys with masonry cowls.*

*The projecting gable features imitation half-timbered gable detail in the upper half of the gable. A skillion roofed veranda extends from the main roof. The veranda is supported by timber posts with*

<sup>23</sup> State Heritage Inventory Form, Dairy Cottage, 1370 Moreton Park Road, Menangle, Heritage item I97, accessed June 2023 via <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=2690730>

<sup>24</sup> Heritage Inventory Sheet for Dairy Cottage, 1380 Moreton Park Road, Menangle, Wollondilly Shire Council

*decorative timber brackets and a rendered balustrade. Access to the house is located beneath the veranda, through a timber framed, glass panelled door covered by a modern fly screen.*

*The original windows to the façade are timber framed, multi-paned, casement windows with painted timber sills and a transom light. Along the side of the building, the windows have corrugated iron skillion awnings supported by timber brackets.*

*The building has an early weatherboard extension to the rear which features a skillion roof sheeted in corrugated metal.*



Figure 63: Dairy Cottage, 1370 Moreton Park Road, Menangle, Heritage item I97 (Source: Wollondilly Shire Council).

Similar to the subject site, the dairy cottage at 1380 Moreton Park Road is a single storey residence under a hipped corrugated iron roof with small gables and projecting gabled bay. Both properties are constructed in early 20th Century, are associated with Camden Park Estate and feature verandas under separate roofing supported by timber posts, simple chimneys and awnings above windows. Similarly, windows are timber framed multi panelled casement windows. However, the subject Dairy No.3 cottage is constructed on brick piers and has fibre cement walls, while 1380 Moreton Park Road is a weatherboard cottage.

The Dairy Cottage at 1380 Moreton Park Road is listed as a heritage item of local significance with the following statement of significance:<sup>25</sup>

*The Dairy Cottage has local significance as a good example of an early 20th century dairy cottage associated with the operation of the Camden Park Estate Central Creamery. Important component of the historic cultural landscape of Menangle.*

<sup>25</sup> State Heritage Inventory Form, Dairy Cottage, 1370 Moreton Park Road, Menangle, Heritage item I97, accessed June 2023 via <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=2690730>



### 138 Menangle Road, Menangle<sup>26</sup>

The following description of 'Cottage' at 138 Menangle Road is extracted from State Heritage Inventory Database, item 195:

*A typical turn of the century bungalow with Arts & Crafts embellishment. Key features: steeply pitched hipped roof with offset street facing gabled bay; asymmetric form and massing; timber framed construction with fibro and weatherboard cladding; imitation shingled gable detailing; timber framed and sashed casement windows; window hoods supported on timber brackets; skillion veranda to front with turned timber posts; off-set side facing gable; setback from street; single storey; modest scale and form; fretted timber barge boards.*



Figure 64: 'Cottage', 138 Menangle Road, Menangle. Heritage Item 195 (Source: realestate.com.au accessed June 2023 via <https://www.realestate.com.au/property/138-menangle-rd-menangle-nsw-2568>).



Figure 65: 'Cottage', 138 Menangle Road, Menangle. Heritage Item 195, interior (Source: realestate.com.au accessed June 2023 via <https://www.realestate.com.au/property/138-menangle-rd-menangle-nsw-2568>).

<sup>26</sup> State Heritage Inventory Form, 'Cottage', 138 Menangle Road, Menangle. Heritage Item 195, accessed June 2023 via <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=2690725>

The cottage at 138 Menangle Road and subject Dairy Cottage at 65 Woodbridge Road share almost identical shape, materials and details, both interior and exterior. Both properties are constructed on brick piers, feature fibre cement cladding, gabled bays, small roof gables, window awnings with imitation shingles details, etc. The front doors at both properties are the same in design, interiors feature the same mouldings and skirting. However, the subject site features original herringbone patterned wall skirting, while the cottage at 138 Menangle Road has skirting removed or modified in some rooms. Despite the poor condition, the subject site contains more original details and fabric comparing to 138 Menangle Road cottage. Additionally, both properties have strong association with Camden Park Estate.

The cottage at 138 Menangle Road is listed as a heritage item with the following statement of significance:<sup>27</sup>

*138 Menangle Road has regional significance through its association with the Elizabeth Macarthur Institute and the former Camden Park Estate dairies. It is one of a group of similar dairy cottages, all reflecting the Arts & Crafts tradition prevalent at the time, making up the dairying establishment of the Camden Park Estate. It is a good example of its type and an important component of the historic cultural landscape of Menangle and Camden.*

#### **Central Creamery Manager's Cottage, 3 Station Street, Menangle<sup>28</sup>**

The following description of 'Cottage' at 3 Station Street is extracted from Draft Heritage Inventory Sheet prepared by Extent Heritage Pty Ltd:

*A typical late 19th century, rural cottage, the dwelling is single storey and asymmetrically massed. It is setback a short distance from the road and includes some overgrown plantings in the front garden. A corrugated metal out-shed is located adjacent the main building and the property is partially bound by a small timber post and rail fence in poor condition. The dwelling is currently uninhabited.*

*The Manager's cottage has Federation stylings. The roof has a steeply pitched ridgeline with an eastern Dutch gable, southern skillion, and western projecting gable. The façade is adorned with a curved skillion veranda mounted on squared timber posts with minor decorative brackets. The exterior is enclosed with a board and batten cladding and has a single expressed brick chimney decorated with a simple projecting brick course at the top. Windows are framed with timber casements and fitted with modern float glass. The door is timber framed and has a decorative metal fly wire screen installed in the front.*

*The building has been uninhabited for an extended period of time and is in a generally poor condition with some sections of the cladding and roofing having been breached.*

<sup>27</sup> State Heritage Inventory Form, 'Cottage', 138 Menangle Road, Menangle. Heritage Item I95, accessed June 2023 via <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=2690725>.

<sup>28</sup> Draft Heritage Inventory Sheet for Central Creamery Manager's Cottage, 3 Station Street, Menangle, Wollondilly Shire Council.





Figure 66: Central Creamery Manager's Cottage, 3 Station Street, Menangle (Source: Google Street View, dated April 2021, accessed June 2023).

Similar to the subject site, the Central Creamery Manager's Cottage at 3 Station Street is a single storey asymmetrical cottage. The same as the subject site, the Manager's Cottage has a hipped corrugated iron roof with small gables with timber bargeboards, as well as a projecting gabled bay featuring a timber framed window shaded by a timber awning and supported by brackets. The front elevation features a skillion veranda with timber posts. Both properties are associated with Camden Park Estate. However, the Manager's Cottage at 3 Station Street was constructed in 1890s in Federation style while the subject site was constructed in 1920s - 1930s and contains Inter-War Arts & Crafts detailing. The subject Model Dairy No.3 has additional significance as part of the group of model dairies constructed in the same era.

The Central Creamery Manager's Cottage at 3 Station Street, Menangle is listed as a heritage item of local significance with the following statement of significance:<sup>29</sup>

*The 3 Station Street Cottage is locally significant for its historic, aesthetic and representative values. The cottage was erected as part of the creamery operation and is one of the more notable reminders of Menangle workers housing provided on the estate at this time. Although in a poor condition, the dwelling is an important component of the historic landscape of Menangle and is a good representative example of a Federation style cottage in Menangle.*

### 5.3.2.Previous Assessed Significance

The Dairy Cottage at 65 Woodbridge Road was assessed and proposed for listing in 2006 as part of the Wollondilly Shire Wide Heritage Study Review, undertaken by Andrea Oehm. However, it was removed from 2006 Draft LEP '...on the basis that the cottage has negligible landmark value as it is isolated from the road'.

