

MOUNT GILEAD GROUP

Lot 1 DP 807555 Appin Road, Gilead

Group of stone buildings, windmill and dam built 1820's on.

No photo currently available.

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION:

Superbly sited on along spur of land running parallel to Appin Road, Mount Gilead posses a group of fine stone buildings culminating in the tower of a windmill on the highest point of the ridge. The rest of the group consists of the homestead, now altered and extended, but in stone; the two storey stone and stable building, reputed, but without documentary evidence, to be designed by Greenway and dating from his time; a large substantial "Granary" or store south east of the homestead and several other minor stone service buildings are situated south of the house.

The land where the buildings stand was granted in 1812 to Reuben Uther, 161.9 hectares (400 acres), and in 1818 was purchased by Thomas Rose, who made many improvements and increased the size of the holding by purchasing surrounding land.

The dam, built in 1824 appears to be the first successful attempt at water conservation in New South Wales. Rose built an embankment of stone and rammed earth across a natural decline in his land and drained the run-off water into an artificial lake. This provided a constant source of water sufficient to withstand the extensive drought of 1829. later, Rose built a cheaper dam or rammed earth near the Campbelltown-Appin Road for the use of his neighbours and travelers. Rose built several dams and in 1836 built the great stone windmill on the ridge, reputed to have contained the finest millstones in the colony.

After Rose died, the estate was sold in 1861, to Edmund Hume Woodhouse, also an Appin man. It was sold again in 1888.

CONDITION AND USE:

The property has been a working property for some time. Various owners grazed cattle and sheep. Mount Gilead is currently used as a working diary farm. The windmill is without sails now, but the tower mill is structurally sound. The house has been extended, in character, by a long wing on the western side and altered internally. One wall of the stone store building collapsed and has been rebuilt. All buildings are well maintained.

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:

- The group have Historical, Architectural, Archaeological, Aesthetic and Group Significance
- It is a great estate on a superb site with a collection of interesting stone buildings. The landscape is splendid.
- Water conservation methods were successfully pioneered at Mt Gilead

- The tower mill is believed to be the last tower-mill in New South Wales.

HERITAGE LISTING:

LOCAL: LEP 193

STATE: *Proudfoot:* Index no. 106, Category 1 (Key Building group)

Macarthur Regional Heritage Study: Map 8, No. 36

National Trust (NSW): Classified

NSW Heritage Act 1977: Listed under the Act – although not on the State Heritage Register