

## Item Details

<b>Name</b>		
Glenwood		
<b>SHR/LEP/S170</b>		
LEP #		
<b>Address</b>		
174 Glenwood Park Drive GLENWOOD NSW 2768		
<b>Local Govt Area</b>		
Blacktown		
<b>Local Aboriginal Land Council</b>		
Unknown		
<b>Item Type</b>	<b>Group/Collection</b>	<b>Category</b>
Built	Health Services	Doctor’s Surgery

## All Addresses

<b>Addresses</b>								<b>Records Retrieved: 1</b>
Street No	Street Name	Suburb/Town/Postcode	Local Govt. Area	LALC	Parish	County	Electorate	Address Type
174	Glenwood Park Drive	GLENWOOD/NSW/2768	Blacktown	Unknown	Gidley	Cumberland	Unknown	Primary Address

## Significance

### Statement Of Significance

Glenwood Park is able, through the preservation of intact and multi-layered facets of its history, to contribute to an understanding, appreciation and interpretation of the main historical trends that influenced the development of the region.

It exemplifies and demonstrates the earliest pattern of land alienation as well as the primary economic basis for prosperity throughout the nineteenth century. It also shows the decline of orcharding and its gradual and less successful replacement by other activities. Its location, emphasised by the style of the building and its associated landscape elements, makes this an outstanding and important historical landmark in the district. Specifically it is a largely intact example of late Victorian domestic architecture; examples from this period and in this style are becoming increasingly rare in Blacktown.

The property has been continuously occupied since 1818 and has been closely associated with two pioneer families of the district, the Staffs and the Cocks. The potential for intact early and mid-nineteenth century archaeological deposits as well as the evidence contained with the surviving above ground structures and landscape elements provides an opportunity to investigate the management and lifestyles associated with the district properties over a long period of time. This could provide significant new evidence for both local and regional development.

The site is principally important because of its association with and demonstration of the occupancy of James Cock. Cock, in addition to his role in the development of the region, was a respected and recognized horticultural authority. "Sorrento" was used for the experimentation and development of many of his theories as well as being a trial site for the development of new strains of fruit intended for commercial exploitation. The evidence contained within the site, archaeological and architectural and landscape, is the most complete record of this important work and of the role and influence of the estate in local development. Its visual impact as a landmark makes this a key site for focusing local appreciation and understanding of this aspect of district growth.

(Thorp 1993)

**Criteria a)**

Historical Significance

The site has been continuously occupied since 1818. In particular two families, the Staffs and the Cocks, were closely associated with it for more than 50 years. These two families were prominent in the development of the district.

The house is of historical significance as the main homestead relating to the colonial through to the Victorian era of the area as a dairy and orchard farm.

The site with the house and Dairy shed within a park setting provides evidence of the significant role that fruit growing played in the development of the Seven Hills district. It also demonstrates the gradual decline of this land use and its replacement by other activities such as dairying.  
(Thorp 1993)

Criteria b)

Historical Association  
Significance

The house and surrounding curtilage has association with the Staff Family who owned and developed the property from 1846 through to 1884 as an orchard and dairy farm. They named the property "Norfolk Vale".

James Cock also was prominent as a respected and recognised horticultural authority. He used "Sorrento" as a site for experimentation and development of many of his theories. It was used to trial new strains of fruit for commercial exploitation. Glenwood Park is important for its role in local development and its association with a figure particularly important in that development and more generally in scientific circles.

Criteria c)

Aesthetic/Technical Significance

The house and associated dairy in the adjacent park are a generally intact, although modified example of late Victorian domestic architecture. Buildings of this kind are rare in the district.

The site of the house on a prominent ridge makes this an important and recognized landmark in the district. This prominence is emphasised by the style of the building and the associated landscape elements.  
(Thorp 1993)

Criteria e)

Research Potential

Through the preservation of intact and multi-layered facets of its history Glenwood park is able to demonstrate the specific history of its own development as well as contribute to an interpretation of the development typical of this area of the County of Cumberland.

The potential for intact early, mid and later nineteenth century archaeological deposits provides an important opportunity to investigate management and lifestyles associated with rural properties. This is rare in this district and could provide new and complimentary evidence for the existing regional database. This archaeological resource is also likely to be the only evidence available for extensive periods of the site's history and the most detailed evidence for some aspects of later history. (Thorp 1993)

Criteria f)

Rarity

Two storey houses from the Victorian era are rare in Blacktown.

Integrity/Intactness

Moderate

Owners

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

## Description

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**Designer** **Builder/Maker**

**Physical Description** **Updated**

Glenwood Park House is a substantial two storey Victorian filligery mansion typical of the gentleman’s residences built by wealthy Sydney businessmen as their country retreat in the late Victorian era.

