

Item name: Rocky Hill**Location:** 1565 Fosterton Road Dungog 2420

Dungog

Address: 1565 Fosterton Road**Planning:** Hunter & Central Coast**Suburb/nearest town:** Dungog 2420**Local govt area:** Dungog**State:** NSW**Parish:****County:****Other/former names:****Area/group/complex:****Group ID:****Aboriginal area:****Curtilage/boundary:****Item type:** Complex / Group**Group:** Farming and Grazing**Category:** Homestead Complex**Owner:** Private - Individual**Admin codes:****Code 2:****Code 3:****Current use:** residence**Former uses:** residence**Assessed significance:** Local**Endorsed significance:**

Statement of significance: The property of Rocky Hill records the use of the land by the Hooke Family for farming and residence from c1830 to c1990. The Hooke family were amongst the first Europeans to be granted land in the Dungog area with the original land selection of Wirragulla in 1828. Rocky Hill records the expansion of the Hooke family land holdings in the second generation with the clearing and farming of the land by Henry Guy Hookes and the house is likely to date from the 1830s during the period of his ownership (oral. Peter Ryan). Generations of the Hooke family that owned and farmed Rocky Hill include Ernest Guy Hooke, J.G.Hooke, W.M.Hooke all of whom farmed beef cattle. Ernest Hooke was both a grazier and had dairy cattle and at a time was the largest supplier of the local factory in Dungog.

The homestead is representative of a vernacular building with a large verandah and displays elements of the Georgian style in the symmetry of the openings and proportions. It is important as a record of earlier building technology with rendered stone walls, timber beam footings, cedar joinery and handmade nails. The outbuildings are representative of the later development and use of the property and are not associated with the earlier occupation of the land.

The house would be valued by the Hooke family descendants and the local community as one of the earliest houses in the district and in its association with an early pioneer family.

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Historical notes of provenance: Rocky Hill was built on the extensive land holdings of the Hooke family in the 1830s. The Hookes were one of the first European families and arrived in the district in 1828. Rocky Hill is likely to have been the first substantial house built by the Hooke family. Other properties in the Dungog region that were owned by the Hooke family include Wirragulla and Dingadee.

John Hooke (1789-1845) arrived in 1828 with his wife and settled at Wirragulla on the Williams River. The ownership of this land at Wirragulla was confirmed by Gov Sir Richard Bourke in 1837. (Burkes Landed Gentry p 313). His son, Henry Guy Hooke (1819-1895) owned land later known as Rocky Hill. Henry Guy Hooke married Mary Jane Walker and had 10 children including Ernest Guy Hooke. Ernest Guy married Ethel Ward Dixon of Goulburn and in 1913 the family is described as having one child. Owners of Rocky Hill include Ernest Guy Hooke, Hooke J.G., Hooke W.M. marked as graziers and EG Hooke as both grazier and dairy farmer (Yewens Directory of Landholders of New South Wales. Dungog District)

Henry Guy Hooke bought 135 acres and added another 800 acres which he cleared and farmed (Dungog Chronicle 1913). It is assumed that this refers to the land on which Rocky Hill is now located. This same land was then divided amongst the Hooke family (John George, William and Ernest Guy) on his death in 1895. John Hooke's grandson, Ernest Guy Hooke was born at Rocky Hill on the 22nd November 1874. He leased the portion of the property from his father and on his father's death in 1895, he inherited 400 acres of land with a one mile frontage to the Williams River and a creek known as Main Creek. It is described in the Dungog Chronicle 21st January 1913 as subdivided into 5 paddocks and 8 acres are used for the cultivation of maize. It is further described: "On Rocky Hill proper, he runs 100 head of cattle, together with a dozen or more horses and 30 to 40 prize sheep. His principle ram, a Southdown, was a prize taker. The cattle that range on Mr Guy Hooke's pastures are mostly Devons. He had 9 bulls on the place. Dairying has been essayed on several occasions by Mr Guy Hooke and two years ago he was the largest supplier of the local factory, when he milked from 70 to 74 cows, but he has seen fit to relinquish dairying for grazing and fattening. On the 400 acres of leased land Mr Hooke runs about 80 head of cattle. On the other portion of leased lands 100 head of cattle are depastured."

