

Hunter Water S170 Register

SHI No.: *Name:*
3630114 Adamstown Stone Stormwater Channel

Location Glebe Road, Adamstown NSW 2289
Victoria Street, Adamstown NSW 2289



Description:

A stormwater Channel section consisting of rough stone walls with cement mortar and a slate slab floor. At the Victoria Street end of the section there is a brick arched bridge, over which the roadway runs, which leads into concrete stormwater channel.

Significance:

The stone section of the Adamstown Stormwater Channel is the last surviving section of the earliest style of stormwater channel. It is also one of the few remaining examples of nineteenth century council-built municipal infrastructure within central Newcastle.

Assessed Significance: Local

Endorsed Significance: Local

Historical Notes:

Constructed: 1890-1891

The Adamstown Stone Stormwater Channel forms a part of the larger Adamstown Stormwater System. The only remaining section constructed in stone, with all adjacent divisions being concrete, the Stone Stormwater Channel was erected by local government, and completed in 1891.

The development of the Adamstown area can be traced back to 1869, when Thomas Adams purchased 54 acres of Crown Land. Within five months of this purchase, Adams sold the land on to his brothers Thomas and Henry Byrant, who went on to sell a portion of the land to "Waratah Coal". In the 1870s the land was surveyed to create a residential area for miners working in nearby Hamilton. The first public sales took place in 1875, with the new village named "Adamstown".

On the 31st December 1885, Adamstown was incorporated as a Municipality, with the first meeting of the Adamstown Municipal Council held on the 10th March 1886. Within the first five years of the life of the Adamstown Municipal Council establishment they had established an early drainage system.

In February 1888 members of the Adamstown and Merewether Councils met to discuss the proposed construction of a drain, which would follow the route of Tyson's Creek through Merewether and Adamstown. The exact route of the creek at this time is unknown, however it is known that the upper reaches of the creek commenced to the south of Adamstown in the hills of the Merewether Estate. Flowing down through the south eastern section of Adamstown, it ran between Belmore and Regan Street before crossing Glebe Road and emptying next to land that became Adamstown Park.

E.C. Merewether, who owned the land upon which Tyson's Creek originated, granted his permission for the construction of the drain on his section of land in March 1888. Subsequently, the councils issued notices in May 1888 to nine landholders along the route, seeking their permission to construct the drain through their properties. Whilst some of the works commenced in 1888, with the section adjoining the stone section of the Adamstown Stormwater Channel completed in early 1889, the majority of works were halted by problems with obtaining the necessary permission. In particular, one landholder, John Kennedy, refused to consent to the creek running through his property being made into a drain, stopping work in early 1889.

Finally, after about 18 months of delays, tenders were called for the completion of the drain through Tyson's Creek in October 1890. Council accepted a tender on 23rd October 1890 by the local contractor John Sketchly, however commencement of work was delayed by another three weeks due to problems with Sketchly's bondsman signing the contract.

It is unclear as to whether the southern section of the channel was originally made of earth, however it is known that the Victoria to Glebe Street section was originally constructed in the stone that remains today. A Public Works Committee Report presented to Council on 10th April, 1890, recommended that the drain "be stoned each side and flagged on the bottom for a distance of about 12 yards".

The Adamstown Stormwater Channel, including the stone section, was completed in January 1891, and on 15 January 1891 a report by the Public Works Committee recommended that the work be passed and approval was given for Sketchly to receive his final payment.

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Improvements and alterations to the Adamstown drainage system, generally, continued to be carried out over the next century.

In the Public Works Department's Annual Report from 1897-88 it was reported that pitched drops were being constructed on the Adamstown branch of the Throsby Creek Stormwater System. A steel girder bridge was also in the process of construction to carry the Great Northern Railway over the Adamstown Channel, as well as timber beam bridges at Glebe Road and Victoria Street. These works, including extensions to the channel, were completed during 1900-01.

Following an interview of the Secretary for Public Works in September 1915 by a deputation from the Municipal Councils of Newcastle, Hamilton, Merewether, and Adamstown, a scheme was prepared by the Department of Public Works to provide for the stormwater drainage of Newcastle, Hamilton, Wickham, Merewether, Adamstown, and portion of Lake Macquarie Shire.

The Adamstown Stormwater Channel was cleaned as a part of unemployment relief work during the year 1925-26.

Whilst the Department of Public Works carried out overhaul works to the Adamstown Stormwater Channel as part of works to the Throsby Creek Stormwater System in the 1930s, the stone section of the channel was not included in the works.

The Adamstown Stormwater Channel as a whole was extended in the vicinity of in 1949-50, and again around 1977.

Despite these extensions and modifications over the years, the stone stormwater channel was left in its original, intact state until June 2007 when storms over the long weekend caused substantial damage. Remediation work was subsequently carried out in 2008.

The channel flows in a northerly direction, and crossing Victoria Street to the south via a brick culvert and Glebe Road to the north via a concrete culvert. The original source of the stone is unknown. The walls are constructed in roughly squared field stones, with smaller rubble used as infill, and a flat capping stone at the top. The channel surface is constructed of large roughly square stones, falling to a narrower course laid in the centre. The walls and floor of the channel all show evidence of numerous repairs and/or additions.

