

Headfort House
Heritage Assessment Review
95 Stanhope Road, Killara



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September 2022

Executive summary

This heritage assessment review of Headfort House and its setting at 95 Stanhope Road, Killara, confirms, updates and completes the 2017 GML Heritage assessment with a resolved curtilage, heritage justification and attached inventory, on behalf of Council. The 2017 GML Heritage assessment, prepared for Stockland, concludes 'Headfort House in its garden setting' meets the NSW Heritage Council threshold for local listing, without defining a curtilage. The purpose of this report is to support a Council-led planning proposal to heritage list Headfort House with an appropriate curtilage and accompanying information, in line with the Council resolution of 26 July 2022, NSW Heritage Council standards and Ministerial directions for planning.

Heritage significance

This assessment review concludes that "Headfort House" building, interiors and grounds' satisfies six criteria of local heritage significance for listing as a heritage item on Ku-ring-gai Local Environmental Plan. The three criteria recommended by GML Heritage are supported for historic, association and social significance, with the addition of aesthetic, rarity and representative significance. Only one of seven potential criteria of local heritage significance needs to be satisfied to meet the Heritage Council listing threshold. The attached inventory includes some additional information and Council assessment of significance as a result of this review. The summary statement of significance follows.

Dating from 1917-1921, the Headfort House building and its grounds is locally significant as a largely intact inter-war school building in its setting, demonstrating the early twentieth development of Killara, a good example of the inter-war Old English style adapted to an institutional building, and construction during and following World War I. It makes a positive contribution to Stanhope Road and the remainder of the original site. It has significant associations with important people including the Reverend Robert Thompson Wade, founder and headmaster of Headfort School from 1917-1928 and the formative years of former Prime Minister John Gorton, a student of Headfort School.

The building and site is rare as the state's first training base for the Australian Army for the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) during World War II, supported by a collection of evocative historic photos. As such, this site has an important association with significant changes in the role of women in Australian society and military during the mid-twentieth century. It is also historically important for its long-term health care use for over 75 years since the post-war period when it was converted to a tuberculosis hospital, Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary (SMSM) Lourdes Hospital and then a retirement village. It has social value for contributing to the community sense of place as the only surviving buildings from these important earlier uses for schools, World War II training, hospitals and retirement, and the associated community groups and their descendants.

Listing curtilage

The recommended curtilage is 12 metres minimum from Headfort House within the site, and to the full street frontage to the bend in the lot boundary. This will capture and maintain the core heritage significance of Headfort House, including fabric, setting and views. The setting of Headfort House is greater than the building footprint and front garden because its significance is as part of a much larger non-residential complex, historically and currently, viewed in the round, which has remained undivided since the early twentieth century. In the absence of appropriate historic internal boundaries, this curtilage follows Ku-ring-gai's established policy for 12-metre setbacks for new development of heritage items.

Development provisions are recommended to conserve the significance of the proposed heritage item within this curtilage, in line with other heritage items. Development provisions are also recommended to maintain additional features of some significance – grotto, early trees and potential archeology – located beyond this curtilage. An alternative for a larger curtilage is also recommended in order to capture all significant features.



1.0 Background

1.1 Purpose and methodology

The purpose of this report is to review the existing heritage significance assessment report of Headfort House by GML Heritage that was prepared for Stockland dated May 2017.

This assessment review is to confirm or update the 2017 GML heritage assessment for Ku-ring-gai Council's 2022 proposal listing of the property on Ku-ring-gai Local Environmental Plan 2015. The review is to determine the satisfied criteria of local heritage significance, an appropriate listing curtilage and prepare a heritage inventory for the State Heritage Inventory to support the listing as proposed by Council.

This assessment is based on a review of the information in the GML Heritage report and Council staff inspection of the building exteriors, interiors and site in August 2022. Further research has been undertaken as needed.

This assessment review has been undertaken in accordance with the NSW Heritage Council criteria of local heritage significance and supporting Heritage Office guideline, Assessing Heritage Significance. The curtilage has been determined in line with the Heritage Office guideline, Heritage Curtilages.

1.2 Authorship and limitations

Claudine Loffi, Specialist Heritage Planner, Ku-ring-gai Council, prepared this assessment review for Ku-ring-gai Council. The author has more than 20 years heritage practice experience in local and state government in NSW, primarily in local and state heritage listing, interim heritage orders, development and policy.

The Heritage Significance Assessment report of May 2017 prepared by GML Heritage for Stockland (referred to as the 'GML Heritage report') is publicly available as part of the exhibited documents for the current Department of Planning and Environment's planning proposal for the Lourdes Retirement Village site, PP-2022-658. A copy is attached.

While referring to documents prepared and exhibited by the Department of Planning and Environment for the proponent's rezoning planning proposal for the Lourdes Retirement Village, this assessment does not consider or assess the proposed built form or uses in the rezoning planning proposal.

This report is limited to assessing the merit and extent of heritage listing based on the heritage significance of the site in accordance with NSW Heritage Council standards. It takes into account the expected demolition from the rezoning planning proposal in so far as it affects the assessed significance.

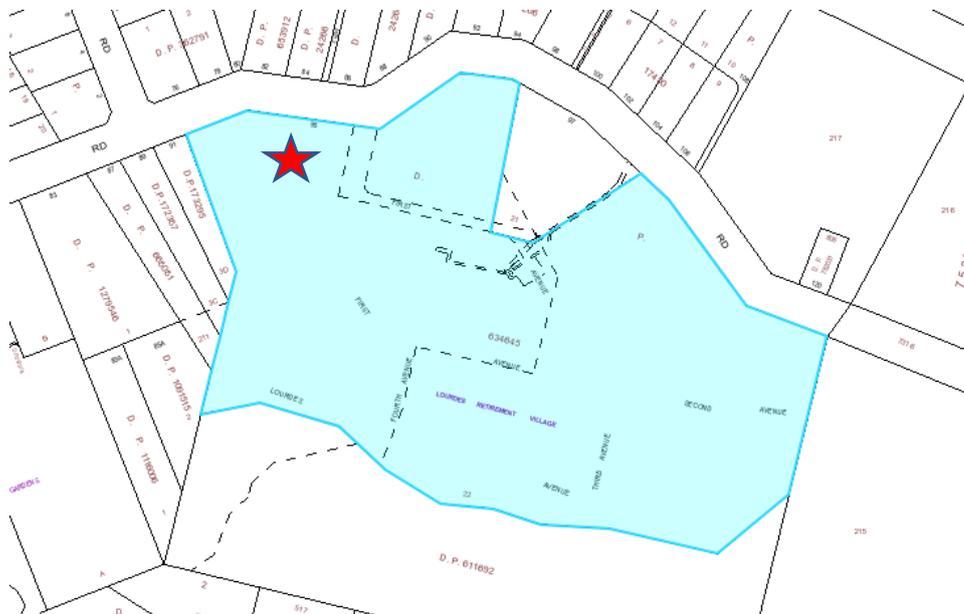
This assessment does not assess Indigenous heritage or contain a full Archaeological Assessment.

1.3 Subject site and heritage status

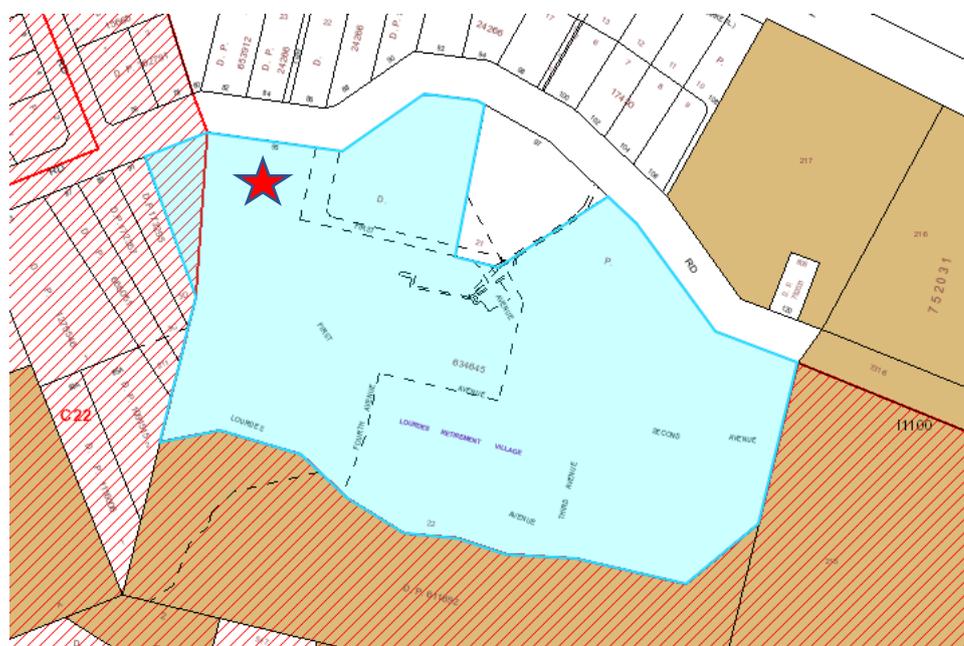
The subject site is located at 95 Stanhope Road, Killara. The land is described as Lot 22 of DP 634645. This site is currently known as the Lourdes Retirement Village. Headfort House is located near the north-west corner of the large site. See following maps and aerial photographs of the site and existing heritage listings.

The land is not currently listed as a heritage item. Part of the subject north-west corner of the site is listed within the Crown Blocks Conservation Area (C22).

The site is surrounded to the west, south and east by the Crown Blocks Conservation Area. Heritage items are located to the south and east of the large site, however not in close proximity to the subject part of the site.



Above: Subject site shaded blue (star marks approx. Headfort House location).



Above: Existing surrounding heritage listings hatched red for the conservation areas, shaded brown for heritage items (star marks approx. Headfort House location).



Above: Aerial of Headfort House (starred) and surrounding portion of the site.



Above: Part of the site listed in a heritage conservation area, hatched red.

1.4 Council resolution

This assessment review fulfils the Ku-ring-gai Council of 26 July 2022, resolution B, to support the planning proposal to list Headfort House and its setting, as follows:

- A. That Council prepares a Planning Proposal to amend KLEP 2015 to include Headfort House, Stanhope Road, Killara and its setting as a proposed heritage item in Schedule 5 and on the Heritage Map.
- B. That Council prepares a heritage assessment and/or inventory, taking into account the existing GML heritage report and further investigation, to confirm or determine the significance assessment and listing curtilage for the building and its setting in line with NSW Heritage Council guidelines.
- C. That the Planning Proposal be forwarded to the Department of Planning and Environment for Gateway Determination and exhibited in accordance with any Gateway issued.
- D. That, if in the meantime, there is any threat of harm to the potential heritage significance of the house and setting of the property known as Headfort House, at Stanhope Road, Killara, Council make an Interim Heritage Order, using its delegation under the Heritage Act 1977, to protect the site until a Planning Proposal can be progressed to Gateway Determination.

1.5 Planning background

A separate proponent-led planning proposal is currently proposing to rezone the site without heritage listing this place of assessed heritage significance within the site.

Progressing the listing at the same time as the planning proposal for rezoning will fulfil the Ministerial direction for heritage conservation under section 9.1(2) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. This direction requires a planning proposal to facilitate conservation of places of identified significance as follows:

“Application

This direction applies to all relevant planning authorities when preparing a planning proposal.

Direction 3.2

(1) A planning proposal must contain provisions that facilitate the conservation of:

(a) items, places, buildings, works, relics, moveable objects or precincts of environmental heritage significance to an area, in relation to the historical, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural or aesthetic value of the item, area, object or place, identified in a study of the environmental heritage of the area...”

This assessment review confirms, updates and completes the 2017 GML Heritage assessment of this site with a resolved curtilage, heritage justification and attached inventory, on behalf of Council. This provides all the necessary information to support a listing planning proposal for the site and thereby satisfy the Ministerial direction.

2.0 Heritage assessment review

2.1 Assessment methodology

The NSW Heritage Council establishes seven criteria of local or state significance. As set out in the supporting guideline, Assessing Heritage Significance, at least one of these seven criteria needs to be satisfied to meet the criteria for local heritage listing. These include seven values of local heritage significance:

- (a) Historic significance
- (b) Historic associations significance
- (c) Aesthetic or technical significance
- (d) Social or community significance
- (e) Research significance
- (f) Rarity
- (g) Representative significance

The significance of the place is based on an investigation of the documentary and physical evidence – with the findings on each entered into the history and description respectively. Based on this investigation, the significance of the place is then assessed against each of the above criteria using the inclusion and exclusion guidelines for each contained in the above guideline. These sections of the GML report are reviewed below and the inventory updated accordingly.

2.2 Historical review – documentary evidence

The researched history as prepared in the 2017 GML Heritage report is accepted, with the following additional information:

- the Australian War Memorial records describe this site as the first training school in NSW for the Australian Women's Army Service.
- further historic images and analysis of these records included below.
- further assessment of landscaping and potential archaeology not covered in the GML Heritage report included below.
- Garage is dated as 1926 according to building application records (BA26/1449) rather than 1950s with salvaged earlier fenestration indicated in GML report.

It is noted that the GML report quotes early records that refer to the building as designed by an architect experienced in schools, but does not identify the name of this architect.

In summary, significant phases of development and use of this site include:

- **1917-1930s:** developed as a school; Headfort, then Milton Grammar School.
- **1942-1944:** World War II, the first training school for Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS).
- **1944-1980:** Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary (SMSM) hospital for tuberculosis to 1967, then Mater Misericordia Hospital acute care patients.
- **1980s in part:** Lourdes Retirement Village chapel alterations to eastern wing of Headfort House, of social/community value for its use.

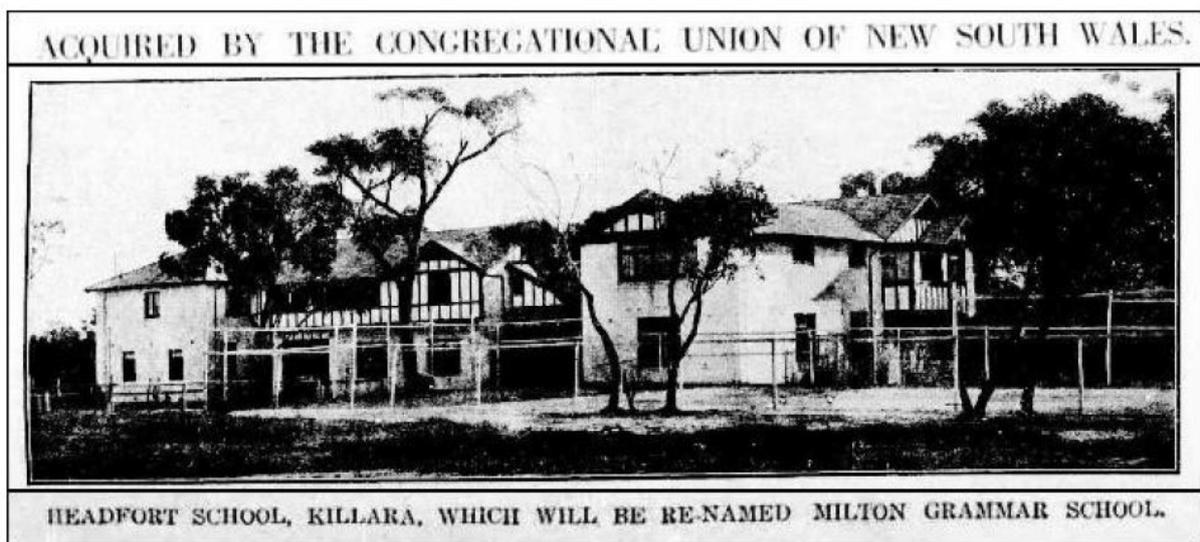
In the 1980s, the site was redeveloped for a retirement village. This phase included demolition and construction of buildings surrounding Headfort House. Other than the chapel wing to Headfort House, no other buildings from this phase have been identified as significant in the GLM Heritage assessment.

Key available historical records are extracted below from the 2017 GML Heritage report and other sources in date order in two groups; firstly for photographs, and then in plan as surveys and aerials. These document the subject building and surrounding landscape, as well as former associated school buildings that have since been demolished. Archeology may remain from demolished early buildings. Some photos show significant uses.

2.2.1 Chronological photographs



Figure: **1921** photograph of Headfort House (extant building is on right) from entrance road or oval aspect, noting tennis court in foreground (Source: The Headfort Chronicle: The Magazine of Headfort School, Killara, p 3, extracted from 2017 GML Heritage report).



Above: **1927** photograph of street (north) and east elevation (extant building on right), viewed from entrance road and eastern oval, with tennis courts in foreground, as published in Sydney Morning Herald for an article on the school purchase (Source: Sydney Morning Herald, 27 August 1927, p 20)



Above: **c1927** school building east elevation, as published in Cook, KM 1991, *The Railway Came to Ku-ring-gai* (Source: Ku-ring-gai Historical Society photographic collection, extracted from 2017 GML Heritage report).



Above: **c1927** street and west elevation, front garden and fence, as published in Cook, KM 1991, *The Railway Came to Ku-ring-gai* (Source: Ku-ring-gai Historical Society photographic collection, extracted from 2017 GML Heritage report).



Above: **c1930** Headfort House street, front garden, path and gate, as published in Cook, KM 1991, *The Railway Came to Ku-ring-gai* (Source: Ku-ring-gai Historical Society photographic collection, extracted from 2017 GML Heritage report).



Above: **c1928-1943** building to the west of Headfort House (since demolished) and palm tree, as published in Cook, KM 1991, *The Railway Came to Ku-ring-gai* (Source: Ku-ring-gai Historical Society photographic collection, extracted from 2017 GML Heritage report).



Above: **c1943** view of the former school buildings in use by the Australian Women's Army Service (extant building on right). The GML Heritage report indicates the addition was constructed in 1928 (Source: Australian War Memorial, viewed 5 September 2022, <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C45772>).



