

Statement of Heritage Impact

Emu Plains Public School (Former)

for

Penrith Council



Former Emu Plains Public School
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Prepared by:

Archnex Designs

Wentech Pty Ltd (ABN 310 735 41803) trading as Archnex Designs.

January 2019

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Emu Plains Public School (Former)
(Proposed Alterations and Additions)

Statement of Heritage Impact
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- (ii) Extract: Penrith Heritage Study 2007

Archnex Designs

Nominated Architect: Greg Patch (Reg. No. 4820)
Wentech Pty Ltd (ABN 310 735 41803) trading as Archnex Designs.
Architects, Heritage Building Consultants, Interior Designers

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE IMPACT [SoHI]:

Date: 12 January 2019
Premises: 207-219 Great Western Highway Emu Plains
Property Description: Part 1, Lot 1, DP 650753
Prepared By: Greg Patch
B Sc Arch, B ARCH (Hons), M Herit Cons (Hons), AIA
14 Winchcombe Ave,
Haberfield NSW 2045
For: Penrith Council

A. PURPOSE OF STATEMENT

This statement has been prepared to assess potential heritage impacts of a proposed alterations and additions to the above premises.

B. GROUNDS OF STATEMENT

The former Emu Plains Public School is listed as a heritage item. This has been established through a search Schedule 5 of Penrith LEP 2010.

C. LIMITS OF STATEMENT

This statement is based on SHI data sheet 2260076, the material at Part E and an inspection of the site in October 2018.

D. LOCATION



1. Location of the former Emu Plains Public School (Source: SIX Maps © NSW Lands 2019).

E. CONTEXT

E1. DOCUMENTARY

State Heritage Inventory Sheet 2260076

The item is described as:

Located on ground higher than the surrounding flood plains, the item is a public school comprising grounds originally acquired for school use excised from the Emu Park reserve. The building includes classroom block attached to the teacher's residence. The classroom block is representative of school buildings of the era in its steep pitched gabled roof now sheeted in Colorbond corrugated metal. The building is constructed in sandstone with rough hewn blocks contrasting with fine chiselled quoins and window and door margins. The attached former teacher's residence is similarly constructed in stone masonry. The school building has an asymmetrical front elevation with a prominent gabled projecting bay and flanking gabled and half-hipped roofs with contrasting entry porch and verandah. The complex of buildings is prominently sited on the Great Western Highway and forms a bookend with Melrose Hall to the east. Set within Emu Park the school provides a sense of entry into the town and is part of a collection of community related structures and uses in the park complex. The grounds of the school reserve are in part lined (on Lawson Street) with an avenue of mature stone pines which appear to be contemporary with the early years of the school. The weatherboard classroom block was constructed around 1910 and includes a gabled roof.

A history of the place is given as:

A stone school building was erected in 1877 to a design by George Mansfield.

Its significance is stated as:

The school complex provides the focus for appreciating the development of a village centre at Emu Plains over the nineteenth century with the construction of public buildings to serve the community. The original building is an excellent example of a medium sized rural school building design developed by George Allen Mansfield, the architect of the Council of Education, and there is a later c.1910s weatherboard addition. The complex demonstrates the emergence of the provision of public education within the LGA following the Public Schools Act of 1866. While there are other school buildings of comparable date in the LGA, this school building is the only example constructed in sandstone and has a setting embellished by the nearby park reserve and mature stone pines in the school grounds that appear to date from the 1880s.

Images are provided:



Community Arts Centre Images by: Paul Davies Pty Ltd; Images copyright owner: Paul Davies Pty Ltd

Penrith Heritage Study 2005

The former school is described at p85, Vol. 3 of the Study as:

An excellent example of a large government public school of the 1870s inclusive of school hall and teacher's residence. The building demonstrates nineteenth century rural settlement in the region as well as the emergence of public education following the reforms of 1866. The school grounds are fringed by stone pines which seem to date from the 1880s.

George Allen Mansfield (1934-1908)

A brief biography of the architect attributed to the design of the former Emu Plains Public School is given at Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Allen_Mansfield]:

Born in 1834 in Sydney, his father, the Reverend Ralph Mansfield, had been a Methodist missionary. He was educated at the privately- run school of Mr. W. T. Cape and then articulated with the architect John Fredrick Hilly.

He married Mary Emma Allen, third daughter of prominent politician and solicitor George Allen, and had seven children. The family lived in Tranby, Glebe, which was designed by Mansfield. They then lived at Oakwood in Bridge Road From 1864 to 1869, and Lynedoch in Glebe Road from 1870 to 1879.

Mansfield was a lieutenant in the Glebe branch of the New South Wales Militia, a commissioner for Peace and an alderman for Glebe Council. Mansfield was also a member of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and the founder and first president of the Institute of Architecture NSW (now Australian Institute of Architects).

He died in 1908 and he is remembered in the name of Mansfield Street Glebe, New South Wales.

Mansfield is also attributed the design of the following heritage listed schools:

- Castle Hill Public School, Sydney
- Cleveland Street Public School
- Crown Street Public School
- The Old School, Darlington
- Mudgee Public School (part)
- Newcastle East Public School
- North Sydney Technical High School (1876–1877)
- Pyrmont Public School
- Redfern Public School (now demolished)
- Rosebank College
- Sussex Street Primary School, Sydney

E2. PHYSICAL

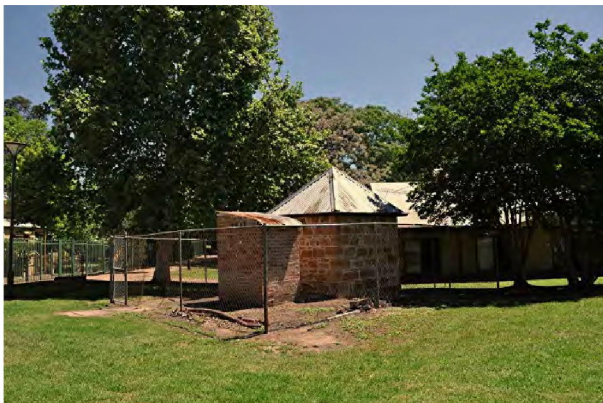
The place as inspected on 30th October 2018, when the following photographs were taken:



2. Verandah to residence, gable to school room beyond.



3. Rear of former residence & school (beyond).



4. Rear outbuildings.



5. Name/ date stone to gable.



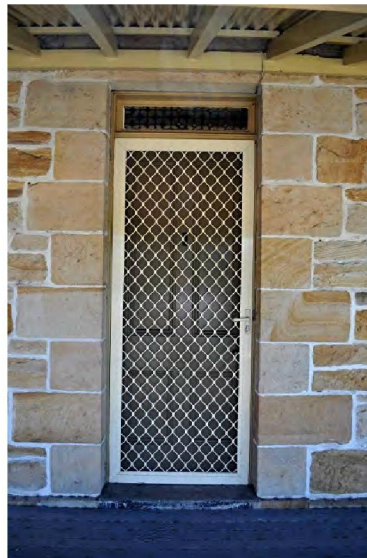
5. Gable to former schoolroom.



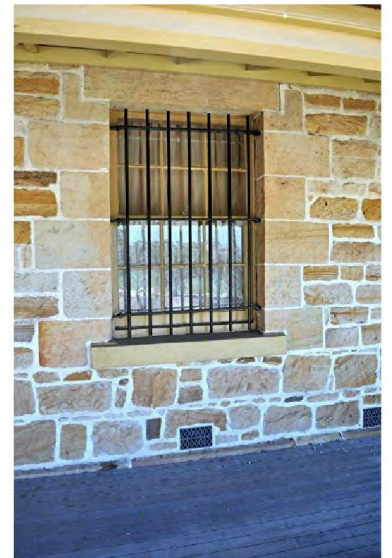
6. Part fence post and former school & residence from south-west.



7. West window to south verandah.



8. Entry door.



9. East Window.



10. East wall of former residence.



11. Rear lean-to.

The earlier school room portion is of a *Gothic-revival* influenced design, the residence portion in vernacular Colonial and the later timber schoolroom (see below) in the vernacular Georgian style.

The rear addition to the residential portion shown in image 11, above, was most probably added around the time of the construction of the timber school room, with the deep rusticated weatherboards typically in redwood.



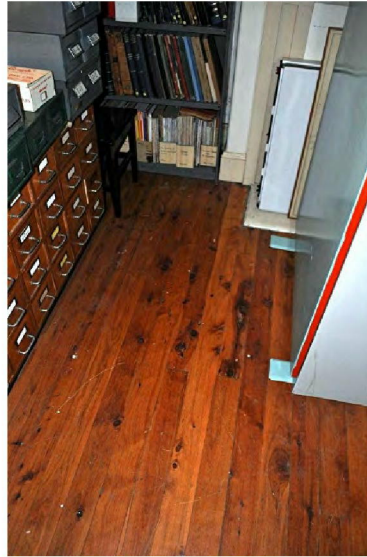
12. Timber schoolroom.



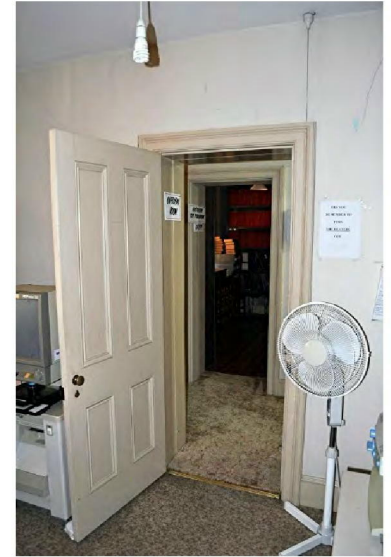
13. Emu Plains Library and part rear lean-to.



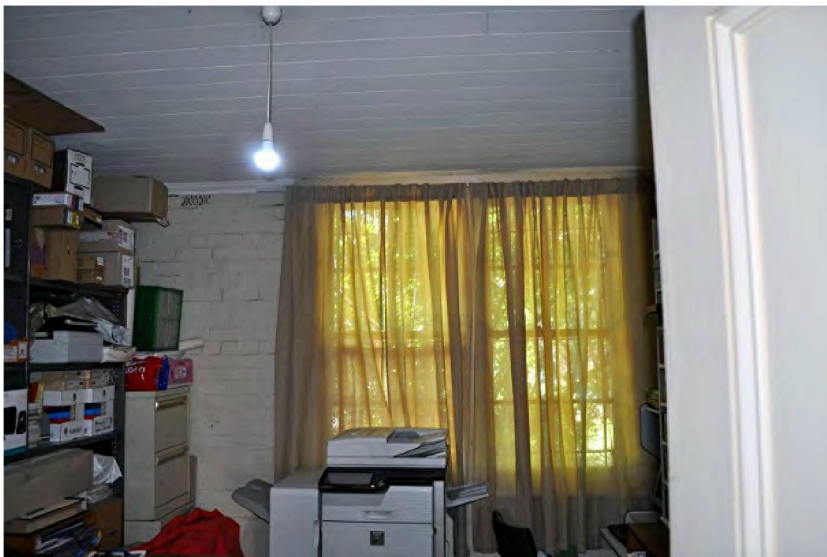
14. Rear of front door-residence.