The remains of the original carriage drive remain up to the house located within a public park and preserved curtilage to the frontage of the house.

The house is located on a hill to gain a commanding view of the surrounding countryside orientated toward Parramatta, and the regions around Westmead which at the time were of high scenic value.

The house is typified by a symmetrical arrangement of French doors around a central entrance celebrated by a brick portico, typical of the designs of this era, which punctuates the two level verandah.

It may be that the portico and filligery verandah (now replicated) were a later addition to an earlier colonial Georgian house, but there is no direct evidence in the exterior of the building to indicate a pre Victorian date.

Additional wings to both sides of the building have meant that the original arrangements of the service wings and side layouts is unknown. Out buildings have been removed, but one of the farm buildings associated with the house has been retained within the adjacent public park.

The building has been fully renovated internally with flooring and ceiling materials having been removed after a fire. Similarly external windows and doors have been altered. Vernadah restorations are of a modern replica form and may not fully reflect original detail.

Loss of the original materials makes it difficult to date any remains earlier than the Victorian era remains that have been restored.

**Physical Condition** **Updated 10/29/2015**

Good

**Modifications And Dates**

1960s verandahs curtailed, niches added, French doors changed to windows, family room added, rear hall partitioned, new ceilings and windows to first floor.

**Further Comments**

**Current Use**

Vacant

**Former Use**

House

## Listings

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Listings

			Records Retrieved: 3		
Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
State Environmental Planning Policy					
Local Environmental Plan	Amend No 143		4/12/2002 12:00:00 AM	72	2262
Local Environmental Plan	Blacktown Local Environmental Plan 2015	I25	7/7/2015 12:00:00 AM	430	

Procedures/Exemptions

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

History

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Historical Notes or Provenance

Updated

The estate of Glenwood Park was established on three grants that were between the late 1840s and 1853 purchased by John Foreman Staff. Staff and his wife Mary sold the properties to their son James Samuel Staff in 1853. He immediately fenced some of the boundaries, named the property "Norfolk Vale" and built a house. James Staff lived on this land, developing orchards and a dairy herd, until he sold it in 1882 to his son-in-law David Robert Howard.

The western portion of Howard’s land appears to have been sold in 1884 to Christopher Cookson. This land did not include the house and outbuildings then on the property although they were on the land immediately to the east. Uncertainty about the early boundaries of the land mean that the houses shown as being on Howard’s land in 1882 were in the vicinity of the present Glenwood Park. In 1892 Cookson’s land was sold to James Cock.

James Cock called his estate Sorrento and soon established a substantial orchard. By 1895, 70 acres were under trees and vines. Forty acres were planted with citrus and the remainder with summer fruits. The house was sited to take advantage of views of the surrounding country.

James Cock died in 1902 and the property passed to his wife Laura and Herbert Dare. They retained Sorrento until 1912 when it was sold to James Burns. Burns sold the estate in 1920 to Ernest Thompson

Thompson is thought to have renamed the property Glenwood Park and changed the landuse to cropping and grazing. In 1941 Thompson sold Glenwood Park to Alfred Sander. In 1960 it was purchased by Edward Hevrell and a dairy was established on the land. This began a period of renovation, alteration and extension.

Glenwood Park was acquired by the Department of Housing in the 1980s and suffered a period of decline.

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There is some uncertainty about the age of the house. It currently presents as a Victorian Mansion, however the continuous ownership and occupation of the property by the Staff family from 1853 when the first residence is mentioned and again in 1884 when the location of the house is noted in the same location as the current house, indicates that the house may date from the 1853 date.

The house has clearly undergone substantial alteration from 1884 through to the present day, and previous fires and modern alterations have therefore left little evidence to confirm the pattern of the house. However the house in its present form may still have the potential to reveal more information on this question.

Historic Themes

Records Retrieved: 2

National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
4. Settlement	Land tenure	Unknown
3. Economy	Agriculture	Farming activities

## Recommended Management

### Management Summary

### Management

Records Retrieved: 0

Management Category	Management Name	Date Updated
No Results Found		

## Report/Study

### Heritage Studies

Records Retrieved: 7

Report/Study Name	Report/Study Code	Report/Study Type	Report/Study Year	Organisation	Author
In House Heritage Items Review			2009		Margaret Fallon
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: 2

Type	Author	Year	Title	Link
Written	Wendy Thorp in association with Peter Phillips and Ingrid Mather	1993	Conservation Plan "Glenwood Park" Parklea, NSW	
Written	Mervyn Walkden Brown	1988	The Staffs in Australia	

## Data Source

The information for this entry comes from the following source:

<b>Data Source</b>	<b>Record Owner</b>	<b>Heritage Item ID</b>
Local Government	Blacktown City Council	1140022

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 **[council@blacktown.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@blacktown.nsw.gov.au)**

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