



NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (TASMANIA)

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Our Heritage At Risk



Nomination Form

This program is a national campaign

1. IDENTIFICATION / LOCATION OF HERITAGE @ RISK

Current Name of Place/Object: Portside former Burnie Technical College

Other Names: Van Diemen's Land Company Cemetery

Street Address of Place/Object: 1-3 Spring Street, Burnie

Local Government Authority: Burnie City Council

Title Details: Lot No: Vol: Fol:

Longitude:

Type of Place/Object: Two storied office complex

Original Owner: Van Diemen's Land Company

Current Owner - Burnie City Council

Current Occupant: Adult Education and other tenancies

Architect/Designer: S. W. T. Blythe

Construction Date: 1947-1948 Alteration/Additions Date: 1968 extended

Original Use: Van Diemen's Land Company Cemetery

2. IDENTIFICATION OF CURRENT RISK

Degree of Risk:

***** √ Immediate risk - no solution agreed
**** Immediate risk - solution agreed but not yet implemented
*** At Risk - no solution agreed
** At risk - solution agreed but not implemented
* At risk

Threats/Risks:

***** √ Destruction
**** Deterioration
*** Devaluation
** Damage
* Disturbance

Fate/outcome

***** Saved (and secure, ie, solution agreed & implemented)
**** Stable (not yet saved or secure, ie, solution not yet fully implemented)
*** Surviving
** √ Suffering
* Stuffed (shattered or smashed – Lost, ruined or destroyed)!

Statement of Risk

Demolition! The Portside building is owned by the Burnie City Council who to-date have refused to consider adaptive reuse of the building as an alternative to the demolition of the building for use as a retail site. The Council's refusal to consider adaptive re-use was reflected in its exclusion from the options put forward in the study of community opinion on the Portside Building commissioned by them.

3. Statement of Significance

The Portside building is an important part of Burnie's rich modernist influenced architectural inheritance. A twentieth century inheritance that is more cohesive and apparent than that of any other city in Tasmania.

This Inter-war Functional style building was designed by leading Tasmanian architect SWT Blythe and occupies a prominent position on the southern edge of the Burnie CBD. The building and the former Van Dieman's Land Company cemetery upon which it is built has been listed provisionally by the Tasmanian Heritage Council.

Elaboration of Criteria as Applicable (required to substantiate significance)

- ✓ Aesthetic
- ✓ Historic
- Scientific
- ✓ Social
- ✓ Spiritual
- ✓ Representative
- ✓ Authenticity
- Rarity

4. CURRENT HERITAGE RECOGNITION

National List: (date entered) (ID or Ref number)
Commonwealth List:
Register of National Estate:
State Heritage Register/Listing: Provisional Future Listing: Permanent
National Trust Classification:
Municipal Listing/Town Planning Scheme:
Other:

5. DESIRED OUTCOME / VISION

Suggestions by the Burnie City Council that further reuse of the Portside site is totally dependent upon demolition of this building ignore widespread precedents for commercially successful adaptive reuse of heritage buildings within and beyond Tasmania.

This is an opportunity for the inspired re-use of the Portside building that both highlights Burnie's rich architectural heritage and makes a vibrant contribution to the City's commercial life.

6. PHOTOGRAPHS / DOCUMENTATION

Photographs included with nomination.

Bibliography:

Primary

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Photograph of façade of Burnie Technical School during construction, Winter's Studio Collection, Pioneer

Village Museum, Burnie (c.1950)

Interview with Mr. Aubrey Keene at the Pioneer Village Museum, Burnie, 6 February 2007, HT File 11-00-

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B Rollins, Locating Burnie's First Cemetery, 8 March 2007, HT File 11-00-44

Maps

Township of Burnie, 1843, AOT VDL 343/180

Map of the Van Diemen's Land Company's Estate at Emu Bay, 1849, AOT, VDL 343/91

Van Diemen's Land Company Emu Bay, 1853, AOT, VDL 343/689

Burnie, 1859, AOT VDL 343/183

R.W Stokell, Plan of Burnie Emu Bay, 1887, LO, B/74, 88920

Plan of Burnie & Suburban Lands, LO, B/75A, 88922, 1898

Diagram from Actual Survey, LO, 155 R/3, PWD 4997, 71997, 1940

LO Index Plan Burnie No.1

Keene, A, Sketch Plan of 1-3 Spring Street Site, showing building location and sequence, builder, and location of skeletal remains, February 2007 (not to scale)

Building Plans

S Blythe, Dept. of Public Works, New Technical School Building Fitting & Machinery Workshop,

10872/9, undated, BCC

S Blythe, Dept. of Public Works, New Technical School Building Fitting & Machinery Workshop,

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S Blythe, Dept. of Public Works, New Technical School First & Roof Plan. Library Cupd. Details,
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Provisional Entry of Portside & VDL Co Cemetery 15 of 16
Dept. of Public Works, Burnie Technical College Additional Accommodation, H223/6, May 1965, BCC
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Details, H223/B24/1, May 1965, BCC
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Risk/ Amelioration Report Card

Year: 2008

Action: 2008

Change in Status:

Rating: High