

Pittwater Heritage Inventory

SHI Number
2270133

State Heritage Inventory

Item Name: **Ruins of Powderworks**

Location: **2 and 10 Manor Road, Ingleside [Pittwater]**

Address: 2 and 10 Manor Road
Suburb / Nearest Town: Ingleside 2101
Local Govt Area: Pittwater
State: NSW
Planning: Sydney North
Historic Region: Sydney
Parish: Narrabeen
County: Cumberland

Other/Former Names:

Area/Group/Complex:

Group ID:

Aboriginal Area: Guringai

Curtilage/Boundary:

Item Type: Archaeological-Terrest Group: Transport - Land Category: Road

Owner: Private - Individual

Admin Codes: Classified Code 2: Suburban Code 3:

Current Use: Residence

Former Uses: Industrial (powderworks)

Assessed Significance: Local

Endorsed Significance:

Statement of Significance: The Ruins are significant as their fabric expresses an unusual (rare) 19th century industrial activity and are important through their association with Carl Von Bieren and his gun powder manufacturing venture, a significant event in the locality with the area being subsequently named 'Ingleside' after his house.

Historical Notes or Provenance: Carl Von Bieren moved to Ingleside towards the end of 1882. The Powderworks built by Carl Von Bieren in 1884 formed part of what was a large estate (249 acres) bought by Von Bieren in the 1880s. Von Bieren intended to manufacture gunpowder on the site. In March 1984 the press reported on "An important industry" being established "for the manufacture of gunpowder (Champion & Champion 2007). The project was hailed as "the only manufacturer of its kind in the colonies" (Champion & Champion 2007). In May 1984, to generate funding for the continued development of the powderworks, Von Bieren floated his enterprise into a company, of which he maintained a one third share.

The road from Narrabeen to these works was surveyed by Mr L Burdett in January 1885 and became known as Powderworks Road.

The Powderworks were still incomplete when his company experienced financial difficulties and he fled the country in 1886 (Tropman 1993). He made his escape from Sydney by boarding a ship to London with plans to meet up with his wife back in America. However, a Manly policeman named Murphy, traced von Bieren to London where he was arrested. He was charged with fraudulent insolvency and sentenced to two years and ten months in prison (without hard labour) (Champion & Champion 2007). He was released after serving two years of his sentence, after which he returned to America.

State Heritage Inventory

Date: 21/05/2014

Full Report with Images

Page 1

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In 1978, a two by two meter shaft was discovered near the junction of Powderworks Road and Mona Vale Road. According to a Manly Daily report, the mine shaft was 13 metres deep to a water table and 13 metres below this level was the base where a police diver discovered a tunnel barred by planks. The shaft was big and dug through sandstone, which would have been difficult given the tools and equipment of the time and the dangers associated with mine excavation. To this day, despite much speculation, nobody knows why it was dug (Jacobs, 2008).

Themes:	National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
	3. Economy	Industry	(none)

Designer: Unknown

Maker / Builder: Carl von Bieren

Year Started: 1884 Year Completed: 1886 Circa: No

Physical Description: Cobblestone road associated with former Powderworks. Other stone structures as well as powderworks ruins. The place is located in a small gully at the junction of two creeklines about 200m north of the site of the former Ingleside house. The place consists of the ruins of sandstone block buildings and retaining walls that were built in the mid 1880s for the purposes of gunpowder manufacture. The main items are in two areas. One area on the southern side of the creekline has the remains of two structures - one corner of each structure is standing. The other area is on the northern side of the creekline where part of a wall remains standing on the top of a small cliff. Numerous sandstone blocks are strewn throughout the area. Erosion of a small creekline threatens the stability of the structures on the southern side of the creek (Tropman 1993).

Physical Condition: Relatively poor condition.

Modification Dates:

Recommended Management: A Conservation Management Plan should be prepared for the site, so as to facilitate the survival of the ruins.

Management:

Further Comments: Construction of the powder works ceased in 1886 and they remained incomplete.

Criteria a) The ruins are important in the course of the local area's cultural history. They provide evidence of a significant human activity (the production of gunpowder).

Criteria b) The ruins are associated with the works of Carl Von Bieren who was the only gun powder manufacturer in the colonies at the time. Ingleside was named after his own home which was

State Heritage Inventory

Date: 21/05/2014

Full Report with Images

Page 2

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SHI Number
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built c1880s.

Criteria c) The cobblestone road, stone structures and the powder works ruins are all associated with a particular rare industrial process of the late nineteenth century.

Criteria d) The site gave its name to its access road, a distinctive name which remains in use today and maintains awareness of the historical background. Associated with early identities, it is a distinctive part of local community identity.

Criteria e)

Criteria f) The cobblestone road, stone structures and the powder works ruins are all associated with a particular rare industrial process of the late nineteenth century.

Criteria g) A rare ruinous early industrial site in the municipality.

Integrity / Intactness: The ruins have a low level of integrity as they are not substantially intact and perform no function.

References:	Author	Title	Year
	Hugh Barry	Elanora. A History of the Country Club	1977
	Ian Jacobs	A fascinating heritage of Sydney's northern beaches	2008
	S. Champion & G. Champion	Narrabeen powder works	2007
	Tropman and Tropman	Ingleside/ Warriewood Urban Land Release Heritage Study	1993

Studies:

Parcels:	Parcel Code	LotNumber	Section	Plan Code	Plan Number
	LOT	82		DP	866452
	LOT	81		DP	866452

Latitude:

Longitude:

Location validity:

Spatial Accuracy:

Map Name:

Map Scale:

AMG Zone:

Easting:

Northing:

Listings: Name:

Title:

Number:

Date:

Local Environmental Plan

Custom Field One:

Custom Field Two:

Custom Field Three:

Custom Field Four:

State Heritage Inventory

Full Report with Images

Date: 21/05/2014

Page 3

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State Heritage Inventory

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2270133**

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Location: 2 and 10 Manor Road, Ingleside [Pittwater]

Image:



Caption: Ruins of Powderworks at 10 Manor Road

Copyright:

Image by: City Plan Heritage

Image Date: 9/05/2012

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: Ruins of powder works (10 Manor Rd).jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File:

State Heritage Inventory

Full Report with Images

Date: 21/05/2014

Page 5

This report was produced using the Heritage Database Software provided by the Heritage Branch, NSW Department of Planning.

Pittwater Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

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DRAFT