

# *Heritage Data Form*

ITEM DETAILS					
<b>Name of Item</b>	Pymble Avenue Heritage Conservation Area (HCA C11)				
<b>Other Name/s Former Name/s</b>					
<b>Item type (if known)</b>					
<b>Item group (if known)</b>					
<b>Item category (if known)</b>					
<b>Area, Group, or Collection Name</b>	Heritage conservation area				
<b>Street number</b>	See attached map for boundary of HCA.				
<b>Street name</b>					
<b>Suburb/town</b>	Pymble	<b>Postcode</b>			
<b>Local Government Area/s</b>	Ku-ring-gai Municipal Council				
<b>Property description</b>					
<b>Location - Lat/long</b>	<b>Latitude</b>			<b>Longitude</b>	
<b>Location - AMG (if no street address)</b>	<b>Zone</b>		<b>Easting</b>		<b>Northing</b>
<b>Owner</b>	Various				
<b>Current use</b>	Residential/civic				
<b>Former Use</b>	Residential/civic				
<b>Statement of significance</b>	<p>Pymble Avenue Heritage Conservation Area is historically significant as a portion of Richard's Wall's 1824 land grant which became the Pymble Station Estate subdivision of 47 one-acre residential lots on either side of Pymble Avenue, advertised for sale between 1893 and 1910, developed in the Federation to inter-war period, with substantial one and two storey houses, often architect-designed. The area is of aesthetic significance for its group of fine, predominantly Federation to Post-war period houses, and including a 1970s Russell Jack designed modernist house. The houses are in generous garden settings within a spectacular mature blue gum high forest streetscape.</p>				
<b>Level of Significance</b>	State <input type="checkbox"/>			Local X	

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DESCRIPTION						
Designer						
Builder/ maker						
Physical Description	<p>Pymble Avenue has wide street verges vegetated with mature blue gum high carriageway is relatively narrow and features concrete kerbing and guttering both sides. The street runs north-south and slopes steeply down from the north. The section within the Heritage Conservation Area is slightly curved at its northern end.</p> <p>The HCA consists of a group of one and two storey houses predominantly from the Inter-war period, including two heritage items. There are two good examples of 1960s-1970s development including an excellent house designed by Russell Jack at #77. Several good Neutral buildings within the area are Nos. 45 , 65, 70A and 75 Pymble Avenue: all other buildings within the conservation area are contributory.</p> <p>House walls are brick or rendered brick, roofs are steeply pitched, hipped and/or gabled and finished in slate or terracotta. Windows are usually timber framed and vertically proportioned. Houses are well set back from the street within generous garden settings and original front fences are generally low (under 1.2m in height) and of brick or rendered brick.</p> <p>The buildings from the key periods of significance for the area -Federation and Inter war periods are predominantly brick or rendered brick with slate or terracotta tile roofs and timber-framed windows. Traditional front fencing is generally low brick or rendered brick, and hedging is often a feature.</p>					
Physical condition and Archaeological potential						
Construction years	Start year		Finish year		Circa	<input type="checkbox"/>
Modifications and dates						
Further comments						