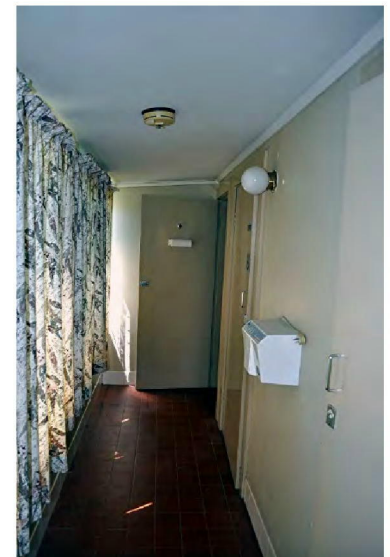
15. Replacement Cypress floor.



16. Typical doorways.



17. Internal brick skin- east wall (see image 10, above).



18. Enclosed verandah.

The external walls of the residence and 1877 school room are in coursed rubble sandstone, seemingly with an internal skin of brickwork (see image 17, above).

The rear “lean-to” of the residence has been adapted in the relatively recent past to accommodate WCs, shower and store facilities:



19. WC.



20. Accessible WC.



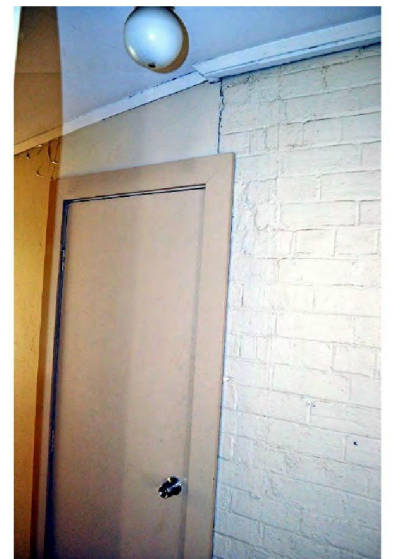
21. Western door



22. Shower.



23. Kitchenette.



24. Panel/ brickwork junction.



25. Kingpost trusses- schoolroom.

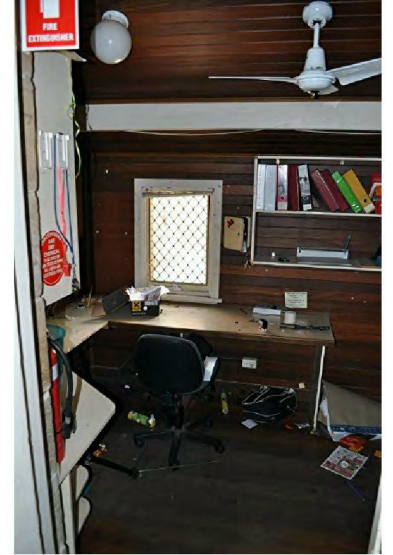


26. Surface-run conduits- schoolroom. Partition marking.

The schoolroom space shows evidence of prior partitioning (now removed) and is open to the underside of the boarded roof plane which suggests it may have been clad in slate or shingles originally (now corrugated steel).



27. Dado and floor- schoolroom.



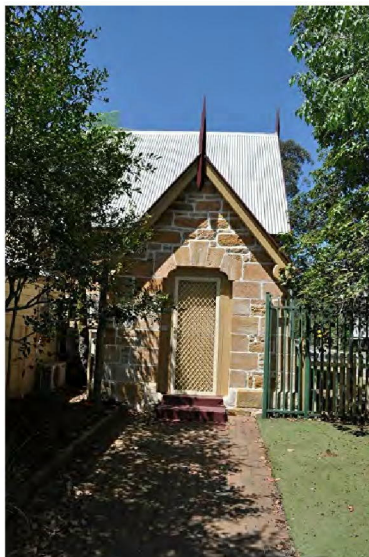
28. Office- infilled verandah.



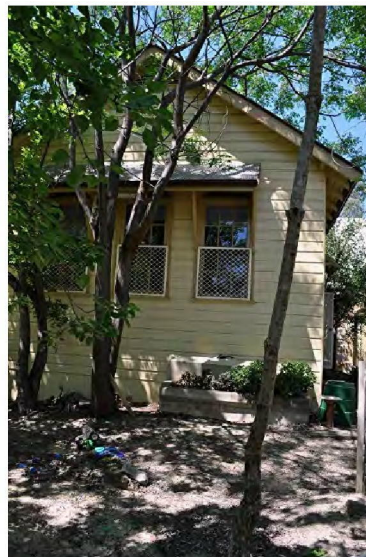
29. Timber schoolroom- west wall.



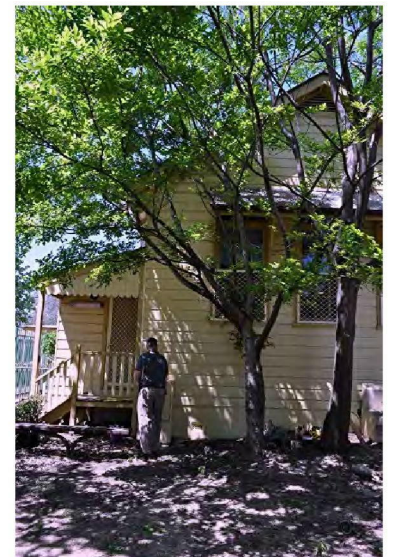
30. Plaque above door- timber schoolroom.



31. West entry door- schoolroom.



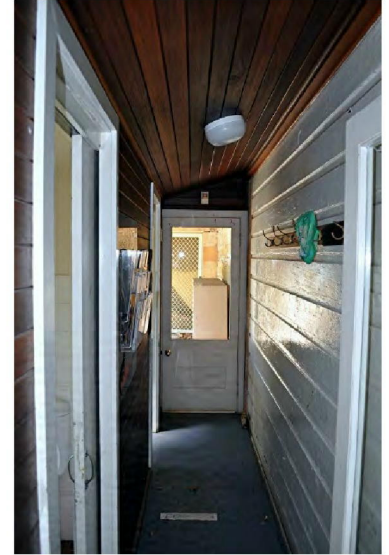
32. West wall- timber schoolroom.



33. Verandah- timber classroom.



34. Existing fence to the south boundary.



35. Enclosed verandah.



36. Window hood and trough.

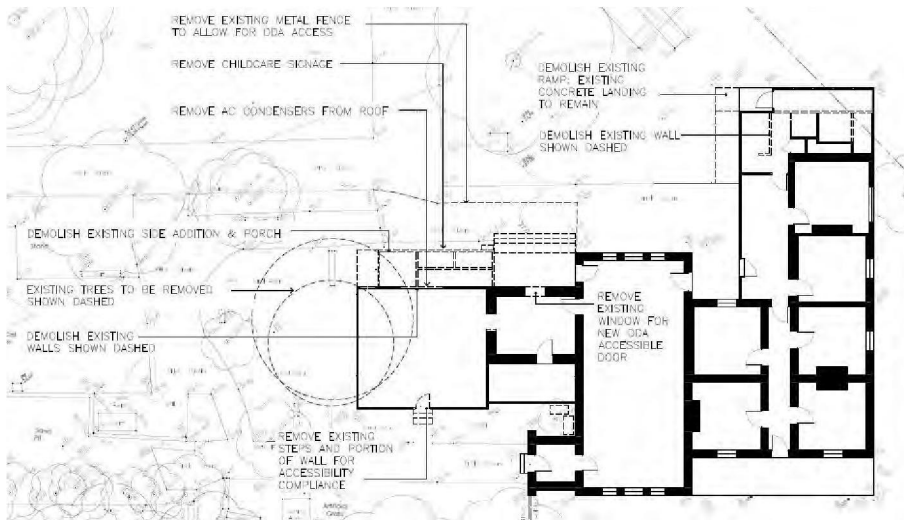


37. Well cap- to the rear of timber classroom.

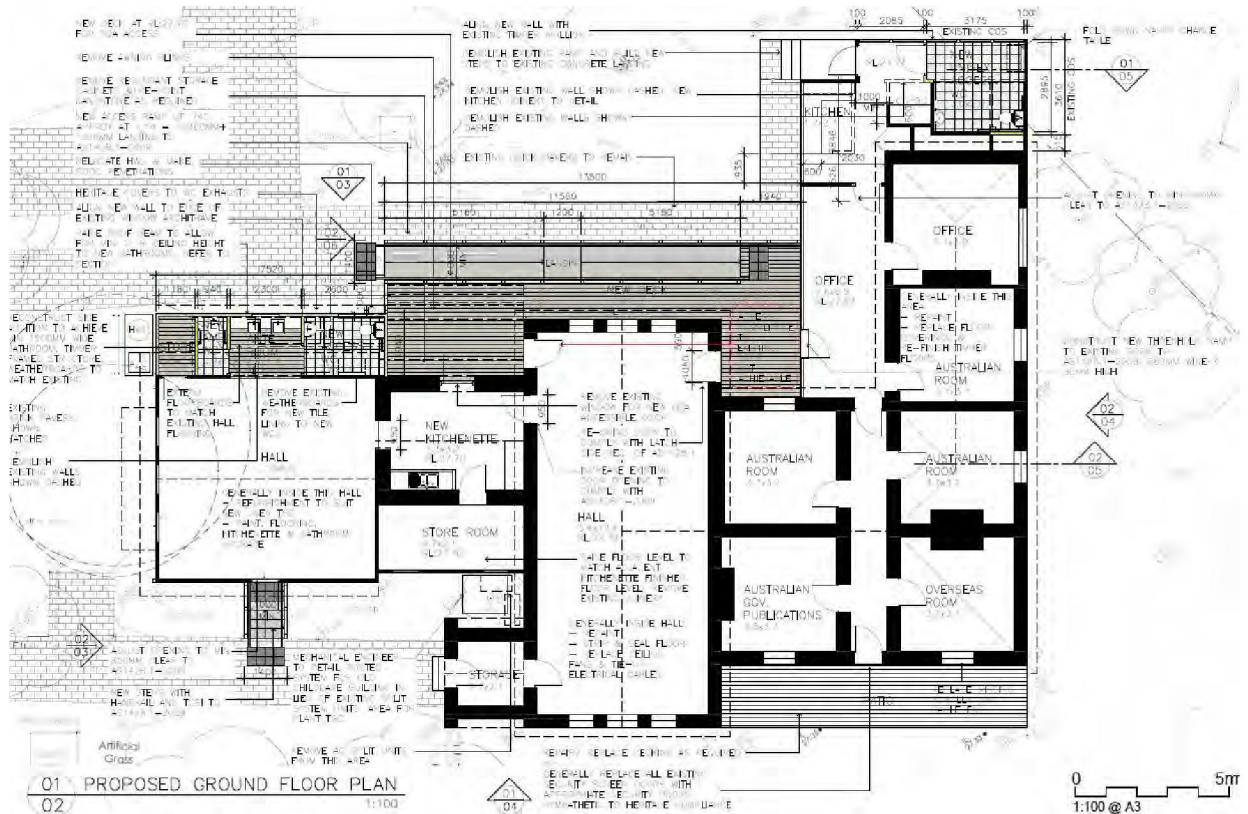
F. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

I have examined drawings N^{os}. A00 to A10 (inclusive) prepared by Justin Long Design [JLD] dated 23.01.19.

