

# **Attachment G**

**Hector Abrahams Architects - Draft  
Inventory Sheet - 75-55 Ultimo Road**



# State Heritage Inventory form

Complete all mandatory fields on the form, as indicated with an asterisk (\*).

## A. Nominated item

### 1. Name & type

Name*	Kuo Min Tang building, movable heritage and archival collection
Other or former names	Kuomintang or KMT
Item type (if known)	Built
Item group (if known)	
Item category (if known)	
Area, Group, or Collection Name	

### 2. Location

If the item does not have a street number, provide land parcel information as well.

If the item has no land parcels, provide coordinates and a map.

For moveable objects enter the principal address where held.

Street address*	75-77 Ultimo Road, Haymarket
Alternate street address	
Local government area*	City of Sydney

Land parcels*	Lot	1	Section (if applicable)		DP	79765
	Lot		Section (if applicable)		DP	

Coordinates	
Latitude	
Longitude	
Datum	

**3. Extent of nomination**

Provide a map or plan clearly indicating the extent of the curtilage (boundary) of your nomination.



Source of map or plan	Nearmap with HAA overlay
Description of the boundary, if required	

**4. Ownership**

For organisations / company, please provide both the name of the business and a contact.

Name of owner(s)*	CHINESE NATIONALIST PARTY of AUSTRALIA
Business / organisation name, if applicable	
Address	75-77 Ultimo Road, HAYMARKET NSW 2000
Phone	
Email	
Ownership explanation, if required	

**B. Significance****5. Why is it important in NSW?**

Refer to the guideline [Assessing heritage significance](#) when completing this section.

**Statement of significance\***

The building and its archival collection are a key site of Chinese history in NSW and Australia, directly related to the 20th century political history of China and Taiwan, and the social and economic affairs of Chinese Australians during the operation of the white Australia policy.

The building at 75-77 Ultimo Road was constructed for and served continuously as the headquarters of the Chinese Nationalist Party of Australasia (Kuo Min Tang or KMT) for over 100 years. It has been the locus of Chinese Nationalist political activity since it was purpose-built in 1921. It was also the publishing office for the Chinese Times newspaper (1925- 1949).

Funds raised by members of the Australasian KMT were remitted to support Sun Yat-Sen and the ruling Nationalist government (1927-1949) in China and later for the war effort during the Sino Japanese war. The Australasian KMT was also a transmitter of ideas and technology to China. It led the way in allowing female members to join the Party and it played a role in advocating for the rights of Chinese Australians during the White Australia years.

Many prominent Chinese Australians are associated with the KMT Building at 75-77 Ultimo Road, including Peter Yee Wing, Samuel Wong, Mar Leong Wah and Eugene Seeto. The building is also associated with the prominent building company Robert Wall & Sons and architect Francis Ernest Stowe. It is architecturally notable for its fenestration and brick mullions under a single arch spanning to width of the building to read as a single window. Together the elements of the façade including its composition and detailing particular the arch, fenestration, brick mullions, pilasters, parapet and Chinese characters, make a notable contribution to the streetscape.

The place was also the centre of cultural life with many social activities for the Chinese Australian community, particularly the Dragon Ball which began in 1938 and was a major event on the social calendar for the Chinese Australian community in Sydney until the early 1970s.

The building itself houses what is probably the largest collection of records, documents, publications, photographs and artefacts related to the KMT's history outside of China and Taiwan. It is also demonstrative of a prolific period in the 1920s that saw the establishment of the KMT's overseas headquarters in centres of Chinese settlement, of which the place is a rare purpose-built example which continues to be used today for its original purpose.

**Comparisons\***

As the Australasian headquarters, the Sydney branch, at 75-77 Ultimo Road, oversaw branches across Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific and therefore this comparative analysis considers the place in this context. This comparative analysis aims to further understand the places historical significance and the integrity of the historic network of KMT's Australasian branches. In addition to other KMT headquarters the comparative analysis also considers places constructed by the builder Robert Wall & Sons and the architect Francis Ernest Stowe.

**NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Newcastle** - By 1927 there was a sub-branch in Newcastle (The Labour Daily, April 19, 1927, p. 8). It is unclear where the Newcastle headquarters were located and if it is extant.

**Tamworth** - By 1927 there was a sub-branch in Tamworth (The Labour Daily, April 19, 1927, p. 8). It is unclear where the Tamworth headquarters were located and if it is extant.

**Wollongong** - By 1927 there was a sub-branch in Wollongong (The Labour Daily, April 19, 1927, p. 8). It is unclear where the Wollongong headquarters were located and if it is extant.

**Inverell** - By 1927 there was a sub-branch in Inverell (The Labour Daily, April 19, 1927, p. 8). It is unclear where the Inverell headquarters were located and if they are extant.

## AUSTRALIA

**109 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne** - Originally constructed as a warehouse in 1903, it was altered by Walter Burley Griffin for the KMT in 1921 (Victorian Heritage Database report). Like the Sydney headquarters it was opened by Chan On-Yan, a representative of Dr Sun Yat-Sen who was visiting Australia from China (Mei-Fen Kuo and Judith Brett, 2013, p.25). The building is extant, but it has been altered. Though the Melbourne branch of the KMT is still active it is unclear if they still own/use the Bourke Street address. The place is heritage listed.

**Corner of Lake and James Street, Perth** - The KMTs Perth branch occupied their "new hall at the corner of James and Lake Streets" in 1921 (The West Australian, June 30, 1921, p.7). Currently there are three historical buildings (the fourth corner being a park) on this intersection but it is unclear which one the KMT occupied.

**Hindley Street, Adelaide (most likely 171 Hindley Street)** - The KMT Adelaide branch occupied this building in 1921 and there was a sign above the awning indicating their occupation of the premises (State Library South Australia, B 3726). It is unclear when they left this address. It is now used as a restaurant. The place is not heritage listed.

**Cavenagh Street, Darwin** - The KMT's Darwin headquarters were likely located on Cavenagh Street, Darwin (Northern Standard, October 13, 1931, p. 1). This street is highly developed and it is likely the place is no longer extant.

**155 Wickham Street, Fortitude Valley, Queensland** - King Edward's chambers were constructed in 1905 for Peter Murphy by architects Hall and Dods. It was leased to a series of business until 1922, when the Brisbane branch of the KMT leased the building. It is unclear when the KMT vacated the building. The place is heritage listed for its association with its owner Peter Murphy, the eminent architectural firm Hall and Dods and for demonstrating the commercial development of the area (Brisbane City Council, Local Heritage Places).

## INTERNATIONAL

**838 Stockton St, San Francisco, CA 94108, United States** - Built in 1915, the headquarters of the San Francisco branch of the KMT is extant although it is no longer used by the KMT. The building retains evidence of its former use including the white sun on a blue background and "Dr Sun Yat-Sen memorial hall of San Francisco" written in English above the shop fronts. It is understood the San Francisco branch also has a large archival collection though no further details have been found (in conversation with stakeholders at workshop 5th April 2024). It is unknown if the place is heritage listed.

**Rabaul, Papua New Guinea** - The original headquarters was constructed in c.1929 (National Library of Australia 2279601). It was likely destroyed during WWII. The KMT hall was rebuilt in Rabaul Chinatown following the town's destruction during WWII ("The Kuo-Min-Tang hall where assemblies are held and administrative problems are solved by town..." Australian War Memorial). It is unclear if the building remains extant.

**Solomon Islands** - The Solomon Islands branch of the KMT was founded in 1923 under the Rabaul branch. They became an independent branch in 1931. It is unclear if the headquarters were purpose built and if the building is extant. The Chinese characters on the front of the building translates to "Solomans [sic] Branch of the Kuomintang [KMT]." (State Library Victoria, H99.218/24).

**Tory Street, Wellington New Zealand** - The KMT's Wellington branch opened their new headquarters on Tory Street in 1928 (Waipukurau Press, April 13, 1928, p.8). It is unknown if it was purpose built. The exact location on Tory Street is unknown and it is unclear if it is extant.

**217 Hobson Street, Auckland New Zealand** - The KMT Auckland branch was located on Hobson Street. The building was demolished in the late 1970s (Auckland Museum, MS 94/14).

**59 Av. du Maréchal Foch, Papeete 98714, French Polynesia** - The Tahiti branch of the KMT have occupied 59 Av. Du Maréchal Foch from 1924. The building was also used for Chinese and French language lessons. The building was destroyed by a cyclone in the 1980s and rebuilt with a hall. Much of its detailing was not

reconstructed. Now known as the Association of the 'Koo Men Tong', it no longer has political affiliations but hosts social and cultural activities (Koo Men Tong 1 Chinese School, Papeete, Tahiti Heritage). It is unknown if the place is heritage listed.

#### OTHER POLITICALLY AFFILIATED BUILDINGS IN CHINATOWN, SYDNEY

**18 Mary Street Surry Hills** - The Chinese Masonic Hall was purpose built in 1911 for the Yee Hing Company. The Yee Hing Company translated its name in 1912 to the Chinese Masonic Society. The Yee Hing Company were an anti-Manchu underground network that strongly supported the republican movement in China and was a predecessor of the KMT. A masonry building with classical elements, the top corners of the façade are also decorated with miniature pagodas. The Chinese Masonic Society continues to occupy the building ('Chinese Masonic Hall, Sydney' The China-Australia Heritage Corridor). It is listed as a local heritage item on the Sydney LEP 2012 (I1571).

