

Item name: Tobacco Factory Owned By Charles Boydell**Location:**

Dungog

Address:**Planning:** Hunter & Central Coast**Suburb/nearest town:** East Gresford 2311**Local govt area:** Dungog**Parish:****State:** NSW**County:****Other/former names:****Area/group/complex:****Group ID:****Aboriginal area:****Curtilage/boundary:****Item type:****Group:****Category:****Owner:****Admin codes:****Code 2:****Code 3:****Current use:** Residential and agricultural property**Former uses:** Residential and agricultural property**Assessed significance:** State**Endorsed significance:**

Statement of significance: The greater area of the study site contains the potential for archaeological remains pertaining to an early 19th century tobacco factory established by Charles Boydell, one of the prominent settlers to the Gresford and Eat Gresford area. The site may hold the potential to contain archaeological remains of one of, if not the earliest tobacco factory in Gresford and also the greater Dungog region. With this in mind, the study site can be considered to be of both potential local or state archaeological significance.

The application of the study site as state significance would largely depend on continued extensive research on the study site in the absolute identification of the construction date of the factory, which is currently believed to have been in around c1830-1831, along with the condition and integrity of any archaeological remains of this occupation period.

Boydell's establishment of a tobacco approximately two years after his arrival from England notes the importance of the tobacco industry to the greater area of Dungog as a means for the economic stability of the region. The success of tobacco largely remained for the majority of the 19th century, until its slow demise from the 1870s until the turn of the 20th century.

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

Charles Boydell was born in England in 1808, and travelled to Australia on board the "Prince Regent" in March 1826 (The Sydney Morning Herald, 15.9.1938: 10). On his arrival in that same year, Boydell received a land grant of 640 acres in the area of Paterson's Plains, now known as Gresford and the East Gresford region within the parish of Tillegra, west of Dungog (The Sydney Morning Herald, 15.9.1938: 10). Charles married his wife Elizabeth Ritchie in 1837 and together they had seven children: Charles (junior), Harriet, James, Eliza, Emma, Arthur and Thomas (NSW Births, Deaths and Marriages, Registration number V18371481 21/1837). Apart from Boydell's immediate agricultural interests, he also navigated the postal service for the wider Gresford area and was a magistrate.

Charles immediately took to his property for its pastoralism purposes, having cultivated numerous different crops and animal rearing to provide economic stability for his family. Already by 1831, it was noted that "Boydell in that year had about 3 acres of tobacco, 400 bushels of wheat, 6 acres of corn, 600 sheep, 70 or 80 cattle and 2 horses" (Carste Studio (2012), p. 44). Tobacco quickly became one of Boydell's main agricultural interests, as the environmental conditions in the greater Dungog region at this point in time was well suited to the needs of quality tobacco crops. Documentary records infer that Boydell had established a tobacco factory on his property, known as Camyr Allyn, by 1830 (The Sydney Morning Herald, 15.9.1938: 10). It appears that his crops were extremely successful and Boydell soon became the most prominent tobacco manufacturer in the greater Gresford area (Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser, 23.6.1849: 11). No documentary or visual evidence has been found to suggest the size, dimension or appearance of the tobacco factory, however a succinct account of the quality and abundance of Boydell's tobacco crops was reported in a newspaper article in 1850:

"BOYDELL'S TOBACCO- We have seen some specimens of colonial negrohead manufactured by Mr Charles Boydell, which appear to be of a very superior description, and as it is older than the colonial tobacco usually seen, it has all the flavour and fine scent of imported Virginian. Mr Boydell is, we believe, the oldest manufacturer of tobacco now carrying on the trade in the colony, and our readers will be surprised to hear that he has for many year manufactured upwards of forty tons a year, and that last year he weighed into his store upwards of seventy tons, all of which will be sold before the next crop is ready for market." (The Sydney Morning Herald, 7.12.1850: 4)

This account of the tobacco industry, compared to other later accounts, infers that the highest amount of success experienced by tobacco crops in the greater Dungog region belongs to the first half of the 19th century. It is obvious that Charles took advantage of his position, having clearly become known as one of, if not the most important manufacturers of export quality tobacco for the Dungog region.