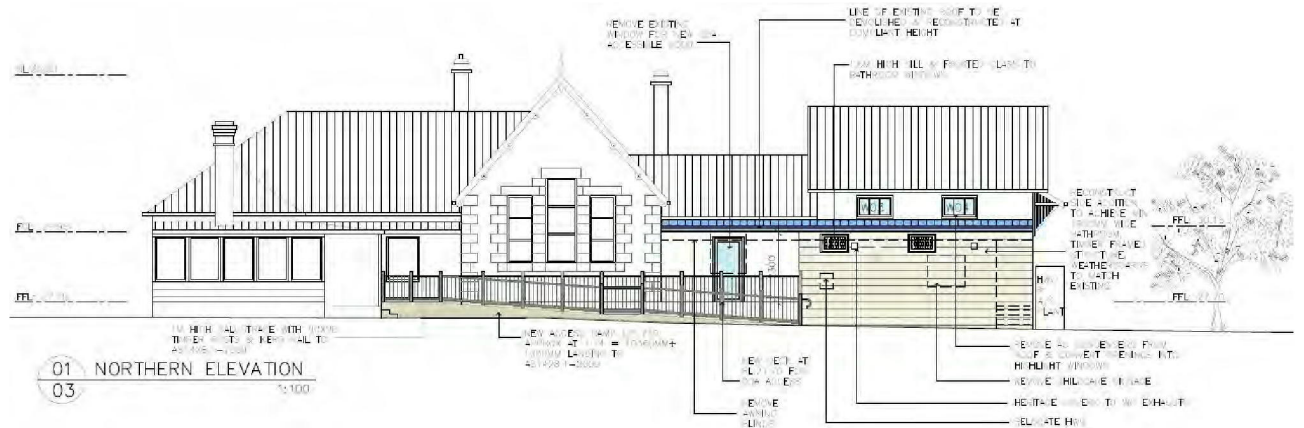
They depict proposed alterations and additions to the premises to bring the place into accessibility compliance including (please refer to larger scale drawings for notes clarity):



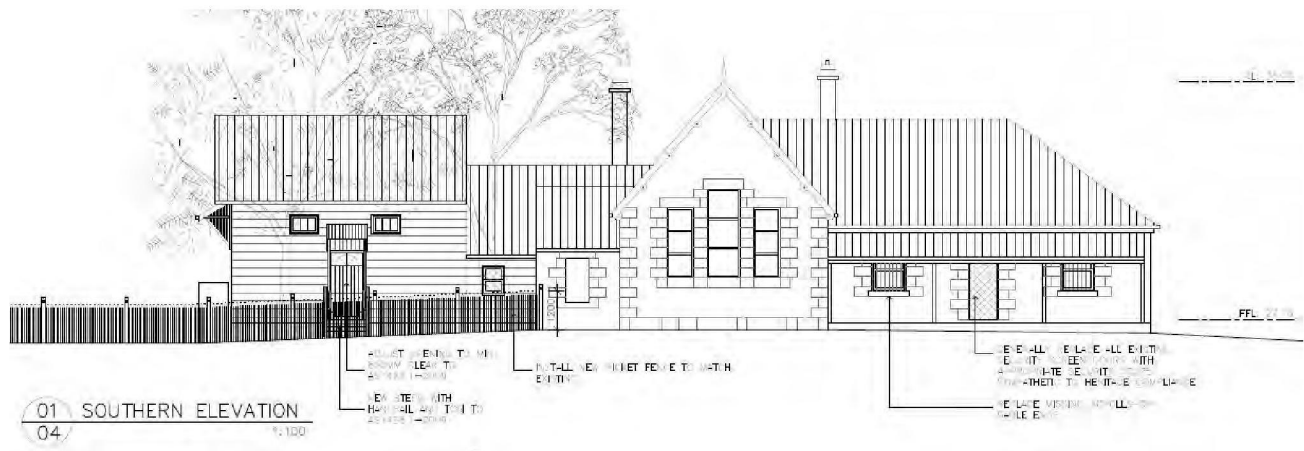
38. Demolition Plan. JLD Dwg. A10 [NTS].



39. Proposed Alterations and Additions (Shown Coloured). JLD Dwg. A02 [NTS- Barscale].



40. North Elevation (Alts/ Adds Shown Coloured). JLD Dwg. A03 [NTS].



41. South Elevation (Alts/ Adds Shown Coloured). JLD Dwg. A04 [NTS].

G. IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

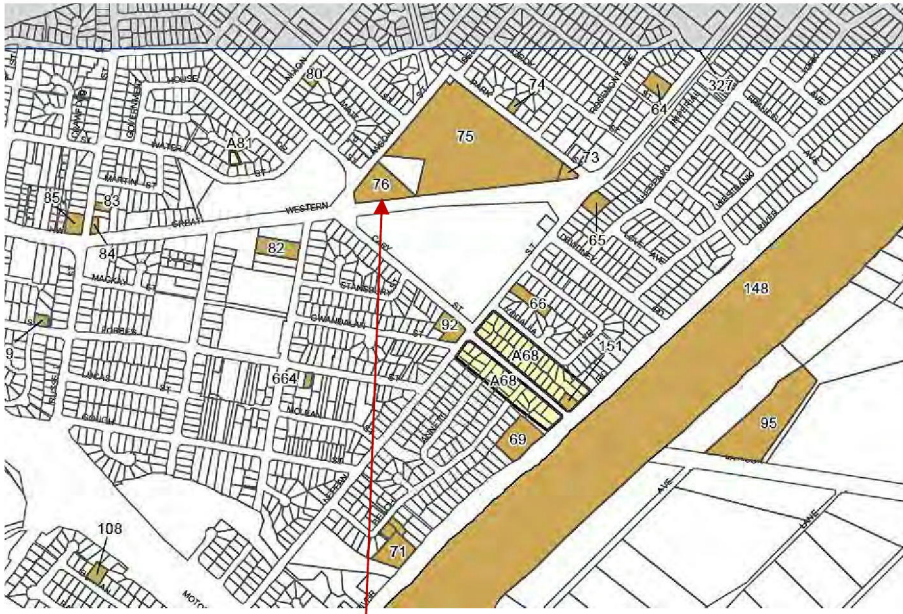
The place is heritage listed under the Penrith LEP 2010 at:

Schedule 5 Environmental heritage

Part 1 Heritage items

Suburb	Item name	Address	Property description	Significance	Item no
Emu Plains	Emu Plains Public School (former) and trees	207–219 Great Western Highway	Part 1, Lot 1, DP 650753	Local	76

It is mapped as:



42. Extract Map HER_006. Subject property.

The relevant provision of the Penrith LEP 2010 are:

5.10 Heritage conservation

Note. Heritage items (if any) are listed and described in Schedule 5. Heritage conservation areas (if any) are shown on the [Heritage Map](#) as well as being described in Schedule 5.

Clause

Comment

(1) Objectives

The objectives of this clause are as follows:

- (a) to conserve the environmental heritage of Penrith,
- (b) to conserve the heritage significance of heritage items and heritage conservation areas, including associated fabric, settings and views,
- (c) to conserve archaeological sites,
- (d) to conserve Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places of heritage significance.

(2) Requirement for consent

Development consent is required for any of the following:

- (a) demolishing or moving any of the following or altering the exterior of any of the following (including, in the case of a building, making changes to its detail, fabric, finish or appearance):
 - (i) a heritage item,
 - (ii) an Aboriginal object,

The proposed development entails altering the exterior of a building that is a heritage item.

- (iii) *a building, work, relic or tree within a heritage conservation area,*
- (b) *altering a heritage item that is a building by making structural changes to its interior or by making changes to anything inside the item that is specified in Schedule 5 in relation to the item,*
- (c) *disturbing or excavating an archaeological site while knowing, or having reasonable cause to suspect, that the disturbance or excavation will or is likely to result in a relic being discovered, exposed, moved, damaged or destroyed,*
- (d) *disturbing or excavating an Aboriginal place of heritage significance,*
- (e) *erecting a building on land:*
 - (i) *on which a heritage item is located or that is within a heritage conservation area, or*
 - (ii) *on which an Aboriginal object is located or that is within an Aboriginal place of heritage significance,*
- (f) *subdividing land:*
 - (i) *on which a heritage item is located or that is within a heritage conservation area, or*
 - (ii) *on which an Aboriginal object is located or that is within an Aboriginal place of heritage significance.*

It is proposed to make minor changes to the interior of the item. Nothing is specified in Schedule 5.

(3) When consent not required

However, development consent under this clause is not required if:

Consent is required.

- (a) *the applicant has notified the consent authority of the proposed development and the consent authority has advised the applicant in writing before any work is carried out that it is satisfied that the proposed development:*
 - (i) *is of a minor nature or is for the maintenance of the heritage item, Aboriginal object, Aboriginal place of heritage significance or archaeological site or a building, work, relic, tree or place within the heritage conservation area, and*
 - (ii) *would not adversely affect the heritage significance of the heritage item, Aboriginal object, Aboriginal place, archaeological site or heritage conservation area, or*
- (b) *the development is in a cemetery or burial ground and the proposed development:*
 - (i) *is the creation of a new grave or monument, or excavation or disturbance of land for the purpose of conserving or repairing monuments or grave markers, and*

- (ii) *would not cause disturbance to human remains, relics, Aboriginal objects in the form of grave goods, or to an Aboriginal place of heritage significance, or*
- (c) *the development is limited to the removal of a tree or other vegetation that the Council is satisfied is a risk to human life or property, or*
- (d) *the development is exempt development.*

(4) Effect of proposed development on heritage significance

The consent authority must, before granting consent under this clause in respect of a heritage item or heritage conservation area, consider the effect of the proposed development on the heritage significance of the item or area concerned. This subclause applies regardless of whether a heritage management document is prepared under subclause (5) or a heritage conservation management plan is submitted under subclause (6).

The significance of the item is recounted at p. 2, above. The proposed development will have little/ no impact on the stated significance of the item.

(5) Heritage assessment

The consent authority may, before granting consent to any development:

- (a) *on land on which a heritage item is located, or*
- (b) *on land that is within a heritage conservation area, or*
- (c) *on land that is within the vicinity of land referred to in paragraph (a) or (b),*

The proposed development is to land on which a heritage item is located.

require a heritage management document to be prepared that assesses the extent to which the carrying out of the proposed development would affect the heritage significance of the heritage item or heritage conservation area concerned.

This document has been prepared having general regard to the guideline document "Statements of Heritage Impact" as published by the Heritage Branch of the NSW Office of Environment & Heritage.

(6) Heritage conservation management plans

The consent authority may require, after considering the heritage significance of a heritage item and the extent of change proposed to it, the submission of a heritage conservation management plan before granting consent under this clause.

The proposed development is to a local item. The preparation of a Conservation Management Plan is not warranted by the nature of the existing building nor the proposed development.

(7) Archaeological sites

The consent authority must, before granting consent under this clause to the carrying out of development on an archaeological site (other than land listed on the State Heritage Register or to which an interim heritage order under the [Heritage Act 1977](#) applies):

The subject place is not identified as being of archaeological significance.

