

**HARTLEY HISTORIC SITE  
PLAN OF MANAGEMENT**

**NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service  
November 1994**

**Acknowledgements:** This plan of management has been prepared by Steve Ring, Ranger-in-Charge of Hartley Historic Site with assistance from members of the Hartley Historic Site Advisory Committee.

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## FOREWORD

The village of Hartley is situated at the base of Victoria Pass on the Great Western Highway 140 kilometres west of Sydney. The historic site was initially reserved in 1972 and now comprises fifteen historic buildings and surrounding landscape. Two other historic buildings are located within the village precinct but are privately owned.

In its heyday between 1837 and 1887, Hartley was a major regional centre of administrative, judicial, police, religious, staging, hostelry, postal and social importance. But in 1877 the village was by-passed by the Main Western Railway, which resulted in economic stagnation and decline for the village. It enjoyed a brief economic revival in the early 20th century when it became a stopover point for car-tourers.

Today it plays an educational role as an example of a small settlement which reflects economic and social changes over 150 years. There is a low key visitor centre in the old Post Office and a basic interpretation program has been developed. Conservation works on the buildings are in progress with most stabilisation works completed. However, other landscape elements, particularly the exotic gardens and plantings, still require restoration.

The management strategy for Hartley is to develop the village as an attractive tourist destination. This plan of management provides for the completion of conservation measures on the buildings and landscape, the upgrading of visitor facilities, an increase in the variety and standard of services offered, development of a more comprehensive interpretation program and for better promotion of the site.

To off-set development, restoration and maintenance costs, concessions may be granted within the site for enterprises which are in accordance with the conservation objectives and policies outlined in this plan of management.

Some local residents are descended from the early settlers and have a keen interest in the future of the site. The Service is conscious of its responsibility to maintain the social value of the site and is looking to involve the local community in its on-going management and to provide facilities for civic and community uses.

This plan establishes the scheme of operations for Hartley Historic Site. In accordance with the provisions of Section 75 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974, this plan of management is hereby adopted.

CHRIS HARTCHER

Minister for  
the Environment

17.11.94

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974 requires that a plan of management be prepared for each historic site. A plan of management is a legal document which outlines how the area will be managed in the years ahead.

The procedure for the adoption of a plan of management is specified in the Act and involves five stages, namely:

The Director-General gives notice that a plan of management has been prepared.

The plan is placed on public exhibition for at least one month and any person may make representations about the plan.

The plan and copies of all representations from the public are referred to the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council for consideration.

The Director-General submits the plan of management together with the public representations and any comments or suggestions of the Advisory Council to the Minister.

The Minister may adopt the plan, with or without amendment, after considering the comments of the Advisory Council or he may refer the plan back to the Director-General and Council for further consideration before adoption.

The plan of management for Hartley Historic Site was placed on public exhibition for three months in early 1990 for comment on the proposals it contained. During the period of public exhibition 13 representations were received. These were referred to the Advisory Council, with the plan, for its consideration and advice. Comments and suggestions of the Advisory Council were, in turn, considered by the Minister in adopting this plan.

The planning process leading to the development of this plan. has involved the collection and use of a large amount of information, which for reasons of document size, has not been included in the plan. For additional information or enquiries on any aspect of the plan, contact the staff at Hartley Historic Site or by phone on (063) 55 2117 between 8.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

## 2. MANAGEMENT CONTEXT

### 2.1 HISTORIC SITES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

The National Parks and Wildlife Service identifies as its primary responsibility, the conservation of the natural and cultural heritage of New South Wales pursuant to the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974, together with the provision of opportunities and facilities for appropriate use of areas for which it is responsible.

Historic Sites are areas reserved under the Act as the sites of buildings, objects, monuments or landscapes of national significance. such areas are vested in the Director-General and are managed by the Service.

Service policy on Historic Sites follows closely the Australian ICOMOS "Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance" (the **Burra Charter**, 1981). This is a set of principles adopted by the Committee of Australia ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) to help in planning the care of heritage items.

### 2.2 HARTLEY HISTORIC SITE

#### 2.2.1 Location and Regional Context

Hartley is a small, largely unoccupied 19th Century village situated 140 kilometres west of Sydney at the base of Victoria Pass off the Great Western Highway. The village is notable as one of the first colonial settlements west of the Blue Mountains and played an essential role in the development of Australia's inland.

The village is listed by the Australian Heritage Commission on the Register of the National Estate and in December 1972 was reserved as an historic site under the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1967. The historic site is currently administered by the National Parks and Wildlife Service of New South Wales through Blue Mountains District.

