

Register of Historic Places and Objects

SHI Number

4671009

The PHA NSW Heritage Register

Item Name: **Mt. Drysdale Station**Location: **Bourke Road, 34 kms from Tindary turnoff, Cobar**

Address: Bourke Road

Corner:

Suburb / Nearest Town: 34 kms from Tindary turnoff, Cobar
2386

State: NSW

Local Govt Area: Local Government Area:
CobarDUAP Region:
Southern & WesternHistoric region:
Western Plains

Property Identifier:

Boundary:

Item Type: Area/Complex/Group Group: Farming and Grazing Category: Pastoralism

Owner: Private - Individual

Owner Codes:

Code 2:

Code 3:

Current Use: Tourism

Former Uses: Sheep station

Assessed Significance:

Endorsed Significance:

Statement of Significance: The Mt. Drysdale area is significant because it is associated with a number of significant phases of human occupation and activity. Mt. Drysdale is significant in the Dreaming legends and creation story of the Nympha people and these legends are physically represented in the landscape. Remnant chert and ochre quarries are associated with Aboriginal occupation and traditional way of life.

Evidence of European occupation and land use exists in the remains of gold mines and structures associated with gold mining in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This was a significant phase in Mt. Drysdale's history, the township taking its name from prospector, David Drysdale, the discoverer of the Drysdale mine, which was one of the richest gold mines of its time. The site is also associated with the massacre of Nympha Aboriginal people by miners in 1899.

Pastoralism was another activity carried on in the area, evidence of which remains.

Historical Notes or Provenance: The Mt. Drysdale area is associated with the Nympha people and their dreaming legends and creation story (Personal communication, Gavin Andrews and Frances Bodkin to Sue Rosen, 4 September, 2000).

In the general area, gold had been mined since 1881. Mt. Billagoe and other deposits were held under gold leases by early 1888. In the early 1890s David Drysdale, a successful and well known prospector, with and a party of other prospectors, travelled to Mt. Billagoe seeking their fortunes in the new gold field. In 1892 R. M. McPherson discovered alluvial gold in a gully on the western side of Mt. Drysdale. A search for the source of this gold led to the discovery of the Drysdale and Eldorado mines by David Drysdale that same year. The main period of mining at Mt. Drysdale and Eldorado mines was between 1892 and 1909. The township was named after Drysdal and at its peak supported four hotels, a school, church, post office and police station (NSW Dept. Of Mineral Resources, Minfact No. 51 - Mt. Drysdale, 1995).

Professional Historians Association (NSW) Inc

Date: 18/08/2001

Full Report

Page 1

Register of Historic Places and Objects

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Location: **Bourke Road, 34 kms from Tindary turnoff, Coba**

In 1899 a massacre of the Nympha people was committed by miners (Personal communication, Gavin Andrews and Frances Bodkin to Sue Rosen, 4 September, 2000).

Mining activity ceased in 1911, however small scale prospecting and re-treatment of tailing dumps continued between 1928 and 1948. Further exploration activities have been pursued by CRA since 1961. In the 1970s and 1980s exploration activity increased but was centred on base metals rather than gold (NSW Dept. Of Mineral Resources, 1995).

National Themes: Building settlements, towns and cities

State Themes: Aboriginal pre-contact
Aboriginal post-contact
Death
Defence
Land tenure
Mining
Pastoralism
Townships

Study Themes:

Designer:

Maker / Builder:

Year Started:

Year Completed:

Circa: No

Physical Description: Area comprising 5,000 acres, containing an Aboriginal legend site. An Aboriginal quarry also exists, where chert was mined for spear points; 400-500 hearths have been found and an extensive ochre quarry exists. Artefacts such as ochre plates are in evidence.

Other physical features include remnant European gold mines, a cemetery and 3 former townships, a government tank and a house linked with the mining phase. Evidence of pastoral activities exists in a shearing shed and sheep dip.

Physical Condition:

Modification Dates:

**Recommended
Management:**

Further Comments:

Historical Significance: (a) The Mt. Drysdale area demonstrates the overlays of patterns of human use and occupation. Originally occupied by the Nympha Aboriginal people, evidence remains of quarrying and mining activities such as a chert mine, where 400-500 hearths have been found, and an ochre quarry, from which artefacts such as ochre plates are in evidence. Evidence of European occupation and land use is evident in remnant gold mines, former

Professional Historians Association (NSW) Inc

Date: 18/08/2001

Full Report

Page 2

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townships, cemetery, a tank and house relating to the gold mining era, a major phases in NSW and Australian history. The site also provides evidence of pastoral activities through a remnant shearing shed and sheep dip.

(b) The area is associated with the Nympha Aboriginal people and with their dreaming legends and creation story, evidence of which remains in the landscape features. The site is also associated with a massacre perpetrated by miners against the Nympha people, which occurred in 1899.

The name, Mt. Drysdale, demonstrates the site's association with the gold mining era, being named after the discoverer of major gold deposits, David Drysdale.

Aesthetic Significance:**Social Significance:****Technical / Research:****Representativeness:****Rare Assessment:****Integrity / Intactness:**

References:	Author:	Title:	Year:
	Andrews, Gavin & Bodkin, Frances	Personal Communication to Sue Rosen	2000
	NSW Department of Mineral Resources	Minfact No. 51 - Mt. Drysdale	1995

Studies:**Listings:****Custom Field One:****Custom Field Two:** Rosemary Kerr of Sue Rosen & Associates, Heritage Assessment And History**Custom Field Three:** 11/09/2000**Custom Field Four:****Custom Field Five:****Custom Field Six:****Data Entry:** Date First Entered: 04/07/2001 Date Updated: 04/07/2001 Status: Completed