Tasmanian Heritage Register Datasheet

Tasmanian Heritage Council

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Hobart Tasmania 7001
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Name: **St Johns Park**
Status: Permanently Registered
Tier: State
State

THR ID Number: **11000**
Municipality: Hobart City Council
Boundary: CPR9265

Location Addresses	Title References	Property Id
9 ST JOHNS AV, NEW TOWN 7008 TAS	223265/16	5526976
12 ST JOHNS AV, NEW TOWN 7008 TAS	N/A	3259384
14 ST JOHNS AV, NEW TOWN 7008 TAS	N/A	5527100
ST JOHNS AV, NEW TOWN 7008 TAS	N/A	N/A
2 ST JOHNS AV, NEW TOWN 7008 TAS	N/A	2807748
1 ST JOHNS AV, NEW TOWN 7008 TAS	106089/1	5516479
85 Creek RD, New Town 7008 TAS	131230/1	1906728

St John's Anglican Church
Heritage Tasmania

Parsonage
Heritage Tasmania

St Johns Avenue
Heritage Tasmania

1 St Johns Avenue
Heritage Tasmania

Orphan School - south wing

Heritage Tasmania

Parish Hall

Heritage Tasmania

Cow shed

Heritage Tasmania

Rogers Chalet & Rechabite Hut

Heritage Tasmania

Infants Orphan School

Heritage Tasmania

Gellibrand Building

Heritage Tasmania

2 St Johns Avenue
Heritage Tasmania

Orphan School - kitchen block
Heritage Tasmania

Statement of Significance: (non-statutory summary)

St Johns Park is of historic heritage significance as a place of institutionalised health care since 1833. As such it demonstrates the official response to disadvantaged groups within society, such as orphans and the aged, from the convict period until the present. The site holds many buildings rare within Tasmania, and is itself a rare example of a convict period orphanage. The sites of two graveyards within St Johns Park have the potential to yield information about the orphanage, and the remainder of the site has considerable archaeological potential. Several of the buildings within St Johns Park are fine representative examples of their type, including the Orphan School buildings, the Parsonage and the Watch Houses. The place is well known to Tasmanians, and has strong social, cultural and spiritual associations for many. It also has strong associations with a number of people prominent in Tasmania's history, including Lt-Gov. George Arthur, the architects John Lee Archer and James Blackburn, and the social reformer Edward Swarbeck Hall.

Why is it significant?:

The Heritage Council may enter a place in the Heritage Register if it meets one or more of the following criteria from the Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995:

a) **The place is important to the course or pattern of Tasmania's history.**

The St Johns Park has been continuously associated with institutional care for over 175 years. Its first such use as an orphanage in 1833 has a strong connection with Tasmania's convict roots. Initially, the vast majority of the institutions charges had convict parents, and in 1844 admission to the orphanage was restricted to children of convict parents. St John's Anglican Church, which was built to serve both the orphanage and the New Town community, was designed with one gallery specifically designed to seat orphans and another to seat convicts. The remnant of the stone wall which initially surrounded the orphanage demonstrates that it was designed a place of incarceration. The 1841 watch houses at the entrance to the St Johns Avenue driveway demonstrate how the needs of the orphanage were combined with other needs of law enforcement in a convict society. The Infants Orphan School completed in 1861 demonstrates that, almost a decade after the convict period had ended, Tasmania still had to contend with a large orphan population. Later buildings on the site, such as the Gellibrand building, the Rogers Chalet and the Rechabite Hut, testify to the places use for residential care during the twentieth century.

b) **The place possesses uncommon or rare aspects of Tasmania's history.**

St Johns Park is rare for its association with institutional care within Tasmania over a period of more than 175 years. Moreover, several of the buildings within St Johns Park are rare in their own right. Associated fabric:
* The 1832 Kings Orphan School buildings and the 1861 Infants Orphan School are rare examples of nineteenth century purpose-built state orphanages.
* St John's Anglican Church, possibly the earliest church in the Hobart area, is a very rare church type, being based on a square plan and having four fireplaces. A rare pair of galleries, built to hold orphans and convicts, reflect the original congregational mix. The timber columnar structure and trussed roof structure, based on the principle of hammer beams, is also very rare, as is the church clock made in 1828 in London.
* The pair of 1841 watch houses designed by James Blackburn are very rare.
* The c1840-1860 cow shed is of a very rare, substantially nail-free construction type.
* The two chalets associated with the treatment of tuberculosis in the early 20th century are possibly the only examples of their type within Tasmania.
* The Mussett Hut is one of very few that have been located in Tasmania. Such huts are believed to be rare in the whole of Australia.

c) **The place has the potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Tasmania's history.**

There are two cemeteries located within St Johns Park. The remains of bodies interred in both have the potential to provide information about the orphanage and, since many inmates died soon after their arrival in the colony, about diet and conditions on the convict transport ships.
The early to mid-nineteenth century buildings within St Johns Park - including in particular the Orphan School buildings, the Watch Houses, the Parsonage and the Cow Shed - have the potential to reveal information about early construction techniques and materials. Sub-surface features and deposits across the site have the potential to provide information concerning the distribution of structures, material culture and living standards of the orphanage and other occupations.

d) **The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of place in Tasmania's history.**

St Johns Park contains buildings in a number of architectural styles. Some of these buildings are representative of broader classes of cultural places. These include:
* The 1831 King's Orphan School buildings, representative of the use of the Colonial Georgian and Old Colonial Gothic Picturesque styles in institutional buildings of the period.
* St John's Anglican Church - important in demonstrating the broad characteristics of an Old Colonial Gothic Picturesque church.
* The 1837 Parsonage - representative of an Old Colonial Regency domestic building.
* The 1841 Watch Houses - representatives of the Victorian Gothic style.
* The 1861 Infants Orphan School -representative of the institutional use of the Victorian Filigree style.
* The Gellibrand Building - representative of an Interwar Stripped Classical building.