#### OFFICE BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED BY ROBERT WALL/ROBERT WALL & SONS

**Culwulla Chambers (67 Castlereagh Street)** - At the time of its construction in 1912 this office block was the tallest building in Australia. Its construction led to the Heights of Building Legislation (1912) which restricted the height of buildings to 150 feet until 1956. Culwulla chambers is 170 feet. It has technical and aesthetic significance for its reinforced concrete construction and Federation free classical style ('Former 'Culwulla Chambers' including interiors,' State Heritage Inventory). Locally listed on the Sydney LEP (I1694).

**Usher's Hotel (64-68 Castlereagh Street)** - Constructed in 1914 it is representative of a key construction period (1900-1920) and the importance of the hospitality industry in Sydney. It is also associated with the prominent architectural firm Ross & Rowe ('Former Metropolitan "Usher's" Hotel Including Interiors,' State Heritage Inventory). It is listed as a local heritage item on the Sydney LEP 2012 (I1693).

**Beanbah Chambers (235 Macquarie Street)** - Constructed between 1912-1913, Beanbah Chambers is a rare example of early twentieth century high-rise professional chambers. Highly intact, it also has aesthetic significance for its well resolved interior and exterior detailing including its use of art nouveau detailing. It is listed as a local heritage item on the Sydney LEP 2012 (I1881).

#### WORKS DESIGNED BY FRANCIS ERNEST STOWE

**Ball's Head Coal Loading Depot** - Constructed in 1917. It was the "first and longest operating shore-based coal loading facility in Sydney Harbour" and the largest in the southern hemisphere in 1927 ('Balls Head Coal Loader Complex (including Platform Pier and Administrative and Workshop Buildings),' State Heritage Inventory). It is listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR #02051).

**63 Victoria St, Ashfield NSW** - Opened in 1931 the former Masonic Hospital in Ashfield has classical elements. It was designed to serve masons, their families and dependents, and was apparently the first of its kind in Australia at the time of its opening (Northern Star 1931, p. 14).

**Masonic School** - Originally the Masonic Orphan School, Baulkham Hills Masonic School opened in 1922 and closed in 1970s. Today the place is owned by the Hills Shire Council and houses the Hills District Historical Society Museum ('William Thompson Masonic School (1924-1974),' Find & Connect).

**317 Pacific Highway, North Sydney** - The North Sydney Masonic Temple was constructed in 1922 in the Free Classical Style. It demonstrates the prominence of the Free Masons at the time and has aesthetic significance ('Former Masonic Temple,' State Heritage Inventory). It is listed as a local heritage item on the North Sydney LEP 2013 (I0961)

#### COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS CONCLUSION

Nos. 75-77 Ultimo Road as the KMT's Australasian branch was part of a regional, national and transnational network of KMT branches. The 1920s was a prolific period that saw the opening of many new KMT headquarters of which 75-77 Ultimo Road, Haymarket is an early example. It is a rare example of a purpose built KMT headquarters with many, particularly in other Australian cities, being rented. Although many KMT sites have been lost, some have survived. Of those that have survived, most are no longer used by the KMT, unlike 75-77 Ultimo Road, Haymarket which continues to be owned and occupied by the Sydney branch.

Robert Wall & Sons constructed a number of significant office buildings of which Ultimo Road is somewhat unusual for the composition of its façade under a single arch.

The buildings which Ernest Stowe designed suggest he had a strong association with the Freemasons. Research suggests there was a relationship between the European Freemasons in Australia and the Chinese Masonic Society, however, as both were secret societies, the extent and nature of the relationship is not yet fully known (Fitzgerald, John. 2007, pp.80-99).

## C. Description

### 6. Describe the existing item

Description*	<p>The Sydney branch of the KMT is a five-storey masonry office building at 75-77 Ultimo Road, Haymarket. The front façade is painted brick, though likely to have been originally face brick. The building is painted white, with individual elements painted blue and red. Compositionally the façade is distinctive. The multi-paned glazing reads as a single window united under a single arch spanning the width of the building and divided into bays by brick mullions. The windows are aluminium framed, that replaced the original timber framed windows in the same configuration in the early 1990s. The façade is quite striking with its contrasting painted elements, including white Chinese characters which are fixed against a blue background on the arch and brick panels between the first and second floors, and the building date (1921) and initials K.M.T are also emphasised on the parapet and classical pediment. Two pilasters on either end of the building extend from the awning to the parapet. White downpipes run down their length and are topped with two red decorative tree motifs and flagpoles flying the Australian and Taiwanese flags. A third flagpole above the pediment flies the KMT flag. Together the elements of the façade come together to create a distinctive presentation to Ultimo Road.</p> <p>An awning with pressed metal underside sits above the ground floor shop (featuring a modern shop aluminium and glass façade). To the west of the shop is a doorway and stairwell, lined with timber panelling and a pipe handrail, leading to the first and second floors. The upper floors of the building are all open plan; however, the ground floor and likely the first floor was originally divided by a wall running the length of the building.</p> <p>The first floor is used as offices and there is no evidence of a dividing central wall as indicated on original architectural drawings. The elaborate plaster ceiling with a circular design indicates that this may not have been constructed as intended. Offices have been created with modern glazed and timber partitions, the floor is tiled and there is a glass partition separating this space from the stairwell.</p> <p>The second floor contains a stage, false ceilings and modern timber flooring. The room is decorated in the colours (red, white and blue) and lined with ephemera of the KMT. A staircase located in the south west corner leads to the third floor. It is unclear if the staircase is original.</p> <p>The third floor similarly has a false ceiling and modern timber floor. This level contains a large archival collection displayed in a series of glazed cabinets and open shelves with photographs lining the walls. The artefacts held in this vast collection includes records of KMT activities including donations, historical newspapers, photographs, artwork, telephones and typewriters. A defining feature of this room is the curved windows which sit under the arch of the façade.</p>
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	<p>Both the second and third levels may have original or early ceilings obscured by the modern suspended ceilings, but was not inspected so cannot be confirmed. The original drawings indicate that all internal floors are timber framed, supported by steel beams, though a detailed inspection was not carried out to confirm this configuration.</p> <p>Similarly, the roof appears to be constructed in this manner, with a slight slope towards the front façade. Though not inspected, another room is located towards the rear. This room was not inspected but appears to have a skillion roof. The rear elevation was unable to be inspected.</p>
Condition of fabric and/or archaeological potential*	<p>The place is in good condition.</p> <p>There is some archaeological potential but it is limited.</p>
Integrity / intactness*	<p>Overall, the exterior form of the place is intact although the window frames are not original nor is the painted brick finish.</p> <p>The plan arrangement is largely intact although there have been some changes. False ceilings have been added and floorboards are non-original. The ground floor is a modern retail fitout.</p>
Modification dates	
When was the last time you inspected the item?	April 2024
Current use	Retail (ground floor) and KMT Sydney branch headquarters (first and second floor).
Original or former use/s	Retail and KMT Australasian branch headquarters
Any additional comments	

**D. History****7. Origins and historical evolution**

Years of construction*	Start		End	c.1921
Designer or architect*	Francis Ernest Stowe			
Maker or builder*	Robert Wall & Sons			
Historical outline*	<p><b>CONTEXTUAL BACKGROUND</b></p> <p>Chinese migrants who came to Australia for the gold rushes, came largely from counties in the Pearl River Delta region of Canton, and they maintained strong ties to their villages (Williams, M. 2018). People tied by native place, languages and kinship established associations to support and sponsor others from the same place or of the same surname. Most groups had their own district associations and also formed associations not based on native place or lineage, but on mutual co-operation and in</p>			



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many cases, with the aim of political reform in China. The Yee Hing mutual aid brotherhood societies, which were active on gold fields from the earliest days, espoused the political aim of overthrowing the Ching dynasty in China. The China Empire Reform Association (CERA), on the other hand, advocated modernising China but maintaining the Emperor system, and in later years advocated constitutional monarchy. Their competing ideas were circulated through newspapers, such as the Chinese Australian Herald, The Tung Wah Times and the Chinese Times.

Chinese migrants to Australia were actively engaged in fomenting and funding political change in China. Funds remitted and the ideas transmitted to China by overseas Chinese, including Chinese Australians, were crucial both to the success of the 1911 revolution which overthrew the Manchu Ching Dynasty and established a Chinese republic, and to the success of the Nationalist Party in gaining power in China. The Chinese Nationalist Party of Australasia headquarters at 75-77 Ultimo Road, Haymarket is a part of this history.

A forerunner to the Chinese Nationalist Party in Australia was the Yee Hing which had branches across rural NSW and Australia. When the Yee Hing changed its name to the Chinese Masonic Society and opened the Chinese Masonic Hall at 18 Mary Street, Surry Hills in 1912, a newspaper report named delegates who attended from Braidwood, Condobolin, Wagga Wagga, Wyalong, Temora, Nyngan, Newcastle, Wellington, Walgett, Hay, Parkes, Albury, Tumut, Tingha, Narrabri, Goulburn, Gunnedah, Wollongong, Lismore in NSW and from Tasmania, Bendigo, Rockhampton, Thursday Island, Brisbane, Melbourne, Wangaratta and Auckland ("TSUN FORE," The Sun, 1912, p. 1). The Chinese Masonic Hall, which is listed on the City of Sydney Local Environment Plan (2012), is highly significant for its role in the revolutionary movement which preceded the establishment of the Chinese Nationalist Party of Australasia (NSW State Heritage Inventory, Chinese Masonic Hall including interior, item no. I1571).

