

INVENTORY of SITES & ITEMS


LP

LITTLE PELICAN

HERITAGE STUDY

HERITAGE STUDY

INVENTORY SUMMARY - LIST OF SITES & ITEMS		LITTLE PELICAN - LP	
ITEM No.	DESCRIPTION and LOCATION	TYPE	SIGNIFICANCE
	LITTLE PELICAN - LP		S R L
LP-01	14 LITTLE PELICAN COTTAGES, LITTLE PELICAN RESERVE	DW	M V

NAME/IDENTITY: LITTLE PELICAN COTTAGES, LITTLE PELICAN RESERVE		ITEM No. LP - 01
PREVIOUS/OTHER NAMES OR USES: 14 tenanted cottages with outbuildings		
ADDRESS: Little Pelican Reserve Little Pelican 2281		S.H.I.P. REF. No.
PARISH: KAHIBAH COUNTY: Northumberland		DATE INSPECTED: October 1992
PRESENT OWNER (Name & Address):		BY: Doring
		REAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: SITE AREA: CURRENT ZONING:
CATEGORY: Buildings	MAP 1:25000 No. 9231-4-N	
SUBCATEGORY: Single storey residences	NAME: SWANSEA GRID: 728 392	
HISTORICAL THEMES: S.H.I.P. Themes: LOCAL Themes:		
HISTORICAL PERIOD - BUILT: 1926-1950		USED: continuous
BUILDER: D.I.Y. with "found" materials		DATE BUILT: c1920 & 1930s
ARCHITECT/DESIGNER:		
PHOTOGRAPH &/OR SKETCH PLAN (and caption): Little Pelican Row, viewed from the north. The Swansea Channel is straight ahead on the far side of the cottage. A typical "handcrafted" cottage in (Doring Neg.421.34)		
		
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KNOWN HERITAGE LISTINGS:				
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS				
Architectural Style:	vernacular/primitive			
MATERIALS - Frame:	timber	Roof:	gables & lean-to, cgi	
Walls/Cladding:	cgi & found materials	Windows:	various	
Interior:		Floors:		
DESCRIPTION: Land is reclaimed swamp, very flat & just above water level. The 14 cottages were mostly simple gable roofed boathouses, with lean-tos added on for holidays, and then (1930s) turned into permanent housing. Most cottages face west across a lawn to Swansea Channel & moorings. Vegetable patches, dunnies, primitive garages, water tanks & lawn are on the street side. Few fences separate the dwellings. The small & picturesque colony is approached through a pretty paperbark forest and is backed by swampland on Pelican Inlet.				
MODIFICATIONS: Modification of the cottages has probably been continuous. Several former cottages at the north end of the row are said to have been demolished some years ago, and the swamp has returned over their sites.				
PRESENT USE: domestic residences (permissive occupancy tenancies or leases)				
HISTORICAL NOTES: A typical story is that of a present tenant who lives in the cottage his grandparents built. In 1926 a young couple from a mining family in Pelaw Main built themselves a boatshed for holidays. The miner lost his job & house in the Depression, so they added onto their boatshed and moved in. The other cottages have been inhabited in much the same way.				
REFERENCES: verbal information from local people.				
EVALUATION CRITERIA:				
HISTORIC	Rare ()	Associative ()	Representative ()	
AESTHETIC	Rare ()	Associative ()	Representative ()	
SOCIAL	Rare ()	Associative ()	Representative ()	
SCIENTIFIC	Rare ()	Associative ()	Representative ()	
OTHER	Rare ()	Associative ()	Representative ()	
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: Little Pelican Row is probably unique. It is the last surviving relic of a way of life which once prevailed in scattered settlements & isolated "boatsheds" or shanties around Lake Macquarie. When Hunter valley miners lost their jobs & houses in the Depression, hundreds of them retreated to the Lake, where they survived on fish & vegetables, in tents or shanties. Little Pelican Row colony grew from a row of holiday boatsheds & was caused by the desperation of the Great Depression. A single cottage of the same period & inspiration, but built from adobe, is also included in the inventory (ER-05). The Little Pelican Row cottages are primitive & unconventional, but they are well cared for, much loved, & exceedingly picturesque. They vividly evoke a lost time & the Depression era lives of the unemployed miners & their families who lived in them.				
Local Significance - very high			Regional Signif.- moderate	
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Top: The front of some of the cottages in the row facing west across boat moorings to the Swansea Channel. The cottages are viewed from the north end. (Doring Neg.421.33)

Bottom: The street (east) side of the row of cottages, viewed from the north. Some of the cottages are visible, plus garages, dunnies and water tanks. (Doring Neg.421.36)



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