**NARRYNA, 103 HAMPDEN ROAD, BATTERY POINT, SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT**

**Tasmanian Heritage Register Datasheet Revision**

**NARRYNA HERITAGE MUSEUM**

103 Hampden Road Battery Point Tasmania 7004

Status: Permanently registered

Tier: State

Tasmanian Heritage Register, ID Number: 1771

Municipality: Hobart City Council

Title reference / Property Id: 5576893

**DESCRIPTION**

Narryna is a two-storey domestic building with attached service wings arranged either side of a walled service courtyard with a detached coach house and stables, all dating from c. 1835 - 1840. The house faces Hampden Road, Battery Point across a symmetrical forecourt with stone gate piers and ornamental wrought iron gates dating from c. 1886.

Predating Narryna’s construction are the remains of the stone walls that defined the narrow blocks subdivided from Knopwood’s Cottage Green estate in 1824. The boundary wall on the western side (bordering James Street) was reconstructed by Hobart City Council c. 1980. The remains of the eastern boundary wall survive within the Narryna garden. This wall was made redundant when a strip of land was added to the eastern side of the property in 1896.

Narryna is a representative example of an early Hobart villa, whose significance is increased by public ownership and access as a museum. Villas (substantial freestanding houses with service wings, associated outbuildings, ornamental and productive gardens) located on the outskirts of British metropolitan centres were fashionable amongst the middle classes from the 1820s onwards and advocated by architectural and gardening writers such as John Claudius Loudon, whose works were widely read in NSW and Tasmania.

Narryna was designed by surveyor and architect, Edward Winch (d. 1861) c. 1835 and completed in October 1840 (Haig, Memorandum books).

Winch ‘arrived in Hobart Town in 1832 with recommendations to the Lieutenant- Governor and was appointed Chief Clerk and Draftsman in the Colonial Architect and Engineer's Office under John Lee Archer. He set up as an architect and builder but became bankrupt during the building of Narryna Battery Point causing considerable delays. In Archer’s office he had designed St. Peters Church at Hamilton, built 1833-1834 with modifications by Archer. He also designed Mount Vernon near Green Ponds (Kempton)’ [date unknown]. (Ratcliff, 2015: 2442)

At the time of Winch’s bankruptcy in November 1835, Captain Haig was the tenant of ‘a dwelling house and about three acres of land’ which was part of Winch’s property in Fitzroy Place Hobart (*Colonial Times*, 10 November 1835). Through this connection Winch may have remained the architect for Narryna’s protracted construction.

Winch's original facade elevation for the house (Narryna Heritage Museum collection) shows that he intended French doors to connect the principal ground floor rooms with the garden in keeping with the villa ideal. The house was constructed with sash windows in place of the French doors. This, and its four-square floor plan, gives it a conservative appearance.

Narryna is aesthetically pleasing for its academic Greek Revival stone facade incorporating a plinth, antae (pilasters), frieze and cornice set beneath a series of three hipped rooves with box gutter at the rear. The front door, fan and sidelights are set within a segmental arch and framed by an inset portico. This architectural formality is carried through to the joinery and plasterwork of the hall, drawing and dining rooms. Physical evidence in terms of the interior painted finishes (graining) indicates that Narryna possessed the trio of drawing, dining and breakfast rooms that was standard for early 19th century villas (Robinson).

Narryna is unusual among the Hampden Road villas in not being oriented to the north, the prime siting for light and vistas. In facing Hampden Road, not far from its junction with Sandy Bay Road, the house’s prominent location may have been intended to proclaim its builder's arrival in Hobart society, a gesture that was thwarted by the sale of Haig's property as a result of the depression that struck the Australian colonies in 1842.

**Physical evidence**

Narryna's intactness leads to the survival of physical evidence which contributes to an understanding of its identity as an early Hobart villa. It demonstrates 19th century social and architectural hierarchies through:

- Its stone facade, while the remainder of the suite of buildings is of brick

- Brickwork laid in Flemish bond for the house and service wing while the courtyard wall is composed of the less expensive English bond (Ratcliff, 2015: 273)

- The hall plasterwork incorporates precast mouldings in the form of classical consoles (probably imported from F. Bielefeld of London) which continue the Greek Revival theme of the façade.