The following statement of significance was prepared for the cottage and included in draft SHI form at the time:<sup>30</sup>

*The Dairy Cottage was proposed as a good example of an early 20th century dairy cottage associated with the operation of the Camden Park Estate Central Creamery. Along with the Manager's and worker's cottages at 2 and 27 Station St it is the only visible evidence of purpose-*

<sup>29</sup> Draft Heritage Inventory Sheet for Central Creamery Manager's Cottage, 3 Station Street, Menangle, Wollondilly Shire Council.

<sup>30</sup> State Heritage Inventory Form, 'Dairy Cottage', 65 Woodbridge Road, Menangle, accessed June 2023 via <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=2690731>

*built worker's housing associated with the Creamery. It is an important component of the historic cultural landscape of Menangle.*

### 5.3.3. Assessment against NSW State Heritage Criteria

The following section assesses the built elements located at 65 Woodbridge Road assessment against the NSW significance assessment criteria set out by the Heritage Council of NSW. The Heritage NSW publication, 'Assessing Heritage Significance' states:

*An item will be considered to be of State (or Local) heritage significance if, in the opinion of the Heritage Council of NSW, it meets one or more of the following criteria.*

#### (a) an item is important in the course, or pattern, of the local area's cultural or natural history

The Model Dairy No.3 has historical significance through its strong association with the former Camden Park Estate dairies. Model Dairies, such as the subject site, were established to be examples of best practices, implementing new management practices and construction guidelines to increase the hygiene of dairies. Being constructed within the subject site between 1926 and 1932, the Model Dairy No.3 is evidence of its type and an important component of the historic cultural landscape of Menangle and extended Camden Park Estate.

The site meets the criterion in this regard at a local level.

Guidelines for inclusion	✓ / X	Guidelines for exclusion	✓ / X
shows evidence of a significant human activity	✓	has incidental or unsubstantiated connections with historically important activities or processes	X
is associated with a significant activity or historical phase	✓	provides evidence of activities of processes that are of dubious historical importance	X
maintains or shows the continuity of a historical process or activity	✓	has been so altered that it can no longer provide evidence of a particular association	X

#### (b) an item has strong or special associations with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in the local area's cultural or natural history

The Model Dairy No.3 has association with the Macarthur and Onslow families, responsible for establishing dairying and other pastoral activities in the Camden-Menangle area in the 19th and 20th Century.

The subject site in its current configuration remained in the Macarthur-Onslow ownership until 1988. Being one of a few Model Dairies established to promote the new standards of milk production and improved hygiene, the subject site is intact evidence of the Macarthur family's role in the agricultural, pastoral and economic development of the region.

The site meets the criterion in this regard at a local level.

Guidelines for inclusion	✓ / X	Guidelines for exclusion	✓ / X
shows evidence of a significant human activity	✓	has incidental or unsubstantiated connections with historically important activities or processes	X
is associated with a significant activity or historical phase	✓	provides evidence of activities of processes that are of dubious historical importance	X



Guidelines for inclusion	✓ / X	Guidelines for exclusion	✓ / X
		has been so altered that it can no longer provide evidence of a particular association	X

**(c) an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in the local area**

The dairy cottage has aesthetic values, typical of early 20th century dairy cottages, reflecting the Arts & Crafts tradition that characterises Menangle. It displays its original form and shape, and retains a variety of original characteristics, such as the roof and veranda details, original window and door joinery, herringbone patterned wainscoting, fireplaces, fibro clad battened walls and ceiling details. Some of these elements can be found in other properties within the Menangle and Camden area, however, despite the lack of maintenance, the subject cottage has a highly intact exterior and interior, which is rare locally and in the wider setting.

The site meets the criterion at a local level in this regard.

Guidelines for inclusion	✓ / X	Guidelines for exclusion	✓ / X
shows or is associated with, creative or technical innovation or achievement	✓	is not a major work by an important designer or artist	✓
is the inspiration for a creative or technical innovation or achievement	✓	has lost its design or technical integrity	X
is aesthetically distinctive	✓	its positive visual or sensory appeal or landmark and scenic qualities have been more than temporarily degraded	X
has landmark qualities	X	has only a loose association with a creative or technical achievement	X
exemplifies a particular taste, style or technology	X		

**(d) an item has strong or special associations with a particular community or cultural group in the local area for social, cultural, or spiritual reasons**

The historical research has not indicated that the subject site at 65 Woodbridge Road have any strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in the local area. However, the social significance of a place would need to be assessed through community consultation as the site may have importance to the local community as a sense of place and belonging.

The site does not meet the criterion in this regard.

Guidelines for inclusion	✓ / X	Guidelines for exclusion	✓ / X
is important for its associations with an identifiable group	X	is only important to the community for amenity reasons	✓
is important to a community's sense of place	X	is retained only in preference to a proposed alternative	✓

**(e) an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the local area's cultural or natural history**

A basic AHIMS search of the site revealed that there are at least six registered Aboriginal sites on the property which reinforces the sensitive nature of the site for Aboriginal heritage. There is a very high likelihood that there will be more archaeological sites on the property, particularly within the footprint of the Foot Onslow Creek floodplain, which is likely to include several metres of Potential Archaeological Deposits (PAD). The soils of the shale landscape (Blacktown and Luddenham) are limited to the survival of topsoil (A horizon) deposits for there to be any Aboriginal archaeological sensitivity in regard to PAD.

The active erosion visible in aerial photography across the study area in the form of soil creep and limited surface scalds (areas subject to wind or water erosion), as well as the entrenchment of the two creeks exposing sections through the respective creek valley flat/floodplain alluvial deposits, and the surface exposures created by the pre-existing dams on the property, are likely to have exposed additional Aboriginal artefacts (objects) across the study area.

In conclusion, the site is considered to be a highly sensitive collection of landform elements with accompanying subsurface soils and sediments likely representing PAD, particularly in association with the ridgeline (where topsoils survive) and valley flat and floodplain landforms.

Additionally, the site has a high degree of creative and technical achievement being one of the model dairies constructed at Camden Park Estate. In 1920, the Macarthur family set up the Camden Vale Milk Company with hygiene being of paramount importance for the production of clean milk. With its herd certified as tuberculosis free in 1924, Arthur Macarthur-Onslow began to specialise in the production of pasteurised milk specifically suited to children and adults, the 'milk with the golden cap' that spread the reputation of the Camden Vale brand. The 'model' dairies, including the subject site, as the third in the series of 'model' dairies, were constructed between 1920s and 1930s and exemplified modernity and an emphasis upon hygiene and milk quality. Camden Park Estate was used by the Department of Agriculture for demonstrations, to host conferences of dairy inspectors and it frequently featured in Health Week campaigns, all proof of its high reputation. The subject Model Dairy No.3 was part of this program and was built up to the highest standards. Despite the lack of maintenance, the site displays evidence of the above-noted improvements and technological innovation and development at that era. The site displays distinctive features of model dairies constructed at Camden Park Estate, such as the double silo and milking shed with associated worker's cottage. In particular, the milking shed at the subject site has an identical design as the milking shed at Dairy No.4 which combines these two dairies in an ensemble. Additionally, the milking shed also still features disused machinery and other movable heritage which can be used for research and display purposes. All of these elements can provide evidence on the development of greater hygiene standards at Camden Park in the 20th Century.