The same article (Chronicle 1913) described the house as: "a stone building containing 9 rooms, a wide hall, drawing room, etc, all comfortably furnished. From the front verandah of the house can be seen Stroud Hill and all the surrounding hills and the mountains which simply place Rocky Hill in a basin. On Dog Trap Creek which runs through some portions of the property there are from 2 to 3 acres of an orchard planted with pear, orange, apricot, plum, peach and other trees, and it is a matter of history, that the orange trees are the oldest in the Williams, being planted by Guy's father."

A later article in the Dungog Chronicle, 8th January, 1915 describes renovations to the house: "Mr EG Hooke, of Rocky Hill, has had his substantial residence entirely renovated and fitted with the latest conveniences. New and spacious kitchen, laundry and offices have been built, and an enormous underground tank constructed. Water is lifted to overhead tanks by the windmill, and is laid on in different parts of the house. An air gas plant has been installed, and a system of sewerage, so that Rocky Hill is the most up-to-date residence in the district."

Peter Ryan purchased the property in 1990 from Hagerty who had bought it from the Hooke family (James Hooke?) about 12 months before. Peter sold the property in 2012.

Peter Ryan describes the house as a stone construction rendered and supported on stone footings and logs (bark left on some of the subfloor logs). It was originally clad with a shingle roof and this had been replaced with a galvanised iron roof which Peter Ryan replaced again with new galvanised iron sheets. With the exception of the glass panes most of the materials were sourced locally and on the property including the stone was sourced and cedar for joinery. The nails were handmade and timber trimmed with a axe and adze.

The original weatherboard kitchen burnt down in 1900 and was rebuilt in stone.

A square shaped building that is extant was the creamery. During Peter Ryan's ownership he made some alterations to the building which included the replacement of the existing galvanised iron roof with the same material and removal of accretions such as louvred windows enclosing the verandah.

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Themes: National theme

3. Economy

3. Economy

4. Settlement

9. Phases of Life

State theme

Agriculture

Agriculture

Land tenure

Persons

Local theme

Designer:

Builder:

Year started: 1830

Year completed:

Circa: Yes

Physical description: Stone and brick construction with rendered stone coursing. Hipped roof with broken back over front and rear verandah and brick chimneys. Gutters to front replaced with modern compressed fibre gutter. Symmetrical frontage with Georgian proportions. French doors to verandah and double hung windows vary with 2 and 6 panes per sash. L shaped in plan with wing to north. Large timber posts on verandah and vertical timber balustrade.

The outbuildings include a square plan building to the north-east of timber construction on timber piers. It is clad with lapped timber and galvanised steel roof and has a verandah to one elevation. Internally lined with timber boards to ceiling and walls. This building may have been used as a creamery.

Second outbuilding north-east of the house of timber framed construction of machined timbers clad with lapped timber and galvanised steel roof. Appears to be a garage or workshop.

Third outbuilding to the north of the house constructed in machined timber and clad in lapped timber and galvanised steel roof. May have been used as a barn and/or storage. Includes a caged area clad with chicken wire. Some split logs evident in internal wall that are likely to have been re-used from an earlier building.

Physical condition

level:

Physical condition: Good and being maintained with current work

Archaeological

potential level:

Archaeological

potential Detail:

Modification dates: Dungog Chronicle, 8th January, 1915 describes renovations to the house:

"Mr EG Hooke, of Rocky Hill, has had his substantial residence entirely renovated and fitted with the latest conveniences. New and spacious kitchen, laundry and offices have been built, and an enormous underground tank constructed. Water is lifted to overhead tanks by the windmill, and is laid on in different parts of the house. An air gas plant has been installed, and a system of sewerage, so that Rocky Hill is the most up-to-date residence in the district."

Recommended

management:

Management: Management category

Management name

Further comments: Council address 1565 Fosterton Road is incorrect and listing and address should be altered to 1330 Fosterton Road, Fosterton.

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Criteria a): The property records the use of the land by the Hooke Family for farming and residence from c1830 - c1990.

[Historical significance] The Hooke family are amongst the first Europeans to be granted land in the Dungog area with the original land grant of Wirragulla in 1828 (authorised in 1837). Rocky Hill records the expansion of the Hooke family land holdings in the second generation with the clearing and farming of the land by Henry Guy Hooke. It is likely the house was built at this time in the 1830s (oral. Peter Ryan). Generations of the Hooke family that owned and farmed Rocky Hill include Ernest Guy Hooke, J.G.Hooke, W.M.Hooke who farmed beef cattle. Ernest Hooke was both a grazier and had dairy cattle as the largest supplier of the local factory in Dungog.

