

MINUTES OF MEETING
State Heritage Register Committee

Wednesday 5th August 2009
Commencing at 1:50 pm

Heritage Branch – Department of Planning
Heritage Branch Library
3 Marist Place
Parramatta



1.0 Attendance

PRESENT

Sharon Sullivan (Chair)
Rosemary Annable
Michael Clarke
Ross Fitzgerald
Don Godden
Gabrielle Kibble

APOLOGIES

Russell Couch (for Director-General Department of Environment and Climate Change)

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE
(Heritage Branch)**

Tim Smith
Cameron White
Graham Williams
Olwen Beazley
Stewart Watters
Patricia Hale and Siobhan Lavelle (Port Macquarie)
Lucy Moore (Rippon Grange)
Bill Nethery (Green Cape Light House)
Mary-Anne Hamilton (Glen Davis Shale Oil Works ruins)

Opening – Welcome

The Chair welcomed Mr Don Godden as a new member of the State Heritage Register Committee.

2.0 Declarations of Interest

Mr Michael Clark declared his interest in the Green Cape Light House listing proposal. The Committee noted that this was a general interest in the issue and that there was no conflict of interest in the matter that would require Mr Clarke's withdrawal from the discussion of the matter.

3.0 Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the July meeting were confirmed.

4.0 Action Report

Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Kelso (Item 8.1 April 2007 SHR meeting)

Cameron White advised members that the Heritage Branch had been negotiating with the local church authorities on the SHR listing proposal and information had been provided to the church on the benefits of listing. There is local opposition to the listing proposal. The views of the Archdeacon are to be sought on the listing proposal.

Harrington Park Heritage Agreement (Item 12.1 November 2008 SHR Meeting)

Members were advised that the Heritage Agreement was in the process of being finalised.

Three Colonial Landscape Properties, Raby Leppington, Maryland, Bringelly and Oran Park at Oran Park (Items 8.3, 8.4 & 8.5 March 2004 SHR meeting)

The Committee was advised that the Heritage Branch had met with the owners of the three properties. Listing curtilages were being determined. It was noted that the properties are in growth areas and that appropriate curtilages would take into consideration vistas etc.

Presentation and Discussion with Hector Abrahams, Chair, Religious Property Advisory Panel (RPAP) (Item 6.1 December 2008 SHR Meeting)

At the December 2008 meeting Mr Hector Abrahams gave the Committee a background presentation on a number heritage issues as they relate to religious properties. He noted some of the experiences of the Heritage Council's Religious Property Advisory Panel (RPAP) in assessing such issues to provide advice to the Heritage Council and the community.

It had been agreed at the December meeting that RPAP would prepare a strategy for the listing of religious properties, taking into consideration issues such as identifying significant religious heritage buildings and representing the works of prominent architects. Members requested the Heritage Branch follow-up with RPAP the present position of the preparation of the strategy.

5.0 Minutes, reports and matters arising from HC Advisory Panels

Nil

6.0 Presentations

6.1 Proposed SHR Listing: Port Macquarie Convict Town 1821-47

Members viewed a "PowerPoint" presentation of the area proposed for State Heritage Register listing of the early convict settlement of Port Macquarie with maps of the State significant archaeological areas within the proposed listing curtilage. The presentation foreshadowed the Heritage Council visit to be made to Port Macquarie in September 2009.

It was noted that the coming Heritage Council visit and meeting in Port Macquarie presents an opportunity for the local press and public to be made aware of the listing proposal, potential tourism benefits and heritage management discussions with Port Macquarie-Hastings Council on the proposal.

It was noted that areas of potential colonial/convict archaeology for a large portion of the proposed listing area. Comment was also made in the meeting that Council's new "Glasshouse" community centre in Clarence Street had been designed to incorporate archaeological discoveries from the site and whether this had been adequately achieved.

The Committee was advised that the nomination proposal would be more fully detailed in the Heritage Council papers for the September meeting and Port Macquarie visit.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, closed this item with congratulations to Dr Lavelle on the award of the Order of Australia Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

7.0 State Heritage Register – Nominations Review

7.1 Green Cape Light station – Draft Nomination

Green Cape defines the northern entrance to Bass Strait, 26 km SSE of Eden. Built between 1881 and 1883, Green Cape Light House was the second of a pioneering group of mass-concrete lighthouses and was known as the largest such mass-concrete structure in the Australian colonies. Until the time of its decommissioning it remained the tallest lighthouse in NSW. It has associations with Colonial Architect, James Barnet. It was noted that the following lighthouses and Light Stations are currently listed on the State Heritage Register: Barrenjoey Head Light station, Bradley's Head Light Tower, Macquarie Lighthouse site, Montague Island Lighthouse, Norah Head Light Station Group, Port Stephens Lighthouse Group and Smokey Cape Lighthouse Group.