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<b>HISTORY</b>	
<b>Historical notes</b>	<p><b>Pre-contact and early contact Aboriginal history</b>            The name Ku-ring-gai comes from the Kuringgai or Guringai Aboriginal language group of the people who inhabited the area from Port Jackson north across Broken Bay and beyond Brisbane Water. The name has been adopted for both the Local Government area and the adjacent National Park to the north. There were two bands of the Guringai in what is now the Ku-ring-gai Local Government area: the Garrigal or Carigal people, who lived around West Head, and the Terramerragal, who lived in the Turramurra area.</p> <p>A ridge-top pathway made by the Guringai people was the route followed by what is now the Pacific Highway through Ku-ring-gai.</p> <p>Within six weeks of the arrival of the British First Fleet in Sydney in 1788, Governor Phillip went exploring around Broken Bay, and commented on the friendliness of the Aboriginal people. However, when he returned a year later, all except those too sick with smallpox fled from him. By 1790, over half of the Guringai nation had been wiped out by smallpox. By the 1840s, most of the Aboriginal people had disappeared from Pittwater and their traditional lands had been taken over by white settlers. Some Guringai survivors of the small pox epidemic formed what was known to the British colonists as the Broken Bay tribe led by Bungaree, who was notable for completing the first circumnavigation of Australia with Matthew Flinders in 1801-02. Another notable Guringai person in the early contact period was Bennelong's wife, Barangaroo, who was noted in colonist's records for her strong personality.</p> <p>Today, there are over 800 culturally significant Aboriginal sites found in Ku-ring-gai National Park, including rock engravings, rock shelter drawings, paintings and stencils, axe grinding grooves and shell middens, and Aboriginal people live throughout Sydney metropolitan area.</p> <p>There are around 100 recorded Aboriginal sites in the Ku-ring-gai LGA and large areas are considered to have high potential for unrecorded sites. These sites are still important to Aboriginal people living in the region and there are many Aboriginal people and local residents actively working to protect these sites and promote the rich Aboriginal heritage of the area.</p> <p><b>European settlement in the Ku-ring-gai area</b>            The earliest European settlement in Ku-ring-gai was along the major roads, and was generally rural in nature. During the 19th century, timber getting and orchards were major activities, and a few villas were built which are still extant (for example in the 1880s Grandview on Pymble Hill, 1178 Pacific Highway, the former orange orchard of which now forms part of the grounds of PLC school). Robert Pymble (commemorated in the suburb name), was an early timber-getter and orchardist who settled in Pymble in the 1820s and Robert McIntosh (commemorated in McIntosh Street Gordon) as another notable early orchardist of Ku-ring-gai.</p> <p>The North Shore Railway line was established in 1890, and subdivision of orchards and large estates for residential development near the railway stations proceeded thereafter. The location of stations along the railway defined the focus of the neighbourhood areas (with the exception of St. Ives, which developed on Mona Vale Road at a later stage). The railway line was duplicated in 1909, electrified in 1928. The subsequent opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge in 1932 led to a major shift of Sydney's elite (the business owners and managers, the doctors, solicitors, architects, artists, politicians) to the north shore, and particularly Ku-ring-gai, from other areas of Sydney (particularly Ashfield, Burwood and Strathfield).</p> <p><b>Development of the Pymble Avenue Area</b>            Pymble Avenue Heritage Conservation Area lies within the 1821 60-acre grant to Richard Wall, and was subdivided and advertised for sale between 1893 and 1910 as the Pymble Station Estate. The</p>

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	<p>land was divided into 47 lots of one acre residential blocks on either side of Pymble Avenue and 12 smaller lots fronting Lane Cove Road (Pacific Highway), between Livingstone Avenue and Avon Road, with a 20 foot lane at the rear of some of the commercial lots. The Pymble Station Estate did not sell well, with only ten lots of 47 purchased from the Estate by 1907. Grey House at 59 Pymble Avenue was constructed c. 1916, and Grenier aka Brambledene, 61 Pymble Avenue, constructed c. 1918, however the area was substantially developed in the inter-war 1920s-1940s period, and further subdivision of the lots to create battleaxes also began in this period.</p> <p>By 1943 many of the lots within the heritage conservation area were developed with housing, including the battleaxe allotments at Nos. 70 and 72 Pymble Ave, however, subdivison has continued to recent times.</p>
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<b>THEMES</b>	
<i>National historical theme</i>	Building settlements, towns and cities
<i>State historical theme</i>	State Historic Theme 1: Towns, suburbs and villages State Historic Theme 2: People

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<b>APPLICATION OF CRITERIA</b>	
<b>Historical significance</b> SHR criteria (a)	<p>Pymble Avenue Heritage Conservation Area is of historical significance as a largely intact portion of the Pymble Station Estate subdivision, part of Richard Wall's 1924 land grant, developed for housing in the Federation to inter-war period.</p> <p>Two houses in the area were the subject of newspaper articles in 1939: Orana, 60 Pymble Avenue, designed 1937 by architects Peddle Thorp &amp; Walker for Claude Robinson Cornwell, company manager and Elderslie, 41 Pymble Avenue, designed by architects Peddle Thorp &amp; Walker.</p>
<b>Historical association significance</b> SHR criteria (b)	<p>Architects associated with the area are: Peddle Thorp &amp; Walker, designers of Elderslie, No. 41 Pymble Avenue in 1939 and Orana, 60 Pymble Avenue, designed in 1937; Hedley Vicars Graham designer of Grey House 59 Pymble Avenue. 1916; J. Aubrey Kerr designer of 37 Pymble Avenue in 1940; Russell Jack designed 77 Pymble Ave 1972. Prominent early residents of the area were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Millicent Bryant, the first Australian woman to gain a pilot's license on 28 March 1927, who lived at Grenier aka Brambledene, 61 Pymble Avenue, constructed c. 1918 for Millicent and Edward Bryant, and reputed to have been designed by architects Waterhouse &amp; Lake;</li> <li>• Geoffrey Phillip Stuckey, a fellow of St. Paul's College, Sydney University, admitted to the NSW Bar in 1924, and joint editor for the 2nd edition of Parker's Equity Practice in NSW 1949, who resided at Boongala, 56 Pymble Avenue, built for him in 1939.</li> </ul>
<b>Aesthetic significance</b> SHR criteria (c)	<p>Of aesthetic significance for its substantial one and two storey predominantly Federation to Inter-war period houses, and a few Post-war to the 1970s houses, many architect-designed, within generous garden settings on large lots, within a mature blue gum high forest streetscape setting.</p> <p>The area contains a representative collection of fine houses including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grey House 59 Pymble Avenue constructed c. 1916 to the design of architect Hedley Vicars Graham for Jane and Oscar Curtis, exporter, built on Lot 41 of the Pymble Station Estate (heritage listed). In 1918 Jane Curtis sold the property to the Presbyterian Church, which used it as a residence for the Principal of its Ladies College (PLC). Dr. Marden, Miss Everett and Miss Nancy Jobson, all lived there. This property is historically associated with PLC school.</li> <li>• Elderslie 41 Pymble Avenue, designed by architects Peddle Thorp &amp; Walker in 1939 with innovative design features (heritage listed)</li> <li>• 37 Pymble Avenue, constructed 1940 to the design of architect J. Aubrey Kerr for Jean and Colin Milne</li> <li>• Grenier aka Brambledene, 61 Pymble Avenue, constructed c. 1918 for Millicent and Edward Bryant, reputed to have been designed by architects Waterhouse &amp; Lake, built on Lot 40 of the Pymble Station Estate. Millicent Bryant became the first Australian woman to gain a pilot's license on 28 March 1927.</li> <li>• Boongala, 56 Pymble Avenue, built 1939 for Geoffrey Phillip Stuckey, a fellow of St. Paul's College, Sydney University, admitted to the NSW Bar in 1924, and joint editor for the 2nd edition of Parker's Equity Practice in NSW 1949.</li> <li>• Orana, 60 Pymble Avenue, designed 1937 by architects Peddle Thorp &amp; Walker for Claude Robinson Cornwell, company manager.</li> <li>• 77 Pymble Avenue, designed by architect Russell Jack.</li> </ul>
<b>Social significance</b> SHR criteria (d)	

