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Woodford Academy 2013. Image courtesy Camille Walsh Photography

The Woodford Academy, a National Trust property, is the oldest surviving complex of colonial buildings in the Blue Mountains and is of state heritage significance.

Built originally as an inn in the 1830s, the property has had a multi-layered history, also operating over the years as a gentleman's residence, guest house, boarding house and from 1907-1936 under the ownership of John McManamey as a private school - Woodford Academy. Bequeathed to the National Trust in 1979 by John McManamey's sole surviving daughter Gertrude, the Woodford Academy is today a museum that offers a unique glimpse of colonial life in the Blue Mountains.

It is rare for such a large establishment as the Woodford Academy to have survived intact, through the many, often rapid developments that have occurred since the original building was constructed in 1834. Prominently located on the Great Western Highway, a key transportation route since early colonial days, the Academy's survival can partially be attributed to each of the successive owner's vision for the complex, many of whom altered, extended or repurposed the building.

The built fabric of the Woodford Academy as it stands today therefore provides a rare, unique insight into the lifestyles of the people of the growing colony, marking many milestones of development in contemporary Australian history, culture and social priorities.

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