

Item name: Melbury- House Adjoining**Location:** 2220 Salisbury Road Salisbury 2420

Dungog

Address: 2220 Salisbury Road**Planning:** Hunter & Central Coast**Suburb/nearest town:** Salisbury 2420**Local govt area:** Dungog**Parish:****State:** NSW**County:****Other/former names:** Residence**Area/group/complex:****Group ID:****Aboriginal area:****Curtilage/boundary:****Item type:** Built**Group:** Residential buildings (private) **Category:** House**Owner:** Private - Individual**Admin codes:****Code 2:****Code 3:****Current use:** Grazing**Former uses:** Dairy**Assessed significance:** Local**Endorsed significance:**

Statement of significance: The property known as Melbury is a record of the early selection of land for farming and occupation by William Edwards in 1852. Albert Edwards who died in 1959, the grandson of William lived in the house adjoining Melbury. The house has been in continuous occupation by the Edwards family and their descendants including during and after WWII. In recent years it has been unoccupied.

The house is a representative example of the early Federation style in its asymmetrical design with projecting gable and details including turned timber valance to the verandah and brackets and turned timber finial and timber brackets on the projecting gable. Other significant elements include the well to the south of the house. The house has been altered with additions and this has diminished its significance to an extent, though the original form and style of the house is still evident.

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Historical notes of provenance: The land on which Melbury is located was selected by William Edwards in 1852. William's father, John Edwards migrated from Wales and farmed in the Camyr Allyn area. William Edwards built a slab hut on his selection and then constructed a more substantial house that was destroyed by fire at an unknown date. These buildings were located to the north and north-west of the cemetery site across the Williams River. From 1872-1876 William lived in the existing house known as "Melbury" that is sited to the south of Salisbury Road.

William Edward's son Albert built the house adjoining Melbury in 1908 and lived in the house until his death in 1959. The African tulip tree in the garden was one of two trees planted from seed by Josephine Edwards. On the death of Josephine Edwards, Howard Rumble leased the dairy and lived at the back of the house with Austin and Marie Rumble.

Three generations of the Edwards family have lived in the house. These include Albert and his wife Josephine and daughters, Linda, Elsie (deceased 2yrs), Laura and Ethel. Owen Nicholson, Ethel's son, owns "Melbury" and the property including the cemetery and he is the fifth generation to live on the property. Owen Nicholson moved with his family to this house adjoining Melbury when his father, George Nicholson went to fight in WWII. On his father's return the family stayed and took up residence in this house. According to Owen Nicholson there were earlier outbuildings on the property and these have been demolished. In 1953 Linda's son Kevin Smith, married Patia Barrow and with a daughter Janet and they lived in the house and ran a dairy. The house is now vacant.

The Edwards family took up this land as free selectors and both farmed the land and worked as cedar getters. Albert Edwards (William's son) would ride the horses back each week to supply transport for the timber cutters. He was also a guide for the tourists in the Barringtons. William Edwards and his wife travelled to Maitland to sell the cedar to coffin makers and to buy supplies for their workers. (John Edwards is buried in and unmarked grave in the Dungog cemetery. William is buried in the General Salisbury Cemetery located on the Melbury property across the Williams River.)

Themes:	National theme	State theme	Local theme
	3. Economy	Agriculture	
	3. Economy	Agriculture	
	4. Settlement	Land tenure	
	9. Phases of Life	Persons	

Designer:

Builder:

Year started:

Year completed: 1908

Circa: No

Physical description: The house is an early Federation Style building asymmetrically designed with two projecting gables. The larger gable with a bay window and metal hoods and addition to the house was added in the 1930s. The bay window is described in the family history booklet as containing stained glass windows and these are currently blocked with sheets of galvanised steel. It is a timber framed construction with lapped timber cladding, galvanised iron roof and bullnose verandah. The windows that are visible (some have been boarded up) are double hung with one pane per sash. The doors are panelled with glazed upper panels. Other details include a turned timber valance to the verandah and brackets with stop chamfered posts. The projecting gable is decorated with turned timber finial and timber brackets. Internal linings of Australian cedar boards and the floor is Macquarie birch and tallow wood.

The house was altered in the 1930 with a new gable and additional bay. A well is located to the south of the house. A dilapidated dairy is located to the west of the house which is a recent masonry building.

Physical condition level:

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Physical condition: Dilapidated state with footings and/or foundations showing signs of instability. Timber deteriorating and requires painting. Windows unglazed and house exposed to weather and pest ingress.

Extant well in rear garden area.

Archaeological potential level:

Archaeological potential Detail:

Modification dates: Extension and new bay to house built in the 1930.

Recommended management:

Management:	Management category	Management name
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Further comments:

Criteria a): The property known as Melbury is a record of the early selection of land for farming and occupation by William Edwards in 1852. Albert Edwards, William's son lived in the house adjoining Melbury until his death in 1959.
[Historical significance] The house has been in continuous occupation by the Edwards' family and was occupied during and after WWII by the the Owen Nicholson and later by Kevin Smith, both of whom are third generation of the Edward's family to reside at this house and farm Melbury . In recent years it has been unoccupied.

