

INVENTORY of SITES & ITEMS

RM

RATHMINES

INVENTORY SUMMARY - LIST OF SITES & ITEMS

RATHMINES - RM

ITEM No.	DESCRIPTION and LOCATION	TYPE	SIGNIFICANCE
RATHMINES - RM			S R L
RM-00	former RAAF FLYING-BOAT BASE, RATHMINES Prepare a heritage inventory, heritage assessment and a conservation & management plan for the defined area.	c TO	M H V
RM-01	CATALINA MEMORIAL NURSING HOME, DORRINGTON Rd, RATHMINES Include in a heritage inventory, heritage assessment and a conservation & management plan prepared for the whole area of the Flying Boat Base.	ME	H V
RM-02	COMMUNITY HALL, STILLING St, RATHMINES Include in a heritage inventory, heritage assessment and a conservation & management plan prepared for the whole area of the Flying Boat Base. This building would be enhanced by a paint scheme sympathetic to its 1920s bungalow origins.	EN	H V
RM-03	CATAMARAN CLUB, STILLING St, RATHMINES Include in a heritage inventory, heritage assessment and a conservation & management plan prepared for the whole area of the Flying Boat Base. The builders' shed perched on the roof detracts from the heritage significance of the item.	SP	M H
RM-04	CHRISTADELPHIAN SCHOOL, STILLING St, RATHMINES More information needed. Include in a heritage inventory, heritage assessment and a conservation & management plan prepared for the whole area of the Flying Boat Base.	SC	H V
RM-05	FLYING BOAT RAMPS, off STILLING St, RATHMINES Include in a heritage inventory, heritage assessment and a conservation & management plan prepared for the whole area of the Flying Boat Base. It would be a pity if the ramps and apron were to be built over.	w WH	M H
RM-06	RATHMINES BOWLING CLUB, STILLING St, RATHMINES Include in a heritage inventory, heritage assessment and a conservation & management plan prepared for the whole area of the Flying Boat Base.	SP	M H
RM-07	CATALINA WAR MEMORIAL, CATALINA PARK, RATHMINES Include in a heritage inventory, heritage assessment and a conservation & management plan prepared for the whole area of the Flying Boat Base.	w CE	M M H
INVENTORY SUMMARY - LIST OF SITES & ITEMS			

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RATHMINES - RM

ITEM No.	DESCRIPTION and LOCATION	TYPE	SIGNIFICANCE
RATHMINES - RM			S R L
RM-08	RATHMINES HOLIDAY CAMP, STILLING St, RATHMINES Include in a heritage inventory, heritage assessment and a conservation & management plan prepared for the whole area of the Flying Boat Base.	HO	M M
RM-09	BRICK STORE, STILLINGS STREET, RATHMINES Include in a heritage inventory, heritage assessment and a conservation & management plan prepared for the whole area of the Flying Boat Base.	FW	M M
RM-10	BOAT SLIP, STYLES Pt, off OVERHILL Rd, RATHMINES Include in a heritage inventory, heritage assessment and a conservation & management plan prepared for the whole area of the Flying Boat Base.	W WH	L M

INVENTORY SUMMARY - LIST OF SITES & ITEMS

HERITAGE STUDY

Suters - Doring - Turner Study (1992-93)

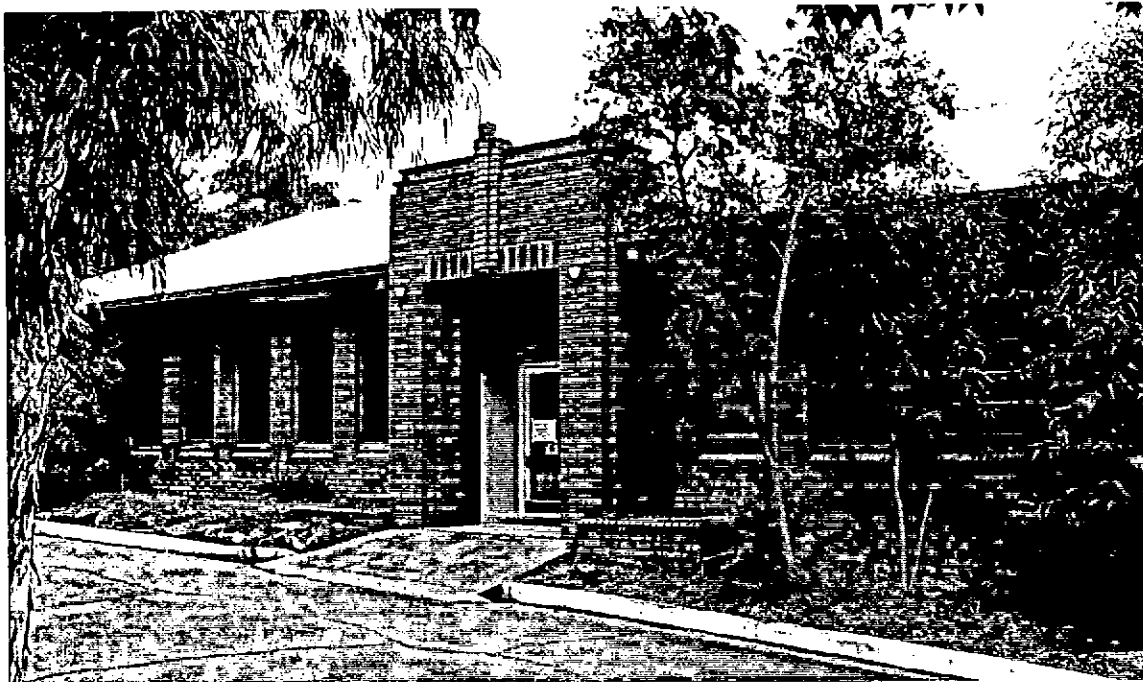
HERITAGE STUDY

Suters - Doring - Turner Study (1992-93): AREAS

CITY OF LAKE MACQUARIE

HERITAGE STUDY

NAME/IDENTITY	former RAAF FLYING-BOAT BASE, RATHMINES		ITEM No.	RM - 00																				
KNOWN HERITAGE LISTINGS:																								
<p>PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS</p> <p>Townscape or Landscape Features: This area is largely parkland at present, with a few scattered buildings. East & south of the Catalina Memorial Nursing Home the parkland indigenous & introduced trees. West of the Nursing Home is mostly uncleared bushland.</p> <p>Other Details of Physical Appearance:</p>																								
<p>DESCRIPTION: The area has lost a large part of the atmosphere of a military base because most of the buildings, once densely packed on the peninsula north & east of the Hospital & Rosemary Row, have almost all vanished. A huge hangar & extensive barracks have gone & of the buildings which survive, many seem to have been moved from their wartime positions. The broad concrete Catalina slips remain untouched, & a boatslip on Styles Point is still recognisable.</p>																								
<p>MODIFICATIONS: Many buildings have been demolished, and many of those which survive appear to have been moved.</p>																								
<p>PRESENT USE: Parkland, playing grounds, community meeting place, private school, bowling club, nursing home & recreation area.</p>																								
<p>HISTORICAL NOTES: An RAAF station to be used as the principal base for the Catalina Flying Boat Squadron/s was established at Rathmines 14th August 1939. Permanent & temporary buildings rapidly covered much of the subject area. The Base closed 30 Nov 1952. In 1963 LMCC bought the land from the Commonwealth. 150 acres west of Overhill Rd became homesites, the rest as noted above.</p>																								
<p>REFERENCES: Nilsen, L.(ed), "Lake Macquarie: Past & Present", pub. LMCC 1985. Riddell, J., "Catalina Squadrons, First & Furthest", pub. author, 1992. Verbal information from local residents. Nilsen notes other texts (not seen) but it is not known whether these deal with the buildings of the RAAF base.</p>																								
<p>EVALUATION CRITERIA:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">HISTORIC</td> <td style="width: 25%;">Rare ()</td> <td style="width: 25%;">Associative ()</td> <td style="width: 25%;">Representative ()</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AESTHETIC</td> <td>Rare ()</td> <td>Associative ()</td> <td>Representative ()</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SOCIAL</td> <td>Rare ()</td> <td>Associative ()</td> <td>Representative ()</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SCIENTIFIC</td> <td>Rare ()</td> <td>Associative ()</td> <td>Representative ()</td> </tr> <tr> <td>OTHER</td> <td>Rare ()</td> <td>Associative ()</td> <td>Representative ()</td> </tr> </table>					HISTORIC	Rare ()	Associative ()	Representative ()	AESTHETIC	Rare ()	Associative ()	Representative ()	SOCIAL	Rare ()	Associative ()	Representative ()	SCIENTIFIC	Rare ()	Associative ()	Representative ()	OTHER	Rare ()	Associative ()	Representative ()
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<p>STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: Rathmines RAAF Base (1939-1952) had a profound effect on post-WW2 development in Lake Macquarie. Rathmines was the largest flying-boat base in Australia, with the "Seaplane Training Flight", seamanship & gunnery courses, trades training, main repair shops for all flying-boats & a major RAAF communications centre. Many men who came to work at the Base stayed in the area after the war & formed a technologically skilled army which helped develop power stations, mechanised coal mines & much of the present private industrial & commercial base of the City. Surviving structures in the subject area are an important heritage resource for the City of Lake Macquarie.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: Prepare a heritage inventory, heritage assessment and a conservation & management plan for the defined area.</p> <p>State Signif.- moderate -if no contemp. military base exists</p> <p>Local Signif.- very high Regional Signif. - high</p>																								
			ITEM No.	RM - 00																				