- Internal detailing - the front (reception) rooms have cavetto cornices while the ceilings of the back rooms are square set.

- Doors facing the family rooms mouldings to the panels while the doors facing service areas have no mouldings.

- There are separate stairs for the main part of the house and the servants' quarters, the latter being narrow and with a steep rake

- The service wing is built at a lower level than the remainder of the house and with lower ceiling heights

- Narryna’s forecourt and stable yard, ornamental and productive gardens contain / contained similar socially-predicated hierarchies of materials (terracotta paving tiles vs bitumen) and plant stock.

**Later changes**

Narryna has undergone some alterations over its history that do not compromise its overall significance:

Its landholding originally ended at Salamanca Place, but was progressively subdivided between 1842 and 1937.

Narryna’s forecourt was reduced by 3.1m in 1886 for the widening of Hampden Road. The present gate piers, boundary walls, iron railings and gates date from this period.

A strip of land was purchased from adjacent Stowell and added to the eastern side of the property in 1896. This land may have been intended to provide an automobile entrance drive but was not used as such.

A crow’s nest deck structure on the northern side of the house was rebuilt as a third storey bathroom in 1905.

A timber laundry located in the courtyard was removed in c. 1955. Windows from this remain in the courtyard east wall.

A fountain from the garden of Sydney Lodge (extant) in Brisbane Street, Hobart was added to the front garden in 1957. The fountain probably dates from the 1840s and is a local version of designs published by Austin and Seeley of London for garden ornaments in Mughal taste.

Government acquisition in 1946 as an after-care hostel for women tuberculosis patients led to the removal of stud walls to create a large upper floor ward from the former principal bedroom and dressing room. The former ward room is now used for changing exhibitions.

**Elements without heritage significance**

The following later changes to the fabric are considered to be without heritage significance and may be reconstructed to their early form to better interpret Narryna as a c. 1840 Hobart villa.

Narryna’s stables have undergone alteration in the 20th century with the introduction of timber floors, replacement of early joinery and the addition of a veranda. This may have been undertaken by the Van Diemen's Land Memorial Folk Museum in order to increase the area available for displays. It would be consistent with the aims of the objectives of the Van Diemen's Land Memorial Folk Museum to reconstruct the building as stables to illustrate the role of transport in the functioning of an early villa such as Narryna.

Narryna was constructed with a cellar under the north-west ground floor room, accessed via a stair in the back hall. The introduction of a backdoor in the 20th century (post 1937?) led to this internal stair being covered by a floor. Given the current interest in the functioning of middle class houses such as Narryna, consideration should be given to revealing the c.1840 stair, by replacing a section of the post 1937 floor with a glass panel.

The Tasmanian Government funded restoration (under architect I. G. Anderson) for the Van Diemen's Land Memorial Folk Museum in 1955-1957 included replacing missing ground floor chimneypieces (removed c. 1946) with examples from demolished Hobart buildings. This reflected a generalized view of Georgian architecture. In 2012 the drawing room chimneypiece was reconstructed based on *in situ* evidence. At that time the dining and breakfast room chimneypieces were exchanged to reflect Narryna's hierarchy of internal detailing. In future the guest bedroom chimneypiece will be replaced by one of appropriate scale. Cast iron hob grates may be acquired for the ground floor north rooms in keeping with the evidence of the drawing room hearth, recorded photographically.

A smithy – timber vehicle display shed was constructed in the 1960s on Narryna’s eastern boundary (i.e. the strip added to the Narryna property in 1896). The building, notionally based on a barn at the Hookey property, Rokeby House on Hobart’s eastern shore, was sponsored by Mr Nettlefold and Rupert Lyons of the Tattersalls Group. The structure incorporates recycled wharf pylons (not adzed timbers as would be found in a barn structure) and recycled stone, possibly from Narryna’s eastern boundary wall. While Hobart City Council permission to demolish the structure was granted in 2011, it has been decided to reroof the structure as a wet-weather venue for school education programs and events in Narryna’s grounds. This adaptive re-use will assist the economic sustainability of the site.