The site meets the criterion at a local level in this regard.

Guidelines for inclusion	✓ / X	Guidelines for exclusion	✓ / X
has the potential to yield new or further substantial scientific and/or archaeological information	✓	has little archaeological or research potential	X
is an important benchmark or reference site or type	✓	only contains information that is readily available from other resources or archaeological sites	X
provides evidence of past human cultures that is unavailable elsewhere	X	the knowledge gained would be irrelevant to research on science, human history or culture	X

**(f) an item possesses uncommon, rare, or endangered aspects of the local area's cultural or natural history**

The subject site is a typical model dairy constructed by the Camden Park Estate in 1920s - 1930s. The site displays distinctive features of model dairies, such as double silo, milking shed, residence and



outbuildings. Due to the lack of maintenance, the subject site remains practically unaltered until the present. The milking shed for example, still features disused machinery and other movable heritage which can be used for research and display purposes.

The dairy cottage also features a variety of original characteristics, such as roof and veranda details, original window and door joinery, herringbone patterned wainscoting, fireplaces, fibro panel and battened walls and ceiling details. The subject cottage has highly intact exterior and interior, which is rare locally and in the wider context.

The site meets the criterion at local level in this regard.

Guidelines for inclusion	✓ / X	Guidelines for exclusion	✓ / X
provides evidence of a defunct custom, way of life or process	✓	is not rare	X
demonstrates a process, custom or other human activity that is in danger of being lost	✓	is numerous but under threat	X
shows unusually accurate evidence of a significant human activity	X		
is the only example of its type	X		
demonstrates designs or techniques of exceptional interest	X		
shows rare evidence of a significant human activity important to a community	X		

**(g) an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of the local area's**

- **cultural or natural places; or**
- **cultural or natural environments**

The Model Dairy No. 3 is one of the 'model' dairies constructed by Camden Park Estate in the 1920s-1930s to promote the new standards of milk production and improved hygiene. The configuration varies from site to site, however, the Model Dairy no. 3 is unique as it displays all distinctive elements of model dairies established by the Camden Park Estate, such as double silo, milking shed, residence and associated outbuildings. Other sites have lost their integrity due to alterations, modifications or demolitions.

The site meets the criterion at local level in this regard.

Guidelines for inclusion	✓ / X	Guidelines for exclusion	✓ / X
is a fine example of its type	✓	is a poor example of its type	X
has the principal characteristics of an important class or group of items	✓	does not include or has lost the range of characteristics of a type	X
has attributes typical of a particular way of life, philosophy, custom, significant process, design, technique or activity	✓	does not represent well the characteristics that make up a significant variation of a type	X
is a significant variation to a class of items	X		

Guidelines for inclusion	✓ / X	Guidelines for exclusion	✓ / X
is part of a group which collectively illustrates a representative type	✓		
is outstanding because of its setting, condition or size	X		
is outstanding because of its integrity or the esteem in which it is held	✓		

### Integrity and intactness

The Model Dairy No. 3 remains largely unaltered and displays its original form and detailing elements common in the Camden Park model dairies, including the double silo, milking shed, residence and outbuildings. The milking shed still features intact and disused machinery and other movable heritage.

The cottage maintains original significant fabric, including the roof and veranda details, original window and door joinery, herringbone patterned wainscotting, fireplaces, fibro panel and battened walls and ceiling details. The subject cottage has remained highly intact both internally and externally due to lack of alterations over the decades.

### 5.3.4. Evaluation of the Heritage Significance

The Model Dairy No.3 has association with the Macarthur - Onslow family, responsible for establishing dairying and other pastoral activities in the Camden-Menangle area in the 19th century. The subject site is a good evidence of Macarthur family's role in the agricultural, pastoral and economic development of the region. In its current configuration Model Dairy No.3 remained in Macarthur-Onslow ownership until 1988.

The subject site has high degree of creative and technical achievement being one of the 'model' dairies constructed at Camden Park Estate. In 1920 Macarthur family set up the Camden Vale Milk Company with hygiene being of paramount importance for the production of clean milk. The 'model' dairies were constructed between 1920s and 1930s and exemplified modernity and an emphasis upon hygiene and milk quality. Configuration varies from site to site, however, the subject site is somewhat unique as it displays all distinctive elements of model dairies, such as double silo, milking shed, residence built in Arts & Crafts style and outbuildings. Other sites have lost their integrity due to alterations, modifications or demolitions.

Camden Park Estate was used by the Department of Agriculture for demonstrations, to host conferences of dairy inspectors and it frequently featured in Health Week campaigns, all proof of its high reputation. Being one of the 'model' dairies, the subject site, despite the lack of maintenance, displays evidence of the above-mentioned improvements and technological innovation and development of that era.

Additionally, in the 1950s and 1960s, the Keyline System was implemented at the eastern portion of the subject site. This system used a series of man-made contours, strategic ploughing with specialised ploughs, such as a chisel plough, and constructing dams on 'keylines'.

The subject site remains largely unaltered until present and displays its original form and detailing. The milking shed for example, still features disused machinery and other movable heritage which can be used for research and display purposes. The subject milking shed has identical design as the milking shed at Dairy No.4 which combines these two dairies in an ensemble.

The dairy cottage has aesthetic values as typical early 20th century dairy cottage, reflecting the Arts & Crafts tradition that characterises Menangle. It displays its original form and shape. Additionally, the cottage features a variety of original characteristics, such as roof and veranda details, original window and door joinery, herringbone patterned wainscotting, fireplaces, fibro panel and batten walls and ceiling details. Some of these elements can be found in other properties at Menangle and Camden area,



however, despite the lack of maintenance, the subject cottage has highly intact exteriors and interior, which is rare locally and in wider context.

A basic AHIMS search of the study area revealed that there are at least six registered Aboriginal sites on the property which reinforces the sensitive nature of the study area for Aboriginal heritage. There is a very high likelihood that there will be more archaeological sites on the property, particularly within the footprint of the Foot Onslow Creek floodplain, which is likely to include several metres of Potential Archaeological Deposits (PAD).

The study area is considered to be a highly sensitive collection of landform elements with accompanying subsurface soils and sediments likely representing PAD, particularly in association with the ridgeline (where topsoils survive) and valley flat and floodplain landforms.

The 2006 assessment undertaken for the subject Model Dairy No.3 identified the site as an 'Excellent representative example of early 20th century dairy worker's housing' and 'rare locally'. The following statement of significance was proposed for the site at the time:

*The Dairy Cottage was proposed as a good example of an early 20th century dairy cottage associated with the operation of the Camden Park Estate Central Creamery. Along with the Manager's and worker's cottages at 2 and 27 Station St it is the only visible evidence of purpose-built worker's housing associated with the Creamery. It is an important component of the historic cultural landscape of Menangle.*

Based on the assessment undertaken as part of this Heritage Assessment the subject Model Dairy No.3 including double silo, milking shed, cottage and outbuildings is recommended for listing under the *Wollondilly Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2011* as a heritage item of Local significance with the following **statement of significance**:

The Model Dairy No. 3 and its associated buildings are of local heritage significance as it has strong historic association with the early agricultural and pastoral development of the area. The Model Dairy No.3 has strong association with the Macarthur - Onslow family, who were responsible for establishing dairying and other pastoral activities in the Camden-Menangle area from the early 19th century. The subject site provides evidence of their role in the agricultural, pastoral and economic development of the region. Model dairies were established to be examples of best practices, implementing new management practices and construction guidelines to increase the hygiene of dairies. While configuration varies from site to site, the Model Dairy No. 3 is somewhat unique as it displays all distinctive elements of model dairies, such as double silo, milking shed, residence built in Arts & Crafts style and outbuildings. Despite the lack of maintenance, the site displays evidence of the above-mentioned improvements and technological innovation and development and has strong research potential.