The Committee was further advised that Light station owner, the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water welcomed the acknowledgement of the item's significance that a State Heritage Register listing would confer, but would prefer to see its listing considered in the context of a future thematic program rather than as an *ad hoc* nomination.

The Committee agreed that the nomination be considered as a draft nomination for future consideration with other lighthouses and light stations.

7.2 Rippon Grange, Wahroonga – Reconsideration of nomination

Designed by Sir John Sulman in 1898, Rippon Grange is a two-storey Federation Arts and Crafts building, set in surrounding grounds, including an area of Blue Gums.

The property has been the subject of a development proposal by the owning company, Waterbrook at Wahroonga Pty Ltd, which envisages the construction of a new development on a portion of the site with restoration of the original houses and ground works. The development proposal has been controversial within the local community.

A site visit to Rippon Grange was conducted on June 29th 2009, attended by the State Heritage Register Sub-committee of members Rosemary Annable and Michael Clarke, representatives of the Heritage Branch and representatives of Waterbrook at Wahroonga Pty Ltd.

During the site visit, both levels of the house were inspected as well as the terraced gardens and the exterior of the service areas, stables and modern additions on the site. The Rod Howard & Associates CMP (endorsed by the Approvals Committee of the Heritage Council in April 2008) was the focus of much of the discussion.

The Sub-committee members advised the meeting that the house and grounds had not met their expectations, considering that the house is not an outstanding example of Sulman's architecture, the grounds were degraded and the estate is not as large as had been imagined. The Sub-committee also advised the meeting that the developer had stated that \$8million would be allocated to the restoration of the Sulman-design house and grounds, this being outside of the costs of the construction for the hospital building.

Recommendation

That the Heritage Council State Heritage Register Committee:

1. Advise the Heritage Branch that the Rippon Grange property is not of State Heritage significance but of local heritage significance.

7.3 Glen Davis Shale Oil Works – Reconsideration of nomination

The Glen Davis Shale Oil Works was a mid 20th Century, commercial scale oil shale works and refinery, being one of only three in the world. In ruins, the site demonstrates the industrial processes involved in producing oil and petrol from shale and is a valuable research resource. The works at Glen Davis are considered to be among the most impressive integrated and informative of former industrial sites in NSW. The item was nominated by the National Trust of Australia (NSW) in 2006.

In November 2008 the SHR Committee noted the potential state significance of the Glen Davis Shale Oil Works ruins and recommended further investigation be undertaken.

In June 2009 the SHR Committee considered the findings of a structural engineering report on the item and advised that it supported listing the site on the State Heritage Register on the basis it be maintained as a ruin.

The Committee was advised that the Heritage Branch had been in contact with all three title owners with further discussion of the implications of listing during a site visit undertaken by the Heritage Branch in July 2009. A number of site specific exemptions have been developed to assist the owners perform works that will render the site safer, will slow the rate of decay of fabric and stabilise fabric. The Committee was further advised that in July 2009 the private owner wrote to the Heritage Branch expressing concerns about the proposed listing. The private owner had stated that while he is in favour of preserving the site he cannot support the proposed listing. He had noted that many of the buildings were damaged and made unstable and thus it is a potentially dangerous site.

The private owner permits limited guided visits by the public to the ruins and believes that while he is able to manage the current level of visitation to the site any increase in visitation through placing the site on the SHR would increase public management and risk management of visitors to the site. The Committee raised several questions for further investigation in relation to the private owner's concerns. These questions related to public liability cover issues, the fencing-off of risk areas, with appropriate notices and the availability of funding to assist the private owner in the management of the site as a ruin. It was also suggested that the offer be made to the private owner to fund a consultant to investigate a safety strategy.

In regard to these questions the further question was raised as to how the Glen Davis site compares to the State Heritage Register listed Joadja Kerosene Shale Oil ruins site. It was noted that the Joadja site has a heritage trust to manage and interpret that site. The Joadja ruins are not as spectacular in their scale as those at Glen Davis and thus would present several differing management issues.

Committee members Mr Don Godden and Mr Michael Clarke offered to take part in further discussions with the private owner in association with the Heritage Branch.

It was also noted that further discussions on the listing proposal would also be necessary with the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water and the Land and Property Management Authority.

Resolved

That the State Heritage Register Committee:

- 1) Defers consideration of the Glen Davis Shale Oil Works ruins site for listing on the State Heritage Register;**
- 2) Direct the Heritage Branch to continue to work with the owner(s) with a view to submitting a State Heritage Register nomination to the SHR Committee in the future.**

8.0 State Heritage Register – Notices of Intentions to List

The following four issues had been scheduled to be discussed by the State Heritage Register Committee during the course of this meeting.

