

Item name: Corner's Flourmills

Location:

Dungog

Address:

Planning: Hunter & Central Coast

Suburb/nearest town: Paterson 2421

Local govt area: Dungog

Parish:

State: NSW

County:

Other/former names: Corner's Store, Corners Upper Mill and Corner's Lower Mill Or Paterson Steam Mill

Area/group/complex:

Group ID:

Aboriginal area:

Curtilage/boundary:

Item type: Built

Group: Farming and Grazing

Category: Granary/Grain Shed

Owner: Private - Individual

Admin codes:

Code 2:

Code 3:

Current use:

Former uses: Wheat Store and Wheat Flourmill

Assessed significance: State

Endorsed significance:

Statement of significance: Steam mills operated in Paterson along the Paterson River from at least the mid 19th century. Corner's mills make up two of their number and are roughly contemporary, operating at least by the early 1870s. This places the mills in the broader context of regional industrial efforts in the mid to late 19th century. Although it is unlikely that these mills are standing, if archaeological evidence of them was discovered intact, they would also be deemed materially representative of the regional industry at the time. The grain store is an important part of the site in association with the mills and is an extant building that demonstrates the use of the site and Corner's importance in this industry. The grain store is a rare remaining building from this period that is associated with the flour mill industry.

The grain store is a landmark building on the Gresford Road at the entrance to Paterson and is likely to be valued by the local community.

Further research is required to assess if the study site is significant at a state level.

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Historical notes of provenance: William Corner esquire was born c1815 and lived and worked in Paterson until his death in 1894. Mr Corner also functioned as a magistrate of the territory in 1874 (Maitland Mercury 7 March 1874, p.2) Corner lived in Sussex House which was adjacent the Bush Inn on Commercial Road and across the road from his dwelling was his grain store (The Sydney Morning Herald 20th June 1894, 1, <http://www.patersonriver.com.au/places/sussexhouse.htm> accessed 22nd March 2013).

Steam mills processing wheat were operating in Paterson from at least the 1850s (Maitland Mercury 10 March 1849 p3). Mr Corner is thought to have operated two mills in the Paterson area by 1872 although it is not certain if and when he either purchased or constructed them (Maitland Mercury 7 August 1869, 6 / Museum News, vol. 11 no. 3, 2004. Paterson Historical Society). Corner purchased a 20 acre subdivision of Susannah Ward's "Cintra" estate in 1884, it is not certain if this was the land that Sussex House occupied or if it was an addition to land he already owned. Unconfirmed evidence suggests that one of the mills was on his Cintra property. It is also uncertain if the mills were productive during this time as Paterson faced challenges in the wheat production industry from disease and flooding in the late 1860s and early 1870s (www.patersonriver.com.au/places/flourmills.htm#ref4 accessed 22nd March 2013). It is possible that Corner's mills fell into disrepair or disuse during this time as in 1875 the operator of the lower mill, Mr Hough, advertised that he was about to restart the Paterson steam flour mill after extensive repairs and upgrading (Maitland Mercury 23 February 1875 p3). Two weeks after this notice was given, a flood ravaged Paterson and destroyed Corner's mill house and upper mill as well as damaging the lower mill (Maitland Mercury 6 March 1875). Despite these odds, Corner and Hough persisted and it was announced in November 1881 that both mills were in good order for the coming wheat season. This was promising for local farmers as they would not be forced to take their wheat to Maitland as they had done in the previous years (Maitland Mercury 26 November 1881 p6). Further research is required, however it is suggested that the last mill at Paterson closed in 1905 (www.patersonriver.com.au/places/flourmills.htm#ref4 accessed 22nd March 2013).

The extant store building on Gresford Road was used as a store for grain. Corner's flour mill was located on the Paterson River. In 1875 the mill was damaged by flood and was pulled down in the c1900. It was a similar building to the store with a pitched roof clad in slate (Kevin Jordan). Corner built the store in 1860. The flour mill was located on the "Cintra" property. A rail connected the store to a wharf on the Paterson River.

The current owner of the grain store is Kevin Jordan and his father, Thomas Edward Jordan bought the property including the store in 1918. The store was used at this stage as an outbuilding for storage and stored a buggy and chaff cutter which are still stored in the building. The upper floor was used during the Jordan's ownership for a dance and for roller skating. According to Kevin one mill was located down the lane adjacent to the grain store and one in Paterson. The grain store may be the only remaining built evidence of the flour milling industry in Paterson.