Additionally, in the 1950s and 1960s, the Keyline System was implemented at the eastern portion of the site where a series of man-made contours, strategic ploughing with specialised ploughs, such as a chisel plough, and constructing dams on 'keylines' were used.

The site remains practically unaltered until the present and displays its original form and detailing. The milking shed for example, still features disused machinery and other movable heritage which can be used for research and display purposes. The milking shed has identical design to the milking shed at Dairy No.4, which combines these two dairies in an ensemble.

The dairy cottage has aesthetic values as a rare and intact typical early 20th century dairy cottage built for dairy workers accommodation. It reflects the Arts & Crafts tradition that characterises Menangle and displays its original form and shape featuring variety of original characteristics, such as roof and veranda details, original window and door joinery, herringbone patterned wainscoting, fireplaces, fibro panel and batten walls and ceiling details.

The subject site as a whole and all its components are a good representative example of its type as a typical model dairy constructed by Camden Park Estate in 1920s - 1930s. The site displays distinctive features of model dairies, such as the double silo, milking shed, residence and outbuildings. The cottage is a typical Arts & Crafts cottage constructed at the beginning of 20th century and also features a variety of original characteristics of the style. The level of intactness makes the site rare within the Menangle area.

The site of Mount Taurus is considered to be a highly sensitive collection of landform elements with accompanying subsurface soils and sediments likely representing Potential Archaeological Deposits (PAD), particularly in association with the ridgeline (where topsoils survive) and valley flat and floodplain landforms.

## 5.4. Mount Taurus

### 5.4.1. Comparative Analysis

The level of significance of an item or a precinct/area is determined by its value relative to other comparable items, be they in a local or international context. The rarity and/or representativeness of the item or a precinct/area are considered as part of the overall analysis of its significance. A comparison is made between natural landmarks from the same period for the purposes of establishing significance in relation to the rarity criteria and representativeness criteria of the NSW Heritage Council's 'Assessing Heritage Significance' guidelines.

#### Prospect Hill<sup>31</sup>

##### Description

Prospect Hill is a preserved natural landscape situated within the suburbs of Prospect and Pemulway in Western Sydney. The hill is considered the highest point between the Blue Mountains and the Sydney CBD, rising to 117 metres above sea level (though the summit previously was 131 metres high before it was quarried away). A portion of the hill is cleared, showing evidence of pastoral grasses from its early historical usage, though no farm buildings dating from the 18th or 19th Century remain. On the slope of Prospect Hill, north of the hilltop, is an abandoned 19th Century quarry. The hill is located between the south-western corner of the CSIRO Division of Animal Production site, and the south-eastern corner of the Boral Resources (NSW) site. Views of Prospect Hill and its preserved landscaped are captured in the below images.



Figure 67: View from Prospect Hill, showing built development in proximity. Source: Stewart Watters, August 2012, extracted from NSW State Heritage Inventory listing for Prospect Hill, SHR no. 01662.

<sup>31</sup> State Heritage Inventory Form, 'Prospect Hill', State Heritage Listing No. 01662, accessed July 2023 via <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=5051526>.





Figure 68: View of the summit of Prospect Hill. Source: Stewart Watters, August 2012, extracted from NSW State Heritage Inventory listing for Prospect Hill, SHR no. 01662.



Figure 69: Views of Prospect Hill and preserved native vegetation. Source: Stewart Watters, August 2012, extracted from NSW State Heritage Inventory listing for Prospect Hill, SHR no. 01662.



Figure 70: View of Prospect Hill and street layout along the flanks of the hill. Source: Stewart Watters, August 2012, extracted from NSW State Heritage Inventory listing for Prospect Hill, SHR no. 01662.

## Statement of Significance

*The following statement of significance for Prospect Hill is extracted from Heritage Inventory Sheet: Prospect Hill area has state significance due to its unique combination of significant landscape feature, potential archaeological site, and association with important historical phases. As a dolerite outcrop rising to a height of 117 metres above sea level, Prospect Hill is a rare geological and significant topographic feature providing expansive views across the Cumberland Plain (Ashton, 2000).*

*The site is significant as a major reference point for early explorers from 1788, and as the site of a number of the earliest farms in New South Wales, which were established in 1791 (Higginbotham, 2000). Prospect Hill is also associated with Aboriginal frontier warfare during the early days of the colony, and as the site of one of the first Aboriginal/ European reconciliation meetings held in 1805 involving Samuel Marsden and Prospect Aboriginal groups (Flynn 1997).*

*Through its ongoing pastoral and rural use, the site has the potential to provide archaeological evidence of early farming practice and settlement (Higginbotham 2000). The landscape of Prospect Hill is likely to be one of the only remaining areas of rural land within the local and regional area that has retained its long-term pastoral use since the earliest days of the colony.*

## Discussion

Similar to Mount Taurus, Prospect Hill is a preserved natural landscape within the Cumberland Plain that has early colonial history associated with it. Both Prospect Hill and Mount Taurus were uncovered by exploration parties led by Governors (Governor Phillip for Prospect Hill, and Governor Hunter for Mount Taurus) in the early years of the colony's settlement, and both would be used as reference points and revisited in future expeditions. Unlike Mount Taurus, Prospect Hill was settled early in 1789, with many small farms established on the hill by time-expired convicts who became farmers. Mount Taurus meanwhile remained within the large Camden Park Estate operated by the Macarthur family from 1805-onwards, and would remain as so for several decades. Each landscape has its own special history



associated with, with Mount Taurus associated with the discovery of the wild cattle and future settlement of the Cowpastures area, whilst Prospect Hill was the site of one of the first Aboriginal and European reconciliation meetings in 1805 in response to frontier violence.

Both sites have been subject to rural and farming usage for over 200 years and have the potential to provide archaeological evidence of early farming practices and settlement, as well as evidence of potential Aboriginal archaeology.

Prospect Hill and Mount Taurus are similar landmark sites that provide historical evidence of colonial-era Australian settlement. Both would be considered rare as significant landmark sites that demonstrate links to early European exploration and settlement of the region, as well as links to its continuous pastoral usage.

## Camden Park

### Description

*The Camden Park Estate is a significant area of open space on the Neepan River system to the south-east of the town of Camden. As a man-modified cultural landscape, it contains extensive cultural features (all of heritage value), such as tree lined river meadows (on flood plains), tree line driveways, the relic orchard site and extensive productive pastures.*

...

*Extensive grazing lands: The core wealth of the Macarthurs came from extensive land holdings here and west of the Blue Mountains, on the best soils available and with the best advice available. The Camden pastures formed much of the famed "Cow Pastures", the area of natural woodland and open grasslands south-west of the NSW / Sydney Cove settlement, to which imported cattled had escaped and gone wild, and which were protected by the Crown for the first several years after 1788, to allow natural increase. Macarthur managed to acquire over time some 30,000 acres (in 1864) in the Camden district alone, along with his Seven Hills (later Bella Vista) farm in Baulkham Hills, and Elizabeth Farm (1,000 acres at its height) in Parramatta.*

...