e) **The place is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement.**

Various features of some of the buildings within St Johns Park demonstrate a high degree of technical achievement. These include the cast iron columns in the 1832 Orphans School, the 1828 clock in St John's Anglican Church tower, the fine stonework associated with the facade of the church, the overall design of James Blackburn's 1841 Watch Houses, fine cast iron lace work on the facade of the Infants Orphan School building, the largely nail-free structure of the cow shed and the buildings roof monitors. Additionally, the overall design of the orphanage precinct, which makes use of a strong central axis to unify the entire group of buildings, demonstrates a high degree of creativity.

f) **The place has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social or spiritual reasons.**

St Johns Park has links with many sections of the community. Although its function as an orphanage ceased in 1879, there are many contemporary Tasmanians who are aware that their ancestors were incarcerated there. The places later uses have touched many contemporary Tasmanians more directly. Sections of it were used as a consumptives' sanatorium until after the First World War, for the treatment of epileptics and the mentally ill until the Interwar years and as a hospital for children suffering from poliomyelitis until 1982. Uses of parts of St Johns Park in connection with aged care are ongoing. Moreover, St John's Anglican Church has had a local congregation since its consecration in 1835. In 2008 a new group, Friends of the Orphan School and St John's Park Precinct, was formed by a group for whom the cultural associations of St Johns Park have special meaning. There are therefore a wide-ranging number of groups within the Tasmanian community for whom St Johns Park has strong social, cultural or spiritual associations.

g) **The place has a special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Tasmania's history.**

The St Johns Park has strong associations with a number of people important in Tasmania's history. Lt-Governor George Arthur authorised the creation of the King's Orphan School, directed John Lee Archer to design the complex and took a personal interest in the progress of the project. The notable colonial architects, John Lee Archer and James Blackburn, are strongly connected with the fabric of buildings within the complex, Archer with the 1833 orphanage buildings, St John's Anglican Church and the Parsonage (all of which he designed) and Blackburn with the two Watch Houses, which were built to his design in 1841.
Charles O'Hara Booth, the Commandant of Port Arthur Penal Station from 1833 until 1844, ran the orphanage from 1844 until his death in 1851. Of as much significance in the development of the institution as those who ran it was its greatest critic, the surgeon and social reformer, Edward Swarbeck Hall, who from the late 1850s until 1879 was tireless in his attempts to improve conditions for the children held in the orphanage. Of the inmates themselves, two are important in Tasmania's history: William Lanne, often described as the last full-blood male Tasmanian Aboriginal, and Mathinna, the Aboriginal girl adopted by Lady Franklin.

h) **The place is important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.**

No Data Recorded

Heritage approval is required for work that will result in changes to the nature or appearance of the fabric of a Heritage place, both internal and external.
Please refer to the Heritage Council's Works Guidelines (www.heritage.tas.gov.au) for information about the level of approval required and appropriate outcomes.
Heritage Advisors are also available to answer questions and provide guidance on enquiries@heritage.tas.gov.au or Tel 1300850332

This data sheet is intended to provide sufficient information and justification for listing the place on the Heritage Register. Under the legislation, only one of the criteria needs to be met. The data sheet is not intended to be a comprehensive inventory of the heritage values of the place, there may be other heritage values of interest to the Heritage Council not currently acknowledged.

Setting:

St Johns Park lies between New Town Road to the north-east, Creek Road to the north-west, Ogilvie High School and Maypole Creek to the south-east and the garden wards of Southern Cross Nursing Home to the south-west. It contains fourteen buildings assessed as having state historic heritage significance, as well as historic plantings, archaeological sites and other features of state significance; seven buildings or groups of buildings and plantings assessed as having local historic heritage significance, as well as a number of other buildings assessed as having no historic heritage significance. Some of the latter buildings detract from the historic heritage values of St Johns Park as a whole.

The buildings are set in a mainly grassy area traversed by a number of minor roads and vehicular tracks. In addition to the significant trees on the site, there are various other plantings, many of which are the result of conscious landscaping carried out at various historical periods. The bulk of the site is set on sloping land well back from New Town Road, and much of the original design was intended to take advantage of views down to Cornelian Bay. However, some ill-considered twentieth century developments on the site have worked against this intent.

Description:

The registration includes an area of 12.81 hectares. It consists of land parcels owned in 2009 by the State Government, the Church of England and Southern Cross Nursing Homes. The site comprises a number of buildings, structures, archaeological areas, plantings of trees and avenues of trees of historic cultural heritage significance, as well as buildings and structures assessed as having no historic cultural heritage significance.

The registered area includes the following parcels of land:

* the parcels of Crown Land, FR 106089/1 and PID 2807748, occupied by the two former watch houses at 1 and 2 St Johns Avenue, New Town;

* the parcel of Crown Land containing St Johns Avenue;

* the parcel PID 5527100 containing St John's Anglican Church, owned by the Church of England;

* the parcel FR 223265/16 containing the rectory, owned by the Church of England;

* the parcels of Crown Land, PID 5527119, LPI HHW27 and LPI HHY42, administered by the Department of Health and Human Services;

* a section of the parcel FR 131230/1, owned by Southern Cross Nursing Homes.

The discrete places within the registration that have been assessed as having state historic heritage cultural significance are the following:

1. Gatehouse at 1 St Johns Avenue 1841
1 St Johns Avenue is one of a pair of Victorian Gothic Watch Houses/Gatehouses designed by James Blackburn in 1841 and built at about the same time. The single-storey building was originally built entirely of sandstone, probably with a slate roof (now replaced by concrete tiles), stone parapet gable ends and elaborately moulded mediaeval-styled chimney. Most windows are double-sashes. The door to the porch has a Tudor arch opening. Both door and windows have label moulds. An unsympathetic 1960s flat-roofed concrete block extension has been built to the west of the

original building. The original fence has been removed, and the southern stone gable capping has been replaced with galvanised steel capping. Internally, the building has been substantially remodelled. The three main rooms have plastered walls, lath and plaster ceilings and introduced metal ceiling roses. This site has identified archaeological potential as indicated in the Conservation Management Plan (Godden Mackay 1996).

