

Item name: Thomas and Peter McWilliams Tobacco Factory**Location:** 116-120 Dowling Street Dungog 2420

Dungog

Address: 116-120 Dowling Street**Planning:** Hunter & Central Coast**Suburb/nearest town:** Dungog 2420**Local govt area:** Dungog**Parish:****State:** NSW**County:****Other/former names:****Area/group/complex:****Group ID:****Aboriginal area:****Curtilage/boundary:****Item type:** Complex / Group**Group:****Category:****Owner:****Admin codes:****Code 2:****Code 3:****Current use:** Funeral Director's store and craft shop**Former uses:** General store and tobacco factory**Assessed significance:** Local**Endorsed significance:**

Statement of significance: The study site contains the potential for archaeological remains pertaining to a mid 19th century tobacco factory used in association with general stores owned by Thomas and Peter McWilliam. In saying this, the site holds the potential to contain archaeological remains of one of the earliest tobacco factories in Dungog, which can be considered to be of potential local archaeological significance.

The tobacco factory is representative of the importance of small scale local industry to the overall economic success of the Dungog region during the 19th century. The processing and manufacturing of tobacco on site allowed the McWilliam brothers to sell their own tobacco products in store, while also holding the opportunity of exporting their goods to other city regions such as Newcastle and Sydney.

The wavering growth and quality of tobacco crops in the Dungog region by the start of the 20th century could have led to the demise of the factory on Dowling Street, which is not found among documentary records by the 20th century.

Item name: Thomas and Peter McWilliams Tobacco Factory

Location: 116-120 Dowling Street Dungog 2420

Dungog

Historical notes of provenance: The tobacco industry can be considered to be one of the first profitable agricultural crops to have existed in the greater Dungog region, some crops having existed as early as 1828.¹ Along with wheat growing and sheep rearing, by the mid 19th century, the tobacco industry had evolved into one of the main profitable ventures for the local residents of Dungog. As time progressed, the tobacco industry extended to included manufacturing sheds on rural properties and some larger scale factories which meant that growth, cultivation and curing could all be completed locally thus retaining the majority of the economic benefits within the Dungog region. However the overall success of the industry remained largely with the environmental conditions of the landscape, a factor which vastly resulted in the demise of tobacco growing and production by the early 20th century.

Peter and Thomas McWilliam were brothers from Scotland who appeared to have migrated to Australia on two occasions from England; the first with Peter's wife Nancy Fowler to Queensland in 1849, and then again with Peter's brother Thomas to New South Wales in 1852.² Originally listed as residing in Balmain in 1853, by the mid 1850s both Peter and Thomas had opened a general store in Dowling Street in Dungog. Peter and Thomas likely purchased the property from George Ride Darly, who was granted number 1 in section 5 of the original subdivision of Dungog in February 1841.³ It is not known whether the two storey brick dwelling which the general store was situated in was already standing prior to the McWilliam brothers' ownership, however no evidence has been found to suggest that they constructed it themselves.

Early advertisements indicate that a small tobacco manufactory existed in around 1863, whereby Peter was looking to hire tobacco twisters for his new factory.⁴ The business appears to have been well known throughout Dungog long after its establishment. One recount from a local resident notes the following: "Dungog boasted a tobacco factory nearly 80 years ago, continued the veteran. It was run by the storekeeper, Peter McWilliam, and was situated about opposite the present post office. Mr Wilson was one of a number of young boys employed as 'strippers to prepare the leaf for the 'twisters'."⁵

Documentary records infer that the tobacco factory was located on the same property as the general store, likely located at the rear of the property. A description of the factory within the obituary for Peter McWilliam in 1870 notes that "The deceased (Peter) carried on the manufacture of tobacco, and erected extensive buildings near to his store at Dungog for that purpose".⁶ A basement or cellar is presently located underneath at last one half of the current study site at 116-120 Dowling Street (the shopfront containing a funeral director's premises). Photographs from part of the cellar show a small brick furnace or kiln embedded into the sandstone and brick walls (IMAGE D011.2 and IMAGE D011.3). It can be suggested that this area may have been used as part of the fire curing process of tobacco which made tobacco for pipes. An early 20th century photograph shows a one storey brick building at the rear of the two storey dwelling which may have also served as part of the tobacco factory area, however the dwelling's construction date is unknown and no visual evidence of the site could be found pertaining to the period of ownership and occupation by the McWilliam brothers.

