

SORELL HERITAGE STUDY

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Address: Imlay Street Dunalley 7177		UPI: 2901474	PID: 0
Name: FISH CANNERIES OF TASMANIA FACTORY			
Feature Type:	Structure Type:	Site Feature Type:	Dating: 1916-1945 1942
	Factory	Wharf	Access Restrictions: Not available
	Warehouse	Slipway	Inspection date: October 96 P Davies
			Style: Post War
			Grid ref: 5625 566400 5251150
Indication of Significance: Probable Significance		Theme: Fishing and Whaling Processing Foods	
Material:		Listings:	
Condition:			
Integrity:			
National Estate Criteria:	A4, B2, C2, D2, F1, H1		Photograph Index: 7:24-32
Risk: Excavation: ☐ Development: ☐ Maintenance: ☒ Vandalism: ☒			
SITE DESCRIPTION: Factory A purpose designed factory for fish canning, now abandoned and falling into disrepair located above the government wharf with remnants of the waterfront structures and equipment surviving as ruins. The main building, which is a complex structure that appears to have had a series of additions to the water side, presents a long main facade to the street with a series of openings and a broken facade to the waterside. The floors are concrete on concrete piers, windows are timber and are largely destroyed. An attached boiler building is on the northern end and still contains a steel boiler on a brick base. There was a concrete cray shed on the wharf, packing shed and scale fish shed in addition to the main factory. The site processed cray, scale fish, scallops and shark fins. The building was on two levels with a smoking room and cans coming to the packing area from the upper level. The remnants on the waterfront are in very poor condition with only several walls and part of a conveyor system surviving. Material: Timber Siding, AC Sheet Condition: Deteriorated Integrity: Disturbed or damaged Storage Shed/Crayfish Steaming Shed The site comprises a slipway with a concrete base, a timber wharf and a reinforced concrete storage shed built over the water on concrete piers. The storage building is a utilitarian structure with poured in situ concrete walls, poorly executed and now showing spalling and concrete cancer, timber windows and an asbestos cement roof. The building is of interest for its technology and the unsuitability of the material for the location with highly corrosive salt water attacking the concrete. The significance of the site is related to the fishing activities that have supported Dunalley and which are now in decline as evidenced by the abandonment of facilities. Material: Reinforced Concrete, AC Sheet Condition: Deteriorated Integrity: Intact			

HISTORY:

Fish processing was allied to Dunalley's fishing industry from at least 1914 when barracouta was smoked using sawdust as a fuel. This operation used water from the nearby reservoir and was established by fishermen who set up a co-operative to ensure higher prices for their catches and marketed direct to Sydney.

Prior to the factory, fresh cray was held in pots off the wharf until ships were ready to take delivery for the mainland, then they were prepared and shipped as there was no refrigeration available. The first Fisherman's Co-op was in a shed on the site of the present slipway.

In 1942 Fish Canneries of Tasmania opened their cannery on an adjacent site, adding cool stores later in the year. The cannery supplied overseas troops. The company owned a number of boats and accommodated the manager and two workers in nearby houses. There was a concrete cray shed, a packing shed, and a scale fish shed as well as the main factory which still stands. The complex processed crays, scale fish, scallops and shark fins. The factory had two floors with a smoking room and cans coming down to the packing area from upstairs. It reflected and consolidated Dunalley as the most important fishing town in the region, although water problems saw its deterioration which was exacerbated as fishermen moved to Triabunna and established a rival works there. The business had a number of owners after 1958 but was declining by 1971.

BOUNDARY:

The listing boundary is formed by Imlay Street, the structures on the water, the Tasman monument to the south and a line 20 metres from the north end of the building and is part of the Dunalley Fish Cannery conservation precinct.

COMMENTS:

The main building and site are significant as the major industry in Dunalley over a long period which was the centre of town activity and employment and for which a number of other buildings were constructed to house staff. The buildings indicate the operation of the canning works and the relationship to the water, jetty and ancillary functions. The site is significant as the decline of the fishing industry paralleled the decline of the town.

The storage shed/crayfish steaming shed is a significant structure as part of the fish canning factory and demonstrates the process of lobster steaming and processing as separate from the general fish canning activity in the main building. The building demonstrates concrete technology (now failing in contact with sea water) and former industrial practice. The building is an important visual element in the wharf group.

