Attachment C

Heritage Inventory Sheet

Former Royal Alexandra Hospital For Children Boundary Landscaping

Item details

Name of item:

Former Royal Alexandra Hospital For Children Boundary Landscaping

Other name/s:

City Quarter

Type of item:

Landscape

Group/Collection:

Landscape - Cultural

Category:

Historic Landscape

Primary address:

Pyrmont Bridge Road, Camperdown, NSW 2050

Local govt. area:

Sydney

All addresses

Street Address	Suburb/town	LGA	Parish	County	Type
Pyrmont Bridge Road	Camperdown	Sydney			Primary Address

Statement of significance:

Substantial surviving historical plantings, including Hill's Figs along the Booth Street and Pyrmont Bridge Road frontages of the site, Hill's Figs and Hoop Pine at the corner of Booth St & Pyrmont Bridge Road, relocated Canary Island Date Palms on the eastern side of Sterling Circuit, and landscaping and interpretive elements along the Orphan School Creek frontage of the site, are historically, socially and aesthetically significant as representative early 20th century plantings in an institutional/Hospital setting, illustrative of the late 19th century philosophy of providing a pleasant landscape to promote health. The landscape plantings are also landmarks in the locality.

Date significance updated: 17 May 07

Note: The State Heritage Inventory provides information about heritage items listed by local and State government agencies. The State Heritage Inventory is continually being updated by local and State agencies as new information becomes available. Read the Department of Premier and Cabinet [copyright](#) and [disclaimer](#).

Description

Construction years:

1906-

Physical description:

Notable landscape plantings of the former Hospital site are: early planting concentrated on the corner of Booth Street and Pyrmont Bridge Road, including Port Jackson figs, 1 Hoop

Pine; lines of Hills Figs along both the street frontages of Pyrmont Bridge Road and Booth Street; and row of relocated Canary Island Date Palms along eastern side of Sterling Circuit. Other significant landscape elements are plantings and interpretive elements along the Orphan School Creek frontage of the site and the brick gable ends at the northern end of Sterling Circuit.

Further information:

Heritage Inventory sheets are often not comprehensive, and should be regarded as a general guide only. Inventory sheets are based on information available, and often do not include the social history of sites and buildings. Inventory sheets are constantly updated by the City as further information becomes available. An inventory sheet with little information may simply indicate that there has been no building work done to the item recently: it does not mean that items are not significant. Further research is always recommended as part of preparation of development proposals for heritage items, and is necessary in preparation of Heritage Impact Assessments and Conservation Management Plans, so that the significance of heritage items can be fully assessed prior to submitting development applications.

History

Historical notes:

The "Eora people" was the name given to the coastal Aborigines around Sydney. Central Sydney is therefore often referred to as "Eora Country". Within the City of Sydney local government area, the traditional owners are the Cadigal and Wangal bands of the Eora. There is no written record of the name of the language spoken and currently there are debates as whether the coastal peoples spoke a separate language "Eora" or whether this was actually a dialect of the Dharug language. Remnant bushland in places like Blackwattle Bay retain elements of traditional plant, bird and animal life, including fish and rock oysters.

With the invasion of the Sydney region, the Cadigal and Wangal people were decimated but there are descendants still living in Sydney today. All cities include many immigrants in their population. Aboriginal people from across the state have been attracted to suburbs such as Pyrmont, Balmain, Rozelle, Glebe and Redfern since the 1930s. Changes in government legislation in the 1960s provided freedom of movement enabling more Aboriginal people to choose to live in Sydney.

(Information sourced from Anita Heiss, "Aboriginal People and Place", Barani: Indigenous History of Sydney City http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/barani).

"The Hospital, initially known as "The Sydney Hospital for Sick Children", began in 1879 [in a building] situated on the corner of Wigram and Glebe Roads, Glebe, purchased for 6,250 pounds. The idea for a children's hospital was begun by Mrs. W.C. Browne, wife of the Member for Singleton in the NSW Legislative Assembly, who interested five other women and a number of prominent doctors, in her idea for a Children's Hospital. Diptheria and typhoid accounted for over 20% of cases admitted to the Hospital for Sick Children and in 1892 a cottage opposite the Hospital in Glebe was purchased for diptheria cases. Overcrowding became a problem in the Hospital and the Board eventually purchased six acres of land at Camperdown where plans began for the erection of a 120 bed Hospital. The site at Camperdown was chosen for its easy access to Sydney University and the new Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. The estimated cost of construction was 35,000 pounds towards which

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the Government made a grant of 5,000 pounds. During 1904 Her Majesty Queen Alexandra (wife of King Edward VII) became Patron of the Hospital and the Hospital's name was changed to the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children. The new Hospital at Camperdown officially opened in 1906 under its own Act of Incorporation. [Prominent persons associated with the Hospital were] Sir Charles Clubbe, pioneer and builder of the Hospital, Dr. P.L. Hipsley who pioneered the treatment of intussusception without surgery, Robert Wade who introduced ancillary services such as social work, occupational therapy, physiotherapy etc. into the Hospital, Dr. Margaret Harper who was the first person to describe cystic fibrosis and established the Tresillian Mothercraft Homes in N.S.W., Dr. Lindsay Dey, who consolidated the Hospital and its new activities, Sir Norman Gregg who recognised the importance of rubella in pregnancy, and Professor Sir Lorimer Dods who was the first Professor of Paediatrics in an Australian University and later established the Children's Medical Research Foundation in 1958.