<i>Designer:</i>	Adamstown Municipal Council/Public	<i>Builder:</i>	John Sketchley -
<i>Builder:</i>	Works Department		Contractor/Adamstown Municipal Council/Public Works Department
<i>Current Use:</i>	Stormwater Drain	<i>Former Uses:</i>	
<i>Modification(s):</i>	Progressive modifications have been made since date of completion. Aside from this one city block length of channel all the remaining portions of the channel have been rebuilt in concrete.		

Physical Condition:

Sections of the channel have been re-pointed.

Recommended Management:

- This item contributes to local character and should be conserved.
 - Original details should be maintained including doors, windows and original signage.
 - New materials should be sympathetic to the nature and character of the original building.
 - In the event of major proposed changes, prepare a Conservation Management Strategy and undertake an archival recording.
 - Wherever possible, changes should be restricted to the interior of the building.
 - Routine maintenance of existing fabric is essential.
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References:

Clem Lloyd, Patrick Troy and Shelley Schreiner 1992, For the Public Health. The Hunter District Water Board 1892-1992. Publisher: Longman Cheshire Pty Ltd, Melbourne.

Department of Public Works , Annual Reports, 1888 to 1892 and 1893-94 to 1960-61.

Glennie Jones 1967, The Movement for Newcastle's First Water Supply 1875-1885, Newcastle History Monographs No. 2. Publisher: The Council of the City of Newcastle, Newcastle.

Hunter District Water Board , Annual Reports, 1938-39 to 1987-88.

Hunter District Water Supply and Sewerage Board , Annual Reports, 1897-98 to 1937-38.

Hunter Water Board , Annual Reports, 1988-89 to 1990-91.

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John W Armstrong 1967, Pipelines and People. The History of the Hunter District Water Board Newcastle, New South Wales. Publisher: The Hunter District Water Board, Newcastle.

Mal Hindley 1983, 'From Weirs, Dams and Sand', in Shaping the Hunter. Publisher: The Newcastle Division of the Institute of Engineers Australia, Newcastle.

Studies:

- 1 Heritas Architecture 2008, 'Regan Street Stormwater Channel, Adamstown, NSW. Heritage Assessment'.
Reference: .
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Listings:

- 1 *Heritage Act - s.170 NSW State agency heritage register:*
Listing date: . Reference Number:
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Data Entry: *Date First Entered:* 22/Jul/2010 *Date Updated:* 10/Sep/2010 *Status:* Partial

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Images



Adamstown Stone Stormwater Channel

File: Adamstown Stone SWC.jpg

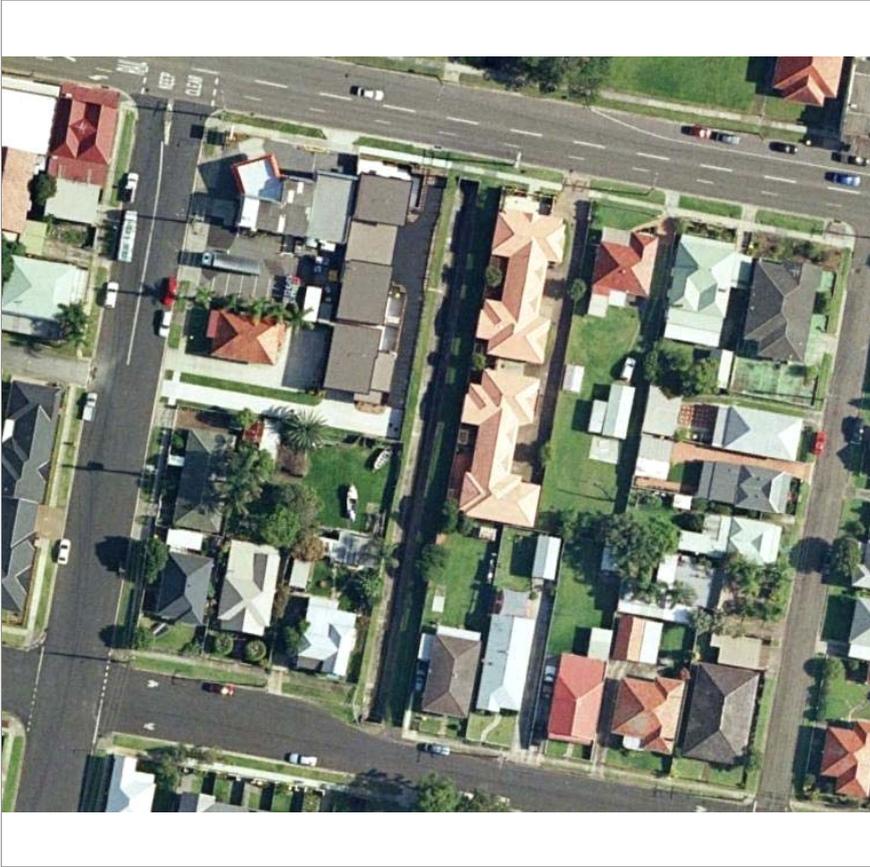
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**Adamstown Stone Stormwater
Channel location (Courtesy of
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