2. Gatehouse at 2 St Johns Avenue 1841
James Blackburn's design for 2 St Johns Avenue mirrors that for the watch house at 1 St Johns Avenue. However, there is a stone addition to the north of no. 2, built in the style of the original and featuring a mediaeval-styled chimney identical to the others featured in both buildings and conforming to Blackburn's design. It is not known whether this addition was made at the time of the original building or if it was added later. To the west of 2 St Johns Avenue are weatherboard additions, some of which may date from the nineteenth century and some from a later period. The interior of 2 St Johns Avenue has been remodelled, although doors, skirting boards and one fire surround appear to be original. Interior walls are plastered and the ceiling is of lath and plaster construction. This site has identified archaeological potential as indicated in the Conservation Management Plan (Godden Mackay 1996).

3. St Johns Avenue 1897
St Johns Avenue leads in a straight line for some 250 metres from New Town Road to the nave of St John's Anglican Church. The avenue is a bitumen road with a galvanised iron fence lining its southern boundary. It formed the original axial drive to the orphanage, and in 1897 two symmetrical lines of 'black oaks' (Quercus veluntina) were planted either side of the road to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. The canopies of some of these trees now meet above the carriageway. The avenue is augmented in a few places by fir trees.

4. Orphan School north wing 1833
This is a masonry and stucco symmetrical building, designed by John Lee Archer and built by convicts, combining elements of the Colonial Georgian and Old Colonial Gothic Picturesque styles. It has a two-storey central core and two one-and-a-half storey wings with bracketed eaves. The building is surmounted by a single hipped roof, originally clad in slate or shingles, but in 2011 clad in short sheets of corrugated iron. The central section has a projecting gable which pierces the roofline. Castellated parapets are featured at the end of each wing, and pairs of dormer windows have been introduced to split the line of the eaves in both wings. There are two simple rectangular chimney stacks with simple brick moulding courses and corbelling at the crowns. Each stack serves five fireplaces.

The main entrance to the building is in the centre of the central section; it is set in an arched doorway with a label mould. Brickwork in the facade is painted Flemish bond. Dormer windows are double-sashes with large panes. Windows to the ground floor wings are twenty-four paned casements with an air vent below the bottom line of glazing and six-paned hinged toplights above. They are symmetrically arranged in the facade. Under each end-parapet is a blind window beneath a decorative label mould. Windows in the central block are smaller than those in the wings and are now double-hung sashes with two or four panes. It is likely that they were originally pairs of twelve-paned casements, and that these were replaced in c1880 (Godden Mackay vol. 2, p30).

The rear of the building is exposed brick masonry in English bond. A verandah on wooden posts runs its entire length. Three small weatherboard clad dormers facing to the rear are later additions, as are two fire escapes. The first floor of the building, the former dormitory, was deemed unsafe for entry in 2008. The ground floor includes two large rooms, which served originally as the dining room and school room. Intermediate structural support in each room is provided by four slender cast iron columns 3.5m in height and with diameters of c120mm. It has been assumed that these are original and that they were imported from England (Godden Mackay vol. 2, p 11). The central gable-roofed block is two storeys high with an attic. Each floor consists of four rooms with a central stairwell and passage area. The original building had wings projecting west from each end. Only a small section of the eastern wing remains. This site has identified archaeological potential as indicated in the Conservation Management Plan (Godden Mackay 1996).

5. Orphan School north wing, kitchen block 1833
The end of the eastern wing of the north block, originally a kitchen, remains as an isolated structure, although in a much modified form. Two nineteenth century bread ovens remain in an exterior wall. Although other original fabric remains, modern kitchen additions and refurbishments distract. A reasonable potential exists for early-mid C19th archaeological features and artefact deposits to exist with the immediate environs of this building.

6. Orphan School south wing 1833
The south wing of the Orphan School was designed by John Lee Archer to be an exact mirror image of the north wing.

Later dormer windows were introduced into this building as they were in the north wing. The original windows in the central block have also been replaced by four-paned double-hung sashes. The two original westward facing wings of this building have been demolished. The most significant difference between the north and the south wing is that the entire northern one-and-a-half storey wing of the south wing was demolished in c1954, leaving only the truncated central gable section and the southern dormitory wing. Also in 1954 the ground floor (school room) of the southern dormitory wing was refurbished as a theatre with raised stage and seating recycled from the Theatre Royal . In 2009 the upper floor of this wing is used as a storage area. A reasonable potential exists for early-mid C19th archaeological features and artefact deposits to exist with the immediate environs of this building.

7. St John's Anglican Church 1835

This Old Gothic Picturesque building is one of John Lee Archer's two best known churches. It was specifically designed to be incorporated in the Orphan School as the pivotal element in its symmetrical composition, and it remains at the axial focal point of the St Johns complex. Its original design featured a spire above the central tower, but this was never built.

The church was built to a square plan, combining a simple classical Georgian form with crenellations, castellated parapet and Gothic windows. The facade, sides, tower and crenellations are fashioned from finely tooled sandstone, while the rear of the building is brick masonry in English bond.

The interior of the church is unusual, being based on a square and having four fireplaces. The roof supports are of a rare timber columnar structure supporting an equally rare trussed roof based on the principal of hammer beams. Originally, the altar was to the south, the pulpit to the north and the aisles were arranged as a cruciform. This was altered in 1900-1905. At an upper level are two steeply raked galleries to the east and west. One of these was designed for convicts, the other for orphans. The gentry and other local parishioners sat on the pews below (Godden Mackay vol. 1, p73). The church tower also houses a very fine clock made in London in 1828 (Godden Mackay vol. 2, p38).

St John's Anglican Church was built with stone colonnades connecting it to the northern and southern wings of the orphanage. Each colonnade features six Gothic arches of similar scale, one of the central arches being an entrance, the others housing window openings. The south colonnade does not reach the truncated southern wing of the orphanage, and terminates in a sandstone wall housing a rectangular entrance.

This site has identified archaeological potential as indicated in the Conservation Management Plan (Godden Mackay 1996).