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<b>Technical/Research significance</b> SHR criteria (e)	
<b>Rarity</b> SHR criteria (f)	The concentration of architect-designed houses within the area, and the blue gum high forest streetscape are considered rare.
<b>Representativeness</b> SHR criteria (g)	A fine representative area of Federation, Inter-war and Post-war period housing styles within generous garden settings.
<b>Integrity</b>	High level of integrity of the building stock.

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HERITAGE LISTINGS	
Heritage listing/s	Identified as part of a National Trust Urban Conservation Area in 1986.

INFORMATION SOURCES				
Include conservation and/or management plans and other heritage studies.				
Type	Author/Client	Title	Year	Repository
Report	Godden Mackay Logan	Ku-ring-gai Urban Conservation Areas Study Stages 2 and 2(a)	2002	Ku-ring-gai Municipal Council
Report	Moore R., Pike, P., Proudfoot, H. and Tropman, L.	Municipality of Ku-ring-gai Heritage Study	1987	Ku-ring-gai Municipal Council
Report	Godden Mackay Logan	Ku-ring-gai Urban Conservation Areas Study Stage 3	2005	Ku-ring-gai Municipal Council
Report	Godden Mackay Logan	Ku-ring-gai Urban Conservation Areas Study Stage 4	2005	Ku-ring-gai Municipal Council
Report	Paul Davies Pty Ltd	Ku-ring-gai Town Centres – Heritage Conservation Area Review	2008	Ku-ring-gai Municipal Council
Report	Godden Mackay Logan Keys Young	Ku-ring-gai Heritage and Neighbourhood Character Study Research	2000	Ku-ring-gai Municipal Council
Report	M.A. Schell & Associates	Street by Street Assessment of Visual Character of Ku-Ring-Gai September 1999	1999	Ku-ring-gai Municipal Council
Written		The Historian, Vol 38, No 1, Oct	2009	Ku-ring-gai Library
Written	Article on Elderslie, 41 Pymble Avenue	SMH, 15 August 1939, p 6 Building and Construction column	1939	
Written	Article on Orana, 60 Pymble Avenue, designed 1937 by architects Peddle Thorp & Walker for Claude Robinson Cornwell.	SMH, Women's Supplement on 16 January 1939.	1939	
Map		Subdivision maps	1890s – 1930s	Ku-ring-gai Library, Mitchell Library, Dept of Land and Property Information

RECOMMENDATIONS	
Recommendations	

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SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION			
Name of study or report	Ku-ring-gai North Conservation Areas Review	Year of study or report	2010
Item number in study or report			
Author of study or report	Paul Davies Pty Ltd		
Inspected by	Chery Kemp		
NSW Heritage Manual guidelines used?		Yes X	No <input type="checkbox"/>
This form completed by	Ku-ring-gai Council	Date	2013, revised 2018

## IMAGES - 1 per page

Please supply images of each elevation, the interior and the setting.

Image caption					
Image year		Image by		Image copyright holder	

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**IMAGE**

photograph, sketch, map