Themes: National theme

3. Economy

3. Economy

State theme

Agriculture

Industry

Local theme

Designer:**Builder:****Year started:****Year completed:** 1875**Circa:** Yes

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Physical description: The grain store is a solid brick and timber post and beam construction. It is built with handmade brick and flat arched openings and dressed sandstone plinth. The openings include a large opening for a vehicle which has been added at a later date and smaller windows with steel rails for ventilation and sandstone sills. These are flat arched and supported with timber lintels.

Mr William Corner is thought to have operated two mills in the Paterson area by 1872 (Maitland Mercury 7 August 1869, 6 / Museum News, vol. 11 no. 3, 2004. Paterson Historical Society). Some descriptions are available however it may not always be possible to distinguish between the upper and lower mills if historical records do not already make the distinction. It is certain that both were located on or near the Paterson River as they were both subjected to flood damage.

Mr A. Hough appears to be an operator of the lower mill on behalf of Mr Corner. In February 1875 it was reported that Mr Hough would restart the Paterson steam flour mill after extensive repairs and upgrades. This implies that the lower mill was the steam powered one. It is possible the upper mill was water powered however this is unconfirmed. (Maitland Mercury 23 February 1875 p3, Maitland Mercury 6 March 1875).

Floods struck the Paterson River only a few weeks after the steam mill was restarted. The upper mill was destroyed and the lower was incapacitated. The mill house, situated near the upper flour mill was washed away. The purpose of this structure could be for the storage of grain as it is suggested that Mr Hough occupied the lower mill and that one of its corners was washed away (Maitland Mercury 6 March 1875).

The damage from the mid-1870s seems to have been extensive enough that the mills that were re-opened by Mr Hough in 1881 might not be considered the same original buildings (Maitland Mercury 26 November 1881 p6). The mills were likely closed by 1905 (www.patersonriver.com.au/places/flourmills.htm#ref4 accessed 22nd March 2013).

Physical condition level:

Physical condition: The grain store is in a dilapidated condition. The roof has been collapsed and evidence of corrugated iron cladding is evident. There are slated tiles stacked on site which may or may not be the earlier roof cladding. The timber structure has failed in parts due to weather exposure. The timber floor is also evident on the upper level.

The building was not internally accessible due to the state of the structure.

The location of the upper, lower mills or the mill house is unknown. However given their age and proximity to the water it is unlikely that they are extant. Some archaeological potential may remain however if the mills were located on the erosion prone river bank this is also unlikely.

Archaeological potential level:

Archaeological potential Detail:

Modification dates: Due to the sequence of floods, damage and repairs, the mills could be ascribed with up to three construction or modification phases, pre-1875, 1875 and 1881.

Recommended management: Emergency funding should be sought to stabilise the grain store. The grain store is an important building in Paterson and may be the only record of the flour mill industry. Further research could establish the grain store and associated mills as items of state significance. These should be nominated to the State Heritage Register.

Historical records indicate that William Corner operated two mills between c.a. pre 1875-1905. They were at work sporadically during this period due to disuse and destruction by floods and possibly underwent three phases of construction and repair. As the precise location and condition of the upper and lower mills is unconfirmed, further research especially in land titles is advised. An archaeological assessment is recommended for the former properties of William Corner prior to the approval of any further development or impact to the ground surface in these areas.

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Management: Management category Management name

Further comments:

Criteria a): Steam mills could be found along the Paterson river from at least the mid 19th century. Corner's two mills operated in the context of these regional industrial efforts during the mid to late 19th century. Corner also built a store in 1860 for his grain. As an operator of two mills and a grain store, Corner could be considered a market leader for the region at the time.
[Historical significance]

Criteria b): The mills were operated by William Corner esquire of Paterson, a local magistrate of significance to the town. Corner had a substantial social standing as a magistrate as well as an apparently strong commercial presence as the owner of two mills and a grain store.
[Historical association significance]

Criteria c): The grain store is a landmark building in at the entrance to Paterson.
[Aesthetic/Technical significance]

Criteria d): The grain store is a landmark building on the Gresford Road at the entrance to Paterson and is likely to be valued by the local community.
[Social/Cultural significance]

Criteria e): The extent of significance of the mill sites is unknown, though if substantial and intact archaeological remains of the mills were found, the study site would be considered locally significant as an archaeological resource relevant to the industrial history of Paterson and the broader Dungog area.
[Research significance]

Criteria f): The grain store is a rare remaining building at a local level from this period that is associated with the flour mill industry.
[Rarity]

If substantial and intact archaeological remains of the mills were found, the study site would be considered locally significant as remains from this period are not often discovered.