**HISTORY**

Narryna stands on a portion of the Rev Robert Knopwood's Cottage Green estate. The 30- acre estate, granted to Knopwood in 1804, was subdivided in 1824. Knopwood (1763-1838) had Hampden Road constructed as the street frontage for narrow blocks that extended to the Sullivan’s Cove high water mark. Lieutenant-Governor Arthur directed the purchasers of the Cottage Green blocks to cede back to the colonial government an easement above the high water mark according to Knopwood's original undertaking to provide an access road in this location. This easement led to the creation of New Wharf. As a merchant Haig was advantaged by the shoreline being embanked for shipping. In 1833- 34 he constructed the earliest surviving warehouses to face New Wharf (*Hobart Town Courier* 1 May 1834). These survive as 49-51 Salamanca Place. Advertisements in Hobart newspapers in 1835-1842 detail the goods sold through Haig's warehouse (Carlin, 2012).

At the time he acquired the Narryna landholding in 1824, Captain Andrew Haig was as a British East India Company-licenced merchant based in Calcutta, trading with China through the port of Canton (Guangzhou). Haig had sailed into Hobart to have his vessel repaired and sell part of his China trade cargo before sailing onto Valparaiso, Chile to obtain through sale of more cargo silver currency, important to trade with China. Trade links with India, China and other parts of South-East Asia were important to early colonial Tasmania's economy and material culture.

After 1835 (*Colonial Times* 20 January 1835), when he settled in Hobart permanently, Haig was involved in whaling, shipbuilding at Battery Point, passenger and commercial shipping to other Australian ports and property speculation in Melbourne.

Continually undercapitalized as a merchant, Haig was forced to sell the landholding that contained both Narryna and his Salamanca Place warehouses in April 1842. Prior to this Mrs Elizabeth Haig had tried to bolster the familys fortunes by opening a ladies' academy at the Hampden Road address (*Hobart Town Courier*, 25 June 1841).

Following sale by auctioneer W. T. Macmichael in April 1842 (*Hobart Town Courier*, 8 April 1842), Haig’s property was subdivided with the warehouses bought by Captain Swanston and Narryna bought by Michael Lackey, miller of Bagdad, Tasmania. In 1847 the property passed to his daughter, Mrs Maria Lempriere (formerly Orr). Mrs Lempriere and her family occupied Narryna in 1857-8 but leased the house to a range of tenants over the period 1847-1884. Narryna's tenants reflected Hobart's 19th century social diversity. They included:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 1847-1851 | Hyram L. Moses | Partner in the Hobart merchant firm Nathan, Moses & Co.; foundation president of the Tasmanian Hebrew Benevolent Society in 1847 |
| 1852-1854 | George Washington Walker (1800-1869), his wife Sarah Benson Walker (nee Mather) and their family of eight children | Quaker businessman, founder of the Hobart Savings Bank, philanthropist and amateur horticulturalist. |
| 1855 | Major Hugh Clavely Cotton | Royal Engineers, previously involved in Indian Service, came to VDL as Deputy Surveyor General.  |
| 1856-1857 | Charles Butler | Prominent lawyer and son of Gamaliel Butler, Charles Butler’s widowed mother, Sarah lived at adjacent Stowell. |
| 1858 | Mrs Maria Lempriere and her family |  |
| 1863-1881 | Hon David Lewis MHA with his wife and nine children | Mayor of Hobart in 1858-59, Member of the House of Assembly for Clarence and later Hobart 1864-1882, merchant and company director  |
| 1881-1883 | Isaac Chapman |  |
| 1883-1885 | John W. Abbott |  |

In 1885 the property was purchased by John W. Bowman of Gipsland Victoria and Frederick J. Bowman of Cheshunt, Deloraine, for their sister, Mrs Emmeline Thirza Pearce (c1862-1934).

“Emmeline Pearce’s husband, Edward Hurst Pearce was a fruit pulp and jam manufacturer and his factory was situated conveniently close by in a Salamanca Place warehouse. He and his brother John traded under the name of Johnson Brothers. When Edward died in 1936, Henry Jones & Company bought the company.” (Mercer 2002: 18).

