

Item name: Valentia

Location: 166 Gresford Road Paterson 2421

Dungog

Address: 166 Gresford Road

Planning: Hunter & Central Coast

Suburb/nearest town: Paterson 2421

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: Farming and Grazing

Category: Homestead Complex

Owner: Private - Individual

Admin codes:

Code 2:

Code 3:

Current use: Residence and farm

Former uses: Residence and farm

Assessed significance: Local

Endorsed significance:

Item name: Valentia

Location: 166 Gresford Road Paterson 2421

Dungog

Statement of significance: The property of Valentia records the European settlement of the Paterson area as part of a larger land grant known as "Cintra" granted to Susanna Matilda Ward (Senior) in 1823. Valentia property is also a record of the purchase of a part of Cintra in 1837 some years after the marriage of Lieutenant Commander Frederick Bedwell to Susanna Matilda Ward (junior). It is associated with the Ward family who were important early European settlers in the Paterson area. Valentia is associated with Lieutenant Commander Frederick Bedwell R.N. 1796-1853 who married Susanna Matilda Ward (junior). Bedwell was a naval commander and a veteran of the Peninsular and American Wars and his work included the survey of the Australian coastline.

Valentia is associated with the Smith family and A.J.Smith who is said to have built the existing house. The existing house known as Valentia is likely to have been built at a later date though it is possible that parts of the house and building fabric may be associated with "Valentia Lodge" built by Bedwell and Susannah Matilda Ward (junior) between 1832-1840. The outbuildings including the meat store and large barn may date from the Bedwells ownership though this is unknown.

The existing house is likely to date from the late Victorian Period and records the residence by the Smith family after the Bedwells occupation. The house is therefore most likely to be a record of the Smith's residence and the surrounding property records the use of the land for grazing of beef cattle.

The house, garden and outbuildings have aesthetic value in the setting on raised ground looking towards a lagoon. The house is representative of a Late Victorian style house with its symmetrical façade and rendered Chimneys. Late Victorian elements include the projecting gables decorated with turned timbers. The Georgian doorcase may be an earlier element of the first house. The house has been altered with the removal of decorative elements such as the turned timber valance which are indicative of a late Victorian style house.

The meat store and butchery is representative of its type and also an increasingly rare building type. A large outbuilding used as a hayshed with loft is representative of this building type and is constructed with bush timber and clad with galvanised iron to walls and roof. This outbuilding has been altered with additions. There are Mature trees in garden including mature cypress trees on west frontage evident in 1900 photograph.

Valentia is valued by the current owners and is likely to be valued by the local community of Paterson in its historical association with Susanna Matilda Ward (junior) and Lieutenant Commander Frederick Bedwell.

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Dungog

Historical notes of provenance: Susannah Matilda Ward was granted 640 acres at Paterson in 1823 and called this Cintra. After lengthy negotiations, Susannah was granted further land in Paterson completing her promised 1000 acres. Frederick Bedwell and Susannah Matilda (junior) nee Ward married in 1836 and after their marriage the ownership of a part of Cintra was transferred and known as Valentia. Susannah (elder) had lost some land from her original grant following public pressure in 1829 to form a township in Paterson with a store and wharf. George Townshend of Trevallyn lobbied Government in 1828 to release a part of the Cintra land for a township, store and public wharf. Further pressure in 1829 was more successful and in June 1830 Susannah exchanged 90 acres at Paterson for an allotment in Sydney.

Lieutenant Commander Frederick Bedwell R.N. 1796-1853 left England in 1817 on a survey expedition for Australia. He was a naval commander and his work included the survey of the Australian coastline. The survey on the "Mermaid" included Captain Philip Parker King, surveyor John Septimus Roe, botanist Allen Cunningham and Bungaree. They surveyed the North coast of Australia, travelling through Bass Strait to Tasmania. A second survey in 1818 included Port Macquarie, Escape River, Liverpool River and Cambridge Gulf. A third expedition in 1820 included York Sound, Coronation Island, Port Nelson, Mt Trafalgar, Careening Bay, Brunswick Sound and Prince Regents River. Bedwell was sent to survey the settlement of Port Essington. His last service was in Auckland, Waitamata Bay where the whalers and Maori Chiefs were in disagreement.

Bedwell returned to England (date unknown) and then to Australia arriving in Sydney on the 27th March 1827. He was given permission to choose a land grant of 1200 acres in the year of his return to Australia. He chose land at Smiths Rivulet, known as Wybong, on the Hunters River. In 1832 Bedwell married Susanna Matilda Ward (junior).

Bedwell purchased land in the town of Paterson in 1833. In the same year he sold his earlier grant at Wybong. In 1837 he purchased land from his wife's mother which included 52 acres of the Cintra estate for 150 pounds and called this Valentia and the house Valentia Lodge. In 1851 he was acting as a magistrate at Paterson.