*Farm cottages, outbuildings and hamlets: Dotted around the estate are groups of cottages (some slab, and still occupied), forming hamlets accommodating the various farm workers. The two chief groups are located overlooking the former plant nursery (north of the mansion) and the former orchard.*

### Statement of Significance

*The Camden Park Estate is of social, historic, scientific and aesthetic significance to NSW and Australia. It shows a high degree of technical and creative excellence being a rare, and still relatively intact, example of a model rural estate of the early 19th century (continuing to serve this function until the 1950s). It is the oldest pastoral sheep stud in Australia.*

*The estate's considerable social and historic significance is also due to its ability to demonstrate the way of life, tastes, customs and functions of a 19th - early 20th century rural establishment. From its establishment the site was a particularly fine example of a colonial rural estate and served as a prototype for other 19th century estates. The intactness of the site's structures and their landscape settings enhances its role as a relatively unique survivor and as a site of archaeological and scientific importance.*

*The site also has significance through its historical associations with the Macarthur family - from its establishment by John and Elizabeth Macarthur in the early 19th century to the present day Macarthur-Stanham family - this relationship shown in both landscape and structures and being well documented and researched.*

## Discussion

Mount Taurus was originally with the grounds of the Camden Park Estate under the ownership of the Macarthur-Onslow family throughout the 19th and 20th Century, with it remaining within the Estate until its sale in 1988. The site is very similar to that which is described for Camden Park, containing rolling hills within the Cumberland Plain on open grassland ideal for pastoralism. Mount Taurus' prime pastoral land resulted in the construction of the model dairy no. 3 on the hillside, being one of a number of model dairies established in Camden Park over the 1920s and 1930s to further safe dairying practices,

The landscape is associated with the Macarthur family for its pastoral usage of the land from the early 19th Century onwards. Unlike Camden Park, Mount Taurus is more strongly associated with Governor John Hunter, who discovered the escaped wild cattle atop the hill in 1795.

### 5.4.2. Assessment against NSW State Heritage Criteria

The following section assesses the Mount Taurus Landscape at 65 Woodbridge Road Menangle against the NSW significance assessment criteria set out by the Heritage Council of NSW. The Heritage NSW publication, 'Assessing Heritage Significance' states:

*An item will be considered to be of State (or Local) heritage significance if, in the opinion of the Heritage Council of NSW, it meets one or more of the following criteria.*

#### **(a) an item is important in the course, or pattern, of the local area's cultural or natural history**

The Mount Taurus landscape has strong historic association with early settlement of the area. In 1795 Governor John Hunter visited the area with an expedition party and climbed this landscape, whereby he spotted a wild herd of cattle in the valley below. This wild herd had expanded from the two bulls and four cows that escaped captivity in Sydney in 1788 into "a herd of fine cattle, upwards of forty in number, grazing in a pleasant and apparently fertile pasturage." Governor Hunter named the site Mount Taurus after the Latin word for 'bull' to commemorate this discovery, and named the surrounding area 'The Cowpastures' due to its perceived fertility. This discovery of the wild cattle at Mount Taurus directly led to the start of British exploration and subsequent settlement of the Camden region. This is because the region was proven to have adequate fertile land suitable for dairying and pastoral activities, as proven by the survival and expansion of the wild herd.

The site meets this criterion at a state level in this regard.

Guidelines for inclusion	✓ / X	Guidelines for exclusion	✓ / X
shows evidence of a significant human activity	✓	has incidental or unsubstantiated connections with historically important activities or processes	X
is associated with a significant activity or historical phase	✓	provides evidence of activities of processes that are of dubious historical importance	X
maintains or shows the continuity of a historical process or activity	✓	has been so altered that it can no longer provide evidence of a particular association	X

#### **(b) an item has strong or special associations with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in the local area's cultural or natural history**

Mount Taurus has historical association with that of Governor John Hunter, who made the discovery of the wild cattle from this hill in 1795. Governor Hunter named the site Mount Taurus based on the Latin term for bull - 'Taurus' to commemorate the discovery of the herd. Governor Hunter himself was the second Governor of the new colony of New South Wales, succeeding Arthur Phillip in 1795. Multiple locations around New South Wales are named in honour of Governor Hunter and his contributions to



the developing colony, including the Hunter River and the Hunter Valley north of Sydney, and the nearby village of Mount Hunter, north-west of the subject site.

The site meets this criterion at a state level in this regard.

Guidelines for inclusion	✓ / X	Guidelines for exclusion	✓ / X
shows evidence of a significant human activity	✓	has incidental or unsubstantiated connections with historically important activities or processes	X
is associated with a significant activity or historical phase	✓	provides evidence of activities of processes that are of dubious historical importance	X
		has been so altered that it can no longer provide evidence of a particular association	X

**(c) an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in the local area**

The Mount Taurus landscape is considered aesthetically significant for demonstrating an intact and visually stunning natural landscape associated with the region's colonial history. As it did in 1795, the hill provides a vantage point to survey the surrounding rural countryside of the Wollondilly. Though the long-term use for the site has been pastoral in nature, the landscape retains a scenic rural character.

The site meets this criterion at a state level in this regard.

Guidelines for inclusion	✓ / X	Guidelines for exclusion	✓ / X
shows or is associated with, creative or technical innovation or achievement	✓	is not a major work by an important designer or artist	✓
is the inspiration for a creative or technical innovation or achievement	✓	has lost its design or technical integrity	X
is aesthetically distinctive	✓	its positive visual or sensory appeal or landmark and scenic qualities have been more than temporarily degraded	X
has landmark qualities	✓	has only a loose association with a creative or technical achievement	X
exemplifies a particular taste, style or technology	X		

**(d) an item has strong or special associations with a particular community or cultural group in the local area for social, cultural, or spiritual reasons**

The historical research has not indicated that Mount Taurus any strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in the local area. However, the social significance of a place would need to be assessed through community consultation as the site may have importance to the local community as a sense of place and belonging.

The site does not meet the criterion in this regard.

Guidelines for inclusion	✓ / X	Guidelines for exclusion	✓ / X
is important for its associations with an identifiable group	X	is only important to the community for amenity reasons	✓
is important to a community's sense of place	X	is retained only in preference to a proposed alternative	✓

**(e) an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the local area's cultural or natural history**

A basic AHIMS search of the site revealed that there are at least six registered Aboriginal sites within the landscape which reinforces the sensitive nature of the site for Aboriginal heritage. There is a very high likelihood that there will be more archaeological sites on the property, particularly within the footprint of the Foot Onslow Creek floodplain, which is likely to include several metres of Potential Archaeological Deposits (PAD). The soils of the shale landscape (Blacktown and Luddenham) are limited to the survival of topsoil (A horizon) deposits for there to be any Aboriginal archaeological sensitivity in regard to PAD.

The active erosion visible in aerial photography across the site in the form of soil creep and limited surface scalds (areas subject to wind or water erosion), as well as the entrenchment of the two creeks exposing sections through the respective creek valley flat/floodplain alluvial deposits, and the surface exposures created by the pre-existing dams on the property, are likely to have exposed additional Aboriginal artefacts (objects) across the study area.

In conclusion, the site is considered to be a highly sensitive collection of landform elements with accompanying subsurface soils and sediments likely representing PAD, particularly in association with the ridgeline (where topsoils survive) and valley flat and floodplain landforms.

The site meets the criterion at a local level in this regard.