Above: **1940s** Australian Women's Army Service training at this site, likely on the oval area (Source: State Library, viewed 5 September 2022, https://digital.sl.nsw.gov.au/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?embedded=true&toolbar=false&dps_pid=IE9551320&_ga=2.133791566.1913077180.1661732575-1557785594.1635982196)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

064733

Above: **c1943** Australian Women's Army Service erecting tents at this site likely on the oval area, as recorded in 1943 aerial below (Source: Australian War Memorial, viewed 5 September 2022, <http://www.awm.gov.au/collection/064733>)



Above: **c1950s** Headfort House street before windows were altered for the 1980s chapel, and front garden, as published in Cook, KM 1991, *The Railway Came to Ku-ring-gai* (Source: Ku-ring-gai Historical Society photographic collection, extracted from 2017 GML Heritage report)

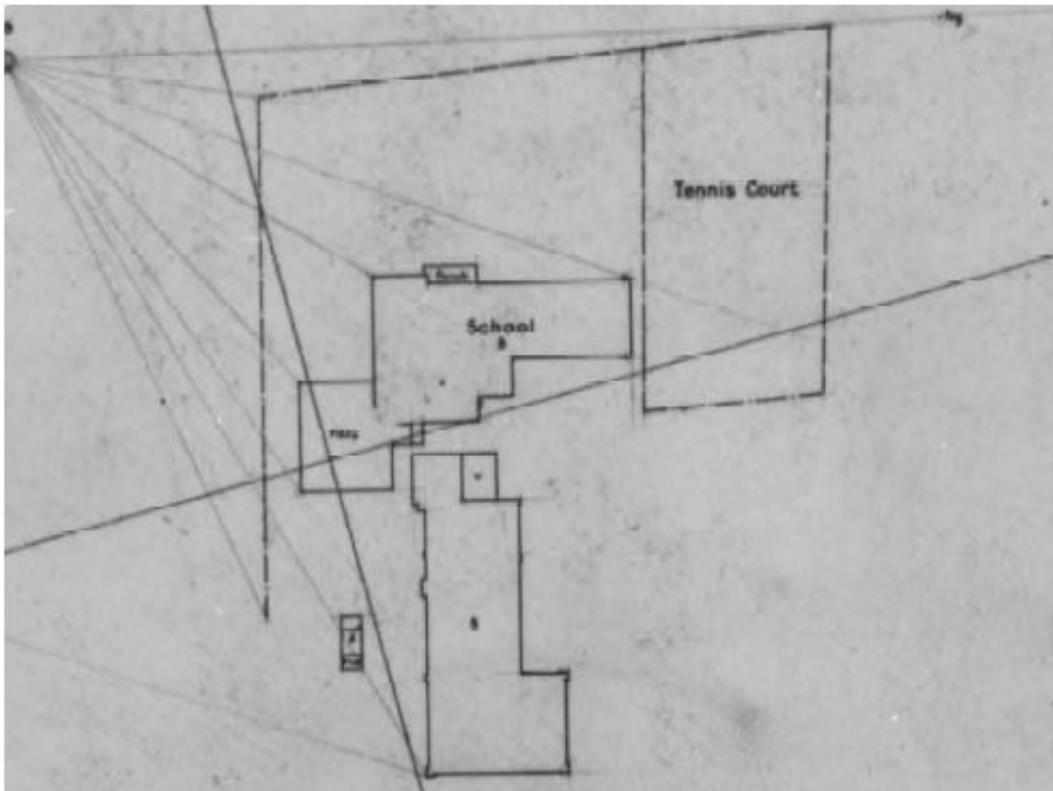


Above: **c1960s** entrance road and site, as published in **c1960s** entrance road and site, as published in Cook, KM 1991, *The Railway Came to Ku-ring-gai*, extracted from 2017 GML Heritage report)



Above: **2017** view of the garden before the fence replacement (GML Heritage report)

2.2.2 Chronological surveys and aerials



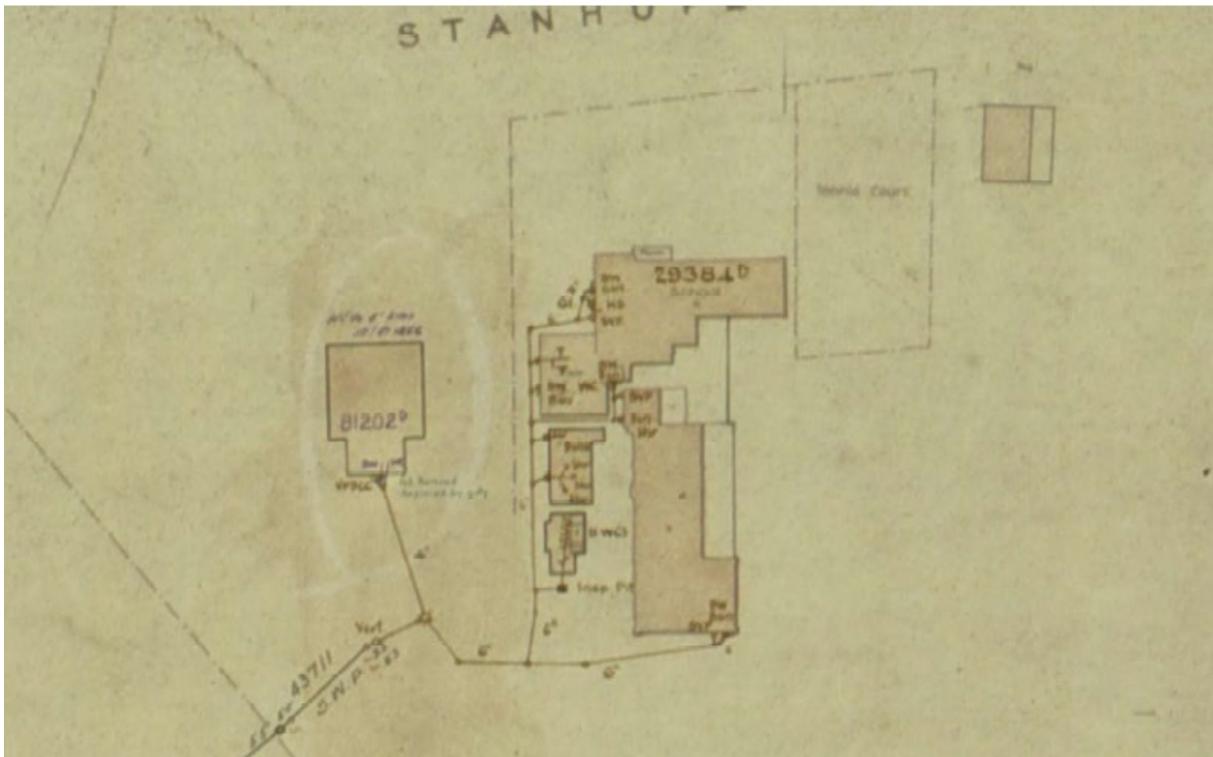
Above: **1927** Sydney Water survey of the Milton Grammar School that did not survey surrounding sport grounds and facilities (Source: Sydney Water Archives, extracted from 2017 GML Heritage report)



Above: **1943** aerial showing the since demolished building to the west and war training tents on the oval (source: NSW Government, Six maps historical imagery).



Above: **1943** aerial detail (source: NSW Government, Six maps historical imagery).



Above: **1927-c1953** Blackwattle Plan showing new buildings to the west and a building to the east of the tennis court on the edge of the oval as in the 1943 aerial (Source: Sydney Water Archives, extracted from 2017 GML Heritage report)



Above: **1955** aerial (source: NSW Government, Six maps historical imagery).



Above: **1965** aerial (source: NSW Government, Six maps historical imagery).



Above: **1986** aerial showing the demolition and groundwork for the new building and carpark (source: NSW Government, Six maps historical imagery).



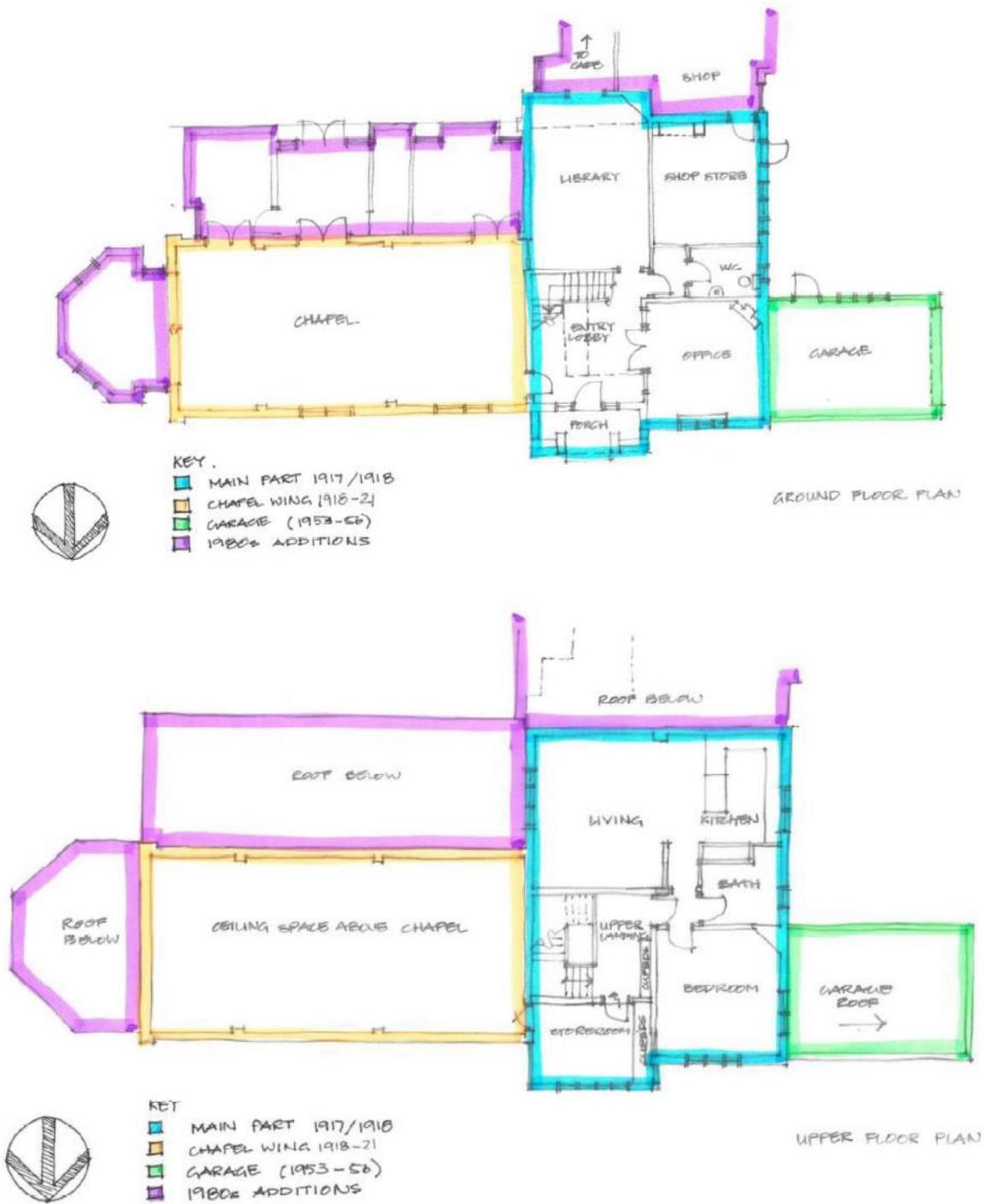
Above: **1991** aerial showing the newly constructed building, additions and carpark (source: NSW Government, Six maps historical imagery).



Above: **2011** aerial with clearest illustration of landscaping (source: Ku-ring-gai Council).



Above: **2022** aerial (source: Ku-ring-gai Council).



Above: **1917-1980s** building phases of development. Note the garage date is from 1926 based on documentary evidence, not 1950s indicated in this sketch (Source: GML Heritage, 2017)

2.3 Description review – physical evidence

Photographs are included below from Council's August 2022 inspection.

The description in the 2017 GML Heritage report is generally accepted, with the following updates in the inventory:

- Dating from 1917-21, Headfort House is considered to represent the inter-war period and style (c1915-c1940) rather than Federation period and style (c1890-c1915) identified by GML Heritage. It is acknowledged that the building features may demonstrate some cross-over between the periods because it was built shortly after the Federation period and began construction during World War I.
- Stylistically, this building is most representative of the inter-war Old English style, adapted to an institutional building instead of the more common residential examples of this style. Its relatively restrained ornamentation reflects this use, as well as the wartime period of its construction.
- Noting the first floor ceiling hatch that reveals the original ceiling above the chapel.
- Describing the location of the rooms, rather than just description by their current non-historical use.
- Inclusion of c.2017 front fence alterations since the GML assessment (DA0564/16).
- Further information on site trees and features from the curtilage assessment below.
- Following conclusions on 2022 integrity and intactness analysis.

Integrity and intactness:

- Building condition appears good-to-fair. Some maintenance is required for the external timberwork and to repair a minor roof leak in the north-west corner.
- Headfort House is generally intact, externally and internally, including the 1920s western garage and 1980s chapel additions. The first floor front verandah has been enclosed, ground verandah tiles replaced and internal timberwork painted.
- The original building form and features can still be recognised, internally and externally within its larger complex setting.
- While the 1980s chapel additions altered the original windows, the original double-height boarded ceiling is maintained above the chapel ceiling. The chapel alterations likely have some social heritage value for its use.
- Grounds retain the landscaped setting and mature trees, with a new front fence and alterations to the garden path and bed layout from the original.
- Entrance drive and turning circle to the east and south-east retain the original alignment with contemporary fabric, a truncated shape to the once circular turning circle and early avenue of Phoenix Palms on the east alignment.
- Grotto to the south east of Headfort House appears intact.



Street elevation and entrance



East elevation



South and east elevations



West elevation



West garage fenestration, c.1920s



Front garden and fence from entrance drive, north-east



Trees and planting near Stanhope Road to the west



Entrance drive



Turning circle and 1980s addition to south-east



Plaque for 1980s wing opening



Grotto to the south-east

Interiors



Headfort House ground floor





Headfort House ground floor



Headfort House first floor



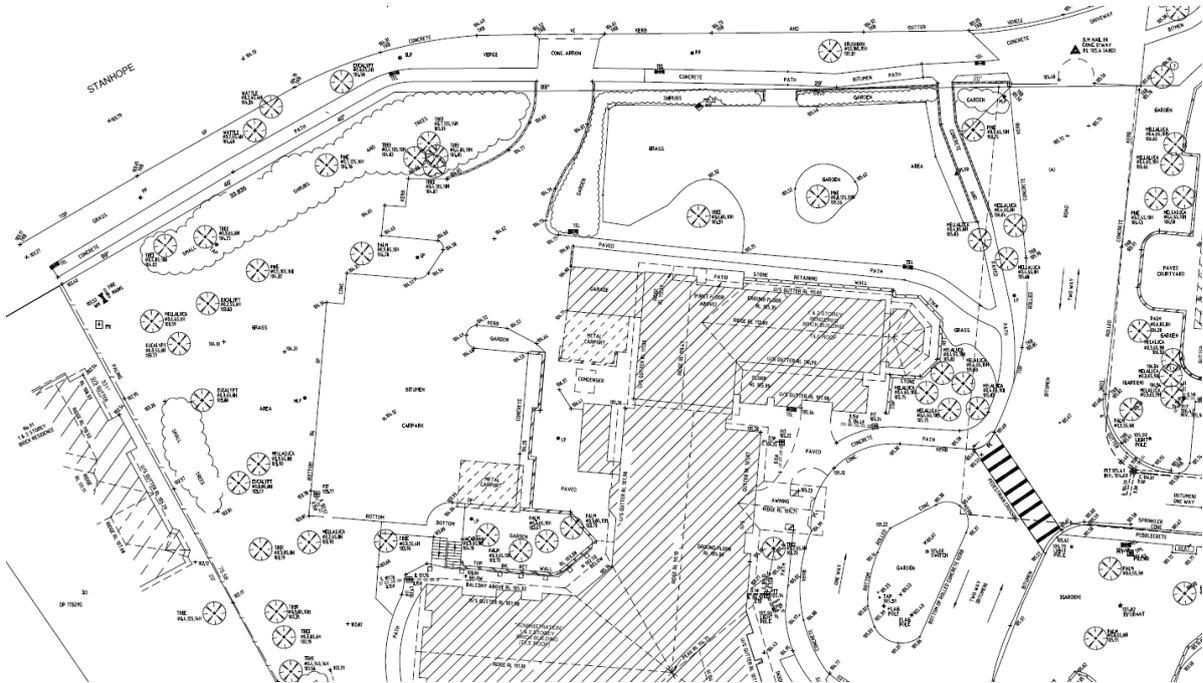
Headfort House east chapel wing



Headfort House first floor enclosed verandah



View from enclosed verandah hatch to original boarded ceiling above chapel ceiling



Existing site survey extract (source: Norton Survey Partners, 2022)

2.4 Significance assessment review

The GML Heritage report concludes that the 'Headfort House building in its garden setting' has local heritage significance, satisfying three Heritage Council criteria. This meets the NSW Heritage Council threshold for listing as a local heritage item.

Only one NSW Heritage Council criteria of local heritage significance is required to meet the NSW Heritage Council threshold for local heritage listing. The definition of these criteria and guidelines from the Assessment Heritage Significance guideline are in framed italics below.

The GML assessment against each of these criteria has been reviewed against the inclusion and exclusion guidelines, taking into account the above review, including the above noted additional information on the history and description of the place.

This assessment review concludes that "'Headfort House" building, interiors and grounds' satisfies six criteria of local heritage significance for listing as a heritage item on Ku-ring-gai Local Environmental Plan. The three criteria recommended by GML Heritage are supported for historic, and social association significance, with the addition of aesthetic, rarity and representative significance.

The satisfied inclusion or exclusion guidelines for each is highlighted in bold below, with some comments. This assessment applies the Heritage Office instructions that "The inclusion and exclusion guidelines are a checklist only – they do not cancel each other out. The exclusion guidelines should not be applied in isolation from the inclusion guidelines, but should be used to help in reviewing and qualifying the conclusions reached."

The updated assessment against each criteria is included in the attached inventory, not fully reproduced below. Comments below are on key points of difference with the GML Heritage report assessment under each criterion. The summary statement of significance is included below as well as in the inventory.

2.4.1 Historic significance (criterion a)

An item is important in the course, or pattern, of the local area's cultural or natural history (local significance).

Guidelines for Inclusion

- ✓ ***Shows evidence of a significant human activity***
- ✓ ***Is associated with a significant activity or historical phase***
- ✓ ***Maintains or shows the continuity of a historical process or activity***

Guidelines for Exclusion

- *Has incidental or unsubstantiated connections with historically important activities or processes*
- *Provides evidence of activities or processes that are of dubious historical importance*
- *Has been so altered that it can no longer provide evidence of a particular association*

In addition to the GML assessment:

The house and grounds are significant as evidence of the state's first training base for the Australian Army for the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) during World War II. The AWAS occupied, repaired and trained in the former school buildings and grounds, as documented in available photos from the 1940s. It also demonstrates the post-war adaption of former educational sites into hospitals, to manage the epidemic of tuberculosis, for the Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary (SMSM) Lourdes Hospital through to 1967. It demonstrates the specialised facilities that were required at the time for the treatment of tuberculosis. The continuity of the historical process of health care at this site has been demonstrated for more than 75 years, as Mater Misericordia Hospital from 1967 and Lourdes Retirement Village from the 1980s to present.

2.4.2 Associations significance (criterion b)

An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in the cultural or natural history of the local area (local significance).

Guidelines for Inclusion

- *Shows evidence of a significant human occupation*
- ✓ ***Is associated with a significant event, person, or group of persons***

Guidelines for Exclusion

- *Has incidental or unsubstantiated connections with historically important people or events*
- *Provides evidence of people or events that are of dubious historical importance*
- *Has been so altered that it can no longer provide evidence of a particular association*

Main points of significance as assessed by GML are accepted with some edits to remove a comment and adding point on the former Prime Minister's association. While the two year period of the former Prime Minister's attendance is noted as emphasised in the GML assessment, as this was part of the formative schooling years of an Australian Prime Minister, this is not considered an incidental connection to meet the exclusion guidelines. His aptitude and excelling in some fields was recognised by awards at this school.

2.4.3 Aesthetic/ technical significance (criterion c)

An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in the local area (local significance).

Guidelines for Inclusion

- *Shows or is associated with, creative or technical innovation or achievement*
- *Is the inspiration for a creative or technical innovation or achievement*
- ✓ ***Is aesthetically distinctive***
- *Has landmark qualities*
- ✓ ***Exemplifies a particular taste, style or technology***

Guidelines for Exclusion

- *Is not a major work by an important designer or artist*
- *Has lost its design or technical integrity*
- *Its positive visual or sensory appeal or landmark and scenic qualities have been more than temporarily degraded*
- *Has only a loose association with a creative or technical achievement*

Dating from 1917-21, it is agreed that Headfort House does not represent a good example of the Federation Arts and Craft style (c1890-c1915) because it was built in the inter-war period and most represents the Old English style of this period (c1915-c1940).

The building in its setting is considered to meet the inclusion guidelines for its aesthetic distinctiveness as a former school building in a predominantly residential setting on Stanhope Road. It is also distinctive locally as an adaptation of the inter-war Old English style to an institutional building instead of the more common residential examples of this style in the area. Headfort House demonstrates a good example of the inter-war Old English style with characteristic features of the style. Its more restrained ornamentation reflects its school use and the period of construction during wartime of World War I and the few years following. Characteristic features demonstrated of the inter-war Old English style include the domestic scale, asymmetry of the building form, vertical proportions of the projecting gables, the prominent battened gables, textured render walls, casement and multi-paned windows, internal beamed ceilings, fine internal timber joinery and high-waisted paneled doors. The garden setting and layout complements the period of architecture with mature trees and contemporary materials.

The building and its landscaped grounds contribute to the streetscape of Stanhope Road. Its sensory appeal as a building in a landscaped setting within large institutional complex has been maintained with no new building forward of the front building line, a maintained relationship to Stanhope Road, eastern entrance drive and turning circle, and its land that has remained unsubdivided since the early twentieth century. Alterations have only temporarily degraded this appeal through the neglected and uniform painting of external timberwork including the gable battens and placement or growth of the vegetation. This can be readily rectified with routine maintenance through re-painting the timberwork, pruning or moving the fig tree.