NAME/IDENTITY: NURSING HOME, DORRINGTON Rd, RATHMINES		ITEM No. RM - 01
PREVIOUS/OTHER NAMES OR USES: Catalina Memorial Nursing Home, Westlakes Hospital, RAAF Base Hospital		
ADDRESS: 171 Dorrington Road Rathmines 2283 (north side of road in Rathmines Recr. Reserve)		S.H.I.P. REF. No.
PARISH: Awaba COUNTY: Northumberland		DATE INSPECTED: October 1992
PRESENT OWNER (Name & Address): Mayo Private Hospital		BY: Doring
CATEGORY: Building SUBCATEGORY: Hospital		REAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: DP 226531 SITE AREA: 5198,000m2 CURRENT ZONING: 6(b) Spec Rec.
HISTORICAL THEMES: S.H.I.P. Themes: LOCAL Themes:		MAP 1:25000 No. 9231-4-N NAME: SWANSEA GRID: 685 432
HISTORICAL PERIOD - BUILT: 1926-1950		USED: continuous
BUILDER: Com. of Aust. Dept of Public Works		DATE BUILT: c1942-1943
ARCHITECT/DESIGNER: Probably a Commonwealth Dept. of Works Architect		
PHOTOGRAPH &/OR SKETCH PLAN (and caption): The entrance & part of the front elevation of the former RAAF Base Hospital, then the Westlakes Hospital, & now the Catalina Memorial Nursing Home, viewed from the south-east. (Doring Neg.413.02)		
		
		ITEM No. RM - 01


CITY OF LAKE MACQUARIE

HERITAGE STUDY

NAME/IDENTITY	NURSING HOME, DORRINGTON Rd, RATHMINES		ITEM No.	RM - 01																				
KNOWN HERITAGE LISTINGS:																								
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS																								
Architectural Style:		Inter-War Art Deco																						
MATERIALS - Frame:	brick	Roof: hipped, Kliplock cladding brick parapeted gable entrance																						
Walls/Cladding:	exterior, tapestry brick	Windows: dh, 2 horiz. glazing bars each sash																						
Interior:	not seen	Floors:																						
<p>DESCRIPTION: An RAAF hospital would have stood on this site from soon after the Catalina Base opened in 1939. The street front, with its highly developed facade in the latest Art Deco style of the late 1930s, probably followed a few years later. The ornamental grille over the front door & the parapet moulding are classic Art Deco detailing. Tapestry bricks & horizontal glazing bars were at the forefront of fashion in the 1940s. The rest of the hospital was not inspected, but it is doubtful if any original RAAF buildings survive.</p>																								
<p>MODIFICATIONS: To the street front - The Kliplock roof cladding and a new front door. Elsewhere - not known. The street front is in remarkably good order.</p>																								
PRESENT USE: Nursing Home																								
<p>HISTORICAL NOTES: An RAAF station, to be used as the principal base for the Catalina Flying Boat Squadron/s was established at Rathmines 14th August 1939. The subject street front building was probably built c1942/5, some time after the hospital was established. After the war, it became the Westlakes Hospital, & recently was changed to the Catalina Memorial Nursing Home.</p>																								
<p>REFERENCES: Nilsen, L.(ed), "Lake Macquarie: Past & Present", pub. LMCC 1985. Riddell, J., "Catalina Squadrons, First & Furthest", pub. author, 1992. Verbal information from local residents. Nilsen notes other texts (not seen) but it is not known whether these deal with the buildings of the RAAF base.</p>																								
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<p>STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: Rathmines RAAF Base (1939-1952) had a profound effect on post-WW2 development in Lake Macquarie. Rathmines was the largest flying-boat base in Australia, with the "Seaplane Training Flight", seamanship & gunnery courses, trades training, main repair shops for all flying-boats & a major RAAF communications centre. The hospital was very important in helping to keep the base operational. Since the War the hospital has continued to play an important part in the community health & social life of Westlakes. The architecture of the street front wing of the hospital is representative of the popular Art Deco style, which is nevertheless very rare in Lake Macquarie.</p>																								
RECOMMENDATION: See RM-00.																								
Local Signif. - very high			Regional Signif. - high																					
			ITEM No. RM - 01																					

CITY OF LAKE MACQUARIE

HERITAGE STUDY

NAME/IDENTITY: COMMUNITY HALL, STILLING St, RATHMINES		ITEM No. RM - 02
PREVIOUS/OTHER NAMES OR USES: RAAF Rathmines Airmens' Recreational Centre (Other Ranks' Mess)		
ADDRESS: Stilling Street Rathmines 2283 (east side opposite Dorrington St)		S.H.I.P. REF. No.
PARISH: AWABA COUNTY: Northumberland		DATE INSPECTED: October 1992
PRESENT OWNER (Name & Address):		BY: Doring
CATEGORY: Building		REAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:
SUBCATEGORY: Other Community Hall/Centre		SITE AREA: CURRENT ZONING:
HISTORICAL THEMES: S.H.I.P. Themes: LOCAL Themes:		MAP 1:25000 No. 9231-4-N NAME: SWANSEA GRID: 687 430
HISTORICAL PERIOD - BUILT: 1926-1950		USED: intermittently ?
BUILDER: Com. of Aust. Dept of Public Works		DATE BUILT: c1940-41
ARCHITECT/DESIGNER: Probably a Commonwealth Dept. of Works Architect		
PHOTOGRAPH &/OR SKETCH PLAN (and caption): The former RAAF Rathmines Base Airmens' (Other Ranks') Mess, viewed from the south-west. (Doring Neg.413.08)		
		