- (a) *notify the Heritage Council of its intention to grant consent, and*
- (b) *take into consideration any response received from the Heritage Council within 28 days after the notice is sent.*

(8) Aboriginal places of heritage significance

The consent authority must, before granting consent under this clause to the carrying out of development in an Aboriginal place of heritage significance:

The subject place is not identified as being of Aboriginal significance.

- (a) *consider the effect of the proposed development on the heritage significance of the place and any Aboriginal object known or reasonably likely to be located at the place by means of an adequate investigation and assessment (which may involve consideration of a heritage impact statement), and*
- (b) *notify the local Aboriginal communities, in writing or in such other manner as may be appropriate, about the application and take into consideration any response received within 28 days after the notice is sent.*

(9) Demolition of nominated State heritage items

The consent authority must, before granting consent under this clause for the demolition of a nominated State heritage item:

The subject place is not identified as being of State significance.

- (a) *notify the Heritage Council about the application, and*
- (b) *take into consideration any response received from the Heritage Council within 28 days after the notice is sent.*

(10) Conservation incentives

The consent authority may grant consent to development for any purpose of a building that is a heritage item or of the land on which such a building is erected, or for any purpose on an Aboriginal place of heritage significance, even though development for that purpose would otherwise not be allowed by this Plan, if the consent authority is satisfied that:

Conservation incentives are not sought.

- (a) *the conservation of the heritage item or Aboriginal place of heritage significance is facilitated by the granting of consent, and*
- (b) *the proposed development is in accordance with a heritage management document that has been approved by the consent authority, and*
- (c) *the consent to the proposed development would require that all necessary conservation work identified in the heritage management document is carried out, and*
- (d) *the proposed development would not adversely affect the heritage significance of the heritage item, including its setting, or the heritage significance of the Aboriginal place of heritage significance, and*
- (e) *the proposed development would not have any significant adverse effect on the amenity of the surrounding area.*

Penrith Development Control Plan

Part C7- Culture and Heritage

7.1.2. Heritage Items

B. Objectives

- a) *To encourage the retention of existing heritage items and their significant elements;*
- b) *To ensure development is based on the understanding and conservation of the heritage significance of the item;*
- c) *To encourage heritage items to be used for purposes that are appropriate to their heritage significance;*
- d) *To maintain the setting of the heritage item including the relationship between the item and its surroundings;*
- e) *To encourage the removal of inappropriate alterations and additions, and the reinstatement of significant missing details and building elements; and*

f) To protect and conserve built heritage in accordance with the principles of the Burra Charter.

C. Controls

1) Development Application

a) Any Heritage Impact Statement for development that may impact on a heritage item must address the following (at a minimum):

a) The heritage significance of the item as part of the environmental heritage of Penrith;

Comment: the significance of the item is stated at p. 2 (above).

b) The impact that the proposed development will have on the heritage significance of the item and its setting, including any landscape or horticultural features;

Comment: the proposed development is aimed at bringing the place up to accessibility compliance and rectifying/ maintaining the fabric of the item. There will be some minor impacts on the rear of the building in relation to the provision of an accessible ramp and associated handrails/ fencing, decking and re-configuration/reconstruction of the northern enclosed verandah to the c. 1910 timber classroom. The reduction of the cill to the proposed Kitchenette room is also proposed to provide disabled access to the interior of the building.

There are no identifiable landscape or horticultural features of significance that will be affected. The existing trees to the south-east and north remain to provide ongoing amenity.

c) The measures proposed to conserve the heritage significance of the item and its setting;

Comment: various works, such as replacement of the verandah deck to the verandah of the residence and refurbishment of the c. 1910 schoolroom, works to the interior of the former residence, and repainting of spaces as noted on the drawings will assist in the conservation of the fabric.

d) Whether any archaeological site would be adversely affected by the proposed development;

Comment: the place is not identified as an archaeological site *per se*. The ground disturbing works are restricted to areas that have been previously disturbed in the past. Should relics be discovered, they are necessarily subject to the “at large” provisions of the NSW Heritage Act 1977 in terms of notification.

e) The extent to which the carrying out of the proposed development would affect the form of any significant subdivision pattern; and

Comment: not applicable- there is no proposed change to the subdivision pattern.

f) The issues raised by any submission received in relation to the proposed development in response to the notification or advertising of the application.

Comment: this remains to be seen, subject to the notification period.

b) Development of a heritage item must:

a) Be consistent with an appropriate Heritage Impact Statement or Conservation Management Plan;

Comment: there is no known Conservation Management Plan for the item.

b) Be consistent with the information on the State Heritage Inventory for that heritage item;

Comment: State Heritage Inventory information is included at the Appendix. Data Sheets N°. 2290026 contain no recommendations as to management of the item.

c) Protect the setting of the heritage item;

Comment: the proposed works will have minor impact on the setting of the item when viewed from the rear (north) as a consequence of the fencing and modifications to the enclosed north verandah of the c.1910 schoolroom. There will also be a minor impact as a result of the proposed steps/ landing to the southern entry to the schoolroom, and replacement fencing. These are considered minor intrusions on the appearance of the item in terms of its outward presentation and are not considered adverse, given that they largely replace similar structures in a more sensitive and less intrusive manner.

d) *Retain significant internal and external fabric and building elements;*

Comment: significant fabric is retained, with the exception of some minor adjustments to door openings, and the reduction of a window cill to the proposed Kitchenette space to enable the introduction of a glazed door to afford disabled access.

e) *Retain significant internal and external spaces;*

Comment: the significant spaces are maintained, with some very minor alterations as outlined above.

f) *Remove unsympathetic alterations and additions;*

Comment: the proposal entails the removal of the existing high steel palisade fencing to the front and rear of the building dating from the time of use of the premises as a childcare facility. It is also proposed to remove various pieces of air-conditioning paraphernalia and associated conduits and electrical cabling and the like which will clean up the outward and inward appearance of the item.

g) *Reinstate missing details and building elements; and*

Comment: it is proposed to replace missing elements such as the quatrefoils to the 1877 schoolhouse barges.

h) *Use materials, finishes and colours that are appropriate to the significant periods of development or architectural character of the item.*

Comment: the proposed materials and finishes are indicated to match existing on the drawings (see schedule to JLD dwg. A00) and ostensibly to match the existing colours, subject to investigation of prior colour schemes.

c) *Alterations to the room layout of heritage items are to ensure that the original room configuration remains discernible and can be interpreted.*

Comment: the proposed works essentially maintain what appear to be the original room layouts (notwithstanding what appear to be subsequent spaces created by verandah infills and the like.)

d) *If there is any likelihood of an impact on any significant archaeological relics from a period prior to the current building, development must ensure that the impact is managed according to the assessed level of significance of those relics.*

Comment: see C1. (d) above.

H. CONCLUSION

The 1877 schoolhouse and residence is something of a landmark when travelling along the Great Western Highway, and the c. 1910 timber classroom addition is evidence of the burgeoning population of the area in the later 19th/ early 20th century.

The proposed works are intended to conserve the existing fabric of the place and to render the building useful in terms of affording disabled access and general maintenance. Without a use, that portion of the building that is not currently used by the Nepean Family History Society will undoubtedly fall into disrepair and its future conservation will be compromised.

In my opinion, the proposed works will facilitate necessary repairs and maintenance of the fabric and enhance the prospect of ongoing use of the building, both of which will ensure its conservation into the future.

The proposal is, then, eminently supportable in terms of potential heritage impacts

Prepared by



Greg Patch
Architect/Heritage Consultant

Appendix: Documents

Penrith Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

BHI Number

2260076

Study Number

EP-23

Item Name: Emu Plains Public School (Former) & Trees

Location: 207-219 Great Western Highway, Emu Plains [Penrith]

Address: 207-219 Great Western Highway	DUAP Region: Sydney West	
Suburb / Nearest Town: Emu Plains 2750	Historic region: Sydney	
Local Govt Area: Penrith	Parish:	
State: NSW	County: Cumberland	
Address: Lawson Street	DUAP Region: Sydney West	
Suburb / Nearest Town: Emu Plains 2750	Historic region: Sydney	
Local Govt Area: Penrith	Parish:	
State: NSW	County:	
Other/Formal Names: Emu Plains Public School		
Area/Group/Complex:	Group ID:	
Aboriginal Area:		
Curtilage/Boundary:		
Item Type: Built	Group: Education	Category: School - State (public)
Owner: Local Government		
Admin Codes: 39612	Code 2:	Code 3: Current LEP Item
Current Use: Community Arts Centre		
Former Uses: Public School		
Assessed Significance: Local	Endorsed Significance:	

Statement of Significance: The school complex provides the focus for appreciating the development of a village centre at Emu Plains over the nineteenth century with the construction of public buildings to serve the community. The original building is an excellent example of a medium sized rural school building design developed by George Allen Mansfield, the architect of the Council of Education, and there is a later c. 1910s weatherboard addition. The complex demonstrates the emergence of the provision of public education within the LGA following the Public Schools Act of 1896. While there are other school buildings of comparable date in the LGA, this school building is the only example constructed in sandstone and has a setting embellished by the nearby park reserve and mature stone pines in the school grounds that appear to date from the 1880s.

Historical Notes or Provenance: A stone school building was erected in 1877 to a design by George Mansfield.

Themes: National Themes	State Theme	Local Themes
3. Economy	Industry	(none)
6. Educating	Education	Rural villages

State Heritage Inventory

Full Report with Images

Date: 27/03/2017

Page 1

This report forms part of the State Heritage Inventory and is a controlled document. It is the property of the State Government of New South Wales.

Penrith Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

BHI Number

2260076

Study Number

EP-23

Item Name: Emu Plains Public School (Former) & Trees

Location: 207-219 Great Western Highway, Emu Plains [Penrith]

Designer: George Allen Mansfield

Maker / Builder:

Year Started: **Year Completed:** 1877 **Circa:** No

Physical Description: Located on ground higher than the surrounding flood plains, the item is a public school comprising grounds originally acquired for school use excised from the Emu Park reserve. The building includes classroom block attached to the teacher's residence. The classroom block is representative of school buildings of the era in its steep pitched gabled roof now sheathed in Colorbond corrugated metal. The building is constructed in sandstone with rough hewn blocks contrasting with fine chiselled quoins and window and door margins. The attached former teacher's residence is similarly constructed in stone masonry. The school building has an asymmetrical front elevation with a prominent gabled projecting bay and flanking gabled and half-hipped roofs with contrasting entry porch and verandah. The complex of buildings is prominently sited on the Great Western Highway and forms a bookend with Melrose Hall to the east. Set within Emu Park the school provides a sense of entry into the town and is part of a collection of community related structures and uses in the park complex. The grounds of the school reserve are in part lined (on Lawson Street) with an avenue of mature stone pines which appear to be contemporary with the early years of the school. The weatherboard classroom block was constructed around 1910 and includes a gabled roof.

Physical Condition: Excellent condition

Modification Dates:

Recommended

Management:

Management:

Further Comments: Listing includes trees and brick toilets

Criteria a) The school complex demonstrates the emergence of the provision of public education within the LGA over the latter decades of the nineteenth century following the Public Schools Act of 1896.

