

**Item name:** Gostwyck Butter Factory

**Location:** 112 Dungog Road Martins Creek 2420

Dungog

**Address:** 112 Dungog Road

**Planning:** Hunter & Central Coast

**Suburb/nearest town:** Martins Creek 2420

**Local govt area:** Dungog

**Parish:**

**State:** NSW

**County:**

**Other/former names:**

**Area/group/complex:**

**Group ID:**

**Aboriginal area:**

**Curtilage/boundary:**

**Item type:** Archaeological-Terrestrial

**Group:**

**Category:**

**Owner:**

**Admin codes:**

**Code 2:**

**Code 3:**

**Current use:** Industrial

**Former uses:** Butter Factory

**Assessed significance:** Local

**Endorsed significance:**

**Statement of significance:** The study site contains archaeological remains pertaining to an early 20th century butter factory, which is considered to be of potential local archaeological significance. The site represents the progressive development of the dairy industry within the greater Dungog region.

The study site, having been owned by the Raymond Terrace Co-operative Dairy Company, demonstrates the popularity of butter factories at the start of the 20th century. The shift to dairying practices was a direct result of the demise of the tobacco manufacturing and wheat growing industries, alongside the advancement and availability of new machinery and technology allowing for wide spread production. The dairy industry also offered more economic opportunities for all individuals, as milk could be purchased by the gallon thus providing regular payments to many farmers each week.

At the same time, the introduction of the North Coast Railway during the 1910s saw a number of new factories being erected directly alongside the railway line as a means to take advantage of the new transport system. This generally led to many pre-existing butter factories to either be shut down and relocated, or removed and rebuilt closer to the railway system. This significant development in the transport infrastructure of Dungog likely led to the demise of the Gostwyck Butter factory by the late 1920s.

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**Historical notes of provenance:** By the second half of the 19th century, the greater area of Dungog experienced a significant shift concerning the main sources of income production for the community. Initially focused on tobacco production, wheat growing and sheep rearing during the first half of the 19th century, these agricultural exploits had predominantly dried up or relocated to more prominent and better suited inland areas.<sup>1</sup> As the community required more agricultural enterprises in order to sufficiently survive, a heavy shift in focus towards dairying and the production of milk by-products quickly became one of the largest and valued business enterprises to the Dungog region.

The Gostwyck Butter Factory was opened and operated by the Raymond Terrace Co-operative Dairy Company.<sup>2</sup> The factory took a short time to build and was officially opened on the 18th June 1908.<sup>3</sup> Having been part of a larger company, the butter factory at Gostwyck was the second or third factory utilised by the Raymond Terrace Co-Operative Dairy Company. A manager's cottage was added to the site in 1909.<sup>4</sup> At the time of construction, butter manufacturing was a popular topic of discussion for the greater Dungog area, as many companies were trying to improve the quality standards of milk products across the board:

"Now that the butter industry has grown to such proportions, in fact next to our wool industry and having to find markets for it beyond the sea, it will be necessary to improve the quality of our butter, in order to secure a share in those markets."<sup>5</sup>

The construction of factories during this period also signified the technological advancements to this particular industry in and around the Dungog region. Heavy concentration was placed not only on maximising the amount of stock which could be turned out, but also on quality control to ensure that consumers were satisfied with their products. The Raymond Terrace Co-operative Dairy Company was successful in this respect, having the ability to run multiple factories at the same level of output, quality and sales.

Peters American Delicacy Company bought the Gostwyck Butter Factory from the Raymond Terrace company in 1915, while already holding a prior agreement to purchase all their cream requirements from the factory at Peterson.<sup>6</sup> In 1926 Peters sold the property back to the Raymond Terrace Co-operative Dairy company, which likely had a direct increase of profit margins for the company, as in 1927 they opened a new factory at Hexham in the vicinity of the North Coast Railway.<sup>7</sup> Based on its location, the greater production amounts were now focused at Hexham, which subsequently reduced the output amount for the Gostwyck factory as considerably more transit time was needed to transport stock from the Gostwyck factory rather than simply moving stock to the rail line which could easily be done at Hexham. As a result, while the exact date is not known, the Gostwyck Butter factory shut down a short time after 1927.

1 "Vacy Creamery", Paterson River History, online resource accessed 2nd March 2013  
<http://www.patersonriver.com.au/places/vacycreamery.htm>

2 Sydney Morning Herald (6th November 1907), p. 7.

3 Sydney Morning Herald (4th June 1908), p. 4.

4 Gostwyck Butter Factory", Paterson River History, online resource accessed 4th March 2013

5 Freeman's Journal (4th July 1907), p. 33.

6 "Gostwyck Butter Factory", Paterson River History, online resource accessed 4th March 2013

7 "Gostwyck Butter Factory", Paterson River History, online resource accessed 4th March 2013

<b>Themes:</b>	<b>National theme</b>	<b>State theme</b>	<b>Local theme</b>
	3. Economy	Agriculture	
	3. Economy	Industry	

**Designer:**

**Builder:**

**Year started:**

**Year completed:** 1908

**Circa:** Yes

**Physical description:** The study site currently contains a few warehouse sized buildings, of which one area contains the ruins of the Gostwyck Butter Factory. The site is located to the east of the Gostwyck Bridge which is situated over the Paterson River.