Criteria g): The study site is considered locally significant according to this criterion. There were neighbouring steam mills operating in Paterson from the mid 19th century. Corner's mills make up two of their number and are roughly contemporary, operating at least by the 1870s. Although it is unlikely that the mills are standing, if archaeological evidence of them was discovered intact, they would be deemed materially representative of the regional industry at the time.
[Representative]

Intactness/Integrity: The grain store is in a dilapidated condition and the building fabric has deteriorated which has diminished its significance, though this deterioration could be reversed and there is still the potential to conserve the building. The mills are not believed to survive intact due to their age and probable location on an erosion prone river bank. However their location and integrity is unconfirmed. If discovered intact with substantial archaeological remains, the site would be considered locally significant.

References:	Author	Title	Year
	Keith Jordan		2013
	Maitland Mercury and Hunter River G	7th August 1869, 23rd February 1875, 6th March 1875, 26th	
	Paterson Historical Society	Museum News Vol. 11 No. 3	2004
	The Sydney Morning Herald	Obituary, 20th June 1894	
	Brian Walsh	"Sussex House" Paterson's Flour Mills	

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Perumal, Wrathall & Mur	Dungog Heritage Study	R38	1986
	Carste Studio	Dungog Heritage Study Review	17	2013

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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
Heritage study

Number

ListingDate

Data entry: Data first entered: 13/07/2011

Data updated: 18/11/2013

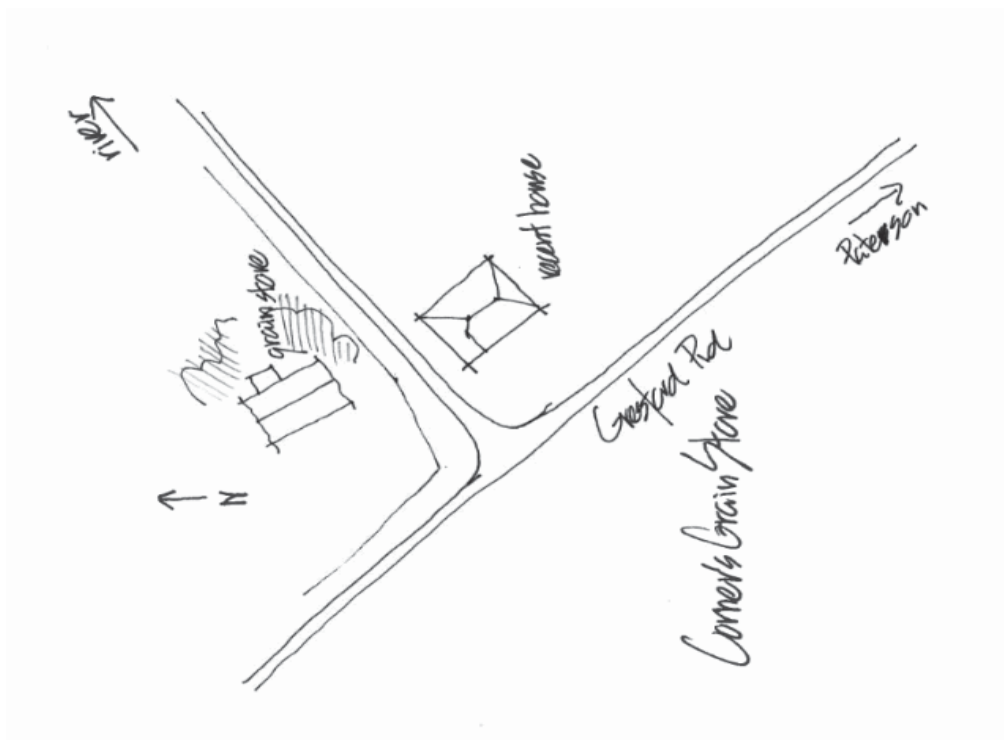
Status: Partial

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Caption: Corner's Flourmills

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