By 1867, the McWilliam brothers' general store was advertised for sale. The property was described as follows: "An allotment of land, containing half an acre, in the township of Dungog, being number 1 of Section 5, bounded on the east by 5 chain of the west side of Dowling Street, bearing north; on the north by a line dividing it from allotment number 10, bearing west 1 chain; on the west by a line dividing it from allotment number 2 bearing south 5 chains to Mackay Street, and upon the south by 1 chain of the north side of that street bearing east to Dowling Street. On this allotment is a cottage, store and tobacco manufactory, leased for 15 years at £100 per year."⁷

Peter McWilliam and his family never occupied the cottage described on the study site, rather residing in a prominent gothic architectural style two storey residences located further along Dowling Street. It is not known where Thomas McWilliam lived, however early parish maps showed he held extensive amounts of land just outside the main centre of Dungog. Peter died in 1870, having been involved in a buggy accident, leaving his second wife Lucy Ann Scrutten and seven children, three of which were from his first marriage to Nancy Fowler (died 1861).⁸ Thomas McWilliam died in 1883, having lived at his residence 'Calton Hill' with his wife Louisa Harris Lockyear and his son Thomas Morris McWilliam.⁹

By 1896, Mr Green was listed as the owner of the property and continued to run a general store from the

Item name: Thomas and Peter McWilliams Tobacco Factory

Location: 116-120 Dowling Street Dungog 2420

Dungog

property. It is not known whether he continued to run the tobacco factory, as the 15 year lease originally established by Peter McWilliam at the time of the sale in 1867 would have expired by then. At the same time, the demise of the tobacco growing industry in the greater Dungog region, primarily due to changing environmental conditions may have also led to the closure of the factory. Following the vacancy by the Green family, it appears that two or three independent commercial shops were established within the prominent two storey building.

1. Carste Studio Pty Ltd (2012), p. 44.

2. Peter McWilliam", Ancestry (accessed 17th April 2013), <http://trees.ancestry.com.au/tree/5869559/person/-1381881844>

3. The Sydney Morning Herald (15th June 1867).

4. Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser (24th December 1863), p. 12.

5. Dungog Chronicle (19th May 1939), p. 4.

6. Australian Town and Country Journal (23rd July 1870).

7. Empire (14th June 1867), p. 7.

8. Peter McWilliam", Ancestry (accessed 17th April 2013), <http://trees.ancestry.com.au/tree/5869559/person/-1381881844>

9. Thomas McWilliam", Ancestry (accessed 17th April 2013), <http://trees.ancestry.com.au/tree/5869559/person/-1381881646>

10. Empire (14th June 1867), p. 7.

Themes: National theme

3. Economy

3. Economy

4. Settlement

State theme

Industry

Commerce

Accommodation

Local theme

Designer:

Builder:

Year started:

Year completed:

Circa: No

Physical description: No documentary or visual evidence could be found to describe the tobacco factory, its construction date or the materials used for the dwelling. No maps or plans were found to indicate how extensive the original structure was during the McWilliam brothers' ownership of the property.

Current satellite imagery and a site inspection of the front of the property facing Dowling Street infers that some extensions and modifications have been made to the study site, especially to the establishments of multiple buildings at the rear of the property, where the tobacco factory is believed to have been. When comparison is made from an image believed to be dated to the early 20th century (possibly 1904- IMAGE D011.1) the original cottage adjacent to the original two storey building has been replaced with a later 20th century brick building. The second storey of the original general store building has been replaced; both chimneys have been removed and the roofline and wall angles are vastly different. The exterior appears to wholly suggest that the original building or at least the second storey was demolished and rebuilt after the start of the 20th century. The rear buildings may have been added at the same time or late during the 20th century (rear area could not be accessed during site inspection).

Part of a cellar or basement exists underneath part of the property and based on images showing partly sandstone walls (IMAGE D011.2 and IMAGE D001.3), the basement likely pertains to the original building.