Criteria b): The Melbury house and property is associated with Williams Edwards who selected the land in 1852. The house was built in 1908 by his son Albert Edwards who lived here with his family. It is also associated with Owen Nicholson and his mother Ethel Nicholson(nee Edwards) who ran the dairy during WWII and after with the return of his father, George Nicholson. Kevin Smith also third generation of the Edwards' family resided here from 1958 with his family and ran the dairy.

Criteria c): The house is visible from the road and is significant as an early Federation style building with simple decoration. A well is located to the south of the house.

[Aesthetic/Technical significance] The house has been altered with a new gable and additional bay and this has diminished its significance to an extent, though the original form and style of the house is still evident. The house is in a dilapidated state which will in the future result in the loss and deterioration of fabric and diminish the aesthetic significance of the building.

A dilapidated dairy is located to the west of the house which is a recent masonry building and is not assessed as significant.

Criteria d):
[Social/Cultural significance]

Criteria e):
[Research significance]

Criteria f):
[Rarity]

Criteria g): The house is a representative example of the early Federation style in its asymmetrical design with projecting gable and its detail. These include turned timber valance to the verandah and brackets and turned timber finial and timber brackets on the projecting gable.
[Representative]

Intactness/Integrity: The house is currently intact though some glazing has been removed. The continued vacancy and deterioration of the building will result in the loss of fabric.

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References:	Author	Title	Year
	Owen Nicholson		2013
	Numerous members of the family incl Family History of the Edwards, undated		

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Perumal, Wrathall & Mur	Dungog Heritage Study	R47	1986
	Carste Studio	Dungog Heritage Study Review	12	2013

Parcels:	Parcel code	Lot number	Section number	Plan code	Plan number
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Latitude: 645339**Longitude:****Location validity:****Spatial accuracy:****Map name:** Chichester**Map scale:****AMG zone:****Easting:****Northing:****Listing: Name****Title****Number****ListingDate**Local Environmental Plan
Heritage study

06/04/1990

Data entry: Data first entered: 27/07/2001

Data updated: 19/11/2013

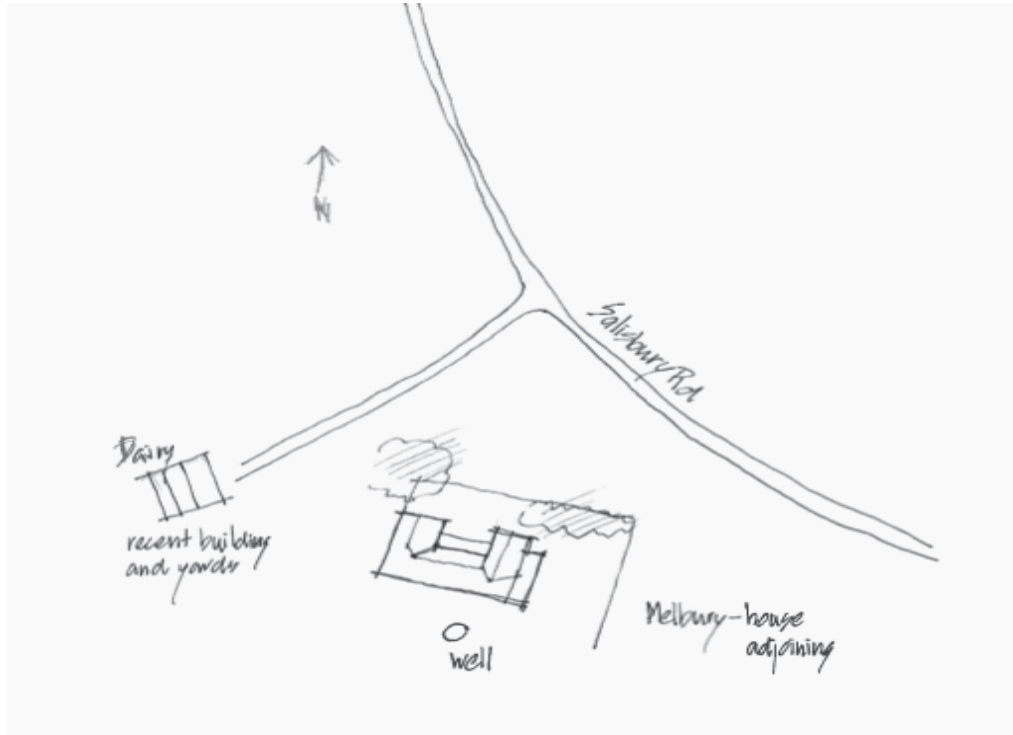
Status: Partial

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Image:



Caption: Melbury- House Adjoining

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Image:



Melbury Church - 1906-1998-

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Caption: Melbury- House Adjoining

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Melbury

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