

PORT AUTHORITY OF NSW HERITAGE INVENTORY

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number: 2170258		Study Number: N/A	
Item Name: Stone Boat Harbour (Relic)			
Location: 100 Wharf Rd, Newcastle East			
Address: 100 Wharf Rd Newcastle East 2300		DUAP Region: Hunter & Central Coast	
Suburb / Nearest Town: Newcastle East		Historic Region: Lower Hunter	
Local Govt Area: Newcastle		Parish: Newcastle	
State: NSW		County: Northumberland	
Other/Former Names: Newcastle Port Centre; Pilot Station Boat Harbour & Boat Sheds			
Area/Group/Complex:		Group ID:	
Aboriginal Area: Awabakal			
Curtilage/Boundary: Lot Boundary Curtilage (Lot 2 in DP 1252445)			
Item Type: Built	Group: Harbour	Category:	
Owner: Port Authority of NSW (Lot 2 DP 1252445) and Transport for NSW (Lot 1 DP 1252445)			
Current Use: Administration, marine operations, pilot station and boat harbour			
Former Uses: Pilot station and boat harbour			
Assessed Significance: State		Endorsed Significance: State (as part of Coal River Precinct SHR 01674)	
<p>Statement of Significance: The stone-built Pilot Station Boat Harbour comprises a place significant for its historical role in the development and operation of the port of Newcastle and the protection of its shipping from 1866 to the present. The place has aesthetic significance because of the materials and built attributes of the boat harbour itself. The place is rare as a comparatively early stone boat harbour and as the only surviving example of one of several such boat harbours around the port. As such, the place has archaeological potential.</p>			
<p>Historical Notes or Provenance:</p> <p>The boat harbour dates from 1866, when a stone boat harbour was constructed. It eventually featured a pilot station building, with a house for the pilot boat boatswain.</p> <p>An adjoining site also served as a base for the lifeboat service (1867-1946) and the Rocket Brigade (1937-1974), but structures associated with these functions have been demolished. The stone boat harbour was commenced in 1866, to provide a protected berth for the pilot boats.</p> <p>Initially only part of the western wall of the boat harbour was constructed of masonry, with a timber wharf forming the front section. In 1882 the sea walls at the western side of the entrance to the dock, as well as part of the western wall inside the dock, were reconstructed in stone. Stone steps and the southern retaining wall were also built. By the early 1990s, the stone seawall and bed which formed the boat dock were experiencing an increasing amount of collapse and undercutting. While this damage had been adequately repaired, it was felt that the practice of using modern, materials such as cement render and concrete was diminishing the dock's historic value. As the boat harbour was listed as a heritage item of regional significance under the Local Environmental Plan, the (former) Newcastle Port Corporation</p>			

