

Item Details

Name
Exeter Farm Cottage

SHR/LEP/S170
LEP #

Address
2 Knightsbridge Avenue GLENWOOD NSW 2768

Local Govt Area
Blacktown
Local Aboriginal Land Council
Unknown

Item Type	Group/Collection	Category
Built	Residential buildings (private)	Cottage

All Addresses

Addresses

Records Retrieved: 1

Street No	Street Name	Suburb/Town/Postcode	Local Govt. Area	LALC	Parish	County	Electorate	Address Type
2	Knightsbridge Avenue	GLENWOOD/NSW/2768	Blacktown	Unknown			Unknown	Primary Address

Significance

Statement Of Significance

The elements that comprise this cottage provide an outstanding example of Australian vernacular domestic architecture. It is one of the oldest surviving pioneer buildings in Blacktown and indeed Western Sydney. It was built by Daniel Brien, an emancipist transported to Australia on the third fleet.

Criteria a)

Historical Significance

The structures at Exeter farm are colonial settlement vernacular farm dwellings. They are rare and substantially intact examples of simple farm buildings built in the area possibly around 1850's but may also be consistent with structures built 20-30 years earlier.

This was a highly significant period in the History of NSW and the settlement of this farm is dated to the Macquarie's land grant to Daniel Brien in 1821.

The cottage is also a remaining example of the first settlement farms of the Seven Hills district along the major colonial transport route of Windsor Road.

At the most conservative date the cottages represent 125 - 130 years of continued occupation from 1850 - 1976.

They are the only known surviving timber slab cottages in the Blacktown Local Government Area.

Criteria c)

Aesthetic/Technical Significance

The structures at Exeter Farm themselves are distinctive in their scale and material form and are fine examples of the archetype colonial cottage. They are a highly intact and rare example of a vernacular farm home establishment.

A picturesque and farmscape quality has also been retained with the protection of significant eucalypts around the cottage and the reinstatement of a farm garden.

The interiors have been restored with display panels to the original layers of significant interiors which chronicle the development of domestic interiors from 1850 through to 1976.

Criteria d)

Social/Cultural Significance

The long ownership of the Brien family from 1809 through to 1929, along with the large number of family descendants means that the property is high interest to a number of descendants of the founding families of the Meurants Lane and Seven Hills districts.

Criteria e)

Research Potential

The cottage itself contains significant interiors which have been retained for display, concealed or removed. The building forms an educational and research tool into domestic sensibilities and construction techniques from the colonial era through to the mid-20th century.

In addition the surrounding grounds are highly likely to retain the remains of former outbuilding’s on the site.

Criteria f)

Rarity

Buildings surviving from the early settlement of the western district of Sydney are now very rare. Most buildings of this age if they survive are highly altered. The Exeter Farm cottages provide a rare example of the original form and uses of vernacular construction from the colonial period.

Criteria g)

Representative

Exeter Farm represents approximately 125 - 130 years of continuous occupation as ordinary farm dwellings dating from the 1850's.

They demonstrate the principal characteristics of the early 19th century timber slab cottage type as well as the archetypal colonial farm cottage.

They also demonstrate the domestic aesthetic aspirations of the families of emancipists, including significant interiors that have been retained for educational display.

Integrity/Intactness

High

Owners

Records Retrieved: 0		
Organisation	Stakeholder Category	Date Ownership Updated
No Results Found		

Description

Designer	Builder/Maker
	Daniel Brien

Physical Description

Updated

The property comprises of two vertical timber slab cottage pavilions with a simple open covered walkway between them. The cottages have galvanised roofing over timber shingles. Original finishes and wall materials have been retained for display under new reconstructed or repaired wall surfaces.

Both cottages consist of a simple hipped roof structure one room deep, with a skillion or verandah attached to the rear.

The north cottage consists of three main rooms with a fire place at each end of the house. The frontage has a simple skillion verandah and overlooks the original aspect to Meurants Lane. This area is now a public reserve. Along the rear of the north cottage is a skillion room that contains a bathroom and a long room once housing the kitchen.

The rear wing contains the original kitchen fireplace and small bakers oven adjacent, in one large room. A bull nose verandah wraps around the southern and western side of the rear cottage and contains an enclosed room at the western end.

The site has large indigenous eucalypts remaining and a house garden (recently designed in the farm garden style).

A modern carport has been built to the rear.

Physical Condition

Updated 12/12/2012

The buidling has been recently restored and is in good condition.

Modifications And Dates

Constructed c 1850 John Brien

c 1860 addition of southern cottage.

c 1885 enclosure of south verandah to north cottage, internal decorations and lining of walls, covered link - Peter Brien

1895-1923 alterations to south building.

