

**Item name:** Fotheringay**Location:** 221 Fotheringay Road Clarence Town 2321

Dungog

**Address:** 221 Fotheringay Road**Planning:** Hunter & Central Coast**Suburb/nearest town:** Clarence Town 2321**Local govt area:** Dungog**Parish:****State:** NSW**County:****Other/former names:** Residence**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:** Cattle growing property, house vacant**Former uses:** Farmhouse, dairy, homestead**Assessed significance:** Local**Endorsed significance:**

**Statement of significance:** The study site contains the potential for archaeological remains pertaining to the domestic occupation and use of Fotheringay House for a period of more than 150 years. At present, from preliminary information obtained, the study site is considered to be of potential local archaeological significance. However as the exact construction period and year of the house itself is yet to be determined, without further research and assessment, the site must also be considered as holding potential for archaeological features and remains of state significance.

Fotheringay house can be considered to be one of the earliest and most prominent homesteads constructed in Clarence Town during the mid 19th century. The fact that the main road leading to the property is named Fotheringay Road is a direct example of its value to the local community. The size and scale of the main cottage dwelling and its position directly adjacent to the Williams River made Fotheringay house a desirable location. The two long term owners of the property, Charles Felix Holmes and William J. Croker, both raised their families in Fotheringay House while engaging in the dairy industry as a means of income. The site is an excellent demonstration of the development of rural living in the greater Dungog region, having been continuously occupied for a period of more than 150 years. This in turns offers an extensive archaeological data set which may represent the development and change of domestic practices in Clarence Town during the 19th and 20th centuries.

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**Historical notes of provenance:** During the 19th and early 20th century, Fotheringay House, to the local township of Clarence Town, was noted as one of the most prestigious properties to be built in this area, and visitors to the Dungog region who travelled through Clarence Town would often make mention of the beauty of the house in newspaper article and reports.

The earliest known reference to Fotheringay House dates to 1858, whereby the owner of the property at the time was Charles Felix Holmes. This reference was not addressing the house specifically, rather noting the death of Charles' first wife. Charles married Margaret Ferrier in 1854 and it can be suggested that at around this time Charles' either built Fotheringay House or purchased the property with the dwelling already standing. This marriage did not last long, Margaret having passed in 1858. Charles quickly remarried Margaret Papper Laurie in Paterson in 1862. They continued to live in Fotheringay House and together had three children; Lilly (b1863), Alice (b1865) and Felix (b1868).

During the occupation of Fotheringay House it is not known whether Charles used this particular land for agricultural purposes or simply as the residential home. However other newspaper advertisements dated to the 1860s show Charles offering pastoral land for lease, which is of greater size and a slightly different location to Fotheringay House:

"Wanted to let a superior dairy farm, or sheep run, with a never-failing supply of grass and water during the driest seasons, containing nearly 4000 acres of land, situate with a very short distance from Clarence Town, Williams River."

Based on this information, it can be assumed that Fotheringay remained specifically a homestead for the Holmes family, until their sale of the property in 1886. In September 1886, the property was advertised for sale and described as containing the following:

"The Fotheringay Estate, comprising 200 acres of grazing and agricultural land, fronting the Williams River and adjoining the surveyed land of the North Coast Railway. Cottage residence built of brick and stone, containing 7 spacious rooms, with kitchen, pantry, servant's room and dairy attached, also stable, coach house, large store room, sheds and all necessary surrounding. The fence which encloses the property as well as that forming the subdividing lines is of an excellent description, the whole rendering Fotheringay as perfect and compact a homestead as need be desired."

The Fotheringay Estate was purchased by William J Croker from Charles Felix Homes in 1886. At some point in time, William must have purchased adjacent land owned by Charles Holmes, as an auction advertisement for the sale of Fotheringay House by William's son in 1949 noted that the property now consisted of 424 acres and included a dairy. Fotheringay House also appeared to have received some sort of minor extension, as the house was not described as containing 9 rooms:

"The improvements consist of a well built homestead, brick and stone of 9 rooms. Hay shed, car shed, stalls, dairy and bails, 2 silos each of 115 tonne capacity. Electricity and phone. Milk board license. Milk picked up twice daily."

Following this sale, it appears that the property has remained largely undeveloped, however continuously occupied since at least 1854. The adjacent dairy, based on newspaper advertisements, also appears to have been in operation almost as long as the house has been in existence, therefore offering a perception that Fotheringay house can be considered one of the most prominent estates in Clarence Town.

**Themes:** National theme  
3. Economy

State theme  
Pastoralism

Local theme  
Activities relating to the cultivation of land

**Designer:****Builder:****Year started:** 1850**Year completed:****Circa:** Yes

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**Physical description:** The study site is located approximately one mile south of the township of Clarence Town and currently contains a mid 19th century homestead and a shed which is likely of a later construction date. The site serves a residential and agricultural function, the rear of the property leading to the Williams River.

**Physical condition level:** Poor

**Physical condition:** The original 'Fotheringay House' homestead is still standing, and it does not appear obvious that any major extensions have been made to the layout of the house, based on visual evidence from aerial photographs. Based on the approximate construction date of the house, is largely undeveloped state and long term occupation of the property, it can be suggested that there exists a moderate to high archaeological potential for features and deposits relation to the occupation and use of the site as a domestic residence since the mid 19th century. Archaeological evidence may be found in the form of occupation deposits, underfloor deposits, cesspits, wells, footings for sheds of outbuildings and rubbish pits associated with the occupation and use of the property as a domestic home.

