

Item Details

Name

Howard Villa

SHR/LEP/S170

LEP #

Address

15 Ropes Creek Road MOUNT DRUITT NSW 2770

Local Govt Area

Blacktown

Local Aboriginal Land Council

Unknown



Item Type

Built

Group/Collection

Residential buildings (private)

Category

House

All Addresses

Addresses

Records Retrieved: 1

Street No	Street Name	Suburb/Town/Postcode	Local Govt. Area	LALC	Parish	County	Electorate	Address Type
15	Ropes Creek Road	MOUNT DRUITT/NSW/2770	Blacktown	Unknown	Rooty Hill	Cumberland	Unknown	Primary Address

Significance

Statement Of Significance

Built in 1888, Howard Villa is an excellent example of Victorian Italianate architecture, as style which is rare in Blacktown.

Howard Villa is important for its association with Robert and Margaret Kennedy (nee Howard). The Kennedys owned much of the land in the village of Mount Druitt in the late 19th century and were respected members of the local community donating funds towards the construction of Rupertswood Church and land for the construction of Mount Druitt Presbyterian Church.

Criteria a)

Historical Significance

Howard Villa is of historic significance to Mount Druitt as a rare remaining example of the Victorian sub urban development that occurred in Mount Druitt after the opening of the Mount Druitt railway station in 1881 and the subsequent subdivision of the Mount Druitt area by George Kennedy King.

Criteria b)

Historical Association Significance

Howard Villa is important for its association with Robert and Margaret Kennedy (nee Howard). The Kennedys owned much of the land in the village of Mount Druitt in the late 19th century and were respected members of the local community donating funds towards the construction of Rupertswood Church and land for the construction of Mount Druitt Presbyterian Church.

Criteria c)

Aesthetic/Technical Significance

The house itself is an excellent example of Victorian Italianate architecture which is rare in Blacktown. The house contains significant interior and exterior detail reflecting the Victorian Italianate style, and retains its original layout from 1887.

Criteria e)

Research Potential

The property has the potential to contain remains relating to the use of the property domestically and as a small farm in the early 20th century and as part of the large farm establishment of Major Druitt and subsequent farmers. In particular the reserve behind Howard Villa may contain the remains of former stables and outbuildings relating to Howard Villa.

Criteria f)

Rarity

Examples of Victorian Italianate design are rare in the Blacktown district. Howard Villa is an excellent example of the style.

Criteria g)

Representative

Howard Villa is an excellent example of the Victorian Italianate style.

Integrity/Intactness

High internally and externally

Owners

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

Description

Designer Builder/Maker

Physical Description Updated

A large Victorian Italianate rendered masonry house, with parapet quoins and slate roof. The house is a typical four roomed cottage with a rear service wing, and a frontage protruding decorative gable and bay window. A bull nosed verandah originally wrapped around the cottage, and was mostly enclosed by the 1980's.

The majority of the verandah has been re-opened and restored, with original lace works and wrought iron posts restored or reinstated.

The L-shape formed by the frontage rooms and service wing was in filled after 1983 to square off the rear of the building.

The property also contains a carport addition (post 1983), a pool and a rear garage and sheds.

The front fence is a modern concrete block fence with steel palisade infill which replaces an earlier picket fence which was also not original.

The house contains significant interiors including decoratively patterned timber boarded ceilings, original windows and doors, stained glass panels to French doors, marble fireplaces etc. The original room layouts remain intact and evidence remains of the former kitchen chimney and service wing layout.

Physical Condition Updated 01/14/2013

Fair

Modifications And Dates

Rear room enclosing the "L" formed by the service wing, front fence, pool, garage, carport. All post 1983.

Kitchen and bathroom renovations through the years, including the latest to reopen the kitchen fire place post 1983.

Verandahs enclosed (c1950's) then reopened and restored post 1983.