1951 -2 and 1957-58 Modernisation of toilets, concrete floors - Lena Box

1997 emergency conservation works - Historic Houses Trust.

Full Restoration 2010

Carport added in 2010

New kitchen and bathroom facilities 2012- 2013.

Further Comments

Current Use

residence

Former Use

residence

Listings

Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Records Retrieved: 3	
				Gazette Number	Gazette Page
State Environmental Planning Policy		19			
Local Environmental Plan	Amend No 143		4/12/2002 12:00:00 AM	72	2262
Local Environmental Plan	Blacktown Local Environmental Plan 2015	126	7/7/2015 12:00:00 AM	430	

Procedures/Exemptions

Records Retrieved: 0					
Section of Act	Description	Title	Comments	Action Date	Outcome
No Results Found					

History

Historical Notes or Provenance

Updated

Exeter Farm cottage stands on land granted to Daniel Brien in 1821. Known as the "eighty acres" it is possible that Brien was working the land as early as 1809.

Daniel Brien was a convict who had served his sentence at Norfolk Island by 1796 and subsequently moved to NSW. He married Mary Anne Parker in 1821 but had met her and had 6 children with her since 1809. Ultimately they had 11 children.

It is possible that Brien lived at the property from 1809, however the first hard evidence of his presence at the current cottages is a record in his will of his residence on the now 110 acres. The cottages demonstrate methodologies relating to 1810 construction, but using some materials not available until the 1850's.

Later records indicate that the cottages may have been built by Daniel Brien's son John possibly between 1837 and 1850. The architects for the restoration works have concluded based on physical and historic evidence that the northern cottage was constructed c 1850, with the southern cottage constructed c 1860.

John Robert Brien transferred the property to his son Peter Brien between 1883 and 1918. In 1918 Peter Brien noted the property in his will as "Exeter Farm".

Peter Brien left the cottages to his wife, and the property to his son Jack Aubry. The entire property finally sold out of the Brien family in 1929, and was subsequently subdivided several times up to 1949.

In the 1950's the cottages were substantially renovated by Lena Box including provision of internal bathrooms and replacement of timber floors with concrete.

The property sold to the Delany family in 1963 and remained in their hands until 1997 when the Delany Family gifted the cottages to the NSW Government under the Heritage Act, and sold the remaining land to Australand for residential subdivision.

A permanent conservation order was placed on the property in 1985, and the cottages were added to the State Heritage Register in 1999.

The property was purchased by the Historic houses trust in 2007 and subsequently restored using benchmark conservation techniques from 2008 - 2010.

The house has also been referred to as Meurant's Cottage. This appears to be a confusion relating to the proximity of Meurant's grant also of the 1820s and the intermarriage between the Meurant and Brien family.

Historic Themes

Records Retrieved: 7		
National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
8. Culture	Domestic life	Unknown
8. Culture	Creative endeavour	Unknown
7. Governing	Government and Administration	Unknown
4. Settlement	Towns, suburbs and villages	Settlement in the 19th Century
4. Settlement	Land tenure	Unknown
4. Settlement	Accommodation	Unknown
3. Economy	Agriculture	Farming activities

Recommended Management

Management Summary

Manage in accordance with Conservation and Management Plan

Management

Records Retrieved: 0

Management Category	Management Name	Date Updated
No Results Found		

Report/Study

Heritage Studies

Records Retrieved: 6

Report/Study Name	Report/Study Code	Report/Study Type	Report/Study Year	Organisation	Author
In House Heritage Items Review			2009		Margaret Fallon
Blacktown Heritage Study			1995		(not stated)
Blacktown Heritage Study			1988		Jonathan Falk Planning Consultants in association with Rodney Jensen and Assoc.s
Heritage Study of the North Western sector of Sydney			1984		Howard Tanner and Associates
Heritage Study of the North Western Sector of Sydney			1984		Howard Tanner & Associates in association with Max Kelly and Elizabeth Vines
Heritage Study of the North Western Sector of Sydney			1984		Howard Tanner & Associates Pty Ltd

Reference & Internet Links

References

Records Retrieved: 3

Type	Author	Year	Title	Link
Written	Design 5 Architects	2012	Conservation and Management Plan - Exeter Farm	
Written	Charles O'Connell - Commissioner of Inquiry	1982	Objections made to the Proposal to make PCO No. 205	
Written			File 326465	

Data Source

The information for this entry comes from the following source:

Data Source	Record Owner	Heritage Item ID
Local Government	Blacktown City Council	1140051

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