**Physical condition level:**

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**Physical condition:** The archaeological ruins of the butter factory can be seen from aerial photographs and appears to be situated around warehouses and sheds which appear to have been recently constructed, especially those fronting Dungog Road. Based on the construction date and the fact that ruins still exist, it can be suggested that the site holds a low to moderate potential for archaeological features and deposits relating to use of the site as a butter factory during the early 20th century. Archaeological evidence may be found in the form of footings for walls, basements or cellars, postholes for fencing, rubbish pits and yard deposits associated with the industrial use and occupation of the site.

**Archaeological potential level:**

**Archaeological potential Detail:**

**Modification dates:**

**Recommended management:** Prior to the approval of any development of the study location an archaeological assessment and, if appropriate, relevant endorsements from the Heritage Branch should be sought where archaeological remains may be affected. Assessment of the site should be made prior to impact or disturbance being made to the current ground level surface.

<b>Management:</b>	<b>Management category</b>	<b>Management name</b>
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**Further comments:**

**Criteria a):** Gostwyck Butter factory holds local historical significance as it is indicative of the developing economic dairy industry during the 20th century to the greater Dungog region. The site itself demonstrates a shift in agricultural practices and pastoralism once utilised during the 19th century, into a larger industrial and manufacturing industry centred on the newly accelerated dairy industry.

**Criteria b):**  
[Historical association significance]

**Criteria c):**  
[Aesthetic/ Technical significance]

**Criteria d):** The site may hold local significance to the members of the Martins Creek and Paterson community, as the factory was once an important economic factor in the development and sustainability of these townships.

**Criteria e):** Based on the knowledge that the factory was demolished and removed some time during the 20th century, it is unlikely that the site holds any significance appropriate to this criterion.

**Criteria f):** It can be suggested that the presence of a butter factory on the study site is not considered rare or uncommon to this area. Many small independent dairy and butter factories were operating around the greater Dungog region during this time as agricultural ventures were readily progressing in this direction. This subsequently resulted in many small, short lived dairy and butter factory sites opening and operating to keep up with the new production demands.

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**Criteria g):** The Gostwyck Butter factory is representative of the developing changing nature of farming practices in the greater Dungog region at the turn of the 20th century. The shift to dairying practices was a direct result of the demise of the tobacco manufacturing and wheat growing industries, alongside the advancement and availability of new machinery and technology allowing for wide spread production. The dairy industry also offered more economic opportunities for all individuals, as milk could be purchased by the gallon thus providing regular payments to many farmers each week.

**[Representative]**

**Intactness/Integrity:** Archaeological: Archaeological remains are present.

References:	Author	Title	Year
	Caste Studio Pty Ltd: Williams, Micha	"A History of Three Rivers. Dungog Shire Heritage Study- The	2012
	Walsh, Brian	"Vacy Creamery" in Paterson River History, Last updated Febr	2013
	Walsh, Brian	"Gostwyck Butter Factory" in Paterson River History, Last upd	2013
	Sydney Morning Herald	"Dungog"4th June 1908	1908
	Sydney Morning Herald	"Notes"6th November 1907	1907

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Carste Studio	Dungog Heritage Study Review	21	2013

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

**Latitude:**

**Longitude:**

**Location validity:**

**Spatial accuracy:**

**Map name:**

**Map scale:**

**AMG zone:**

**Easting:**

**Northing:**

**Listing: Name**

**Title**  
Heritage study

**Number**

**ListingDate**

**Data entry:** Data first entered: 18/04/2013

Data updated: 19/11/2013

Status: Partial

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**Image:**



**Caption:** Gostwyck Butter Factory - visible remains of site

**Copy right:**

**Image by:** AMAC

**Image date:**

**Image number:**

**Image url:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/3454bd1e585aeb34052b0dd06242f8c9298.jpg>

**Thumbnail url:** [http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/Thumb\\_test3454bd1e585aeb34052b0dd06242f8c9298.jpg](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/Thumb_test3454bd1e585aeb34052b0dd06242f8c9298.jpg)

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**Image:**



**Caption:** Gostwyck Butter Factory - site in relation to surrounding buildings

**Copy right:**

**Image by:** AMAC

**Image date:**

**Image number:**

**Image url:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/3454d7b7021c8de4147a65cbf6b49d20424.jpg>

**Thumbnail url:** [http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/Thumb\\_test3454d7b7021c8de4147a65cbf6b49d20424.jpg](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/Thumb_test3454d7b7021c8de4147a65cbf6b49d20424.jpg)

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