With the advent of immunisation and the discovery of antibiotics and other new drugs there was a major change in disease patterns and this, together with a change in the pattern of paediatric practise, resulted in a marked reduction in the time that children stay in Hospital. More and more surgical procedures were performed on a day-stay basis. The Children's Hospital was in 1980 a 360 bed teaching hospital of the University of Sydney offering comprehensive diagositc and therapeutic services." (from "Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children 1880-1980: A portrait of a Hospital")

In October-November 1995, the Hospital at Camperdown closed, and all its facilities were transferred to the new Children's Hospital at Westmead. The names of wards and other facilities at Westmead commemorate the history of the Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital at Camperdown, such as the Camperdown Ward, the Clubbe Ward, the Wade Ward.

"The site of the Hospital was known as the Lucas Estate, having been owned by the Hon. John Lucas MLC and Willian Lucas, who had a house there in 1890 known as "Pyrmont Lodge". The land was part of a land grant by William Bligh in 1806. The site was sold by the Lucas' sometime early in the 20th century to Jones, C.S., F.B. and A.G. The house is not mentioned and not evident at the time the land was owned by the Jones', suggesting they may have demolished the house. There is no mention of a residence existing on the site in any descriptions of the site purchased by the Hospital. Almost all money for the new Hospital was raised by donation and fund-raising [and] the strong tradition of benefactors and donors was evident in the naming of many of the buildings, wards and even beds at the Hospital.

In 1903, when the site was purchased, plans for the new Hospital were prepared, consisting of a series of two and three storey brick buildings on the site, fronting Pyrmont Bridge Road. They included a main Administration Building, a nurses home and three ward pavilions, each of two storeys. These initial buidlings were designed by Sydney architects Kent & Budden and were based on the latest philosophies of hospital design and layout. The builders were Stuart Bros, builders.

The foundation stone for the new Hospital was laid by Her Excellency Lady Northcott on 1st June 1904. The initial buildings were completed by the end of 1906, providing accomodation for 104 cots. The initial buildings were the Main Administration Block, the Todman Ward Pavilion, the Hunter Baillie Ward (Medical) Pavilion, along with a laundry and engineering

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workshop. Plans for the third pavilion and the nurses home were delayed due to lack of finance, despite extensive fund-raising endeavours. The official opening of the hospital took place on 12 December 1906." (From Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children Conservation Study by Scott Carver, January 1995)

The Hospital operated on the site for 89 years until it was relocated in 1995 to Westmead. Many of the wards and facilities at Westmead are named to commemorate the early figures of the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children at its Camperdown site.

Historic themes

Australian theme (abbrev)	New South Wales theme	Local theme
3. Economy-Developing local, regional and national economies	Health-Activities associated with preparing and providing medical assistance and/or promoting or maintaining the well being of humans	(none)-

Assessment of significance

SHR Criteria a)

[Historical significance]

The surviving plantings from the Hospital's landscape are historically significant as illustrative of the late 19th century concept of providing a pleasant landscape to promote health.

SHR Criteria b)

[Associative significance]

Association with the former Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital.

SHR Criteria c)

[Aesthetic significance]

The site is of aesthetic significance as significant early 20th century landscape plantings in an institutional setting which are a landmark in the locality.

SHR Criteria d)

[Social significance]

The plantings are of social significance as illustrative of late 19th & early 20th century philosophies concerning the landscape setting of health-related institutions.

Assessment criteria:

Items are assessed against the 📄 State Heritage Register (SHR) Criteria to determine the level of significance. Refer to the Listings below for the level of statutory protection.

Recommended management:

The historical plantings should be retained and conserved. Any proposal to remove any of the trees should be accompanied by a qualified arborist's report, and in the event of evidence of senescence in any of trees making them unsafe, a proposal for replanting in accordance with the original early 20th century landscape philosophy for the site.

Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Local Environmental Plan	Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012	I91/40	14 Dec 12		
Heritage study					

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Study details

Title	Year	Number	Author	Inspected by	Guidelines used
South Sydney Heritage Study	1993		Tropman & Tropman Architects		Yes

References, internet links & images

Type	Author	Year	Title	Internet Links
Written	Anita Heiss		Aboriginal People and Place, Barani: Indigenous History of Sydney City	[View detail]()
Written	Scott Carver	1995	Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children Conservation Study	

Note: internet links may be to web pages, documents or images.

Data source

The information for this entry comes from the following source:

Name:

Local Government

Database number:

2431166

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