The 1980s alterations to the eastern wing for conversion to a chapel have made minimal change to the original building form, which can still be recognised. The 1980s alterations are easily discernible as such through the materials, evidence of the infilled first floor windows and retained original ceiling above the chapel ceiling. While representing a different architectural period than the inter-war building, these alterations also have some historic and social significance in their own right due to the chapel use.

Early records indicate that the extant building represents the work of an architect experienced in school design, however the name of the architect has yet to be identified.

2.2.4 Social significance (criterion d)

An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in the area for social, cultural or spiritual reasons (local significance).

Guidelines for Inclusion

- ✓ ***Is important for its associations with an identifiable group***
- ✓ ***Is important to a community's sense of place***

Guidelines for Exclusion

- *Is only important to the community for amenity reasons*
- *Is retained only in preference to a proposed alternative*

Updated without substantive changes. Some further indicators of social significance may be gathered during the public consultation for the listing.

2.4.5 Research significance (criterion e)

An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the area's cultural or natural history (local significance).

Guidelines for Inclusion

Has the potential to yield new or further substantial scientific and/or archaeological information

✓ ***Is an important benchmark or reference site or type***

- *Provides evidence of past human cultures that is unavailable elsewhere*

Guidelines for Exclusion

- *The knowledge gained would be irrelevant to research on science, human history or culture*
- *Has little archaeological or research potential*
- *Only contains information that is readily available from other resources or archaeological sites*

While it is agreed that this research significance is not yet confirmed, the building and site has potential to represent an important benchmark or reference site of an early Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) training site from World War II.

2.4.6 Rarity (criterion f)

An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the area's cultural or natural history (local significance).

Guidelines for Inclusion

- ✓ ***Provides evidence of a defunct custom, way of life or process***
- *Demonstrates a process, custom or other human activity that is in danger of being lost*
- *Shows unusually accurate evidence of a significant human activity*
- *Is the only example of its type*
- *Demonstrates designs or techniques of exceptional interest*
- ✓ ***Shows rare evidence of a significant human activity important to a community***

Guidelines for Exclusion

- *Is not rare*
- *Is numerous but under threat*

The comparative analysis included in the GML Heritage report does not compare this site with directly comparable or relevant examples to support the given conclusions on rarity. The only comparative examples given are for a different architectural style and period (Federation Arts and Crafts), rather than the inter-war period and style of this building, and hospital conversions of buildings also of earlier periods than this building. It does not include comparisons with other more relevant types and groups that this place represents of: inter-war private school buildings, the work of the undetermined architect (noted as experienced in designing schools in early records), other buildings constructed during wartime or shortly following World War I, buildings converted for World War II training, other buildings adapted for and associated with the WWII Australian Women's Army Service, or hospital conversions of inter-war buildings.

The property is considered rare as surviving evidence of the first Australian Women's Army Service training site in NSW for the World War II war effort. As such, this site represents significant changes for the role of women in Australian society and military during the mid-twentieth century, of importance to the community. The extant building and grounds, that were adapted in 1940s for this use, survive from this period. While the grounds have been substantially altered since this use, this significance is enhanced by the collection of historic photographs that document the World War II women's army training at this site, held by the Australian War Memorial and State Library.

It is agreed that the building is unlikely to be rare in the upper north shore as a school pr architecture of its period and style or a hospital conversion generally.

2.4.7 Representative significance (criterion g)

An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of the area's cultural or natural places or cultural or natural environments (local significance).

Guidelines for Inclusion

- *Is a fine example of its type*
- ✓ ***Has the principal characteristics of an important class or group of items***
- *Has attributes typical of a particular way of life, philosophy, custom, significant process, design, technique or activity*
- *Is a significant variation to a class of items*
- ✓ ***Is part of a group which collectively illustrates a representative type***
- *Is outstanding because of its setting, condition or size*
- *Is outstanding because of its integrity or the esteem in which it is held*

Guidelines for Exclusion

- *Is a poor example of its type*
- *Does not include or has lost the range of characteristics of a type*
- *Does not represent well the characteristics that make up a significant variation of a type*

The comparative analysis included in the GML Heritage report does not compare this site with directly comparable or relevant examples to support the given conclusions on representative significance. The only comparative examples given are for a different architectural style and period (Federation Arts and Crafts), rather than the inter-war period and style of this building, and hospital conversions of buildings also of earlier periods than this building. It does not identify or compare this with relevant other examples of the work of the undetermined architect (noted as experienced in designing schools in early records) or other inter-war school buildings, amongst further relevant types and groups that this place represents.

The building and its site is considered representative of the following types and groups within the local context of the upper north shore: purpose-built inter-war school buildings, buildings constructed during wartime or shortly following World War I, buildings converted for World War II training, other buildings adapted for and associated with the WWII Australian Women's Army Service and hospital conversions of inter-war buildings. The WWII types are supported by documentary evidence of photos of the women's army training on this site.

It is agreed the architecture does not represent a good example of the Federation Arts and Crafts style because it represents inter-war architecture. The building demonstrates the more robust features of the inter-war period, more so than Federation ornamentation. Its relatively restrained ornamentation, compared to other examples of the Federation or inter-war periods, also reflects its school use and period of construction during wartime and the few years following.

2.4.8 Updated summary statement of significance

Dating from 1917-1921, the Headfort House building and its grounds is locally significant as a largely intact inter-war school building in its setting, demonstrating the early twentieth development of Killara, a good example of the inter-war Old English style adapted to an institutional building, and construction during and following World War I. It makes a positive contribution to Stanhope Road and the remainder of the original site. It has significant associations with important people including the Reverend Robert Thompson Wade, founder and headmaster of Headfort School from 1917-1928 and the formative years of former Prime Minister John Gorton, a student of Headfort School.

The building and site is rare as the state's first training base for the Australian Army for the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) during World War II, supported by a collection of evocative historic photos. As such, this site has an important association with significant changes in the role of women in Australian society and military during the mid-twentieth century. It is also historically important for its long-term health care use for over 75 years since the post-war period when it was converted to a tuberculosis hospital, Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary (SMSM) Lourdes Hospital and then a retirement village. It has social value for contributing to the community sense of place as the only surviving buildings from these important earlier uses for schools, World War II training, hospitals and retirement, and the associated community groups and their descendants.

Headfort House and its grounds is of local heritage significance in terms of its historical, associations, aesthetic/technical, social, rarity and representative value. This satisfies six of the Heritage Council criteria of local heritage significance for local listing.

3.0 Curtilage Assessment

3.1 Curtilage standards

The Heritage Office guideline, Heritage Curtilages, establishes the methodology for establishing an appropriate listing boundary that captures the significance of an item. The foreword to this guideline quotes the then planning Minister, Craig Knowles:

“Retaining an appropriate area of land, or curtilage, around a heritage item can be integral and essential in retaining and interpreting its significance.”

This guideline recommends that “The heritage curtilage should contain all elements contributing to the heritage significance, conservation and interpretation of a heritage item.” This guideline defines curtilage as meaning: “the area of land (including land covered by water) surrounding an item or area of heritage significance which is essential for retaining and interpreting its heritage significance. It can apply to either:

- land which is integral to the heritage significance of items of the built heritage; or
- a precinct which includes buildings, works, relics, trees or places and their setting.”

The Heritage Curtilages guideline describes different types of heritage curtilages including: lot boundaries, reduced (less than the lot), expanded (more than the lot) and composite (precincts or areas). For the proposed type of *reduced lot curtilage*, this guideline recommends:

“This type of heritage curtilage is less than the lot boundary of the property. It arises where the significance of an item may not relate to the total lot, but to a lesser area, and is often only defined when development occurs. An example is when a large estate containing a heritage item is to be subdivided...or when a second dwelling is proposed to be constructed on land containing a heritage item. In these cases it is necessary to identify a heritage curtilage which is less than the property boundary, but is still sufficient to maintain the heritage significance of the item “

The Ku-ring-gai Local Environmental Plan 2015 establishes the objective of heritage conservation provisions “to conserve the heritage significance of heritage items and heritage conservation areas, including associated fabric, settings and views” and “archaeological sites”.

3.2 GML Heritage assessment

The GML Heritage report and comments of 2017 refer to the significance of the Headfort House building “in its garden setting.” In relation to the garden setting, the GML Heritage report mostly describes garden features in the front garden within the fence line. However, this GML Heritage assessment does not define the extent of this garden setting with any mapped or written boundary.

The site maps in the GML Heritage report do not provide any site boundaries for Headfort House, other than the full Lourdes lot, and only roughly circle building. The report does not even indicate the limits of the site that has been assessed as the subject of the report. It is standard practice for a heritage assessment to establish the curtilage, and to at least clearly indicate the assessed site boundary. The Assessing Heritage Significance guideline identified the “physical description of the item and its curtilage (setting)” as essential information in the first step for a heritage assessment.

The separate GML Heritage comments of May 2017 on the Draft Urban Design Study recommend a future conservation management plan to determine “an appropriate landscaped curtilage surrounding Headfort House”. These acknowledge that the earlier heritage assessment report has not determined this matter

If the setting boundary was as straightforward as the front garden fence and building footprint, it would be reasonably expected that GML Heritage would have clearly mapped or otherwise indicated this boundary in their assessment report, without the need for further analysis. The GML Heritage report also refers to some features beyond the front garden fence and main building, such as the Lourdes grotto to the south and demolished building to the west of Headfort House. Historic maps and photos included in the report illustrate the full site.

The GML Heritage report does not assess the landscape history, features or significance of the original site beyond the front garden fence line in any detail.

3.3 Curtilage analysis

The setting for this building is not as straightforward as building, fence or lot lines. This reflects that it is not a standard residential development with defined historic boundaries, and was instead developed as part of a large school, army training, then hospital complex.

The above standards establish that a listing curtilage captures and maintains the heritage significance of the site in relation to fabric, setting, views, trees and relics. A review of the historic records and existing features reveals that Headfort House maintains a significant setting, trees, views and potential relics. The following comments on these aspects to establish an appropriate curtilage.

3.3.1 Setting

The significance of this site is greater than just the extant Headfort House building and its front garden. A review of the historical records and physical features of the property demonstrates that the significant setting of Headfort House is as part of a much larger non-residential complex, historically and currently, at 95 Stanhope Road, Killara. The only established historic boundary for the development of Headfort House is the full site of 95 Stanhope Road, Lot 22 of DP 634645.

Following the land parcel purchases, the land of Headfort House and the remainder of the site has been undivided since its early twentieth-century development as a school and subsequent significant phases for army training, hospital and retirement.

The original school buildings extended to the rear of Headfort House, now occupied by the 1980s wing. The school grounds, including sporting facilities such as oval, tennis court, pool and rifle range, extended to the full site. The original school entrance drive and early turning circle remains in the existing entrance road location, marking the division between the original school oval and tennis court to the east of Headfort House.

The subsequent significant phases also demonstrate undivided use of this large site. This includes the inter-war or early post-war construction of the building to the west of Headfort House (since demolished, possible archaeology remaining), c.1926 garage extension to the west. It also includes planting of now mature palm and pine trees lining along Stanhope Road, in front of Headfort House and along the entrance drive. The extant grotto to the south of Headfort House survives from the Missionary

Sisters phase. The 1980s retirement building extends Headfort House in the same manner as the original school buildings.

The only identified demarcation for this part of the site is fencing for the front garden, including an open timber post and rail fence shown in 1927 photos. No past fence has been identified that has divided the building rear from the remainder of the site. The line of the front garden edge has altered over time, such as to include or reduce the former tennis court, and at times has been unmarked with no fence or just a low hedge. The current front garden fence is contemporary from circa 2017 (DA0564/16).

The 1980s retirement buildings have substantially altered large parts of the site, such as the former school oval. While the demolition associated with these works is considered as part of the setting assessment, the form of the 1980s buildings is not taken into account in the curtilage assessment because the GML Heritage report did not assess these as significant and therefore worthy of retention. Further, a current planning proposal is seeking demolition of these 1980s buildings and redevelopment of the site. Therefore, these existing more contemporary features are unlikely to form part of the setting to Headfort House and garden in the longer term.

The established trees and plantings surrounding Headfort House contribute to its landscaped setting. These are described further below.

3.3.2 Trees

Several mature trees surround Headfort House including Phoenix Palms, Norfolk Island Pines and a Moreton Bay Fig. These are interspersed with natives: Eucalypts and Melaleuca. The Phoenix Palms line the eastern side of the entrance road down to the grotto. One Phoenix Palm and three Pines survive on Stanhope Road to the west of Headfort House in front of the former inter-war building. One pine appears to have been struck by lightning.

Apart from two Norfolk Island Pines and the Moreton Bay Fig tree, all within the front garden fence line of Headfort House, these mature trees are not described or assessed in the GML Heritage report. The report does not assess the history, significance or health of the three noted trees in any detail.

These mature trees are not original to the early construction of the school. Early images of the school mostly show remnant eucalypts and minimal landscaping.

Based on the available historic records, these trees date from approximately the 1930s for the western Phoenix Palm (shown in the above c1928-1943 image) and the 1940s for the others. These trees are approximately 70 years or more of age.

These mature trees date from a significant early period of the site's development – school, WWII and hospital. They demonstrate characteristic landscape design from the first half of the twentieth century. Landscape design of this period was based on grand English parks and estates and demonstrated the influence of the Royal Botanic Garden directors, Charles Moore (1848-1896) and Joseph Maiden (1896-1947). For instance, Phoenix Palms, Norfolk Island Pines and Moreton Bay Figs are also found in Elkington Park Balmain, Birchgrove Park Birchgrove, Richmond Park Richmond and McQuade Park Windsor.

Due to its obstruction of the front building façade, conservation of the Moreton Bay Fig is a lesser priority than the other mature trees on this site.

3.3.3 Views

No recorded fence has removed open views to the building in all directions from Stanhope Road and within the site since its development. Only the growth of trees and plantings as they have naturally matured has partly obscured views in more recent times.

Obstruction by trees and plants is not considered in relation to views because these are impermanent and can change more easily than built structures through death, pruning, removal or movement. Trees and plants also allow glimpsed views, unlike most built structures. Views could be improved by relocation, removal or pruning of some vegetation once their health and significance is fully assessed.

The eastern and southern view to the building is particularly prominent in the historic presentation and photography of the early school complex. This indicates that the building has a history of presenting and being viewed in the round from within the large school and hospital site, particularly from the entrance drive and oval to the east and south-east.

The east and south-east aspects of the building address the original entrance avenue to the larger school/hospital site, formed by the eastern drive leading to the turning circle behind the former tennis court, along the edge of the original oval. All these features are shown in historic aerials. The layout of the entrance road and turning circle remain today with slight variation for widening the road into part of the former tennis court and truncating the turning circle.

While the 1980s building to the south of Headfort House partly obscures view to the rear elevation at the ground level, the roof, upper levels and overall building form can still be appreciated from within the site.

3.3.4 Archaeological relics

While this review and the GML Heritage report do not include a full archaeological assessment in line with Heritage NSW guidelines, the above review of historic records indicate the potential for archaeology relics from the inter-war building to the west of Headfort House. This site has not since been redeveloped other than for paving for an at-grade carpark, so any potential relics are relatively undisturbed. The inter-war period was a significant period for the use of the site. However, the history and significance of this building has not been assessed at this time in the GML Heritage report.

The sites of other demolished buildings shown in historic images, surveys and aerials are on land that has been more disturbed for construction of new buildings. Therefore, these are considered less likely to contain relics.

Relics are protected under the Heritage Act 1977. The likelihood and significance of these relics would need to be assessed by the development proponent before development on this site is approved, in accordance with the requirements of the Heritage Act 1977 for excavation permits.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 Heritage significance

"Headfort House" building, interiors and grounds' satisfies six Heritage Council criteria for its historic, associations, aesthetic, social, rarity and representative significance. Only one of seven potential criteria of significance needs to be satisfied to meet the Heritage Council listing threshold. The significance, description and historical information from the GML Heritage report, as confirmed and updated with further information and assessment by Council, is contained in the attached heritage inventory. It is considered of local heritage significance with the following updated summary statement of significance:

Dating from 1917-1921, the Headfort House building and its grounds is locally significant as a largely intact inter-war school building in its setting, demonstrating the early twentieth development of Killara, a good example of the inter-war Old English style adapted to an institutional building, and construction during and following World War I. It makes a positive contribution to Stanhope Road and the remainder of the original site. It has significant associations with important people including the Reverend Robert Thompson Wade, founder and headmaster of Headfort School from 1917-1928 and the formative years of former Prime Minister John Gorton, a student of Headfort School.

The building and site is rare as the state's first training base for the Australian Army for the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) during World War II, supported by a collection of evocative historic photos. As such, this site has an important association with significant changes in the role of women in Australian society and military during the mid-twentieth century. It is also historically important for its long-term health care use for over 75 years since the post-war period when it was converted to a tuberculosis hospital, Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary (SMSM) Lourdes Hospital and then a retirement village. It has social value for contributing to the community sense of place as the only surviving buildings from these important earlier uses for schools, World War II training, hospitals and retirement, and the associated community groups and their descendants.

4.2 Heritage listing

It is recommended that "Headfort House" building, interiors and grounds' is listed as a heritage item of local heritage significance on Ku-ring-gai Local Environment Plan 2015. The accompanying inventory information is attached. The extent of listing is recommended below.

It is recommended that the community and owners are consulted on the proposed listing through a public exhibition. The details of the listing and accompanying information can be reviewed following the public exhibition and consideration of any submissions received.

4.3 Listing curtilage

To capture and maintain the core heritage significance of this place, as confirmed by Council review, including fabric, setting and views, it is recommended the listing curtilage includes:

- Headfort House in full, including interiors, garage and chapel additions
- Headfort House setting, viewed in the round;
- Visual and physical connection of Headfort House to Stanhope Road, the main entrance drive and turning circle;
- Garden setting and former tennis court near Headfort House; and
- Mature early trees within the front garden of Headfort House, particularly the Norfolk Island Pines. Moreton Bay Fig of a similar period is of less significance because of its obstruction to views of the front façade.

It is not recommended that the full lot of 95 Stanhope Road is included in the curtilage because of the degree of irreversible change on parts of this site, such as to the former oval, and where substantially physically separated from the setting of Headfort House.

A reduced lot curtilage is therefore recommended, as follows:

- An appropriate curtilage for the setting of Headfort House disregards the surrounding 1980s buildings and structures because these are not assessed as significant for retention in the GML Heritage report and are currently proposed for removal and redevelopment. Therefore, these 1980s buildings in the vicinity of Headfort House will not form part of the setting of the place in the longer term.
- The significant setting of Headfort House is greater than the building footprint and front garden because its significance is as part of a much larger non-residential complex, historically and currently, viewed in the round, which has remained undivided since its early twentieth-century development.
- In the absence of significant historic property boundaries to the east, south and west of Headfort House, it is recommended that the internal boundaries follow Ku-ring-gai's established policy for 12-metre setbacks for new development of heritage items in the Development Control Plan section 19E.3.
- A minimum of a 12-metre setback to the east, west and south, measured from the furthest points of the Headfort House building lines as shown below, will capture the above most significant features of the item.
- The north boundary should follow the road alignment, exceeding 12 metres from the front building line, and extend to the western bend in the lot boundary, to capture the full street frontage and associated street views.
- Angles of south and east boundaries, where unrelated to a lot boundary, are to respond to the main roof ridges; either perpendicular or parallel. The other two angles respond to the lot boundary along the road alignment to the bend.
- Inclusion of land in the listing curtilage does not preclude some development, but ensures that development within this boundary will have an acceptable impact on the significant fabric, views, setting and archaeology, consistent with the heritage conservation objectives of Ku-ring-gai Local Environmental Plan 2015.
- Alternate management for features of some significance located beyond this curtilage is recommended below.

The following sketches illustrate this recommended curtilage in a heavy black line. Dimensions are measured based on the more precise site survey rather than the aerial photo included below for clearer features at this scale. Second sketch indicates the measurements in red, building outline in black and alignment in blue.



