

Hunter Water S170 Register

SHI No.: Name:
3630050 George Schroder Water Pump Station

Location 635 Richardson Rd, Campvale NSW 2318

Other ID nos IW ID: 50. Other ID: WSSCH.



Description:

A reinforced rectangular concrete structure with original concrete deck roof built within the dam storage. Building is clad in decorative green tiles, with metal louver windows. The access door to the station is a replacement metal roller door. Inside the pumping station, are six pumps, all replacements. Two large outlet pipe extend from building to the dam bank with a metal access walkway atop the pipes. Control equipment is located in a separate plain brick building on the shore.

Significance:

George Schroder Pumping Station is the main pumping station which extracts water from Grahamstown Dam. It is a key operational component of the Grahamstown Scheme and was named after a prominent engineer within the Hunter District Water Board. The building is designed to a modernist aesthetic and sits prominently within the dam storage, near a park. Through continual upgrading of the equipment the facility remains in service for its original function.

Adjacent to the Pumping Station is a recreational area with memorial gates and several plaques commemorating the establishment of the Grahamstown Scheme.

Assessed Significance: Local

Endorsed Significance: Local

Historical Notes:

Constructed: 1957-1960

After the end of World War II, the Board became preoccupied with the adequacy of their water sources. It was in March 1946 that the Board's then President, George Schroder, first raised the possibility of using the Grahamstown Moors as a possible new water source. Whilst investigations in regards to the utilisation of Grahamstown Channel as an auxiliary to the Tomago Water Supply Works were carried out from the late 1940s, and the Board obtained 2000 acres of the Grahamstown moorlands in 1948, an alternative proposition of constructing a much larger dam at Tillegra was preferred. Following a visit to Europe to attend conferences and inspect waterworks however, and in the face of growing opposition to Tillegra Dam, Schroder was able to persuade the Board to delay the Tillegra Dam and fully exploit both the Tomago sandbeds and Grahamstown catchment area. The Board subsequently commissioned the Swedish consulting engineers Vattenbyggnadsbyran to investigate. After visiting the region early in 1953 they delivered their report in September.

The scheme proposed by Vattenbyggnadsbyran provided for fresh water to be drawn from the Williams River near Seaham and conveyed by open canals and a tunnel to a storage dam constructed on the moors. The storage was to be formed by constructing an embankment across the natural depression known as the Grahamstown Moors.

In February 1955, following review, the Board's Amplification Committee broadly accepted the scheme, with construction of the Dam authorised by the Board on 5th April 1955.

Construction of the scheme commenced immediately after the official construction ceremony was performed by the then Premier, Mr J Cahill, on 30th November 1957.

The George Schroder Memorial Pumping Station, named for the Board's President who played such an integral role in the construction of the Grahamstown Water Supply Scheme, was originally referred to as Grahamstown No. 1 Pumping Station.

Construction on the George Schroder Water Pumping Station commenced in 1957-58. Constructed as a wet well type of pumping station, it was located within the water storage area approximately 1000 feet upstream from the left abutment of the Grahamstown embankment. Drawing raw water from the dam through 1 050 millimetre pipes, the Pumping Station then transmitted the water the 6.5km to the treatment plant at Tomago. After treatment, the water from Grahamstown was carried to Waratah and North Lambton Reservoirs.

By 1957-58 the site of the pumping station had been excavated, with the construction of the raft foundation and walls of the pumps wells up to sill level completed. Tenders were called, also in 1957-58, for pumps, and the preliminary design for the station was prepared. By the close of 1959-60, only the finishing off details and surrounding earth works remained outstanding. Nearby, a brick switch house had been completed, and transformers installed. In April

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1960 two pumps were installed in the pumping station and a trial run carried out, and by December 1960 all finishing details; painting, earth works and the fencing, had been completed.

In 1963-64 ornamental gates with plaques were constructed at the entrance to the pumping station, which had been named the George Schroder Memorial Pumping Station.

Both pumping stations were brought into continuous operation during 1965, with a tender let for a further two pumping units. Also during the year 1965-66 construction began on a second 42-inch delivery pipeline from the George Schroder Memorial Pumping Station. The duplication of this pipeline was necessitated by the completion of the Grahamstown water treatment works, which could process 30 million gallons per day, and was fully completed in 1970-71.

In the 1975-76 Annual Report it was recorded that the Board was in the process of designing alterations to the George Schroder Pumping Station. In 1980-81 the Board had approved the amplification of the supply station in order to match improved water treatment capacity and increased demand.

<i>Designer:</i>	Vattenbyggnadsbyran - Engineering	<i>Builder:</i>	Hunter District Water Board
<i>Builder:</i>	contractors		
<i>Current Use:</i>	Water pumping station	<i>Former Uses:</i>	

Physical Condition:

In good condition.

Further Information:

Site is enclosed within a modern chain wire fence.

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.

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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 Futurepast Heritage Consulting Pty Ltd 2010, 'Hunter Water Conservation and Heritage Register Study'. Reference: .
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Listings:

- 1 *Heritage Act - s.170 NSW State agency heritage register:*
Listing date: . Reference Number:
-

Data Entry: *Date First Entered:* 26/Apr/2010 *Date Updated:* 10/Sep/2010 *Status:* Partial

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Images



George Schroder Water Pump Station

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**George Schroder Water Pump
Station location (Courtesy of
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pumping station
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George Schroder Water Pump Station (Courtesy of John W. Armstrong, "Pipelines and People")

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