8. Northern cottage c1860

Cottages to the rear of both the north and south colonnades were thought to have been built in c1860 (Godden Mackay vol. 1, inventory). The southern cottage no longer exists, but the northern one remains. It is a brick building with a low-scale hipped roof. It features carpenter Gothic windows, but its interior has been significantly altered.

9. Church of England burial ground 1833

The Kings Orphanage opened as a wholly Church of England organisation, and remained so until 1844, when a Roman Catholic chaplain was appointed. The C of E burial ground was the only burial ground until c1852. It catered for burials of St John's parishioners as well as orphans. In 1963 all but one of the monuments on the site were relocated to Cornelian Bay Cemetery. Some of the former burial ground has also been built on, while most of it remains as a gently sloping grassed area. Nevertheless, the site still contains human remains, including the remains of orphans buried there. Archaeological remains in the cemetery area have the potential to provide information about both transport and orphanage conditions, especially in the early years of Hobart's settlement.

10. Captain Matthew Forster Monument 1846

The monument erected to the late Comptroller General of Convicts, Captain Matthew Forster, by his friends is a Victorian Egyptian-style obelisk on a raised plinth standing on four stone steps. An inscription carved in a stone shield on the plinth provides details of the monument's provenance.

11. Roman Catholic Cemetery 1852

In 1852 land was set aside for a Roman Catholic burial ground specifically for children from the Orphan School. It is thought to have been used until 1872. Any headstones on the site have been removed, and the graveyard is now grassland with a few trees. Archaeological remains in the area have the potential to provide information about both transport and orphanage conditions.

12. Parish Hall early 1880s

This single-storey sandstone Victorian ecclesiastical building is set in the north-east corner of the Church of England burial ground, and may have served a funereal function. In addition to its possible funereal use may well have been used by the orphanage as a Sunday School. The hall has a steeply pitched roof clad in corrugated iron, with stone chimneys at each gable apex. The building is symmetrically centred on a neo-Gothic entrance porch. The window to the entry porch and ventilator openings high in the gable ends have pointed arches. Elsewhere the windows have chamfered rectangular openings, and are symmetrically arranged.
A pavilion style extension has been added to the south side of the building. It is a utilitarian concrete block structure having a form similar to that of the church, although on a much smaller scale. The extension is linked to the hall by a short metal-framed glass corridor. The interior of the hall has been substantially modified.

13. Parsonage 1837

The St John's parsonage is an Old Colonial Regency breakfronted villa designed by John Lee Archer. It was built on elevated ground to provide views of Cornelian Bay. The parsonage is constructed of painted brick on a sandstone base, and is symmetrical with a flight of steps leading up to a central entrance. This is flanked by pilasters and twelve-paned double-hung sash windows. Narrow wings extend on either side of the central block. Roofs are hipped and clad in grey-painted corrugated iron. The central roof is pierced by two sets of chimneys at either end of the block. Timber enclosed verandahs have been added to the front of both wings, giving the overall building an approximately rectangular plan. A skillion extension exist to the rear of the western wing. The interior of the building is in good condition, with lath and plaster ceilings, timber fireplace surrounds, and stained timber panelling. This site has identified archaeological potential as indicated in the Conservation Management Plan (Godden Mackay 1996).

14. Stone wall 1833

In order to secure its inmates, the orphanage was built surrounded by a stone wall. The only section of this wall that remains is an unbroken 25-metre stretch. It is approximately 2.1m high and is built of roughly coursed stonework consisting of alternating courses of large blocks and courses of less than a single brick high. The coping is shaped like a pointed arch.

15. Cow shed c1850s

The cow shed is the only surviving structure to have been associated with the Queen's Orphan School farm. It is an Old Colonial weatherboard building of rectangular form with half-gabled corrugated iron roof, topped with three monitors straddling the ridge. These have fixed louvres and copper roofs. The central monitor originally held a weather vane, thought to have been relocated in the twentieth century St John's rectory. The building is largely nail free. Fenestration of the two long walls consisted of a 3-pane fixed light along the top of the opening with operable louvres filling the remainder. The building has a recent concrete floor, and has been augmented with a garage extension in the south-east corner. This site has identified archaeological potential as indicated in the Conservation Management Plan (Godden Mackay 1996).

16. Infants Orphan School 1861

The Infants Orphan School was built in the Victorian Filigree style; it was positioned on the same central axis as the orphan school-church complex. The building features a large central block flanked by a pair of single-storey wings which were raised to two storeys in the 1880s (Godden Mackay vol. 1, inventory). At some time in the twentieth century, the northern wing was extended with the addition of a very wide two-storey enclosed verandah to the front of the building. The central block is dominated by a decorative cast iron verandah, and is symmetrical about a central gable. The roof is hipped and clad in corrugated iron. There are four symmetrically arranged white-painted rectangular simple chimney stacks with corbelling at the crowns. The plan for the building shows that it was originally built with a D-shaped rear section from which radiated two diagonal wings. Most of this section of the building was demolished in the 1960s. Internally, a considerable amount of the original joinery and panelling remains. A reasonable potential exists for early-mid C19th archaeological features and artefact deposits to exist with the immediate environs of this building.

17. Rogers Chalet 1906

The Rogers Chalet is the oldest chalet from the Sanatorium Village created to house sufferers from tuberculosis. It is

a weatherboard structure with a red-painted gable-ended corrugated iron roof, which extends over the front door to form a porch. The gable is of scalloped shingles. There is a single verandah post supporting one corner of the porch. This has some decorative detailing in its brackets, which is echoed in the barge boards. There are also decorative finials at either end of the building. The chalet has been relocated from the site of the former John Edis Hospital.

18. Rechabite hut 1919
This building is a vertical board hut, built in the style of a garden shed. There are doors at either end of the building. It stands adjacent to the slightly larger Rogers Chalet, and also has a red-painted gable-ended corrugated iron roof. Like the Rogers Chalet it was removed to its present location from the former John Edis Hospital site.

19. Gellibrand Building 1939
This is an Interwar Stripped Classical single-storey building, built to an L-shaped plan. It features a vestigial classical portico and colonnade in a generally understated facade. The exterior of the building is intact, and the interior detailing representative of the style and period.

