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Graythwaite and Outbuildings and Grounds

Item

Name of Item:

Graythwaite and Outbuildings and Grounds

Other Name/s:

Formerly 'Euroka Villa'

Type of Item:

Landscape

Group/Collection:

Parks, Gardens and Trees

Category:

Trees of social, historic or special significance

Primary Address:

20 Edward Street, North Sydney, NSW 2060

Local Govt. Area:

North Sydney

Property Description:

Lot/Volume Code	Lot/Volume Number	Section Number	Plan/Folio Code	Plan/Folio Number
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All Addresses

Street Address	Suburb/Town	LGA	Parish	County	Type
20 Edward Street	North Sydney	North Sydney			Primary

Statement of Significance

Fine example of a Victorian Italianate mansion. Strongly associated with prominent colonial family, the Dibbs, as well as the Sayers, and later as a respected convalescent hospital. Graythwaite is a former c. 1823 residence which has been altered and has grown during the 19th century to a grand villa c. 1882, and then undergone adaptation to a convalescent hospital and nursing home after 1916. Relic of the period of mansion development on the North Shore. Part of an area rich in nineteenth century buildings. Associated with 'Kailoa' nearby. Original outbuildings of interest. Graythwaite's grounds contain one of the largest and most significant collections of late 19th century and early 20th century cultural plantings in North Sydney. Moreton Bay and Port Jackson figs dominate an eclectic mix of exotic and Australian rainforest plantings including rare historic and botanic examples.

Note: There are incomplete details for a number of items listed in NSW. The Heritage Branch intends to develop or upgrade statements of significance and other information for these items as resources become available.

Description

Physical Description:

The property contains a two storey, with attics, asymmetric house of smooth-cut ashlar sandstone with hipped roof of slate, formed around a central roof top pavilion, or widow's walk, which is surrounded by an elaborate cast-iron lace balustrade. Faceted projecting window bay, bracketed eaves, open-work cast-iron verandah columns and returning verandah are features. Outbuildings include a single storey sandstone building with loft (former 1830s stables); a single storey masonry building, imitation ashlar finished (former secretaries office and staff dining room); a single storey brick building (former recreation room); a single storey brick building with attic (former 1880s stables and coach house); a single storey hospital ward building and service additions (built 1918, altered in 1952).This building is designed in the Victorian Italianate style.

History

Historical Notes:

A fine house surviving as an example of the 19th Century residential architecture of this area. The site is unusual in that it retains its original large tract of land with garden layout and historic

http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/07_subnav_01_2.cfm?itemid=2180830[21/05/2010 12:12:25 PM]

plantings. Land originally purchased by Thomas Walker in 1832, by 1833 13 acres were sold to William Miller; by 1837 Walker and Miller were noted as having built "substantial dwellings" on the land. In 1845 Thomas Walker's will noted the address as "formerly of "Euroka" on 16 acres of land on the North Shore". The property was subsequently conveyed to various persons until purchased by Thomas Allwright Dibbs in 1873. In 1883 the house's name was changed to "Graythwaite". In 1915 Dibbs donated the property to the Crown for use as a Red Cross convalescent home for returned soldiers, and it has since been used as a hospital.

Historic Themes

Australian Theme (abbrev)	New South Wales Theme	Local Theme
3. Economy - Developing local, regional and national economies	Health - Activities associated with preparing and providing medical assistance and/or promoting or maintaining the well being of humans	(none) -
4. Settlement - Building settlements, towns and cities	Accommodation - Activities associated with the provision of accommodation, and particular types of accommodation – does not include architectural styles – use the theme of Creative Endeavour for such activities.	(none) -

Assessment of Significance

SHR Criteria g) [Representativeness] This item is assessed as historically representative regionally. This item is assessed as aesthetically representative statewide. This item is assessed as socially representative regionally.

Integrity/Intactness: _

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
<i>Local Environmental Plan</i>					
<i>National Trust of Australia register</i>					
<i>Register of the National Estate</i>					

Study Details

Title	Year Number		Author	Inspected by	Guidelines Used
North Sydney Heritage Study Review	1993	0830	Tony Brassil, Robert Irving, Chris Pratten, Conybeare Morrison	TB May 1992	Yes
Heritage and Cultural Resources Study	1998		Paul Davies		Yes

References, Internet links & Images

None

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

Data Source

The information for this entry comes from the following source:

Name: Local Government

Database Number: 2180830

Every effort has been made to ensure that information contained in the State Heritage Inventory is correct. If you find any errors

or omissions please send your comments to the [Database Manager](#).

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