

Item Details

Name
McCarthys Cemetery and Trees
SHR/LEP/S170

Address
Lot 82 McCarthys Lane CASTLEREAGH NSW 2749
Local Govt Area
Penrith
Local Aboriginal Land Council
Unknown



Item Type	Group/Collection	Category
Archaeological-Terrestrial	Cemeteries and Burial Sites	Cemetery/Graveyard/Burial Ground

All Addresses

Addresses

Records Retrieved: 1

Street No	Street Name	Suburb/Town/Postcode	Local Govt. Area	LALC	Parish	County	Electorate	Address Type
Lot 82	McCarthys Lane	CASTLEREAGH/NSW /2749	Penrith	Unknown			Unknown	Primary Address

Significance

Statement Of Significance

The cemetery is unique as the earliest known burial ground set aside for burials with Catholic rites in Australia, the only extant built feature with direct connection with the McCarthy family, in containing the earliest documented burial in the Penrith region. The cemetery demonstrates longevity of European occupation in the region and has associations with a number of early settlers of local significance including James McCarthy and his family. The cemetery is a key element in the group of early colonial sites within the Castlereagh area, and is the focus for community interest in history of the local area and the contribution of the early settlers to the history of the State. The individual monuments demonstrate the local artisan’s craft.

Criteria a)

Historical Significance

The cemetery demonstrates longevity of European occupation in the region and has associations with a number of early settlers of local significance.

Criteria b)

Historical Association Significance

The cemetery is associated with persons associated with the early occupation of the area such as James McCarthy and his family.

Criteria c)

Aesthetic/Technical Significance

The individual monuments demonstrate the local artisan’s craft.

Criteria d)

Social/Cultural Significance

The cemetery is the focus for community interest in history of the local area and the contribution of the early settlers to the history of the State.

Criteria f)

Rarity

The cemetery is the earliest known burial ground set aside for burials with Catholic rites in Australia.
The cemetery contains the earliest documented burial in the Penrith region.
The cemetery is a key element in the group of early colonial sites within the Castlereagh area.
The cemetery is the only extant built feature with direct connection with the McCarthy family.

Owners

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

Description

Designer Builder/Maker

Physical Description Updated

Surrounded on three sides by lakes established by the Penrith Lakes Scheme, the site boundaries feature perimeter planting of mature kurrajong and elm trees, and partly enclosed by early split timber post and rail. There are graves scattered across the cemetery area and grass tracks cross from south to north. Monuments date from the 1820s to 1977. The McCarthy family plot is a dominant site element. Dominant material is sandstone, but marble is also used.

Physical Condition Updated 02/25/2005

Modifications And Dates
Quarrying activities over recent years, lane realigned.

Further Comments
This one public reserve is now enclosed by perimeter fencing of the Penrith Lakes Scheme.

Current Use

Former Use

Listings

Listings

			Records Retrieved: 3		
Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazzette Number	Gazzette Page
State Environmental Planning Policy	McCarthys Cemetery		11/21/1986 12:00:00 AM		
Heritage study		2260049	11/1/2007 12:00:00 AM		
Heritage study	McCarthys Cemetery	CR-10	4/1/1987 12:00:00 AM		

Procedures/Exemptions

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

History

Historical Notes or Provenance

Updated

James McCarthy is believed to be the first farmer in the area, arriving in the colony in 1794 on the Boddington as a convict. McCarthy was initially sent to the government farm at Toongabbie, but in 1796 was again convicted (for forgery) and sentenced to death. The Rev. Richard Johnson successfully pleaded his case and was sent to Norfolk Island. By 1802, McCarthy was back in New South Wales farming and in August 1804 he received a land grant of 100 acres at Cranebrook, the grant being named Crane Brook Farm. It is also reported they apparently first settled on the banks of the Nepean at Birds’ Eye Corner around 1800 and when land was first officially alienated in the district by Governor King from 1803, received two grants totalling 130 acres. McCarthy proved very adept at farming the land, and his home became the centre for Catholic services with a room set aside in the farmhouse for visiting priests. A small parcel of land was also set aside for a cemetery for Catholics, reputedly the oldest Catholic Cemetery in Australia. The first burial was that of their three year old daughter Elizabeth in 1806. The burial ground was officially consecrated by Bishop Polding in 1835. The most important family group is the McCarthy’s plot spanning the generations between 1806 and 1940. Other families include the Nevilles, Heatons, Rigneys, Byrnes and Hobbys. In the twentieth century the property developed into a very productive dairy farm and remained in the family until 1965. The farmhouse was destroyed by fire in 1973. A description of 1904 reveals the cemetery was set within a picturesque rural landscape, securely fenced with a “proper gateway”. The cemetery is now part of the Penrith Lakes Scheme.

Historic Themes

Records Retrieved: 3		
National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
9. Phases of Life	Birth and Death	Unknown
9. Phases of Life	Birth and Death	Recognition of past events
4. Settlement	Land tenure	Rural settlement

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
Penrith Heritage Study Review			2005		Pail Davies Pty Ltd
Penrith Heritage Study Review			2005		Paul Davies Pty Ltd
Penrith Heritage Study Review			2005		Paul Davies Pty. Ltd.

Reference & Internet Links

References

Records Retrieved: 1

Type	Author	Year	Title	Link
Written	National Trust		Listing proposal - cemetery conservation area	

Data Source

The information for this entry comes from the following source:

Data Source	Record Owner	Heritage Item ID
Local Government	Penrith City Council	2260049

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@penrith.city

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