

Ku-ring-gai Heritage Information Sheet—What is Heritage?

What is Heritage?

The Heritage Act 1977 defines **environmental heritage** as ‘those places, buildings, works, relics, moveable objects, and precincts, of State or local heritage significance’.

The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of cultural Significance 1999 defines **cultural significance** as ‘aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for the past, present or future generations.’

What are Heritage Listings?

The level of heritage significance indicates the context in which a heritage item is valued.

Each level of significance is granted statutory recognition and protection by listing the item on a heritage register. In Australia, a heritage item can be listed on one or more of the heritage registers below.

Local Significance—listed on the local Council’s Local Environmental Plan (LEP). Further information can be found on Ku-ring-gai Municipal Council’s website.

State Significance—listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR). Further information can be found on the Office of Environment and Heritage’s website.

National Significance—listed on the National Heritage List (NHL). Further information can be found on the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities’ website.

World Significance—listed on the World Heritage List (WHL). Further information can be found on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation’s (UNESCO’s) website.

How do we assess Heritage Significance?

The **Local** or **State** levels of significance are determined applying the NSW Heritage Council’s Standard Heritage Assessment Criteria listed below.

Criterion (a)—An item is important in the course or pattern of NSW’s cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);

Criterion (b)—An item has a strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or groups of persons, of importance in NSW’s cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);

Criterion (c)—An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or in the local area);

Criterion (d)—An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;

Criterion (e)—An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW’s cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);

Criterion (f)—An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW’s cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);

Criterion (g)—An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW’s cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments (or a class of the local area’s cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments).

The examples below are used to demonstrate the application of the standard assessment criteria under each individual criterion. However, an item can demonstrate multiple criteria.

Ku-ring-gai Heritage Information Sheet—What is Heritage?

Criterion (a)—An item is important in the course or pattern of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

Guidelines for Inclusion

- shows evidence of a significant human activity;
- is associated with a significant activity or historical phase;
- maintains or shows the continuity of a historical process or activity.

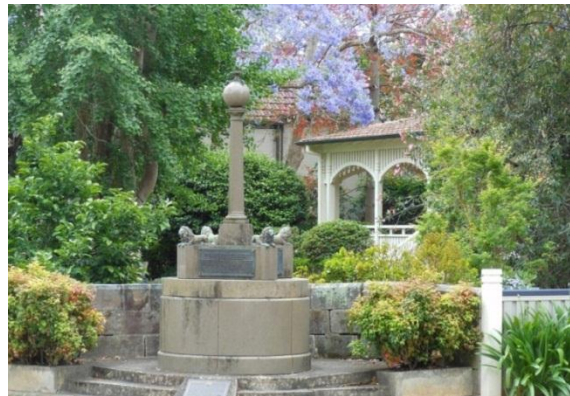


Figure 1: 'Lucania', at No 1 Stuart Street, Wahroonga, is significant as the site where the first wireless radio message was received from England in 1918. The site comprises 'Fisk Memorial', built in 1935 to commemorate the event, and Sir Ernest Fisk's residence.



Figure 2: 'Gordon Railway Station', opened in 1890, is significant demonstrating the role of the North Shore railway line in the development of Sydney.

Ku-ring-gai Heritage Information Sheet—What is Heritage?

Criterion (b)—An item has a strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or groups of persons, of importance in NSW’s cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

Guidelines for Inclusion

- shows evidence of a significant human occupation;
- is associated with a significant event, person, or group of persons.



Figure 3: ‘Ingleholme’, at No 17 Boomerang Street, Turramurra, built in c1895, is significant for its association with prominent Architect and Town Planner Sir John Sulman (1849-1934). Sulman lived at the house for some 16 years and undertook several extensions.



Figure 4: ‘Cossington’, at No 43-47 Ku-ring-gai Avenue, Turramurra, is significant for its association with Australian artist, Grace Cossington Smith (1892-1984). The family home where Grace lived for over 60 years, became the principal subject of her art in the 1960s.

Ku-ring-gai Heritage Information Sheet—What is Heritage?

Criterion (c)—An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or in the local area)

Guidelines for Inclusion

- shows or is associated with, creative or technical innovation or achievement;
- is the inspiration for a creative or technical innovation or achievement;
- is aesthetically distinctive;
- has landmark qualities;
- exemplifies a particular taste, style or technology.