THE CHINESE NATIONALIST PARTY OF AUSTRALASIA BUILDING AT 75-77 ULTIMO ROAD, HAYMARKET

Until it was resumed for the Municipal Markets in 1908, 75-77 Ultimo Road was Engine Street, named after the 'engine' of the Victoria Steam Mills. After the resumption, the section from Thomas Street to George Street was incorporated into Ultimo Road. In 1908, Sydney Municipal Council resumed terrace houses, mills and workshops spread over four acres bounded by Ultimo Road and Thomas, Hay, Quay and Engine Streets to make way for Municipal Markets. These developments were reported in the Chinese Australian Herald in March 1909, with the comment that numerous Chinese firms were expected to move in light of the market's relocation (Guang yi hua bao = The Chinese Australian Herald, 1909). From 1910, Chinese firms which had previously been centred around Campbell and Pitt Streets, Haymarket in proximity to the Belmore Markets, began to open stores in Hay, Dixon, Quay, Harbour Streets and Ultimo Road close to the new Municipal Markets.

THE CHINESE NATIONALIST PARTY OF AUSTRALASIA AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HEADQUARTERS AT 75-77 ULTIMO ROAD, HAYMARKET

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The Chinese Nationalist Party of Australasia or the Australian Kuo Min Tang (KMT) was established when the Young China League was founded in Melbourne in 1910 to support the revolutionary aims of Sun Yat-sen, the leader of the Chinese Nationalist Party (Kuo, M & Brett, J, 2013, p.ix). After the 1911 Revolution in China overthrew the Ching dynasty, a branch of the Young China League was established in Sydney, with the Presidency occupied by head of the Chinese Masonic Society, James Chuey (Yong, C. F. 1977, p. 141). In April 1916, the Chinese Nationalist League was founded and George Kwok Bew of Wing Sang & Co. Fruit Merchants elected as the first President (Yong, C. F., 1977, p. 141). A temporary office was established at 211 Thomas Street, next to the store of Tiy Sang & Co., whose proprietors were Nationalist League treasurer, Peter Yee Wing and Vice-President, Samuel Wong (KUO, M.-F. & BRETT, J. 2013, p.11). Over the next few years, representatives from the Nationalist League travelled across Australian and the Pacific to raise funds for a permanent building, establishing branches in Brisbane, Bowen, Cairns, Mackay, Townsville, Burdekin and Atherton in Queensland; in Newcastle, Darwin, Adelaide and Perth and in Auckland, Fiji, Rabaul, Kokapo, Kavieng, Madang and the Solomon Islands (Yong, C. F 1977, pp.150-153). In 1917, George Bew went to Shanghai in 1917 as manager of the new Wing On Department store, where he developed a close relationship with Sun Yat-sen and other Nationalist leaders (Kuo, M.-F. & Brett, J. 2013, p.16).

In August 1921, the Chinese Nationalist League established its legal identity by registering as an association under the Companies Act in NSW. Its registered title was Chinese Nationalist Party of Australasia (Kuo, M.-F. & Brett, J. 2013, 11, p.30). Its Chinese name was the Kuo Min Tang.

£10,997 was raised by donations from Nationalist Party members in Australasia to purchase land and build a headquarters for the Chinese Nationalist Party of Australasia at 75-77 Ultimo Road, Haymarket (Kuo, M.-F. & Brett, J. 2013, p.22). Plans for a five-storey building were drawn up by architect Francis Ernest Stowe of 20 Loftus Street Sydney on 23 August 1921.

Stowe, born in Ireland in 1867, emigrated as a child to Australia with his family. He trained and worked as both an architect and civil engineer, being appointed the Grand Architect of the Grand Lodge in 1922 (Australian Institute of Architects, 2015). Stowe designed a counterweight tramway system for Darling Street Wharf, Ball's Head Coal Loading Depot and a number of Masonic buildings including the Temple in North Sydney, Baulkham Hills Masonic School and a Masonic Hospital in Ashfield. The latter four are extant but it is unclear what remains of the Darling Street Wharf tram system. One of his more interesting designs was a contender for the Sydney Harbour Bridge which had three crossings that intersected at an Anzac memorial on Me-Mel - Goat Island. In addition to his architectural and engineering work, Stowe also established the Sydney Marine Engineer College in 1902, founded the Stowe Electrical Company and published a number of booklets and pamphlets on scientific topics. He was also an early mentor to Florence Taylor (née Parsons) (Australian Institute of Architects, 2015). He died in 1936 (The Sydney Morning Herald, 21 July 1936, 6).

Stowe's original 1921 plans for 75-77 Ultimo Road indicates that the building was intended to be used as a series of spaces across the four floors of the building, that could be used separately or together. The retail premises at 77 Ultimo Road (identified as Shop No. One located on the

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eastern side of the building) was designed to be used over two levels (ground and first floor) with a timber stair in the south-eastern corner. The shop at 75 Ultimo Road (identified as Shop No. Two on the western side of the building) was on the ground floor only. The level above Shop No. Two was designed as a separate tenancy, separated from the upper level of Shop No. One by a timber partition. The drawings indicate that the stairs to the upper levels were intended to have adjacent flights on the western side of the building; these were not constructed as planned, as the stairs to the upper levels are in a series of flights lining the western boundary. The original drawings also indicate that all internal floors are timber framed, supported by steel beams but it is unclear if this is the case.

In September 1921, a City building application was made by contractors Robert Wall & Sons, for the erection of a building for the Chinese Nationalist Party at 75-77 Ultimo Road, Haymarket (The Daily Telegraph, 27 September 1921, p.7). Robert Wall, according to his obituary in The Daily Telegraph, was at 87 the "World's Oldest Builder" and one of the best known in the state of NSW. Robert Wall & Sons had previously constructed a number of important Sydney buildings including: Culwulla Chambers (67 Castlereagh Street), Usher's Hotel (64-68 Castlereagh Streets) and Beanbah Chambers (235 Macquarie Street). Other buildings which are no longer extant include: South British Insurance Co. (corner of O'Connell and Hunter Streets), and the Government Savings Bank on Moore Street (now Martin Place) (The Daily Telegraph, 2 December 1925, p. 5).

The choice of Robert Wall & Sons as builders of the Australasian KMT Headquarters may have been owing to the firm's reputation as master builders, or have related to the fact that Robert Wall Senior was the father-in-law of William Henry Donald, adviser to Nationalist party leader Sun Yat-sen, and later to Chang Hsueh-liang and Chiang Kai-shek. Born in Lithgow, NSW in 1875, Donald began his career as a journalist in Australia before moving to Hong Kong where he became Managing Director of the China Mail. He married Robert Wall's daughter Mary Wall, in Hong Kong in 1904, though the couple separated sometime around 1920 (Winston G. Lewis, 1981).

The foundation stone of the building, was laid on the 12th November 1921, by Chan On Yan, sent from China as a personal representative of Sun Yat-sen. It can still be seen at the entrance of the building. After travelling around Australia and the Pacific, Chan On Yan returned to Sydney to launch the building in April 1922 (Kuo, M.-F. & Brett, J. 2013, p. 25)

Membership of the Party was open to women and female members were exempted from the membership fee. Women were particularly prominent in the Darwin branch of the KMT, though less so in the Sydney branch (Kuo, M.-F. & Brett, J. 2013, 23-24 and Martinez, J. 2015). By 1922 it was reported that there were 23 branches and 5289 members of the Chinese Nationalist Party in Australasia and the South Pacific (Yong, 1977, p.153). As Sun Yat-sen's native district was in Heung Shan, members from Heung Shan dominated the Sydney branch of the KMT.

President of the Australasian KMT from 1919-1930 was Charles (Peter) Yee Wing. According to a biography by his grandson, Tony Wing, Charles Yee Wing, born 1862 or 1866, became involved in Tiy Sang & Co. which traded in bananas and by 1893, he was Managing Director of the firm. He married Susan Kezia Beck in 1906 and they had at least 12 children. He established the Australasian KMT's Canton Liaison Office and was one of the founders

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of the China-Australia Mail Steamship Line (Kuo, M.-F. & Brett, J. 2013, pp.9-10.). C.F. Yong argues this shipping line, established to break up the Japanese shipping monopoly and extend the Sino-Australian import and export trade, "expressed the unity and co-operation achieved for the first time by Chinese in Australia over a single issue of common interest." (Yong, 1977, p.97). Like many of the leaders of the KMT in Australia, Yee Wing was a Christian. As Yong remarks, "It is striking that nearly all the top leaders of the Chinese Nationalist Party in Victoria and New South Wales in the years 1910-1930 were associated with churches" (Yong 1977, p. 206). This might be attributed as much to the influence of the Christian wives of the leaders as to the work of Chinese missionaries in particular, the Church of England minister Soo Hoo Ten and the Presbyterian Minister John Young Wai and his wife, who were actively proselytising and performing charitable work amongst the Chinese population in the Haymarket (Ruth Teale, 1976 and Adrian Chan 1990). Yee Wing returned to China after the death of his wife Susan in 1938, and died there sometime in 1942 (Kuo, M.-F. & Brett, J. 2013, pp.9-10).