Emmeline and Edward Pearce (1858-1936) had three sons, Roy, Clyde and Bruce. Lieutenant Clyde Bowman Pearce (1888-1917), first native-born Australian Open golfing champion, was killed on active service in France during World War One. He had served in the Australian Light Horse and subsequently the 52nd Battalion. The Pearce family moved to Sandy Bay in 1926 and erected St Peter’s Anglican Church in Lord Street, using materials recycled from the Hobart mariner’s church (previously on the site of the Marine Board building), in his memory.

Narryna was leased and subsequently purchased from Emmeline Pearce’s estate by Martha and Marjorie Peate who operated it as a boarding house from c. 1926 to 1944. Mrs Beatrice Seccombe operated the boarding house in 1944-1946.

Narryna was resumed by the Tasmanian Government in August 1946 as an after-care hostel for women tuberculosis patients, continuing in this role to the early 1950s.

“At the end of the Tasmanian sesqui-centenary celebrations which took place in 1953-54, representatives of the Tasmanian Historical Research Association, the Shiplovers’ Society of Tasmania and the Battery Point Progress Association took a deputation to the Chief Secretary (A. J. White) requesting Narryna be preserved as a museum … In May 1955 the Government announced that a folk museum would be established at Narryna … The museum’s mission would be to pay tribute to the courage and fortitude of Tasmania’s pioneers.

The principal instigators were the three Rowntree sisters, Amy, Fearne and Milli, who had lived at Battery Point all their lives, and the prominent Hobart physician and historian Dr W. E. L. H. (later Sir William) Crowther … They arranged the lease of the house from the Government by a newly constistuted Board of Trustees that included Dr Crowther as chairman, Amy Rowntree as honorary secretary, businessman Sir Geoffrey Walch, educator Sir Wilfred Teniswood, Alderman Mabel Miller MHA, solicitor F. C. Wolfhagen, architect I. G. Anderson and maritime historian Captain Harry O’May.

The task of collecting items for the museum … commenced in earnest in January 1957 after £3,000 worth of repairs had been carried out. These included the complete rewiring, plumbing and waterproofing of the building, removal of alterations made during its use as a boarding house and hostel and preparation of accommodation for the caretaker [i.e. the servant’s quarters, adjacent dressing room and downstairs kitchen].” (Mercer, 2002: 23-24)

The Van Diemen’s Land Memorial Folk Museum was incorporated as Narryna Heritage Museum in 2006. In 2010 the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery took over the lease of the Narryna property from the Tasmanian Government. In 2012 Narryna Heritage Museum Inc entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery for a range of issues including the care of the building and collection.

Narryna’s Tasmanian Government-sponsored restoration in 1957 and subsequent works undertaken by the Van Diemen's Land Memorial Folk Museum are illuminating of attitudes to the care and presentation of historic properties. From the 1950s to c. 2012 Narryna's presentation reflected generalized attitudes to Georgian buildings. The house was initially a venue for a folk museum collection (based on precedents in Scandinavia and Britain), in part related to the house's original domestic function but intended to educate about the pastimes and occupations of the early settlers.

From the late 1980s there was an increased awareness of Narryna as a heritage item in its own right leading to a dissatisfaction with a lack of scholarship with its folk museum presentation nothwithstanding the importance of the collection developed by the Van Diemen's Land Memorial Folk Museum (Petrow, 2007). "Heritage" paint colours and wallpapers were introduced, but these still reflected generalized attitudes to historic buildings.

Following the 2012 Memorandum of Understanding between the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery and Narryna Heritage Museum Inc, there has been an emphasis on interpreting Narryna according to site-specific evidence with the collection fine-tuned to better interpret the house's original domestic function. This has also included interpretation of Narryna as a place of convict assignment, a theme eschewed by the Van Diemen's Land Memorial Folk Museum (Petrow, 2007). This evidence-based approach provides a more authentic experience of Narryna and provides the basis for comparison and contrast with other historic buildings.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Narryna is significant for its association with Hobart’s foundation around Sullivan’s Cove and the early development of New Wharf (later Salamanca Place) and Battery Point. As an 1830s Hobart villa built by merchant, whaler and shipbuilder, Captain Andrew Haig, it provides tangible evidence of the opportunist mercantile society, international in outlook, that developed Tasmania.

