FABRIC

Threads of Conservation

Social fabric • Fabric and place • Conserving fabric

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Eric Martin

Eric Martin has practiced architecture since 1973. He worked with the Department of Housing and Construction (DHC) in Victoria, ACT, NSW and Central Office up until the end of 1981 when he took up the position of Canberra Manager and Director of the Cox Group. In 1998 he left the Cox Group to establish his own architectural practice offering a full range of services with additional expertise in architectural conservation, heritage and disability access.

Eric has been involved with Tocal since 1980 including conservation of heritage structures, adaptive reuse and new buildings. He has prepared Conservation Management Plans and the most recent was an integrated one for the whole site.

Tocal

Paper Abstract

Tocal Property at Paterson in the upper Hunter Valley of New South Wales is a large property that has substantially not changed in size for 200 years. It retains a unique collection of 19th century farm buildings but has evolved as a farm which has explored and demonstrated best farming practices and land management over this period. In the 1960s it developed as an agricultural College, which in itself has high heritage values because of its representation of Sydney School architecture style. Even with upgrading and expansion it has managed to retain its integrity.

Interspersed with these two distinct heritage areas is a multitude of other heritage values including indigenous, natural, educational particularly agricultural, historic including WW2. Although the college is part of New South Wales government infrastructure it has to maintain relevance and viability, which has seen change and adaptive reuse to meet modern requirements. A complex and integrated CMP was finally completed in 2014 and as a result the place has been nominated to National Heritage Listing.

The paper will be a case study of Tocal its heritage and how to manage the conservation values of a complex site.