20. Formal gardens c1830s
The formally established landscape gardens to the east of the Infants Orphan School and adjacent to the Gellibrand Building feature a number of mature exotic species, notably a Norfolk Bay pine in front of the Infants Orphan School, a mature redwood (Sequoia sempervirens) and a pine. The general layout of the beds and plantings in this section of garden reflects the institutional nature of the place.

21. Memorial gum tree 1939
This lone mature eucalypt has a sign in front of it that identifies its provenance. It was originally planted at the Australian War Memorial in Villiers, France, where it was unveiled by King George VI. Its transplanting to its present site in 1939 was presided over by the Governor of Tasmania, Sir Ernest Clark.

22. Mussett Hut c1940
This is an intact original Mussett Hut dating from the Second World War. It is a steel framed and clad relocatable building, and is believed to have been recycled from elsewhere on the site. Mussett Huts are believed to have been imported to Australia from Britain during the Second World War. Enquiries have suggested that very few remain on the Australian mainland, and only a handful have come to light in Tasmania.

23. Archaeological features and deposits
Many of the preceding buildings and associated archaeological deposits occurring within the footprint of the building or within its immediate surroundings, have the potential to demonstrate early construction techniques and materials and to provide information concerning material culture and living conditions of the time and usage specific to this building.

Across the broader registered area, archaeological remains relating to the King's Orphan School period and subsequent occupation are likely to survive. These remains may include structural remains, occupation deposits and cemeteries and may be associated with extant buildings or may exist in open space between existing buildings. An archaeological sensitivity zoning plan (Godden Mackay 1996) gives an initial indication of the scope of remains that may exist across the site.

The discrete places within the registration that have been assessed as having local historic heritage cultural significance are:

i. Twentieth century rectory c1920: The present rectory of St John's Anglican Church was built in the early twentieth century, close to the church and to its east. It is a brick Federation bungalow set in a spacious garden. The house features a hipped roof clad in corrugated iron, a large bungalow-style entrance porch and bay window. There is a timber shed in the rectory's garden that sports a nineteenth century weather vane crowned with a carved timber cock. This is believed to have come from the cow shed (item 15).

ii. House no. 21 c1877: This house was probably built as a two-roomed gardener's lodge. In 1877 it was expanded into more or less its present configuration, and probably used as accommodation by staff associated with the institutions farm and grounds. It is a single-storey Victorian Italianate cottage of brick and stucco, the latter grooved to imitate ashlar sandstone. The building stands on a sandstone base. There is a single hipped corrugated iron roof pierced by three medium banded and corbelled brick chimneys. The front entry door is original, but other doors have

been replaced. Windows are double-hung sashes with sandstone sills. An enclosed verandah (not original) protects the front door.

iii. Row of oaks near parsonage c1840s: The row of oaks in front the 1837 parsonage is a minor remnant of an early planting scheme.

iv. Avenue of mature trees behind the Woodhouse Building 19th century: There is an avenue of mature trees behind the Woodhouse Building. It is one of several such avenues on the site.

v. Avenue of flowering cherries 1988: In April 1988 the Shiraton Buckwheat Trade Mission presented this avenue of Tasmania soba (prunus x yedoensis) trees, which commemorate the establishment of the Tasmanian buckwheat industry.

vi. Alkoomi Hostel c1920: This is a low scale longitudinally arranged single-storey brick-rendered building. It has a low-pitched hipped corrugated iron roof, with timber windows and doors. It was built to provide hostel care.

vii. Wingfield 1938: This is a low scale single-storey brick-rendered building, the first wing of which was completed in 1938. The entrance is an interesting stylistic combination of art deco and functionalist features. Later additions to the building complement the style and scale of the original wing, which is identifiable by its rendered facade and horizontal glazing bars. It was built for the Tasmanian Society for Crippled Children.

viii. Woodhouse 1954: This two-storey building with a -shaped floor plan replaces the rear (western) sections of the Orphan Schools south wing. It has a concrete frame, concrete block walls and a tiled roof. Its southern end connects with the south wing of the Orphan School. It is a good example of a post-war health care institutional building.

ix. Government Analytical and Forensic Laboratories 1994: This late twentieth century structuralist complex opened as a group of three corrugated iron laboratory buildings; they contrast strongly with the rest of the site and are separated from it by cyclone fencing. The buildings have a high-tech appearance, curved roof forms and light weight walling. The original group has been extended several times since 1994, and is set within landscaped grounds.

The discrete places within the registration that have been assessed as having no historic heritage cultural significance, and which in general detract from the heritage significance of the site, are:

a. Parish Centre c1950: This single-storey timber framed building clad in shiplap boards with corrugated iron roofing stands close to the St John's Anglican Church end of St Johns Avenue.

b. Clive Hamilton School 1968: These two buildings were erected as a school for geriatric care nurses. One of the buildings is weatherboard, the other constructed from concrete blocks. Both have shallow-gabled roofs with corrugated iron roofing. They are located close to the northern end of the Catholic cemetery, and may impinge upon it.

c. Engineering Workshop c1980s: This single-storey concrete block building is sited over a section of the former Church of England cemetery.

d. House no. 15 c1970s: This is an orange brick one/two-storey bungalow, with a shallow-gabled corrugated iron roof. It is associated with the residential occupation of the site, and is located south of the former Church of England cemetery.

e. House no. 17 c1970s: This is a brick single-storey bungalow with a shallow-gabled corrugated iron roof. It is associated with the integration into the wider community of the mentally handicapped, and is located south of the former Church of England cemetery. It is adjacent to house no. 15.

f. House no. 19 c1970s: This is a brick bungalow associated with the residential occupation of the site. It is located south of the former Church of England cemetery. It is adjacent to house no. 17.

g. Transport Administration building c1990s: This is a modern rusticated concrete block building with large areas of fenestration. It is used by Community Health Services to administer vehicle use. It is adjacent to house no. 19.