According to Loftus Dunn, the existing house at Valentia was built for A.J. Smith. This house is evident in a photograph taken in c1900. (Loftus Dunn, They came as Strangers (East Oatley NSW 1995) website: <http://magicalisland.com/Download.html>)

The Georgian elements would seem to date parts of this house as earlier. A painting of Valentia in 1840 (Glenbawn Museum of Rural Life) shows a very different house to that in the 1900 photograph. It may be painted to the rear of the house and the projecting gable may be a wing though the painting seems to depict the front elevation and the lagoon. Based on this evidence the house has been substantially altered since 1840 and it may have been rebuilt. There is evidence in the building fabric of earlier cast iron brackets on the verandah and the turned timber decoration in the photograph (c1900) could have been added later.

Joseph Green Smith followed the ownership of Bedwell. The former was a publican. A.J. Smith was the next owner and then Archie Smith who died in 1987. A photograph taken in c.1900 shows the J.G. Smith mounted and grandson Archie in the western front garden area of the house (source: Malcolm and Judith Henry). During their occupation the property was a beef cattle farm. The property was then transferred to the ownership of John Radermaker who owned Valentia for 8 years. Radermaker was a businessman and teacher and he sold portions of the property reducing its size. The house and surrounding ten acres was then purchased by current owners Judith and Malcolm Henry.

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

Designer:

Builder:

Year started:

Year completed:

Circa: No

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Physical description: The homestead complex includes the house, two early outbuildings and remnant post and rail fence. It is located on high ground and surrounded by mature trees. Indigenous trees have been planted by the current owners to the west of the house and the south.

The house is designed with a symmetrical frontage to the west oriented towards the view of the lagoon and Gresford Road. Two projecting bays frame the doorcase. The bays have ornate gable ends with turned timber finials and cross piece and carved barge. There are three rendered and moulded chimneys. In the main section front of the house are double hung sash windows with one large pane to each sash (some earlier glass intact) and smaller panes (6 to each sash) to the utilitarian areas. The house is constructed with a timber frame on timber piers with rebated timber cladding. The subfloor has a dwarf brick wall built at a later date. Malcolm and Judith Henry, the current owners replaced the earlier galvanised iron roof with new zinclaume cut in small sheets and Colorbond gutters. Internal elements include plaster and lathe walls with pressed metal ceilings and timber and marble chimney pieces of both Victorian and earlier styles. The house frontage includes a Georgian doorcase with red etched glass sidelights and four paneled door (glass in highlights is not original). The verandah was rebuilt after a storm and has been altered with new fabric. Earlier elements that have been removed include turned timber valance and curved roof, the curved form of the later which is difficult to decipher in photograph (c.1900 source: From Nobbys to Paterson, John Turner and Jack Sullivan). Evidence of cast iron brackets in paintwork which have been removed. The timber posts are without ornamented capitals of the original.

The house has been altered with additional outdoor covered area to the east and demolition of the verandah in this section and a new deck to the south.

The outbuilding located to the north-east of the house was used a meat store and butchery for house. Constructed in timber frame with lapped timber cladding and galvanised steel roof. Earlier windows had metal mesh window which is now replaced with glass and mesh for ventilation is extant below eaves.

A large outbuilding is located to the east of the house. This may have been used as a hayshed with loft area. The earlier section of this building is constructed with bush timber and clad with galvanised iron to walls and roof. This outbuilding has been altered with additions.

Mature trees in garden including mature cypress trees on west frontage evident in photograph.

Physical condition level:

Physical condition: Good condition and well maintained

Archaeological potential level:

Archaeological potential Detail:

Modification dates:

Recommended management:

Management: Management category

Management name

Further comments:

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Criteria a): The property of Valentia records the European settlement of the Paterson area as part of a larger land grant known as Cintra granted to Susanna Matilda Ward (Senior) in 1823. Valentia property is also a record of the purchase of a part of Cintra in 1837 to the second generation some years after the marriage of Lieutenant Commander Frederick Bedwell to Susanna Matilda Ward (junior).
[Historical significance]

The existing house known as Valenta is likely to have been built at a later date though it is possible that parts of the house and building fabric may be associated with "Valentia Lodge" built by Bedwell and Susanna Matilda Ward (junior) between 1832-1840. The outbuildings including the meat store and large barn may date from the Bedwells ownership though this is unknown.

The existing house is likely to date from the late Victorian Period and records the residence by the Smith family after the Bedwells occupation. The house is therefore most likely to be a record of the Smith's residence and the surrounding property records the use of the land for grazing of beef cattle.

Criteria b): Valentia is a part of the land grant to Susanna Matilda Ward (senior) in 1823 known as Cintra. She was a pioneering settler in the area.
[Historical association significance]

Valentia is associated with Lieutenant Commander Frederick Bedwell R.N. 1796-1853 who married Susanna Matilda Ward (junior). Bedwell was a naval commander and his work included the survey of the Australian coastline. He is also known in the district for his involvement in the incarceration of Napoleon at St Helena.

Valentia is associated with the Smith family and A.J.Smith who is said to have built the existing house.