		ITEM No. RM - 02

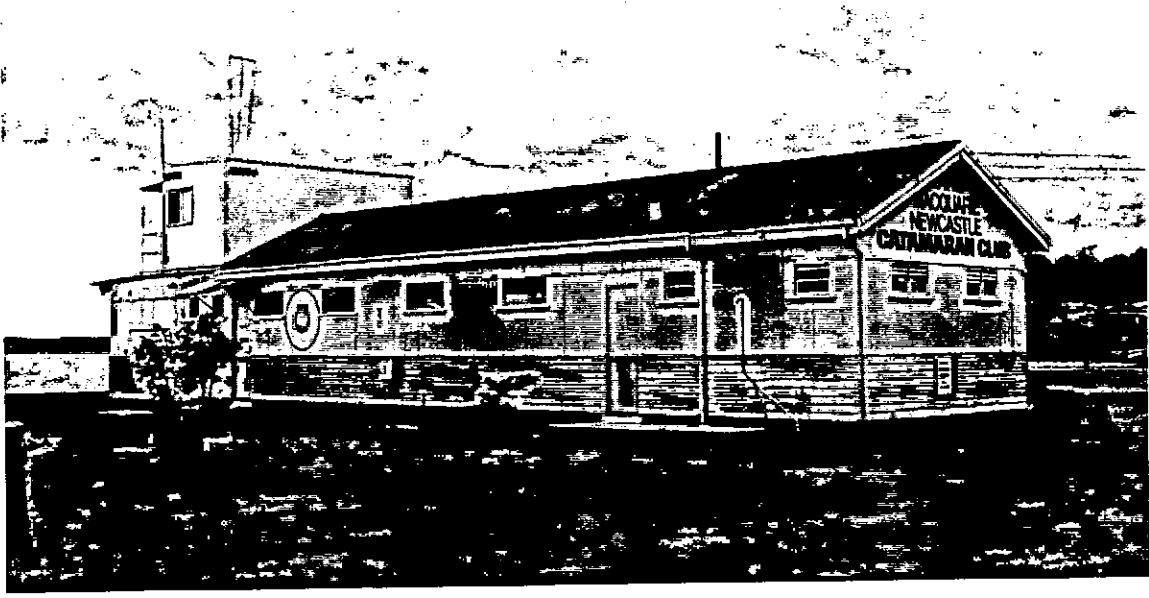
CITY OF LAKE MACQUARIE

HERITAGE STUDY

NAME/IDENTITY	COMMUNITY HALL, STILLING St, RATHMINES	ITEM No. RM - 02																				
KNOWN HERITAGE LISTINGS:																						
<p>PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS</p> <p>Architectural Style: Public Works Institutional/Bungalow Style</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"><tr><td style="width: 33%;">MATERIALS - Frame: Timber</td><td style="width: 33%;">Roof: corr. ac, gable & gabled hip</td><td style="width: 33%;"></td></tr><tr><td>Walls/Cladding: rebated w'boards to dado strapped ac sheet above</td><td>Windows: pairs short dh w.2-p/s fixed triple sash in clerestory</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Interior: not seen</td><td>Floors:</td><td></td></tr></table>			MATERIALS - Frame: Timber	Roof: corr. ac, gable & gabled hip		Walls/Cladding: rebated w'boards to dado strapped ac sheet above	Windows: pairs short dh w.2-p/s fixed triple sash in clerestory		Interior: not seen	Floors:												
MATERIALS - Frame: Timber	Roof: corr. ac, gable & gabled hip																					
Walls/Cladding: rebated w'boards to dado strapped ac sheet above	Windows: pairs short dh w.2-p/s fixed triple sash in clerestory																					
Interior: not seen	Floors:																					
<p>DESCRIPTION: Widespread shallow pitched half gable roof, with a raised gable-roofed clerestory indicating the size of the central hall, surrounded by other rooms at the corners. Formal entry at south end has wide shallow brick steps & parapeted portico in ac sheet imitating brick construction. The dado-ed walls are characteristic of a 1920s architects' fashion in bungalows (see SP-12), adopted by the military for its cheap but robust nature, & similarity to British Army tropical barracks.</p>																						
<p>MODIFICATIONS: not known</p>																						
<p>PRESENT USE: community hall</p>																						
<p>HISTORICAL NOTES: RAAF Base for Catalina Flying Boat Squadron/s established at Rathmines 14th August 1939. Permanent & temporary buildings covered much of the site. A substantial Other Ranks' Mess was probably built quite early, for the hundreds of men living on site. Base closed Nov 1952. LMCC bought land in 1963. The Mess was one of few buildings retained & was used as Community Hall.</p>																						
<p>REFERENCES: Nilsen, L.(ed), "Lake Macquarie: Past & Present", pub. LMCC 1985. Riddell, J., "Catalina Squadrons, First & Furthest", pub. author, 1992. Verbal information from local residents. Nilsen notes other texts (not seen) but it is not known whether these deal with the buildings of the RAAF base.</p>																						
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<p>STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: Rathmines RAAF Base had a profound effect on post-WW2 development in Lake Macquarie. Rathmines was the largest flying-boat base in Australia, with "Seaplane Training Flight", seamanship & gunnery courses, trades training, main repair shops for all flying-boats & major communications centre. The Other Ranks' Mess (or Airmens' Recreational Centre) was vital in providing a recreational outlet for the hundreds of men who were bound to spend most of their time confined to this small area. Since the 1960s the Mess has been a versatile & valuable community facility. This attractive building with its complex wide-spreading roof & interesting wall treatment represents an almost vanished military bungalow style.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: See RM-00. This building would be enhanced by a paint scheme sympathetic to its 1920s bungalow origins.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"><tr><td style="width: 50%;">Local Signif. - very high</td><td style="width: 50%;">Regional Signif. - high</td></tr></table>			Local Signif. - very high	Regional Signif. - high																		
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CITY OF LAKE MACQUARIE

HERITAGE STUDY

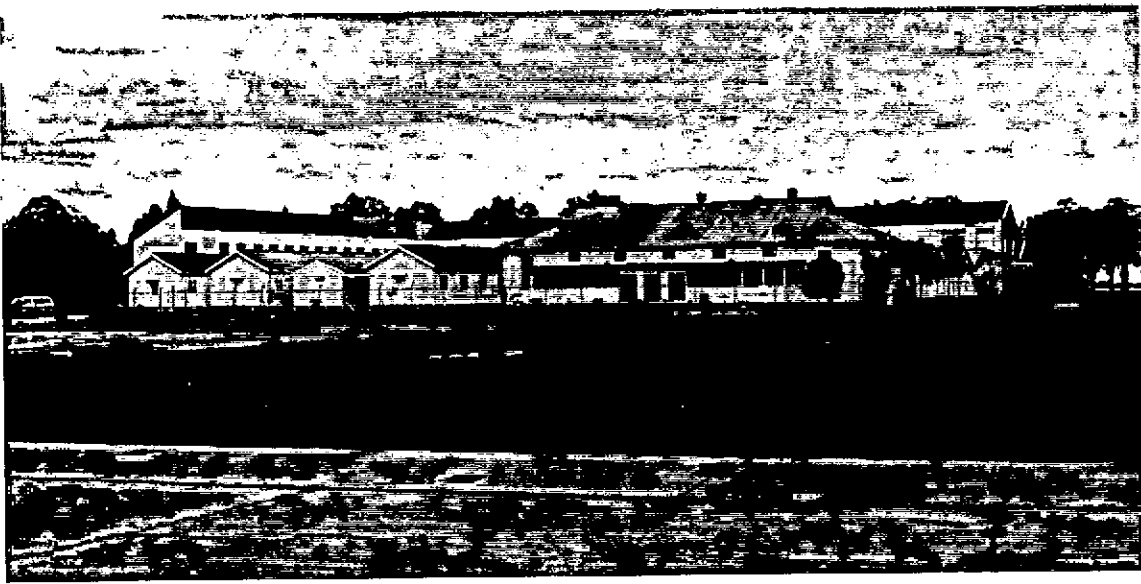
NAME/IDENTITY: CATAMARAN CLUB, STILLING St, RATHMINES		ITEM No. RM - 03
PREVIOUS/OTHER NAMES OR USES: Lake Macquarie & Newcastle Catamaran Club. RAAF barrack or office.		
ADDRESS: Stilling Street Rathmines 2283 (on the lakefront opposite Dorrington St.)		S.H.I.P. REF. No.
PARISH: AWABA COUNTY: Northumberland		DATE INSPECTED: October 1992
PRESENT OWNER (Name & Address):		BY: Doring
		REAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: SITE AREA: CURRENT ZONING:
CATEGORY: Building		MAP 1:25000 No. 9231-4-N
SUBCATEGORY: Other social/recreational ?		NAME: SWANSEA GRID: 688 430
HISTORICAL THEMES: S.H.I.P. Themes: LOCAL Themes:		
HISTORICAL PERIOD - BUILT: 1926-1950		USED: intermittently ?
BUILDER: Com. of Aust. Dept of Public Works		DATE BUILT: c1939-41
ARCHITECT/DESIGNER: Commonwealth Dept. of Works Drawing Office		
PHOTOGRAPH &/OR SKETCH PLAN (and caption): Former RAAF building, now used as a clubhouse/boatshed for the Lake Macquarie & Newcastle Catamaran Club, viewed from the north-west. (Doring Neg.413.05)		
		
