

Item name: School of Arts**Location:** 779 Gresford Road Vacy 2421

Dungog

Address: 779 Gresford Road**Planning:** Hunter & Central Coast**Suburb/nearest town:** Vacy 2421**Local govt area:** Dungog**Parish:****State:** NSW**County:****Other/former names:****Area/group/complex:****Group ID:****Aboriginal area:****Curtilage/boundary:****Item type:** Built**Group:** Community Facilities**Category:** School of Arts**Owner:****Admin codes:****Code 2:****Code 3:****Current use:****Former uses:****Assessed significance:** Local**Endorsed significance:**

Statement of significance: The Vacy School of Arts is a record of the development and growth of the town and community of Vacy. It was built by subscription money from the local community and has been in continuous use from 1901 to the present day for social functions and meeting of various community groups. It has served as a functional space for the community as a library, RSL hall, dance classes, CWA functions, playgroup, cricket and soccer clubs. Its use by the RSL Gresford Sub-Branch is evident in the honour board and the display of the German machine gun. An historic photograph showing a social function in 1910 are also on display.

Vacy School of Arts is a vernacular timber building in a form that is characteristic of this building type. It has a steep pitched roof with central entrance and large community hall. Some school of arts' buildings such as that in Dungog are larger and grander and designed a Classical style. This was often dependant on the size and prosperity of the town.

Vacy School of Arts is valued by the local community as a venue for community activities that has been in use from 1901 to the present day.

Item name: School of Arts**Location:** 779 Gresford Road Vacy 2421

Dungog

Historical notes of provenance: Vacy is sited on land that was granted to Captain John Johnston Cory. His total grant as 1200 acres included two portions on the Paterson River, named Cory Vale and Vacy. The town of Vacy developed on the Paterson River as a private town and remained as such until its sale by public auction in 1927 (file - Vacy School of Arts- Sale Poster). In 1831 J.J. Cory had returned to England and died in 1839 and his land holdings were inherited by his younger brother Gilbert. Gilbert had sailed on the "Ellizabeth" and arrived in Sydney in 1830 and Paterson in 1831, taking up residence on a part of the Vacy estate named "Negarra". Gilbert's first wife had nine children. After her death he remarried and had a further eight children and his second wife survived until 1924. (handwritten note in file undated- Vacy School of Arts file).

The Vacy School of Arts was opened in 1901 and was in use by June that year. It was built by subscription and money lent by the local community. A Toilet block was added in the 1980s and the kitchen re-roofed. A library was originally located in the front of building close to the cloak room and ticket office. A piano was purchased from Palings in 1901 which was still in use in 2001 and remains on the stage. In 2001 the hall is described as being in active use "with parties and dances held occasionally and meetings, CWA functions, playgroup, dancing lessons, cricket club and soccer meetings held on a regular basis." (The Dungog Chronicle, Wednesday August 1, 2001). Varied community groups used the School of Arts. These included the RSL, Gresford Sub-Branch and there is a memorial board that records this use and also of interest is a German Machine Gun mounted on display. A photo mounted on the wall is of a large group of men and women formally dressed in what appears to be a dance dated 22/1/1910.

An early photo undated shows the front façade has been altered. Earlier gables were more detailed and included timber boards placed vertically, gas light over the door, and simple sign without date and the larger gable had a carved barge board and finial. The hall has been repainted and some maintenance work undertaken in 2001 for the centenary celebrations in September 30.

Themes: **National theme** **State theme** **Local theme**
8. Culture Social institutions

Designer:**Builder:**

Year started: **Year completed:** 1901 **Circa:** No

Physical description: Vacy School of Arts is a timber framed building with rebated weatherboard cladding and colorbond roof in corrugated profile. The carved timber barge board on the larger gable remains though other decorative elements in the gable have been removed. The building includes a hall, stage, kitchen, cloak room, ticket office, other meeting rooms and a room behind the stage. A toilet has been added to the hall and a ramp entrance. Internally timber boards line the ceiling which conceals a substantial part of the roof structure except for the exposed steel rods. The hall has a German machine gun, memorial tablet and earlier photographs. A Palings piano is located on the stage.

Physical condition level:

Physical condition: Archaeological potential level:

Archaeological potential Detail:

Modification dates:

Recommended management:

Management: Management category Management name

Further comments:

Item name: School of Arts

Location: 779 Gresford Road Vacy 2421

Dungog

Criteria a): The Vacy School of Arts is a record of the development and growth of the town and community of Vacy. It was built by subscription money from the local community and has been in continuous use from 1901 to the present day by the community for social functions and meeting of various community groups. It has served as a functional space for the community as a library, RSL hall, dance classes, CWA functions, playgroup, cricket and soccer clubs. Its use by the RSL Gresford Sub-Branch is evident in the honour board and the display of the German machine gun. An Historic photograph showing a local dance in 1910 is displayed.

Criteria b):
[Historical
association
significance]

Criteria c): Vernacular timber building in form characteristic of community halls. Steep pitched roof with central entrance and large community hall.
[Aesthetic/
Technical
significance]

Criteria d): Vacy School of Arts is valued by the local community as a venue for community activities that has been in use from 1901 to the present day.
[Social/Cultural
significance]

Criteria e):
[Research
significance]

Criteria f):
[Rarity]

Criteria g): Vacy School of Arts is a vernacular timber building in a form that is characteristic of this building type. It has a steep pitched roof with scentral entrance and large community hall. Some school of arts' buildings such as that in Dungog are larger and grander and designed a Classical style. This was often dependant on the size and prosperity of the town.
[Representative]

Intactness/Integrity: School of Arts building has been altered with additions, though the earlier form of the building is still evident.

