


Heritage Inventory Sheet

Item Name	Horse Trough		
Recommended Name	Horse Trough		
Site Image			
Address	Corner of Water Street and Auburn Road, Auburn NSW 2144		
Lot/Section/DP	-	-	-
Current LEP ID	I20 (Cumberland LEP)		
Former LEP ID	I13 (Auburn LEP)		
Heritage Conservation Area	Not included		
Date Updated	March 2020		
Significance Level	LOCAL		
Site Type	Level 1	Movable/Collection	
	Level 2	Farming/Grazing	

Curtilage Map



Revised Curtilage recommended - refer to below.

Statement of Significance

The horse trough has historic significance as a remnant public infrastructure relating to past agricultural processes and technologies. This item demonstrates how agricultural and industry has developed over time. The item is associated with Annis and George Bills, who erected a number of horse troughs throughout NSW and VIC in the Inter-War period. The item represents a period when working horses for agriculture and industry was prevalent.

Criteria Assessment

a) Historic	The item has historical significance as a remnant public infrastructure relating to past agricultural processes and technologies. This item demonstrates how agricultural and industry has developed over time.
b) Associative	The item is associated with Annis and George Bills, who erected a number of horse troughs throughout NSW and VIC in the inter-war period.
c) Aesthetic/Technical	The item does not meet this criterion.
d) Social	The item does not meet this criterion.
e) Scientific	The item does not meet this criterion.
f) Rarity	The item does not meet this criterion.
g) Representativeness	The item represents a period when working horses for agriculture and industry was prevalent.

Physical Description

The item is a precast concrete horse trough with internal steel reinforcing. The trough is divided into two compartments, one substantially larger than the other. The concrete uses a large dark bluestone aggregate throughout the trough with the exception of the name plate which has a fine white stone aggregate inserted, giving it some visual prominence. Engraved into this name plate is "DONATED BY / ANNIS & GEORGE BILLS / AUSTRALIA". The engraved letters are painted black.

The trough itself is formed of one piece of precast concrete, with the decorative rounded backing pediment attached as a separate piece, as are the three blocks which form the feet of the trough. There is a steel ring that protrudes from the front edge of the trough, which would have been used to tether horses.

The trough is positioned on the northern verge of Water Street, on the corner of Auburn Street. A concrete pad, footpaths and street kerbing are all positioned closely, or abutting, the trough.

The condition of the trough is good, although it does exhibit signs of weathering and expected wear and tear. The embossing profile around the edges of the back pediment and around the trough is no longer pronounced, and some exposed metal reinforcing is corroding. It does not show any signs of impact damage despite its proximity to the roadway.

Condition	Good	Fair	Poor
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Alterations and Additions

- No alterations or additions to the item itself, it is highly intact with all original pieces in position. However, other concrete elements such as kerbing edges and footpaths have been installed in close proximity or abutting against the trough.

Integrity	High	Moderate	Low
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* element detracts from the overall cultural significance of the place

Historical Notes

Construction years	1920-1950
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Horse troughs were used in the era before motor vehicles, where industry and transport were dependant on working animals. Bills horse troughs were installed from the late 1920s to early 1940s to provide relieve to work animals throughout New South Wales and Victoria. Bills horse troughs were funded by a trust left by George Bill, a businessman prominent in Sydney, Melbourne and country Victoria, on his death in 1927. The trust set out in George Bills' will was to:

"..construct and erect and pay for horse troughs wherever they may be of the opinion that such horse troughs are desirable for the relief of horses and other dumb animals either in Australasia, in the British Islands or in any other part of the world subject to the consent of the proper authorities being obtained."

Each trough cost £13 plus transport and installation. Earlier troughs were individually designed until the early 1930s when they began production to a standard design, of which the horse trough on Water Street is an example. Production of troughs ceased by 1945 with the rise of motor vehicles.

Recommendations				
Heritage Management		Existing Built and Landscape Elements		Future Development and Planning
1. Maintain this item's heritage listing on the LEP.	X	6. Original fabric is highly significant and should be maintained.	X	12. Alterations and additions should respond to the existing pattern of development, with careful consideration of the setting (form, scale, bulk, setback and height).
2. Maintain this item's listing as part of the Heritage Conservation Area.		7. Unsympathetic alterations that detract from the cultural significance of the item should be removed.		13. New alterations and additions should respect the historic aesthetic/character of the item and area (e.g. paint scheme, materiality, style, landscape elements).
3. Consider delisting as an individual item from the LEP.		8. Maintain heritage landscape elements and schemes.		14. Future uses for this item should be compatible with its historical functions/associations.
4. Consider additional research to nominate this item for the State Heritage Register.		9. Maintain the existing setting of the heritage item, informed by the historic pattern of neighbouring development (form, scale, bulk, setback and height).		
5. The heritage curtilage for this item should be revised/reduced.	X	10. Maintain the historic aesthetic/character of the item and area (e.g. paint scheme, materiality, style, landscape elements).		
		11. The condition of this item is poor. Condition and maintenance should be monitored.		

Other recommendations and/or comments:

- The item is at a high risk of damage by motor vehicles, as this intersection is highly trafficked. Relocation to a more appropriate location (for example, in a 'No Stopping Zone') along Water Street may be a good outcome.
- As the listing concerns the horse trough only, the heritage curtilage shown below should be considered as a revised curtilage for the new Cumberland LEP.
- Should the revised curtilage be adopted, this listing sheet does not reflect the current Lot/DP which will need to be altered.



Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number
Heritage Act – State Heritage Register	N/A	-
Local Environmental Plan	Horse Trough	I15
Heritage Study	Horse Trough	I15
National Trust Australia Register	N/A	-

Previous Studies

Type	Author	Year	Title
Heritage Study	Extent Heritage Pty Ltd	2019	Cumberland LGA Heritage Study
Heritage Review	DPC	2007	Auburn Town Centre Heritage Review
Heritage Study	Neustein & Associates	1996	Auburn Heritage Study
Heritage Study	Terry Kass	1995	Draft Historical Context Report: Auburn Heritage Study

Other References

None.

Limitations

1. Access to all heritage items was limited to a visual inspection from the public domain. The interiors of buildings and inaccessible areas such as rear gardens were not assessed as part of this heritage study.

2. Condition and site modification assessment was limited to a visual inspection undertaken from the public domain.

3. Unless additional research was required, historical research for all heritage items was based on an assessment of previous LGA heritage studies, the Thematic History (prepared by Extent Heritage, 2019) and existing information in former heritage listing sheets.

Additional Images

None.