Criteria c): The house, garden and outbuildings have aesthetic value in the setting on raised ground looking towards a lagoon.
[Aesthetic/Technical significance]

The house is representative of a Late Victorian style house with its symmetrical façade and projecting gables and rendered Chimneys. Late Victorian elements include the projecting gables decorated with turned timbers. The Georgian doorcase may be an earlier element of the first house. The house has been altered with the removal of decorative elements such as the turned timber valance which are indicative of a late Victorian style house.

The outbuilding used as a meat store and butchery for house is representative of its type, constructed in timber frame with lapped timber cladding and galvanised steel roof. Earlier windows had metal mesh window which is now replaced with glass and mesh for ventilation is extant below eaves.

A large outbuilding is located to the east of the house. This may have been used as a hayshed with loft area. The earlier section of this building is representative of this building type and is constructed with bush timber and clad with galvanised iron to walls and roof. This outbuilding has been altered with additions.

There are Mature trees in garden including mature cypress trees on west frontage evident in 1900 photograph.

Criteria d): Valentia is valued by the current owners and is likely to be valued by the local community of Paterson in its historical association with Susanna Matilda Ward (junior) and Lieutenant Commander Frederick Bedwell.
[Social/Cultural significance]

Criteria e):
[Research significance]

Criteria f): The outbuilding used as the meat store is an increasingly rare element.
[Rarity]

Item name: Valentia**Location:** 166 Gresford Road Paterson 2421

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Criteria g): The house is representative of a Late Victorian homestead. The outbuilding used as a meat store is representative of this building type.
[Representative]**Intactness/Integrity:** Some decorative elements have been removed and thte verandah has been rebuilt.

| References: | Author | Title | Year |
|-------------|-------------------------------|--|------|
| | Loftus Dun | They Came as Strangers | 1995 |
| | John Turner and Jack Sullivan | From Nobbys to Paterson | 1987 |
| | H.F.Boyle | Lieutenant Commander Frederick Bedwell R.N 1796-1853 | 1992 |

| Studies: | Author | Title | Number | Year |
|----------|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------|------|
| | Perumal, Wrathall & Murj | Dungog Heritage Study | R44 | 1986 |
| | Carste Studio | Dungog Heritage Study Review | 11 | 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**
Heritage study**Number****ListingDate****Data entry:** Data first entered: 25/01/2013

Data updated: 19/11/2013

Status: Partial

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Image:



Caption: Valentia

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Image by: Carste

Image date:

Image number:

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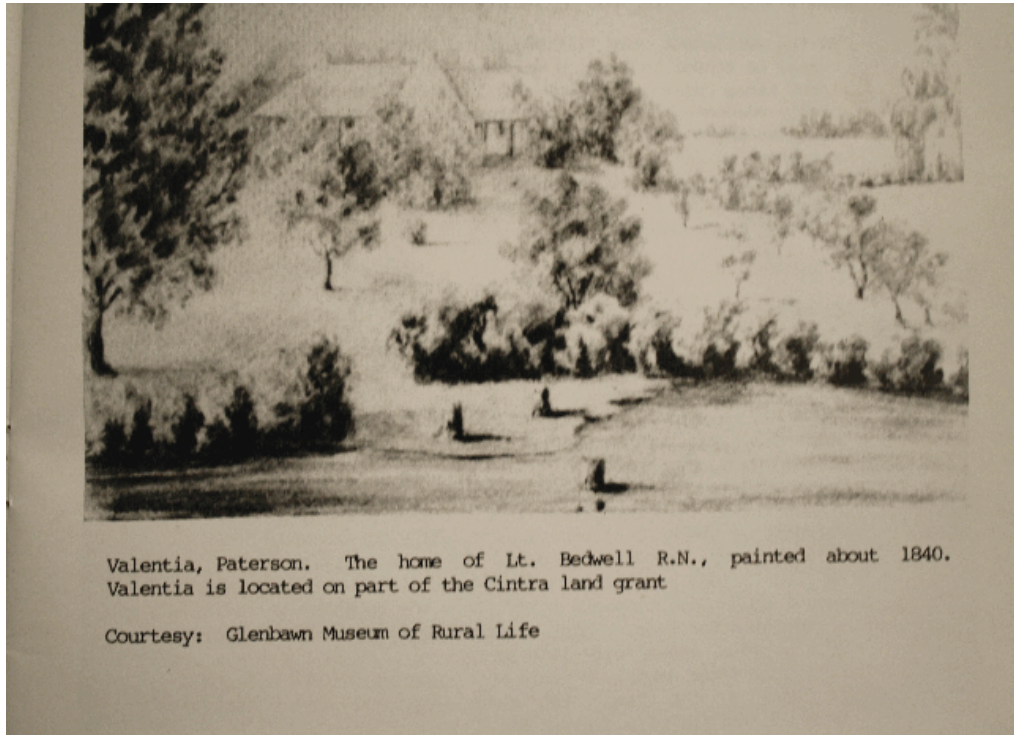
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