

**Item name:** Gam's Sawmill**Location:** 838 868 Main Creek Road Dungog 2420

Dungog

**Address:** 838 868 Main Creek Road**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:** Archaeological-Terrestrial**Group:****Category:** Sawmill**Owner:****Admin codes:****Code 2:****Code 3:****Current use:****Former uses:****Assessed significance:** Local**Endorsed significance:**

**Statement of significance:** The study site contains the potential for archaeological remains pertaining to an early 20th century timber sawmill, which is considered to be of potential local (or less) archaeological significance. The site represents the continuing popularity and prosperity of the timber industry to the greater Dungog area.

The position of a timber sawmill directly adjacent to a forestry plantation would have benefited the local residents of Main Creek by providing work opportunities and a stable economic return for the local area. Sawmills enabled timber to be processed and milled on site and subsequently sold locally or exported to other areas for use, thus expanding the economic opportunities of the business. In noting the site's recent closure within the last 40 years, its establishment date and the style of the site; many of the structural components having been ephemeral in nature (timber structure with open walls), it can be suggested that while the site area has remained largely undeveloped the site may be considered as holding limited amounts of archaeological significance.



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**Physical condition:** Based on the limited documentary evidence available and not having been able to access the site for an assessment, it can be suggested that the site holds an unknown potential for archaeological remains pertaining to the occupation and early 20th century use of the site as a timber sawmill. Archaeological evidence may be found in the form of postholes from timber columns, deposits relating to the industrial use of the site and rubbish pits.

**Archaeological potential level:**

**Archaeological potential Detail:**

**Modification dates:** No documentary or visual evidence could be found to indicate any modifications to the timber sawmill site as only one photograph has been sourced for the site.

**Recommended management:** A title search and site inspection is suggested as a means to identify the absolute location of Gam's sawmill and identify whether sites of this type existed earlier than c1909 on the property. Following this, 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.

**Management: Management category**

**Management name**

#### Further comments:

**Criteria a):** The early 20th century timber sawmill, opened by John Samuel Gam in approximately c1909, can be considered to be of potential local historical significance to the community of Main Creek. The sawmill site, having been in operation for more than 60 years, can be suggested to have been one of the most important economic businesses to Main Creek during the 20th century. Its immediate position alongside what is now known as the Black Bulga State Conservation area would have provided many local residents with working opportunities for a prolonged period of time.

**Criteria b):** Associated with John Samuel Gam since c 1909.

**Criteria c):**  
[Aesthetic/  
Technical  
significance]

**Criteria d):**  
[Social/Cultural  
significance]

**Criteria e):**  
[Research  
significance]

**Criteria f):** The study site containing Gam's mill at Main Creek is not considered to be rare or uncommon according to this significance. Many timber sawmills were present around the greater Dungog region as many forest plantations are located in this area and it was a prominent economic industry during the 19th and 20th centuries.

**Criteria g):** The study site, to a certain extent, can be suggested to be of potential local significance to this criterion. The presence of a timber sawmill on the study site is representative of one of the essential industries to the economic stability of Main Creek and the greater Dungog region during the 19th and 20th centuries. Its late construction date of approximately c1909 demonstrates the continued success felt by the timber industry and affirms that resources were still widely available for felling and exporting at this point in time.

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**Intactness/Integrity:** The extent and integrity of any archaeological remains pertaining to the use of a timber sawmill is unknown. No site inspection could be made, however personal communication with a neighbour led to the belief that part of the brick chimney still is still standing. The site's late closure date likely resulted in the sawmill having been deconstructed and the majority of materials taken to another site. Therefore it can be suggested that the site potentially contains archaeological remains of low integrity.

References:	Author	Title	Year
	Ancestry	"John Samuel Gam" Last updated 2013	
	NSW Births, Deaths and Marriages	Reference Numbers: 5234/1902; 16980/1903; 18480/1905; 467	
	Singleton Argus	6th July 1926	1926

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Carste Studio	Dungog Heritage Study Review	23	2013

Parcels:	Parcel code	Lot number	Section number	Plan code	Plan number
	LOT	31		DP	635161
	LOT	81		DP	559524

**Latitude:**

**Longitude:**

**Location validity:**

**Spatial accuracy:**

**Map name:**

**Map scale:**

**AMG zone:**

**Easting:**

**Northing:**

**Listing: Name**

**Title**

**Number**

**ListingDate**

Heritage study

**Data entry:** Data first entered: 26/04/2013

Data updated: 11/07/2013

Status: Partial

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