		ITEM No. RM - 03

HERITAGE STUDY

NAME/IDENTITY	CATAMARAN CLUB, STILLING St, RATHMINES			ITEM No.	RM - 03
KNOWN HERITAGE LISTINGS:					
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS					
Architectural Style:		simple industrial/barrack			
MATERIALS - Frame:		Timber	Roof: corrugated ac, gable		
Walls/Cladding:		Rebated W'boards to dado strapped ac sheet above	Windows: small high hopper type		
Interior:		not seen	Floors:		
DESCRIPTION: Simple rectangular barrack style building has the same economical & robust bungalow style wall cladding as the Airmen's Mess. Small high windows indicate a building not needing an outlook, such as a dormitory. There were probably a hundred of these buildings around the site. This one may have been moved. Skillion lean-to on the lake end (east) is probably original. Builders shed on its roof, used as a lookout tower, is unsightly & unsympathetic to the rest of the building.					
MODIFICATIONS: Builders shed added to the roof. Some windows. The building could easily have been moved from elsewhere on the site. These buildings were designed to be fairly simply removable.					
PRESENT USE: yacht club (& boat shed ?)					
HISTORICAL NOTES: RAAF Base for Catalina Flying Boat Squadron/s established at Rathmines 14th August 1939. Permanent & temporary buildings covered much of the site. Hundreds of men living on site needed barracks, & this was probably one of them. Base closed Nov 1952. LMCC bought land in 1963. This building is one of few retained from RAAF days. Its length of use as yacht club not known.					
REFERENCES: Nilsen, L.(ed), "Lake Macquarie: Past & Present", pub. LMCC 1985. Riddell, J., "Catalina Squadrons, First & Furthest", pub. author, 1992. Verbal information from local residents. Nilsen notes other texts (not seen) but it is not known whether these deal with the buildings of the RAAF base.					
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: Rathmines RAAF Base had a profound effect on post-WW2 development in Lake Macquarie. Rathmines was the largest flying-boat base in Australia with "Seaplane Training Flight", seamanship & gunnery courses, trades training, main repair shops for flying-boats & major communications centre. This former barracks building was one of probably a hundred or more identical barracks buildings use by the airmen to live or work in. Most of these buildings were demolished or moved after the war, & this is one of only about five similar barracks left at Rathmines. It serves as a useful community recreational facility & as a valuable reminder of wartime activities & life at Rathmines.					
RECOMMENDATION: See RM-00. The builders' shed perched on the roof detracts from the heritage significance of the item.					
Local Signif. - high		Regional Signif. - moderate		ITEM No. RM - 03	

CITY OF LAKE MACQUARIE

HERITAGE STUDY

NAME/IDENTITY: CHRISTADELPHIAN SCHOOL, STILLING St, RATHMINES		ITEM No. RM - 04
PREVIOUS/OTHER NAMES OR USES: Christadelphian Bible School. RAAF Rathmines Base Workshops		
ADDRESS: 2 Stilling Street Rathmines 2283		S.H.I.P. REF. No.
PARISH: Awaba COUNTY: Northumberland		DATE INSPECTED: October 1992
PRESENT OWNER (Name & Address): Australian Christadelphian Bible School Pty Ltd 212 Vineys Road Dural 2158		BY: Doring
CATEGORY: Building		REAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: Lot 5 DP 226534
SUBCATEGORY: RAAF Workshops - now School		SITE AREA: 8290m2 CURRENT ZONING: Open Space 6(b) (Special Recreation)
HISTORICAL THEMES: S.H.I.P. Themes: LOCAL Themes:		
HISTORICAL PERIOD - BUILT: 1926-1950		USED: intermittently ?
BUILDER: Com. of Aust. Dept of Public Works		DATE BUILT: c1939-41
ARCHITECT/DESIGNER: Commonwealth Dept. of Works Drawing Office		
PHOTOGRAPH &/OR SKETCH PLAN (and caption): The Christadelphian Bible School, part of the former RAAF Workshops, viewed from the west. The long, narrow, 2-storey buildings around east & north sides of the group were part of the Workshops. They surrounded a very large hangar which stood where 4 gable-roofed barracks & a 2-storey hip-roofed building now stand. (Doring Neg.413.11)		
		
		ITEM No. RM - 04

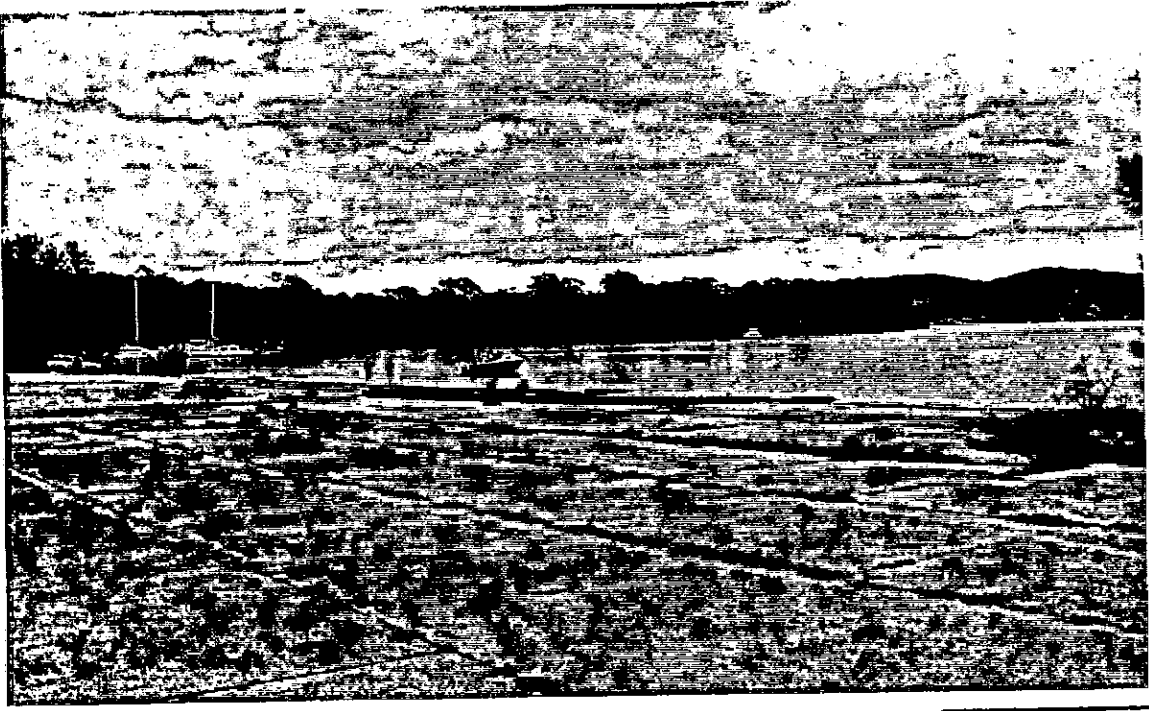
CITY OF LAKE MACQUARIE

HERITAGE STUDY

NAME/IDENTITY	CHRISTADELPHIAN SCHOOL, STILLING St, RATHMINES		ITEM No.	RM - 04																				
KNOWN HERITAGE LISTINGS:																								
<p>PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS</p> <p>Architectural Style: industrial and/or barracks buildings</p> <p>MATERIALS - Frame: Brick L-shape, timber other Vary. Saw-tooth truss on Roof: L-shape bldg, hipped with gables on west corner bldg</p> <p>Walls/Cladding: rebated weatherboards to dado Windows: gables elsewhere strapped ac sheet above</p> <p>Interior: not seen Floors:</p>																								
<p>DESCRIPTION: This eclectic collection of original Workshops buildings & other barracks buildings moved from elsewhere in Rathmines only partially reflects the scope & activity of these formerly important mechanical shops. 8 or more buildings have replaced the enormous hangar which once stood in the bend of the L. The 2-storey saw-tooth roofed L is brick, the other buildings similar in construction to RM-02 & RM-03. Together they probably give some idea of the density of construction at Rathmines at the end of the War.</p>																								
<p>MODIFICATIONS: The main change is demolition of the large hangar & its replacement with a collection of smaller buildings from elsewhere on the Base.</p>																								
<p>PRESENT USE: Bible School. Some buildings appear unoccupied.</p>																								
<p>HISTORICAL NOTES: RAAF Base for Catalina Flying Boat Squadron/s established at Rathmines 14th August 1939. The Workshops were vitally important to operation of the flying boats. Substantial parts of the Shops survive here. Base closed Nov 1952. LMCC bought land in 1963. Hangar probably demolished after War. Not known when other buildings moved into this group, or when it became a school.</p>																								
<p>REFERENCES: Nilsen, L.(ed), "Lake Macquarie: Past & Present", pub. LMCC 1985. Riddell, J., "Catalina Squadrons, First & Furthest", pub. author, 1992. Verbal information from local residents. Nilsen notes other texts (not seen) but it is not known whether these deal with the buildings of the RAAF base.</p>																								
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<p>STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: Rathmines RAAF Base had a profound effect on post-WW2 development in Lake Macquarie. Rathmines was the largest flying-boat base in Australia with the "Seaplane Training Flight", seamanship & gunnery courses, a major communications centre, trades training, & the principal repair shops for all flying-boats. The 'L' shaped building constitutes a substantial remnant of these important workshops. It probably still contains evidence which would aid its interpretation. Apart from the brick annexe on the east side of the 'L', other buildings have been moved from their original location, & could be moved again. The large building on the west side of the 'L' is the only one of its type to survive & would also be valuable in interpreting the RAAF Base.</p>																								
<p>RECOMMENDATION: See RM-00</p>																								
<p>Regional Signif. - high (Brick Workshops & hip-roof bldg.)</p>				ITEM No. RM - 04																				
<p>Local Signif. - very high (Brick Workshops & hip-roof bldg.)</p>																								