References:	Author	Title	Year
-------------	--------	-------	------

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Perumal, Wrathall & Mur	Dungog Heritage Study	R54	1986
	Carste Studio	Dungog Heritage Study Review	14	2013

Parcels:	Parcel code	Lot number	Section number	Plan code	Plan number
----------	-------------	------------	----------------	-----------	-------------

Latitude:

Longitude:

Location validity:

Spatial accuracy:

Map name:

Map scale:

AMG zone:

Easting:

Northing:

Item name: School of Arts

Location: 779 Gresford Road Vacy 2421

Dungog

Listing: Name

Title

Number

ListingDate

Heritage study

Data entry: Data first entered: 25/01/2013

Data updated: 19/11/2013

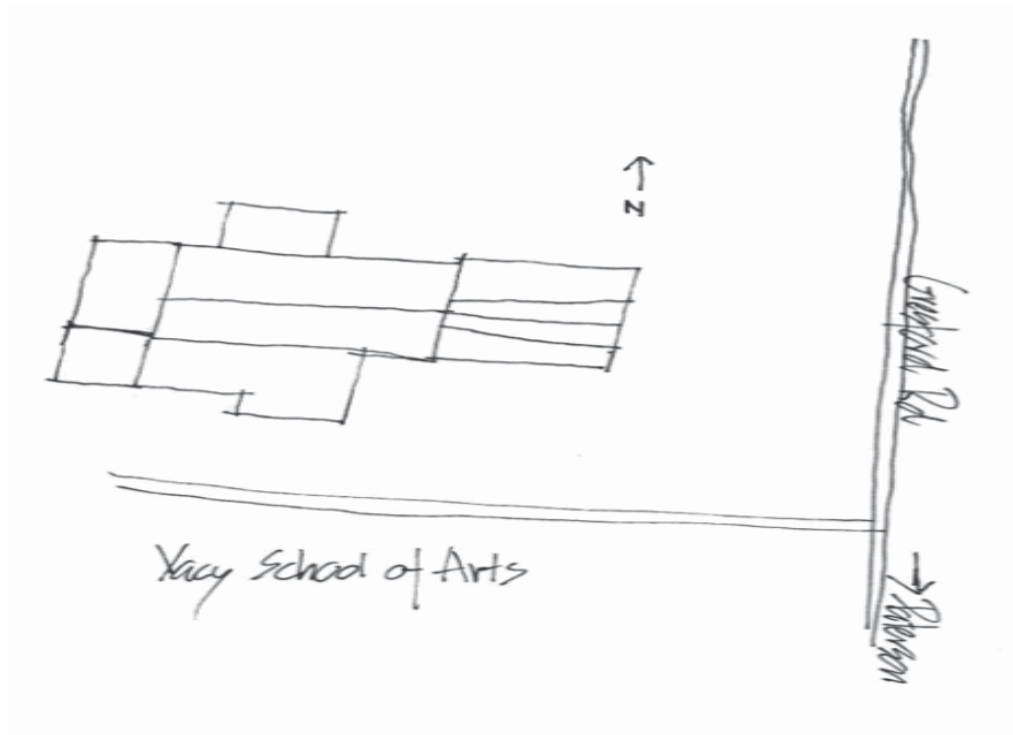
Status: Partial

Item name: School of Arts

Location: 779 Gresford Road Vacy 2421

Dungog

Image:



Caption: School of Arts

Copy right:

Image by: Carste

Image date:

Image number:

Image url: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/3458dfc2145ef4b42358333b8204dab0296.jpg>

Thumbnail url: http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/Thumb_test3458dfc2145ef4b42358333b8204dab0296.jpg

Item name: School of Arts

Location: 779 Gresford Road Vacy 2421

Dungog

Image:



Caption: School of Arts

Copy right:

Image by: Carste

Image date:

Image number:

Image url: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/3453c900f68fd2e4baeb86c2b993d8e4fed.jpg>

Thumbnail url: http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/Thumb_test3453c900f68fd2e4baeb86c2b993d8e4fed.jpg

Item name: School of Arts

Location: 779 Gresford Road Vacy 2421

Dungog

Image:



Caption: School of Arts

Copy right:

Image by: Carste

Image date:

Image number:

Image url: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/3451d76505ed3d2459e8f89c836eb9c11a0.jpg>

Thumbnail url: http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/Thumb_test3451d76505ed3d2459e8f89c836eb9c11a0.jpg

Item name: School of Arts

Location: 779 Gresford Road Vacy 2421

Dungog

Image:



Caption: School of Arts

Copy right:

Image by: Carste

Image date:

Image number:

Image url: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/345a6b2d2386354497da0f40d3baf10bab6.jpg>

Thumbnail url: http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/Thumb_test345a6b2d2386354497da0f40d3baf10bab6.jpg

Item name: School of Arts

Location: 779 Gresford Road Vacy 2421

Dungog

Image:



Caption: School of Arts

Copy right:

Image by: Carste

Image date:

Image number:

Image url: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/3453039221f7eeb4f57bc2fed152f1877a9.jpg>

Thumbnail url: http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/Thumb_test3453039221f7eeb4f57bc2fed152f1877a9.jpg

Item name: School of Arts

Location: 779 Gresford Road Vacy 2421

Dungog

Image:



Caption: School of Arts

Copy right:

Image by: Carste Studio

Image date:

Image number:

Image url: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/345c3058501c0b3451f8c7f4a5333d5397d.jpg>

Thumbnail url: http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/Thumb_test345c3058501c0b3451f8c7f4a5333d5397d.jpg