Guidelines for inclusion	✓ / X	Guidelines for exclusion	✓ / X
has the potential to yield new or further substantial scientific and/or archaeological information	✓	has little archaeological or research potential	X
is an important benchmark or reference site or type	X	only contains information that is readily available from other resources or archaeological sites	X
provides evidence of past human cultures that is unavailable elsewhere	X	the knowledge gained would be irrelevant to research on science, human history or culture	X

**(f) an item possesses uncommon, rare, or endangered aspects of the local area's cultural or natural history**

The Mount Taurus landscape is assessed as rare for being a surviving natural landscape mentioned in the earliest explorations through the Camden and Wollondilly regions, and led to the eventual settlement of the Cowpastures region.

The site meets this criterion at a state level in this regard.

Guidelines for inclusion	✓ / X	Guidelines for exclusion	✓ / X
provides evidence of a defunct custom, way of life or process	✓	is not rare	X



Guidelines for inclusion	✓ / X	Guidelines for exclusion	✓ / X
demonstrates a process, custom or other human activity that is in danger of being lost	✓	is numerous but under threat	X
shows unusually accurate evidence of a significant human activity	X		
is the only example of its type	X		
demonstrates designs or techniques of exceptional interest	X		
shows rare evidence of a significant human activity important to a community	✓		

**(g) an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of the local area's**

- **cultural or natural places; or**
- **cultural or natural environments**

The Mount Taurus landscape is a fine example of a natural landscape associated with early Australian exploration during the colonial period.

The site meets the criterion at a state level in this regard.

Guidelines for inclusion	✓ / X	Guidelines for exclusion	✓ / X
is a fine example of its type	✓	is a poor example of its type	X
has the principal characteristics of an important class or group of items	✓	does not include or has lost the range of characteristics of a type	X
has attributes typical of a particular way of life, philosophy, custom, significant process, design, technique or activity	✓	does not represent well the characteristics that make up a significant variation of a type	X
is a significant variation to a class of items	X		
is part of a group which collectively illustrates a representative type	✓		
is outstanding because of its setting, condition or size	✓		
is outstanding because of its integrity or the esteem in which it is held	✓		

▫ **Integrity and intactness**

The Mount Taurus landscape is a highly intact landform which has been subject to minimal human interaction in recent Centuries. The site today is similar in appearance to how it likely was when the wild cattle were first discovered in 1795.

#### 5.4.3. Evaluation of the Heritage Significance

Based on the assessment undertaken as part of this Heritage Assessment, the subject 'Mount Taurus' is recommended for listing under Schedule 5 Part 1 of the *Wollondilly Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2011* as a heritage item of State significance with the following **statement of significance**.

The Mount Taurus site and its setting are of State significance for having a strong historic association with the early settlement of the area. In 1795, Governor Hunter visited the area and climbed atop this hill, which he named Mount Taurus after the Latin word for bull, to discover the colony's escaped cattle. This herd of cattle had escaped from the Sydney settlement in June 1788, the year Europeans first arrived in Australia. Governor Hunter also named the area "The Cowpastures", and the tracking down of the cattle was the start of British exploration and subsequent settlement in what would become the Camden and Wollondilly Local Government Areas.

The site has historical association with that of Governor John Hunter, who made the discovery of the wild cattle from this hill and assigned the Mount Taurus name in 1795. Governor Hunter was the second Governor of the new colony of New South Wales, succeeding Arthur Phillip in 1795. Multiple locations around New South Wales are named in honour of Governor Hunter and his contributions to the developing colony, including the Hunter River and the Hunter Valley north of Sydney, and the nearby village of Mount Hunter, north-west of the subject site.

The Mount Taurus landscape is considered aesthetically significant for demonstrating an intact natural landscape associated with the region's colonial history. As it did in 1795, the hill provides a vantage point to survey the surrounding rural countryside of the Wollondilly shire. Though the long-term use for the site has been pastoral in nature, the landscape retains a scenic rural character. Unlike other significant landmark hills in the Cumberland Plain, Mount Taurus is yet to feature extensive development, retaining its original character.

Based on the presence of Aboriginal artefacts and sites found through a basic AHIMS search for the hill, there is a very high likelihood that there will be more archaeological sites within the landscape, particularly within the footprint of the Foot Onslow Creek floodplain, which is likely to include several metres of Potential Archaeological Deposits (PAD). The landscape is considered to be a highly sensitive collection of landform elements with accompanying subsurface soils and sediments likely representing PAD, particularly in association with the ridgeline (where topsoils survive) and valley flat and floodplain landforms.

Mount Taurus also has significant views which are worthy of protection. The first is that from the Woodbridge Road towards the summit of the hill. This replicates the views seen of the mountain in early photographs of the hill, and was also the area of the hill where Governor Hunter and his expeditionary party ascended in 1795 when they discovered the wild cattle. This northern landscape captured by this significant view also contains some built development in the form of the historic Model Dairy No. 3. The other significant view comes from the summit of the hill itself. Though the highest point offers a 360° view of the beautiful surrounding countryside, the view facing north from the summit towards the Camden Park Estate is considered to be the most significant. This is because the hill is historically associated with the Camden Park Estate, being the site of the dairy established by the Macarthur-Onslow family in the 1920s and 1930s.

## 6. RECOMMENDED HERITAGE CURTILAGE

### 6.1. Model Dairy No. 3

The Model Dairy No. 3, which includes the double silo, milking shed, cottage and outbuildings, provides evidence of the series of model dairies established across the Camden Park Estate. These pastoral buildings date from the 1920s - early 1930s and demonstrate a technological advancement in dairying hygiene in the 20th Century.

The heritage curtilage for this item should be identified as Part Lot 100 DP 1276755, with an address of 65 Woodbridge Road, Menangle. It should incorporate all the present farming buildings on site, both historical and contemporary, as well as surrounding undeveloped landscape which follows the contours of the landscape and provides a physical buffer and context to the heritage item.