Figure 5: ‘Ku-ring-gai Town Hall’, (former Sacred Heart Catholic Church site), at No 1186 Pacific Highway, Pymble, is significant as a local landmark and as a good example of Inter-war period (c1934), Spanish Revival style of architecture.



Figure 6: No 4 Maytone Avenue, Killara, built in 1945, is significant as a highly original work of influential Australian Architect Sydney Ancher (1904–1979). Ancher was the first to introduce the International style in domestic architecture in Australia using the capacities of local post-war construction, and adapted to the Australian climate.

Ku-ring-gai Heritage Information Sheet—What is Heritage?

Criterion (d)—An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

Guidelines for Inclusion

- is important for its association with an identifiable group;
- is important to a community's sense of place.



Figure 7: 'The Greengate Hotel', at 655A Pacific Highway, Killara, is significant for the continuous use of the site as a focus for social life since c1853.

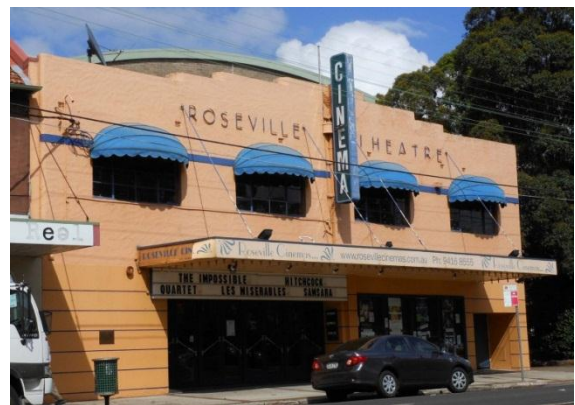


Figure 8: 'Roseville Cinema', at No 112-116 Pacific Highway, is significant demonstrating the emergence of cinemas as a major form of entertainment in the early 20th century, still in use.

Ku-ring-gai Heritage Information Sheet—What is Heritage?

Criterion (e)—An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

Guidelines for Inclusion

- has the potential to yield new or further substantial scientific and/or archaeological information;
- is an important benchmark or reference site or type;
- provides evidence of past human cultures that is unavailable elsewhere.



Figure 9: 'St John's Cemetery', Gordon, in use since at least 1867, is a major research resource providing data such as genealogies, skeletal remains and associated burial artefacts.



Figure 10: 'Erydene', at No 17 McIntosh Street, Gordon, built in 1913, is significant for its collection of Camellias, gathered by Professor Eben Gowrie Waterhouse (1881-1977). Waterhouse founded the Australian Camellia Research Society in 1954 and the International Camellia Society in 1962. The collection remains a resource for the future study of the genus.

Ku-ring-gai Heritage Information Sheet—What is Heritage?

Criterion (f)—An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW’s cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

Guidelines for Inclusion

- provides evidence of a defunct custom, way of life or process;
- demonstrates a process, custom or other human activity that is in danger of being lost;
- shows unusually accurate evidence of a significant human activity;
- is the only example of its type;
- demonstrates designs or techniques of exceptional interest;
- shows rare evidence of a significant human activity important to a community.



Figure 11: ‘Pymble Reservoir’ (Covered), at No 2C Telegraph Road), Pymble, built wholly of concrete in c1900, is significant demonstrating the broad range of construction techniques and the high level of technical expertise available to the Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board (MWS&DB), to meet the demands of the increasing population of the North Shore in the early 20th century. The site comprises a fine valve house and retains the original valve control gear.

Ku-ring-gai Heritage Information Sheet—What is Heritage?

Criterion (g)—An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW’s cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments (or a class of the local area’s cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments)

Guidelines for Inclusion

- is a fine example of its type;
- has the principal characteristics of an important class or group of items;
- has attributes typical of a particular way of life, philosophy, custom, significant process, design, technique or activity;
- is a significant variation to a class of items;
- is part of a group which collectively illustrates a representative type;
- is outstanding because of its setting, condition;
- is outstanding because of its integrity or the esteem in which it is held.



Figures 12–15: ‘Ku-ring-gai Avenue Heritage Conservation Area’, Turramurra, is significant as a collection of fine, predominantly Federation period, mansions, many of them heritage-listed and designed by prominent architects, and six built as the architect’s own residence.

Ku-ring-gai Heritage Information Sheet—What is Heritage?

References

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