Narryna's subsequent occupants (such as Hyram Moses and George Washington Walker) are individually significant and reflect Hobart’s social diversity over the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Narryna's landmark setting led to its selection as the home of the Van Diemen's Land Memorial Folk Museum (later Narryna Heritage Museum) which opened to the public in 1957. As a museum located in an historic house, Narryna has been a place of education, community memory, community service and part of Tasmania's tourist economy.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

The Tasmanian *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995* lists eight criteria against which historic heritage significance is determined:

1. **the place is important to the course or pattern of Tasmania’s history**

Narryna is significant for its association with Hobart’s foundation at Sullivan’s Cove, standing on a portion of the Rev Robert Knopwood's Cottage Green estate. Knopwood's subdivision led to the development of New Wharf (later Salamanca Place) and Battery Point, key maritime, mercantile and residential precincts.

Narryna was built by Captain Andrew Haig (1793-1871) in c1835-40. In 1833-1834 Haig had built warehouses at 49-51 Salamanca Place (extant) at the northern end of the Narryna landholding. Haig also had associations with whaling, shipbuilding at Battery Point and passenger and commercial shipping to other Australian ports.

At the time he acquired the Narryna landholding in 1824, Captain Andrew Haig was as a British East India Company-licenced merchant based in Calcutta, trading with China through the port of Canton (Guangzhou). Trade links with India, China, other South-East Asian ports and the Pacific were important to early colonial Tasmania's economy and material culture.

Narryna is significant for illustrating the course or pattern of Australia’s / Tasmania’s economic history with its builder, Captain Andrew Haig being forced to sell the property as a result of the Depression that struck the Australian colonies from 1842 onwards. The juxtaposition of Narryna (a villa) with adjacent 1840s workingmen’s terrace houses and cottages illustrates this within the suburb of Battery Point. The 1840s workingmen’s terrace houses and cottages located on the adjacent block (acquired by M. Grant from the 1824 subdivision of Rev. Knopwood’s Cottage Green estate) include 105-111 Hampden Road, 13-21 James Street and Sailmaker’s Cottage (1849, currently Preacher’s Bar) at 5 Knopwood Street. The provide significant historical and visual curtilage for Narryna.

1. **the place possesses uncommon or rare aspects of Tasmania’s history;**

As an early Hobart villa, Narryna has strong representative values.

1. **the place has the potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Tasmania’s history**

Narryna's intactness leads to the survival of physical evidence which contributes to an understanding of its identity as an early Hobart villa and Tasmanian upper middle class houses more generally. The Greek Revival detailing of Narryna's facade is reflected in the neoclassical detailing of Narryna's hall, drawing and dining rooms. Narryna demonstrates 19th century social and architectural hierarchies through the gradation of detailing between its reception rooms, rooms for family use and servant's quarters. A similar hierarchy was evident between the entrance forecourt garden and utilitarian service yard.

Narryna was acquired by the Tasmania Government in 1946. Its history of works is illuminating of changing approaches to the conservation and presentation of historic buildings / sites.

1. **the place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of place in Tasmania’s history**

Narryna is significant as an early Hobart villa (substantial freestanding house with service wings, associated outbuildings, ornamental and productive gardens), related to other villas located along Hampden Road which occupies a ridge overlooking the town of Hobart. Hampden Road was laid out in two sections in 1824 and 1828 and is the location for the villas Stowell, Ellerslie, Wivenhoe, Melrose, Lumeah and Heathfield. Villas were fashionable amongst the middle classes from the 1820s onwards and advocated by British writers such as John Claudius Loudon, whose works were widely read in NSW and Tasmania.

Early 19th century villas survive in Hobart to a greater extent than other Australian capital cities (for example Darlinghurst Road, Sydney, possibly the model for the Hampden Road villas). Narryna bears comparison with villas at New Town (such as Runnymede, Lauderdale and New Town Park) and villas in Davey Street South Hobart.

In addition to its urban landscape setting, Narryna is an important place for the study of ornamental and productive gardening in Australia, with important evidence available for the Knopwood phase (1804-1824) and occupancy by Haig (1824-42), George Washington Walker (1852-54), Emmeline Pearce (1885-1926) and the Peate family (1926-1944).

1. **the place is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement**

Narryna's academic facade and quality of materials (especially the stonework) provides demonstrates a high degree of creative or technical achievement.