h. Transport Department garaging c1990s: This group of corrugated iron sheds are used to garage the Community Health Services fleet of vehicles. They are located close to and impinge upon the nineteenth century cow shed.

j. Karingal 1961: This low-scale single-storey rendered building has a central section with two wings radiating symmetrically from it at shallow angles. It has a shallow-pitched roof clad in profiled metal and double-hung windows. It was built to house people with intellectual disabilities, and is located close to the southern extremity of the site.

k. Hall behind Karingal c1970s: This small rendered rectangular building was associated with Karingal's use as an aged persons hostel.

l. Bowls Club 1966: The bowling green and associated concrete block clubhouse were built to serve staff and patients. The clubhouse blocks the view from the 1837 Parsonage.

m. Tennis courts c1980s: The bitumen tennis courts and weatherboard amenities room, enclosed by a high mesh fence, were created in the late twentieth century for the use of resident workers and patients.

n. Inga 1961: This two/three-storey red brick hostel building was designed as a block-like structure in the Post War International Style. It opened as a nurses' hostel, and occupies much of the site of the former Boys Training School.

o. Boiler House c1990s: This is a modern concrete and glass utility building situated behind Inga.

p. Bruce Caruthers Wing 1961: This is a modern four-storey concrete and masonry block clad in brick at the ends and concrete panels along the sides. It was built as a two-storey womens hospital. The upper two floors were added in 1963, and in 2008 the building is used for administration purposes.

q. Childcare building c1980s: This single-storey weatherboard building with a corrugated iron skillion roof was built in the late twentieth century and abuts Wingfield. It was purpose built to provide childcare services for the St Johns Park staff.

r. Dental store c1990s: This glass and masonry block was built in the late twentieth century on the site of the former 1880s/90s steam laundry.

s. HEC substation c1960s: This rectangular masonry utility building is situated next to the dental store.

t. Domestic services 1970s: This single-storey weatherboard domestic-scale building is associated with recreational and service needs on the site. It is located at the extreme western edge of the site, adjacent to Creek Road.

u. Canteen/staff amenities 1970s: This single-storey steel-framed building houses kitchen, dining and amenities services. It is located immediately behind the Orphan School north wing.

w. Kitchen 1959: This two-storey brick block was constructed in 1959. It is situated behind the Orphan School north wing, and incorporates part of the original kitchen block.

y. Administration building 1970s: This is a single-storey rendered masonry-walled building with a flat roof. It is used as open-plan office space, and is located immediately to the south of St John's Anglican Church at the end of Woodhouse.

z. Refuse store c1970s: This is a small single-storey brick building with a flat corrugated iron roof. It is located to the east of the Gellibrand Building.

History:

St Johns Park has been a major site of the states intervention into the health and social welfare of Tasmanians from 1833 to the present. It was initially acquired by the government as the site for the King's Orphan School, which lasted in various guises until 1879. Later it was used as a paupers home for both males and females, as a lying-in hospital for single women, as a sanatorium for consumptives, as an asylum for both male and female patients with intellectual disabilities, as a boys' training school, and as an old people's home.

The King's Orphan School was the first orphanage to be established in Tasmania, and followed earlier examples in Norfolk Island (established in 1795) and Sydney (established in 1801). In 1823 Lt-Gov. Sorell expressed his intention of building an orphan school, but nothing came of it. Three years later Archdeacon Thomas Scott visited Hobart and advised Lt-Gov. George Arthur to establish orphan schools in order to train future domestics and mechanics. At the time, the word orphan was used loosely to describe any child who was perceived as destitute. Acting on Scotts recommendation, Arthur initiated a survey that identified over one hundred orphans in the colony.

In 1827 the government acquired the Constantia Distillery building on New Town Rivulet (across Creek Road from the registered area), then being used as a wattle bark processing plant. John Lee Archer, Van Diemen's Lands Civil Engineer and Architect from 1827 to 1838, drew up plans for its conversion to an orphanage. The King's Orphan School, as the new centre was called, received its first intake of boys in October 1827. Four months later, a girls' orphanage opened in Davey Street, Hobart. The inmates of both institutions were aged between three and fifteen. Some were transferred from the Cascades Female Factory, some directly from convict ships and some from the community (Godden Mackay vol. 1: 5-7).

In 1829 John Lee Archer drew up plans for new orphanage buildings capable of accommodating 300 children, to be

constructed on a site in New Town, which in 1824 the government had seized from Dr Edward Bromley as recompense for his misappropriation of government funds. Archer's plans were implemented by as many as sixty convict workmen, who mustered at 6.30am and worked until 6pm. A Mr de Little supervised their work. Arthur was keen for the project to reach completion and regularly visited the worksite. However, progress was plagued by delays, and the orphans were not admitted to the building until October 1833, first the girls, the boys arriving a few weeks later (Pearce & Doyle: 62).

Archer incorporated a church into his design. His intention was that it should serve the orphanage, but pressure from the local community ensured that it was built to serve New Town parishioners as well. Its design incorporated boxes for the local gentry, a gallery for convicts and another for orphans. Its foundation stone was laid in 1834 at a ceremony attended by 3,000-4,000 people. The church was consecrated on 26 May 1835 and opened in December of that year (Pearce & Doyle: 62 & 63). Archer also designed a parsonage, which was completed in 1836 uphill to the west of the church and orphanage, commanding a view over Cornelian Bay (Godden Mackay vol. 1: 9).

The orphanage site occupied 12 hectares, and this amount of space allowed for the creation of playgrounds, burial grounds and gardens as well as pasturage for the institution's goats and cows (Godden Mackay vol. 1: 23). By 1837 there were 448 children enrolled in the orphanage, 227 boys and 221 girls and infants - about 200 more children than the buildings were designed to hold. In 1844 the administration was transferred to the Convict Department and admission was restricted to the children of convict parents (Godden Mackay vol. 1: 18). For many years the majority of inmates were of convict stock, with 411 of the 463 orphans housed in the institution in 1848 being the children of convicts. At the time there were also three Aboriginal boys, including William Lanne, and four Aboriginal girls, including Mathinna, Lady Jane Franklin's former protg (Pearce & Doyle: 65-66).