CITY OF LAKE MACQUARIE

HERITAGE STUDY

NAME/IDENTITY: FLYING BOAT RAMPS, off STILLING St, RATHMINES		ITEM No. RM - 05
PREVIOUS/OTHER NAMES OR USES: RAAF Rathmines Base - Catalina Flying-boat Slips or Ramp.		
ADDRESS: off Stilling Street Rathmines 2283 (off the west side of Stilling St)		S.H.I.P. REF. No.
PARISH: AWABA COUNTY: Northumberland		DATE INSPECTED: October 1992
PRESENT OWNER (Name & Address):		BY: Doring
		REAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: SITE AREA: CURRENT ZONING:
CATEGORY: Other works SUBCATEGORY: Concrete boat ramp		MAP 1:25000 No. 9231-4-N NAME: SWANSEA GRID: 687 433
HISTORICAL THEMES: S.H.I.P. Themes: LOCAL Themes:		
HISTORICAL PERIOD - BUILT: 1926-1950		USED: until c1951
BUILDER: Com. of Aust. Dept of Public Works		DATE BUILT: c1939-40
ARCHITECT/DESIGNER: Commonwealth Dept. of Works Drawing Office		
PHOTOGRAPH &/OR SKETCH PLAN (and caption): <p>The concrete flying-boat ramps, looking from the south across the ramps towards Kilaben Bay. Styles Point is on the left. The Catalinas would be moored out in the Lake, & could be towed up the ramp (presumably on wheeled cradles) to be repaired, on this concrete apron or in the now vanished hangar. (Doring Neg.413.10)</p>		
		
		ITEM No. RM - 05


CITY OF LAKE MACQUARIE

HERITAGE STUDY

NAME/IDENTITY	FLYING BOAT RAMPS, off STILLING St, RATHMINES		ITEM No.	RM - 05																				
KNOWN HERITAGE LISTINGS:																								
<p>PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS A very wide concrete ramp or slip running down into the water of Lake Macquarie and backed by an extensive concrete apron on which there was room for a number of aeroplanes to stand. The ramp was very wide to accommodate more than one aeroplane at a time.</p>																								
<p>DESCRIPTION: The ramp and apron probably still appear much as they were in wartime, except for the grass growing in joints in the concrete slabs. Then they were surrounded by various workshop buildings, most notably a huge hangar which has vanished. Catalinas in for repair had a row of moorings out in the water, or they would be towed up the ramp, probably on wheeled cradles, for minor repairs on the apron or stripping down in the hangar.</p>																								
<p>MODIFICATIONS: Some shrubs grow on the east side of the ramp, where what appeared (in a wartime aerial photograph) to be a jetty once stood. The jetty would have been for boats used to go out to the Catalina moorings.</p>																								
<p>PRESENT USE: pleasure boat ramp</p>																								
<p>HISTORICAL NOTES: RAAF Base for Catalina Flying Boat Squadron/s established at Rathmines 14th August 1939. The Workshops were vitally important to operation of the flying boats, and the Workshops would have been ineffective unless the flying-boats could be got out of the water on a ramp. Base closed Nov 1952. LMCC bought land in 1963. The ramp has probably been used for boats since then</p>																								
<p>REFERENCES: Nilsen, L.(ed), "Lake Macquarie: Past & Present", pub. LMCC 1985. Riddell, J., "Catalina Squadrons, First & Furthest", pub. author, 1992. Verbal information from local residents. Nilsen notes other texts (not seen) but it is not known whether these deal with the buildings of the RAAF base.</p>																								
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<p>STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: Rathmines RAAF Base had a profound effect on post-WW2 development in Lake Macquarie. Rathmines was the largest flying-boat base in Australia with the "Seaplane Training Flight", seamanship & gunnery courses, a major communications centre, trades training, & the principal repair shops for all flying-boats. The Workshops were vitally important to operation of the flying boats, and the Workshops would have been ineffective unless the flying-boats could be got out of the water on a ramp. The wide sweep of the ramps and the apron are an evocative reminder of the former presence of the famous Catalina flying-boats. The flying-boat ramps have a continuing compatible use as pleasure boat ramps.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: See RM-00. It would be a pity if the ramps & apron were to be built over.</p> <p>Local Signif. - high Regional Signif. - moderate</p>																								
			ITEM No.	RM - 05																				

CITY OF LAKE MACQUARIE

HERITAGE STUDY

NAME/IDENTITY: RATHMINES BOWLING CLUB, STILLING St, RATHMINES		ITEM No. RM - 06
PREVIOUS/OTHER NAMES OR USES: RAAF Rathmines Base Officers' Mess		
ADDRESS: 1 Stilling Street Rathmines 2283		S.H.I.P. REF. No.
PARISH: Awaba COUNTY: Northumberland		DATE INSPECTED: October 1992
PRESENT OWNER (Name & Address): Lake Macquarie City Council PO Box 21 Boolaroo 2284		BY: Doring
CATEGORY: Building		REAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: Lot 61 DP 584602 and Lot 7
SUBCATEGORY: Mess or recreation hall		SITE AREA: CURRENT ZONING: Open Space 6(b) (Special Recreation)
HISTORICAL THEMES: S.H.I.P. Themes: LOCAL Themes:		MAP 1:25000 No. 9231-4-N NAME: SWANSEA GRID: 689 432
HISTORICAL PERIOD - BUILT: 1926-1950		USED: intermittently ?
BUILDER: Com. of Aust. Dept of Public Works		DATE BUILT: c1940-41
ARCHITECT/DESIGNER: Commonwealth Dept. of Works Drawing Office		
PHOTOGRAPH &/OR SKETCH PLAN (and caption): The Rathmines Bowling Club, formerly the RAAF Rathmines Base Officers' Mess, viewed from the north-east. A newer brick building has been added to the original Mess building on the west side (just visible on the right of the photograph). (Doring Neg.413.15)		
		
		ITEM No. RM - 06

CITY OF LAKE MACQUARIE

HERITAGE STUDY

NAME/IDENTITY	RATHMINES BOWLING CLUB, STILLING St, RATHMINES		ITEM No.	RM - 06																				
KNOWN HERITAGE LISTINGS:																								
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS																								
Architectural Style:																								
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;">MATERIALS - Frame:</td> <td style="width: 40%;">Timber</td> <td style="width: 20%;">Roof:</td> <td style="width: 40%;">gable, green colourbond</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Walls/Cladding:</td> <td>rebated w'boards to dado strapped ac sheet above</td> <td>Windows:</td> <td>altered</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Interior:</td> <td>not seen</td> <td>Floors:</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>					MATERIALS - Frame:	Timber	Roof:	gable, green colourbond	Walls/Cladding:	rebated w'boards to dado strapped ac sheet above	Windows:	altered	Interior:	not seen	Floors:									
MATERIALS - Frame:	Timber	Roof:	gable, green colourbond																					
Walls/Cladding:	rebated w'boards to dado strapped ac sheet above	Windows:	altered																					
Interior:	not seen	Floors:																						
<p>DESCRIPTION: The still existing parts of the former Officers' Mess appears to have changed little in form since the war, although the new brick addition may have replaced an even larger roofed area. The former Mess is a long, fairly narrow building, of the same type of weatherboard & ac sheet construction as the Airmens' Mess, but with dormer windows along the roof, & a pleasant verandah at the east end under the main gable. The verandah overlooked the Lake and the Catalinas at their moorings.</p>																								
<p>MODIFICATIONS: Brick additions at West side. Aluminium windows. Roof cladding, (this was probably originally corrugated asbestos cement).</p>																								
<p>PRESENT USE: Bowling Club clubhouse</p>																								
<p>HISTORICAL NOTES: RAAF Base for Catalina Flying Boat Squadron/s established at Rathmines 14th August 1939. Permanent & temporary buildings covered much of the site. The Officers' Mess was probably built quite early, as a place where the officers could eat & relax together. Base closed Nov 1952. LMCC bought land in 1963. This seems one of the few buildings not to have been moved.</p>																								
<p>REFERENCES: Nilsen, L.(ed), "Lake Macquarie: Past & Present", pub. LMCC 1985. Riddell, J., "Catalina Squadrons, First & Furthest", pub. author, 1992. Verbal information from local residents. Nilsen notes other texts (not seen) but it is not known whether these deal with the buildings of the RAAF base.</p>																								
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<p>STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: Rathmines RAAF Base had a profound effect on post-WW2 development in Lake Macquarie. Rathmines was the largest flying-boat base in Australia, with "Seaplane Training Flight", seamanship & gunnery courses, trades training, main repair shops for all flying-boats & major communications centre. The Officers' Mess would have been important not only in providing a home-from-home for the many pilots & other officers who passed through the Base, but like the home-bases of many army regiments, the Officers' Mess would have embodied the soul of the Catalina Squadrons. The building is simple & unpretentious, and has not been seriously compromised by the modern additions.</p>																								
<p>RECOMMENDATION: See RM-</p>																								
Local Signif. - high		Regional Signif. - moderate		ITEM No. RM - 06																				

CITY OF LAKE MACQUARIE

HERITAGE STUDY

NAME/IDENTITY: CATALINA WAR MEMORIAL, CATALINA PARK, RATHMINES

ITEM No. RM - 07

PREVIOUS/OTHER NAMES OR USES:

ADDRESS: Catalina Park
Rathmines 2283

S.H.I.P. REF. No.