1. **the place has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social or spiritual reasons;**

Narryna has been home to the Van Diemen's Land Memorial Folk Museum since 1955 (renamed Narryna Heritage Museum in 2006). It has social and spiritual significance for the people of Hobart as a repository of Tasmanian fine and decorative arts and social history collections (developed before the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery began to collect a range of social history and decorative arts categories) and as a place of school education visits and community service in terms of volunteering and philanthropy.

Narryna has an extended history of ownership or custodianship by women such as Mrs Maria Lempriere (formerly Orr, née Lackey) over the period 1847-1884, Mrs Emmeline Pearce (née Bowman) over the period 1884-1937 and Martha and Marjorie Peate, boarding house keepers over the period 1926-1944. Narryna has important women's history themes ranging from Mrs Elizabeth Haig's proposed ladies' academy at Narryna (June 1841); Narryna as a place of assignment for convict women from the Cascades Female Factory; the house's use as an after-care hostel for women tuberculosis patients (1946-1954), and the role of women such as the Rowntree sisters of Battery Point in the foundation of the Van Diemen's Land Memorial Folk Museum.

Narryna is potentially a place of social significance to the Chinese and Indian communities in Hobart owing to Captain Andrew Haig's role as a British East India Company-licenced merchant in the China trade. Captain Haig is known to have spoken Hindi (having acted as an interpreter in a Hobart court case, *Colonial Times* 28 December 1841). Narryna is a Hindi name and one of the attributes of the Hindu god, Vishnu.

During Narryna's ownership by Maria Lempriere (1847-1884), the house had a number of tenants who reflected Hobart's 19th century social diversity. These tenants included Jewish businessman Hyram Moses and Quaker businessman George Washington Walker and family. The house has significance for their descendants and more broadly members of their faith traditions.

The collection of the Van Diemen's Land Memorial Folk Museum / Narryna Heritage Museum Inc. The collection has social and spiritual associations for people whose family's cultural heritage is represented in the collection. Examples of this include the descendants of builder, Edward Casson Rowntree; descendants of Quaker businessman, George Washington Walker and members of the Peate family.

1. **the place has a special association with the life or work of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Tasmania’s history**

Narryna has important historical associations with the following people:

Rev Robert Knopwood (1763-1838), owner of land prior to its subdivision for Narryna. See <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/knopwood-robert-2314>

Captain Andrew Haig (1793-1871)

Edward Winch (d. 1861), surveyor and architect

Hyram Moses, Jewish businessman

George Washington Walker (1800-1869), Quaker businessman, his wife Sarah Benson Walker. Walker's sons founded The Friends School, North Hobart. See <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/walker-george-washington-2764>

Charles Butler, lawyer and son of Gamaliel Butler of adjacent Stowell. See <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/butler-gamaliel-1861>

Clyde Pearce (1888-1917) champion golfer and World War One serviceman

Sir William Edward Lodewyk Hamilton Crowther (1889-1981). See <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/crowther-sir-william-edward-lodewyk-hamilton-12374>

Captain Harry O'May (1872-1962). See <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/omay-henry-harry-11304>

Amy, Ferne and Milli Rowntree, founders of the Van Diemen's Land Memorial Folk Museum

Doone Kennedy OAM (c. 1925-2014), former Lord Mayor of Hobart; Van Diemen's Land Memorial Folk Museum trustee and benefactor.

1. **the place is important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.**

Narryna is a villa designed by architect, Edward Winch c. 1835 and completed in October 1840. Winch, formerly of the VDL Surveyor's Department, is known to have designed St Peters Anglican Church at Hamilton (with John Lee Archer) and the homestead, Mount Vernon at Kempton.

Narryna is aesthetically pleasing for its academic Greek Revival stone facade incorporating a plinth, pilasters, frieze and cornice. The front door, set within a segmental arch is framed by an inset portico. This architectural formality is carried through to the joinery and plasterwork of the hall, drawing and dining rooms. Physical evidence is available for early room uses.

Narryna is unusual among the Hampden Road villas in not being oriented to the north, the prime siting for light and vistas. In facing the street, it possibly proclaimed its builder's arrival in Hobart society, a gesture that was thwarted by the sale of Haig's property as a result of the depression that struck the Australian colonies in 1842.

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