As seemed to befit children from lowly backgrounds, the training supplied by the orphanage was intended to prepare its inmates for jobs as servants and farm labourers. The 3Rs were taught, learning was by rote, and there was limited industrial training in shoemaking, carpentry, tailoring and baking. Girls were given instruction in domestic and nursery work, needlework and laundering. The children's diet was minimal: breakfast and supper consisted of tea with milk and bread, while the midday meal was a soup with vegetables and meat (Godden Mackay vol. 1: 24). The children were kept in by a 2-metre high stone wall, a 25-metre section of which remains on the site in 2008. Despite this precaution, absconding was common and the punishments for this and other transgressions were harsh, including caning, birching, solitary confinement and - for girls - cropping of hair. Less formal chastisement occurred when teachers lost control, an inquiry in 1859, for example, revealing that Matron Harriett Smyth regularly beat inmates with her hands, a horsewhip and a slate frame. She was also alleged to have allowed her dog to savage the children (Pearce & Doyle: 67-68).

Between 1833 and 1879 there were a number of inquiries into the orphanage. These exposed numerous irregularities including misappropriation of food by staff, poor diet, inadequate food, rorting of the system and sexual impropriety. Between 1833 and 1860 the death rate - partly exacerbated by a number of epidemics that swept through the orphanage - averaged sixteen children per year, about eight times the average rate for children in the colony. Nor were inmates much better off when they graduated to apprenticeships at the age of 13-14; many, it was revealed, were subjected to physical and sexual abuse by their new masters. From the late 1850s until 1879 the surgeon and social reformer, Edward Swarbeck Hall, was tireless in his attempts to improve conditions for the children held in the orphanage (Pearce & Doyle: 65).

During the years that St Johns Park was used as an orphanage, other buildings and features were erected or installed in its grounds. The first was the Anglican cemetery in the south-eastern section of the site; it opened in the early 1830s and was used both by the orphanage and by St John's parishioners. In 1963 all but one of its monuments were removed to Cornelian Bay, the remaining one being an 1846 obelisk erected to the memory of the late Comptroller General of Convicts, Matthew Forster, by his friends. In 1852 a Roman Catholic cemetery was created adjacent to the Anglican cemetery; it was used until 1872.

In 1841 two stone watch houses were built on either side of the driveway leading from New Town Road. A pair of gatehouses were included in Archer's original plan (PWD 266/1480), and such structures had probably been built in c1832. However, the need for purpose-built watch houses capable of securing offenders became apparent in 1841, when a member of the local community wrote to Matthew Forster, then the Chief Police Magistrate and himself a New Town resident, drawing his attention to a criminal element that seemed lately to have infiltrated the area. The author cited a number of attempted burglaries, including one made on his own house. Lt.-Gov Franklin was sufficiently impressed (possibly because of additional urging from Forster) to authorise the building of a watch house at a cost of no more than 200 pounds. The Head Master of the Orphan School was also keen to have a watch house built that could additionally serve as a residence for the District Commissioner of Police, and requested that two buildings be erected that could double as gate houses for the Orphan School driveway. He suggested that such buildings should be equally useful and ornamental (CSO 5/283/7452). James Blackburn, the celebrated convict architect, was engaged to design them (PWD 266/1482).

In the c1850s the orphanage buildings themselves were expanded by the addition of two cottages used for administrative purposes and/or staff accommodation. These were erected behind the orphanage wings and adjacent to St John's Anglican Church. The northern cottage remains but it has been significantly altered. The facade of the southern cottage has been retained and is incorporated in a Gothic revival colonnade linking St John' s Anglican Church to the former south wing of the orphan school. At some time in the 1860s farm buildings were erected and, of these, a weatherboard cow shed remains. The farm itself is thought to have extended as far as the present Clare Street oval, with its paddocks now occupied by Ogilvie High School.

The largest new building erected during the orphanage period was the Infants Orphan School. Parliament voted money for this in 1860 to provide accommodation for 188 infants as well as hospital accommodation for the whole orphanage. The architect of this building has not been identified, but its symmetrical radial spoke plan suggests that it was designed by someone familiar with the architecture of confinement. The building was completed in 1862. Its radial spokes were demolished after 1965, but the Victorian filigree two-storey main block remains. Only one other buildings appear to have been erected during the orphanage period, the small gardener's lodge, which in 1877 was demolished and rebuilt as a Victorian Italianate cottage, currently known as House No. 21 and used by the Community Health service.

In 1862 financial relief was made available to families without a male parent. This reduced the state's need to accommodate a large number of those formerly classified as orphans. Nevertheless, there was considerable economic distress during the 1860s, and in 1865 the number of children living at the orphanage had risen to 557. By this time, the Imperial government had divested itself of the need to contribute financially to the Queen's Orphanage (as it was now called), and the colonial government was eager to reduce the cost of the establishment. The 1871 Royal Commission into Charitable Institutions recommended that a Boarding-Out System for orphans be phased in. The Charitable Grants Department acted upon this, and numbers at the Orphanage began to drop rapidly, from 353 inmates in 1871 to 88 in 1878 (Godden & Mackay vol. 1: 27-28).

In 1874 numbers were low enough for the Infants Orphan School to be abandoned by the institution. It was immediately adapted as a home for 78 elderly female paupers, who were relocated there from the Cascades Female Paupers Depot (Scripps & Hudspeth: 29). The building was renamed the New Town Charitable Institution for Indigent Females, and included a lying-in hospital for single women (Pearce & Doyle: 75).

In 1879 the Queen's Orphanage was closed, and the few children still housed there were sent to other institutions. Following the closure, the building referred to today as the Parish Centre was built in the early 1880s as the St John's Anglican Church Sabbath School. It was officially opened in 1882, and church records indicate that it was still in use for as a Sunday School in the early decades of the twentieth century (TAHO: NS656/47, T Mason to Minister for Lands & Church News, September 1882 p132).