## TENANTS OF THE BUILDING

After the new building opened, various rabbit merchants and grill rooms tenanted the ground floor of 77 Ultimo Road until 1923, when L.A. Pogonowski, who had occupied the site in 1913 prior to the KMT Building's construction, returned to occupy the ground floor of the new building. Pogonowski evidently had a good long-standing relationship with Samuel Wong and Peter Yee Wing, the proprietors of Tiy Sang & Co. on Thomas Street. Sometime in January or February 1911, Tiy Sang & Co. complained to the Town Clerk about damage to their premises caused by flooding (City of Sydney Archives, A-00247772). When nothing was done, L.A. Pogonowski then took up the case, seeking action on stormwater damage to his store, the neighbouring store of Tiy Sang & Co. and two other businesses. The Town Clerk replied that the Council would not accept liability (City of Sydney Archives, A-00246270). From 1925 until 1927, L.A. Pogonoswki Talk Machines occupied the ground floors of both 75 and 77 Ultimo Road. Presumably after the death or retirement of Mr Pogonowski, Mrs C. Pogonowski continued the business at 75-77 Ultimo Road until 1929 (Sands Directory 1913-1929.). The Pogonowski store can be seen in an early photograph of the Australasian KMT Building.

From 1922, 75-77 Ultimo Road was the registered office for the Chinese Times newspaper. The Chinese Times was a revolutionary newspaper first published in Melbourne, (1902-1915), where it played an important role in shaping and mobilising support for the revolution in China and later opposing the increasingly despotic government of Yuan Shikai, the Provisional President of the Republic of China (Kuo, M. F. 2013, 184-9, pp.222-5 and Yong, 1977, pp.145-148). In 1922, the Chinese Times began publishing in Sydney and continued publication until 1949 with financial support from the Chinese KMT (Kuo, M.-F. & Brett, J. 2013, pp.78-9).

Between 1932 and 1977, the ground floor of 75 Ultimo Road was leased to Arthur Lowe who ran a tobacconist shop there for 45 years. In an interview with Rosetta Sung in 1984, Arthur Lowe said he was born in Enfield in 1903 to Willie Bow Siew and Rosetta Helen McDonald, of Scottish descent (Sung, R. 1984). When his mother died, when Arthur was only eight months old, his father took him back to his village in Chungshan to be cared for by his first wife. Arthur returned to Australia with his father

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when he was thirteen, returning once more to China with his father around 1920 at his father's insistence that he find a Chinese wife. Arthur married his Chinese wife, Liu Cheng Su Tseng in a Christian ceremony, but returned to Australia leaving his wife and children behind, as immigration restrictions prohibited Chinese women from entering Australia. Arthur bought a greengrocer business in Neutral Bay, before opening his tobacconist business on the ground floor of 75 Ultimo Road. With the help of the Chinese Consul, Arthur managed to bring his wife and three children to Australia in 1934 (NAA: SP42/1 C1938/8992). The couple subsequently had another five children. Arthur said of the KMT:

"Father was a member, all members. I not one of the original members but early one. Tongmenhui, meaning gathering together society, a club. Always involved in fundraising for Kuo Min Tang. Collect lot of money and send to China, now Formosa (Taiwan) and before send to Canton or Nanking." (Sung, R. 1984)

#### THE OPERATION OF THE AUSTRALASIAN KMT AT 75-77 ULTIMO ROAD

The operation of the Australasian KMT at 75-77 Ultimo Road over the years has been researched and written about by Judith Brett and Mei-Fen Kuo, and by John Fitzgerald, utilising the Australasian KMT archives housed at 75-77 Ultimo Road. In 1924, representatives from the Sydney branch attended the first National Assembly in Canton and in the following year, the Australasian KMT held its first Australasian Convention. A memorial ceremony was held for Sun Yat-sen who had died in March 1925, which recognised him as the father of the modern Chinese nation and the symbolic head of the KMT. The Convention strengthened connections between branches in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific, sending money to enable representatives from branches in the Pacific to attend (Meeting with members of the Standing Committee of the KMT, 26 February 2024). The Convention established a Canton Liaison Office, which helped returning Chinese Australians to settle back in China. It also established branches for seamen working in the South Pacific, boosting membership and providing a conduit for connecting branches in the region (Kuo, M.-F. & Brett, J. 2013, p.46.). By 1927, "around one in six registered Australasian party members were able seamen and ship's engineers." (Fitzgerald, J. 2007).

After Sun Yat-sen's death, Chiang Kai-shek succeeded Sun Yat-Sen as leader of the KMT. The Australian government, which had hitherto been suspicious of the KMT's communist sympathies, recognised the Chinese National Government in Nanking after Chiang Kai-Shek became leader.

Chiang launched an international Party Purification Movement in 1926 to purge Communists and their sympathisers from the Party. At the second Australasian Convention in Sydney in 1927, held to endorse Chiang Kai-Shek's command, Samuel Wong, Vice-President of the Australasian KMT, objected to the Party Purification Movement and Chiang's leadership. Wong was expelled along with five other members (Fitzgerald, J. 2007, pp.138-9.).

In 1929, Australian KMT delegates went to Nanjing to attend a national congress where they appealed to the Chinese government to seek the removal of discrimination against Chinese in Australia. They received little support in China, and Kuo and Brett assess that the main goals given to the Australasian KMT were the strengthening of its loyalty to the Chinese

KMT and the winning of sympathy for the new government amongst the Australian public (Kuo, M.-F. & Brett, J. 2013, pp.61-62.).

#### THE WAR YEARS

In 1931, the Australasian KMT comprised of the headquarters at 75-77 Ultimo Road, seven branches and thirty-five sub-branches, each with an Executive Committee, an Advisory Committee and a Standing Committee (Kuo, M.-F. & Brett, J. 2013, pp.66-69.).

When the Japanese army invaded Manchuria in 1931, Chinese Australian community leaders in Sydney from across the political spectrum, including William Gock Young, William Liu and Mar Leong Wah, combined to establish the Society of Chinese Residents in Australia to coordinate support for China. They met regularly at 75-77 Ultimo Road, collected funds, organised events and remitted funds to China for the war effort.

The Chinese Australian community was divided over the visit of General Tsai Ting-Kai to Australia in 1934. Tsai had earned hero status after the 19th Route Army he commanded fought against the Japanese invasion of Shanghai in 1931, but he was subsequently exiled after the failure of the rebellion he led against Chiang Kai-Shek's government. The Australasian KMT failed to prevent Tsai Ting Kai's visit to Australia, and Tsai was given a hero's welcome when he arrived. The Australasian KMT expelled members who attended the welcome ceremony or met with him (Kuo, M.-F. & Brett, J. 2013, p.96.).

According to Kuo and Brett's examination of management records, in the 1930s, the Sydney KMT and the Society of Chinese Residents in Australia "sought connections with Australian journalists, writers and scholars to promote the recognition of the Chinese Australians claim to citizenship and to enhance their status accordingly" (Kuo, M.-F. & Brett, J. 2013, pp. 69-73). However, the efforts of the Australasian KMT to lobby the Australian government to rethink the prejudicial treatment of Chinese Australians were met with little consideration.

At the Fifth Convention of the Australasian KMT, Mar Leong Wah was elected as one of the three members of the Standing Committee (Kuo, M.-F. & Brett, J. 2013, p.73.). Mar Leong Wah (Harry Mar) had arrived in Sydney in 1921 to work in the Wing Sang & Co. business founded by his Ma/Mar clansmen from Sha Chung, and became manager of Wing Sang & Co. at 58 Hay Street (Kuo, M.-F. & Brett, J. 2013, pp.77-78.). In the photo of Wing Sang & Co. employees, Mar Leong Wah is standing on the far right.

In the 1930s, under Mar and David Young Narme's leadership, the Australasian KMT established music, social and sporting groups to raise funds for the war effort in China. As Kuo and Brett write, "the KMT Hall was no longer just a place for solemn political ceremonies, but had become a community gathering place" (Kuo, M.-F. & Brett, J. 2013, 105).

The KMT Hall was the venue for a Chinese language school established in the mid-1920s (Mei-Fen Kuo, personal communication, 1 May 2024). A newsreel shot in 1934 shows Mar Leong Wah teaching a class of boys and girls to read and write Chinese characters. The class then stands up and sings the national anthem of the Republic of China, San Min Chui Yi, the Three Principles of the People. The newsreel shows how the Hall was furnished in the 1930s. Carved wood panelling can be seen at the back of the stage. There is a clear view of the elaborately carved wooden chairs

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used by the children and their wooden desks. Behind the children there is a Chinese ceramic on a wooden stand. There are Chinese calligraphy hangings and framed pictures on the wall (Cinesound Movietone Productions, National Film and Sound Archive of Australia 1934).

In July 1938, David Young Narme and his New Zealand-born wife organised the first Dragon Ball, held at the Trocadero. In 1941, a debutante ritual was introduced to the Ball. Debutantes and their male partners were expected to attend several weeks of rehearsals, usually held at the KMT Hall at 75-77 Ultimo Road" (Gassin, G. 2021, p.543). The Dragon Ball became the big annual event of the Sydney Chinese social calendar.

As Grace Gassin, who researched the Dragon Ball for her PhD has written, the Dragon Ball not only gave debutantes their moment to shine, but it highlighted the contribution of Chinese Australian women as organisers, fund-raisers and dressmakers. Gassin spoke to women involved with the Dragon Ball from the 1940's-70s, including Cheryl Cumines, from one of the oldest Chinese Australian families. Cumines, who is currently President of the Chinese Heritage Association of Australia, told Gassin, "There were all of these Australian-born Chinese women who were from these really old families... there was that sense of community that went back a long, long way" (Gassin, G. 2021, p.539).