**Archaeological potential level:** Exceptional

**Archaeological potential Detail:**

**Modification dates:**

**Recommended management:** Prior to the approval of any development of the study location, that being the house structure and the greater surrounding curtilage area, 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. A full archaeological assessment and land titles search will be required in order to better determine the approximate construction period of the house and its potential for archaeological evidence of state significance, the site already having been considered to be of local significance.

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

**Criteria a):** Fotheringay house can be considered to be of historical local significance to the community of Clarence Town.  
**[Historical significance]** The homestead was constructed, at the very latest during 1858, which marks the site as one of the earliest known homesteads to have been constructed on the outskirts of the centre of Clarence Town. The fact that the house has been continuously occupied for a period of more than 150 years signifies its importance within the historical and archaeological record; this is also demonstrated through the main road from Clarence Town having been named Fotheringay Road. Furthermore, this mid 19th century dwelling potentially offers an archaeological data set which demonstrates the domestic and residential development of Clarence Town since the mid 19th century.

**Criteria b):** This site may hold local significance to members of both the Holmes and Croker families, of who both resided at the estate for a considerable amount of time.  
**[Historical association significance]**

**Criteria c):** Archaeological: This site is not significant according to this criterion.  
**[Aesthetic/ Technical significance]**

**Criteria d):** It is unlikely that the site holds particular social significance to any group or community apart from the members of both the Holmes and Croker families who may hold special association with the site.  
**[Social/Cultural significance]**

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**Criteria e):** This site is not significant according to this criterion.  
**[Research significance]**

**Criteria f):** The site may be considered to be rare at a locally significant level when assessed from the view point of heritage architecture and the subsequent age, state and condition of the. However In terms of archaeological significance, the site does not appear to potentially contain archaeological features which are to be considered rare or uncommon to the historical record.  
**[Rarity]**

**Criteria g):** Fotheringay Estate and Fotheringay House is a representation of mid 19th century domestic occupation running in direct correlation with agricultural practices which provided economic stability for those residents living on the property. The site is an excellent demonstration of the change and development of rural living within the greater Dungog region from as early as the mid 19th century and throughout the entire 20th century. The potential archaeological record may reveal information pertaining to domestic life and changing practices over a prolonged period of time, which in turn can be considered to be of potential local significance.  
**[Representative]**

**Intactness/Integrity:** Very high archaeological integrity

References:	Author	Title	Year	
	Carste Studio Pty Ltd: Williams, Mich	“A History of Three Rivers. Dungog Shire Heritage Study- The	2012	
	NSW Births, Deaths and Marriage	Records: 41B/1854; 3277/1858; 6989/1863; 7933/1865; 8286/1		
	The Sydney Morning Herald	Un-named article - 10th May 1858	1858	
	Singleton Argus	“High Class Dairy Farm”, 21st October 1949	1949	
	Maitland Mercury and Hunter River G	“Wanted to Let”, 14th March 1867	1867	
	Maitland Mercury and Hunter River G	“Sale of Freehold Properties”, 2nd October 1886	1886	
Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Carste Studio	Dungog Heritage Study Review		2013

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

**Longitude:**

**Location validity:**

**Spatial accuracy:**

**Map name:**

**Map scale:**

**AMG zone:**

**Easting:**

**Northing:**

**Listing: Name**

**Title**

**Number**

**ListingDate**

Local Environmental Plan  
Heritage study

17

01/05/2006

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

Data updated: 14/11/2013

Status: Partial

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**Image:**



**Caption:** Fotheringay - north and west elevations

**Copy right:**

**Image by:** S Cameron

**Image date:** 21/06/2013

**Image number:**

**Image url:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/1540077edb2188dea5c431a9ec889b59bf26ae4.JPG>

**Thumbnail url:** [http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/Thumb\\_1540077edb2188dea5c431a9ec889b59bf26ae4.JPG](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/Thumb_1540077edb2188dea5c431a9ec889b59bf26ae4.JPG)



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**Image:**



**Caption:** West elevation looking south

**Copy right:**

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**Image number:**

**Image url:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/1540077882889d6f0d9495cbb06156a7a695090.JPG>

**Thumbnail url:** [http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/Thumb\\_1540077882889d6f0d9495cbb06156a7a695090.JPG](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/Thumb_1540077882889d6f0d9495cbb06156a7a695090.JPG)

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**Image:**



**Caption:** Fotheringay - Wall and roof junction detail

**Copy right:**

**Image by:** S Cameron

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**Image number:**

**Image url:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/154007797c866011b744955bf4a6c5f652f737a.JPG>

**Thumbnail url:** [http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/Thumb\\_154007797c866011b744955bf4a6c5f652f737a.JPG](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/Thumb_154007797c866011b744955bf4a6c5f652f737a.JPG)

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**Image:**



**Caption:** Fotheringay - stone sill west elevation

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**Image number:**

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**Image:**



**Caption:** Fotheringay - drawing room fireplace

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**Image url:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/154007732a190bac6ac491c8494206b5c594e3f.JPG>

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**Image:**



**Caption:** Fotheringay - Drawing room french doors

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