4.4 Alternative curtilage for additional site features

The above reduced lot curtilage partly or fully excludes features of some significance within the setting of Headfort House including:

- Mature Phoenix Palms and Norfolk Island Pines to the west of the front garden along Stanhope Road and the avenue along the main entrance road to the east of Headfort House.
- Potential archeological relics of inter-war building to the west of Headfort House
- Turning circle and Grotto to the south-east of Headfort House.

To include all features of some significance, the larger alternative boundary would extend the above:

- To the west property boundary to capture all mature trees of the garden setting and views along Stanhope Road and potential archaeology to the west of Headfort House; and
- To the east and south-east to include the full width of the entrance road to and including the full turning circle, avenue of palm trees to the east of this road, and grotto to the south-east of Headfort House.

The location of these features beyond the above recommended curtilage is shown within the yellow line of the sketch below.



4.5 Recommended development provisions

It is recommended that the Development Control Plan contain provisions to conserve the above significant features for any development within this curtilage including requirement for new work to:

- Retain and be compatible with the significant features, consistent with Council's existing heritage provisions for development of heritage items; and
- Incorporate positive heritage impacts, such as through conservation, repair, reinstatement and interpretation of significant historic features.

A good model for sympathetic additions in the vicinity of Headfort House, based on the significant historical development of the site and its growth, is the earlier school building to the south and how these related to Headfort House and the layout of the site, as recorded in early photos.

It is further recommended that the Development Control Plan include provisions for maintaining additional features of some significance located wholly or partly beyond this curtilage as follows:

- Mature Phoenix Palms and Norfolk Island Pines along Stanhope Road and the entrance drive.
- Grotto and its movable elements.
- For archaeology relics of the inter-war building to the west of Headfort House, an excavation permit will be required under section 139 of the Heritage Act 1977 from the Heritage Council of NSW before development consent is determined for any disturbance of this site. This is to assess and appropriately manage the significance of archaeology relics from the inter-war school/army/hospital building/s in this location in accordance with Heritage NSW guidelines.
- Apply the existing provisions for conserving features in conservation areas for the north-west corner of the site currently listed in a conservation area.

5.0 Attachments

5.1 Draft heritage inventory, 2022

Note the format is determined by the Heritage NSW software known as the Heritage Management System. Images are entered into the inventory as in this report, however are not currently displaying in the printed inventory attached. If the system permits printing of entered images in the future, this inventory can be replaced at that time.

6.0 Documents reviewed

6.1 GML Heritage report, 2017

6.2 GML Heritage response to draft urban design strategy, 2017

Item Details

Name

"Headfort House" building, interiors and grounds

SHR/LEP/S170

"Headfort House" building, interiors and grounds

Address

95 LOURDES RETIREMENT VILLAGE 95 STANHOPE RD KILLARA NSW 2071

Local Govt Area

Ku-Ring-Gai

Local Aboriginal Land Council

Item Type

Built

Group/Collection

Education

Category

School - Private

All Addresses

Addresses

Records Retrieved: 1

Street No	Street Name	Suburb/Town/Postcode	Local Govt. Area	LALC	Parish	County	Electorate	Address Type
95	LOURDES RETIREMENT VILLAGE 95 STANHOPE RD	KILLARA/NSW/2071	Ku-Ring-Gai					Primary Address

Significance

Statement Of Significance

Dating from 1917-1921, the Headfort House building and its grounds is locally significant as a largely intact inter-war school building in its setting, demonstrating the early twentieth development of Killara, a good example of the inter-war Old English style adapted to an institutional building, and construction during and following World War I. It makes a positive contribution to Stanhope Road and the remainder of the original site.

It has significant associations with important people including the Reverend Robert Thompson Wade, founder and headmaster of Headfort School from 1917-1928 and the formative years of former Prime Minister John Gorton, a student of Headfort School.

The building and site is rare as the state's first training base for the Australian Army for the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) during World War II, supported by collections of evocative historic photos. As such, this site has an important association with significant changes in the role of women in Australian society and military during the mid-twentieth century.

It is also historically important for its long-term health care use for over 75 years since the post-war period when it was converted to a tuberculosis hospital, Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary (SMSM) Lourdes Hospital and then a retirement village.

It has social value for contributing to the community sense of place as the only surviving buildings from these important earlier uses for schools, World War II training, hospitals and retirement, and the associated community groups and their descendants.

"Headfort House" building, interiors and grounds is of local heritage significance in terms of its historical, associations, aesthetic/technical, social, rarity and representative value. This satisfies six of the Heritage Council criteria of local heritage significance for local listing.

Criteria a)

Historical Significance

Dating from 1917-21, Headfort House and its grounds demonstrates the twentieth century development of private schools on the upper north shore from the inter-war period. It demonstrates less common construction during wartime, before the conclusion of World War I. It also shows evidence of development and growing settlement in the Killara area at this time as the suburb and its population grew.

From the 1940s, Headfort House and its grounds also provides evidence of the state's first training base for the Australian Army for the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) during World War II. The AWAS occupied, repaired and trained in the former school buildings and grounds, as documented in collections of photos from the 1940s.

The building and grounds further demonstrate the post-war adaption of former educational sites into hospitals, to manage the epidemic of tuberculosis, for the Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary (SMSM) Lourdes Hospital through to 1967. It demonstrates the specialised facilities that were required at the time for the treatment of tuberculosis. The continuity of the historical process of health care at this site has been demonstrated for more than 75 years, as Mater Misericordia Hospital from 1967 and Lourdes Retirement Village from the 1980s to present.

Meets this criterion at a local level.

Criteria b)

Historical Association Significance

The property has a significant association with the Reverend Robert Thompson Wade, who founded the Headfort School on the site in 1918, commissioned the construction Headfort House as the establishment building and remained headmaster until 1928. Wade is best known for his work as an ichthyologist and palaeontologist, although he worked extensively in education throughout his career.

The former Headfort School has associations with John Gorton, Prime Minister of Australia 1967-1971, who studied at Headfort School for two years from 1921 while living in Killara. At Headfort School, Gorton was awarded the 1922 Form 3 prize for English and Arithmetic, as well as the Form 4 prize for Divinity in 1923. It is therefore associated with some of the formative years of an Australian Prime Minister.

Meets this criterion at a local level.

Criteria c)

Aesthetic/Technical Significance

The building and its landscaped grounds make a positive contribution to the streetscape of Stanhope Road and the remainder of the site. The building in its setting is aesthetically distinctive as a former school building in a predominantly residential setting on Stanhope Road.

Headfort House is also distinctive locally as an adaptation of the inter-war Old English style to an institutional building instead of the more common residential examples of this style in the area.

The building demonstrates a good example of the inter-war Old English style with characteristic features of this style. Its more restrained ornamentation reflects its original school use and period of construction during wartime of World War I and the few years following. Characteristic features demonstrated of the inter-war Old English style include the domestic scale, asymmetry of the building form, vertical proportions of the projecting gables, the prominent battened gables, textured render walls, casement and multi-paned windows, internal beamed ceilings, fine internal timber joinery and high-waisted paneled doors. The garden setting and layout complements the period of architecture with mature trees and contemporary materials.

Early records indicate that the extant building represents the work of an architect experienced in school design, however the name of the architect has yet to be identified.

The additions of the 1926 garage to the west and for the 1980s chapel conversion of the eastern wing are sympathetic and have some significance as part of the history of the site.

Meets this criterion at a local level.

Criteria d)

Social/Cultural Significance

Headfort House and its grounds is important to the community sense of place as the last surviving building on the site which maintains links to its significant history as a school, World War II training site and hospital.

The building and site has special associations with community groups including alumni and staff from Headfort School and Milton Grammar, women and other army personnel from the Eastern Command of the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS), Lourdes Hospital staff and patients and the Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary, as well as the families or descendants of these groups.

The eastern wing's chapel use from the 1980s for the retirement village may also hold value to the resident community and their families.

Some further indicators of social significance may be gathered during the public consultation for the listing.

Meets this criterion at a local level.

Criteria e)

Research Potential

Headfort House and its grounds has potential to represent an important benchmark or reference site of an early Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) training site from World War II.

There is some archaeological potential to the west of Headfort House, now partly a carpark, for an inter-war building demolished after 1943. The history or significance of this building has yet to be assessed.

Elsewhere, extensive building works associated with the development of the retirement village means that there is little archaeological potential elsewhere in the vicinity of Headfort House.

Further investigation is required to determine whether the site meets this criterion at a local level.

Criteria f)

Rarity

The property is rare as surviving evidence of the first Australian Women's Army Service training site in NSW for the World War II war effort. As such, this site has an important association with significant changes in the role of women in Australian society and military during the mid-twentieth century.

The extant building and grounds, that were adapted in 1940s for this use, survive from this period. While the grounds have been substantially altered since this use, this significance is enhanced by historic photographs that document the World War II women's army training at this site.

Meets this criterion at a local level.

Criteria g)

Representative

The building and its site is considered representative of the following types and groups within the local context of the upper north shore: purpose-built inter-war school buildings, buildings constructed during wartime or shortly following World War I, buildings converted for World War II training, other buildings adapted for and associated with the WWII Australian Women's Army Service and hospital conversions of inter-war buildings. The WWII types are supported by documentary evidence in collections of photos of the women's army training on this site held by the Australian War Memorial and State Library.

Architecturally, Headfort House represents a fine example of inter-war architecture in the Old English style adapted to an institutional building instead of the more common residential examples of this style in the area. The building demonstrates the more robust features of the inter-war period, more so than Federation ornamentation from the period immediately before. Its relatively restrained ornamentation, compared to other examples of the Federation or inter-war periods, also reflects its period of construction during wartime and the few years following.

Meets this criterion at a local level.

Integrity/Intactness

Headfort House is generally intact, externally and internally, including the 1950s western garage and 1980s chapel additions. The first floor front verandah has been enclosed, ground verandah tiles replaced and internal timberwork painted.

The original building form and features can still be recognised, internally and externally within its larger complex setting.

While the 1980s chapel additions altered the original windows, the original double-height boarded ceiling is maintained above the chapel ceiling. The chapel alterations likely have some social heritage value for its use.

The grounds retain the landscaped setting and mature trees, with a new front fence and alterations to the garden path and bed layout from the original.

The entrance drive and turning circle to the east and south-east retain the original alignment with contemporary fabric, a truncated shape to the once circular turning circle and early avenue of Phoenix Palms on the east alignment.

The grotto to the south east of Headfort House appears intact.

Owners

Records Retrieved: 0

Organisation	Stakeholder Category	Date Ownership Updated
No Results Found		

Description

Designer

Unidentified architect experienced in school design

Builder/Maker**Physical Description**

Updated 09/20/2022

Headfort House generally:

Headfort House is a one-two storey masonry building, with pitched tiled roofs. The two-storey parts of the building comprise the main part of the building the original Headfort schoolhouse constructed 1917-1918 and the present chapel wing constructed between 1918 and 1921 and converted into a chapel in the 1980s. The garage to the west was dates from 1926. The single storey ancillary rooms to the chapel on its south and east sides date from the 1980s.

Dating from c1917-21, the building in its garden setting is distinctive as a former school building in a predominantly residential setting on Stanhope Road. The architecture of the main part of the building represents the inter-war Old English style, adapted to an institutional building instead of the more common residential examples of this style. Its relatively restrained ornamentation reflects this use, as well as the wartime period of its construction. Characteristic features of the inter-war Old English style include the domestic scale, asymmetry of the building form and vertical proportions of the projecting gables, the prominent battened gables, textured render walls, casement and multi-paned windows, internal beamed ceilings, fine internal timber joinery and high-waisted paneled doors. The garden setting and layout complements the period of architecture.

External walls of Headfort House are generally masonry with painted stucco finish. The main roofs are pitched with red glazed terracotta tiles and painted metal eaves gutters.

North elevation:

The north elevation of the main part of the building faces Stanhope Road. It has a double roof gable and features an entry porch which provides access to the building's original front door.

The external walls are primarily masonry with painted stucco finish. Evidence remains of the original first floor windows of the chapel wing when it was used as a school. The chapel wing is described separately below.

Framed walls panels on the north elevation, located below the windows (ground and first floors) , are framed with fibrous cement sheet cladding. These are paint finished to match the stuccoed walls.

The framed walls feature expressed vertical timber battens, which are also used on the building's gables. Although the timber battens are currently painted to match the walls, early photographs show that the expressed timber elements and window frames were originally painted or stained to be dark coloured, to contrast with the light coloured broad walls. Similar detailing is used on the gables on the north elevation.

The two timber framed windows within the framed wall panel on the north elevation match those in early photographs, and are most likely original.

The recessed entry porch (north elevation) has two half-height stuccoed masonry piers with smooth rendered pediments and twin timber columns above. Faux projecting timber beams decorate the tops of the timber columns. The detailing of the entry porch matches the detailing visible in a 1920s photograph of the building. The soffit is timber boarded and painted, and is most likely original. The surface mounted fluorescent light fitting is not original. The floor has a slight fall away from the door, and is finished with contemporary tiles which extend beyond the masonry piers. It is likely that the floor of the porch has been adjusted to be slightly ramped in order to remove the step at the edge of the porch which can be seen in the c1930 photograph. There is a timber electrical box mounted high on the wall of the porch.

The front door is a high-waisted timber joinery door, with obscure glazing to its upper portion, divided into nine equal panes. Side-lights exist on both sides of the door, each with six equal panes. The door and sidelights appear to be original. The door and sidelights feature obscure patterned glass, a single type used throughout. The door has a contemporary stainless steel lever and lock.

Directly over the entry porch the original semi-recessed open verandah, which was enclosed early in the building history. Walls are framed and clad with fibrous cement sheet to about one metre in height and feature expressed vertical timber battens. These are the original balustrades around the verandah. Above the balustrade level, the original opening on the northern wall has been infilled with timber framed windows with casement sashes. There is a flat roof over the former verandah, with wide projecting eaves that are timber boarded with expressed timber rafters. The verandah structure remains substantially as originally built, except for the insertion of the timber framed window.

West Elevation:

The west elevation is not as detailed as the north elevation. Masonry walls are stucco and paint finished. Eaves are timber boarded and raking with expressed timber rafters, matching those on the other elevations. The sandstone foundations are also visible on the western elevation.

There are three upper floor windows. The window near the northern corner - aluminium framed with sliding sashes - is a later addition; early photographs show no windows in this location. The central window is an awning window, which is most likely a replacement for an original window in the same location. The third window is a timber framed twin double-hung window (bottom sashes altered to suit internal requirements). Detailing of the windows suggests that it is a later addition.

There are two ground floor windows, of which the small casement window is most likely original. It is timber framed, and consists of a single casement sash divided into four equal panes. The head of the opening is slightly arched. The larger window is a timber framed window, with three lower casement sashes and three upper awning sashes. Directly above the window is a narrow farmed flat awning, which provides a degree of weather protection to the window. The awning has a timber boarded soffit and expressed timber rafters. The window is most likely original, or has been relocated from elsewhere on the site. To the south of this window is a single leaf door. The door frame is timber and the door leaf is a featureless flush door. The threshold is terrazzo, and is badly damaged. This door is unlikely to be original.

Garage:

The garage is a single-storey masonry structure attached to the western elevation of Headfort House, close to its northern corner. Building application records indicate that Wade sought approval for construction of the garage on 13 July 1926 (BA26/1449).

The garage's external walls are stucco and paint finished, and extend up to form a parapet on three sides. The metal deck roof has a low pitch, and falls to a box gutter adjacent to the western wall. There is a metal roller door (contemporary) on its western elevation, and a single leaf door and window on its southern elevation. The door is a high-waisted timber joinery door with three lower panels, matching the door to the main bedroom. The small timber window has three equal casement sashes. A similar window can be seen in early photographs on the north elevation of the chapel wing (which is no longer in place). There is steel framed carport lean-to on the southern side of the garage (late twentieth century).

South Elevation:

Due to the adjacent 1980s building on the southern side, only the upper wall of the south elevation is visible. This part of the wall is clad in fibrous cement planks. Eaves are sheet lined. There alterations are recent, and relate to the construction of the 1980s building.

East Elevation:

The original part of the visible east elevation is the upper floor external wall above the 1980s single storey additions to the Chapel wing. This wall is stucco and paint finished. The window in this wall timber framed, with three lower casement sashes and three upper awning sashes matches those windows on the north and west elevations, and is most likely

original

Eastern chapel wing exterior:

The eastern wing, now used as a chapel, has masonry external walls with painted stucco finish, built on sandstone footings (visible on the north elevation). The pitched roof is tiled, and eaves are timber boarded with expressed timber rafters. A comparison of the building's current condition with external photographs indicate that the overall size and form of the wing remains unchanged, although there have been changes to the fenestration.

Discontinuities in the stucco finish on the north and east walls indicate the location of the original upper floor windows that have been infilled: three windows on the north wall and one window on the east wall. On the north elevation, the two timber framed windows that currently exist on the ground floor have contemporary detailing, and are not original, although the location of these windows approximates the location of original window openings. There are three rows of terracotta wall vents on the north elevation which match those visible in early photographs.

The eastern gable is finished in fibrous cement sheet with exposed timber battens and decorative timber trims. Battens are arranged in a lattice pattern at close to the ridge. This corresponds with the gable detailing that can be seen in early photographs. It also matches the detailing of the main gable on the north elevation.

Most of the southern elevation is concealed by 1980s additions. However, 'shadows' in the stucco finish provide evidence of the location of the upper floor openings that have been infilled. A row of high level wall vents remains, which match those on the northern elevations.

Single storey 'lean to' additions were constructed in the 1980s on the southern and eastern sides of the Chapel. These additions have face brickwork external walls and hipped dark brown glazed tiled roofs with raking eaves with exposed timber rafters, matching the larger 1980s building located on the south side (and connected to) Headfort House.

Headfort House interiors:

The ground floor consists of an entry lobby with stairs to the upper floor, a library, a storeroom for the café, an office and a bathroom. The upper floor is a residential flat, with bedroom, bathroom, large living/kitchen, and hall. The former verandah, now enclosed, is used as a storeroom.

Ground floor:

The entry lobby retains its original layout and proportions, and timber detailing is largely intact. Walls are smooth set and painted, and floors framed and carpeted. Skirtings are 150mm high with curved top edge. These are used consistently throughout the building and appear to be original. The ceiling is sheet-lined and battened with profiled plaster cornice. A simple timber batten rail runs around the walls at door-head height. An original window/hatch under the stair has been blocked in, but the recess and timber surrounds remain intact. A small timber joinery door gives access to the storeroom under the stairs.

The single leaf door leading to the chapel (timber frame, flush door) is not original. The doorway to the front room (now an office) has elaborate built-in joinery at its sides, but the glazed door leafs themselves are not original, and there are signs that indicate that the opening has been adapted to accommodate these door leafs. The stair is timber framed with timber newel posts and handrails most likely original. The grooved stair rails appear to be more recent however, and perhaps relate to the installation of the chair lift that runs on the inside face of the balustrade. It is unclear if other parts of the balustrades are also recent replacements for original components.

The floor of the front room (now an office) consists of tongue and groove timber boards with carpet finish. The walls and ceiling are smooth set. The room's plaster cornices and timber skirtings match those in the entry hall. A grooved timber rail runs around all walls at door head height. Built-in timber joinery fixtures, consisting of open shelves and other decorative features, frame the door on either side. The built-in timber window seat/storage box is a later addition. There is a fireplace in the southwestern corner with painted brick hearth and surrounds, and a timber mantelpiece (Figure 3.27). The style of the timber joinery in the space is consistent with the Arts and Crafts style, although it is unclear if the grooved timber wall rail is original. Two gridded wall grilles are located at high level in the western wall.

The bathroom is accessed through a small anteroom. The bathroom floor is tiled (contemporary) with matching tiled skirtings, and the walls and ceiling are smooth set (Figure 3.28). The room has a small coved contemporary plaster cornice. Bathroom fixtures are contemporary. The timber casement window with casement flyscreen is most likely original. The anteroom has smooth set walls and ceiling without cornices. It has a timber skirting that matches the profile of the skirting in the entry hall, but is shorter. The doors to both the anteroom and bathroom are contemporary lush doors, but timber frames and architraves are detailed alike, and are most likely original.