DATE INSPECTED: October 1992

PARISH: AWABA

COUNTY: Northumberland

BY: Doring

PRESENT OWNER (Name & Address):

REAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:

SITE AREA:
CURRENT ZONING:

CATEGORY: Other works

SUBCATEGORY: War memorial

MAP 1:25000 No. 9231-4-N
NAME: SWANSEA
GRID: 691 431

HISTORICAL THEMES:

S.H.I.P. Themes:

LOCAL Themes:

HISTORICAL PERIOD - BUILT: 1951-1975

USED: n/a

BUILDER:

DATE BUILT: 1972

ARCHITECT/DESIGNER:

The Catalina Memorial,
viewed from the west.

(Doring Neg.413.17)

ITEM No. RM - 07

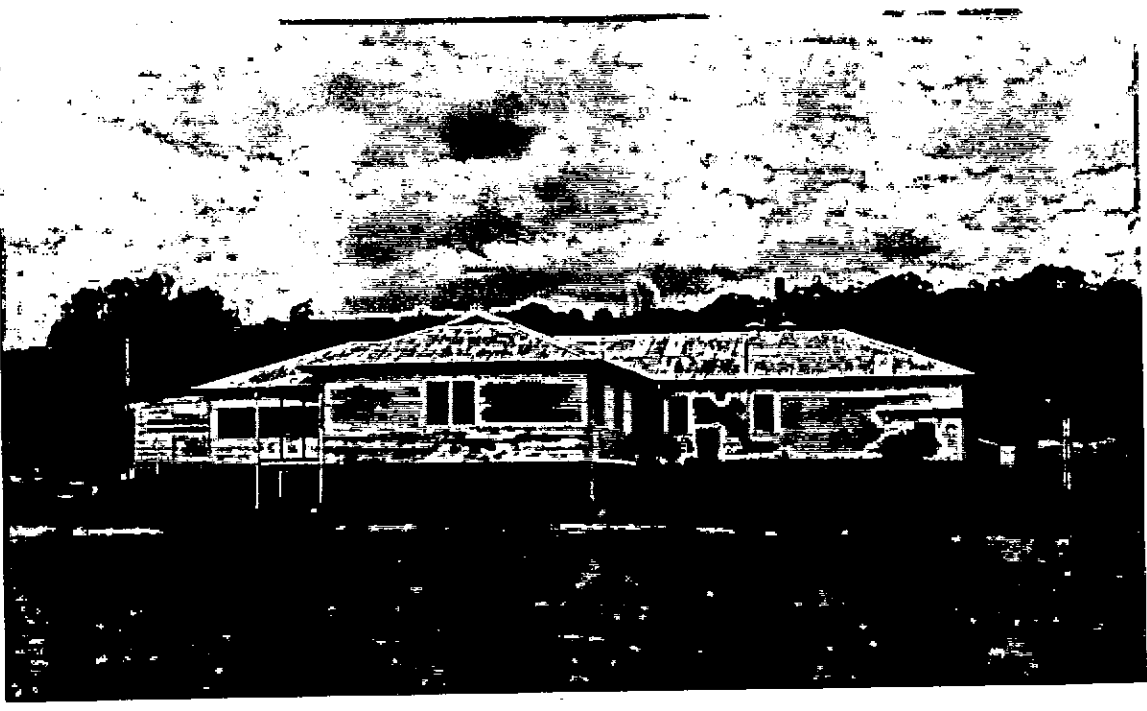
CITY OF LAKE MACQUARIE

HERITAGE STUDY

NAME/IDENTITY	CATALINA WAR MEMORIAL, CATALINA PARK, RATHMINES	ITEM No. RM - 07																				
KNOWN HERITAGE LISTINGS:																						
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"><div style="width: 30%;">PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS</div><div>The construction is a group of square-section piers made with split face sand-coloured blocks (concrete ?). A Catalina propellor is mounted on top of the piers. Two associated flagpoles have red-brick plinths.</div></div>																						
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"><div style="width: 30%;">DESCRIPTION:</div><div>The monument is built on a knoll above the lake, close to the former Officers' Mess (now a Bowling Club).</div></div> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">The inscription reads: Dedicated to those who served at the RAAF Rathmines and to all associated with flying boats and seaplanes 1939-1960. Unveiled by Air Vice Marshall W. E. Townsend CB CBE. 16th Sept. 1972.</p>																						
MODIFICATIONS:																						
PRESENT USE: war memorial																						
HISTORICAL NOTES: RAAF Base for Catalina Flying Boat Squadron/s established at Rathmines 14th August 1939. Permanent & temporary buildings covered much of the site. The location of this memorial may have been one of the few spots on the Base where no building ever stood. The Base was closed in Nov 1952. LMCC bought the land in 1963. This memorial was dedicated in 1972.																						
REFERENCES: Nilsen, L.(ed), "Lake Macquarie: Past & Present", pub. LMCC 1985. Riddell, J., "Catalina Squadrons, First & Furthest", pub. author, 1992. Verbal information from local residents. Nilsen notes other texts (not seen) but it is not known whether these deal with the buildings of the RAAF base.																						
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OTHER	Rare ()	Associative ()	Representative ()																			
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: Rathmines RAAF Base (1939-1952) had a profound effect on post-WW2 development in Lake Macquarie. Rathmines was the largest flying-boat base in Australia, with the "Seaplane Training Flight", seamanship & gunnery courses, trades training, main repair shops for all flying-boats & a major RAAF communications centre. Many men who came to work at the Base stayed to live & work in the area after the war. Many others came to learn to fly, and took their flying boats off to the war. The memorial, although not a heritage item, is significant to the men of wartime Rathmines and their families.																						
RECOMMENDATION: See RM-00																						
State Signif.- moderate Local Signif.- high		Regional Signif. - moderate																				
		ITEM No. RM - 07																				

CITY OF LAKE MACQUARIE

HERITAGE STUDY

NAME/IDENTITY: RATHMINES HOLIDAY CAMP, STILLING St, RATHMINES		ITEM No. RM - 08
PREVIOUS/OTHER NAMES OR USES: RAAF Rathmines Base Sergeants' Mess		
ADDRESS: Stilling Street Rathmines 2283 (opposite the corner of Rosemary Row)		S.H.I.P. REF. No.
PARISH: AWABA COUNTY: Northumberland		DATE INSPECTED: October 1992
PRESENT OWNER (Name & Address):		BY: Doring
		REAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: SITE AREA: CURRENT ZONING:
CATEGORY: Building		MAP 1:25000 No. 9231-4-N
SUBCATEGORY: Sergeants' Mess		NAME: SWANSEA GRID: 686 428
HISTORICAL THEMES: S.H.I.P. Themes: LOCAL Themes:		
HISTORICAL PERIOD - BUILT: 1926-1950		USED: intermittently ?
BUILDER: Com. of Aust. Dept of Public Works		DATE BUILT: c1939-41
ARCHITECT/DESIGNER: Commonwealth Dept. of Works Drawing Office		
PHOTOGRAPH &/OR SKETCH PLAN (and caption): Sergeants' Mess, viewed from the north-east.		
		