The site is compact and discrete, and covers an area of about 11.5 hectares. The village, nestled mid-slope in a small tributary valley of the River Lett, is comprised of 17 buildings of historical significance (Table page 26) and is set in a semi-rural landscape consisting of a mixture of pasture, orchard and native vegetation. The buildings are surrounded by remnant exotic gardens which add visual character to the place. The native and exotic vegetation provides a pleasing background along the surrounding ridgeline and also provides continuity with the forests of the distant countryside outside the boundary of the historic site. The highway is the only contemporary element within the visual catchment of the site.

A collection of photographs dating from 1872 indicates that the appearance of the village today is much the same as it was

in the 1870's giving Hartley and its setting, a historic authenticity of high significance.

The original intention to develop Hartley as an administrative centre of regional importance is reflected in the quality, style, scale and materials of the public buildings. The courthouse was the first of Hartley's buildings, constructed in 1837. It was made of sandstone to a Classical Revival design by colonial architect Mortimer Lewis. The two, still consecrated churches, St. Bernard's Catholic Church and St. John's Anglican Church (not part of the site), both date from the 1840's. They are also of sandstone built in the Gothic Revival style. St. Bernard's Presbytery is a fine Georgian building, also of sandstone, constructed at the same time.

Hartley's changing fortunes and gradual decline are also reflected in its other buildings, built between the 1840's and 1940's. Most date from the 1840's to the 1870's and are of vernacular construction of different levels of sophistication. They include, the Royal Hotel, Shamrock Inn, Farmer's Inn, and Old Trahlee which were at one or another time inns or hotels, Ivy Cottage which was built as the Police Magistrate's residence, the Post Office, the woolshed and a brick toilet. "Bungaribee", constructed in 1858 is now a privately owned residence within the village. No further construction occurred after the village entered economic decline in the 1870's until the advent of the motoring era. During the 1920's the garage residence (formerly the Hartley schoolmaster's residence) was moved to a site adjacent to the Courthouse by the Corney family and was used as a workshop and office for their haulage company. It was moved to its present location during the 1940's when the Corney garage was constructed.

The two small cottages near the river embankment, outside the main core of the village date from the 1930's and are representative of simple structures commonly built during the depression.

The built landscape is harmonious in terms of scale and form, and also in the quality and consistency of materials which provide a pleasing blend of colours and textures. Although there are a variety of replicated and contemporary building materials present, their impact only marginally reduces the aesthetics or authenticity of the village.

In 1830, Sir Thomas Mitchell proposed the site for Hartley along the new road between Mt. Victoria and Bathurst. The village grew up around the courthouse, the administrative headquarters of the district from 1837 to 1887. The town became the centre for all government activities including police, judiciary, control of convict labour, and postal services. It was also the social and service centre for the pastoral community west of the mountains. Considerable expansion took place with the discovery of gold in the Bathurst area in the 1850's when Hartley became a staging point between Sydney and Bathurst offering accommodation and

change of horses. By the 1860's the local district population was over 1,000 and Hartley had a population of about 130.

Hartley prospered as an administrative, commercial and social centre until it was by-passed by the Main Western Railway in 1877 when its functions were transferred to Lithgow.

With the building of the road to Jenolan Caves in 1887, Hartley became a popular resting point and destination for travellers. This was reflected in the creation of a Hartley Public Recreation Reserve in 1914 which included the Courthouse and its immediate surrounds and the re-licensing of the Royal Hotel which serviced the tourist trade until the Second World War. The garage built circa 1945, is a relic of the early motor transport era. After the War, Hartley continued to decline until its establishment as an historic site in 1972.

The reservation of the historic site meant the continuation of its role as a tourist attraction, a role which had been maintained by the Blaxland Shire Council since 1926 when it took over the management of the courthouse reserve. As well as the role as a tourist attraction, the reservation of the historic site meant the introduction of a new, educational role. Another phase is now developing with the completion of a new road to Jenolan Caves. Hartley is once more being by-passed. The Service, however, is seeking to provide a greater range of visitor services at Hartley to enhance its role as an educational and recreational venue.

Descendants of some of the first settlers are still living in the region and take a keen interest in the development and use of the village. Their presence is part of the continuity of Hartley's living history. Advice is therefore taken and sought from local residents in the planning of Hartley's changing role.

### **2.2.2 The Importance of Hartley Historic Site.**

The prime importance of Hartley Historic Site lies in its cultural significance. The Burra Charter of Australia ICOMOS defines cultural significance as "aesthetic, historical, scientific, or social value for past, present, or future generations". Scientific value can include the architectural and archaeological values of a place.