Further Comments

Current Use

Residence

Former Use

Residence

Listings

Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Records Retrieved: 2		
			Gazette Date	Gazzette Number	Gazzette Page
Local Environmental Plan	Amend No 143		4/12/2002 12:00:00 AM	72	2262
Local Environmental Plan	Blacktown Local Environmental Plan 2015	l49	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

Howard Villa is located within the property first granted to Major Druitt in 1821. The use of the land during the ownership of Major Druitt and his family was for farming, and on the grant a neat and unusual looking mansion was built. The area occupied by Howard Villa was likely to have been within the associated farmlands. In the Major Druitt era some of the farm out buildings was located on the eastern side of the corner of Ropes Creek Road and Mount Druitt Road, including cottages and stables.

The land was subdivided in 1855 by the Druitt family and was purchased by Henry Coleman, who sold it shortly after to Alfred Cheeke (commissioner for the Court of Requests). In 1857 Cheeke also purchased the land on the eastern side of Mount Druitt Road which included the cottage and stables outpost of the Druitt Farm.

Sometime between 1857 and 1881 the property was transferred to John Mills who sold the land in 1881 to George Kennedy King, coinciding with the opening of Mount Druitt Station. The land was quickly subdivided into smaller parcels reflecting the urbanisation that would be driven by the Station. This included the subdivision of the site for Howard Villa which was purchased along with another lot on Norfolk Street by John Harris. The lot on which Howard Villa was located ran from Mount Druitt Road to Nelson Street fronting Ropes Creek Road. This would have included the cottages and outbuildings of the Mount Druitt farm outpost. John Harris leased the land to his niece Margaret from 1884.

Margaret Howard was born in Cough, County of Tyrone, Ireland and migrated to Australia in 1861 at the age of 24. She married Robert Kennedy three years later. Robert Kennedy was a farmer and had by the time of his marriage accumulated some valuable assets.

John Harris allowed Margaret and Robert use of some of his property at Mount Druitt for the rent of one shilling per year. They retired there to live in a wooden cottage (Possibly one of the Druitt Cottages?) before building a brick house with a slate roof in 1887. The house had six rooms, kitchen, wash house and bathroom. Cart sheds and a stable were located to the rear. The house was called Howard Villa.

Following the death of John Harris in 1891 without a will, the distribution of the estate was determined by the Supreme Court of NSW in 1892. Margaret and Robert Kennedy finally purchased most of the land they had leased from Harris in 1894 including the site of Howard Villa.

Margaret Kennedy donated one acre of land at the corner of Mount Druitt Road and the Avenue to the Presbyterian Church for ecclesiastical purposes. They also provided between 550 and 600 pounds for the construction of Rupertswood church.

Robert Kennedy died in 1896 of cirrhosis of the liver leaving Margaret the bulk of his estate. The cottage at Mount Druitt was left to the Presbyterian Church for use as a manse. With other purchases the couple had made, Mrs Kennedy owned 36 acres at Mount Druitt in 1915.

In 1924 Margaret Kennedy died at her Manly residence, Erin, of arteriosclerosis. Her property was divided among friends, but the portion on which Howard Villa Stood remained intact in 1940 when it was sold by George Joseph Thompson to William Thomas Wighton engineer.

Wighton used the property as a poultry farm. The property, still at its 1887 size was sold again in 1951 to Moorehead and Millar, who in 1953 subdivided the frontages to Mt Druitt Road, and Nelson Street.

The frontage to Ropes Creek Road has been further subdivided since that time, reducing the property to its current size.

The land to the rear has also been subdivided off but is part of a Council Reserve; this land contains a brick cistern well which is likely to have originally taken the stormwater from the house.

Historic Themes

Records Retrieved: 3

National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
8. Culture	Domestic life	Unknown
4. Settlement	Towns, suburbs and villages	Settlement in the 19th Century
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: 3

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

Reference & Internet Links

References

Records Retrieved: 2

Type	Author	Year	Title	Link
Written	G. Nicolaidis		A History of the Manse and Mount Druitt Estate	
Written	Collated Robyn Flloyd / A. Svirkis + Research Tom Richmond		Various Papers including Land information, Maps etc.	

Data Source

The information for this entry comes from the following source:

Data Source	Record Owner	Heritage Item ID
Local Government	Blacktown City Council	1140047

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