



Hon Tony Kelly MLC
Minister for Planning
Minister for Infrastructure
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MEDIA RELEASE

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EARLY PENAL SETTLEMENT REMAINS STATE HERITAGE LISTED

Archaeological remains of one of the oldest convict settlements in NSW have been given the State's highest heritage recognition.

Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, today announced the remains of the Overseers' Cottages at Port Macquarie have been listed on the State Heritage Register.

"The excavated remains, which include evidence of early building materials and techniques as well as an early drainage system, are currently displayed in a dedicated area of the Port Macquarie Arts and Entertainment Centre," the Minister said.

The archaeological remains met all seven of the criteria against which items are assessed for listing on the State Heritage Register.

Port Macquarie was established in 1821 as one of the main settlements for secondary punishment in the colony of NSW.

The cottages formed a central part of the function of the penal settlement until around 1830 and continued to be associated with the development of the town until the 1860s.

Mr Kelly said these archaeological remains contribute significantly to our understanding of the settlement's administration and deserve to be recognised and protected.

"The living space in the excavated buildings turned out to be almost double that indicated on historical maps," the Minister said.

"The artefacts on display at the Port Macquarie Arts and Entertainment Centre reveal a fascinating insight into the living standards of the Government occupants in the early days of the settlement.

"Other remains demonstrate aspects of the settlement's original street plan, two timber-lined wells and a brick barrel drain running along the rear of the houses in approximate alignment with present-day Hay Street.

"The excavation of these remains provided an opportunity to see in detail how the components of the brick barrel drain functioned and how it related to the buildings it served.

Country Labor MLC for Port Macquarie, Kayee Griffin, said Port Macquarie-Hastings Council is to be congratulated not only on the conservation of these important relics, but also on interpreting and displaying them in such an imaginative and educational way.

"Listing on the State Heritage Register means Council will have access to Government heritage funding for the site," Ms Griffin said.