#### **Historical Significance**

The village of Hartley has national historical significance as a substantial, relatively intact early nineteenth century settlement exemplifying the expansion of European settlement into inland Australia. The village had been planned as a centre for administration west of the Blue Mountains but fulfilled a variety of functions including religious, judicial, commercial and social. The wide range of buildings consequently found there, including the oldest continuous service Post Office building in Australia, enhance its importance. The decline of the village in the 1880's ensured



its survival as a "time-capsule" of the period. The construction of a garage and small cottages add a further dimension to the history of Hartley representing its role in tourism and recreation at the beginning of the motor transport era. Further historical significance is bestowed by associated documents, particularly photographs of the village dating from 1872.

### **Social value**

Hartley is of local and regional social value to the residents of the district, many of whom are descendants of the early settlers, and to many visitors who believe that they have ancestral connections with the village. The social significance is enhanced by the surviving documentary evidence such as the court records from which family histories can be reconstructed.

### **Aesthetic value**

Hartley has regional aesthetic significance both in terms of its setting and also the buildings themselves. They show a high degree of unity of the scale, form, texture and colour of the built landscape. The composition of the landscape components, the mix of natural, rural and exotic vegetation, the harmonious blend of building materials and the strong relationship between the settlement and its setting creates a pleasing and tranquil visual appearance. The continuity of the semi-rural landscape with the wider setting and the isolation of Hartley from any contrasting or disruptive influences, contemporary or otherwise, significantly enhances its aesthetic value.

### **Architectural significance**

Hartley has architectural significance because it illustrates a range of building techniques and materials used in a wide variety of styles over a short time period. Buildings exemplify Gothic and Classical Revival architecture as well as the vernacular ranging from the sophisticated to the simple. Two of the buildings have additional significance: the Classical Revival Courthouse and the Gothic Revival St. Bernard's Catholic Church. The Courthouse is of national architectural significance because of its association with colonial architect Mortimer Lewis. It is one of only four surviving examples of courthouses he designed and typifies his work. It is an excellent example of the Classical (Greek) style. St. Bernard's Catholic Church, which still contains the original furnishings, is important as an example of a typical country church and is one of only a few Catholic churches with an interior dating from this period.

Although not part of the historic site, another building of architectural merit within the village precinct is St. John's Anglican Church, attributed to a leading architect of the day, Edmund Blacket.

### **Educational and research value**

The village buildings, landscape, archaeological remains and associated documents are a rich source of valuable information for research into different aspects of Australian history, and architecture. Hartley also has value as an interpretative site for the public. Because of the key early role the village played and because of its changing fortune over 150 years, Hartley's "story" touches on many themes in Australian history each of which can be developed and illustrated by the diverse material available. The interpretative potential of Hartley is considerably enhanced by its relative isolation from disruptive, contemporary influences.

### **Summary statement of significance**

Hartley is of national cultural significance as a substantial and well-preserved remnant of one of the first settlements west of the Blue Mountains which played an essential role in the development of inland Australia. Its buildings, which vary from the substantial and sophisticated to the simple vernacular, date from the 1830's to the 1940's and illustrate the changing role and fortunes of a village from first settlement of the inland to the beginning of the motor transport era. The village setting, with its attractive blend of natural and pastoral vegetation accentuated by exotic plantings is similar to the original setting, gives it both a pleasing aesthetic quality and a historically authentic ambience. The historical significance of Hartley is further enhanced by early photographs and documents associated with the settlement and district. The rich, varied and long history of Hartley makes it ideal for fostering an understanding of Australian history and appreciation of the conservation of our heritage. As an attractive and interesting destination, Hartley today also provides a recreational facility, continuing its early twentieth century role as a tourist destination.

### 3. OBJECTIVES OF MANAGEMENT

#### 3.1 GENERAL OBJECTIVES FOR HISTORIC SITES

The following general objectives relate to the management of Historic Sites in New South Wales: the conservation of features of cultural significance;

the provision of opportunities for public access and the interpretation of the site as an educational resource;

the provision of opportunities for historic, archaeological and architectural research.

Opportunities for use of a historic site will only be considered where they do not detract from its cultural significance.

#### 3.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES FOR HARTLEY HISTORIC SITE

Within these broad objectives, a number of more specific objectives have been identified for the conservation of the cultural significance of Hartley, for its development as a tourist and educational venue and for the conservation of its setting:

to conserve the integrity of the village, that is:

- its compact, discrete and intact nature;
- its aesthetic quality of scale and form;
- its harmonious visual character devoid of disruptive elements;
- its natural and exotic landscape as together typifying a nineteenth century rural community;

to conserve and care for buildings and structures of cultural significance together with pertinent contents and curtilage;

to conserve relics and artefacts, where possible in situ, and to systematically curate, assess, and care for these;

to assess the archaeological potential of the site and to protect significant archaeological remains;

to assist the local community in the preservation of the social history of the place as represented by oral and family histories and by records such as court records, photographs, maps, land title histories, and any other relevant material;

to perpetuate the social value of the site by recognising its continuing social role in the local community and by ensuring development is not independent of community needs and perceptions;

to develop the site as an attractive tourist destination in sympathy with its cultural significance;

to promote public access by providing commercial opportunities by licence, lease or other arrangement for use of the buildings and the site provided that the development:

