Conservation of Norfolk Island’s Architectural Heritage

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All photographs by EMA unless indicated otherwise
Location

Source: Google Earth
Some Significant Historical Events

14th Century  Polynesian Visitation
1778 - 1814  First Penal Settlement
1825 - 1855  Second Penal Settlement
1856 - Settlement by Pitcairners with grants of land from the British Crown. They thought they had been ‘given’ the land.
1897  Governor of NSW took over authority on behalf of the Crown. Administered by NSW Department of Lands.
1907 – 08  Evictions from the Kingston houses built during the second penal settlement. Several of these were burnt in retaliation.
1914  Transfer to the Commonwealth of Australia.
2010  Inscription on World Heritage List.
2016  Commonwealth of Australia takes management control.
FIRST SETTLEMENT
1788 - 1814

Source: Nobbs, R, Norfolk Island and its First Settlement, 1788 - 1814

27. "The Settlement on Norfolk Island, May 16th, 1790," water-colour by George Raper (British Museum (Natural History))
FIRST SETTLEMENT 1788 - 1814

Source: Rice, J, Freemen and Convicts, 2013
SECOND SETTLEMENT 1825 - 1855

ISOMETRICAL VIEW
of
KINGSTON
NORFOLK ISLAND
Prior to 1856

Source: Wesley, Jane Quality Row, Kingston Norfolk Island, Norfolk Island Museum, 1994
Source: Cover of Wesley, *Quality Row, Kingston Norfolk Island*, Norfolk Island Museum, 1994 from a watercolour of Kinston from Flagstaff Hill by Thomas Sellar 1838 (held in the NLA Canberra)
THIRD SETTLEMENT 1856 -


Source: Nobbs, R, *Norfolk Island and its First Settlement, 1788 - 1814*
1950s

Norfolk Island Golf Clubhouse prior to reconstruction, C1950  (Les Brown Collection)

Source: Wesley, Jane, op cit
Norfolk pines and history written in stone: Kingston, from Flagstaff Hill looking towards Emily Bay in the early 1960s.

1960s

Source: Hillier, RS, op cit

Source: Hillier, RS, op cit
NSW National Trust
1 Quality Row - Reconstruction

Norfolk Island Golf Clubhouse prior to reconstruction, C1950 (Les Brown Collection)
Quality Row

Quality Row from Old Military Barracks looking east  C1892  
(Montgomery, Archives of Tasmania)

Source: Wesley, Jane, op cit
No 7 Quality Row

Drawing by Lt H.W. Lugard (Archives Office of Tasmania)

Source: Wesley, Jane, op cit
- Australian Heritage Commission
- Commonwealth Government
- Norfolk Island Act
- Major Research and Archaeological Study by Graham Wilson and Martin Davies 1980
- KAVHA Management Plan
1980s

- Major Conservation Work
- Archaeological Studies (mainly by R Varnan)
- Measured Drawings
- Sketch Plans
- Documentation
- Construction with Archaeological Watching Brief
No 11 Quality Row

Section of No.11 Quality Row by Lt H.W. Lugard (Archives of Tasmania)

Source: Wesley, Jane, op cit

1950
Old Military Barracks

Source: Wesley, Jane, op cit
New Military Barracks

Source: Wesley, Jane, op cit

Source: CMP 2008
Government House Conservation Management Plan
(Philip Cox & Partners)
1983

The plan is a copy of that drawn by Lt. H.W. Lugard, Royal Engineers. The construction of Government House in its present form was probably started in 1829 on the site of an earlier structure built in 1804.
Government House
Surgeon’s Quarters
No 10 Quality Row

Source: Wesley, Jane, op cit
No 10 Quality Row
No 10 Quality Row
Conservation Management Plan

Clive Lucas Stapleton & Partners

Maintenance Program
1990s

- Interpretation Plan (Peter McLaren), 1993
- Land Degradation Study and Management Plan (Graeme Clifton), 1993
- Landscape Management & Conservation Plan, (Tropman & Tropman), 1994
- Kingston Cemetery Study & Management Plan, (Tropman & Tropman), 1994
1990s

- Recreation Management Plan, (Gary Prosser and Jill Lang), 1995
- Water Quality Management Plan, (Peter Davidson), 1997
- Prehistoric Human Colonisation of Norfolk Island, (Atholl Anderson), 1997

Source: CMP 2008
Other Issues - Interpretation
Further Studies

- Major Conservation Work on Government House

Source: 2008 CMP
Otto Cserhaumi and Partners P/L with NSW Department of Commerce

2000s

Lookout
World Heritage Listing

- On 1 August 2010 a meeting of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization world Heritage Committee in Brazil placed Kingston and Arthur’s Vale Historic Area on Norfolk Island on the World Heritage List.

- This site joins ten other Australian convict sites listed as part of a serial nomination under the theme of Convictism-Forced Migration. No other sites of convict transportation have made the World Heritage List until now.

- Some of the other convict-related sites included in the serial nomination for World Heritage Listing included Sydney’s Hyde Park Barracks and Cockatoo Island Convict Station, Port Arthur in Tasmania and the Fremantle Prison in Western Australia.
Convict Sites

UNESCO Australian Convict Sites
World Heritage Property

New South Wales
1. Old Government House & Domain (Parramatta)
2. Hyde Park Barracks (Sydney)
3. Cockatoo Island Convict Site (Sydney)
4. Old Great North Road (near Wiseman’s Ferry)

Tasmania
6. Port Arthur Historic Site (Tasman Peninsula)
7. Cascades Female Factory (Hobart)
8. Darlington Probation Station (Maria Island)
9. Coal Mines Historic Site (via Premadelyna)
10. Brickendon-Woolmers Estates (near Longford)

Norfolk Island
5. Kingston & Arthur’s Vale Historic Area

Western Australia
11. Fremantle Prison

Source: www.convictvoyages.org
Commonwealth of Australia disbands local assembly and takes over management control, Local Council and Advisory Committee.

KAVHA Heritage Advisory Committee formed.
Kingston and Arthur’s Vale Historic Area

Heritage Management Plan

April 2016

Eric Martin & Associates ARCHITECTS

Australian Government

Kingston and Arthur’s Vale Historic Area
NORTHERN TERRITORY
▪ Changes in KAVHA
▪ Norfolk Island Administration
▪ Tourists
▪ Toward a Masterplan
▪ Maintenance Manual.
Future Challenges

- Ongoing maintenance.
- Balancing visitation with conservation.
- Competing on a world scene for tourists.
- Access to all facilities for people with disabilities.
- Museum Conditions for fragile objects.
- Energy conservation and sustainability, eg solar panels.
- Modern facilities, eg satellite dishes.
- Environmental balance.
Other Issues

- Damp proofing
- Paint systems
  - Lime wash
  - Modern paints
Other Issues – Protection of Ruins

- Ruined walls
- NO 2/3 Quality Row
- Old Military Barracks Shelter
- Arthur’s Vale
Other Issues – Stabilisation of Structures
Other Issues - Roofs
Lessons

- Conservation evolves and must respond to changing conditions and opportunities.
- Best practice is essential at all times.
- The living museum may add a level of compromise, but active use is essential.
Norfolk Island Future

- Changing face of KAVHA
- Tourism
- Maintaining relevance for locals