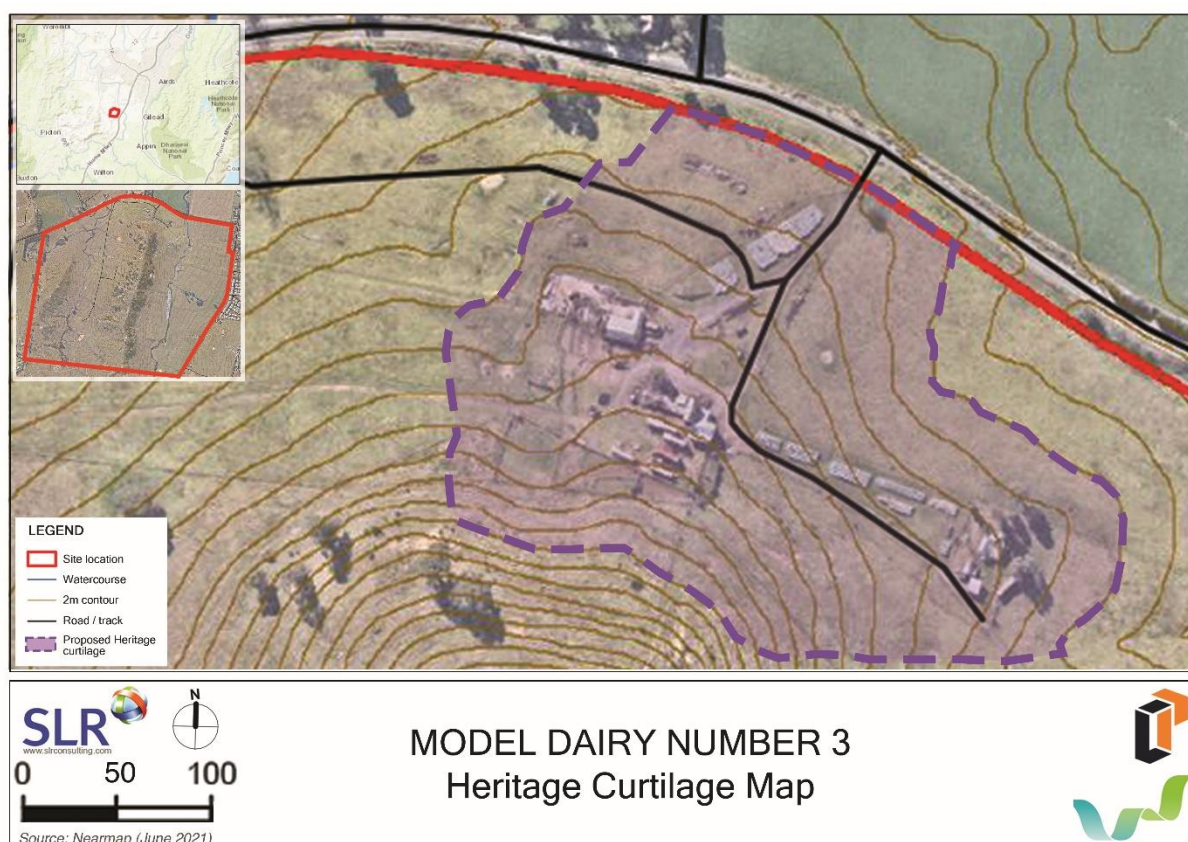


Figure 71: Map of the proposed Heritage Curtilage for Model Dairy No. 3 (Part Lot 100 DP 1276755).

### 6.2. Mount Taurus

The Mount Taurus landscape, which can be seen in the c.mid-20th Century photograph below, was described by Governor Hunter in 1795 as "really beautiful country" when he named it Mount Taurus. The scenic and pastoral view of Mount Taurus is still visible when viewed along Woodbridge Road, especially at a similar angle to that seen in the c.20th Century photograph. Taking this into account, CPH have proposed a recommended heritage curtilage for the site as Part Lot 100 DP 1276755, with an address of 65 Woodbridge Road, Menangle. This recommended heritage curtilage is captured in Figure 73 below.

#### Significant Views



The recommended heritage curtilage captures the northern portion of the allotment where the significant views of the landscape are seen, up to the highest point of the mountain (where the interpretation plaque is located). The view from Woodbridge Road towards Mount Taurus is considered a significant view as it replicates the views seen of the mountain in early photographs of the site. This was the area of the hill which Governor Hunter and his expeditionary party ascended in 1795 when they discovered the wild herd of cattle, and it is also the only area where development of the mountain has taken place, with it occupied by the model dairy and associated buildings (c.1920s-). This significant view corridor is identified in the below curtilage map.

The highest point of Mount Taurus also offers a 360° view of the entire landscape, however the most significant view from this summit is that facing north (towards the Camden Park Estate). This is because the hill is historically associated with the Camden Park Estate, being the site of the third model dairy established by the Macarthur-Onslow family. As such, the views northwards have been marked on the below figure as significant.

### Significant Zones

Within the recommended heritage curtilage of the Mount Taurus landscape are two distinct zones which vary in their significance. The hill itself, as well as the valleys to the east and west of the hill up until the creek lines, is considered the physically sensitive zone. This area currently contains minimal development, with the only such development being the historically significant Model Dairy no. 3 and its associated farming outbuildings. This zone within the landscape was also that which Governor Hunter and his expeditionary party ascended in 1795 when they discovered the herd of wild cattle grazing in the nearby valley. This physically sensitive zone is deemed the most significant within the landscape and should be conserved to maintain its historical and aesthetic qualities.

The areas to the east of the Foot Onslow Creek (east of Mount Taurus) and to the west of the western tributary of this creek (west of Mount Taurus) are deemed visually sensitive zones. Visually sensitive zones are those areas where the significant views (identified above) could be obstructed or impeded. These visually sensitive zones should be the subject of protection to maintain its rural and pastoral characteristics, as it provides a natural buffer for the protection of the physically sensitive zone.

### Southern Curtilage Boundary

The recommended heritage curtilage of the site incorporates most of the existing Lot 100 DP 1276755, with the northern, eastern and western boundaries of the site determined by the boundary of the allotment itself. The southern boundary of the recommended heritage curtilage has been determined by the contours of the landscape. The curtilage extends south beyond the summit of the hill as it provides a visual buffer area that protects the significant views of the site from Woodbridge Road. The contour of the landscape means that there is a second peak (approximately 136 metres) behind that significant, tallest point of the hill (approximately 144 metres). As the views of the landscape are considered significant, it is pivotal that they are not compromised, thus the southern boundary of the recommended heritage curtilage extends beyond the summit of the hill and the second peak to a lower contour. The tallest point to which the southern curtilage boundary extends to is approximately 128 metres.



Figure 72: Comparative views of Mount Taurus - c.20th Century image (left) and 2023 Google Street View Imagery (right).