- fosters an appreciation of the cultural significance of the site through interpretation and appropriate uses;
- does not detract from the identified cultural significance of the site;
- falls within the constraints of the conservation guidelines and requirements; and
- complies with the applicable acts and ordinances.

to provide public services, amenities and utilities within the constraints of conservation guidelines;

to offset the running and maintenance costs of the site and where possible recoup the capital costs of visitor amenities or restoration without compromising the conservation objectives;

to encourage among visitors an understanding and appreciation of the history of the site and its place in the development of New South Wales;

to encourage an appreciation of the social history of the site by providing public access to historical records and family history data;

to develop visitors' understanding of the role of the National Parks and Wildlife Service in cultural heritage conservation and to promote an awareness of the management problems encountered in fulfilling that role;

to encourage research into social history through oral histories of long-term residents;

to undertake, either separately or in conjunction with other persons or bodies, such research as is considered necessary for the preservation, protection and management of the site or its components;

to provide opportunities for research to historians, architects, archaeologists and other researchers, particularly those whose work will benefit the interpretation and conservation of the site and whose work will contribute to a better understanding of the cultural significance of the site.

#### 4. POLICIES AND FRAMEWORK FOR MANAGEMENT

This chapter contains the policies and framework for the management of Hartley Historic Site together with relevant background information. Policies are summarised under the following section headings:

Natural Heritage  
Cultural Heritage  
Use Of The Area

The policies established in this plan of management will provide the framework for management consistent with anticipated resources available to the Service and with anticipated community trends, for the next five to ten years.

The actions identified are those to which priority will be given in the foreseeable future. Other management actions may be developed over the life span of this plan consistent with the policies set out in the plan.

##### 4.1 NATURAL HERITAGE

Hartley is surrounded by native forest vegetation which is structurally representative of the once extensive open forest of the region. Floristically the forest has probably been simplified from the original composition since European settlement. It is dominated at present by regenerated ribbon gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*) with only scattered individuals of other eucalypt species. The understorey shrubs are sparse, having been replaced largely by sedges and introduced pasture species. There are no known rare or endangered species. Grazing pressure and an increase in the incidence of fire since European settlement continues to suppress the regeneration of the indigenous understorey. The vegetation has also been modified by clearing, the introduction of vehicular trails and roads and firewood collection. The result is a somewhat fragmented, floristically simplified and disturbed natural environment.

The main value of the native forest in relation to the historic site is its role as a setting. As such, its presence is essential to providing an authentic visual backdrop for Hartley and must be retained. The vegetation is also of some local significance in that it is representative of a community found on granitic soils which elsewhere in the region have been largely cleared.

The riparian community is still relatively undisturbed and is representative of creek environments of the Central West of New South Wales. It is dominated by river oak (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*), which although common, is poorly conserved in the national park system. This occurrence is therefore an important natural resource at the historic site. The riparian community at Hartley Historic Site has particular recreational and education value because it is easily accessible, which is not always the case in other locations in the Central West.

The Service manages only a small fraction of the natural forest areas surrounding Hartley. Much of the natural backdrop to Hartley consists of Crown land. Because Crown lands are not managed in accordance with Service requirements, the Service needs to seek to influence their management to conserve the character of the Site.

## **Policy**

The Service will seek to influence the management of Crown lands adjacent to Hartley Historic Site not under its control through appropriate legislative channels and by liaison with other land management authorities.

The Service will either implement on its lands or seek to implement by negotiation on lands not under its control, the retention of natural lands and their open forest structure.

The Service will seek to minimise further fragmentation of the forest habitat.

The Service will monitor the water quality of runoff entering the River Lett to ensure that the nutrient load from Hartley is not increasing the nutrient levels above those appropriate for the current 'P' classification of the river.

The Service will seek to acquire lands integral to the cultural significance and/or visual setting of Hartley as such lands and funds for acquisition become available.

Feral animals and noxious weed control measures will be continued on the site.

The siting of visitor facilities will give consideration to the maintenance of the environment, in particular the riparian habitat.

## **4.2 CULTURAL HERITAGE**

### **4.2.1 General**

The components of the site which require conservation policies include the site as a whole; the landscape; each of the 15 buildings, their contents and their immediate surrounds as well as any sub-surface archaeological material or sites within the village precinct. The documents and other material pertaining to the social history of Hartley, such as court records, photographs, land deeds, maps, paintings and gaol cell engravings are also treated as elements of the site.