The rear eastern room now partly subdivided with a glazed screen wall (contemporary) for use as a library is legible as a single larger room with the contemporary infill. It has a framed floor with carpet finish, smooth set walls and a smooth set ceiling with battened detail. The room's plaster cornices and ceilings match those in the entry hall and are most likely original. There is a lower section of ceiling adjacent which is not original (with small coved cornices), and its form and finishes are likely to relate to the 1980s building connection. Parts of the rear room have a timber skirting which matches that in the entry lobby.

At the southern end of the room there is a wide opening which allows access into the 1980s building adjacent. This has a timber door frame and highlights with obscure glazing, but no doors. On the northern wall is an opening with timber frame leading to the entry lobby, but again there is no door leaf. Both of these doorways are likely to be original. On the eastern wall there is a blocked-in doorway that previously led to the chapel, and it is unclear if this opening is original. On the eastern wall at high level are two air grilles that match those in the office, and are original. In the southwestern corner the splayed wall is suggestive of a chimney breast. Bookshelves placed hard against this wall indicate that even if a fireplace remains behind the shelves, no protruding mantelpiece or hearth remains.

The rear western room, now uses as shop store, is accessible from the shop located in the 1980s building. The shop store was likely to have originally been a kitchen as there is a large former cooking hearth in the southeastern corner. The former hearth now contains a built-in cupboard, but the original timber mantelpiece remains above. Floors are vinyl sheeted (1980s?) with coved vinyl skirtings. The floor is framed, except for a large concrete section close to the cooking hearth, the extent of which is defined by cracking in the vinyl floor sheeting. Walls are smooth set, with a dado line formed in the plaster that extends around the room. Ceilings are smooth set and without any cornice. The two doors into the room are flush doors. The door that led to the shop is a new opening. The doorway to outside is possibly an early or original opening, but the door leaf is new.

First floor:

The upper landing is a large circulation space at the top of the stair that leads from the entry lobby. Both the stair and upper landing have carpeted framed floors. Walls and ceilings are smooth set, and the ceiling is raking above the stair. There are no cornices, but two air vents exist at high level on the eastern wall above the stair; the air grilles suggest that this wall was originally an external wall, and that the chapel wing was a later addition.

The raking ceiling, which rakes downwards to the east, suggests that the roof over the stairwell originally raked in the same line as the ceiling. This adds weight to the suggestion that the hipped junction of the chapel wing's roof after the roof over the main part of the building was completed.

A grooved timber rail runs at door head height around the walls. Skirtings are original on the eastern wall (stair rails) and northern walls, but a different profile skirting has been used on the other walls. On the western wall is a timber joinery cupboard, the upper portion of which is clearly contemporary. The lower portion (up to door head height) is detailed to match other original timberwork in the house, and is most likely original, although it has been relocated from elsewhere; the timber rail on the wall runs along the wall behind the cupboard. The timber balustrade at the landing has been replaced, although the newel posts are original.

The north-west bedroom has a framed floor with carpet finish. Walls and ceilings are smooth set, with the ceiling partly raking. Cornices are contemporary coved plaster cornices. Timber skirtings match those in the entry hall, and a grooved timber rail runs around all walls at door head height. The aluminium-framed window in the western wall is of recent construction, but the door appears to be original the door leaf is a high-waisted timber joinery door, and the door frame is timber. Door hardware is however contemporary. Below the window on the northern wall the framed wall has expressed timber battens, matching the external detail. The small hall adjacent to the bedroom matches the bedroom in finishes, skirtings and rails. However, unlike the bedroom it has no cornices.

The western bathroom floor has a contemporary tiled finish and skirtings, matching the tiles in bathroom on the ground floor. Walls and ceiling are smooth set. Cornices are coved

contemporary cornices. All fixtures and fittings are contemporary. The door is a modern flush door, and the timber door frame is possibly original.

The living room and kitchen are located within a single large room at the southern end of the building. Floors are framed with carpet or sheet vinyl finish. Walls and ceilings are smooth set. The ceilings are partly raking, and have contemporary plaster coved cornices. Skirtings are contemporary, as are all fixtures and fittings. The timber window in the eastern wall is original and matches other windows in the building.

The northern storeroom, the former open verandah, is accessed from the upper landing. There is threshold step into the storeroom at the doorway; evidence that this was originally an external space. The raised form visible beneath the carpet suggests a stone or concrete door threshold beneath the carpet. The floor of the storeroom is carpet finished over a framed floor. The ceiling is low, smooth set and rakes slightly down to the north.

Cornices are contemporary coved plaster cornices. The southern wall and half of the eastern wall (the masonry walls) are lined with horizontal Western Red Cedar boards, most likely installed to cover the original stucco finish on these walls. The remainder of the eastern wall, as well as the northern wall, is framed and lined with smooth set sheet lining. The western wall is concealed by built-in cupboards (late twentieth century), but at the rear of the cupboards the original stucco wall is visible. The door leaf is a contemporary flush door but the timber door frame is possibly original.

A hatch on the eastern wall opens into the ceiling space above the chapel. This shows the original boarded timber ceilings of this wing that remain above the lower new chapel ceiling.

Eastern chapel wing interiors:

The chapel is a double-height space occupying the whole of the chapel wing. Originally this wing had two storeys within the same volume of space. The floor is framed with carpet finish. Walls are generally smooth set, although western red cedar boarding has been used as a lining on the eastern wall, and upper sections of the northern, southern and western walls.

These walls also feature high level air grilles at regular intervals. 'Shadows' in the wall plaster suggest a horizontal dado once ran around the room at about 1200mm above floor level. The ceiling is partly raking, and is lined with cedar boards to match those used on the walls. Narrow piers are located on the northern and southern walls, their uppermost portion also lined in cedar boards. These piers have slightly rounded corners for most of their height, but transition to sharp square corners at high level. Doors and windows into the room are contemporary, as are all fixtures and fittings.

At the eastern end of the room, there are two steps leading up to the sanctuary, which is located within a 1980s extension to the room. Doors on the southern side of the room lead into ancillary rooms that are also 1980s additions.

It is possible to view the ceiling space above the chapel, through a small access door in the storeroom on the upper floor. The view of the ceiling space reveals the original tongue and groove boarded ceiling intact above the cedar ceiling, which runs across the entire length of the space. Dark lines on the ceiling are possible indications of locations of former walls, indicating that there was at one time a central corridor with rooms on both sides. The ceiling space also shows that walls of the upper floor within the wing were smooth set, with a horizontal dado formed in the plaster. Wall vents can be seen, which are of a slightly different detail to those in the main part of the building, being installed flush with the wall rather than slightly proud of the finished wall surface.

Setting:

The layout of the original entrance drive to the school is located to the immediate east of Headfort House, extending to the original turning circle. This formed the main arrival to the former school building complex along the eastern elevation. The fabric has been replaced with contemporary materials and part of the originally round turning circle truncated.

Further to the south-east is the early stone-flagged grotto with statues that appears to date from the Missionary Sisters hospital use of the site.

A secondary entrance is located to the west of Headfort House, which is paved as an at-grade parking area. This contains the site of the former inter-war building that was since demolished.

The front garden of Headfort House is landscaped with grass, garden beds and paths that are not original. The masonry front fence dates from circa 2017. It incorporates part of the original tennis court.

Several mature trees surround Headfort House including Phoenix Palms, Norfolk Island Pines and a Moreton Bay Fig. These are interspersed with natives: Eucalypts and Melaleuca. The Phoenix Palms line the eastern side of the entrance road down to the grotto. One Phoenix Palm and three Pines survive on Stanhope Road to the west of Headfort House in front of the former inter-war building. One pine appears to have been struck by lightning.

These mature trees are not original to the early construction of the school. Early images of the school mostly show remnant eucalypts and minimal landscaping. Based on the available historic records, these trees date from approximately the 1930s for the western Phoenix Palm (shown in the above c1928-1943 image) and the 1940s for the others. These trees are approximately 70 years or more of age.

Physical Condition

Updated 09/19/2022

Building condition appears good-to-fair. Some maintenance is required for the external timberwork and to repair a minor roof leak in the north-west corner.

Modifications And Dates

Undated - enclosure of originally open first floor verandah.

1926 - Garage constructed on west elevation in application lodged by Wade (BA26/1449).

1980s - East wing alterations for the chapel conversion, including small east pulpit addition, south ancillary room addition, installation of new chapel ceiling beneath original, infill of first floor windows and changes to ground floor fenestration to reflect religious use.

2017 - New rendered masonry front fence on Stanhope Road (DA0564/16).

Fittings and finishes in the bathrooms are contemporary. Internal joinery has been painted. A chairlift has been added to the staircase but is reversible.

Further Comments

These inventories are not comprehensive and should be regarded as a summary and general guide only. Council staff progressively update these inventories as further information becomes available. An inventory sheet with little information may indicate that the place was listed before inventories became common or there has been no building work or updates to the online information recently. It does not mean that the listed place is not significant. Further research is always recommended as part of preparation of development proposals for heritage items. This is necessary for preparing a heritage impact statement and conservation management plan, so that the significance of a listed place can be fully assessed prior to submitting development applications.

A heritage item listing generally covers the whole property including buildings, interiors and grounds. While not all listed features will be significant and warrant conservation, the full listing ensures the significance of features and heritage impacts on the whole place are assessed through the development application process before major changes proceed.

Current Use

Retirement administration and residence, chapel

Former Use

School (boarding), World War II training, hospital

Listings

Listings

					Records Retrieved: 0	
Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page	
No Results Found						

Procedures/Exemptions

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

History

Historical Notes or Provenance

Early land and suburb:

Updated

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For thousands of years before European settlement, the Ku-ring-gai area was home to the Darramurragal people and other First Nations clans, the traditional custodians of land within the Ku-ring-gai Council boundaries. Due to the impact of colonisation on the Indigenous population and lack of records, the exact clan area boundaries in this region are not known. (Aboriginal Heritage Office, Aboriginal Heritage and History within the Ku-ring-gai local Government Area, 2015)

The earliest European inhabitants in this area were convict timber cutters and their overseers. Their camp was initially set up in c1805 along the banks of Lane Cove River, at the southwestern end of present Fiddens Wharf Road. In 1819, the camp was closed as there were no more suitable trees to cut at this location.

In 1821, Governor Lachlan Macquarie issued five land grants that form the shape of present-day Killara: 100 acres to John Griffiths, 80 acres to Edwin Booker, 60 acres to Samuel Midgley, 45 acres to Henry Oliver and 40 acres to Joseph Fidden. The Crown imposed the condition that individual grants could not be sold for five years and grantees must cultivate at least 20 acres within the five-year period. The land could be logged for timber (most for the first time) and available species included blackbutt, ironbark, stringybark and blue gum. The 1820s and 1830s were a profitable time for timber getting, however, once the timber resources were depleted, the land was sold and subdivided.

In 1839, the sixth and largest grant (160 acres) was issued by Governor George Gipps to Mrs Jane McGillivray. McGillivray's grant became known as Springdale and includes the present centre of Killara. Springdale covered both sides of Killara railway station and included Powell Street, Stanhope Road, Springdale Road and the Arterial Road and Pacific Highway. McGillivray lived at Springdale and established a girl's school there when she died in 1861, there were complications regarding landownership as McGillivray bequeathed the land to her six children and descendants who lived widespread across the country. At one stage, it was proposed for the entire grant to be used as the Northern Suburbs Cemetery. This proposal was eventually abandoned after the successful lobbying for the North Shore railway line, and the subdivision of Springdale for the Killara railway station.

James George Edwards, local schoolteacher and later alderman of Ku-ring-gai Municipal Council, led the push for the railway station to be constructed in Killara. He purchased Springdale from McGillivray's descendants across the country, subdivided and resold the land east of the railway line at reduced prices to ensure there were enough people who would agitate for the railway station.

From 1893 to 1899, Edwards marketed the area as a desirable suburb for 'gentlemen of means.' Up until then, the area was dominantly used for orchards, small farms or was still undeveloped bushland. When a community began to develop in Killara after 1895, Edwards worked to create a town with a residential, recreational and cultural focus, rather than a business one. The Killara railway station opened in 1899, six years after the first train service ran from Milsons Point to Hornsby in 1893.

Early ownership of subject site:

The subject site is located within portions 212-214, part of 211, 218, 219 and 573 of Killara. It is located just over 1km from Killara railway station. The oldest extant building is located within Portion 212. The land was purchased at auction in March 1899 by Joseph Harrison, carriage builder from Marrickville. He paid £165 for five acres, three roods and 20 perches. Harrison sold Portion 212 in 1914 to George Gould, Eli Higham and Louis Jeremiah O'Rourke as tenants in common. Gould, Higham and O'Rourke already owned portions 213 and 214 (nine acres, one rod and five perches in total), which they purchased off Harold Daniell in July 1913.

In November 1917, Gould, Higham and O'Rourke subdivided Portion 212 and sold three acres and 16 perches to Robert Thompson Wade, a Hornsby clergyman.

Wade established Headfort School at this location. Based on a search of The Sands Directory, this location was previously unoccupied as Wade and Headfort School was the first listing for the subject site (first listed in 1919).

In 1919, Gould, Higham and O'Rourke sold Wade the remainder of Portion 212. O'Rourke died in October 1922. A month later, Gould and Higham sold portions 213 and 214 to Wade. In 1924, Wade purchased part of Portion 211 (39.25 perches). In 1926, Wade purchased another 34.5 perches of Portion 211..

Robert Thompson Wade:

Wade was born in Dublin in 1884 and arrived in NSW in 1890. He eventually studied at the University of Sydney and graduated with Honours in geology and mathematics in 1908.

After graduation, Wade began teaching science at Barker College, Hornsby.

Wade was made deacon by Bishop Camidge in 1908. He married Mary Adderley Kearney at the end of that year. In 1909, Wade was priested by Bishop Stone-Wigg and became curate at St Paul's, Wahroonga, with Hornsby.

In 1910, Wade left Barker College briefly for a senior curacy at St John's, Darlinghurst.

In 1917, Wade was acting headmaster at Barker College and taught physics, chemistry and geology.

In 1918, Wade established Headfort School. He sold this school in 1928. Afterwards, he became senior science master at the King's School, Parramatta.

Wade was also a prolific ichthyologist. Between 1925 and 1929, he collected hundreds of fossilised fish from Brookvale brick pits. He received a grant from the Australian National Research Council to undertake a PhD on vertebrate palaeontology at Clare College, Cambridge. He sold his Australian Mesozoic fish collection to British Museum, who also published his memoir, *The Triassic Fishes of Brookvale, New South Wales*, in 1935. Between 1930 and 1953, Wade also published six papers on Triassic and Jurassic fishes.

After a short stint as dean of Christ Church Cathedral in the Falkland Islands, Argentina, Wade returned to Sydney in 1936. He became headmaster of Broughton School for Boys, Newcastle. In 1941, Wade returned to King's School until his retirement in 1949. Wade then lived in Manly.

Wade died in 1967 in Eastwood and was cremated.

Headfort School and Milton Grammar School (1917-1930s):

In 1918, Wade opened Headfort School at 95 Stanhope Road, Killara. Wade had new constructed a 'new school house' and had undertaken 'pioneering work' to overcome the many difficulties of the site such as obtaining water, the installation of an air-gas machine to provide light and construction of a large septic tank. It is likely that the original schoolhouse Wade built is now the main part of Headfort House at Lourdes Retirement Village.

the Marquis of Headfort, who was a cousin of Wade's wife, became a patron of the school. The Marquis' coat of arms was featured on the school's magazine.

On 11 January 1918, Wade advertised the school in *The Farmer and Settler* as:

"BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL FOR BOYS OF ALL AGES - In country surroundings, on the North Sydney Highlands (400ft above sea). Ground occupy 16-acres, adjacent to Government reserve. Schoolhouse in brick with well- constructed outdoor sleeping accommodation."

While Wade only owned part of Portion 212, he advertised that the school grounds comprised 16 acres. Therefore, it is likely that Wade leased additional land - possibly the remainder of Portion 212, and portions 213 and 214.

Within a few months of the school's opening, Wade advertised for bricklayers, plasterers and floor layers in April and May 1918. In June 1918, the school advertised for more students and stated:

"A new wing, just completed, is a two-storied brick building, comprising 3 finely designed schoolrooms and dormitories for an additional 30 boarders...as in the main building, special attention has been devoted to lighting and ventilation."

The new wing was most likely the chapel wing of Headfort House, with the upper floor a dormitory and three classrooms located on the ground floor.

At the end of the first school year, the first annual speech day of Headfort School took place in Killara Hall, with prizes presented by Sir William P Cullen, the Chief Justice. Wade reported on 'extensive building operations' and that there were nearly 100 boys who attended the school. In the following year, the number of boys attending had increased to 120.

The school continued to grow with steadily increasing attendance. A photograph of the school taken in 1921 shows two connected two-storey buildings (one of these being Headfort House) with students in the surrounding gardens and a tennis court to the east of the school buildings. During the early 1920s, work was undertaken to improve sporting facilities including enlarging the tennis court, installing a cricket pitch and practice area, and construction of swimming pool. In 1922, the students of Headfort School successfully raised funds for the construction of a mini rifle range and they were applauded for their initiative. A newspaper article in January 1921 described the Headfort School as follows:

"The buildings were specially erected for school purposes, and embody the headmaster's thirteen years' experience of boarding school requirements, together with the architect's wide experience in school construction. They comprise the headmaster's residence, an administrative block, quarters for the household staff, dormitory accommodation for 70 boarders, quarters for the resident staff, six classrooms...and locker rooms."

In 1923, the Evening News published an article on the school, where it was physically described as:

"The site chosen is admirable. Only 7 miles from Sydney, it is a plateau about 100 feet above sea level, jutting out into the beautiful coastal valleys which lead to upper Middle Harbour. To walk 50 yards from the building and in the grounds is to enter the Australian Bush in the most kindly way.

Of the school property, enough has been cleared to supply two full playing fields and a smaller field. Near the school is a swimming pool and at some little distance a miniature rifle range.

The buildings of brick and stone were designed by an architect experienced in school construction. The class rooms are six in number, excellently lighted and ventilated and furnished with the most modern furniture. There is a science room. The dormitories are designed to secure a maximum of light and air so that when the weather is suitable the boys secure the benefits of outdoor sleeping, yet the rigors of wintry weather are avoided."

In 1926, Wade applied to construct the garage, in an application lodged on 13 July 1926 (BA26/1449).

A notable student who attended Headfort School was John Gorton, Prime Minister of Australia from 1967 to 1971. He attended the school for two years from 1921. In 1922, Gorton was awarded the Form 3 prize for English and Arithmetic. In 1923, he was awarded the Form 4 prize for Divinity.

After running the school for nine years, Wade made the decision to sell the school to Congregation Union of NSW in 1927. His decision to sell was influenced by his wife, whose health was being impacted by her role of overseeing the domestic functions of the school.

In 1927, Headfort School was acquired by the Congregational Union of NSW, which had been eager to establish a school of its denomination. However, it was not until December 1934 that the Congregational Union purchased the land (portions 212, 213 and 214 and part of Portion 211) plus additional adjoining land.

The purchase was described as follows in Queensland Times:

"The Congregational Union of New South Wales has made an important move in purchasing the Headfort School at Killara. It will now be conducted under the name of Milton School as a day and boarding school for boys. The building, which stands on about 20 acres of ground is of brick and stone, and there is boarding accommodation for 60 boys."

According to The Sun, the Congregational Union would plan to spend an additional £1000 to refurbish the sporting grounds.

John Cameron was appointed the first and only headmaster of Milton Grammar School. He was born in Launceston in 1878. A high achiever in sport and academia, Cameron had a mathematical scholarship from the University of Tasmania and obtained his Masters of Arts from Trinity College, Cambridge. He was a master at the King's School, Parramatta, and previously taught in Geelong. His wife oversaw the domestic side of the school.

Plans of the school and grounds were prepared by Sydney Water in November 1927. Unfortunately, details of the school fields were not included, but it is possible to see that a fibro building was added to the western side of the school building and that there was a small detached WC. A series of historical photographs believed to have been taken around 1930 show the exterior of the school buildings and surrounding gardens.

