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OUR HERITAGE AT RISK - Nomination Form 2009

This program is a National campaign.



1. IDENTIFICATION / LOCATION OF HERITAGE @ RISK

Current Name of Place/ Willow Court (Former Military Hospital) Royal Derwent Hospital

Street Address of Place/Object: Lyell Highway, New Norfolk

Local Government Authority: Derwent Valley Council

Title Details: Lot No: Vol: Fol:

Longitude:

Type of Place/Object: Former Willow Court Asylum Precinct, Former Military and Convict Hospital (1830)

Original Owner: Name: Crown

Current Owner - Name: Derwent Valley Council

Address: Circle Street, New Norfolk

Current Occupant: Unoccupied

Architect/Designer: John Lee Archer for Major Roger Kelsall Military Hospital
Builder:

Construction Date: 1830

Original Use: Hospital for invalid convicts and Military Hospital later used to accommodate the mentally ill patients in Hobart

Current Use: Vacant

2. IDENTIFICATION OF CURRENT RISK

Statement of Risk:

Willow Court is a nationally significant heritage site that demonstrates the evolution of government institutional care over more than 150 years. The dates of construction of buildings within the site range from the 1830's until the 1960's. Amongst the buildings is Willow Court itself designed by John Lee Archer. It is the earliest surviving example of a convict hospital built in the distinctive front entry barracks style. (Lady Jane Franklin planted a willow tree in the courtyard hence the name). Since 1978 the site has been progressively decommissioned with on site institutional care coming to an end in 1990.

The Willow Court site is now largely owned by the Derwent Valley Council. Since 2004 the Council has developed a series of Conservation Management Plans, approved by the Tasmanian Heritage Council to guide re-development of the site. The most recent revision of the Conservation Plan approved by the Tasmanian Heritage Council was in 2009.

The Council has sold 11 of the 22 buildings on the site and is planning to dispose of several more consistent with the development plan for the site.

Since assuming responsibility for Willow Court the Derwent Valley Council has committed many resources to the management of Willow Court. However, the scale of the site coupled with the security challenges are such that the site has suffered and continues to suffer from extensive vandalism. In particular security for the site is problematic given the multiple entry and exit points, a public street running through the centre of the site, limited street lighting and extremely limited power supply to some buildings.

Degree of Risk: (tick one of)

- ***** Imminent risk - no solution agreed
- **** High risk - no solution agreed
- *** High risk - solution agreed but not implemented
- ** Immediate risk – no solution
- * Immediate risk – solution agreed but not implemented

Threats/Risks: (tick one of)

- ***** Destruction
- **** Deterioration
- *** Devaluation
- ** Damage
- * Disturbance

Fate/outcome (tick one of)

***** 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)!

3. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Elaboration of Criteria as Applicable

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

4. CURRENT HERITAGE RECOGNITION

National List:	(date entered)	(ID or Ref number)
Commonwealth List:		102728 6/01/104/0013
Register of National Estate:		11962
State Heritage Register/Listing:		THC
National Trust Classification:		Classified
Municipal Listing/Town Planning Scheme:		
Other:		

5. DESIRED OUTCOME / VISION

The conservation and reuse of the Willow Court site in a manner consistent with the Conservation Management Plan.

6. PHOTOGRAPHS / DOCUMENTATION

Bibliography

Austral Archaeology 1996, Willow Court/ Royal Derwent Hospital Precinct Study
 Godden Mackay, 1992, Willow Court Barracks Building, Royal Derwent Hospital, New Norfolk: Conservation Plan
 Tasmanian Heritage Council , 1998, Tasmanian Heritage Register Report
 E. Graeme Robertson Early Buildings of Southern Tasmania Vol II pp 239 – 241