The Service's management of historic sites is based on the Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (The Burra Charter, 1981).

The Burra Charter defines a "place" as a site, area, building or group of buildings or other work, together with its pertinent contents and surroundings. Conservation is defined as all the processes of looking after a place so as to retain or restore its cultural significance. Appropriate conservation policies and actions are developed through the conservation planning process. This plan of management identifies broad conservation policies for the historic site and provides the general guidelines for management of the site in accordance with National Parks and Wildlife Service responsibilities under the Act.

This plan of management provides that the management of Hartley Historic Site will, therefore be in accordance with a hierarchy of more detailed conservation plans which recognise the important interrelationships between:

- the overall site;
- the landscape; and
- individual site elements such as buildings, gardens and other structures.

### **Policy**

An overall conservation plan will be prepared for Hartley Historic Site.

Any works which effect the site as a whole will be done in accordance with the conservation plan.

#### **4.2.2 Preservation of Site Integrity**

The value of Hartley lies not only in the value of the individual buildings and components of the site but also in the nature of the site as a whole. Hartley is a self-contained, compact village free from major disruptive visual influences. The semi-rural setting is pleasing and tranquil, the building materials are harmonious in texture and colour. The use of space is informal and free from any contrivance. Care will be taken to ensure that in developing the site for tourism, it does not lose its simple, aesthetic appeal and the feeling of authenticity. Below are some general policies aimed at maintaining site integrity.

### **Policy**

Any works which effect the landscape or any element of the site will be undertaken in accordance with the conservation plan for the whole site and any other supplementary conservation plan.

Any works proposed by commercial operators on buildings or areas they occupy or use under lease, licence or other agreement will be in accordance with the conservation objectives and policies outlined in this plan of management, any approved conservation plan and any necessary formal development and building approvals.

No additional permanent buildings or structures will be allowed within the site with the exception of essential visitor or management facilities and utilities.

New buildings or structures may be allowed within the historic site outside the village precinct if it can be demonstrated that:

- the structure will not reduce the cultural significance of the site and setting; and
- the commercial viability of an operation or service cannot otherwise be sustained; or
- visitor experience will be substantially enhanced; or
- essential management and tourist services cannot otherwise be accommodated.

Any buildings or structures allowed on the historic site will be complementary to the aesthetics of the site and be in accordance with the conservation objectives for the site.

The Service will seek to minimise the impact of proposals for development outside the reserved area of the site if the proposed structure(s) would be visible from the village precinct through advice to Council and input to planning instruments.

The Service will undertake, where possible, to acquire land which is significant to the preservation of the visual character of village setting, the historic extent of the settlement and its archaeological remains as the land becomes available for purchase

Provision will be made for periodic review of conservation and management policies, the adequacy of implementation of conservation procedures and the suitability of commercial development on the site.

#### **4.2.3 Conservation of the Landscape**

In this section, "landscape" relates to the visual setting of the village and all aspects of the physical fabric, including the buildings and structures in totality. Conservation measures for buildings are dealt with separately in the sub-section 4.2.4 below.

#### **Policy**

The overall character of the landscape, that is, the composition of the built environment and physical setting, the mix of natural, rural and exotic vegetation and the harmonious visual appearance, will be retained.



The high degree of unity of form, texture, scale, colour, materials and composition of the landscape are integral to the significance of the site and care will be taken to preserve these in the development and maintenance of Hartley and its surrounds.

The present clearing pattern and the relative composition of the rural, domestic and natural land use surrounding Hartley will be retained and maintained within the historic site.

The exotic landscape will be maintained; overly mature plants will be replaced with the same species and general improvement, enhancement and restoration of the gardens, orchards and plantings will be systematically carried out in accordance with the landscape conservation plan.

Existing landscape elements such as signs, water-troughs, fences and pumps will be repaired. Such minor missing elements may be re-introduced where they are known, through historical records, to have been important features and if their re-introduction complies with the landscape conservation plan.

A landscape conservation plan will be prepared which will be in accordance with the conservation plan for the whole site and which will detail the significance of the landscape features and provide guidelines for their restoration.

### **Action**

Livestock grazing will continue on the pastureland.

#### **4.2.4 Conservation of the Buildings**

A conservation plan, including statements of significance, has been prepared for the Royal Hotel. In the past works have been carried out on other buildings where the condition was deteriorating and immediate attention was required. In some of the buildings furniture and artefacts of historical interest are stored but there has not been any systematic collection, or documentation of these to date.

### **Policy**

Priority will be given to maintenance of all buildings and structures and to stabilisation of the culturally significant fabric in accordance with the conservation plan. More intensive physical conservation will be carried out as funds become available. This may follow on from the leasing or licencing of buildings for commercial purposes.