The school complex demonstrates the emergence of a rural and village community at Emu Plains over the nineteenth century and the development of a village centre with schools to cater for the needs of this community.

Criteria b)

Criteria c) The classroom block and teacher's residence are excellent examples of a rural school

State Heritage Inventory

Full Report with Images

Date: 27/03/2017

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Penrith Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

BHI Number

2260076

Study Number

EP-23

Item Name: Emu Plains Public School (Former) & Trees

Location: 207-219 Great Western Highway, Emu Plains [Penrith]

building design developed by George Allen Mansfield, the architect of the Council of Education. While the buildings reflect the Council's model design for rural schools the buildings is particular notable for the use of sandstone in its construction.

The quality of the early buildings in their construction and elaborated stylistic features present an ensemble of high note in general area, and complement other contemporary public buildings in the town such as the railway station. The stone pines provide a scenic setting to the school reserve.

The location of the school near the park reserve and adjacent to the Great Western Highway provides sense of entry into the town.

Criteria d) The building continues to function in a community related use.

Criteria e)

Criteria f) The complex of school buildings is rare in the LGA in consideration of its sandstone construction.

Criteria g) The school is one of a number of structures in Emu Plains erected over the nineteenth century and early part of the twentieth century which collectively demonstrate the pattern of a village settlement at this important location at the foothills of the Blue Mountains. Collectively these structures imbue the area with high historic and aesthetic values.

Integrity / Intactness: High externally

References:

Author	Title	Year
--------	-------	------

Studies:

Author	Title	Number	Year
Paul Davies Pty. Ltd.	Penrith Heritage Study Review	EP-25	2005
		EP-23	

Parcels:

Parcel Code	Lot Number	Section	Plan Code	Plan Number
PART LOT 1	1		DP	650733

Latitude: **Longitude:**

Location validity: **Spatial Accuracy:**

Map Name: **Map Scale:**

AMG Zone: **Easting:** **Northing:**

Listings:

Name	Title	Number	Date
Penrith Local Environmental Plan 1991			
Local Environmental Plan		EP-23	2010/1991
Heritage study		2260076	10/1/2007
Heritage study		EP-23	10/4/1987

State Heritage Inventory

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Penrith Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2260076

Study Number

EP-23

Item Name: **Emu Plains Public School (Former) & Trees**

Location: **207-219 Great Western Highway, Emu Plains [Penrith]**

Heritage study	EP-23(a)	1/04/1987
National Trust of Australia Register		
Register of the National Estate	Community Arts Centre	14612
		18/04/1999

Built Form:

Allotment and Setback:

Height:

Fences:

Driveways and Garages:

Building Materials:

Data Entry: Date First Entered: 15/12/1999 Date Updated: 28/11/2007 Status: Partial

Penrith Heritage Inventory

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number

2260076

Study Number

EP.23

Item Name: **Emu Plains Public School (Former) & Trees**

Location: 207-219 Great Western Highway, Emu Plains [Penrith]

Images:



Caption: Community Arts Centre

Copyright: Paul Davies Pty Ltd

Image by: Paul Davies Pty Ltd

Image Date: 7/11/2004

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 2260076a.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File:

Emu Plains Public School (Former) & Trees

Item details

Name of item: Emu Plains Public School (Former) & Trees
Other name/s: Emu Plains Public School
Type of item: Built
Group/Collection: Education
Category: School - State (public)
Primary address: 207-219 Great Western Highway, Emu Plains, NSW 2750
County: Cumberland
Local govt. area: Penrith

All addresses

Street Address	Suburb/town	LGA	Parish	County	Type
207-219 Great Western Highway	Emu Plains	Penrith		Cumberland	Primary Address
Lawson Street	Emu Plains	Penrith			Alternate Address

Statement of significance:

The school complex provides the focus for appreciating the development of a village centre at Emu Plains over the nineteenth century with the construction of public buildings to serve the community. The original building is an excellent example of a medium sized rural school building design developed by George Allen Mansfield, the architect of the Council of Education, and there is a later c.1910s weatherboard addition. The complex demonstrates the emergence of the provision of public education within the LGA following the Public Schools Act of 1866. While there are other school buildings of comparable date in the LGA, this school building is the only example constructed in sandstone and has a setting embellished by the nearby park reserve and mature stone pines in the school grounds that appear to date from the 1880s.

Date significance updated: 25 Feb 05

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

Description

Designer/Maker: George Allen Mansfield

Physical description: Located on ground higher than the surrounding flood plains, the item is a public school comprising grounds originally acquired for school use excised from the Emu Park reserve. The building includes classroom block attached to the teacher's residence. The classroom block is representative of school buildings of the era in its steep pitched gabled roof now sheeted in Colorbond corrugated metal. The building is constructed in sandstone with rough hewn blocks contrasting with fine chiselled quoins and window and door margins. The attached former teacher's residence is similarly constructed in stone masonry. The school building has an asymmetrical front elevation with a prominent gabled projecting bay and flanking gabled and half-hipped roofs with contrasting entry porch and verandah. The complex of buildings is prominently sited on the Great Western Highway and forms a bookend with Melrose Hall to the east. Set within Emu Park the school provides a sense of entry into the town and is part of a collection of community related structures and uses in the park complex. The grounds of the school reserve are in part lined (on Lawson Street) with an avenue of mature stone pines which appear to be contemporary with the early years of the school. The weatherboard classroom block was constructed around 1910 and includes a gabled roof.

Physical condition and/or

Archaeological potential:

Date condition updated: 25 Feb 05

Further information: Listing includes trees and brick toilets

Current use: Community Arts Centre

Former use: Public School

History

Historical notes: A stone school building was erected in 1877 to a design by George Mansfield.

Historic themes

Australian theme (abbrev)	New South Wales theme	Local theme
3. Economy-Developing local, regional and national economies	Industry-Activities associated with the manufacture, production and distribution of goods	(none)-
6. Educating-Educating	Education-Activities associated with teaching and learning by children and adults, formally and informally.	Rural villages-

Assessment of significance

SHR Criteria a) [Historical significance] The school complex demonstrates the emergence of the provision of public education within the LGA over the latter decades of the nineteenth century following the Public Schools Act of 1866.

The school complex demonstrates the emergence of a rural and village community at Emu Plains over the nineteenth century and the development of a village centre with schools to cater for the needs of this community.

SHR Criteria c) [Aesthetic significance] The classroom block and teacher's residence are excellent examples of a rural school building design developed by George Allen Mansfield, the architect of the Council of Education. While the buildings reflect the Council's model design for rural schools the buildings is particular notable for the use of sandstone in its construction.

The quality of the early buildings in their construction and elaborated stylistic features present an ensemble of high note in general area, and complement other contemporary public buildings in the town such as the railway station. The stone pines provide a scenic setting to the school reserve.

The location of the school near the park reserve and adjacent to the Great Western Highway provides sense of entry into the town.

SHR Criteria d) [Social significance] The building continues to function in a community related use.

SHR Criteria f) [Rarity] The complex of school buildings is rare in the LGA in consideration of its sandstone construction.

SHR Criteria g) [Representativeness] The school is one of a number of structures in Emu Plains erected over the nineteenth century and early part of the twentieth century which collectively demonstrate the pattern of a village settlement at this important location at the foothills of the Blue Mountains. Collectively these structures imbue the area with high historic and aesthetic values.

Integrity/Intactness: High externally

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

Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Local Environmental Plan	Penrith LEP 2010	76	22 Sep 10		
Local Environmental Plan		EP-23	20 Dec 91	180	
Heritage study		EP-23(a)	01 Apr 87		
Heritage study		2260076	01 Nov 07		
Heritage study		EP-23	01 Apr 87		

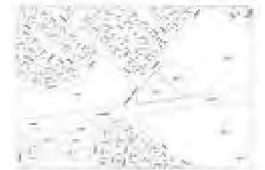
Study details

Title	Year	Number	Author	Inspected by	Guidelines used
	0	EP-23			No
Penrith Heritage Study Review	2005	EP-23	Paul Davies Pty. Ltd.		Yes

References, internet links & images

Type	Author	Year	Title	Internet Links
Written				

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



(Click on thumbnail for full size image and image details)

Data source

The information for this entry comes from the following source:

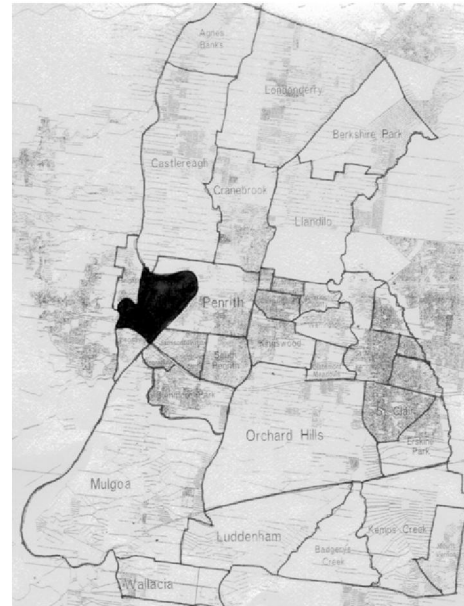
Name: Local Government

Database number: 2260076

11.0 Emu Plains

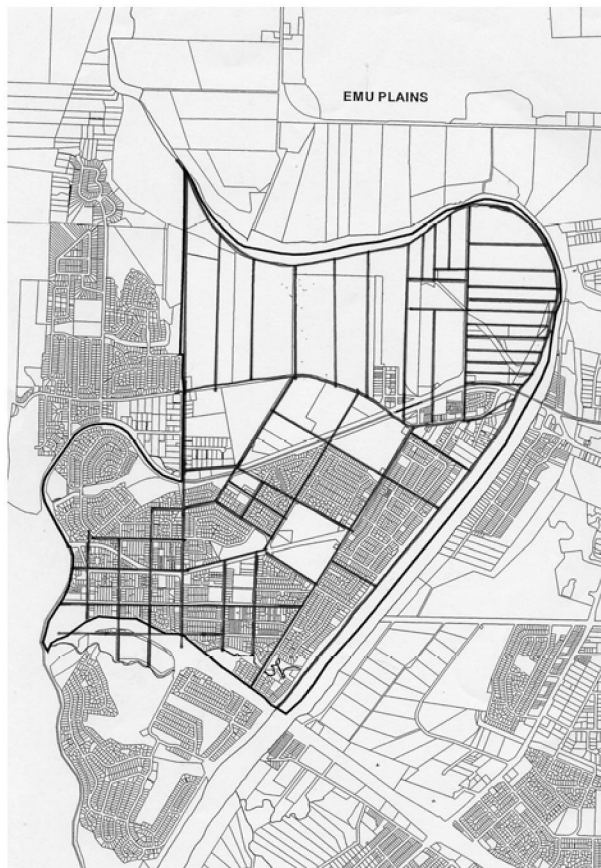
11.1 Location

The suburb of Emu Plains is located at the western extremity of the local government area on the western bank of the Nepean River. The suburb is historically associated with Emu Heights, Leonay, the Nepean River and Penrith.