Following the closure of the Queen's Orphanage, male invalids from the Cascades as well as former convicts were now moved to the buildings, and the establishment was renamed again as the New Town Charitable Institution (Godden & Mackay vol. 1: 42). By 1889 it had 589 inmates. Ex-convicts made up the majority of them even in the 1890s. The new institution was a gloomy place, characterised by inadequate food, extremely basic facilities and squalor. It ran as a workhouse, with male inmates separated from the females, a rule that was even applied to married couples. In many ways it resembled a prison, offences such as absconding being punished by withdrawals of privileges, solitary confinement and goal (Pearce & Doyle: 76).

The overall St Johns site changed little over the last two decades of the nineteenth century. An 1897 plan shows that there were two narrow buildings behind the orphanage, one labelled Consumptives Wash Room and the other Cancer, indicating the institution's move towards health care. A steam laundry between the two narrow buildings is also shown on the 1897 plan, and it seems likely that this facility was built after 1879 (Godden & Mackay vol. 2: 18).

The main late nineteenth century structure erected on the site was the Boys Training School , between the former Infants Orphan School and the orphan schools farm. It opened in 1896 and young offenders, who since 1869 had been housed at the Cascades, were transferred to the new establishment. There were approximately fifty of them, aged between fourteen and eighteen. Most worked as farm labourers, although they could also be sent out into the community as apprentices. Discipline at the Training School was strict, with military drill complementing a meagre amount of school work. Corporal punishment was commonly applied. The Boys Training School also housed the offices of the Neglected Children's Department, founded in 1896 under the jurisdiction of the Chief Secretary's Department. Its first secretary was George Richardson, who simultaneously held the positions of manager of the Invalid Depot and Boys Training School and registrar of Charitable Institutions (Evans: 90).

In 1922 the Boys Training School was relocated to Deloraine and was renamed the Ashley Boys ' Home. Between 1923 and c1937 its former home at St Johns was used as accommodation for nurses (Pearce & Doyle: 82-83). A final late nineteenth century embellishment to St Johns was created in 1897 when two rows of black oaks were planted either side of the avenue leading to St John's Anglican Church, in order to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond

Jubilee.

After the turn of the twentieth century, the St Johns facilities were expanded to house sufferers from several serious illnesses. In 1902-03 an infectious diseases hospital was established there before being removed to Selfs Point. In 1906 the first Rogers isolation chalet for TB sufferers was built. Several other chalets intended for this purpose soon joined it and, to take account of this new function, the overall institution was renamed in 1911 the New Town Infirmary and Consumptives Home. The chalets were built on the site of the later John Edis Hospital; two of them remain the original Rogers Chalet and a 1919 Rechabite Hut and both have been relocated to the south-western corner of St Johns Park.

While the charitable institution for indigent elderly people remained a feature of the St Johns site until the 1960s, it became increasingly used as a hospital with several specialities. In 1920 the Mental Deficiency Act was passed, and after 1934 male mentally defectives were housed in the former Boys Training School, while girls were kept in the former Infants Orphan School (Pearce & Doyle: 77). Part of the site was also used for the treatment of epileptics.

During the first half of the twentieth century, St Johns evolved slowly. In c1920 a brick federation bungalow was built close to St John's Anglican Church to serve as a rectory, the former parsonage having been adapted for other purposes. Alkoomi was built at about the same time to provide hostel care. In June 1938 Wingfield was constructed to cater for the needs of the Tasmanian Society for Crippled Children, particularly to treat those suffering from poliomyelitis (Mercury, 2 June 1938 p11). In June 1939 the Gellibrand building was opened as a nursing home for war veterans. It was paid for partly from a trust fund set up in 1920 by the British Red Cross Society and the Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, and partly by the State Government. Its L-shaped design was decided upon so that solaria housed at the ends of each wing could derive maximum benefit from sunshine (Mercury, 3 June 1938 p3). In 1941 the Shugg wing was added to Wingfield, and it was probably during the Second World War that the Mussett Hut was installed in St Johns Park. The entire site was also renamed twice, as the New Town Rest Home in 1934 and as St Johns Park in 1937 (Pearce & Doyle: 75).

After the Second World War, change to the fabric of St Johns Park accelerated. In 1954 much of the south wing of the 1833 orphanage was demolished and replaced by the U-shaped Woodhouse block, designed to provide accommodation for elderly males; it was named after L R Woodhouse, who began work at St Johns in 1918 and finished his career as the institutions director. Also in 1954, a section of the north wing of the original orphanage was refurbished as a theatre and concert hall. In December 1959 a two-storey brick kitchen block opened. In May 1961 Karingal opened to accommodate male mentally defectives. At about the same time the northern end of the south wing of the orphanage and the former Boys Training School were both demolished. The latter was replaced by the Bruce Caruthers Wing, which opened in August 1961 as a women's hospital, and the Inga nurses hostel, built in the 1970s. In June 1963 a staff amenities block opened, and in September 1966 a bowling green and clubhouse for staff and patients. Two years later the Clive Hamilton School for geriatric nursing welcomed its first students. Also in the 1960s the spoke-like wings of the former Infants Orphan School were demolished. They were replaced in the first half of the 1970s with five separate garden wards now used by Southern Cross Nursing Homes.

The only major building to be demolished after 1970 was the late nineteenth century steam laundry. Building projects, however, continued. New buildings included a number of small brick bungalows, intended mainly for Health Service administration, tennis courts, workshops, stores, garages, childcare facilities, and the most impressive new collection of structures - the corrugated iron Government Analytic and Forensic Laboratories, which opened in February 1994. This complex has been extended a number of times, and in 2008 serves two distinct government agencies, Forensic Science Services Tasmania and Analytical Services Tasmania.

In 2008 the bulk of the St Johns Park site is owned by the State Government, with smaller parcels owned by the Church of England and Southern Cross Nursing Homes. Most of the State Government land is managed by the Department of Health and Human Services, with smaller parcels managed by the Department of Primary Industry and Water. In 1996 the Sydney heritage consultancy firm, Godden Mackay, prepared a Conservation Management Plan for St Johns Park for the then Department of Environment and Land Management, Tasmania.

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