### **Actions**

An inventory of the fittings, furniture and artefacts will be carried out in accordance with museum standards;

conservation requirements will be assessed and appropriate storage and display arrangements made.

On-going assessment of visitor impact on the fabric will be carried out.

A detailed maintenance schedule will be developed for each building in accordance with the conservation requirements outlined in the conservation plans.

#### **4.2.5 Conservation of Archaeological Sites**

There has not been any systematic archaeological assessment of the historic site and the potential for archaeological remains has not been determined.

##### **Policy**

Archaeological investigations will precede any conservation works on buildings which would affect known or potential archaeological remains.

#### **4.2.6 Protection of Aboriginal Sites**

A survey of the area in and around Hartley has revealed some surface scatters of stone artefacts and the remains of open camp-sites. No sites were found in the village. The granite soils and outcrops of the area suggests that the type of Aboriginal sites will be limited to such open camp-sites, but because these are unobtrusive, many are likely to have been disturbed or destroyed by European land use practices. It is unlikely, therefore, that there will be intact sites in the village area. Disturbed sites do have some archaeological value, however, and may be important to the Aboriginal community.

##### **Policy**

Any area to be disturbed within the site will be surveyed and monitored for the presence of Aboriginal artefacts.

##### **Action**

Should artefacts be discovered prior to or during the course of any works on the site, the works will be reviewed according to the significance of the artefacts or the Aboriginal site and appropriate alterations to the works made.

#### **4.2.7 Preservation of the Social History**

The historical value of a place is more than that represented by the buildings and the physical site. It is also the stories of individual lives and the way of life of a community. Some of this social history is already recorded in photographs, letters, diaries and documents and some of it is still in the memories of the long-time residents. To conserve the cultural value of Hartley, it is necessary to find means of preserving

the social history as well as conserving the buildings and site.

The social history of Hartley is still highly relevant to the residents of the district, many of whom are descendants of the early settlers. The social history is also important to many of the visitors who have reason to believe that they have an ancestral connection with the early settlers.

### **Policy**

The Service will attempt to record and interpret the social history of Hartley.

Appropriate facilities and systems will be provided to allow public access to the Services historical records held at the site.

All records presently held by the Service pertaining to the social history of Hartley and the surrounding district will be compiled and documented and appropriately curated. Storage of original material may not be accommodated on site if adequate storage facilities are not available, but copies of material of public interest will be housed.

### **4.3 USE OF THE AREA**

Hartley Historic Site will be managed to ensure that its use, whether by the general public, special interest groups, Service managers or other authorities is appropriate and conforms with the management objectives and policies outlined in this plan.

The major categories of use that may be appropriate within Service areas are:

- certain types of recreation;
- education and promotion of the area, the Service and the conservation of natural and cultural heritage;
- research; and
- management operations, by the Service itself and other authorities with statutory responsibilities in the area.

The extent to which these categories of use are appropriate to Hartley Historic Site is indicated below.

#### **4.3.1 Recreation Opportunities**

In addition to its obligation to preserve the cultural value of Hartley, the Service also has a responsibility to provide appropriate use and educational opportunities for the public. In recent years Hartley has not been a destination for the majority of visitors but a place to visit in transit, usually to or from the Jenolan Caves. Now that Hartley has been by-

passed with the construction of the new Jenolan Caves Road, it will lose some of the passing trade. To offset the continued outlay of capital in maintaining the site, and to promote the place of the village in Australian history, Hartley will need to become a tourist destination, serving a reliably large visiting public.

At present, there is a Visitor Centre in the Post Office building, the Courthouse has a successful interpretive programme and the consecrated churches are still occasionally used. The remainder of the buildings are not actively promoted for use by visitors, although tours can be arranged. Restoration work has only recently begun in Hartley so many of the buildings have not been available for use. The public amenities of the site are not yet adequate; there are no picnic sites for visitors, benches for viewing and enjoying the site at leisure or food outlets. Parking and toilet facilities also need to be expanded.

It is clear that Hartley's potential as a tourist venue has not to date been fully realised. Promoting and developing Hartley requires a considerable investment of capital to complete conservation works and to cover on-going costs for maintenance and improvement of facilities and services. Due to the limitation of resources, the Service needs to be able to recover some portion of the building restoration costs and to have the means to cover the on-going management costs provided that this is not done at the expense of the cultural value of the place.

One option of developing Hartley for economic return is to lease buildings to commercial operators to provide suitable services. However, in allowing commercial development of Hartley, the major concern of the Service is to ensure that commercialisation does not compromise the authenticity of Hartley.

Hartley also plays an important role as an educational site and this role needs to be enhanced and further developed with various interpretative materials, programmes and displays.