After the defeat of the Nationalist Government by the Chinese Communist Party in 1949, the Nationalists retreated to Taiwan, from where they ruled as the Republic of China. During the time that the Australian government recognised the KMT Government in Taiwan as the legitimate government of China, Dragon Balls were an annual event. On 21 December 1972, the Whitlam government established diplomatic relations with the Peoples Republic of China. According to Gassin, recognition of the PRC government "made it difficult for organisers to sustain the high-level diplomatic and political affiliations so vital to the success of earlier balls" (Gassin, G. 2021, p.547-8). Gassin's interviewees also pointed to changing norms around gender relations as another factor in the demise of the Dragon Ball in the early 1970s. The Dragon Ball remains one of the best-remembered historical events associated with Sydney's Chinese community (Gassin, G. 2021, p.533.).

#### THE POST-WAR YEARS

When WWII ended in 1945, the Australasian KMT raised funds to aid in China's reconstruction, but there were also local problems to assist with. By 1945 there were about 1,300 Chinese seamen and evacuees from the Pacific Islands stranded in Australia. Samuel Wong, who had rejoined the Australasian KMT and been appointed to its committee, proposed a plan for the relief of the refugees which resulted in the establishment of the Chinese Youth League. As Kuo and Brett write, "At this time, the Sydney KMT was fulfilling two distinct functions. At the Australasian Headquarters branch it worked closely with Chinese government officials; and as the local branch it was active in helping Chinese seamen and Chinese refugees from the Pacific Islands (Kuo, M.-F. & Brett, J. 2013, pp.116-118.).

Amongst the Chinese seamen and refugees who came to Australia during the war years was Eugene Seeto, who was evacuated to Sydney from Papua New Guinea with his family in 1934. In 1945, Seeto joined the Australasian KMT (Kuo, M.-F. & Brett, J. 2013, p.118.). The family of Chinese community leader King Fong also arrived from Fiji during the war



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years, establishing the Say Tin Fong grocery store and boarding house in Dixon Street.

Kuo and Brett write that by 1947, when the Australasian KMT held the Sixth Convention, declining membership and loss of properties during the war had left the Sydney branch alone with a debt of £4475. In spite of the debt, those attending the convention balked at selling 75-77 Ultimo Road and confirmed the decision of the Fifth Convention that no one had the right to do so. Instead, two properties owned by the Australasian KMT in Canton were sold (Kuo, M.-F. & Brett, J. 2013, p.130.). Records show that the defeat of the KMT government by the Chinese Communist Party and their withdrawal to Taiwan was accompanied by “an avalanche of membership loss” in the Australasian KMT. “Many Chinese Australians were anxious about their families in the now communist controlled China, and did not want to be known for an association with the KMT” (Kuo, M.-F. & Brett, J. 2013, p.132).

Deeply in debt, the Australasian KMT decided to rent out not only the ground floor of 75-77 Ultimo Road but also the second and third floor of the building leaving only the fourth floor with the Australia-China Times newspaper that had been started up in 1955 (Kuo, M.-F. & Brett, J. 2013, p.133).

At the Eighth Regional Convention held in Sydney in 1958, Eugene Seeto, David Sang and Charles Chan were elected to the Executive, replacing David Young Narme and Mar Leong Wah who had been in charge of the headquarters branch for more than 20 years (Kuo, M.-F. & Brett, J. 2013, p.149). The new executive brought structural and financial reforms as well as renovation of the building. A Double Tenth celebration (commemorating the success of the uprising on October 10, which led to the downfall of the Ching dynasty) was held in the newly renovated hall at 75-77 Ultimo Road. The hall became the venue for popular film nights (Kuo, M.-F. & Brett, J. 2013, p.150). The NSW Chinese Sport Association had free use of the third floor of 75-77 Ultimo Road to provide room for reading, table tennis, social dancing and movie showing. Douglas Lam, who arrived in Sydney from his village in Loong Tu, via Hong Kong, used to go to the reading room upstairs at the 75-77 Ultimo Road Building in the early to mid-1960s to browse Cantonese newspapers. Lam recalls, “There was an auditorium with a mobile projector showing Cantonese movies on Sunday nights to homesick people like myself” (Douglas Lam, personal communication, 24 April 2024).

In December 1961, an application was made to the City to carry out alterations and use the second and third floors for the purpose of a commercial photographic and art studio (City of Sydney Archives, A-00123670). In 1964, a restructure by the KMT’s Central Committee reduced the Australasian KMT to the Australian KMT, though it retained its regional organisational name and a role in co-ordinating regional conventions (Kuo, M.-F. & Brett, J. 2013, pp.158-159). Throughout the years, the Australasian KMT has played an important role in maintaining and fostering connections between Australia, Hong Kong and Taiwan. To encourage young Chinese Australians and Chinese New Zealanders to maintain their Chinese cultural heritage, the Australasian KMT helped facilitate trips to Taiwan. The first of these “Taiwan tours” was led by Tung Koon community leader Lai Kum Hung and by Maud Chin in 1979 (Lance Lai interviewed by Christopher Cheng). The Australasian KMT also established the Chinese Cultural Centre in 1979, to offer public services to

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the older Chinese communities and to the newly arriving Indo-Chinese refugee communities (Kuo, M.-F. & Brett, J. 2013, p.171.). In the 1990s, a Chinese school was opened at 75-77 Ultimo Road for new migrants from Hong Kong and Taiwan (Mei-Fen Kuo, personal communication, 1 May 2024).

In 1972, Eugene Seeto started to preserve the Australasian KMT's archives and historical objects, making the building at 75-77 Ultimo Road the home of the archives of the Australasian KMT (Kuo, M.-F. & Brett, J. 2013, p.169). In 2006, an invitation extended to Henry Chan of the Chinese Australian Historical Society to examine the Archives, led to a project to identify, catalogue and preserve the historical archives of the Australasian KMT. A three-year grant from the Australia Research Council allowed a research team from La Trobe University to analyse and open up the Archives to academic and community researchers. One of the outcomes of this project was the book, *Unlocking the History of the Australasian Kuomintang*, which is the source for much of the content of this report. Another outcome was an exhibition of historical images of KMT and Australasian Chinese, held at 75-77 Ultimo Road from 10-16 December 2011. In 2013 another exhibition supported by the History Council of NSW was held on site.

Currently, members of Sydney meet regularly to discuss management and plan activities which the KMT facilitates for members and the Chinese Australian community. The KMT also tries to channel Australian government policies and to communicate policies to members and the broader Chinese-speaking community. Non-members can apply to visit the building but staff numbers are stretched by requests. The building belongs to KMT members. The Chinese Ginsengs & Herbs Co. which has occupied the ground floor of 75 Ultimo Road for decades is a legacy business in the area.

The museum on the third floor of the KMT Building has a historically significant collection of documents and artefacts relating to its history, including typeset blocks for printing newspapers published by the Australasian KMT, original copies of the Chinese Times/The Australia-China Times, calligraphic dedications, records of meetings and membership, a range of film projectors and radios and a unique hand-painted scroll depicting Sun Yat-Sen's funeral procession.

A significant item in the collection is a donations book which lists donations made by members of the Australasian KMT to raise funds for the building at KMT 75-77 Ultimo Road. The book is open at a page listing donations from members in Rabaul, New Guinea and provides demographic information about the donors, such as age and district of origin. This information would be invaluable if it were rendered accessible for family history and other research (Translation and comment on the Donations Book provided by translator, Ely Finch).

Historians of the Kuomintang, Mei-Fen Kuo and Judith Brett regard the collection as having "major historic significance for the Chinese Australian community and for the broader Australian community as a whole (Kuo, M.-F. & Brett, J. 2013, p.45)."

## 8. Historical themes represented

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Themes indicate the broad historical context in which an item is significant. Themes help to identify related or comparative items contributing to the same theme.

Refer to the document [NSW Historical Themes](#) if completing this section.

Relevant National / Australian themes	2 Peopling Australia 3 Developing local, regional and national economies 6 Educating 7 Governing 8 Developing Australia’s cultural life 9 Marking the phases of life
Relevant NSW / State themes	Migration Communication Events Education Defence Government and administration Leisure Social institutions Persons

### E. Criteria for heritage significance

#### 9. Assessment under Heritage Council criteria

It is important in the course or pattern of the cultural or natural history of the local area (Criterion A)
<p>The building at no. 75-77 Ultimo Road, Haymarket was purpose built in 1921 for the Sydney branch of the Chinese Nationalist Party (its Chinese name being Kuo Min Tang or KMT). It continues to be the home of the Sydney branch of the party and an invaluable archival collection of the party’s activities outside China. For a significant period of its history, it was the party’s Australasian headquarters and the location of the Chinese Times newspaper. It demonstrates three historical processes: the political processes of the Kuo Min Tang (KMT), the social processes of the KMT and the operation of the Chinese Times.</p> <p><b>Political processes of the Kuo Min Tang</b></p> <p>The Kuo Min Tang (KMT) was globally a major political party in the 20th century and 75-77 Ultimo Road was the headquarters of the KMT in Australasia for over 100 years. It has been the locus of the Chinese Nationalist Party political activity since it was built in 1921.</p> <p>Throughout the 1920s Australasian branches of the KMT were establishing their headquarters and the construction of the headquarters of the Sydney branch in 1921 is an early example of this activity. The Sydney branch was purpose built and funded by donations from members across Australasia. The establishment of global branches, purpose built and leased, is testament to the power and influence of the Chinese nationalist movement in the 20th century. The network of branches across Australia is representative of the contribution of Chinese Australians to the political revolution in China and the important part that the Australasian KMT played in a global network of Party branches.</p> <p>The location of an Australasian headquarters in Sydney is demonstrative of the mobility and inter-connectedness of the Chinese communities across Australia and the Pacific through trade, communications and political affiliations which intersected in Sydney.</p>

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As the Australasian headquarters between 1922 and 1964, the Sydney branch is not only locally but also state, nationally and transnationally significant, as it oversaw branches in rural Australia and in capital cities, in New Zealand and in the South Pacific Islands. The Sydney office was the hub of KMT activity in the region and the site of a number of Australasian conventions over the years. Funds raised by members were remitted to support Sun Yat-Sen and then Chiang Kai-Shek Nationalist government which ruled China from 1927-1949.