Town Grants

Major boundaries are shown only



11.3 Historical Background



The sparsely populated nature of Emu Plains prior to the suburban development of the post 1960s is dramatically illustrated in this photograph of the Nepean River in the 1940s. Emu Plains is at right of picture and the view is looking south of Victoria Bridge. A cluster of houses straggles along the highway but elsewhere it is orchard and farmland. Source: Stacker, L., *Pictorial History: Penrith and St Marys*, Alexandria, Kingsclear Books, 2002, p.7

The historical development of Emu Plains is unique in the region in consideration of its establishment as a convict agricultural station in 1819 and the subsequent dedication in the 1830s of a town reserve.

During the convict era the Great Dividing Range proved to be an effective natural barrier to convicts wishing to abscond from their servitude. The lush grasslands of the western banks of the river were highly prized by Europeans for stock pasture but the value of the land to the government was soon realized by the governors and applications for grants of land by George Johnston, Dr. Robert Townson, Edward Lord, and Sir John Jamison were refused. The reasons why the applications to obtain land at Emu Plains were rejected are not clear, but it may have had to do with the presence of the wild cattle at the Cowpastures, the need to establish a defined boundary of settlement, or even with the need to allow the Aborigines access to the river in this vicinity.

The exploration of a route over the mountains and opening of the track to Bathurst made by William Cox in 1815 necessitated improved forms of supervision and the development of a government station at Emu Plains as a base camp for the mountain crossing, stockyard for government cattle (EP-17), and administrative centre in it being the last natural barrier to free movement. Some 3,000 acres (1,200 ha) were reserved for government use in 1814 which in 1819 became the Emu Plains Agricultural Establishment (the area had originally been called Emu and Emu Island, but was changed to Emu Plains in 1814).

The agricultural farm was established by Governor Macquarie as part of a strategy to deal with the increasing numbers of transported convicts arriving in the colony following the cessation of the Napoleonic wars in 1815. Macquarie himself chose the site for the Superintendent's house, for the barracks and for the convicts on a rise, nearly in the centre of the plains. This site was in the vicinity of St Paul's church and

graveyard (EP-24). The farm processed hundreds of convicts in either re-assigning them to outlying stations and/or training in agricultural work. The first superintendent was Robert Fitzgerald, a highly respected ex-convict, who enjoyed the support of Governor Macquarie but was removed from his position shortly after the governor's return to England. The subsequent superintendents came free to colony – Lieutenant Peter Murdoch (1822-1824), father and son Alexander and James Kinghorne (1825-1826 and 1826-1829), John Maxwell (1830-1831), and James Smith (1831-1832). Through the 1820s the work of the station with its increased numbers of resident convicts concentrated on the production of wheat and other crops, and the sight of the paddocks at harvest time rarely failed to impress visitors. Frenchman Rene Lesson's account of Emu Plains in 1824 noted:

It was once covered with great trees, while at the present time it is very bare ... What attracts the attention of as soon as the plain is reached is the residence of the Superintendent of the Crown Farm, situated on an eminence, and not far from which are located the many convict huts, that surrounded by trees, form a kind of pleasant little village in the midst of the regularity of the plain. Most of the bark huts that served to shelter the workmen when the land was being cleared still stand. The farm buildings, the stables, the cattle shed and the gardens have been located near the river. The wheat from the year's harvest was in high stacks ... set out methodically and over sixty in number.

By 1830 the role of the station had shifted from agriculture to stock and with the broader changes occurring in the colony, the decision was taken in 1831 to close down the station. A government town was surveyed by H.F. White in 1832 and the town and farm allotments were offered for sale at public auction in July 1832. The early town had mixed success in being removed from the main centres of population on the eastern bank of the Nepean River. In addition to town allotments, the town plan provided reserves for each of the major denominations and public recreation. The first church erected is St Paul's Anglican (EP-02) with its foundation stone laid in June 1847 by Bishop Broughton and licenced in 1848. The Wesleyan Methodist church was built in 1860 (EP-27).

The town proved popular with operators of road side inns on completion in 1833 of Surveyor-General Major Thomas L. Mitchell's new line of ascent of the eastern side Lapstone Hill with its improved grade and road surface (inclusive of David Lennox's bridge at Lapstone Creek), and newly opened punt crossing of the river. Mitchell's road gangs were billeted in the old government farm buildings at Emu Plains while they laboriously built this road. The coaching inns of Emu Plains ran a vigorous trade initially catering to travellers and settlers such as the eminent naturalist Charles Darwin who stayed over-night at an inn on his way to Bathurst in 1826. In the 1850s and 1860s people from all walks of life heading to the western goldfields passed through the town, Cobb and Co. maintained a coach service to Emu Plains while the government's gold escort was also based in the town. The names and dates of opening of these inns is often not clear but included Henry Hall's Emu Inn by 1836, Jonathon Strange's Mountaineer (1837), John Mortimer's Arms of Australia (1841) (EP-13), George Turner's Lord Byron (c.1838).

By 1868, with the completion of the first railway bridge over the Nepean River in 1867 (NR-04) , the railway station (EP-10) served as the terminus of the western line until the opening of Bowenfels station. Construction of the bridge had commenced in 1862

under the direction of John Whitton, chief engineer of the NSW Railways. Stone for the piers was quarried from the mouth of Glenbrook Creek, supplied by John Tyler and transported by barge to the site. It was a dual-purpose bridge, designed to carry both rail and road traffic. In 1907 the present railway bridge (NR-04) was opened and the older structure was converted for road traffic exclusively. After the building of the Victoria Bridge a long zigzag was used to ascend the ridge west of the river and a second bridge, the Knapsack Viaduct, was built with seven stone arches, to carry the line across Knapsack Gully. The line was deviated again at the turn of the century. Arthur Streeton, one of Australia's most important painters, painted *Fire's On Lapstone Tunnel* depicting the construction of the Emu Plains tunnel in 1891.

Other opportunities for investment in the town included cloth milling. A tweed mill was established at Emu Plains by brothers Abraham and John Rayner. Abraham Rayner was the most experienced wool manufacturer in the colony initially commencing business at Simeon Lord's factory at Botany in 1836. In 1839 he went into partnership with Sir John Jamison managing the steam tweed mill at Regentville until 1844. Rayner carried-on his business in Goulburn Street, before returning to the Nepean River in the 1851 utilizing the old police station at Emu Plains. This factory was destroyed by fire in 1861, but Rayner recommenced operations under difficult circumstances. By the late 1860s the factory was situated within the same two-storey building on the banks of the river, although manufacturing was confined to the first floor. An account of Rayner's operations in 1868 noted the wool was washed and dyed on the banks of the river and fellmongering was also undertaken. The skins were sourced locally but also brought in from Sydney by rail. The stages of manufacture included: removal of dirt; teasing to separate the wool fibres; working the wool into a yarn; spinning the yarn; and weaving the tweed in the power looms. There were 12 power looms worked by girls of 14 to 18 years of age. In total the factory employed 20 girls, the youngest being 10 years of age. The factory produced between 400 and 500 yards of tweed per week.⁷¹ By 1882 the factory with 36 acres on the Old Bathurst Road was on the market for either sale or lease,⁷² and the building was demolished in 1902.⁷³ John Rayner died at Emu Plains in 1888 at the age of 76 years.⁷⁴

Another local identity of this era was James 'Toby' Ryan who was born (1818) and raised at Castlereagh. In the 1850s he headed a consortium of investors wanting to erect a toll bridge over the Nepean River. The scheme failed, but Ryan, the MLA for Nepean in the 1860s, survived to recount his life in region. Between 1851 and 1854 Ryan built Emu Hall (EP-1) as his place of residence. Ryan died at Woolloomooloo in 1899 and his body was returned to St Paul's Emu Plains to be interred in the family vault (EP-24).⁷⁵ Huntington (Tailby) Hall (EP-19), also built in 1850s by Rylstone grazier George Tailby, is another example of this type of development. Tailby Hall was rented by Sir George Gibbs in 1880s while he was premier and renamed Riverside.

The gravel and sands of the western bank of the Nepean River were opened up for commercial quarrying in the nineteenth century. In 1882, T R Smith took up the

⁷¹ *Sydney Morning Herald* 20/10/1868

⁷² *Nepean Times* 21/10/1882, p.2

⁷³ *Nepean Times* 14/6/1902, p.4

⁷⁴ *Nepean Times* 15/9/1888, p.4

⁷⁵ *Nepean Times* 21/10/1899, p.1

western portion of the Water Reserve to mine for gravel and bluestone on a commercial basis.⁷⁶ Aside from the natural resource, the proximity of the quarries to the main western line was a definite advantage for the larger commercial concerns with T.R. Smith's Emu Gravel and Road Metal Company securing land for a connecting light railway in 1884 (EP-08).⁷⁷ Gravel extraction continues as a major local industry. During the building of Warragamba Dam, from 1946, an overhead cableway was built from Emu Plains to Warragamba.

The neighbouring McGraths' wool wash was also established around 1894 to utilize the rail access and water reserve. The McGraths' operation imported wool from Sydney transporting the fleece by rail to its siding. The company was originally established at Windsor in 1880, relocating to Emu Plains because of recurrent flooding.⁷⁸

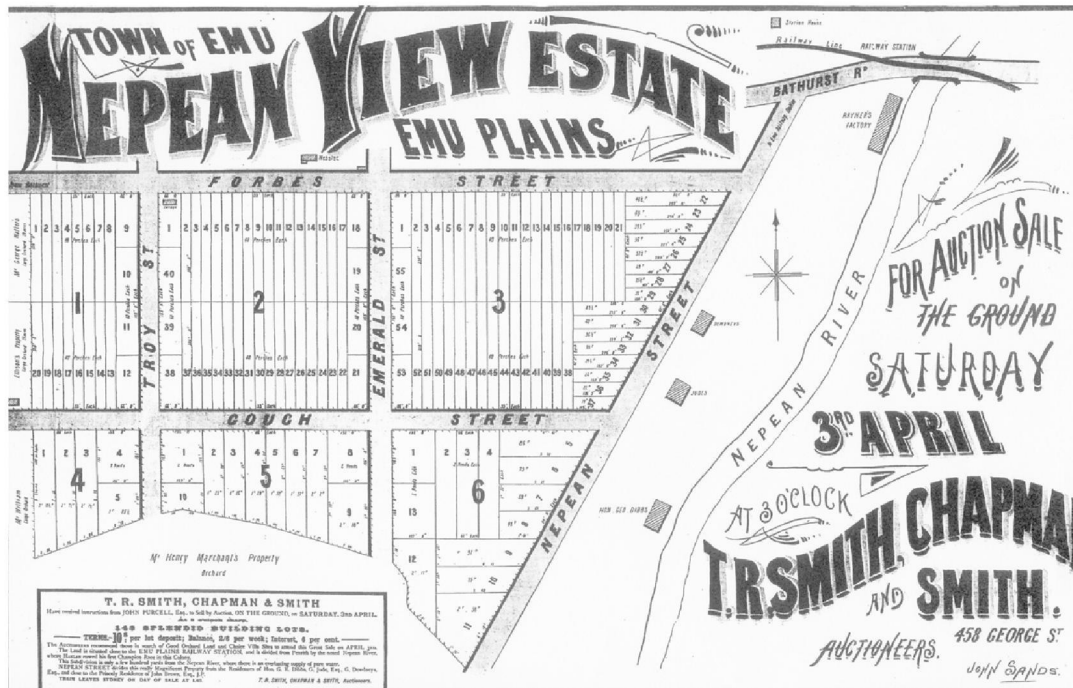
The Emu Plains gaol was opened in December 1914 within an area of 102 acres to supply vegetables and other farm produce (poultry, pigs and milk, etc.) to government institutions. For a time the gaol was jointly managed by the Department of Agriculture and the prison authority and known as the Emu Plains Irrigation Farm. The first prisoners were received in the autumn of 1915 and lived in tents. The inmates were first time offenders under the age of 25, and the gaol operated in conjunction with Goulburn Gaol as part of a rehabilitation program. Given the proximity to Sydney and rail access the gaol developed into a home for delinquent youth. The original tents were replaced by huts in the 1920s, and Inverleigh, an adjoining farm of 89 acres, was acquired in 1936. Through the 1943/44 the number of accommodation huts increased to 100. The gaol was rebuilt in the early 1950s and reopened in 1957 as the Emu Plains Training Centre with 120 brick huts, training blocks, etc. and a centre for weekend detention.