No records have been found to suggest that Boydell ceased producing tobacco during his lifetime. Charles died in on the 8th August 1869 at his property Camyr Allyn (The Sydney Morning Herald, 28.8.1869: 3). It is possible that one of his sons; Charles (junior), James, Arthur or Thomas, continued the manufacturing of tobacco after Charles' death. However by the 1870s onwards, it was already being reported that environmental conditions were changing in the region thus reducing the quality and amount of tobacco being produced which may have cause the closure of the factory at some point during the late 19th century. By the start of the 20th century, tobacco manufacturing had almost ceased completely in the greater Dungog region.

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

Designer:

Builder:

Year started: **Year completed:** 1830 **Circa:** Yes

Physical description: The absolute location of the tobacco factory is yet to be identified. Based on the limited description of the site through available resources, it appears that the greater area of the study site, "Camyr Allyn" farm has remained an agricultural and residential property to the present day.

Physical condition level:

Physical condition: As the exact location is yet to be identified, therefore omitting knowledge of any development phases, environmental conditions and the overall physical condition of the site, it can be suggested that there exists an unknown potential for archaeological features and deposits pertaining to the operation of a tobacco factory by Charles Boydell during the first half of the 19th century. Any archaeological evidence may be found in the form of postholes, wall footings (of an ephemeral nature), 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.

Archaeological potential level:

Archaeological potential Detail:

Modification dates:

Recommended management: The early establishment date of the tobacco factory owned by Charles Boydell deems the site to be of archaeological importance and significance. Boydell's original land grant started at 640 acres and he continued to acquire more than 2000 acres by the mid-19th century. Based on knowledge of the area of his first grant in 1828, it can be said that the study site lies within the original Camyr Allyn farm which has been subdivided into multiple allotments over time.

It is therefore recommended that extensive land title research is completed to determine the break up and subdivision of Camyr Allyn in order to appropriately identify the property area in which contains the area of the original tobacco factory. Once the site address is identified, 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 19th century tobacco factory owned and operated by Charles Boydell for over a continual period of more than thirty years can be considered to be of potential local historical and cultural significance. The tobacco
[Historical significance] factory quickly became an economic staple to the Gresford area, having potentially been the first, or only tobacco factory in this immediate area. This industry was of great significance to the community of Gresford and East Gresford during the first part of the 19th century, having been the most important agricultural crop next to wheat for the township's economic stability.

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Criteria b): The site is associated with Charles Boydell.
[Historical association significance]

Criteria c):
[Aesthetic/ Technical significance]

Criteria d): The site may hold some form of significance to the descendants and members of the Boydell family.
[Social/Cultural significance]

Criteria e):
[Research significance]

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 by the mid-19th century. However, if further documentary research can confirm that Boydell's tobacco factory was in fact one of the earliest, if not the first tobacco factory in the greater Dungog region, then its construction date of approximately c1830-1831 has the potential to be considered to be of local or even state significance. State significance would be assessed and based on the integrity of any archaeological remains of importance found to be dated to the early 19th century use and occupation of the factory site.
[Rarity]

Criteria g): The tobacco factory known to have existed on Boydell's Camyr Allyn estate from as early as c1830 is representative of the importance of the tobacco industry during the first half of the 19th century. The growth and success of tobacco was seen as one of the main economic providers to the greater Dungog region and Boydell's early occupation date and use of the site deems it to be considered of potential state significance. Its prominence in the Gresford area most likely infers that Boydell's factory may have been the only factory operating at this early period.
[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 the number of phases of development made to the site and conditions of the natural environment in terms of preservation.

References:	Author	Title	Year
	NSW Births, Deaths and Marriages	Marriage record- Registration Number V18371481 21/1837	1837
	The Sydney Morning Herald	"Tobacco", 7th December 1850, 15th September 1938	
	Maitland Mercury and Hunter River G	23rd June 1849, "Deaths"28th August 1869	

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

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Listing: Name

Title
Heritage study

Number

ListingDate

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

Data updated: 11/07/2013

Status: Partial

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