Physical condition

level:

Item name: Thomas and Peter McWilliams Tobacco Factory

Location: 116-120 Dowling Street Dungog 2420

Dungog

Physical condition: Based on documentary evidence and visual imagery, it appears that the original two storey dwelling containing the McWilliam brothers' general store is no longer standing. The sole original element appears to be a basement or cellar which may have been used for part of the tobacco manufacturing process, however this is not exactly known. The rear of the property which was believed to have contained the tobacco factory building now contains a veradah or carport and some sheds. Based on this preliminary knowledge, it can be suggested that there remains a moderate to high potential for archaeological remains pertaining to the presence of a mid 19th century tobacco factory known to have been in operation on the study site for at least 30 years. Archaeological evidence may be found in the form of wall footings, occupation deposits pertaining to the industrial use of the site as a tobacco factory, and rubbish pits associated with discard and waste from industrial processes. The basement or cellar, if proven to have been used for tobacco manufacturing, also holds potential for archaeological deposits.

Archaeological potential level: Moderate

Archaeological potential Detail:

Modification dates: Original mid 19th century building appears to have been removed sometime during the start of the 20th century and replaced by a two storey brick building during the 1920s. Some sheds and verandahs appear to have been built during the 20th century.

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. Further documentary research will be needed to determine whether the basement or cellar was utilised for tobacco manufacturing.

Management:	Management category	Management name
--------------------	----------------------------	------------------------

Further comments: Original buildings constructed approximately during the mid 19th century. Current dwellings appear to be approximately c1910s

Criteria a): Thomas and Peter McWilliams' tobacco factory and general store can be considered to be of local historical significance to the community of Dungog. The McWilliams' tobacco factory can be considered to be one of the earliest factories manufacturing tobacco in Dungog, having well and truly been operating by 1863. This smaller factory also offered employment to some of the local residents of Dungog, which deemed the site economically significant to the area in both employment and the sale and export of goods. The factory may have continued to operate during the 20th century, however no documentary evidence has been found.

Criteria b): This site may hold some element of local significance to the members and descendants of the McWilliam family or the descendants of past employees.

Criteria c): Archaeological: The study site is not considered significant according to this criterion.

Criteria d): [Social/Cultural significance]

Criteria e): [Research significance]

Item name: Thomas and Peter McWilliams Tobacco Factory**Location:** 116-120 Dowling Street Dungog 2420

Dungog

Criteria f): It can be suggested that the presence of a tobacco factory on the study site is not considered rare or uncommon to this area. Many small scale tobacco factories were operating around the Dungog area during the second half of the 19th century, as tobacco crops were one of the most successfully grown and harvested crops at this point in time, therefore many small factories were established to meet the needs of the growing industry. On the other hand, if the McWilliam's tobacco factory, known to have existed on the site, was deemed the first or one of the earliest factories of this type in Dungog then the item could only be determined with further documentary research and archaeological assessment or excavation.

[Rarity]**Criteria g):****[Representative]**

Intactness/Integrity: The extent and integrity of any archaeological remains is unknown. Extent and potential integrity of any archaeological remains will largely depend on whether modern buildings were constructed over the previous footprint of the building and the depth of removal of the original tobacco factory.

References:	Author	Title	Year
	Ancestry	"Peter McWilliam" and "Thomas McWilliam", Last updated 20	2013
	The Sydney Morning Herald	, 15th June 1867	1867
	Empire	15th June 1867	1867
	Dungog Chronicle		1963

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

Parcels:	Parcel code	Lot number	Section number	Plan code	Plan number
		2/3		CP/SP	1074

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: 24/04/2013

Data updated: 19/11/2013

Status: Partial

Item name: Thomas and Peter McWilliams Tobacco Factory

Location: 116-120 Dowling Street Dungog 2420

Dungog

Image:



Caption: Thomas and Peter McWilliams Tobacco Factory- front of site

Copy right:

Image by: AMAC

Image date:

Image number:

Image url: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/345f20e73b92f3b487888dde73501967eee.jpg>

Thumbnail url: http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/P/Thumb_test345f20e73b92f3b487888dde73501967eee.jpg

Item name: Thomas and Peter McWilliams Tobacco Factory

Location: 116-120 Dowling Street Dungog 2420

Dungog

Image:



Caption: Thomas and Peter McWilliams Tobacco Factory - back of site

Copy right:

Image by: AMAC

Image date:

Image number:

Image url: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/3452f0026087e2f43f8b3e9c6ba1b37d0cb.jpg>

Thumbnail url: http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/Thumb_test3452f0026087e2f43f8b3e9c6ba1b37d0cb.jpg

Item name: Thomas and Peter McWilliams Tobacco Factory

Location: 116-120 Dowling Street Dungog 2420

Dungog