The Chinese Nationalist Party of Australasia not only contributed crucial funding for the Nationalist cause and for the war effort during the Sino-Japanese War, but it was also a transmitter of ideas and technology to China. It was progressive in comparison to the KMT in China, leading the way in allowing female members to join the Party and it played a role in advocating for the rights of Chinese Australians during the White Australia years. The third floor of the building which is set up as a museum of KMT history contains a number of artefacts which show how technology was adopted and adapted over the years to share communications with China and other branches in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific. These artefacts include cinematic projectors, audio tape records, old Gestetner machines, typewriters and printing and typographical equipment.

The building itself houses a large collection of records, documents, publications, photographs and artefacts related the history of the KMT's overseas activities.

The building is evidence of the keen interest in political reform in China maintained by Chinese Australians and how this carried over into their lives in Australia.

### **Social processes of the Kuo Min Tang**

Nos. 75-77 Ultimo Road was also the centre of many social activities and fundraisers for the Chinese Australian community of Sydney, particularly the annual Dragon Ball which began in 1938 and remained the major event on the social calendar for the Chinese Australian community until the early 1970s. It was also a place for people new to Sydney to connect through social activities.

### **Operation of the *Chinese Times***

Nos. 75-77 Ultimo Road was the publishing office for the Chinese Times newspaper (1925-1949) which was an organ of the Australasian KMT.

It has a strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons of importance in the cultural or natural history of the local area (Criterion B)

The building at no. 75-77 Ultimo Road, Haymarket is associated with the Australasian KMT who have owned and occupied the purpose-built building for over 100 years.

Prominent individuals from the Chinese Australian community affiliated with the KMT at 75-77 Ultimo Road include:

- Charles (Peter) Yee Wing, the merchant and managing director of Tiy Sang & Co., who served as president of the KMT from 1919-1930. He helped establish the Australasian KMT Canton Liaison Office and was a co-founder of the China-Australia Mail Steamship Line.
- Samuel Wong, the merchant of Tiy Sang & Co. who was Vice President of the Australasian KMT. His membership was revoked for objecting to Chiang Kai-Shek's leadership and the Communist purges of the Party, but in 1945 he re-joined, the party and proposed a plan for the relief of the refugees which resulted in the establishment of the Chinese Youth League.
- Mar Leong Wah, merchant and manager of Wing Sang & Co., was leader of the KMT for over 20 years and a founding member of the Society of Chinese Residents in Australia supporting Chinese resistance during the Sino Japanese War.
- Eugene Seeto, a wartime refugee who came to Australia and was later elected to the executive of the Australasian KMT. Seeto instigated the preservation of the KMT's historical collection.

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The place is also associated with Robert Wall & Sons, a significant building company in the 19th and 20th centuries in Sydney who built 75-77 Ultimo Road and a number of other significant buildings such as Culwulla Chambers.

75-77 Ultimo Road is associated with the architect Francis Ernest Stowe. A notable architect and engineer of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, Stowe was a prominent Freemason who was the Grand Architect of the Grand Lodge. Besides designing 75-77 Ultimo Road, he designed a number of masonic buildings, as well as the Ball's Head Coal Loading Depot. He also founded the Sydney Marine Engineer College where students such as Florence Taylor attended.

It is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement the local area (Criterion C)

Architecturally, 75-77 Ultimo Road, Haymarket is an early example of an office building in Sydney. It is of some architectural interest for its unusual composition where the fenestration is arranged under a single arch and reads as a single window.

The composition and detailing including arch, fenestration, brick mullions, pilasters, parapet and Chinese Characters make a notable contribution to the streetscape and demonstrates aesthetic characteristics associated with Haymarket's redevelopment in the early 20th century.

It has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in the local area for social, cultural or spiritual reasons (Criterion D)

The building at 75-77 Ultimo Road, Haymarket has a strong association with the Australasian KMT and its members who have occupied the place for over 100 years. The place continues to be actively used and is the hub of the KMTs political activity in Sydney.

As a community hub where political, social and educational activities were located, 75-77 Ultimo Road continues to be highly valued by the Chinese Australian community as one of Chinatown's major political venues, and represents the political and social lives of the Chinese Australian community in Chinatown during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. As the headquarters of a network of branches across Australasia, it also represents the political activities of the Chinese in NSW.

It has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the cultural or natural history of the local area (Criterion E)

The building at 75-77 Ultimo Road is home to what is probably the largest collection of documents on the activities of the overseas KMT branches outside of China and Taiwan. The collection is an invaluable record of administrative records, publications and photographs not only of the Sydney branch but of those throughout Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. The archival collection has extensive interpretive value for not only the Sydney branches but those across Australasia including those in regional NSW. The collection has great potential in furthering our understanding of the history of the KMT and the Chinese Australian community in NSW and beyond. The collection was crucial in the development of the Mei-Fen Kuo and Judith Kuo and Brett's book *Unlocking the History of the Australasian Kuo Min Tang 1911-2013*, though it is unclear to what extent the collection has been analysed.

There is also further research potential in the activities of the KMT across Australasia, such as the establishment of other headquarters and their links to 75-77 Ultimo Road.

It possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the cultural or natural history of the local area (Criterion F)

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The movable heritage and archival collection of the Sydney branch of the KMT, housed at nos. 75-77 Ultimo Road, Haymarket is likely a rare collection on the activities of the KMT's overseas branches. It is also likely the largest of its kind outside of China and Taiwan.

Rarity is a valuable criterion in the context of the Chinese in Australia as there is a history of resumptions and even later development demolishing places associated with the early Chinese settlement in Australia. Building nos. 75-77 Ultimo Road is a particularly significant building. Nos. 75-77 Ultimo Road is a rare surviving example of early Chinese Australian commissioned buildings and it is a rare example of a building purpose built for the KMT.

It is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places/ environments in the local area (Criterion G)

The building at 75-77 Ultimo Road does not meet the threshold for criterion G.

## F. Heritage listings

### 10. Existing heritage listings

If completing this section, mark against each listing whether the item is listed or not. You may want to contact the relevant local council or organisation to check the item's listing status.

Listed	Not Listed	Listing
	✓	<a href="#">Commonwealth Heritage List</a>
	✓	<a href="#">National Heritage List</a>
	✓	<a href="#">Register of the National Estate</a>
	✓	Declared Aboriginal place
	✓	Local environmental plan (LEP) – heritage item (or draft item)
	✓	LEP – heritage conservation area (or draft area)
	✓	NSW government agency Heritage and Conservation Register
	✓	National Trust register
	✓	<a href="#">Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System</a>
	✓	National shipwreck database
	✓	Engineers Australia list

## G. Recommended Management

### 11. Management recommendations

#### OBLIGATIONS ARISING FROM SIGNIFICANCE

The high cultural significance of the place identified in the statement of significance obliges its conservation and good management (Burra Charter Article 2). The significance is embodied in the place. Place means site, area, land, landscape, building or other work, group of buildings or other works, and may include components, contents, spaces and views. Place also includes fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places, and related objects. (Burra Charter Article 1).

The significance of 75-77 Ultimo Road is primarily identified the on-going use of the place as the headquarters of the KMT's Sydney branch for over 100 years, in the collection which it houses, and its historical use as the headquarters of the Australasian KMT. Consideration of these three values informs the management recommendations for the place. The significance of the archival collection requires that it be appropriately cared for and that public access to the collection is facilitated. The ongoing connection of the place to the Australasian KMT and the Chinese Australian community should be continued through use and ownership.

#### TOLERANCE FOR CHANGE

The façade of the building strongly conveys its association with the KMT and is of some architectural interest. There is limited tolerance for change to the building's façade with a need to preserve the buildings form and KMT associated details. There is greater tolerance for change internally where there is limited original fabric. Appropriate interventions may include a lift and alterations to the layout. The open plan layout of the second and third floors is indicative of historical uses, namely a hall which held many social and political events. As such, any changes to the layout must ensure that the historical open plan remains interpretable.

#### CONSERVATION OF FABRIC

The archival collection should be assessed for conservation to assist with ensuring and facilitating appropriate care of its objects. There is limited original building finishes and details at the place. Missing elements which could be reconstructed and/or reinstated, if desired, are the timber window frames and original ceilings could be revealed if existing. 8.4. Interpretation The archival collection has high interpretative value requiring public access to be enabled. In the past, the Australasian KMT has held open days and is amendable to doing so in future, dependent on the availability of staff or volunteers and funding.

Public access to the collection could also be facilitated through digitalisation of the collection. The significance of the place is not independent of the history and development of Chinatown in the Haymarket area, and as such, interpretive strategies for 75-77 Ultimo Road should be considered within an overall interpretation strategy for Chinatown.

It is recommended that additional interpretive strategies for the place consider:

- Setting up a plaque(s) at street level to communicate the site's history and significance.
- Creation of digital archives/websites showcasing the history and significance of Chinatown, identifying 75-77 Ultimo Road as a place of significance in the area.

A heritage interpretation plan must be provided in the event of major alterations to the building.