In the second half of the twentieth century, with an improved fast rail link to Sydney brought through the electrification of the line in 1955 and the emergence of a local light industrial base at Penrith from the early 1960s, Emu Plains developed into an outer metropolitan suburb of Sydney. While the grid of the old town's streets remained intact, the surrounding original farm allotments of about 50 acres were subdivided for residential housing. Many of these allotments through the first half of the twentieth century contained orange orchards. With increasing numbers of new families living residing in the town a new high school was completed in 1963.

⁷⁶ *Nepean Times* 30/6/1882, p.4

⁷⁷ *Nepean Times* 23/8/1884, p.2

⁷⁸ *Nepean Times* 20/8/1898, p.6



This early subdivision plan illustrates the pattern of subdivision in the town with successive cutting-up of the original farm sized grants. Note the sparsely settled nature of the riversides and lack of public reserve here. Source: Penrith City Library.

11.4 Description

The residential suburb of Emu Plains is located on the western bank of the Nepean River, west of Penrith. The suburb is bounded by the course of the river to the north and east, the Western Freeway to the south, and an irregular line to the west, which also forms the boundary between the local government areas of Penrith and City of Blue Mountains. The suburb is dissected by the Great Western Highway (PC-04b) and Great Western Railway established at various times in the nineteenth century (PC-05) which are historic transport routes that have influenced settlement patterns.

Located at the foothills of the Blue Mountains, the topography of the suburb is characterized by the level flood plain rising sharply along the western margin. The highly urbanized residential, civic and commercial heart of the suburb is located in the area south of the Great Western Railway. The area north of the railway is formed by the gravel company's works (EP-8) to the east and prison grounds to the west. There are small pockets of resident housing in this area around Railway Street and Russell Street which retain some historic housing stock (EP-9).

The form of Mitchell's town plan of Emu Plains is still evident with its church (EP-24 and EP-27) and public reserves, and grid of streets straggling along the alignment of Mitchell's line of road (The Great Western Highway). Mitchell's plan provided small town allotments surrounded by large (40 acre plus) rural blocks. While later, mostly late twentieth century subdivision, has eroded the original symmetry, cohesiveness of the town plan is retained through the original street alignments and park reserve. The riverside reserve is a later, c.1960s, appendage to the town plan.

Associated with this evolving subdivision pattern, are layers of residential, commercial and civic buildings and landscaped elements. While these historic features are dispersed across the suburb, there is a concentration along the Great Western

Highway with a high number of former coaching inns (EP-06 ruin only, EP-12, EP-13, and EP-14) and at or near the crossing of the Nepean River (EP-01, EP-02, EP-03 site only, EP-05, EP-11). There are remnants of the old farm estates that relied on the river for irrigation (EP-15, EP-16, EP-18, EP-19) and farms elsewhere (EP-21, EP-25). Civic buildings are generally located around the expansive Emu Park including EP-21, EP-22, EP-23, and closely related church reserves church (EP-24 and EP-27). A group of rural houses originally associated with small landings is located around the intersection of Russell Street and the highway where it begins its ascent of the foothills of the Blue Mountains (EP-28, EP-29, EP-30, and EP-31).

11.5 Existing Heritage Items

The following items were identified in the inventory of the heritage study prepared in 1987, and listed in Schedule 2 of the *Penrith Local Environmental Plan 1991*:

EP-01
Emu Hall,
2-26 Great Western
Highway
SHI 2260051

Emu Hall was built around 1851 for Toby Ryan and demonstrates a mid-nineteenth century homestead within the government planned town of Emu Plains. The prominent siting of the house adjacent the Nepean River is an important landmark and has historical associations with Ryan's attempts to bridge the river.



EP-02
Former police station
and residences,
4 Punt Road
SHI 2260052

This simple weatherboard cottage was erected in 1908 as the police station for Emu Plains. Historically, the site is associated with the older police station (EP-3 and now demolished) on the corner of Punt and River Roads.



EP-05
Cottage,
14 York Street
SHI 2260055

This building was listed because it is a cottage which by its form, location and materials provides insight into the mid-nineteenth century rural setting of Emu Plains.



EP-06
Former Union Inn and
trees,
36 Great Western
Highway
SHI 2260063

The former Union Inn was established around 1850 and was an example of the once thriving inn trade associated with the crossing of the Blue Mountains by the Western Road. The building is now a ruin.



EP-09
Concrete house
2-20 Railway Street
SHI 2260058

This precast concrete paneled building was erected next to the gravel works in 1909. The building was listed for its historic association with the gravel works and innovative construction technology.



EP-10
Emu Plains railway station group,
Main Western railway
SHI 2260059

The picturesque Tudor style brick railway station was completed in 1883 and demonstrates the important role of the railway in the history of the development of Emu Plains and the longer standing significance of the town in the crossing of the Blue Mountains.



EP-11
Weatherboard house,
66 Great Western Highway
SHI 2260060

This building was listed because it is a cottage which by its form, location and materials provides an insight into early twentieth century residential development in the town along the highway.



EP-12
Former Australian Arms Inn,
113 Great Western Highway
SHI 2260061

The former Australian Arms Hotel was established around 1850 and is an example of the once thriving inn trade associated with the crossing of the Blue Mountains by the Western Road.



EP-13
Arms of Australia Inn,
127 Great Western Highway
SHI 2260327

The former Arms of Australia was established around 1841, but the inn may have been built around the time of the initial sale of the town allotments in the early 1830s possibly being licenced as the Mountaineer in 1837. The former inn is the earliest extant example of the once thriving inn trade associated with the crossing of the Blue Mountains by the Western Road.



EP-14
Stone House,
143 Great Western Highway
SHI 2260064

This building was listed because it is a cottage which by its form, location and materials provides insight into the mid-nineteenth century townscape of Emu Plains.



EP-15
Westbank house,
2-6 Nepean Street
SHI 2260065

This building was listed because it is a cottage which by its form, location and materials provides insight into the nineteenth century rural setting of Emu Plains and as a former farmhouse once set within an orchard of 40 acres with frontage to the Nepean River.



EP-16 & EP-16(a)
Yodalla house and garden,
26-28 Nepean Street
SHI 2260066

This building was listed because it is a cottage which by its form, location and materials provides insight into the nineteenth century rural setting of Emu Plains and as a former farmhouse once set within land with frontage to the Nepean River. The evolution of the house is demonstrated through its garden setting remodeled in the 1930s.



EP-18 & EP-18(a)
Lewers houses and garden,
86-88 River Road
SHI 2260069

The former Lewers' family home houses the Lewers Bequest of sculptor Gerald Lewers and painter Margo Lewers. The houses were erected in the early twentieth century and in 1960, the latter by architect Sydney Ancher. The garden setting includes remnants of the original cottage garden adapted by Margo Lewers.



EP-19 & EP-19(a)
Huntington Hall and garden,
52 Beach Street
SHI 2260071

Huntington Hall was built in the 1850s for grazier George Tailby and later occupied by merchant and parliamentarian George Dibbs. The house demonstrates a mid-nineteenth century homestead within the government planned town of Emu Plains. The prominent siting of the house adjacent the Nepean River provides a garden setting with a number of mature trees.



EP-20
Melrose Hall,
169 Great Western Highway
SHI 2260073

Melrose Hall was built in the depression era 1930s with government assistance. The hall provided a focus for local community activities, and today demonstrates a phase in the evolution of the town.



EP-21
Orange Grove cottage, 15 Park Street
SHI 2260074

This building was listed because it is a cottage which by its form, location and materials provides insight into the nineteenth century rural setting of Emu Plains and as a former farmhouse.



EP-22
War Memorial, Emu Park,
Park Street
SHI 2260075

The local memorial to the sacrifice of local residents in the first world war is located with Emu Park.



EP-23 & EP-23(a)
Community Arts Centre and trees,
217-219 Great Western Highway
SHI 2260076

An excellent example of a large government public school of the 1870s inclusive of school hall and teacher's residence. The building demonstrates nineteenth century rural settlement in the region as well as the emergence of public education following the reforms of 1866. The school grounds are fringed by stone pines which seem to date from the 1880s.



EP-24
St. Paul's Anglican
Church Cemetery and
Emu Plains General
Cemetery,
23-25 Nixon Street
SHI 2260078

The sandstone St. Paul's demonstrates the emergence of an official town at Emu Plains in the mid-nineteenth century. This fine Gothic building was erected for the Anglican Church in 1847. The elevation of the church on a low hill provides views of neighbouring areas. The rural setting of the church is enhanced by clusters of shade trees and the graveyard. The site has historical and archaeological significance in being the location of the prison quarters and kitchen garden of the convict station established in 1819.



EP-25
Yamba Cottage,
32 Nixon Street
SHI 2260080

This building was listed because it is a cottage which by its form, location and materials provides insight into the nineteenth century rural setting of Emu Plains and as one of the few houses of the era located away from the main road.



EP-27
Uniting Church,
46 Emerald Street
SHI 2260082

The sandstone Uniting Church demonstrates the emergence of a village centre at Emu Plains in the mid-nineteenth century. This simple Gothic building was erected for the Wesleyan Methodist Church in 1862. The church demonstrates the development of the town of Emu Plains and the reserves of the original town plan.



EP-28
Edwardian cottage,
46 Russell Street
SHI 2260083

This building was listed because it is a cottage which by its form, location and materials provides insight into early twentieth century residential development in the village.



EP-29
Cottage,
281 Great Western
Highway
SHI 2260084

This building was listed because it is a cottage which by its form, location and materials provides insight into mid-nineteenth century residential development in the village. The building has historical associations with the Raynor brothers.



EP-30
Emu Plains Assembly
Hall,
283 Great Western
Highway
SHI 2260085

The sandstone Assembly Hall demonstrates the development of the town centre at Emu Plains in the late-nineteenth century. This simple building was erected in 1885.



EP-34
 Gwandalan cottage
 and garden,
 11 Nepean Street
 SHI 2260092

This item is listed because of its c.1930s garden, but retains a representative example of an inter-war brick bungalow, which provides context to the garden. The tree canopy provides a backdrop to Emu Park.