The Depression impacted the school and there were only 39 students in 1931 which dropped to 28 by 1934. As a result, the school was closed by the start of 1935. An auction to sell off school furniture was held in February 1935.

Afterwards, Cameron opened Lochiel Boys' Junior Grammar School to the northeast of the subject area, at 28 Rosebery Road, Killara, in May 1935. In 1940, Lochiel Boys' Junior Grammar School moved into the former Milton School building for a year before relocating to Lynne Ridge in Gordon.

The Congregational Church tried to lease out the school building as a boarding house but was unsuccessful, as were attempts to sell the land. The school buildings remained vacant, and vagrants and the homeless were attracted to the buildings.

Australian Women's Army Service (1942-1944):

After Japan entered World War II, the Australian Army requisitioned the empty buildings as a base for housing and training women recruited into the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS).

The Australian War Memorial records describe this site as the first training school in NSW for the Australian Women's Army Service. It opened on 26 January 1942. (<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C45772>).

After years of neglect, the first officers to be posted at the former school found the buildings to be in a filthy and dilapidated state. The women were required to clean the buildings themselves prior to the arrival of the first recruits.

The first 100-plus recruits arrived on 26 January 1942. The course lasted for 23 days. The living conditions were primitive and described as having no doors to the ablution block, cold showers, no staff, no cooks, no uniforms. All recruits were required to contribute and placed on a rotating roster, working in the kitchens, mess, and cleaning the ablutions and dormitories. The women lived per a strict military regiment and practised erecting tents, air raids, fire drills and performing military drills and parades and attending lectures.

The Australian War Memorial and State Library hold evocative collections of historic photographs that document the women's army training at this site.

A 1943, aerial of the study area shows both school buildings on site, as well as the tennis court. There were three additional buildings since 1927: one located to the east of the tennis court; another to the west of the school building; and another building, south of the fibro extension. There were also tents erected on the playing fields.

In August 1942, the decision was made to substantially increase the number of recruits. A recruit training battalion was opened at Ingleburn Camp. The Killara recruit school was closed and became the AWAS barracks for housing instrument mechanics' trainees. In December 1942, an AWAS NCO school was established at Killara. The AWAS NCO school ran until 1944 when the organisation was moved to Ingleburn and the AWAS left Killara.

Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary (SMSM) Lourdes Hospital (1944-1980):

In response to the growing number of tuberculosis patients requiring hospital care, Dr John Hughes, the Director of Tuberculosis in Department of Public Health, approached

Archbishop Norman Thomas Gilroy (later Cardinal) about the possibility of a religious organisation undertaking this work. Gilroy approached the Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary (SMSM). The SMSM was based in Hunters Hill at the 'bird of passage' house, which was overflowing with missionary sisters that were nurses or teachers.

On 7 December 1944, the former AWAS recruitment school was jointly purchased by The Most Reverend Norman Thomas Gilroy, Catholic Archbishop of Sydney, The Very Reverend John Vincent McCabe, The Very Reverend John Toohey, both Sydney Catholic Priests, and Mary Rose Decker, Mary Benedict Varley and Mary Kevin Holey, all of Hunters Hills, Spinsters. The SMSM moved in on 13 December and worked for 18 months to prepare the hospital, which included 18 beds, and was to be staffed by the sisters. The hospital officially opened in June 1946.

During the late 1940s and early 1950s, the SMSM submitted a proposal to construct a new hospital that would accommodate 250 beds on site, although this plan never came to fruition. In 1957, Lourdes was gazetted as public hospital. A 1927-1953 Blackwattle Plan from Sydney Water Archives shows the same buildings as the 1943 aerial of the study area with an additional building in the location of the WC. The 1956 aerial photograph shows the tennis court had become part of the gardens and a grotto had been constructed to the east of the hospital building. There was also an extension between the smaller buildings to the west of the main hospital/former school buildings.

In c1967, the hospital was closed as the incidence of tuberculosis had declined. It was reopened one month later as an acute after-care facility for patients from Mater Misericordia Hospital, North Sydney.

Trees:

Several mature trees surround Headfort House including Phoenix Palms, Norfolk Island Pines and a Moreton Bay Fig. The Phoenix Palms line the eastern side of the entrance road down to the grotto. One Phoenix Palm and three Pines survive on Stanhope Road to the west of Headfort House in front of the former inter-war building. These mature trees are not original to the early construction of the school. Early images of the school mostly show remnant eucalypts and minimal landscaping.

Based on the available historic records, these trees date from approximately the 1930s for the western Phoenix Palm (shown in the above c1928-1943 image) and the 1940s for the others. This means they were planted for the school, World War II or hospital periods.

These demonstrate characteristic landscape design from the first half of the twentieth century. Landscape design of this period was based on grand English parks and estates and demonstrated the influence of the Royal Botanic Garden directors, Charles Moore (1848-1896) and Joseph Maiden (1896-1947). For instance, Phoenix Palms, Norfolk Island Pines and Moreton Bay Figs are also found in Elkington Park Balmain, Birchgrove Park Birchgrove, Richmond Park Richmond and McQuade Park Windsor.

Lourdes Retirement (1980-):

In 1980, the SMSM sold the Lourdes Hospital to the Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Society. The Hibernian Society received approval from Ku-ring-gai Municipal Council to build a retirement village on site, although the Sisters remained on site for the next few years.

The Hibernian Society was first established in Ballarat, Victoria in 1865, to assist Irish Catholics with health and funeral benefits. The NSW branch was founded in 1880. By core business areas was development and operations of retirement facilities. In 1998, the Hibernian Society had changed its name to Hibernian Friendly Society (NSW) Limited. The society was demutualised in 2002, and in 2004 it changed its name to Aevum Limited.

In 2010, Aevum was purchased by Stockland.

In December 1984, Aevum (then the Hibernian Society) received approval from council to construct a 44-bed nursing home on the subject site, to be called Lourdes Retirement Village.

As part of the works, apart from the earliest school building (Headfort House), all the other earlier buildings on the site were demolished. It was most likely at this time that the

Chapel wing was altered to house the retirement village's chapel, and the rear of the main part of Headfort House was altered and connected to a new building in its southern side.

In July 1995, the company received approval to increase the number to 48 beds.

In 2011, Council approved the construction of an additional 18 self-contained units.

By March 2011, the Lourdes Retirement Village was well established. A Joint Regional Planning Panel document described the buildings and facilities on site as:

"A wide range of building types, services and facilities are currently located on site including: 108 Strata Titled independent living units (self-contained dwellings) consisting of 31 x1 bedroom units, 55 x 2 bedroom units and 22 x 3 bedroom units; 51 serviced apartments; 19 hostel apartments; 63 high care beds; a variety of parking facilities; facilities for medical personnel and administrative services; private bus transport; various social facilities including an indoor pool, café, indoor bowling green and chapel.

The building form on the site generally comprises single and two storey buildings. These buildings sit among an established landscape setting consisting of garden beds, tree plantings of varying height, pathways and formal landscape features such as a croquet lawn and a rose garden."

Other minor works have since been undertaken on site. In 2015, the council approved the installation of a lift to provide better residents access to the main parking garage, located under the croquet lawn. In 2017, council approved a new rendered masonry front fence and signage that was constructed shortly after.

Historic Themes

Records Retrieved: 0

National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
No Results Found		

Recommended Management

Management Summary

Retain and conserve the building in its setting.

Conserve original or significant early features, internally and externally. Limit alterations to significant features to maintenance and repair. Consider alternatives to demolition, wherever possible.

Significant features within the curtilage include: Headfort House in full, including interiors, garage and chapel additions; Headfort House setting, viewed in the round; Visual and physical connection of Headfort House to Stanhope Road, the main entrance drive and turning circle; Garden setting and former tennis court near Headfort House; and Mature early trees within the front garden of Headfort House, particularly the Norfolk Island Pines and Phoenix Palms (palms are outside the curtilage). Moreton Bay Fig of a similar period is of less significance because of its obstruction to views of the front façade.

Design additions to respect the form and style, without visually dominating, the original building.

Major redevelopment of the surrounding land should incorporate positive heritage impacts for the building and grounds, such as through conservation, repair, reinstatement and interpretation of significant historic features. Such repair works could include painting external timberwork and repairing roof leaks. Restoring the open front verandah or improving views to principal street features are examples of reinstatement works. Interpretation could relate to new building works that interpret the original site layout or signage that illustrates significant uses, such as the school and then WWII use by the AWAS.

New works are to consider the relationship to further related features of this site of some significance, located partly or wholly beyond the listing boundary including: Mature Phoenix Palms and Norfolk Island Pines to the west of the front garden along Stanhope Road and the avenue along the main entrance road to the east of Headfort House; Turning circle and Grotto to the south-east of Headfort House; Potential archeological relics of inter-war building to the west of Headfort House; Potential archeological relics of inter-war building to the west of Headfort House (permit required noted below).

Application documents:

Before lodging applications for works, contact Council's duty planner for pre-application advice on the most efficient process, information requirements and the planned works.

Prepare a heritage impact statement for development applications. When planning more substantial work, consider preparing a conservation management plan.

For the land to the west of Headfort House, an excavation permit will be required under section 139 of the Heritage Act 1977 from the Heritage Council of NSW before development consent is determined for any disturbance of this site. This is to assess and appropriately manage the significance of archaeology relics from the inter-war school/army/hospital building/s in this location in accordance with Heritage NSW guidelines.

Management

Records Retrieved: 2

Management Category	Management Name	Date Updated
		9/19/2022 5:00:24 PM
		9/13/2022 6:18:03 PM

Report/Study

Heritage Studies

Records Retrieved: 0

Report/Study Name	Report/Study Code	Report/Study Type	Report/Study Year	Organisation	Author
No Results Found					

Reference & Internet Links

References

Records Retrieved: 1

Type	Author	Year	Title	Link
Written	GML Heritage	2017	Headfort House, 95 Stanhope Road, Killara, Heritage Significance Assessment	

Data Source

The information for this entry comes from the following source:

Data Source	Record Owner	Heritage Item ID
Local Government	Ku-ring-gai Council	6000289

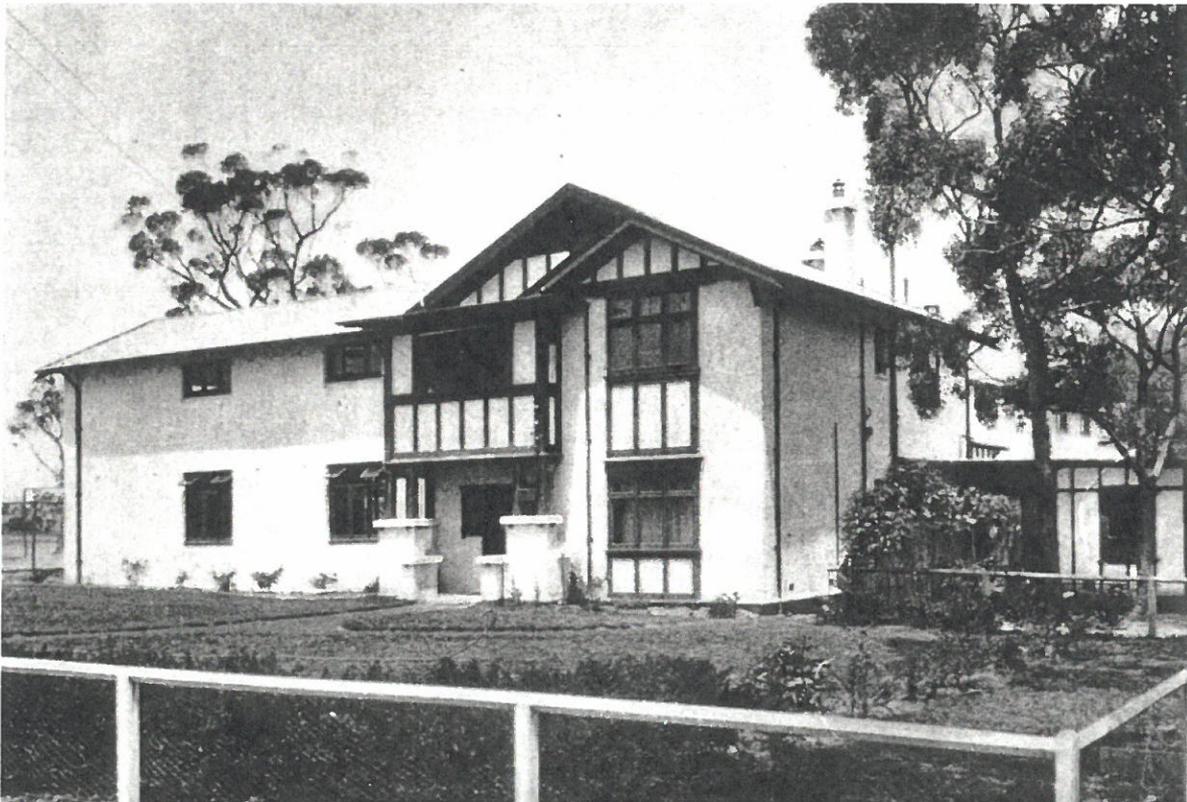
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Headfort House
95 Stanhope Road, Killara
Heritage Significance Assessment

Report prepared for Stockland

May 2017



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Report Register

The following report register documents the development and issue of the report entitled Headfort House, 95 Stanhope Road, Killara—Heritage Significance Assessment undertaken by GML Heritage Pty Ltd in accordance with its quality management system.

Job No.	Issue No.	Notes/Description	Issue Date
16-0330A	1	Draft Report	8 March 2017
16-0330A	2	Final Report	11 May 2017

Quality Assurance

GML Heritage Pty Ltd operates under a quality management system which has been certified as complying with the Australian/New Zealand Standard for quality management systems AS/NZS ISO 9001:2008.

The report has been reviewed and approved for issue in accordance with the GML quality assurance policy and procedures.

Project Manager:	Anna Simanowsky	Project Director & Reviewer:	Julian Siu for Sheridan Burke
Issue No.	2	Issue No.	2
Signature		Signature	
Position:	Senior Consultant	Position:	Heritage Places Coordinator
Date:	11 May 2017	Date:	11 May 2017

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Cover image: c1927 image of Headfort House, as seen from Stanhope Road. (Source: Ku-ring-gai Historical Society)

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

GML Heritage Pty Ltd (GML) has been commissioned by Stockland to prepare a Heritage Significance Assessment (HSA) of Headfort House, located in the northwestern corner of Lourdes Retirement Village (LRV), at 95 Stanhope Road, Killara.

A masterplan is currently being prepared for Lourdes Retirement Village by Architectus, which will guide future development on the site. In conjunction with this work, Ku-ring-gai Council has requested an HSA be undertaken for Headfort House, to assist in its determination of any proposed development at Lourdes Retirement Village.

This HSA identifies and evaluates the heritage significance of Headfort House and its features, identifies a suitable curtilage for the building, and assesses whether it meets the threshold for local significance in the Ku-ring-gai local government area (LGA).

1.2 Site Identification

Lourdes Retirement Village is located at 95 Stanhope Road Killara. The real property description of the site is Lots 21 and 22, DP 634645 (shown in Figures 1.1 and 1.2). It is located in the Ku-ring-gai LGA.

Headfort House is a two-storey building located close to Stanhope Road. The front of the building (its north elevation) faces Stanhope Road. The southern (rear) side of the building is connected to a one–two storey building that houses community facilities for the retirement village.

1.3 Heritage Listings

Neither Headfort House, nor any part of the LRV site, are identified as local heritage items on Schedule 5 of the *Ku-ring-gai Local Environmental Plan 2015* (LEP 2015).

Neither Headfort House, nor any part of the LRV site, are identified as heritage items on the NSW State Heritage Register (SHR).

Neither Headfort House nor LRV are located in a Heritage Conservation Area.

1.3.1 Heritage Items in the Vicinity

The heritage items and heritage conservation areas within the vicinity of the subject site are listed in Table 1.1, and illustrated in Figure 1.3.

GML Heritage

Table 1.1 Heritage Items and Conservation Areas Within the Vicinity.

Item Name	Address	Ku-ring-gai LEP 2015 Item No.
Seven Little Australians Park (being the western part of former Lindfield Park)	Tryon Road, East Killara	I1100
Swain Gardens	77–77A Stanhope Road, Killara	I1103
Crown Blocks Conservation Area		C22

1.4 Limitations

The physical analysis was based on a visual inspection only. No opening up of fabric or concealed areas was undertaken.

This report does not consider Aboriginal heritage values of the site.

No social significance consultation was undertaken as part of this study.

1.5 Methodology and Terminology

This report has been prepared in accordance with the principles outlined in 'Assessing Heritage Significance'.¹ It is also consistent with the relevant principles and guidelines of the *Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance 2013* (the Burra Charter).²

The preparation of the HSA has involved the following steps to assess the heritage significance of the site:

- historical research and preparation of a historical overview;
- a site inspection of property and surrounding area;
- review of the statutory heritage context of the site;
- a brief survey and comparative analysis of similar buildings in the Ku-ring-gai Municipality; and
- assessment of the heritage significance consistent with the State Heritage Significance Criteria adopted by the Heritage Council of New South Wales and based on the historical review, site inspection and understanding of the property.

1.6 Author Identification

This report was prepared by Anna Simanowsky, GML Senior Consultant. The report was reviewed by Sheridan Burke, GML Partner. The historical outline (Section 2.0) was prepared by Angela So, GML Consultant.

We acknowledge the kind assistance of Carolyn Darby of the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society Inc. in sourcing historical information and images that have been used in this report.

