

NAME	Canterbury Sugar Works.	INVENTORY NUMBER	20.4
FORMER NAME		LAND TITLE	
ADDRESS	Hutton Street, Canterbury.		



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DESCRIPTION
 Factory complex. Main refinery building of 6 floors with massive internal iron bark timbers. Original hipped roof covered with slate, now replaced by galvanised iron. Arched windows on each floor to provide light grouped in threes on either side of a centred row of blind windows. Central pediment inscribed "ASC 1841".

HISTORY
 Built in 1841 for Australian Sugar Company which closed in 1855. Used as engineering works 1884 onwards. Acquired by Hutton's who occupied it as a bacon factory until 1982.

HISTORICAL THEME

4.1 Food processing.	6.2 A dumping ground for Sydney.
4.6 Rationalisation and changes in scale.	5.6 Changing nature of work.

SIGNIFICANCE
 One of the oldest, if not the oldest industrial complex in N.S.W. and possibly Australia.

HERITAGE AGENCY LISTINGS
 National Trust; P.C.O. 20th September, 1985.

REFERENCE(S)
 Larcombe, 1979, 105-10.

AUSTRALIAN SUGAR COMPANY'S

WORKS (HUTTON'S BACON

FACTORY) CHURCH & HUTTON

STREETS, CANTERBURY

-An Expanded Inventory Form

for the Canterbury Heritage

Study-

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AUSTRALIAN SUGAR COMPANY'S WORKS,

(also known as Hutton's Bacon Factory - now owned by Nick Scali Furniture)

Located on banks of Cooks River at corner of Church and Hutton Streets, Canterbury

DESCRIPTION

The site comprises a collection of buildings from the first occupation of the site c. 1840 to recent times. The main building is a multi-storeyed sandstone industrial building, with hipped corrugated iron roof. It is similar in form and scale to the textile mills built in England in the nineteenth century. Despite many changes to the building, it retains its form and character and the original pattern of fenestration is clearly discernable. There is a small pediment marked "A.S.C. 1841", marking the original ownership of the building. This structure dominates views up and down Cooks River. Drawings, sketches and photographs of the building from the time that it was built show that this has always been the case.

The site also has a number of later industrial structures particularly from ~~its use as Huttons' Bacon Factory from early this century until the early 1980s.~~ A tall chimneystack and its associated buildings are the most prominent of these later structures. Across Church Street. is a Federation cottage built by Huttons for the use of their caretaker, and which remains largely intact. (This is recommended for protection in the Canterbury Heritage Study.)

Few changes have been made to the buildings since Huttons left the site, but the older buildings from Huttons' first occupation and the Sugar Mill building have been vacant for several years and have been vandalised and are in need of repairs.

HISTORY OF THE SITE

The Australian Sugar Company was formed in 1840 by William Knox Child and Francis Kemble. Child was an English banker who Kemble had persuaded to put a great deal of money into forming the Australian Sugar Company in the colony of N.S.W.

The Company brought out many artisans to work on the Sugar Works. After searching around Sydney for a suitable site, which had access to plentiful supplise of timber for fuel and water, they selected a site on the Cooks River at Canterbury. Robert Campbell, occupier of the Canterbury Estate, for which he was to soon received the deeds of grant, made the site available to the Company in exchange for shares in the Company.

Work commenced on erecting the main building beside Cooks River. Scottish stonemasons quarried sandstone on the site, to erect the building. Ironbark was obtained from across the river. A newspaper report of 1841 described the main building as being 100 feet long, 60 feet wide and 60 feet high, with an impressive chimney shaft. There were six floors in the building, whilst adjacent buildings housed the boiler and the engine, and stored the raw and finished sugar. Another report of December 1842, also described the building with its tall chimney, and noted, "The effect of coming suddenly upon such an establishment in the bush, is extremely striking."

The Sugar Company and Robert Campbell subdivided their land in 1841 and auctioned it. The nucleus of the Village of Canterbury thus formed on this land subdivided in 1841. Once sugar production commenced, in 1842, a number of the workers settled in the village. The mill stood at the southern edge of the town, with its principal facade consciously facing the village and not the river.

Sugar was imported from Manilla and worked up into loaf sugar. However, the financial depression which struck the colony in 1841, coupled with bickering amongst the directors and the consequent loss of confidence in the Company, severely hampered production as did the use of old and worn equipment.

The Company struggled on for a number of years, but the works was finally closed in 1854. The company which had suffered a number of mutations, moved elsewhere and became the Colonial Sugar Refining Company (C.S.R.) The works at Canterbury remained inactive until 1884.

In the 1880s, the buildings were acquired by Blacket and Company's engineering works who had hoped to benefit from being located next to the promised suburban railway line. However, the railway line was slow to arrive and the company was bankrupted before the line was built.

There followed another period of inactivity for the works. In the early twentieth century, the works were briefly used as a butter factory, until acquired by Hutton's Smallgoods. Huttons used the old sugar works for the manufacture of smallgoods. A new series of outbuildings were constructed to service the main building. The caretaker's cottage was erected. Huttons occupied the building for many years, until it was sold to Nick Scali Furniture about five years ago.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SUGAR WORKS SITE

The Sugar Works building is significant for several reasons.

It is the only private industrial building which substantially survives in the Sydney area from before the 1851 gold rush. Other surviving industrial buildings are semi-institutional structures, such as the Female Factory at Parramatta. This is the only early private industrial complex to survive on such a large scale. It probably has Australia-wide significance for this reason.

The site contains structures and other evidence of its most successful use as the Huttons Smallgoods factory from the early twentieth century until the early 1980s.

It is the sole remaining industrial use in this part of the Cooks River.

The main building dominates the Cooks River landscape and has always been a notable and dominant structure in the original subdivision of **Canterbury**.

The site has considerable archaeological potential. During various phases of the building's use for manufacturing and other purposes, a number of structures have been erected and removed and there is likely to be a considerable amount of archaeological material both above and below ground, probably dating from the 1840s to the present. (Listings : National Trust, May 1979; Permanent Conservation Order, by Heritage Council of NSW, 18 Oct 1985, and 24 April 1986)

THE CONSERVATION OF THE SUGAR WORKS SITE

This Statement of Significance is based only on the readily available documentary information and on a brief inspection of the site. A thorough investigation, in accordance with Australia ICOMOS' **Guidelines to the Burra Charter: Cultural Significance**, would result in a more explicit statement identifying which buildings and areas of the site were significant and why. In particular, it would clarify the archaeological significance of the site. The Sugar Works is the oldest building in the Municipality of Canterbury and the only item likely to be of national significance. It was the impetus for the creation of the village of Canterbury, and it is the only substantial evidence of the nineteenth century village.

Anyone attempting work on the site needs to investigate what evidence remains of the history of the structures and their site, and decisions need

to be made about what should be conserved. There are several major questions for which expert advice is obviously needed, such as conservation of the stonework (which openings should be reinstated and why), the position and arrangement of new floor levels in the building. An engineer experienced in conservation work would be required as would an expert on stone conservation. A multi-disciplinary team should undertake the overall study of the site in accordance with Article 4 of the Burra Charter.

In addition to the great care necessary for any works to the building, care should also be taken with treatment of the site and its surroundings. As stated above, the dominance of the building in the landscape, unfettered by any competition from other structures, particularly alongside, is one of the property's major significant characteristics.

ATTACHMENTS

Plans showing Sugar Works site at various dates.