NR-02
 Penrith Weir
 SHI 2260848

The weir is associated with the provision of reticulated town water for Penrith.



NR-03
 Little Manly,
 Western side Nepean
 River
 SHI 2260145

This bank of the Nepean River has historic associations with inter-war era tourism in the region. The once sandy bank is no longer. The area is recommended for removal from the heritage list as former sites of activity are now difficult to discern.

NR-04 + NR-10
 Victoria Bridge, Rail
 and Road bridges
 Great Western
 Highway
 SHI 2260146
 SHI2260668

The third Victoria Rail Bridge, completed in 1867 and the fourth rail bridge from 1907 when the line was duplicated are both on this listing. The earlier bridge, now a road bridge, demonstrates foremost mid Victorian engineering practice. It also has historic associations with mid-nineteenth century attempts to bridge the river and formed a crucial link in the opening up of land for agriculture, pastoralism and mining west of the

Blue Mountains Escarpment. The 1907 railway bridge is also of considerable significance as part of the extensive rail construction to upgrade the crossing of the Blue Mountains.

It is recommended that separate listings be made for these two adjacent items (new item to be NR-10).



NR-05
 Ferry crossing,
 Ferry Road
 SHI 2260147

The approaches to the nineteenth century punt crossing of the river demonstrate both the important role of the ferry crossing prior to completion of the first successful bridge and the river as a natural barrier on the route west.



NR-06
 Rowing course,
 Nepean River
 SHI 2260148

The rowing course demonstrates the role of the river as a place for organized water sports, since the late nineteenth century. The area is recommended for removal from the heritage list as the various former sites of activity are now difficult to discern.



NR-09
Site of early water mill, Nepean River

The site of a water mill which demonstrates historical associations with the agricultural economy of the region. The area is recommended for removal from the heritage list as the various former sites of activity are now difficult to discern.



The following item was identified in the inventory of the heritage study prepared in 1987, and listed in Schedule 2 of the *Penrith Local Environmental Plan 1991*, but has since been destroyed by fire:

- EP-03 – Police Station (potential as archaeological site)

11.6 Existing Nominated Heritage Items

The following items were identified in the inventory of the heritage study prepared in 1987, but not listed in Schedule 2 of the *Penrith Local Environmental Plan 1991*:

EP-08
Gravel Works,
Railway Street

The gravel works were established in the early 1880s and has provided local employment. This is a major industrial enterprise which has been upgraded until the present day. This large site requires further investigation and is not recommended for listing.

EP-17
Site of Government
Stockyard,
Hunter Street
SHI 2260068

This site was listed for its historical association with the government convict station of the 1820s, later used for Rayner's tweed mill factory.

The site is now recommended for listing for its archaeological value only.

EP-26
Site of Dungarth and
plantings,
4 Stockade Street
SHI 2260081

This listing is associated with the old government convict station which is marked by a plane tree whilst the site of the house is marked by a remaining fig tree.

The site is now recommended for listing for its archaeological value only.

EP-31
Forbes Street Village
Precinct,
Forbes St and
Walkers Crescent
SHI 2260087

This collection of late nineteenth century houses of brick and weatherboard demonstrate a phase in the development of the rural village of Emu Plains. The buildings are dispersed and no. 73 Forbes Street is recommended as a heritage item



39 Grey Street



55 Brougham Street



73 Forbes Street
SHI 2260669

NR-01
Ford over river, Longs
Lane
SHI 2260143

The location of the first ford crossing of the Nepean River is believed to be in the vicinity of Longs Lane. The location has historic associations with the early years of European settlement in the district.

The location of the ford is not known

No photo as location not known

NR-07/08
Riverscape, Nepean River
SHI 2260149

consequently listing of the area is not proposed.
A river landscape characterized by mature nineteenth century plantings of Bunyas, and later inter-war era poplars, palms, and tea-trees. Areas of the foreshore remain with stands of Casuanna (river She Oaks) as the dominant species.
The area is not recommended as a heritage item as the former sites of activity are now difficult to discern.



NR-07(a)
River Frontage, 40 River Road & Francis Street
SHI 2260150

A garden of mature trees and shrubs which are landmark elements along the River Road streetscape. However, the house is also significant for being a large and early example of riverside housing which developed from around 1940.



NR-07(b)
River Frontage, 80 River Road
SHI 2260151

Jacaranda and palms which are important as a remnant garden showing an theme of planting which has been modified by shrub removal. However, the house is also significant for being a large and early example of riverside housing which developed from around 1930.

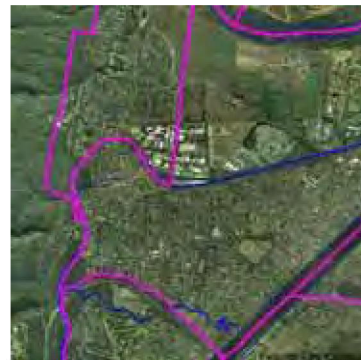


PC-04(c)
Magnolia plantings, Great Western Highway

A street planting of Magnolia grandiflora of the 1930s.
The tree should be in the significant tree register but not a heritage item.

PC-04(b)
Old Great Western Highway
SHI 2260265

The various routes of the ascent of the Blue Mountains from the Emu Plains provide important evidence of the role of the mountains as a barrier to the agricultural, pastoral and mineral resources of the west.
The route is not recommended as a heritage item.



PC-04(d)
Avenue Planting, Great Western Highway
SHI 22600

The avenue of Eucalyptus spp now mature trees and form a very strong axis along the roadway. *Eucalyptus saligna* planted c1939 for bees/honey.
The trees are in the significant tree register and should not be listed as a heritage item.



PC- 05
Western Railway
SHI 2260267

The western railway is of historic interest as an early colonial road which played an important role in the development of the colony and the county of Cumberland.
The current formation has been significantly upgraded and is not recommended for listing as a whole precinct or heritage item.



The following items were identified in the inventory of the heritage study prepared in 1987, but have since been destroyed either through fire or demolition:

- EP-04 - Timber Cottage, 14 River Road
- EP-07 - Roseneath Cottage, 43 Great Western Highway

The *Register of Significant Trees and Gardens DCP* adopted by Council 17 August 1992 identifies the following items, they are appropriately located within this register and are not recommended to be added as heritage items:

EP-36 Culturally Significant Melia Azedarach

Western end of
Victoria Bridge

EP-37 Culturally Significant Brachyton populneus

41 Great Western
Highway



EP-38 Eucalyptus saligna

Great Western
Highway opposite
Emu Oval Nos 1 & 2



11.7 Government Agency Registers

The following properties have been listed in the Section 170 Register maintained by Railcorp:

- Emu Plains Railway Station Footbridge (a modern reinforced concrete structure)
- Emu Plains Station Group (EP-10)

The following property has been listed in the Section 170 Register maintained by the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources:

- Old Police Station, Great Western Highway (EP-03 – now demolished)

11.8 State Heritage Register

The following property has been entered in the State Heritage Register:

- Emu Plains Railway Station Group, Great Western Railway (EP-10)

11.9 Potential Heritage Items

The following items were identified through fieldwork undertaken for the preparation of this review and/or nominated by the community:

EP-43
108 Forbes Street
SHI 2260663

A representative example of a modest cottage of the late nineteenth century which provides insight into the diversity of house scale and quality of the era.



EP-39
24 Forbes St
SHI 2260664

A very good example of a weatherboard cottage with bay window.



EP-40
9 Railway Row
SHI 2260665

One of the few historic residences around the railway station, this rendered brick Federation house is a god example of its type located in an area underrepresented in this part of Emu Plains.



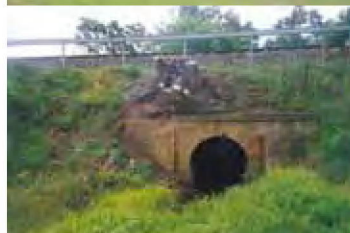
EP-41
10 River Road
SHI 2260666

An example of the International style of architecture dramatically set on the bank of the Nepean River and within a developed garden.



EP-42
Sandstone railway
culvert
Lamrock Street
SHI 2260667

An example of nineteenth century stone masons craft.



An item which appears in the thematic history and was considered in fieldwork is:

- Emu Plains prison

11.10 Planning Codes, Guidelines and Studies

Existing statutory controls for heritage items are contained in the Penrith Local Environmental Plan 1991 (Environmental Heritage Conservation).

11.11 Comment

Emu Plains has historic significance for its association with the official town reserve established in the 1830s, the earlier convict agricultural station, and subsequent rural and village development inclusive of its role in coach traffic over the Blue Mountains. The evolution of rural, urban and mining uses and historic associations with the community supported by these are demonstrated in the collection of extant former farmhouses, coaching inns and cottages established in the nineteenth century, the local public school, church and cemetery reserves, original park reserve, cultural plantings, the prison farm, the gravel works, and the Great Western Highway and Great Western Railway.

Nestled between the broad flowing river and treed backdrop of the Blue Mountains Escarpment the suburb has high scenic values which are expressed especially along the river bank.

Emu Plains is associated with themes such as convict, transport, towns, villages and suburbs, and environment – natural, mining, persons, industry, law and order.

11.12 Recommendations

The existing heritage listings derived from the study of 1987 are comprehensive and recognise the core heritage values of the suburb. Most of these items are of local significance but a number contribute to an understanding of the development of the state and should be entered in the State Heritage Register. These items are associated in some form with colonial road and rail transportation are NR-04, EP-13, while EP-01 and EP-18 are houses of different eras associated with individuals who made contributions to the development of the region and state.

The Forbes Street Village Precinct (EP-31) listing is compromised by the extent of post 1950 residential development. There are individual houses of note in this area which should however be listed as individual items

The riverside setting of River Road has brought residential development from the late 1930s; NR-07a/b are two of the best examples of this phase of development with mature garden settings which should be listed.

The railway line and road alignments are not recommended for listing.

The former police station (EP-03) has been removed and the site marked by interpretative signage. It is recommended for de-listing.

11.13 Policy

Retain gazetted LEP heritage item listing:	Remove gazetted heritage item listing:	List as heritage items:	Nominate listing on State Heritage Register:
EP-01	EP-03	EP-17 (archaeological site)	EP-01
EP-02	NR-03 (precinct)	EP-26 (archaeological site)	EP-12
EP-05	NR-06 (precinct)	EP-31 (108 Forbes St)	EP-13
EP-06	NR-09	EP-31 (separate items) 73 Forbes St 39 Grey Street	EP-18

		55 Brougham St 14 Walkers Cres 34 Walkers Cres	
EP-09		EP-39	EP-19
EP-10		EP-40	NR-04 (1867 bridge)
EP-11		EP-41	
EP-12		EP-42	
EP-13		EP-43	
EP-14		NR-07A	
EP-15		NR-07B	
EP-16/16A		NR-10	
EP-18/18A			
EP-19/19A			
EP-20			
EP-21			
EP-22			
EP-23/23A			
EP-24			
EP-25			
EP-27			
EP-28			
EP-29			
EP-30			
EP-34 (inc house)			
NR-02			
NR-04			
NR-05			