It meets Criteria A4, B2, C2, D2, F1 and H1 for inclusion in the Register of the National Estate. It should be included in Schedule 3 of the Sorell Planning Scheme and should be nominated for inclusion in the Tasmanian Heritage Register and the Register of the National Estate.

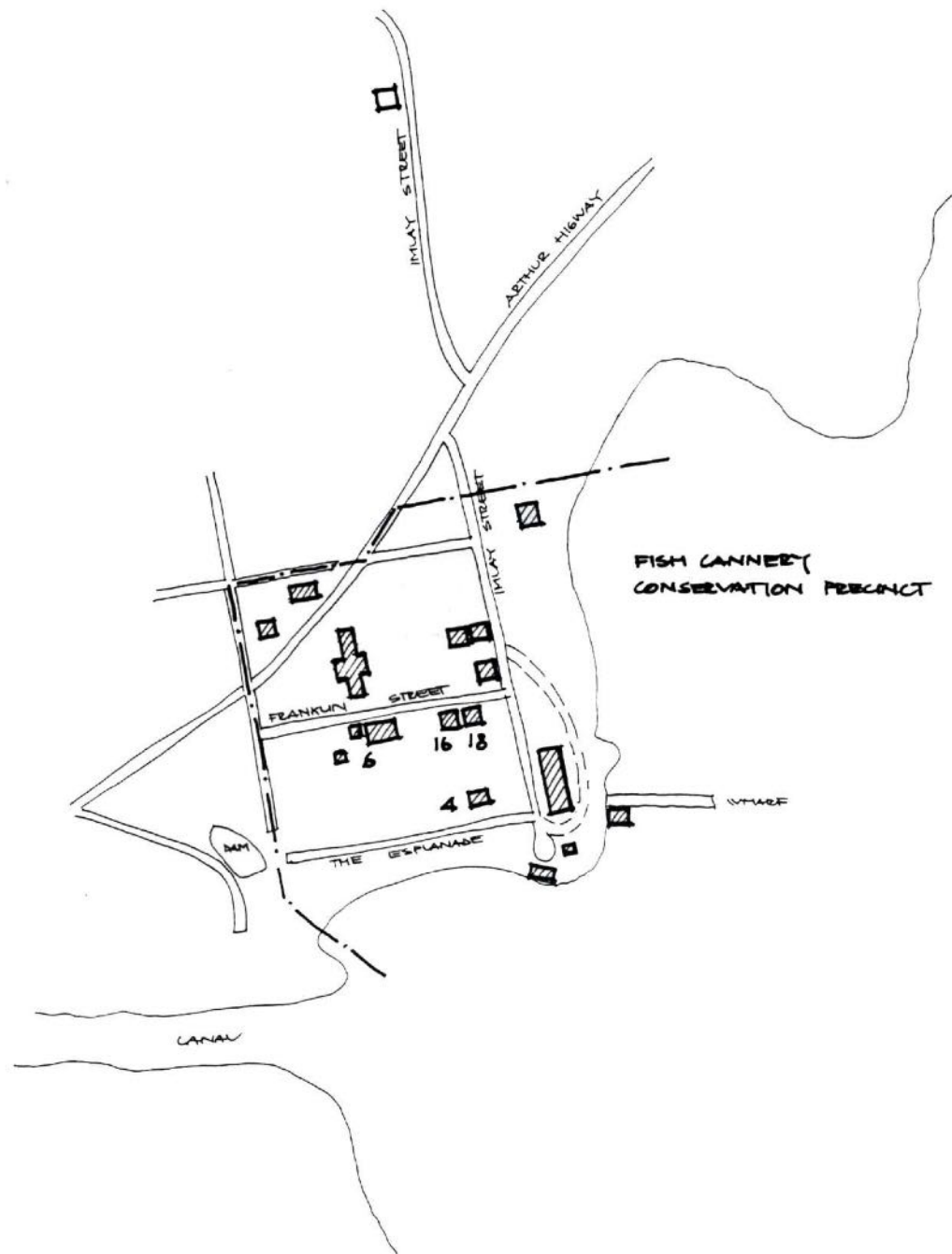
BIBLIOGRAPHY + PREVIOUS STUDIES:

AOT AB 763/4, p381

KERR, Garry. 1985. *Craft and Craftsmen of Australian Fishing 1870-1970: An Illustrated Oral History*. Mains'l Books, Portland.

TERRY, Ian. 1996. *Sorell Heritage Study Stage 1: Thematic History*

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Name: HOUSE

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