

Item Details

Name
Merriville Rise Park
SHR/LEP/S170
LEP #I30

Address
cnr Glenheath Ave / Cavanagh Way KELLYVILLE NSW 2155

Local Govt Area
Blacktown
Local Aboriginal Land Council
Unknown

Item Type	Group/Collection	Category
Archaeological-Terrestrial	Farming and Grazing	Agriculture

All Addresses

Addresses								
Records Retrieved: 1								
Street No	Street Name	Suburb/Town/Postcode	Local Govt. Area	LALC	Parish	County	Electorate	Address Type
cnr	Glenheath Ave / Cavanagh Way	KELLYVILLE/NSW/2155	Blacktown	Unknown			Unknown	Primary Address

Significance

Statement Of Significance

Merriville House and its surrounding landscape are of State Significance. The Estate it is comparable to Rouse Hill Estate as one of the original Colonial homesteads along the Windsor Road. Merriville Rise Park contains the state significant remains of the immediately proximate farm yards to the homestead which contained sheep runs, sheds and a well. The park that has been retained adjacent to Merriville House provides a Landscape Buffer to the house and retains the house view lines and farm paddock tree scape toward the Blue Mountains.

Criteria a)

Historical Significance

The items remaining within the Merriville Cultural Park site are important to understanding the previous significant rural heritage of Merriville House and its contribution to colonial agricultural development in Australia.

Criteria b)

Historical Association Significance

The remains within the Cultural Park along with Merriville House have a strong association with the Pearce Family who were significant early settlers and citizens of the Parramatta, Windsor, Blacktown areas when they were an important semi rural areas through the 19th and early 20th century. All the remnant items on the cultural park site would have been related to the development of the property by the Pearce family from 1866 - 1955.

Criteria c)

Aesthetic/Technical Significance

The remaining timber lined wells are rare remaining examples of water storage in early rural farms. Remaining elements including building footprint remains, fencing layouts, and styles, farm equipment etc indicate a typical inner farm yard layout spanning a period pre mechanisation.

The Park provides an important rural curtilage to Merriville House and enables views of the Mountains and the farm tree scape to be retained.

Criteria e)

Research Potential

The item has high potential to yield information about the development and layout of the Merriville inner farm yard over a period from 1866 - 1955. The Park contains State significant archaeological remains.

Criteria f)

Rarity

The remaining timber lined cisterns are a rare remaining example of early water storage techniques in rural Sydney.

Criteria g)

Representative

The item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of the colonial rural fringe of Sydney in its developmental phases.

Integrity/Intactness

Modified

Owners

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

Description

Designer **Builder/Maker**

Physical Description **Updated**

The Cultural Park area consists of :

- Two timber lined cisterns (remaining)
- Fence lines (partially remaining / interpreted)
- Sheep Yards (partially remaining/ interpreted)
- Various slab and corrugated iron sheds. (dilapidated, collapsed removed and interpreted with Poles for modern shelters located in the same place)
- Farm equipment and bric a brac (wool press most significant remaining element has been reworked into an interpretive artwork.)

The site is generally open grassed with one large remaining Eucalypt and some shrubs along the fence lines.

An interpretive park has been developed around the remains. The timber cisterns have been capped with concrete pad to prevent falls.

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

Good

Modifications And Dates

Became a community park in 2010.

Subdivided from Merriville House in 1990's

Further Comments

Current Use

Local Park

Former Use

Farming

Listings

Listings

		Records Retrieved: 1			
Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazzette Number	Gazzette Page
Local Environmental Plan	Blacktown Local Environmental Plan 2015	I30	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

The land on which Merriville House stands was first granted to Jonas Bradley (Arr 1791 on the Matilda as a sergeant) in 1818. Bradley supplied meat to the Government supplies from his farms, which included small holdings at Parramatta, prior to the Merriville property.

The property was one of a group of large and influential colonial properties including Rouse Hill and Hambeldon that developed along the road to Windsor and became important in the fledgling agricultural development of the colony. Bradley grew the first crop of tobacco on the Windsor Road property. Bradley also had cattle and sheep on the property.

The property consisted of 250 acres granted to Jonas Bradley in 1818, combined with two 70 acre and 60 acre lots to the north that were granted to Bradley's sons in the 1820's. (A total of 380 acres). The property fronted Windsor Road and was bounded by Hambeldon to the south-west, and Rouse Hill to the north.

The property was sold to Elias Laycock in 1852, who is likely to have built the house now known as Merriville in the late 1850's as well as an earlier house (on land now in the Castlebrook cemetery) called Hamilton. Laycock sold the property to Robert Pearce in 1866.

The Pearce family owned the property from 1866 - 1955 and would have been responsible for the development of most of the development on the property including the school room addition to the house, and the remaining inner farm yard buildings and wells, the remains of which occupy the area within the cultural park. During this time Pearce acquired Hambeldon to the south.

The land was re subdivided by Albert Pearce in 1922 when it returned to a size of 680 acres. Further subdivisions by the Pearce family continued until 1959. The portion sold to the Sharkie Family in 1955 which included Merriville House was further subdivided until the 1980's by the Sharkie Family.

The Sharkie family were responsible for upgrading Merriville House and the connected pavilions around it, but the remaining outbuildings relating to the inner farm yards on the land of the current Cultural Park would date from the Pearce family use of the property, and would cover a range of development over the 90 year period of ownership of the Pearces.

Buildings and development within the cultural park remaining from the Pearce ownership included :

- Two timber lined cisterns
- Fence lines
- Sheep Yards
- Various slab and corrugated iron sheds
- Farm equipment and bric a brac and wool press.

Between the 1980's and the end of the 20th century the land around the Merriville House was subdivided for residential development. The grounds around Merriville House were further subdivided in 1992 to 12.8 Hectares. This became subject to a Landcom development in 2001, which established a new 7794sq.m boundary around the Merriville House. The remaining land was subdivided for the Merriville Rise Subdivision for housing. As part of this subdivision a small area - approx 6000sqm (for the Cultural Park) was set aside to remain as a curtilage for Merriville House.

Historic Themes

Records Retrieved: 3

National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
4. Settlement	Land tenure	Unknown
3. Economy	Agriculture	Farming activities
2. Peopling	Convict	Pioneering and social pressures/settlement in the 19th Century

Recommended Management

Management Summary

Management

Records Retrieved: 0

Management Category	Management Name	Date Updated
No Results Found		

Report/Study

Heritage Studies

Records Retrieved: 1

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

Reference & Internet Links

References

Records Retrieved: 2

Type	Author	Year	Title	Link
Written	Stedinger Associates	2009	Archival Record	
Written	Cultural Resources Management	2001	Heritage Assessment – Landcom Project 12656 Heritage Assessment – Landcom Project 12656 Kellyville	

Data Source

The information for this entry comes from the following source:

Data Source	Record Owner	Heritage Item ID
Local Government	Blacktown City Council	1140281

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