


Heritage Inventory Sheet

Item Name	Electricity Substation		
Recommended Name	Electricity Substation		
Site Image			
Address	62 Fullagar Road, Wentworthville, NSW 2145		
Lot/Section/DP	-	-	SP 61875
Current LEP ID	I268 (Cumberland LEP)		
Former LEP ID	I125 (Holroyd LEP)		
Heritage Conservation Area	Not included		
Date Updated	February 2020		
Significance Level	LOCAL		
Site Type	Level 1	Built	
	Level 2	Utilities – Electricity	

Curtilage Map



Revised curtilage recommended – refer below

Statement of Significance

The Electricity Substation at 62 Fullagar Road, Wentworthville is locally significant for its historic, technical and representative values. Built in 1928, illustrates the early twentieth century technology utilised in the generation and distribution of electricity supply in the area. This type of technology is now redundant; however, this substation is one of a small group of remaining intact industrial infrastructure items representing a specific function for the community. The item is an intact and representative example of the standardised electrical substations constructed in the 1920s.

Criteria Assessment

a) Historic	The item illustrates the early twentieth century technology utilised in the generation and distribution of electricity supply in the area.
b) Associative	The item does not meet this criterion.
c) Aesthetic/Technical	The substation illustrates the early twentieth century technology utilised in the generation and distribution of electricity supply in the area. This type of technology is no longer being used.
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 is an intact and representative example of the standardised electrical substations constructed in 1920s.

Physical Description

The substation, at the corner of Fullagar Road and Lane Street, is a single storey brick building with a single wide opening on its principle façade to Fullagar Road. The principle façade features the original double wooden entrance door and rendered lintel with expressed brick piers. The building has a gabled roof clad in terracotta tiles with a timber barge board and rendered gable infill with "Electrical Supply 1928" in the gable end relief. The rear elevation and barge board on the principle elevation feature the former insulators, indicating how the structure was connected to the electrical grid. The window opening on the west elevation features a 4-pane, double-sash casement window with a brick sill and sandstone lintel. The window is fronted by a contemporary security grill.

The substation is set within a heavily developed area, with multi-storey residential developments encroaching the structure from most sides. A tall brick boundary fence, which relates to the residential development for "The Peninsula", now screens views of the building from the street.

The building appears to have been recently repainted and is in a good condition, however, there is an extensive amount of leaf litter deposited on the roof and in the guttering which is causing damp issues. The sandstone lintel shows signs of sandstone delamination.

Condition	Good	Fair	Poor
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Alterations and Additions

- Contemporary security grill to window on the west elevation
- Appears to have been repainted recently
- Addition of brick boundary fence in front of property*
- Removal of transformer equipment from the former yard*

Although the heritage curtilage of the item is heavily impacted by medium density development to the rear, the building itself retains a high level of integrity.

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

Historical Notes

Construction years	1928
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In 1819, after European settlement, the Wentworthville area came under the tenure of D'Arcy Wentworth. Wentworth (1762-1827) was an Irish medical practitioner and public servant who settled in Australia in June 1790. Wentworth was a substantial land holder in the early colony, he appears to have obtained his first grant of about 147 acres at Parramatta from Governor Hunter in 1799; by 1821, he had been awarded a total of 17,000 acres, 2200 acres of which were located in the Wentworthville area. When he passed away in 1827, his will disposed of approximately 22,000 acres of land which was eventually subdivided into the existing allotments of Wentworthville today. The sites closest to the railway line were sold and developed first because of its proximity to the railway line, although it was not until 1883 that Wentworthville received a station known as T.R Smith's Platform. The name Wentworthville was later adopted in 1880. The establishment of the railway station attracted residents to the area, Wentworth's holdings were subdivided into 600 lots. Wentworthville was proclaimed a town in 1890.

The Sydney Municipal Council's Electric Lighting Bill was passed in October 1896 and a power station was built in Pyrmont in 1900. Meanwhile, the NSW Railways and Tramways had commenced generating power at Ultimo in 1899. Both organisations quickly moved into supplying electrical power in bulk to local councils, for local reticulation. However, many local councils established municipal electrical supplies and Parramatta and Granville Electrical Supply Company commenced operation in 1913. It ceased generating for itself after 1917, taking bulk supply from the Sydney Municipal Council

via a substation at Merrylands. It later swapped to supply from the Railways and was purchased by the Electrical Light Power Supply Corporation (ELPSC) in the 1940s, with supply then provided from Balmain power station. In 1957, the ELPSC was acquired by the Electricity Commission of New South Wales.

In the eastern part of Cumberland, supply was generally acquired from the Sydney Municipal Council and several substations were constructed in Auburn, Lidcombe, Guildford, Wentworthville, Merrylands and Westmead to a standardised design.

These supply arrangements changed very little when the Electricity Commission was formed in 1950 and took control of all generation facilities and became the bulk supplier to county councils and municipalities. The supply from individual generation authorities ceased and supply was acquired from the NSW State electricity grid.

The former Holroyd local government commenced supplying electricity to its municipality in 1923. The local authority purchased its supply in bulk from the Sydney Municipal Council at 5.5kV. The substation located in Auburn (No. 167) was the former bulk supply receiving station. The number of substations constructed in the Sydney region increased dramatically from the late 1920s, with dozens of substations being constructed to cope with the expanding demand. While in the early years of network construction many substations had unique characteristics and were sited in response to demand. However, from the late 1920s onwards a standardised design was employed, and expansion was based on the need to establish and expand the electricity grid rather than in response to localised or site-specific issues.

The substation located on the corner of Fullagar Road and Lane Street Wentworthville is one of many built during this period to service the expanding population of the district and shares a similar design, size, and construction to other electrical substations provided in the former Holroyd municipality during the 1920s. The building has been decommissioned and is no longer in use.

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). X
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.	X	13. New alterations and additions should respect the historic aesthetic/character of the item and area (e.g. paint scheme, materiality, style, landscape elements). X
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).	X	
		11. The condition of this item is poor. Condition and maintenance should be monitored.		

Other recommendations and/or comments:

- As the land surrounding the electricity substation has been heavily redeveloped for the inclusion of a medium-density residential apartment blocks, the heritage curtilage shown below should be considered as a revised curtilage for the 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	Electricity Substation	I254
Heritage Study	Electricity Substation	I254
National Trust Australia Register	N/A	-

Previous Studies

Type	Author	Year	Title
Heritage Study	Extent Heritage Pty Ltd	2019	Cumberland LGA Heritage Study
Heritage Study	Graham Brooks and Associates Pty Ltd	1998	Holroyd Heritage Inventory Review
Heritage Study	Neustein & Associates	1992	Holroyd Heritage Study

Other References

- Auchmuty, JJ 1967, 'Wentworth, D'Arcy (1762-1827)', Australian Dictionary of Biography.
- Elias, J and Coppins, S 2013, Pictorial History Holroyd: Girraween, Guildford, Mays Hill, Merrylands, Pemulwuy, Pendle Hill, Prospect, Smithfield, Toongabbie, Wentworthville, Westmead, Woodpark, Yennora, Kingsclear Books, Alexandria.
- Karskens, G. 1991. Holroyd - A Social History of Western Sydney. Sydney: University NSW Press.
- Pennington, J. 2012. Electricity Substations of the Sydney Municipal Council and other local authorities. Sydney: James Pennington

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



Detail of gable end showing 'ELECTRICAL SUPPLY 1928' relief.



View along Fullagar Road from the substation, showing modern development adjacent to the building.



Overview of substation showing front and side elevations, as well as the boundary fence.



Rear elevation of substation and boundary fence.



Overview of substation from the footpath along Fullagar Road.