

HUNTER WATER

SECTION s170 REGISTER



ITEM NAME:

Black Hill 1 Reservoir

Contents:



Item details



Historical Overview



Heritage Status



Heritage Significance



Description



Management



Key Images



References

ITEM DETAILS



Item Name	Black Hill 1 Reservoir
Other / Former Names	Stoney Pinch Reservoir
NSW SHI No.	3630029
GID	400463
Plant No.	WR-BLH-001-RES
Local Government Area	Cessnock
Lot and DP	Lot 1 DP 183659
Address	John Renshaw Drive, Black Hill NSW 2322
Curtilage	The curtilage of this asset is defined by its legal allotment boundaries (defined by the relevant Lot and DP).



View of the Reservoir



Asset location and curtilage (red boundary) (refer to Figure 1 for additional detail)

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW



Current Use	Water storage
Former Use	N/A
Designer / Builder	Hunter District Water Supply and Sewerage Board
Historical Notes	Construction of the Black Hill 1 Water Reservoir was completed in 1941. Major alterations in water distribution occurred in 1956, when a new mains line was brought into service. This meant that all water from the Chichester Dam that was distributed to the Maitland, Cessnock, and Lake Macquarie areas was first passed through the Black Hill 1 Water Reservoir. Further alterations were made in 1967 to improve the water quality and in 1999 to roof the facility.

HERITAGE STATUS



Listing Details	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S170 Heritage and Conservation Register <input type="checkbox"/> Local heritage listing <input type="checkbox"/> State heritage listing
Conservation Management Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Heritage Asset Action Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Aboriginal Sites Registered within the Site	AHIMS search undertaken on 2 November 2022. No sites were registered in or within 50 metres of the relevant Lot and DP.
Historical Archaeological Potential	Not assessed.

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE



Level of Significance	Local
Statement of Significance	<p>The Black Hill 1 Water Reservoir is significant as one of the major mid-twentieth century expansions of the water storage for Newcastle.</p> <p>It is also unusual as a major engineering work undertaken during wartime. Aesthetically, the reservoir has a well-detailed concrete valve house and access chamber.</p>
NSW SHR Criteria	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a) Historical <input type="checkbox"/> b) Associative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> c) Aesthetic / Technical <input type="checkbox"/> d) Social <input type="checkbox"/> e) Research Potential (yield new information) <input type="checkbox"/> f) Rare <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> g) Representative
Significant Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall form, shape, and scale of the main valve house, including the separation of the two storeys. All external detailing, including symmetrical massing, columns, parapet, and embossed signage. Overall appearance of concrete render. Original timber floorboards in ground storey building. Rhythm and presentation of fenestration (window and door openings). Concrete drainage channel immediately surrounding the reservoir. The visual prominence of the reservoir within its bushland setting.

Setting	<p>The reservoir is set within an area of bushland adjacent to an open cut mine. The mine operations are screened by the bushland and are not visible from the reservoir. Within the boundary fence, the area has been cleared of tall vegetation.</p>
External Appearance	<p>A mass in-situ concrete structure completed in 1941. The structure has splayed sides and is partially surrounded by a concrete drainage channel. Exposed concrete 'rafter ends' protrude from beneath the fascia. Originally, the fascia was exposed concrete, however, it has been largely concealed by steel associated with a later kliplok roof.</p> <p>Attached to the north-eastern corner of the reservoir is the main valve house. The building is a two-storey concrete-rendered brown brick structure. The two storeys are 'split', with the upper building set behind the footprint of the lower building.</p> <p>The ground storey building has an entrance façade in the Inter-War Functionalist Style. The façade features symmetrical massing, protruding columns, emphasis on vertical and horizontal lines, and an open parapet with a flat, empty roof. The central parapet is embossed with <i>'1941 Hunter District Water Board Stoney Pinch Reservoir'</i>. A shallow portico frames the double flush steel doors. These have been painted brown. A window is present either side of the door. Two additional windows are present on the short sides. Any original glazing and faming have been removed, and the openings covered by perforated metal sheets for security. The two side windows have been infilled with brick in addition to the perforated metal sheet. Barbed concertina wire is wrapped around the building below the roof.</p> <p>The second storey building is set back behind the parapet and open roof space of the lower building. It features the same Inter-War Functionalist Style details as the lower building, however, with no ornate parapet. The roof is flat, and the fascia and soffit have been rendered in concrete. The entrance is offset towards the reservoir roof and has been set with a flush steel door. A single window is present on each long side of the building. The lintels are concealed beneath the concrete render and the sills are exposed sloped red brick. Any original glazing and faming have been removed, and the openings covered by perforated metal sheets for security. Several air vents formed from two courses of sailor bricks are present around the building level with the windows.</p>
Internal Appearance	<p>The lower storey building comprises of a single room. The entrance steps down into room via a number of timber steps. The floor is original timber floorboards set with original pieces of machinery. The walls have been rendered in concrete and are unpainted. The roof and upper storey building are accessed via a ladder and roof hatch.</p> <p>The roof is vacant and allows for access to the reservoir and upper storey building.</p> <p>The upper storey building comprises of a single room. The floor consists of an unsealed concrete slab. The lower portion of the walls has been rendered in concrete and painted cream, leaving exposed the upper 13 courses of brown brick laid in stretcher bond. An original overhead crane occupies the centre of the room.</p>
Overall Condition	Fair
Moveable Heritage Objects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All machinery in ground storey building. • Overhead crane in upper storey building.



Approval and Assessment Requirements

Minor or inconsequential impacts: Anything other than routine repair and maintenance must be discussed with the Environment Team to determine the level of heritage assessment required.

More than minor or inconsequential impacts: As above. Additionally, consultation with the relevant local council is required.

Demolition or removal from the register requires consultation with Heritage NSW and archival recording.

General / Ongoing Management

- Changes within the defined curtilage should be preceded by the appropriate level of heritage assessment and approval. Advice and/or confirmation should be sought from the Environment Team prior to undertaking any works.
- Maintain overall form, shape and scale of the building.
- The introduction of new buildings or structures within the curtilage is discouraged. If introduced, the ability to view the building 'in the round' is to be retained and not obscured.
- Maintain existing shallow portico and all Inter-War Functionalist Style detailing on the main valve house. Changes to fabric may be supportable if no feasible alternative is available/to ensure ongoing operation and/or safety.
- Replacement/removal of redundant or failing elements or equipment is acceptable to facilitate ongoing operation of the reservoir.
- Removal of non-significant elements (such as lighting, rainwater goods, services, external signage, etc) is supportable, provided that any replacement is appropriate to the building. Reinstatement of sympathetic window glazing and hardware may be suitable.

Priority Conservation Works

- Assess and repair damage to external concrete render and brickwork vents, including mortar loss, spalling, and cracking.
- Investigate cause of cracking and spalling in interior concrete ceilings.
- Remove graffiti from external walls.
- Clean external walls.

KEY IMAGES



Image 1: Entrance to reservoirClick here to add title



Image 2: Eastern façade



Image 3: Original machinery



Image 4: Brick infill in window space



Image 5: Timber entrance steps



Image 6: Ladder and roof hatch to second storey



Image 7: Open roof space and parapet on second storey



Image 8: Reservoir roof



Image 9: Original overhead crane



Image 10: Original overhead crane



Image 11: Original exposed concrete fascia with 'rafter ends'



Image 12: Later kilplok roof and fascia

REFERENCES



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FIGURE 1

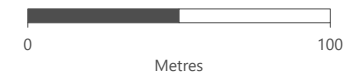
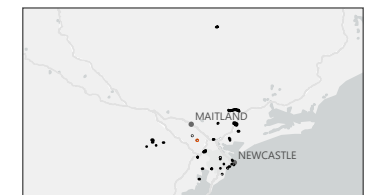
S170 Review - Heritage Curtilages

Legend

-  Road
-  Railway
-  Lot Boundary
-  Heritage Curtilages



Black Hill 1 Reservoir



Scale 1:2,500 at A4
GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56

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