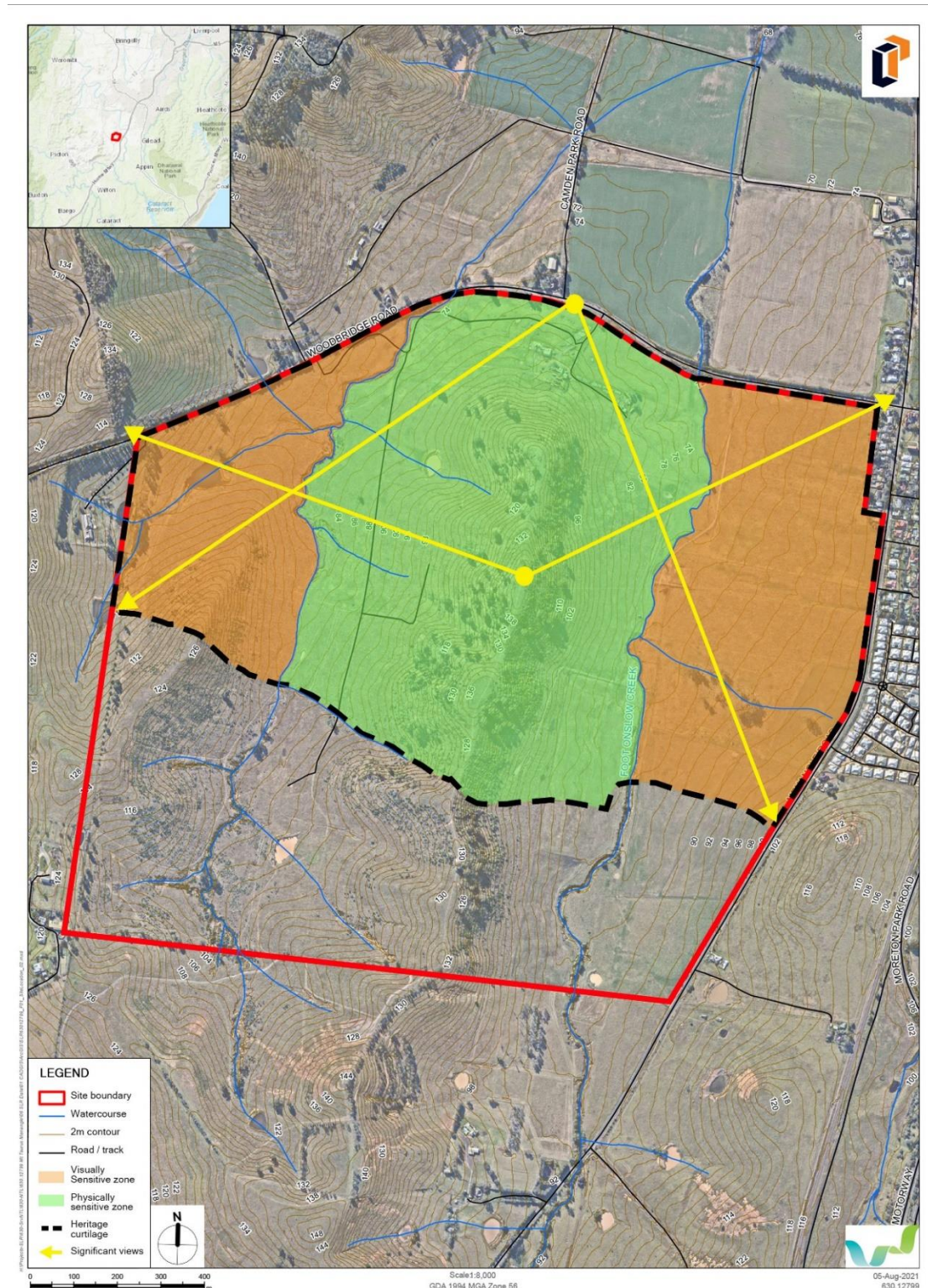


Figure 73: Map of the Recommended Heritage Curtilage for the Mount Taurus heritage item (Black dashed lines). The map includes the significant views of the landscape (yellow arrows), as well as the physically sensitive zone (green highlight) and visually sensitive zone (orange highlights). Discussion as to how these zones and views have been established are identified above.

## 7. CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

### Conclusion

Having inspected the buildings associated with the Model Dairy No.3 located at 65 Woodbridge Road, Menangle NSW and the Mount Taurus landscape, we conclude the group (except the cottage facing Menangle Road) meets the threshold for listing as heritage items at the Local Level under six out of seven criteria set out by the NSW Heritage Council for assessing environmental heritage. The group is assessed as:

- Having historic significance as one of the model dairies established in the Camden Park Estate in the 1920s and early 1930s that provided a new safer and hygienic dairying process
- Historic association with Macarthur-Onslow family, Camden Park Estate and their role in the agricultural, pastoral and economic development of the region.
- Aesthetic significance as one of few largely intact cottages and farm buildings in the area.
- Technical significance as one of the model dairies established to promote the new standards of milk production and improved hygiene with subsequent implementation of the Keyline System at the eastern portion of the subject site
- The subject site displays distinctive features of model dairies. Due to lack of maintenance, the subject site remains practically unaltered until present. The cottage also features a variety of original characteristics and due to lack of maintenance, the subject site has highly intact both: exterior and interior, which is rare locally and in wider setting.
- The subject site is a typical model dairy constructed by Camden Park Estate in 1920s - 1930s. The site displays distinctive features of model dairies, such as double silo, milking shed, residence and outbuildings. The cottage is a typical Arts & Crafts cottage constructed at the beginning of 20th century and also features a variety of original characteristics of the style as detailed throughout this heritage assessment.

Likewise, following an assessment of the Mount Taurus landscape itself, it is concluded that Mount Taurus meets the threshold for listing as a heritage item under Schedule 5 Part 1 of the *Wollondilly LEP* 2011 at the State Level under six of the seven criteria set out by the NSW Heritage Council for assessing heritage significance. The landscape is assessed as:

- Having historic significance through its association with the locating of the escaped cattle in 1795 by Governor Hunter and the beginning of settlement of the NSW colony in the Camden and Wollondilly districts
- Having historic association with Governor Hunter, the second Governor of New South Wales to whom named the site Mount Taurus in commemoration of his discovery
- Having aesthetic significance as an intact and beautiful natural landscape that provides sweeping views of the surrounding Wollondilly and Camden district which has retained its appearance from colonial times due to limited intervention. Besides the pastoral usage of the site which has cleared areas for grazing and dairy buildings, the Mount Taurus landscape retains a rural and scenic aesthetic.
- Having technical and research significance as it is considered a highly sensitive collection of landform elements with accompanying subsurface soils and sediments likely representing PAD, particularly in association with the ridgeline (where topsoils survive) and valley flat and floodplain landforms. A basic AHIMS search of the study area revealed that there are at least six registered Aboriginal sites on the property which reinforces the sensitive nature of the study area for Aboriginal heritage.
- Being a rare and surviving intact natural landscape referenced in the earliest explorations of the regions.
- Being a fine example of a preserved natural landscape closely associated with the early Australian exploration and settlement of the area during the colonial era.



## Recommendations

The buildings associated with the Model Dairy No.3 contain many of the distinctive and original characteristics and details of model dairies established within the Camden Park Estate,. Based on the above, the Model Dairy No. 3, including double silo, milking shed, cottage and outbuildings, is nominated for listing as a heritage item under Part 1 Schedule 5 of the *Wollondilly LEP* 2011 as having Local level of significance. This is the same as other model dairies including Model Dairies No.2, 4, 8, 9 and other items associated with model dairies and Camden Park Estate. The recommended heritage curtilage, as defined in Section 6.1 of this heritage assessment, should be considered as Part Lot 100 DP 1276755, at 65 Woodbridge Road, Menangle.

Likewise, 'Mount Taurus' is nominated for listing as a heritage item area under Part 1 Schedule 5 of the *Wollondilly LEP* 2011 as having State level of significance. This is based on the heritage qualities the site possesses, and a comparative analysis undertaken for the site with the similar 'Prospect Hill,' which is listed as having State level of significance.

As identified in Section 6.2, the recommended heritage curtilage of the site incorporates the hill and surrounding landscape, extending across most of the allotment (Lot 100 DP 1276755). The northern elevation of the landscape is considered significant due to the unobstructed view of the mountain provided from Woodbridge Road, and the recommended curtilage extends to the east and west of the allotment's boundaries past the creek lines. A buffer zone to the south of the hill's summit also ensures that future development to the rear of the hill would not be visible from the significant view from Woodbridge Road. There are also different zones within the recommended curtilage, based on the areas which are deemed physically sensitive and visually sensitive, where it is recommended that the current rural and pastoral character is preserved so as to protect the significant views to and from the site.

The below specific recommendations should be given consideration.

- Conservation of the site as a whole but in particular, the Dairy Cottage and Milking Shed, is strongly recommended. This should be guided by a Schedule of Conservation Works prepared by a suitably qualified built heritage specialist.
- An Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment should also be undertaken to establish and identify any PAD that would need to be considered as part of the future development especially beyond the boundaries of the recommended curtilage.
- A Heritage Interpretation Strategy/Plan should be prepared by a suitably qualified heritage professional to communicate the rich history and role of Mount Taurus within Wollondilly Shire. Particular attention should be given to the moveable heritage and industrial equipment associated with the dairy farming and milking process.

CITY PLAN HERITAGE

AUGUST 2023