#### FUTURE USE

Much of the building's significance lies with its direct relationship with the KMT and associated archival and movable heritage collection. It is recommended that future use of the building maintain these ties and continues to ensure the retention of significant internal and external features and appropriate conservation of its collection in accordance with relevant planning controls. Other appropriate uses include retail, offices or a museum space.



## H. Photograph

## 12. Principal or main photograph\*



Caption*	75-77 Ultimo Road. Haymarket
Date of photograph*	2024
Name of photographer*	Sioned Lavery
Copyright holder, if known	Hector Abrahams Architects

**I. Author details****13. Primary author of this form\***

Name	Sioned Lavery and Dr Juanita Kwok
Position and organisation, if applicable	Heritage Conservation Strategist, Hector Abrahams Architects Historian, Independent Consultant
Contact phone number	92997959
Email address	<a href="mailto:mailbox@haarchitects.com.au">mailbox@haarchitects.com.au</a>
Date form completed	23/07/2024

**14. References used to complete this form\***

Author	Title	Date Published	Link
Williams, m	Returning home with glory: chinese villagers around the pacific, 1849 to 1949	2018	
The sun	"tsun fore."	30 january 1912	<a href="http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article222004834">http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article222004834</a>
Nsw state heritage inventory,	Chinese masonic hall including interior,	Accessed 3 may 2024.	<a href="https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=2420970">https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=2420970</a>
Guang yi hua bao = The Chinese Australian Herald	'決議 改建街市'	13 March 1909	<a href="http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article168080171">http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article168080171</a>
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Yong, c. F	The new gold mountain : the chinese in australia, 1901-1921	1977	
Australian Institute of Architects	NSW Bibliographical information: Lt Col Francis Ernest Stowe	2015	
The sydney morning herald	Obituary mr f. E. Stowe	21 july 1936	<a href="https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/17253756">https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/17253756</a>
Margaret dobson	John lamb lyon and francis ernest stowe	1992	
The daily telegraph	'City building applications'	21 feb 2024	<a href="http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article239701774">http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article239701774</a>
The daily telegraph	Mr. Robert wall	2 december 1925	<a href="http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article245061670">http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article245061670</a>

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Winston G. Lewis	Donald, William Henry	1981	<a href="https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/donald-william-henry-5992/text10229">https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/donald-william-henry-5992/text10229</a>
Martinez, j	Chinese politics in darwin: interconnections between the wah on society and the kuo min tang and the kuo min tang	2015	
Ruth teale	Ten, george soo hoo (1848–1934)	1976	<a href="https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/ten-george-soo-hoo-4699/text7785">https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/ten-george-soo-hoo-4699/text7785</a>
Adrian chan	Young wai, john (1847–1930)	1990	<a href="https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/young-wai-john-9222/text16295">https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/young-wai-john-9222/text16295</a>
City of Sydney Archives [A-00247772]	Tiy Sang & Co complained to the TC about damage to their premises caused by flooding. The Water & (29/01/1912 - 27/02/1912)	Accessed 01 Mar 2024	<a href="https://archives.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/nodes/view/866237">https://archives.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/nodes/view/866237</a>
City of Sydney Archives [A-00246270]	L A Pogonowski, 77 Engine St re stormwater damage, including to Tiy Sang & Co; Pennell & Co; Morton (29/02/1912 - 15/05/1912)	Accessed 01 Mar 2024	<a href="https://archives.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/nodes/view/879399">https://archives.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/nodes/view/879399</a>
City of Sydney Archives	Sands Directory 1913-1929.		
Kuo, m. F.	Making chinese australia : urban elites, newspapers and the formation of chinese australian identity	2013	
Sung, rosetta	Interview 18, 1984, arthur, b. 1903, rosetta sung transcripts, state library of nsw, mlmss 5619	1984-1989.	
Naa	Sp42/1 c1938/8992.		
	Meeting with members of the Standing Committee of the KMT	26 February 2024	
Fitzgerald, j.	Big white lie: chinese australians in white australia	2007	
Mei-Fen Kuo	Personal communication	1 May 2024.	
Produced by Cinesound Movietone Productions, National Film and Sound Archive of Australia No.201409	Chinese Kiddies Get International Spirit: Scholars Learn Language of Fathers in Sydney School	1934	
Gassin, grace	All eyes on you: debutantes' explorations of chinese australian	2021	

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	womanhood at the dragon festival ball		
Douglas Lam	Personal communication	24 April 2024	
City of Sydney Archives [A-00123670]	75/77 Ultimo Road A. Holland & Associates. To use 2nd & 3rd floors for purpose of a commercial (18/12/1961 - 22/01/1962)	Accessed 29 Feb 2024	<a href="https://archives.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/nodes/view/748633">https://archives.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/nodes/view/748633</a>
	Lance Lai interviewed by Christopher Cheng for the Australians with Chinese heritage oral history projec		<a href="https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-3183559394/listen/1-2933~1-2947">//nla.gov.au/nla.obj-3183559394/listen/1-2933~1-2947</a>
Victorian Heritage Database report	'Chinese Nationalist Club (Kuomintang)'		<a href="https://vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/places/65205/download-report">https://vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/places/65205/download-report</a>
Walter Burley Griffin Society	'Kuomintang Club Building, 109 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne'		<a href="https://www.griffinsociety.org/griffin_gallery/kuomintang-club-building-109-little-bourke-street-melbourne/">https://www.griffinsociety.org/griffin_gallery/kuomintang-club-building-109-little-bourke-street-melbourne/</a>
The West Australian	"Kuo Min Tang: Chinese Nationalist Party, A Perth Dinner and Meeting"	30 June 1921	<a href="https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/27967814?searchTerm=Chinese%20Nationalist%20Party%20Perth">https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/27967814?searchTerm=Chinese%20Nationalist%20Party%20Perth</a>
The Advertiser	"Little-Known Adelaide: Chinese Headquarters"	29 June 1935	<a href="https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/40055712?searchTerm=Chinese%20Nationalist%20Party%20Adelaide">https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/40055712?searchTerm=Chinese%20Nationalist%20Party%20Adelaide</a>
State Library South Australia	'Hindley Street Adelaide [B 3726] Photograph'		<a href="https://collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/resource/B+3726">https://collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/resource/B+3726</a>
Northern Standard	"20th Anniversary of Chinese Republic: Celebration in Darwin"	13 October 1931	<a href="https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/48051059?searchTerm=Chinese%20Nationalist%20Party%20Darwin">https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/48051059?searchTerm=Chinese%20Nationalist%20Party%20Darwin</a>
Brisbane City Council, Local Heritage Places	'King Edward Chambers'		<a href="https://heritage.brisbane.qld.gov.au/heritage-places/721">https://heritage.brisbane.qld.gov.au/heritage-places/721</a>
	Stakeholder workshop	5 April 2024	
National Library of Australia	"Kuo Min Tang, Chinese Nationalist Party 1929 [Picture]" 2279601		<a href="https://catalogue.nla.gov.au/catalog/2279601">https://catalogue.nla.gov.au/catalog/2279601</a>
Australian War Memorial	"The Kuo-Min-Tang hall where assemblies are held and administrative problems are solved by town..."		<a href="https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C206665">https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C206665</a>
State Library Victoria	"Wooden building with verandah and sign above reading-Kuo Min Tang/Chinese Nationalist Party"		<a href="https://find.slv.vic.gov.au/discovery/fulldisplay?docid=alma9917856023607636&amp;context=L&amp;vid=61SLV_INST:SLV&amp;lang=en&amp;search_s">https://find.slv.vic.gov.au/discovery/fulldisplay?docid=alma9917856023607636&amp;context=L&amp;vid=61SLV_INST:SLV&amp;lang=en&amp;search_s</a>

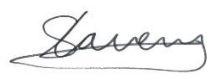
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Waipukurau Press	"The Garden of Eden: Situated in Central Asia"	13 April 1928	<a href="https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/WPRESS19280413.2.62?end_date=31-12-1928&amp;items_per_page=10&amp;query=kuo-min-tang+Wellington&amp;snippet=true&amp;start_date=01-01-1928">https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/WPRESS19280413.2.62?end_date=31-12-1928&amp;items_per_page=10&amp;query=kuo-min-tang+Wellington&amp;snippet=true&amp;start_date=01-01-1928</a>
Auckland Museum	'Kuomintang (Chinese Nationalist Party). Auckland Branch – Memorabilia, 1917-1952'		<a href="https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am_library-manuscriptsandarchives-576?p=10&amp;c=ecrm%3AE84_Information_Carrier&amp;prdt=%5B1917%5D&amp;dept=manuscripts%20and%20archives&amp;ordinal=0">https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am_library-manuscriptsandarchives-576?p=10&amp;c=ecrm%3AE84_Information_Carrier&amp;prdt=%5B1917%5D&amp;dept=manuscripts%20and%20archives&amp;ordinal=0</a>
Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa A.019754	'Man Standing in Thomson St, Suva, Fiji' A.019754		<a href="https://collections.tepapa.govt.nz/object/1062618#open-iiifViewer">https://collections.tepapa.govt.nz/object/1062618#open-iiifViewer</a>
Tahiti Heritage	'Koo Men Tong 1 Chinese School, Papeete'		<a href="https://www.tahitiheritage.pf/ecole-chinoise-koo-men-tong/">https://www.tahitiheritage.pf/ecole-chinoise-koo-men-tong/</a>
The China-Australia Heritage Corridor	'Chinese Masonic Hall, Sydney'		<a href="https://www.heritagecorridor.org.au/places/chinese-masonic-hall-sydney">https://www.heritagecorridor.org.au/places/chinese-masonic-hall-sydney</a>
State Heritage Inventory	'Former 'Culwulla Chambers' including interiors'		<a href="https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=2423739">https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=2423739</a>
State Heritage Inventory	'Former Metropolitan "Usher's" Hotel Including Interiors'		<a href="https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=2423738">https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=2423738</a>
State Heritage Inventory	'Balls Head Coal Loader Complex (including Platform Pier and Administrative and Workshop Buildings)'		<a href="https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=5056208">https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=5056208</a>
State Heritage Inventory	'Former Masonic Temple'		<a href="https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=2180897">https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=2180897</a>
Northern Star	'New Masonic Hospital at Ashfield, Sydney,'	20 June 1931	<a href="https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/94246966?searchTerm=Masonic%20Hospital%20Ashfield">https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/94246966?searchTerm=Masonic%20Hospital%20Ashfield</a>
Find and Connect	'William Thompson Masonic School (1924-1974)'		<a href="https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/nsw/NE00394">https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/nsw/NE00394</a>