The policies and actions below are to guide the future development of Hartley as a tourist destination.

### **Policy**

The Service will seek to lease some portions of the site to commercial operators for provision of services and conservation of the buildings and the site.

There will be active promotion of the site, improvement of the facilities and amenities and expansion of the goods and services offered.

The use of Hartley as a tourist destination will aim to make the on-going management of the site financially self-sufficient.

The Service will ensure that the blend of commercial and service activities on the site provides an appropriate balance of opportunities for visitor recreation, education and research.

Should overnight accommodation be provided on site, the provision of facilities and services for overnight visitors will not preclude reasonable access to buildings by day visitors.

Public picnic areas, park benches, parking space and toilet facilities will be provided. These will be designed and placed to blend visually with the landscaping of the area, in accordance with an approved landscape conservation plan.

Periodic review of the use of the site will be undertaken to assess the impact of use on the fabric of the site and evaluate the acceptability of change occurring within the village, including changes in the ambience and "authenticity".

#### **4.3.2 Communication**

Communications includes the inter-related activities of environmental education, interpretation and public involvement.

Communications can assist in the protection of the site's natural and cultural heritage and is a major aspect of managing public use of the site. There is also a strong public expectation that information on the site, its features and access are readily available. The site has a significant role to play in the community as a resource for historical and environmental study and education.

#### **Policy**

Promotion of Hartley will be carried out actively and systematically, in line with the development of the site as an attractive destination.

Consultation with the community will be maintained to ensure that the nature of the development does not detract from the social and historical value of the site.

The Service will retain the management of a visitor centre and have control of the overall site interpretation program.

Training programmes will be provided on local history for Service interpretive staff.

The Service will ensure the availability of appropriate accommodation for civic and community uses such as meetings of local historical societies, a public reading room, and historical archives.

Visitor experiences and response to the site and its facilities and services will be monitored and the results incorporated into the management of the site.

### **Action**

The interpretation program presently in place will be assessed and re-designed in the light of the development of the site which will attract more and possibly different types of visitors.

An interpretation plan will be developed for Hartley which identifies objectives and themes and addresses the needs and expectations of the target user groups.

### **4.3.3 Research**

The function of research at the site is to assist in the understanding of its resources, use and management needs.

### **Policy**

Opportunities for research will be provided to historians, architects, archaeologists and other researchers; particularly those whose work will benefit the interpretation, conservation and understanding of the site and social history of the area.

Mechanisms to encourage research on the site will be developed.

Oral history information from long time residents of the area will be collected.

Copies of all existing records, research reports and related material will be collated for access by researchers.

### **4.3.4 Management operations**

Management of the site will become more complex with the introduction of commercial operations, diversification of services and the consequent increase in visitors. The specific management responsibilities of the Service and the lessees will be stipulated in the concessions agreements. The service, however, will have control of the overall management of the site and will maintain a strong presence.

### **Policy**

The Service will ensure that the use, development and maintenance of the site proceeds in accordance with the conservation objectives for the site and its elements.

Criteria will be established against which changes to the fabric of the site can be assessed to ensure that visitor use does not cause irreversible damage to the significant features.

The water supply and effluent disposal systems will be reassessed in relation to the relevant health standards and the development of the site. Systems will be augmented as necessary in accordance with an approved conservation plan.

Site drainage and erosion mitigation will be reviewed and modified or augmented as necessary.

All land management and development within Hartley Historic Site will incorporate effective soil erosion and sedimentation control principles and priorities.

### **Action**

An overall maintenance plan will be developed taking into consideration the increase and modification of use. The plan will detail the various monitoring and maintenance programs required to properly care for and manage the site and its individual components.

Systematic monitoring of the site and buildings for maintenance purposes will be developed, with particular regard to assessing visitor impact on the fabric.

Personal safety and security measures for the site and its facilities and buildings will be augmented.

A fire management plan for the site will be developed with particular regard to the fragile cultural heritage.

The advice of the local office of the Soil Conservation Service may be sought on appropriate soil conservation works and management techniques.

## 5. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

This plan of management is part of a system of management developed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service. The system includes the National Parks and Wildlife Act, management policies, established conservation and recreation philosophies, and strategic planning at corporate, regional and district levels.

The orderly implementation of this plan will be undertaken within the annual programmes of the Service's Blue Mountains District. Priorities, determined in the context of district and regional strategic planning, will be subject to the availability of necessary staff and funds and to any special requirements of the Director-General or Minister.

District programmes are subject to ongoing review, within which, works and other activities carried out at Hartley Historic Site are evaluated in relation to the objectives laid out in this plan.

The environmental impact of all development proposals will continue to be assessed at all stages of the development and any necessary investigations undertaken in accordance with established environmental assessment procedures.

Section 81 of the Act requires that this plan shall be carried out and given effect to, and that no operations shall be undertaken in relation to the historic site unless they are in accordance with the plan. However, if after adequate investigation, operations not included in the plan are found to be justified, this plan may be amended in accordance with section 76(6) of the Act.

As a guide to the orderly implementation of this plan, relative priorities for identified activities are summarised below:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>reference in plan</b>
<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b>	
Completion of a site conservation plan.	4.2.1
Completion of the leasing process for commercial use of the site with appropriate conservation conditions.	4.3.1
Preparation of conservation plans for buildings requiring building works approval.	4.2.2
Completion of a landscape conservation plan to include design and specifications.	4.2.3
Preparation of a work programme to establish clear parameters for the stabilisation, repair, restoration or modification of the	



buildings in accordance with their individual conservation plans.	4.2.4
Formulation and implementation of a detailed maintenance schedule for each building in accordance with the conservation requirements outlined in each plan.	4.2.4
Establish the criteria and system to assess the impacts on the fabric of each building through on-going use.	4.3.4
Assessment, re-design and implementation of appropriate fire control, security and personal safety measures for the site and individual buildings.	4.3.4
Assessment of water supply and effluent disposal systems to maintain relevant health standards and augmentation where necessary.	4.3.4
conservation, curation and storage of	4.2.5
fittings, furniture, artefacts and documents.	4.2.7
Assessment of requirements for and design of the visitor centre.	4.3.2
Development and implementation of a comprehensive site interpretation plan.	4.3.2
<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b>	
Monitor water quality entering the River Lett.	4.1
Development of facilities and systems for public access to historic records.	4.2.7
Collection of oral information from long term residents.	4.3.3
Maintain consultation with the local community.	4.3.2
Provide picnic areas, park benches, parking space and toilets.	4.3.1
<b>LOW PRIORITY</b>	
Development of a maintenance plan.	4.3.4
Development and implementation of a training programme on local history for National Parks and Wildlife Service interpretation staff.	4.3.2
Development of an appropriate and on-going system for collecting visitor survey data.	4.3.2

Development of mechanisms to encourage independent research into aspects of the social history, architecture, archaeology, and on-going use of the place. 4.3.3

**ON-GOING**

Review of the impact of use of the site on its fabric. 4.3.1

Acquisition, when available, of land within the visual catchment. 4.2.2  
4.1

Continue feral animal and noxious weed control. 4.1

Liaise with neighbours and authorities about the maintenance of the character of Hartley's landscape. 4.2.2  
4.1

Provide for public access to buildings by day visitors. 4.3.1

Collate existing records, research reports for access by researchers. 4.3.3

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## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

### CONSERVATION TERMINOLOGY

The Service has adopted a conservation terminology as defined in the Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance, the Burra Charter, from which the following definitions are taken or derived.

**Adaptation:** Modifying a place to suit proposed compatible uses. Adaptation is acceptable where the conservation of the place cannot otherwise be achieved, and where the adaptation is limited to that which is essential to the use.

**Compatible use:** A use which involves no change to the culturally significant fabric, changes which are substantially reversible, or changes which require a minimal impact.

**Conservation:** All the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its cultural significance. It includes maintenance and may according to circumstance include preservation, restoration, reconstruction, and adaptation and commonly is a combination of more than one of these. The aim of conservation is to retain or recover the cultural significance of a place and must include provision for its security and future.

**Conservation plan:** A document setting out what is significant in a place and, therefore, what policies are appropriate to enable that significance to be retained in its future use and development. The scope may vary from a plan for one building or element to a plan for a whole site.

**Cultural significance:** Aesthetic, historic, scientific, or social value for past, present, or future generations.

**Fabric:** All the physical material of a place.

**ICOMOS:** International Council on Monuments and Sites.

**Maintenance:** The continuous protective care of the fabric, contents and setting of a place, and is to be distinguished from repair. Repair involves restoration or reconstruction and is treated accordingly.

**Place:** Site area, building or other work, group of buildings, or other works together with pertinent contents and surroundings.

**Preservation:** Maintaining the fabric of a place in its existing state and retarding deterioration.

**Reconstruction:** Returning a place as nearly as possible to a known earlier state and is distinguished by the introduction of materials (new or old) into the fabric.

**Restoration:** Returning the existing fabric of a place to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material. Restoration should reveal a new culturally significant aspect of the place. If a place includes a fabric of different periods, revealing the fabric of one period at the expense of another can only be justified when what is removed is of slight cultural significance and the fabric which is to be revealed is of much greater cultural significance.

**Site:** A place which contains items of potential or actual significance, whether cultural, natural or otherwise.

**Settlement Area:** Boundaries of the settlement as identified on the map.