<p>resolved "to invest funds in the boat harbour to preserve it and, in so doing, ensuring that such work is compatible with its retention as a valuable heritage site". Following an investigation into the history of the site and the extent of deterioration, a major restoration of the boat harbour was undertaken.</p> <p>The boat harbour, which remains largely unaltered, has a high level of historic significance, being one of only a few such facilities known to exist on the eastern seaboard, that at Tahlee, Port Stephens, being another. Most of the original buildings on the site have, however, been gradually replaced in response to changing needs and as a result of physical deterioration.</p> <p>Original buildings on the site included a pilot station and accommodation for Pilots, and a tide gauge.</p> <p>By the 1930s, buildings included Boatswain's Quarters, Pilot Station and Assistant Harbour Master's Office. These early buildings were replaced by a cottage (c.1940) and a new Pilot Station, constructed in 1959 and modified between 1987 and 1988. In conjunction with the construction of the new Pilot Station, the old tide gauge and recorder were replaced.</p>			
Themes:	National Theme: 3. Economy	State Theme: Transport	Local Theme: The shipping of coal and other goods
Designer:			
Maker / Builder:			
Year Started: 1886	Year Completed: 1886	Circa:	
<p>Physical Description: Complex currently consists of an office building (Port Centre, constructed 2011/12), a boat shed located on the eastern side of the stone boat harbour (Boat Shed No. 1, significantly modified and changed over time), a modern carport, a modern warehouse and workshop, and a wharf located in the boat harbour.</p> <p>The boat harbour is formed with sandstone blocks, with two boat ramps also formed in sandstone. The boat shed ground surface is laid with sandstone flagging with some concrete over, four slips with original winches, large section timber framed roof structure with newer weatherboard cladding and metal roof deck. A launching ramp to the east has walls of stone. The Cable Bunker / Trap & Gun Emplacement is on the north-eastern corner of Lot 2.</p> <p>The site formerly contained a lifeboat shed / slipway, (Boat Shed No. 2) which collapsed in 2018, located on the north side of the boat harbour. Subsequently the remnant fabric from that structure relates only to footings and masonry and timber posts. It should be noted that the floor of the stone boat harbour and most of the stone walls are contained within Lot 1 in DP 1252445 and are subsequently owned by Transport for New South Wales.</p>			
<p>Physical Condition: The boat harbour is in generally good condition. Some sections of stonework are in need of repointing and general repairs. The weatherboard boatshed and associated slipway also requires maintenance and repair works. The landscaping directly surrounding the Cable Bunker / Trap & Gun Emplacement has taken hold of the northern face of the structure and is potentially contributing to its deterioration.</p>			
<p>Modification Dates:</p> <p>2007 – Structural repairs to slipway and seawalls</p> <p>2011 – Demolition of Survey Store & Workshop and construction of new Port Centre</p> <p>2013 – Removal of (pilot tower) and construction of new jetty structure</p> <p>2014 – Demolition of Pilot Station, Harbour Master's Cottage and Carport</p>			

<p>2015 – Construction of new warehouse and workshop building</p> <p>2018 – Dismantling of collapsed lifeboat shed (Boat Shed No. 2)</p>
<p>Recommended Management: Preparation of an update of the existing Conservation Management Plan prepared by EJE Architecture in 2006.</p> <p>The interpretative signage fronting Wharf Road should be maintained and renewed as necessary.</p> <p>Preparation of a Heritage Assessment to provide a comprehensive understanding of the site’s individual significance and assist in guiding the future direction of the site’s management.</p> <p>Preparation of a Maintenance and Conservation Works Schedule to ensure acceptable condition and assist in long-term conservation.</p>
<p>Management: Statutory Instrument</p> <p>The site is located within the boundaries of the State listed heritage item the ‘Coal River Precinct’ (SHR no. 01674), subsequently management of the site and any proposed change must accord with the provisions of the <i>Heritage Act 1977</i>.</p> <p>It should be noted that the floor of the stone boat harbour and sections of the stone walls are contained within Lot 1 in DP 1252445, owned by Transport for New South Wales, and are required to be managed accordingly.</p>
<p>Further Comments:</p>
<p>Criteria a) The Pilot Station Complex, dating from 1866, is highly significant. The stone boat harbour, which remains largely unaltered, has a high level of historic significance, being one of only a few such facilities known to exist on the eastern seaboard, for example at Tahlee. All of the original buildings on the site have been replaced over the years in response to changing needs and as a result of physical deterioration caused by the marine environment.</p> <p>The place is also historically significant for its various links to the development and protection of Newcastle and Newcastle Harbour from 1866, especially to that of modernisation of Colonial defences by General Sir William Jervis and Lieutenant Colonel Scratchley (1877-83).</p>
<p>Criteria b)</p>
<p>Criteria c) The pilot station complex is aesthetically significant as it has an expressed maritime character. It is a distinctive visual feature on this part of the Newcastle Harbour foreshore, as are the stone Pilot boat harbour retaining walls.</p>
<p>Criteria d) The place is socially significant particularly to the contemporary community of mariners and the people of Newcastle for its use and associations with the port of Newcastle for nearly 150 years. The longevity of the Pilot Station Complex and relative intactness does give it some degree of significance to the community’s sense of place as a landmark site associated with the earliest workings and development of the port of Newcastle.</p>
<p>Criteria e) Newcastle Archaeological Management Plan reports low disturbance on this site, and advises that the place has archaeological potential.</p>
<p>Criteria f) The place is rare as the only surviving boat harbour in Newcastle and as the only surviving evidence of the early development of the Newcastle Port from 1866.</p>
<p>Criteria g) The Pilot Station Complex is representative historically for its largely unaltered boat harbour, being one of only a few such facilities known to exist on the eastern seaboard and as the only surviving evidence of the early development of the Newcastle Port from 1866. Therefore, it is a valuable research</p>