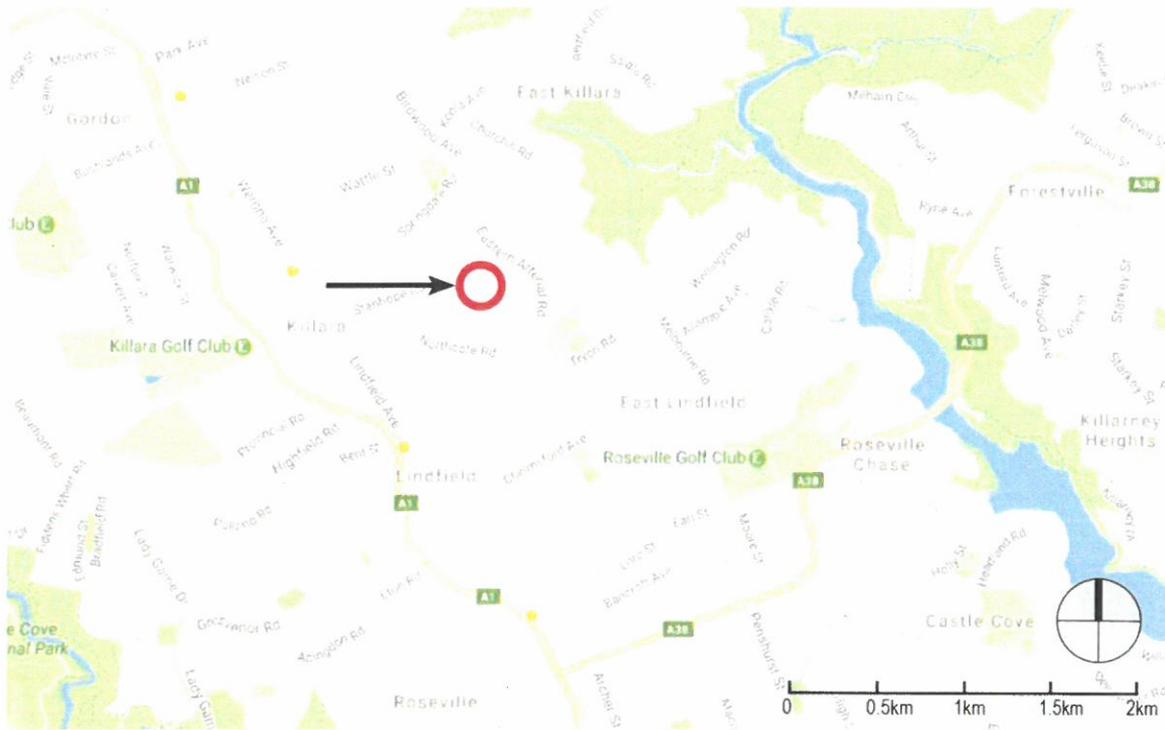


Figure 1.1 Site location map. (Source: Google Maps with GML overlay, 2015)



Figure 1.2 Satellite image showing the subject site—the location of Headfort House is indicated in red, with the Lourdes Retirement Village boundaries marked in blue. (Source: Department of Lands with GML overlay)

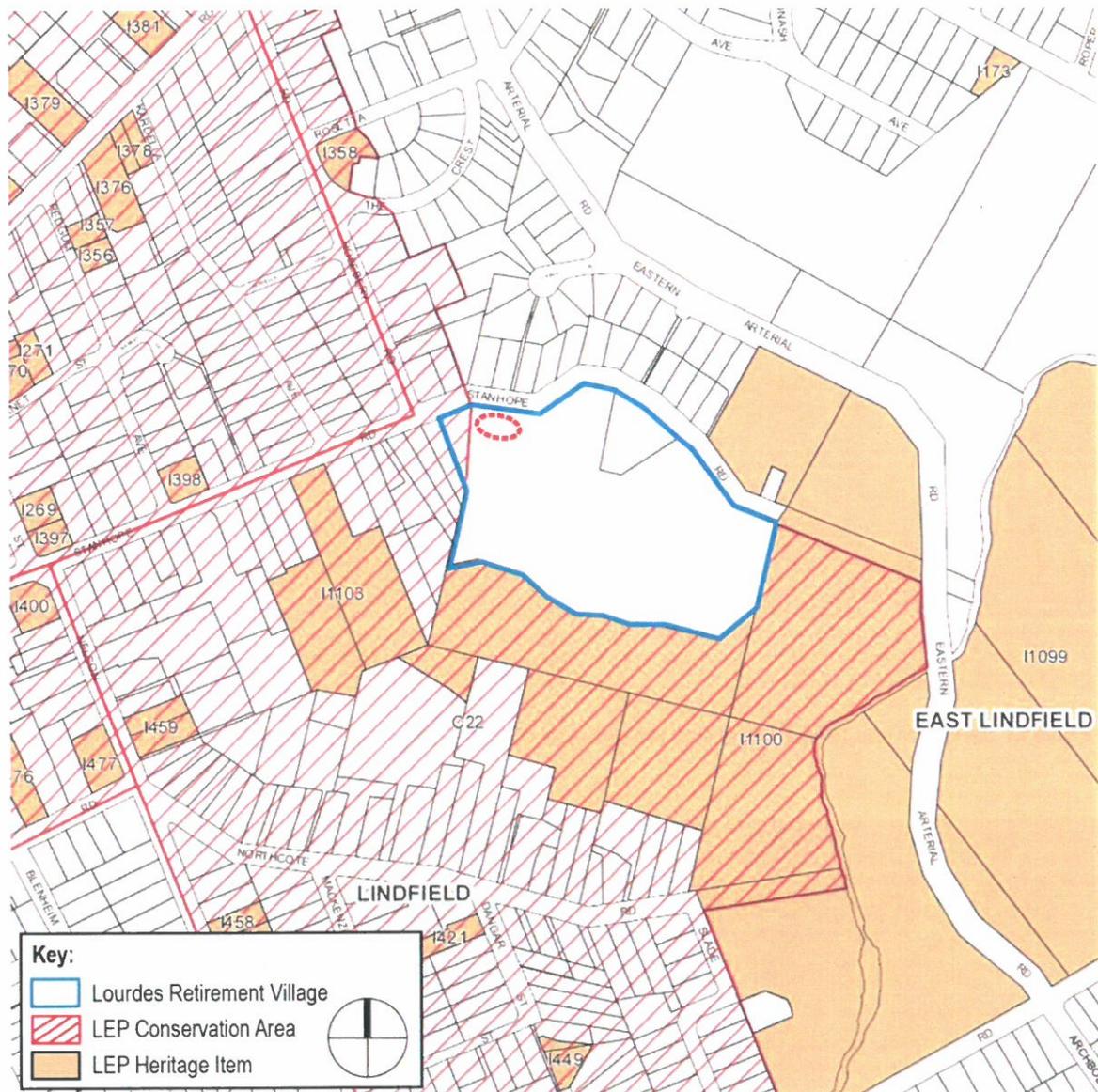


Figure 1.3 Heritage map showing the subject site in relation to the nearby heritage conservation areas and heritage items. The location of Headfort House is indicated with a dotted red circle. (Source: Ku-ring-gai LEP, 2015)

1.7 Endnotes

- 1 NSW Heritage Office 2001, 'Assessing Heritage Significance', a *NSW Heritage Manual* update, Sydney.
- 2 Australia ICOMOS Inc, *The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance 2013*, Australia ICOMOS Inc, Burwood, VIC.

2.0 Historical Overview

2.1 Introduction

The following history provides an overview of the development of the subject site. It is based on primary and secondary sources available from the following repositories:

- Ku-ring-gai Historical Society;
- Land and Property Information (NSW);
- Moore Theological College Library (Newtown);
- Sydney Water Archives; and
- Trove (National Library of Australia).

2.2 Killara—Pre-European History

The Guringai people were the original occupants of the Upper North Shore area, including Killara. The lands of the Guringai had abundant sources of food: the Guringai harvested food from the bushlands and fished in the waters around the area. The Guringai developed a rich and complex culture, which included a distinctive language. At the heart of their culture and spirituality was a connection to land.¹

2.3 Early European Occupation

The earliest European inhabitants in this area were convict timber cutters and their overseers. Their camp was initially set up in c1805 along the banks of Lane Cove River, at the southwestern end of present Fiddens Wharf Road. In 1819, the camp was closed as there were no more suitable trees to cut at this location.

In 1821, Governor Lachlan Macquarie issued five land grants that form the shape of present-day Killara: 100 acres to John Griffiths, 80 acres to Edwin Booker, 60 acres to Samuel Midgley, 45 acres to Henry Oliver and 40 acres to Joseph Fidden. The Crown imposed the condition that individual grants could not be sold for five years and grantees must cultivate at least 20 acres within the five-year period. The land could be logged for timber (most for the first time) and available species included blackbutt, ironbark, stringybark and blue gum.² The 1820s and 1830s were a profitable time for timber getting, however, once the timber resources were depleted, the land was sold and subdivided.³

In 1839, the sixth and largest grant (160 acres) was issued by Governor George Gipps to Mrs Jane McGillivray. McGillivray's grant became known as Springdale and includes the present centre of Killara. Springdale covered both sides of Killara railway station and included Powell Street, Stanhope Road, Springdale Road and the Arterial Road and Pacific Highway. McGillivray lived at Springdale and established a girl's school there. When she died in 1861, there were complications regarding landownership as McGillivray bequeathed the land to her six children and descendants who lived widespread across the country. At one stage, it was proposed for the entire grant to be used as the Northern Suburbs Cemetery. This proposal was eventually abandoned after the successful lobbying for the North Shore railway line, and the subdivision of Springdale for the Killara railway station.⁴

2.4 Push for Railway Service

James George Edwards, local schoolteacher and later alderman of Ku-ring-gai Municipal Council, led the push for the railway station to be constructed in Killara. He purchased Springdale from McGillivray's descendants across the country, subdivided and resold the land east of the railway line at reduced prices to ensure there were enough people who would agitate for the railway station.⁵ From 1893 to 1899, Edwards marketed the area as a desirable suburb for 'gentlemen of means'. Up until then the area was dominantly used for orchards, small farms or was still undeveloped bushland. When a community began to develop in Killara after 1895, Edwards worked to create a town with a residential, recreational and cultural focus, rather than a business one.⁶ The Killara railway station opened in 1899, six years after the first train service ran from Milsons Point to Hornsby in 1893.⁷

2.5 Early Land Ownership of Subject Site

The subject site is located within portions 212–214, part of 211, 218, 219 and 573 of Killara (Figure 2.1). It is located just over 1km from Killara railway station. The oldest extant building is located within Portion 212—the land was purchased at auction in March 1899 by Joseph Harrison, carriage builder from Marrickville (Figure 2.2). He paid £165 for five acres, three roods and 20 perches. Harrison sold Portion 212 in 1914 to George Gould, Eli Higham and Louis Jeramiah O'Rourke as tenants in common.⁸ Gould, Higham and O'Rourke already owned portions 213 and 214 (nine acres, one rod and five perches in total), which they purchased off Harold Daniell in July 1913 (Figure 2.3).⁹

In November 1917, Gould, Higham and O'Rourke subdivided Portion 212 and sold three acres and 16 perches to Robert Thompson Wade, a Hornsby clergyman (Figure 2.4).¹⁰ Wade established Headfort School at this location. Based on a search of *The Sands Directory*, this location was previously unoccupied as Wade and Headfort School was the first listing for the subject site (first listed in 1919).¹¹ In 1919, Gould, Higham and O'Rourke sold Wade the remainder of Portion 212 (Figure 2.5).¹²

O'Rourke died in October 1922 and a month later Gould and Higham sold portions 213 and 214 to Wade.¹³ In 1924, Wade purchased part of Portion 211 (39.25 perches) and in 1926 he purchased another 34.5 perches of Portion 211 (Figures 2.6 and 2.7).

2.5.1 Robert Thompson Wade

Wade was born in Dublin in 1884 and arrived in NSW in 1890. He eventually studied at the University of Sydney and graduated with Honours in geology and mathematics in 1908. After graduation, he began teaching science at Barker College, Hornsby.

Wade was made deacon by Bishop Camidge in 1908 and he married Mary Adderley Kearney at the end of that year. In 1909, Wade was priested by Bishop Stone-Wigg and became curate at St Paul's, Wahroonga, with Hornsby. In 1910, Wade left Barker College briefly for a senior curacy at St John's, Darlinghurst. In 1917, Wade was acting headmaster at Barker College and taught physics, chemistry and geology. In 1918, Wade established Headfort School and eventually sold it in 1928. Afterwards, he became senior science master at the King's School, Parramatta.

Wade was also a prolific ichthyologist and between 1925 and 1929, he collected hundreds of fossilised fish from Brookvale brick pits. He received a grant from the Australian National Research Council to undertake a PhD on vertebrate palaeontology at Clare College, Cambridge. He sold his Australian Mesozoic fish collection to British Museum, who also published his memoir, *The Triassic Fishes of Brookvale, New South Wales*, in 1935. Between 1930 and 1953, Wade also published six papers on Triassic and Jurassic fishes.

After a short stint as dean of Christ Church Cathedral in the Falkland Islands, Argentina, Wade returned to Sydney in 1936. He eventually became headmaster of Broughton School for Boys, Newcastle, and in 1941 he returned to King's School. Wade retired in 1949 and lived in Manly. He died in 1967 in Eastwood and was cremated.¹⁴

2.6 Headfort School

In 1918, Wade opened Headfort School at 95 Stanhope Road, Killara. Wade had constructed a 'new school house'¹⁵ and had undertaken 'pioneering work' to overcome the many difficulties of the site such as obtaining water, the installation of an air-gas machine to provide light and construction of a large septic tank. It is likely that the original schoolhouse Wade built is now the main part of Headfort House at Lourdes Retirement Village.

The Marquis of Headfort, who was a cousin of Wade's wife, became a patron of the school. The Marquis' coat of arms was featured on the school's magazine.¹⁶

On 11 January 1918, Wade advertised the school in *The Farmer and Settler* as:

BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL FOR BOYS OF ALL AGES.—In country surroundings, on the North Sydney Highlands (400ft above sea). Ground occupy 16-acres, adjacent to Government reserve. Schoolhouse in brick with well-constructed outdoor sleeping accommodation.¹⁷

While Wade only owned part of Portion 212, he advertised that the school grounds comprised 16 acres. Therefore, it is likely that Wade leased additional land—possibly the remainder of Portion 212, and portions 213 and 214.

Within a few months of the school's opening, Wade advertised for bricklayers, plasterers and floor layers in April and May 1918.¹⁸ In June 1918, the school advertised for more students and stated:

A new wing, just completed, is a two-storied brick building, comprising 3 finely designed schoolrooms and dormitories for an additional 30 boarders ... as in the main building, special attention has been devoted to lighting and ventilation.¹⁹

The new wing was most likely the chapel wing of Headfort House, with the upper floor a dormitory and three classrooms located on the ground floor.

At the end of the first school year, the first annual speech day of Headfort School took place in Killara Hall, with prizes presented by Sir William P Cullen, the Chief Justice. Wade reported on 'extensive building operations' and that there were nearly 100 boys who attended the school.²⁰ In the following year the number of boys attending had increased to 120.²¹

The school continued to grow with steadily increasing attendance.²² A photograph of the school taken in 1921 shows two connected two-storey buildings (one of these being Headfort House) with students in the surrounding gardens and a tennis court to the east of the school buildings (Figure 2.8). During the early 1920s, work was undertaken to improve sporting facilities including enlarging the tennis court, installing a cricket pitch and practice area, and construction of swimming pool.²³ In 1922, the students of Headfort School successfully raised funds for the construction of a mini rifle range and they were applauded for their initiative (Figure 2.9).²⁴ A newspaper article in January 1921 described the Headfort School as follows:

The buildings were specially erected for school purposes, and embody the headmaster's thirteen years' experience of boarding school requirements, together with the architect's wide experience in school construction. They comprise the headmaster's residence, an administrative block, quarters for the household staff, dormitory accommodation for 70 boarders, quarters for the resident staff, six classrooms ... and locker rooms.²⁵

In 1923, the *Evening News* published an article on the school, where it was physically described as:

The site chosen is admirable. Only 7 miles from Sydney, it is a plateau about 100 feet above sea level, jutting out into the beautiful coastal valleys which lead to upper Middle Harbour. To walk 50 yards from the building and in the grounds is to enter the Australian Bush in the most kindly way.

Of the school property, enough has been cleared to supply two full playing fields and a smaller field. Near the school is a swimming pool and at some little distance a miniature rifle range.

The buildings of brick and stone were designed by an architect experienced in school construction. The class rooms are six in number, excellently lighted and ventilated and furnished with the most modern furniture. There is a science room. The dormitories are designed to secure a maximum of light and air so that when the weather is suitable the boys secure the benefits of outdoor sleeping, yet the rigors of wintry weather are avoided.²⁶

After running the school for nine years, Wade made the decision to sell the school to Congregation Union of NSW in 1927. His decision to sell was influenced by his wife, whose health was being impacted by her role of overseeing the domestic functions of the school.²⁷

A notable student who attended Headfort School was John Gorton, Prime Minister of Australia from 1967 to 1971. He attended the school for two years from 1921.²⁸ In 1992, Gorton received the Form III prize for English and arithmetic and in 1923 he received the Form IV prize for divinity.²⁹

2.7 Milton Grammar School

In 1927, Headfort School was acquired by the Congregational Union of NSW, which had been eager to establish a school of its denomination (Figure 2.11).³⁰ However, it was not until December 1934 that the Congregational Union purchased the land (portions 212, 213 and 214 and part of Portion 211) plus additional adjoining land (Figure 2.12).³¹

The purchase was described as follows in *Queensland Times*:

The Congregational Union of New South Wales has made an important move in purchasing the Headfort School at Killara. It will now be conducted under the name of Milton School as a day and boarding school for boys. The building, which stands on about 20 acres of ground is of brick and stone, and there is boarding accommodation for 60 boys.³²

According to *The Sun*, the Congregational Union would plan to spend an additional £1000 to refurbish the sporting grounds.³³

John Cameron was appointed the first and only headmaster of Milton Grammar School. He was born in Launceston in 1878. A high achiever in sport and academia, Cameron had a mathematical scholarship from the University of Tasmania and obtained his Masters of Arts from Trinity College, Cambridge. He was a master at the King's School, Parramatta, and previously taught in Geelong. His wife oversaw domestic side of the school.³⁴

Plans of the school and grounds were prepared by Sydney Water in November 1927 (Figures 2.13 and 2.14). Unfortunately, details of the school fields were not included but it is possible to see that a fibro building was added to the western side of the school building and that there was a small detached WC. A series of historical photographs believed to have been taken around 1930 show the exterior of the school buildings and surrounding gardens (Figures 2.15–2.18).

The Depression impacted the school and there were only 39 students in 1931 which dropped to 28 by 1934. As a result, the school was closed by the start of 1935. An auction to sell off school furniture was held in February 1935.³⁵

Afterwards, Cameron opened Lochiel Boys' Junior Grammar School to the northeast of subject area, at 28 Rosebery Road, Killara, in May 1935.³⁶ In 1940, Lochiel Boys' Junior Grammar School moved into the former Milton School buildings for a year before relocating to Lynne Ridge in Gordon.³⁷

2.8 Australian Women's Army Service

The Congregational Church tried to lease out the school building as a boarding house but was unsuccessful, as were attempts to sell the land. The school buildings remained vacant, and vagrants and the homeless were attracted to the buildings.

After Japan entered World War II, the Australian Army requisitioned the empty buildings as a base for housing and training women recruited into the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS). After years of neglect, the first officers to be posted at the former school found the buildings to be in a filthy and dilapidated state. The women were required to clean the buildings themselves prior to the arrival of the first recruits.

The first 100-plus recruits arrived on 26 January 1942. The course lasted for 23 days and the living conditions were primitive and described as having 'no doors to the ablution block, cold showers, no staff, no cooks, no uniforms.'³⁸ All recruits were required to contribute and placed on a rotating roster, working in the kitchens, mess, and cleaning the ablutions and dormitories. The women lived per a strict military regiment and practised erecting tents, air raids, fire drills and performing military drills and parades and attending lectures (Figures 2.19–2.22).³⁹ A 1943 aerial of the study area shows both school buildings on site, as well as the tennis court (Figure 2.21). There were three additional buildings since 1927 (Figure 2.14): one located to the east of the tennis court; another to the west of the school building (probably Figure 2.20); and another building, south of the fibro extension. There were also tents erected on the playing fields.

In August 1942, the decision was made to substantially increase the number of recruits and a recruit training battalion was opened at Ingleburn Camp. The Killara recruit school was closed and became the AWAS barracks for housing instrument mechanics' trainees. In December 1942, an AWAS NCO school was established at Killara. The AWAS NCO school ran until 1944 when the organisation was moved to Ingleburn and the AWAS left Killara.⁴⁰

2.9 Lourdes Hospital

In response to the growing number of tuberculosis patients requiring hospital care, Dr John Hughes, the Director of Tuberculosis in Department of Public Health, approached Archbishop Norman Thomas Gilroy (later Cardinal) about the possibility of a religious organisation undertaking this work. Gilroy approached the Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary (SMSM). The SMSM was based in Hunters Hill at the 'bird of passage' house, which was overflowing with missionary sisters that were nurses or teachers.

On 7 December 1944, the former AWAS recruitment school was jointly purchased by 'The Most Reverend Norman Thomas Gilroy, Catholic Archbishop of Sydney, The Very Reverend John Vincent McCabe, The Very Reverend John Toohey, both Sydney Catholic Priests, and Mary Rose Decker, Mary Benedict Varley and Mary Kevin Holey, all of Hunters Hills Spinsters.'⁴¹ The SMSM moved in on 13 December and worked for 18 months to prepare the hospital, which included 18 beds, and was to be staffed by the sisters.⁴² The hospital officially opened in June 1946 (Figures 2.23 and 2.24).⁴³

During the late 1940s and early 1950s, the SMSM submitted a proposal to construct a new hospital that would accommodate 250 beds on site, although this plan never came to fruition (Figure 2.25).⁴⁴ In 1957, Lourdes was gazetted as public hospital. A 1927–1953 Blackwattle Plan from Sydney Water Archives

shows the same buildings as the 1943 aerial of the study area with an additional building in the location of the WC (Figure 2.26). The 1956 aerial photograph shows the tennis court had become part of the gardens and a grotto had been constructed to the east of the hospital building. There was also an extension between the smaller buildings to the west of the main hospital/former school buildings (Figure 2.27).

