

QUONDONG

Lots A & B DP 156043 No. 15 Old Menangle Road, Campbelltown
Gabled Hall, built c.1843



HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION:

This building is shown on the Bradbury Park estate map (1844) and pre-dates the Queen Street buildings and making it one of the oldest buildings in Campbelltown. It was built as a school in a style of some idiosyncrasy of the Old Catholic gothic style and was the first catholic school in Australia to be built from private subscription. The Catholic Church only acquired the land in November 1840, from Mary Shiells, though Bishop Polding laid the foundation stone for the school on March 17 1840. Quondong is associated with the growth of the Catholic Church in Australia. Father JJ Therry, father Goold, Arch-bishop Polding, John Plunkett, Patrick Newman and the sisters of the Good Samaritan.

It is a gabled hall of plastered brick, with a veranda across the front added later, as were the urns on the round-topped pilaster-butresses. Was built C. 1843 and appears to be named after the old Kurrangong at the front.

Mr & Mrs Plunket were the school's first teachers. Mr. W. B. Reebie who came from the school at Appin taught in 1843 and in 1844 Mr & Mrs Edward Webb were the teachers. In 1858 Mr. Toohey was paid £1.10.0 per week for cleaning the water hole at the school that was the school's water supply. In 1865 Patrick Newman was in charge of the school.

It remained in use as a school until 1914 when Father James Dunne opened St John's Primary School in Lindsay Street. It was then sold to Mrs Kate Keihone who had it converted to a dwelling, and wishing to give it a truly Australian title, renamed it Quondong.

Local legend has it that at one time it was divided down the centre and that one side was a Catholic school and the other an Anglican school. However no evidence had been found to support this story. Mrs Keihone sold it to her nephew William Thomas Bourke who resided there till the 1950's when Mrs Cyril Seagal of Wilton owned it till 1991.

CONDITION AND USE:

Recently, it has been restored and is now known as the "Quondong Visitor Centre" which was officially opened on 20 April 1997, during heritage week.

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:

- One of Campbelltown's earliest buildings with a distinctive architectural style
- Association with early Australian education
- Association with the early growth of the Catholic Church in Australia

- One of the oldest school houses in Australia.

HERITAGE LISTING:

LOCAL: LEP 2002

STATE: *Proudfoot:* Index No. 86, Category 1 (Key Building)

Macarthur Regional Heritage Study: Map 5, No. 88

National Trust (NSW): Classified

FEDRAL: *Heritage Commission (National Estate):* Registered