Criteria b): Rocky Hill is associated with the Hooke family who took up land grants on the Williams River from 1828 and added to this land with following generations of the family. Henry Guy Hooke (1819-1895) owned land later known as Rocky Hill and his son, Ernest Guy was born here and farmed and resided at Rocky Hill and inherited the land from his father. Other members of the Hooke family that owned and farmed Rock Hill include Hooke J.G., Hooke W.M.

Criteria c): The homestead is a vernacular building with large verandah that displays elements of the Georgian style in the symmetry of the openings and proportions. Important record of earlier building technology with rendered stone walls, timber beam footings, cedar joinery and handmade nails.

[Aesthetic/Technical significance] The outbuildings are representative of the development and use of the property. The square plan building may be an early creamery. The larger outbuildings are built with machined timber and appear later in construction, though some split slabs (northern most outbuilding 3) likely to have been sourced from an earlier building are evident.

Criteria d): The house would be valued by the Hooke family descendants and the local community as one of the earliest houses in the district and in its association with an early pioneer family.

Criteria e):
[Research significance]

Criteria f):
[Rarity]

Criteria g): Representative of a vernacular homestead with elements of the Georgian style in the symmetry and proportions.

[Representative] The outbuildings are representative of the development and use of the property.

Intactness/Integrity: The house has been altered with new fabric to the roof and gutters and additions. The form and fabric of the house is substantially intact.

References:	Author	Title	Year
	Peter Ryan		2013
		Dungog Chronicle	1915
		Dungog Chronicle	1913
		Burkes Landed Gentry	

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Carste Studio	Dungog Heritage Study Review	40	2013

Parcels:	Parcel code	Lot number	Section number	Plan code	Plan number
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Latitude:

Longitude:

Location validity:

Spatial accuracy:

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Map name:**Map scale:****AMG zone:****Easting:****Northing:****Listing:** Name**Title****Number****ListingDate**

Heritage study

Data entry: Data first entered: 25/01/2013

Data updated: 20/11/2013

Status: Partial

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Image:



Caption: Rocky Hill

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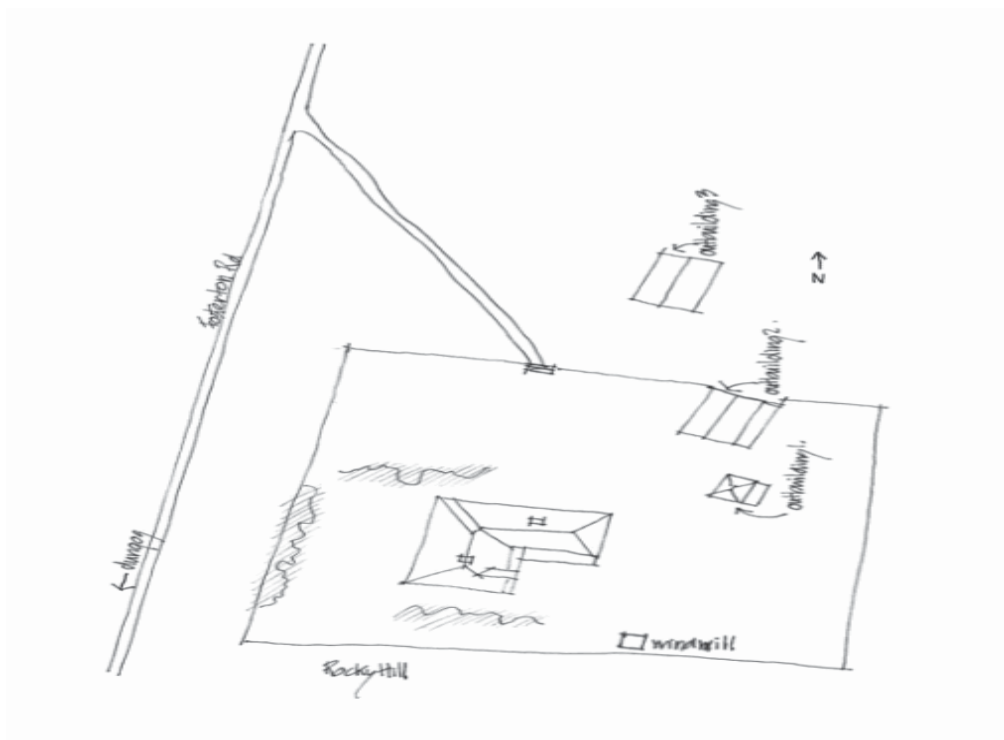
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