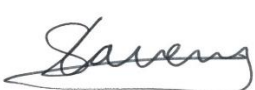
**15. Signature of author\***

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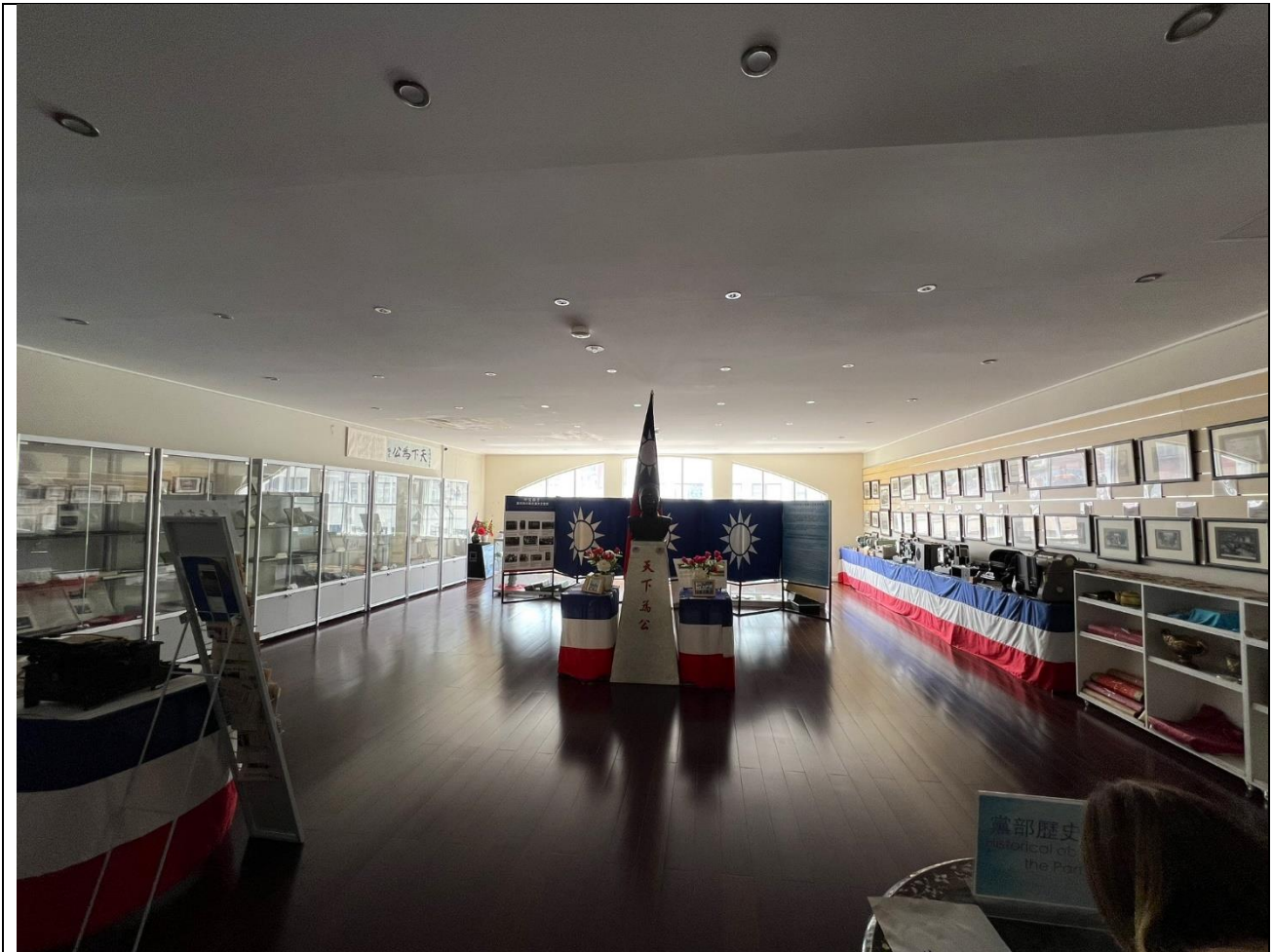
Name		Date	23/07/2024
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**16. Signature of image copyright holder\***

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**J. Additional photographs and images**



Caption*	Third floor with KMT collection
Date of photograph*	2024

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Name of photographer*	Sioned Lavery
Copyright holder, if known	Hector Abrahams

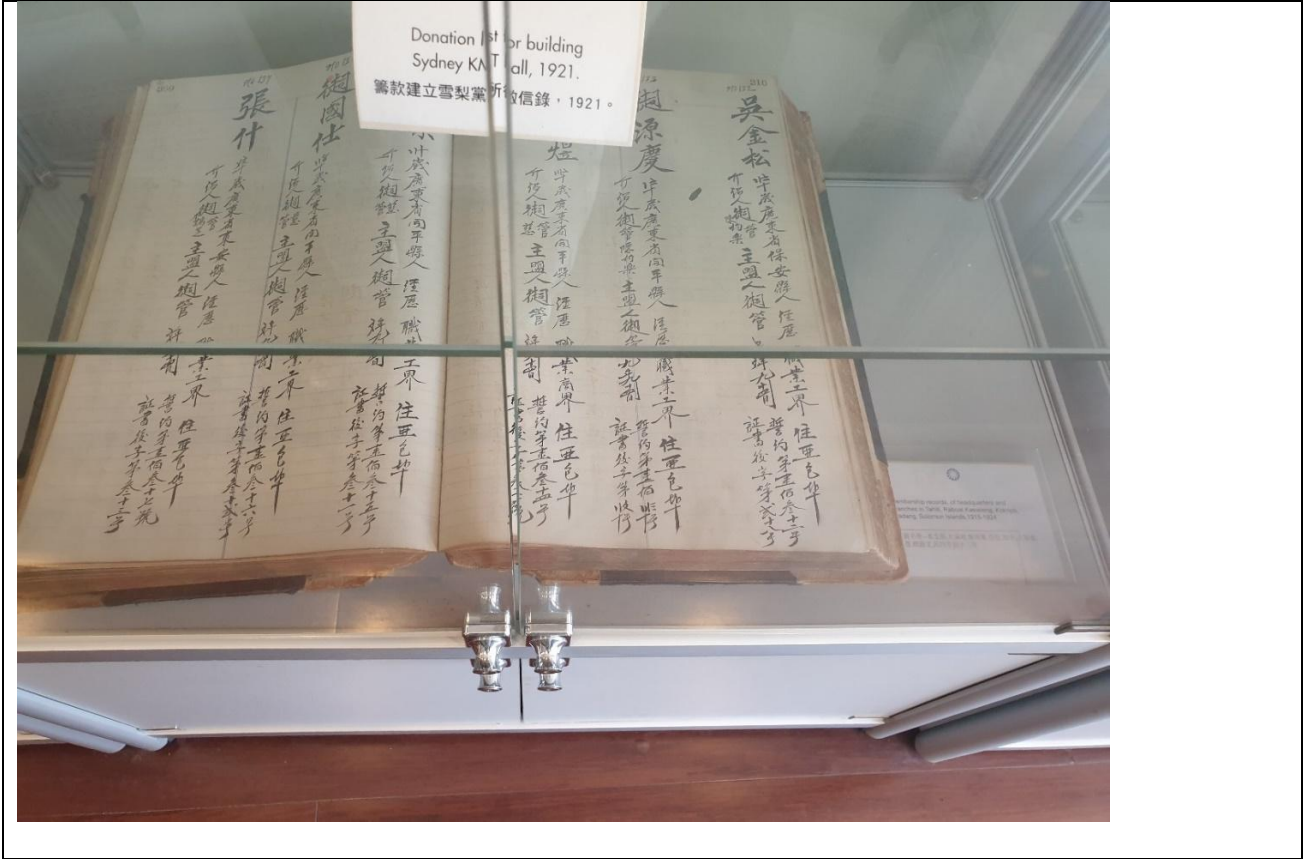


Caption*	Inside the KMT building
Date of photograph*	2024
Name of photographer*	Sioned Lavery
Copyright holder, if known	Hector Abrahams Architects





Caption*	Plaque at front of KMT building
Date of photograph*	2024
Name of photographer*	Sioned Lavery
Copyright holder, if known	Hector Abrahams Architects



Caption*	Donations list for building Sydney KMT Hall, 1921. On display at KMT building
Date of photograph*	2024
Name of photographer*	Dr Juanita Kwok
Copyright holder, if known	Dr Juanita Kwok

Caption*	
Date of photograph*	
Name of photographer*	
Copyright holder, if known	

Caption*	
Date of photograph*	
Name of photographer*	
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