tool as a benchmark type for its construction (the harbour). Socially it is representative for its association with the maritime community and its contribution to the community's sense of place.					
Integrity / Intactness: The place maintains integrity and is relatively intact.					
References:	Author:	Title:			Year:
	EJE Architecture	Pilot Station Conservation Management Plan			2006
	Lindsay and Dynan Pty Ltd	Heritage Conservation Report, Pilot Station Boatsheds			2003
	Newcastle Port Corporation	MSB Card index to correspondence			1959
	Rosemary Melville	History of the Port of Newcastle			2002
Studies:	Author:	Title:		Number:	Year:
	EJE Heritage	Pilot Station Conservation Management Plan			2006
	Suters Architects	s170 Heritage & Conservation Register			2001
	EJE Heritage	Port Corporation Tide Shed Statement of Heritage Impact			2011
	EJE Heritage	Boat Shed 2 Demolition Heritage Impact Statement			2017
Parcels:	Parcel Code:	Lot Number:	Section:	Plan Code:	Plan Number:
		1 and 2			DP 1252445
Latitude:			Longitude:		
Listings:	Name:	Title:	Number:	Date:	
	<i>Heritage Act – S.170 NSW State agency heritage register</i>	Stone Boat Harbour (Relic)	2170258		
	Heritage Act 1977 (NSW): State Heritage Register	Coal River Precinct	01674	19/12/2003	
	State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021	Stone Boat Harbour (Relic)			
Data Entry:	Date First Entered:	Date Updated:	Status:		
	03/08/2001	11/01/2023	Completed		

Image: 1



Caption: Entrance to the boat harbour.

Copyright: Suters Architects

Image By: Linda Smith

Image Date: 30/07/2001

Image File: 3930017k.jpg

Image: 2



Caption: The stone ramps into the boat harbour.

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Image By: Linda Smith

Image Date: 30/07/2001

Image File: 3930017a.jpg

Image: 3



Caption: The entrance to the boat harbour looking north.

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Image By: Linda Smith

Image Date: 30/07/2001

Image File: 3930017h.jpg

Image: 4



Caption: Boat sheds at the east of the boat harbour, from the west.

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Image By: Linda Smith

Image Date: 30/07/2001

Image File: 3930017b.jpg

Image: 5



Caption: Stone boat harbour, looking west towards shed

Copyright: Port Authority of New South Wales

Image By: Zach Nix - NBRS

Image Date: 21/10/2022

Image File: 3930017c.jpg

Image: 6



Caption: Stone boat harbour walls and existing boatshed, view looking north

Copyright: Port Authority of New South Wales

Image By: Zach Nix - NBRS

Image Date: 21/10/2022

Image File: 3930017d.jpg

Image: 7



Caption: Location of former boat shed / slipway, piers visible

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Image By: Zach Nix - NBRS

Image Date: 21/10/2022

Image File: 3930017e.jpg

Image: 8



Caption: Stone boat harbour, looking southeast

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Image Date: 21/10/2022

Image File: 3930017f.jpg

Image: 9



Caption: Northeast edge of the Stone Boat harbour wall entry point

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Image By: Zach Nix - NBRS

Image Date: 21/10/2022

Image File: 3930017g.jpg

Image: 10



Caption: Submarine trap / Gun Emplacement

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Image Date: 21/10/2022

Image File: 3930017h.jpg

Image: 11



Caption: Early image of the Newcastle Stone Boat Harbour

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Photographic Collection (Lovett_B1_P22_S6_001)
<https://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/nodes/view/11953>

Image By:

Image Date: c1885

Image File: