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#### King Family Farm Sites and Trees, Links Rd, North St Marys, NSW

**Photographs:** None

**List:** Register of the National Estate

**Class:** Historic

**Legal Status:** [Registered](#) (27/10/1998)

**Place ID:** 100576

**Place File No:** 1/14/029/0026

**Statement of Significance:**

The King Family Farm Sites date from c 1807 and comprise the Dunheved and the Elizabeth King Farm archaeological sites and nineteenth century trees, including pines on the western bank of South Creek and an olive, mock orange, some pines and kurrajong trees at Dunheved. The sites are significant for their association with the early nineteenth century European settlement of the colony of New South Wales by Governor Philip Gidley and Anna Josepha King's family. The sites are also significant for their association with the pastoralist phase in the New South Wales (NSW) colony (Criterion A.4). The Dunheved archaeological site is likely to provide evidence of the homestead and associated buildings of Philip Parker King's farm which was regarded as the model farm in Australia in the first half of the nineteenth century. Surveys of sub-surface structural remains and deposits have indicated the site's potential to contribute to knowledge about the homestead and farm's living conditions and evolution from c 1807 to the 1920s. The site is likely to contribute to knowledge of early Australian farm complexes (Criterion C.2). The Elizabeth King Farm archaeological site contains sub-surface structural remains, brick scatters and in situ walls and paving dating from the first half of the nineteenth century. Archaeological assessment has supported that it is associated with the early nineteenth century occupation by the King family. It is likely to complement the research potential of the Dunheved archaeological site (Criterion C.2). The King Family Farm Sites and Trees are associated with members of Governor Philip Gidley and Anna Josepha King's family who were prominent pastoralists in the NSW colony. Their son, Philip Parker King, in addition to being a pastoralist, became an eminent Australian born Rear Admiral in the British Navy and an important NSW Colonial Government official. He was also commissioner of the Australian Agricultural Company 1834-44. His wife, Harriet King, managed Dunheved for a numbers of years while her husband was in South America. Elizabeth King was Governor Philip and Anna King's daughter and did not take an active role in managing Elizabeth Farm while living in England. Her grant was sold to Philip Parker King, as was her interest in stock at Dunheved (Criterion H.1). The King Family Farm Sites and Trees are of

exceptional interest for their association with members of the King family. The sites are rare for their potential to yield information on early European settlement, the pastoralist phase and early farming in the NSW colony (Criterion B.2).

It is possible that Indigenous cultural values of National Estate significance may exist in this place. As yet the Australian Heritage Commission has not identified, documented or assessed these values.

**Official Values:** Not Available

**Description:**

All the land grants made to the King family in 1806, that are now within the Australian Defence Industries (ADI) site at St Mary's, were known collectively as The Farm.

Evidence of the King family's settlement of the Penrith area exists as archaeological sites and comprises the Dunheved site and trees, tree plantings on the western bank of South Creek and Elizabeth King's homestead site, referred to as Elizabeth Farm.

Dunheved Homestead archaeological site and trees

The site comprises an avenue of trees running parallel to the creek with evidence of a rubble retaining wall and sandstock brick foundations on the eastern edge of the driveway. There are various plantings in the vicinity. A scatter of artefacts and bricks is located along the embankment down to the creek around and north of a pine tree.

To the north of the main area, near three large trees, is an extensive scatter of structural timber and ceramic and glass artefacts. The site contains sub-surface structural remains of two homestead sites, workers' accommodation, various outbuildings and other structures associated with the operation of the homestead.

Remnants of bricks found near the site are typical of pre-1830 brick making techniques. In addition it is likely to contain features such as cesspits, ovens, wells, rubbish pits, post holes associated with the use of these buildings. The site has been assessed by an archaeologist as having high level archaeological potential and exceptional significance. A number of trees on the site including an olive tree, a mock orange, some pines and kurrajong trees are believed to date from the nineteenth century. Part of Portion 112 in the Parish of Rooty Hill was granted to Philip Parker King in 1806 and the nature of the archaeological remains has been surveyed and found to support its association with the early nineteenth century occupation of the site by the King family.

Pine trees on the western side of South Creek

On the western bank of South Creek, opposite the Dunheved Homestead site, there are two large pine trees and to the south there are several bunya pines planted in a row. The trees all date from the nineteenth century.

Elizabeth Farm archaeological site

The site contains extensive areas of sandstone brick scatter and some in situ walls or paving on both sides of the creek. Some bricks are partially salt glazed and are either flat sandstock or have a shallow rectangular frog. An archaeologist has assessed that the site is likely to contain other sub-surface features, deposits and relics associated with the occupation of this site during the nineteenth century. The

creek that now bisects the site appears to be relatively modern. There are remains of several timber post and spike structures but these appear to be associated with erosion control. Four stone artefacts were noted, three of which were located on the northern mound. Part of Portion 116 in the Parish of Londonderry was granted to Elizabeth King in 1806 and the nature of the archaeological remains have been assessed by an archaeologist as having association with the early nineteenth century occupation of the site by the King family.

### **History:**

The land around South Creek, in the Parishes of Rooty Hill and Londonderry, now St Mary's, was first surveyed and land grants issued in 1803. The King family were free settlers and in 1806 Governor Philip Gidley King granted his legitimate children (King fathered two illegitimate sons earlier at Norfolk Island) Elizabeth, Maria, Mary, Philip Parker and his wife Anna Josepha, some thousands of acres in the area. All the King grants operated as the Farm, where they grazed large herds of cattle and cultivated crops. The Kings' St Mary's estate covered what is now approximately one quarter of the ADI site. The King family were prominent pastoralists, although Governor King's son, Philip Parker King, was the first and for many years the only Australian born who attained eminence outside the Australian colonies. He became a Rear Admiral in the British Navy, was recognised as one of Britain's leading hydrographers, was made a fellow of the Royal Society and published his surveys of the Australian and South American coasts. He was also a prominent government official in New South Wales and a commissioner of the Australian Agricultural Company 1834-44. The Kings constructed two homesteads on their grants.

Dunheved was constructed on land granted to the wife of the Governor, Anna Josepha King and situated to the east of South Creek and Elizabeth Farm was located west of the creek. Both dwellings date from c 1807, although it is likely that two homestead dwellings were built during the life of Dunheved. The first homestead at Dunheved is documented in drawings by family members and Conrad Martins, who had been on the Beagle with Philip Gidley King 1826-30, as being a twin gabled timber, possibly slab or weatherboard, construction with a shingle roof.

The second Dunheved homestead appears in a 1920s photograph showing a corrugated iron roof, front verandah, side timber wall, French doors at front and double hung six pane windows on the side. On the Dunheved archaeological site the homestead appears to be a brick building on stone foundations that was surrounded by a verandah. The Dunheved complex included an observatory, stables and coachhouse. In addition to the main house, there was a three roomed cottage, store room and pantry, kitchen, dairy, farm storeroom, servants' cottage with a garden and a carriage road. There were also workers huts for the gardener, blacksmith, ploughman and head groom. Dunheved and its evolution are well documented in drawings and photographs and surviving family letters. Farming activities at Dunheved included horse breeding, raising poultry, geese, turkeys and donkeys as well as the establishment of 100 orchard trees including orange and lemon trees and a vegetable garden.

Less is known about Elizabeth Farm. Governor King granted Portion 116 of the Parish of Rooty Hill to Elizabeth King on 1 January 1806 as part of her 610 acres.

The land was named Elizabeth Farm and in 1807, Raymond Hassal paid Anthony Rope and Smith fifteen pounds to build a house on Elizabeth Farm. A fence was

erected by 1807 and another record indicates that a stockman's house and stockyards were built at Elizabeth Farm. When Elizabeth King married Charles Runciman and settled in England her grant was sold to Philip Parker King, as was her interest in stock at Dunheved. In 1822, Philip Parker King described the property Dunheved as having 850 horned cattle, forty horses, 1,000 sheep and 100 swine.

Approximately 300 acres of ground had been cleared, 100 acres was under cultivation and 20 acres of artificial grasses were planted. Two thousand pounds had been spent on improvements and 700 pounds on purchasing sheep from Mr Macarthur's flock. He employed forty men on the property and had increased his supply of beef to the Government Stores from 48,000 pounds in 1818 to 89,000 pounds in 1821.

While Governor King never lived at St Mary's, his eldest son, Phillip Parker King and his wife Harriett used Dunheved from 1827-32 as their family residence, while he and their eldest son sailed with the Adventure and the Beagle to chart the coast of South America. From the time that Harriett King and her children arrived at Dunheved it appears that she managed the farm with the assistance of William Hayes and Hannibal Hawkins Macarthur. The King family were prominent land owners in the area well into the nineteenth century. A substantial proportion of their land was still in the name of King's descendants until 1924, when it was resumed by the Federal Government. In 1924, Dunheved was also described in the Nepean Times as the '...model farm of the Commonwealth in the first half of the nineteenth century'.

In 1941, the Dunheved buildings consisted of a brick cottage with seven or so rooms, numerous weatherboard outbuildings and large slab sheds. After Elizabeth Farm was resumed by the Commonwealth in 1942, the eastern area called The Lawn was leased to E Yapp for grazing. The grazing rights for this part of the property were valued at 96 pounds. During World War Two, the Commonwealth Government reserved the land for the development of the munitions factory and the site became one of fifty Government factories built for wartime production. From 1941, the main Dunheved house was used as a depot for surveyors and engineers working on the construction of the ADI munitions factory. Dunheved was demolished in 1947. The manufacture of munitions continued during World War Two, but after the war the site was closed and part of the facility was transferred to private ownership. The Cold War and tensions in South East Asia in the 1950s saw renewed interest in munitions and in 1955 work commenced on the new St Mary's Filling Factory. In 1989, the management of defence supply production was transferred to ADI. Production ceased in 1994. In 1996 ADI cleared most of the buildings and equipment, with only the administration buildings retained and intelligible as part of a former munitions factory.

#### **Condition and Integrity:**

Dunheved archaeological site and trees, pines on western bank of South Creek: By 1994, the Dunheved site was bulldozed and burnt off in the area where the Dunheved building complex was located in the 1940s serials. The site was surveyed by an archaeologist in 1994 and it was noted that the site has integrity. In 1994 there was no evidence of foundations on the west side of South Creek where the pines are located. The area was altered by ADI earth works, the old railway line and the gas pipeline.

Elizabeth Farm archaeological site: By 1994 the area was altered by the construction of a transmission line and erosion controls. Erosion mounds were bulldozed in various places, disturbing part of the largest brick scatter. A topographic map shows the original creek running north-south. The archaeologist noted in 1994 that the site has integrity. A site visit in 1996 suggested that despite land clearance activities on the St Mary's site there have been no major earth works on these sites since 1994.

**Location:**

Comprising: 1) Dunheved Homestead Complex Site, being the area bounded by Links Road on the south-east, the disused railway line alignment between Links Road and South Creek in the south-west, South Creek in the west and a straight line joining AMG points KH92446465 and 92756439 in the north-east; 2) planted pines and bunya pines on the western side of South Creek about 300m west of the Dunheved Homestead Complex Site; and 3) Elizabeth King Farm Site, being the area within a circle of radius 75m centred on AMG point: KH91446451. Off Links Road, Dunheved, St Mary's.

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