		ITEM No. RM - 08

HERITAGE STUDY

NAME/IDENTITY	RATHMINES HOLIDAY CAMP, STILLING St, RATHMINES	ITEM No. RM - 08
KNOWN HERITAGE LISTINGS:		
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS		
Architectural Style:		
MATERIALS - Frame:	Timber, brick sub-walls	Roof: Hipped with gablets cladding short sheets of cgi
Walls/Cladding:	rebated weatherboards to dado strapped ac sheet above	Windows: dh, some boarded
Interior:	not seen	Floors:
DESCRIPTION: A blocky 'T' shaped building with a shallow pitched hipped roof. Wall construction is the same as other timber-framed buildings at Rathmines. The building is long way from where the centre of operations was at the RAAF Base, particularly for a Sergeants' Mess, and like many other Rathmines buildings, it has probably been moved. The building has had some skillion roofed toilet or bathroom blocks added on after the War, probably when it was changed to a holiday camp.		
MODIFICATIONS: The whole building has probably been moved from its original position. Skillion roofed toilet or bathroom blocks have been built on.		
PRESENT USE: Disused		
HISTORICAL NOTES: RAAF Base for Catalina Flying Boat Squadron/s established at Rathmines August 1939. Permanent & temporary buildings covered much of the site. A Sergeants' Mess would have been needed soon after the Base opened but is unlikely to have been built in the present location. Base closed Nov 1952. LMCC bought land in 1963. The Mess may have been moved soon after.		
REFERENCES: Nilsen, L.(ed), "Lake Macquarie: Past & Present", pub. LMCC 1985. Riddell, J., "Catalina Squadrons, First & Furthest", pub. author, 1992. Verbal information from local residents. Nilsen notes other texts (not seen) but it is not known whether these deal with the buildings of the RAAF base.		
EVALUATION CRITERIA:		
HISTORIC	Rare ()	Associative () Representative ()
AESTHETIC	Rare ()	Associative () Representative ()
SOCIAL	Rare ()	Associative () Representative ()
SCIENTIFIC	Rare ()	Associative () Representative ()
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: Rathmines RAAF Base had a profound effect on post-WW2 development in Lake Macquarie. Rathmines was the largest flying-boat base in Australia, with "Seaplane Training Flight", seamanship & gunnery courses, trades training, main repair shops for all flying-boats & major communications centre. Most of the Instructors and Workshop Foremen at Rathmines would have been Warrant Officers, & the Sergeants' Mess provided an essential meeting place where they could relax together. The building later served as a holiday camp. It is on the fringes of the definable Base area (probably moved there after the War), & has been badly treated. However it is the sole example of a style of building no longer represented elsewhere on the site.		
RECOMMENDATION: See RM-00		
Local Signif. - moderate Regional Signif. - moderate		ITEM No. RM - 08

CITY OF LAKE MACQUARIE

HERITAGE STUDY

NAME/IDENTITY: BRICK STORE, STILLINGS STREET, RATHMINES

ITEM No. RM - 09

PREVIOUS/OTHER NAMES OR USES:

RAAF Rathmines Base Stores building - one of several brick Stores on the site

ADDRESS: Stillings Street
Rathmines 2283
(west side of Stilling St north of Rosemary Row)

S.H.I.P. REF. No.

DATE INSPECTED: October 1992

PARISH: AWABA

COUNTY: Northumberland

BY: Doring

PRESENT OWNER (Name & Address):

REAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:

SITE AREA:
CURRENT ZONING:

CATEGORY: Building

MAP 1:25000 No. 9231-4-N

SUBCATEGORY: Military Store

NAME: SWANSEA
GRID: 686 429

HISTORICAL THEMES:

S.H.I.P. Themes:

LOCAL Themes:

HISTORICAL PERIOD - BUILT: 1926-1950

USED: probably continuous

BUILDER: Com. of Aust. Dept of Public Works

DATE BUILT: c1939-41

ARCHITECT/DESIGNER: Commonwealth Dept. of Works Drawing Office

PHOTOGRAPH &/OR SKETCH PLAN (and caption):

Former RAAF Store building on the west side of Stilling Street close to Rosemary Row. Several of these robust buildings still remain at Rathmines. This is the only one photographed, but the notes on this building refer to the others also, & they are all equally significant.

(Doring Neg.413.27)



ITEM No. RM - 09

CITY OF LAKE MACQUARIE

HERITAGE STUDY

NAME/IDENTITY	BRICK STORE, STILLINGS STREET, RATHMINES	ITEM No. RM - 09																				
KNOWN HERITAGE LISTINGS:																						
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS Architectural Style: industrial																						
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"><tr><td style="width: 33%;">MATERIALS - Frame: brick</td><td style="width: 33%;">Roof: Gable, corrugated ac</td><td style="width: 33%;"></td></tr><tr><td>Walls/Cladding: Red brick</td><td>Windows: Double steel shutters 2-pane hinged toplights</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Interior: not seen</td><td>Floors: Concrete</td><td></td></tr></table>			MATERIALS - Frame: brick	Roof: Gable, corrugated ac		Walls/Cladding: Red brick	Windows: Double steel shutters 2-pane hinged toplights		Interior: not seen	Floors: Concrete												
MATERIALS - Frame: brick	Roof: Gable, corrugated ac																					
Walls/Cladding: Red brick	Windows: Double steel shutters 2-pane hinged toplights																					
Interior: not seen	Floors: Concrete																					
DESCRIPTION: There are several surviving brick Stores. The one photographed & described is on the west side of Stilling St near Rosemary Row. The buildings are remarkably well constructed and were obviously intended to be secure for valuable items, if not for ammunition. The store photographed is a simple rectangular building with double doors on both sides & 10 large windows with solid steel shutters instead of glazed sashes.																						
MODIFICATIONS: none noticed																						
PRESENT USE: Council Store																						
HISTORICAL NOTES: RAAF Base for Catalina Flying Boat Squadron/s established at Rathmines August 1939. Permanent & temporary buildings covered much of the site. Many of these would have been for various types of stores. Brick stores for valuable items, firearms etc. were more strongly built. Most probably survived & are largely unaltered. Base closed Nov 1952. LMCC bought land 1963.																						
REFERENCES: Nilsen, L.(ed), "Lake Macquarie: Past & Present", pub. LMCC 1985. Riddell, J., "Catalina Squadrons, First & Furthest", pub. author, 1992. Verbal information from local residents. Nilsen notes other texts (not seen) but it is not known whether these deal with the buildings of the RAAF base.																						
EVALUATION CRITERIA: <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"><tr><td style="width: 25%;">HISTORIC</td><td style="width: 25%;">Rare ()</td><td style="width: 25%;">Associative ()</td><td style="width: 25%;">Representative ()</td></tr><tr><td>AESTHETIC</td><td>Rare ()</td><td>Associative ()</td><td>Representative ()</td></tr><tr><td>SOCIAL</td><td>Rare ()</td><td>Associative ()</td><td>Representative ()</td></tr><tr><td>SCIENTIFIC</td><td>Rare ()</td><td>Associative ()</td><td>Representative ()</td></tr><tr><td>OTHER</td><td>Rare ()</td><td>Associative ()</td><td>Representative ()</td></tr></table>			HISTORIC	Rare ()	Associative ()	Representative ()	AESTHETIC	Rare ()	Associative ()	Representative ()	SOCIAL	Rare ()	Associative ()	Representative ()	SCIENTIFIC	Rare ()	Associative ()	Representative ()	OTHER	Rare ()	Associative ()	Representative ()
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: Rathmines RAAF Base had a profound effect on post-WW2 development in Lake Macquarie. Rathmines was the largest flying-boat base in Australia, with "Seaplane Training Flight", seamanship & gunnery courses, trades training, main repair shops for all flying-boats & major communications centre. Stores buildings for keeping & protecting spare parts, food & other materiel were essential for the operation of the base. These well built & neat brick Stores were probably used for particularly valuable or dangerous goods such as firearms, radio parts. The brick Stores are reminders of the military past of the site, & are very amenable to sympathetic re-use.																						
RECOMMENDATION: See RM- 00																						
Local Signif. - moderate Regional Signif. - moderate		ITEM No. RM - 09																				

CITY OF LAKE MACQUARIE

HERITAGE STUDY

NAME/IDENTITY: BOAT SLIP, STYLES Pt, off OVERHILL Rd, RATHMINES

ITEM No. RM - 10

PREVIOUS/OTHER NAMES OR USES:

RAAF Rathmines Base Ship Repair Section

ADDRESS: Styles Point
Rathmines 2283

S.H.I.P. REF. No.

DATE INSPECTED: October 1992

PARISH: AWABA

COUNTY: Northumberland

BY: Doring

PRESENT OWNER (Name & Address):

REAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:

SITE AREA:
CURRENT ZONING:

CATEGORY: Other Works

MAP 1:25000 No. 9231-4-N

SUBCATEGORY: Concrete Boat Ramp

NAME: SWANSEA

GRID: 684 439

HISTORICAL THEMES:

S.H.I.P. Themes:

LOCAL Themes:

HISTORICAL PERIOD - BUILT: 1926-1950

USED: continuous

BUILDER: Com. of Aust. Dept of Public Works

DATE BUILT: c1939-40

ARCHITECT/DESIGNER: Commonwealth Dept. of Works Drawing Office

PHOTOGRAPH &/OR SKETCH PLAN (and caption):

The RAAF Rathmines Base boat slip in the former Ship Repair Section of the Base. The slip is photographed from the end of an adjoining jetty, looking east towards the brick footings of the large industrial building which once covered the slip. (Doring Neg.413.37)



ITEM No. RM - 10

CITY OF LAKE MACQUARIE

HERITAGE STUDY

NAME/IDENTITY

BOAT SLIP, STYLES Pt, off OVERHILL Rd, RATHMINES

ITEM No.

RM - 10

KNOWN HERITAGE LISTINGS:

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

A concrete ramp with inset rail-lines sloping down into the lake. At the top of the ramp are some brick footings, with inset stairs on each side of the ramp. These are all the obvious remains of the Ship Repair building or boat shed which formerly covered the ramp, and allowed boats to be repaired undercover. The existing jetty appears to be fairly new, but probably updates one built during the War. There are indications that other buildings existed around the boat shed.

DESCRIPTION:

Boats (or "ships") needing repair were winched up into the Ship Repair building on trolleys which ran on the rails set into the concrete ramp.

The Workshops, the flight training schools, the seamanship & gunnery schools, all used boats to get around on the Lake, & those boats often needed repairs. There is no evidence that the Ship Repair Section was used for anything larger than a launch.

MODIFICATIONS:

All buildings and most other structures connected with Ship Repair Section have been demolished. The jetty has been rebuilt.

PRESENT USE:

Pleasure boat slip or ramp

HISTORICAL NOTES:

RAAF Base for Catalina Flying Boat Squadron/s established at Rathmines 14th August 1939. The Workshops, the flight training schools, the seamanship & gunnery schools, all used boats to get around on the Lake, and those boats often needed repairs. Base closed Nov 1952. LMCC bought land in 1963. The buildings were probably demolished soon after this.

REFERENCES:

Nilsen, L.(ed), "Lake Macquarie: Past & Present", pub. LMCC 1985.
Riddell, J., "Catalina Squadrons, First & Furthest", pub. author, 1992.
Verbal information from local residents. Nilsen notes other texts (not seen) but it is not known whether these deal with the buildings of the RAAF base.

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

HISTORIC	Rare ()	Associative ()	Representative ()
AESTHETIC	Rare ()	Associative ()	Representative ()
SOCIAL	Rare ()	Associative ()	Representative ()
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Rathmines RAAF Base had a profound effect on post-WW2 development in Lake Macquarie. Rathmines was the largest flying-boat base in Australia with the "Seaplane Training Flight", seamanship & gunnery courses, a major communications centre, trades training, & the principal repair shops for all flying-boats. The Workshops, flight training schools, seamanship & gunnery schools, all used boats to get around on the Lake, & those boats often needed repairs. A Ship Repair Section was essential to the efficient operation of the Base. This slip & the remains of former buildings of the Section, & probably the jetty, are the only reminders of this aspect of the Base work. The boat slip & jetty have continued to have a compatible use.

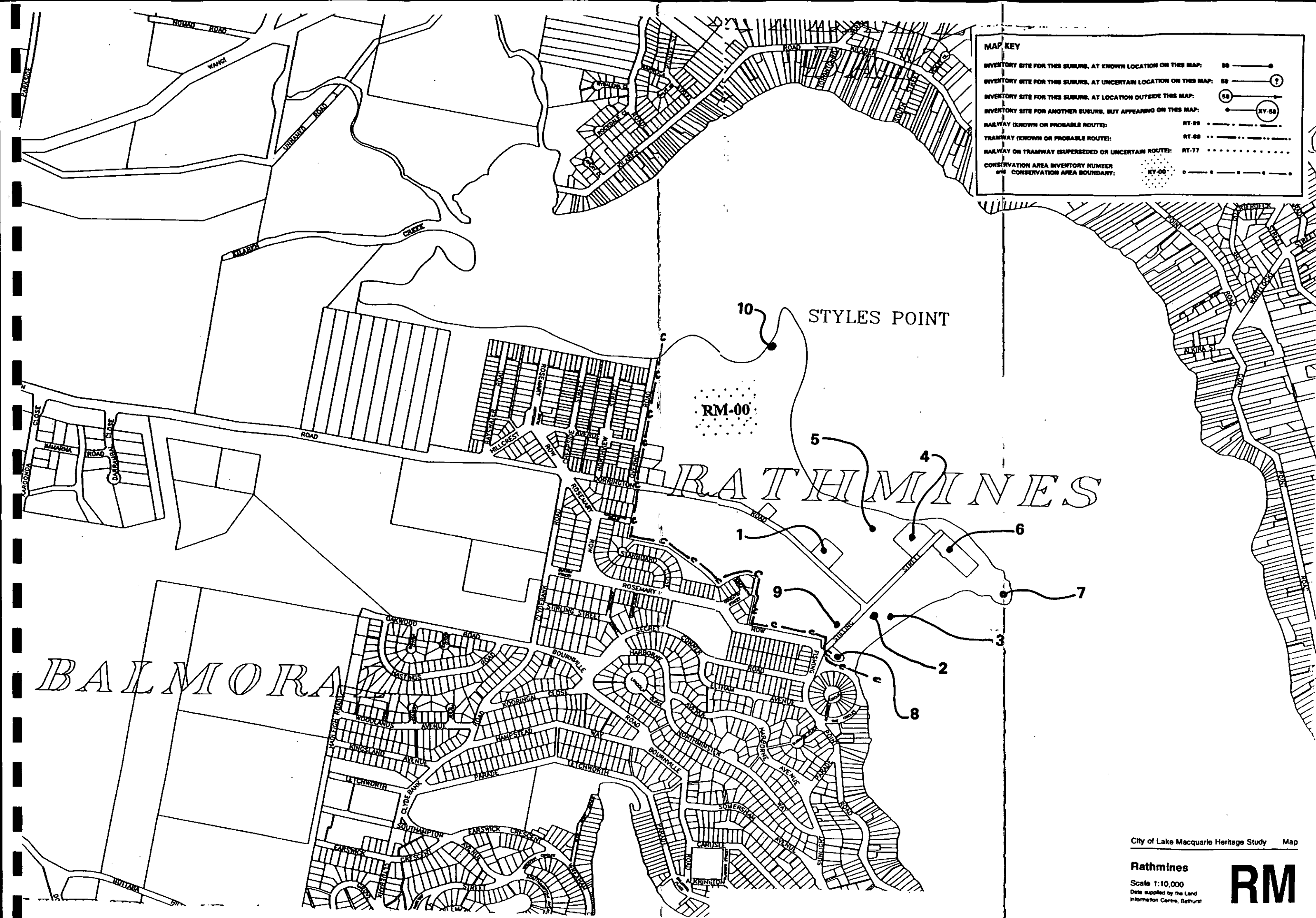
RECOMMENDATION: See RM-00

Local Signif. - moderate

Regional Signif. - low

ITEM No.

RM - 10



MAP KEY

INVENTORY SITE FOR THIS SUBURB, AT KNOWN LOCATION ON THIS MAP: 58 ———●———

INVENTORY SITE FOR THIS SUBURB, AT UNCERTAIN LOCATION ON THIS MAP: 58 ———○———

INVENTORY SITE FOR THIS SUBURB, AT LOCATION OUTSIDE THIS MAP: 58 ———○———

INVENTORY SITE FOR ANOTHER SUBURB, BUT APPEARING ON THIS MAP: 58 ———○——— (XY-58)

RAILWAY (KNOWN OR PROBABLE ROUTE): RT-99 ———+———

TRAMWAY (KNOWN OR PROBABLE ROUTE): RT-88 ———+———

RAILWAY OR TRAMWAY (SUPERSEDED OR UNCERTAIN ROUTE): RT-77 ———+———

CONSERVATION AREA INVENTORY NUMBER: RM-00

CONSERVATION AREA BOUNDARY: XY-00 ———+———