- 8.1 Aboriginal Rock Art and Midden Site, Earlwood – Notice of intention to List**
- 8.2 Yooroondah Tank Barrier, Ebor – Notice of intention to List**
- 8.3 The Cenotaph, Martin Place – Notice of intention to List**
- 8.4 Simpson-Lee House, Wahroonga – Notice of intention to List**

The four issues were, however, determined by the Heritage Council in its consideration of the SHR Committee Report, Item 6.1 Notice of Intention to List. The Heritage Council meeting had preceded the SHR Committee meeting during the morning of 5 August. The minutes of the Heritage Council meeting of 5 August 2009 record the Heritage Council decisions on the four listing proposals.

8.5 Bungarribee Homestead Complex Site – Notice of Intention to Amend Boundary

Bungarribee Homestead Complex was listed on the State Heritage Register on 8 December 2000. The majority of the site is located within the Western Sydney Parklands. The remainder of the site is owned by Landcom. Landcom applied to the Heritage Council for consideration to reduce the State Heritage Register listing boundary for the Bungarribee Homestead Complex - Archaeological Site. Landcom has proposed to develop the site surrounding the former Bungarribee Homestead complex as part of the 'Doonside Residential Parcel'. The development proposes to create a residential precinct of up to 730 lots at Doonside. The majority of the proposed Doonside residential parcel is located within the boundaries of the State Heritage Register listing.

The proposed development has been declared a 'major project' by the Minister for Planning to be assessed under Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning Assessment Act, 1979*.

On 4 March 2009 the Heritage Council considered an application from Landcom for a s.57(2) Exemption and resolved to amend the curtilage for the State Heritage Register listing for the Bungarribee Homestead Complex. This curtilage amendment proposal is in accord with the original plans presented to the Heritage Council in 2000, with the addition of the view corridor from the concept plan. The proposed SHR boundary would retain the following areas of heritage significance of the site:

- That area known as Western Sydney Parklands;
- A Core Heritage Area, identified in the 2007 CMP that contains all of the known and potential significant archaeological remains associated with the Bungarribee Homestead Complex as well as significant remnant cultural plantings associated with the Bungarribee estate;
- A Heritage Park which includes the Core Heritage Area and park buffer zones on three sides;
- The roadway surrounding the Heritage Park; and
- A wedge-shaped view and landscape corridor that extends to the southwest from the Heritage Park towards Western Sydney Parklands.

Resolution

That the Heritage Council's State Heritage Register Committee:

- 1 considers that part of Lot 2 DP 1103025 (Bungarribee Homestead Complex - Archaeological Site), defined in accordance with the curtilage shown at Annexure C may not be of State heritage significance;**
- 2 in accordance with section 33(1)(a) of the Heritage Act, will give each person that it considers to be an affected owner or occupier written notice that it is going to consider whether or not to recommend the removal of part of Lot 2 DP 1103025 (part of Bungarribee Homestead Complex - Archaeological Site) (a *Notice of Intention to Consider Removal*); and**
- 3 in accordance with section 33(1)(b) of the Heritage Act, within 14 days after notice of intention to consider removal is given, will cause a notice of intention to consider removal to be published in a newspaper circulating in the area in which the item is situated, inviting submissions on the removal, specifying a date as the closing date for the receipt of submissions 14 days after publication of the newspaper notice and the manner in which submissions may be made.**

9.0 State Heritage Register – Recommendation to Minister

Nil

10.0 State Government Heritage (Section 170 Registers/HAMS)

Nil

11.0 Interim Heritage Orders

Nil

12.0 Environmental Planning Instruments & Heritage Studies

NIL

13.0 Matters for Consideration

Nil

14.0 General Business

The matter of in-situ convict-period items and remains within the Wollongong Harbour area was raised by Mrs Kibble. Cameron White advised the Committee that the Heritage Branch was investigating the matter and a meeting with the Lands Department was being organised. The Committee agreed that the Heritage Branch progress this matter in association with the Convict theme listing proposals.

Mr Don Godden advised that he would make a site visit to Wollongong Harbour prior to the next SHR Committee meeting in October.

The meeting closed at 3:15 PM.

Next Meeting of the Heritage Council State Heritage Register Committee

Wednesday 7th October 2009 Heritage Branch – Department of Planning
Heritage Office Library
3 Marist Place
Parramatta

Minutes endorsed by the Heritage Council State Heritage Register Committee.	<hr/> Chair, State Heritage Register Committee Date:
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