In c1967, the hospital was closed as the incidence of tuberculosis had declined. It was reopened one month later as an acute after-care facility for patients from Mater Misericordia Hospital, North Sydney (Figure 2.28).⁴⁵

2.10 Lourdes Retirement Building

In 1980, the SMSM sold the Lourdes Hospital to the Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Society. The Hibernian Society received approval from Ku-ring-gai Municipal Council to build a retirement village on site, although the Sisters remained on site for the next few years.⁴⁶

The Hibernian Society was first established in Ballarat, Victoria in 1865, to assist Irish Catholics with health and funeral benefits. The NSW branch was founded in 1880. By the 1980s, one of the society's core business areas was development and operations of retirement facilities. In 1998, the Hibernian Society had changed its name to Hibernian Friendly Society (NSW) Limited. The society was demutualised in 2002, and in 2004 it changed its name to Aevum Limited.⁴⁷ In 2010, Aevum was purchased by Stockland.⁴⁸

In December 1984, Aevum (then the Hibernian Society) received approval from council to construct a 44-bed nursing home on the subject site, to be called Lourdes Retirement Village (Figures 2.29 and 2.30). As part of the works, apart from the earliest school building (Headfort House), all the other earlier buildings on the site were demolished. It was most likely at this time that the Chapel wing was altered to house the retirement village's chapel, and the rear of the main part of Headfort House was altered and connected to a new building in its southern side. In July 1995, the company received approval to increase the number to 48 beds.⁴⁹ In 2011, Council approved the construction of an additional 18 self-contained units (Figure 2.31).⁵⁰

By March 2011, the Lourdes Retirement Village was well established. A Joint Regional Planning Panel document described the buildings and facilities on site as:

A wide range of building types, services and facilities are currently located on site including: 108 Strata Titled independent living units (self-contained dwellings) consisting of 31 x1 bedroom units, 55 x 2 bedroom units and 22 x 3 bedroom units; 51 serviced apartments; 19 hostel apartments; 63 high care beds; a variety of parking facilities; facilities for medical personnel and administrative services; private bus transport; various social facilities including an indoor pool, café, indoor bowling green and chapel.

The building form on the site generally comprises single and two storey buildings. These buildings sit among an established landscape setting consisting of garden beds, tree plantings of varying height, pathways and formal landscape features such as a croquet lawn and a rose garden.⁵¹

Other minor works have since been undertaken on site. In 2015, the council approved the installation of a lift to provide better residents access to the main parking garage, located under the croquet lawn.⁵² In 2017, council approved a new rendered masonry front fence and signage.⁵³

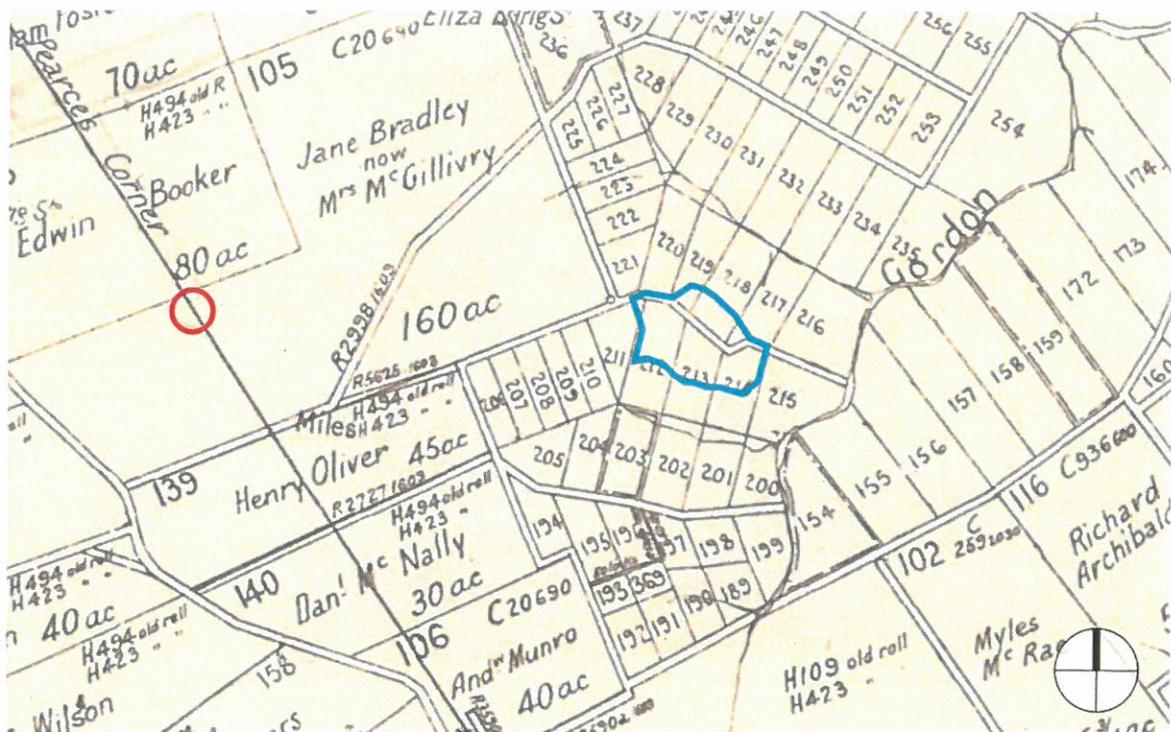


Figure 2.1 1897 parish map of Gordon showing the present-day location of Lourdes Retirement Village (indicated in blue) and approximate location of Killara Station (circled in red). (Source: NLA <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-230192436>>, with GML overlay)

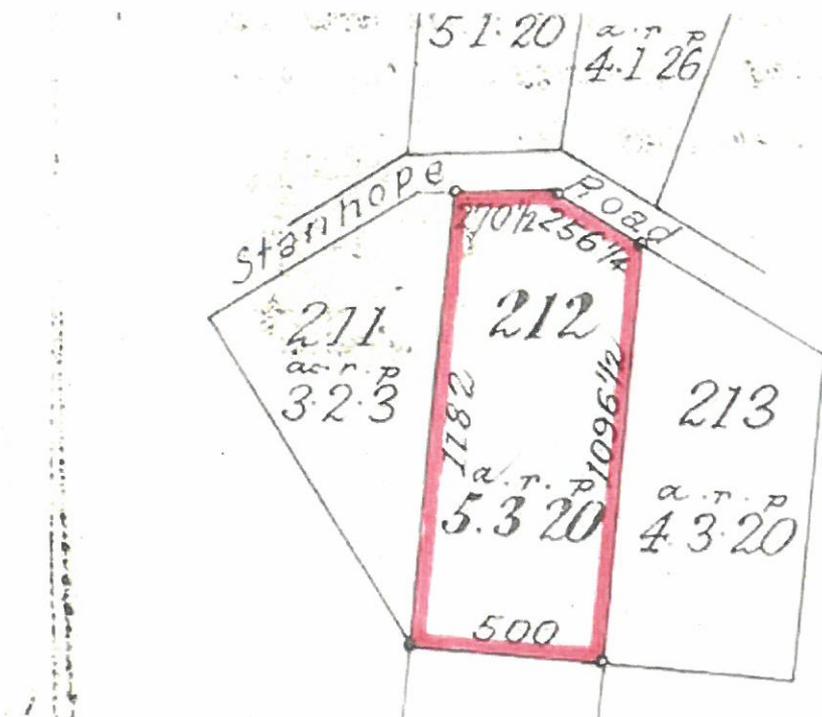


Figure 2.2 Sketch showing the land (Portion 212) purchased by Joseph Harrison in 1899. (Source: CT 1471–28, LPI NSW)

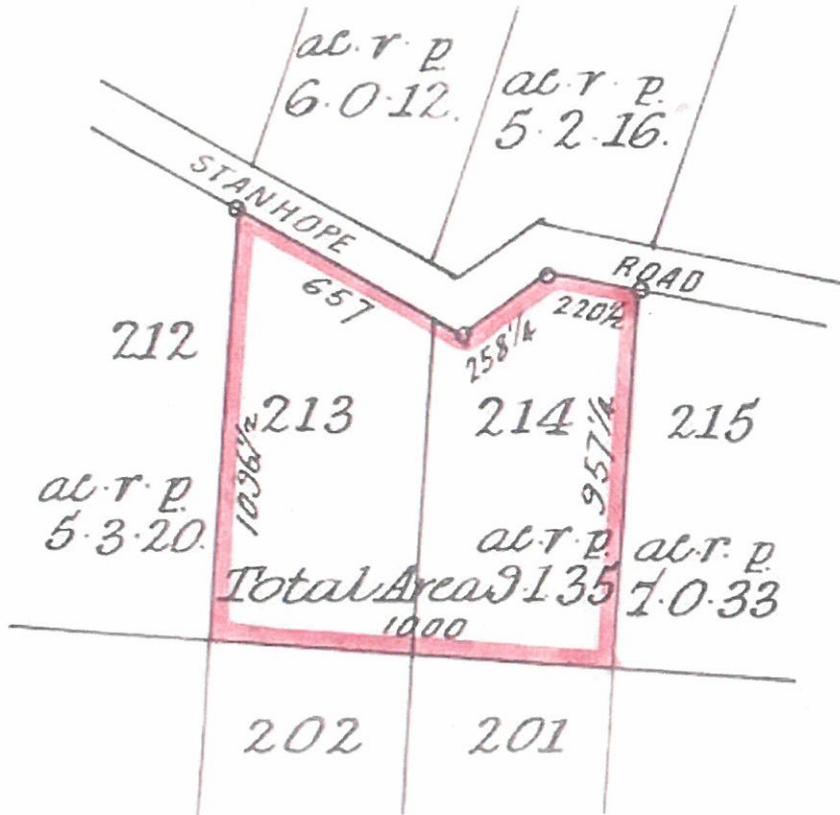


Figure 2.3 Sketch showing portions 213 and 214 purchased by George Gould, Eli Higham and Louis Jeremiah O'Rourke in 1913. (Source: CT 2369–250, LPI NSW)

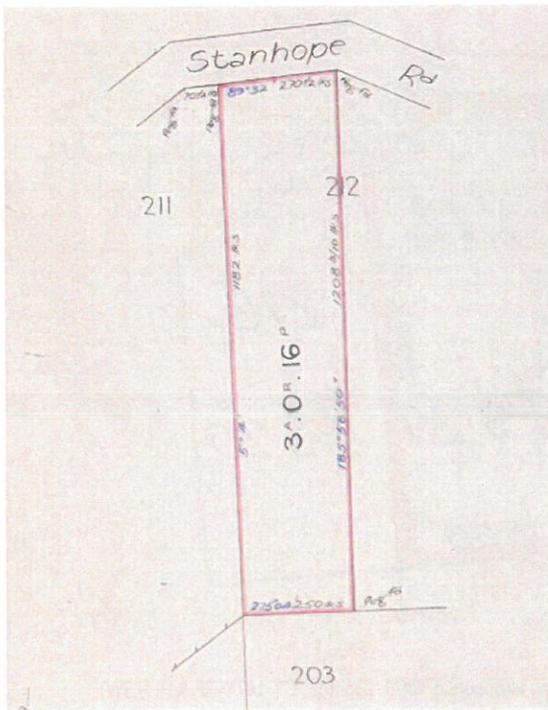


Figure 2.4 Sketching showing Wade's initial purchase of part of Portion 212, made in 1917. (Source: CT 2807–6, LPI NSW)

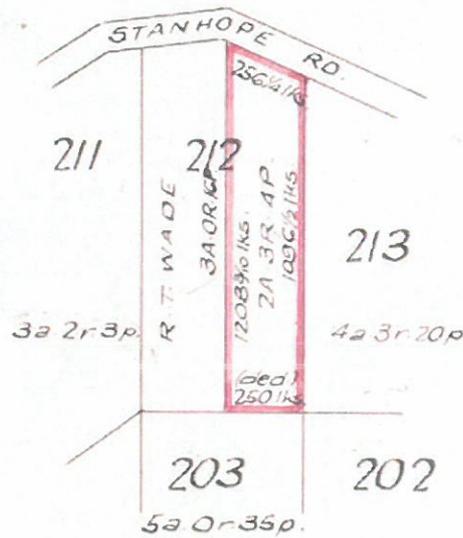


Figure 2.5 Sketch showing the remainder of Portion 212, purchased by Wade in 1919. (Source: CT 2916–9, LPI NSW)

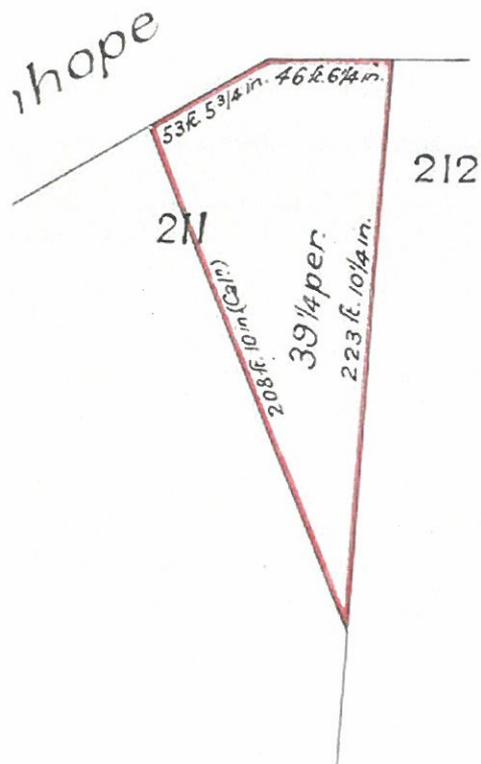


Figure 2.6 Sketching showing Wade's initial purchase of Portion 211, made in 1924. (Source: CT 3569-61, LPI NSW)

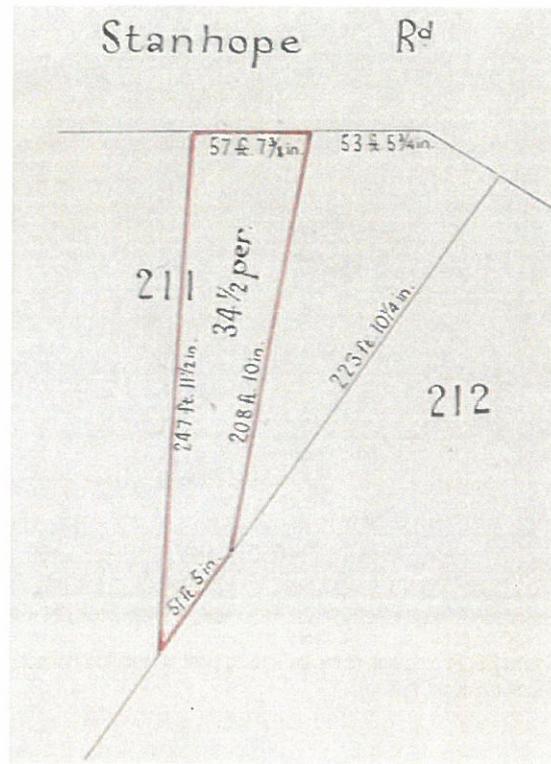


Figure 2.7 Sketching showing Wade's additional purchase of Portion 211, made in 1926. (Source: CT 3948-99, LPI NSW)



Figure 2.8 Photograph of Headfort School, taken in c1921. Headfort House is on the right. The building on the left has since been demolished. (Source: *The Headfort Chronicle: The Magazine of Headfort School, Killara*, p 3)

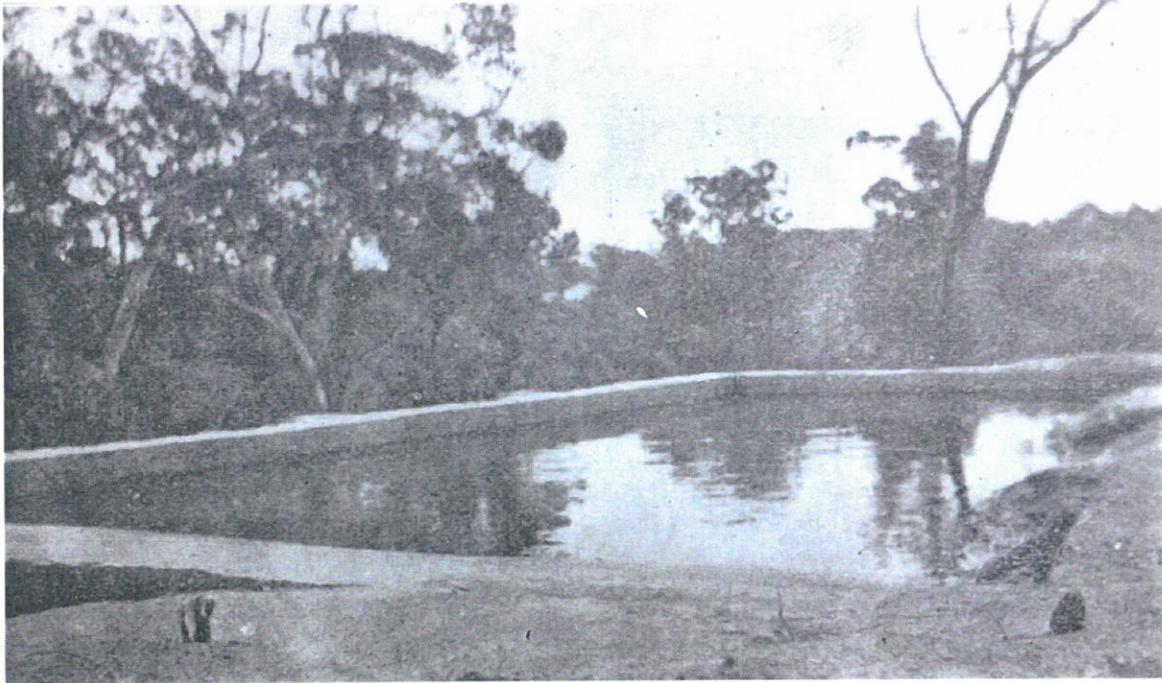
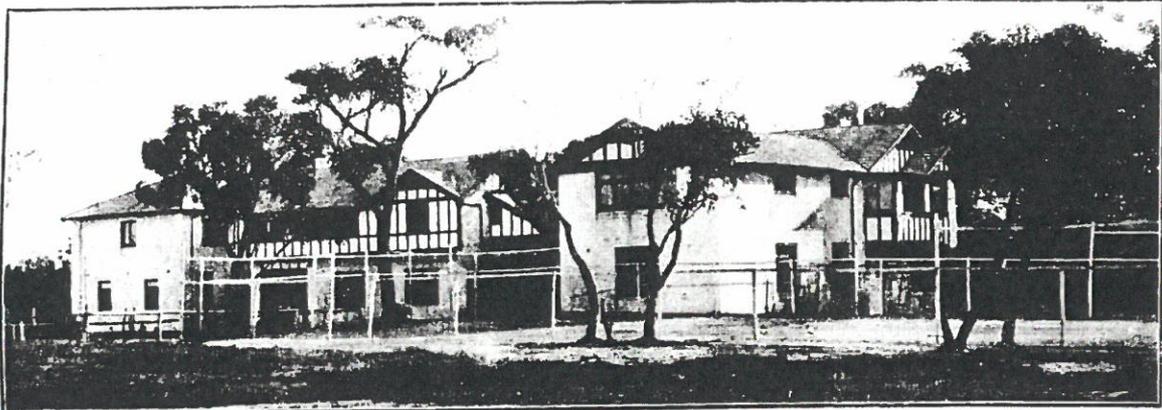


Figure 2.9 Photograph of the swimming pool at Headfort School, taken in c1921. (Source: *The Headfort Chronicle: The Magazine of Headfort School, Killara*)



Figure 2.10 Opening of the rifle range at Headfort School in 1922. (Source: *Sydney Mail*, 17 May 1933, p 31)

ACQUIRED BY THE CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF NEW SOUTH WALES.



HEADFORT SCHOOL, KILLARA, WHICH WILL BE RENAMED MILTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Figure 2.11 1927 Photograph of Headfort School, following its purchase by the Congregational Union of NSW. (Source: *Sydney Morning Herald*, 27 August 1927, p 20)



Figure 2.12 1934 plan of Congregational Union of NSW landholdings at Stanhope Road, Killara. (Source: CT 4664-126, LPI NSW)



Figure 2.13 1927 Sydney Water survey of the Milton Grammar School. (Source: Sydney Water Archives)

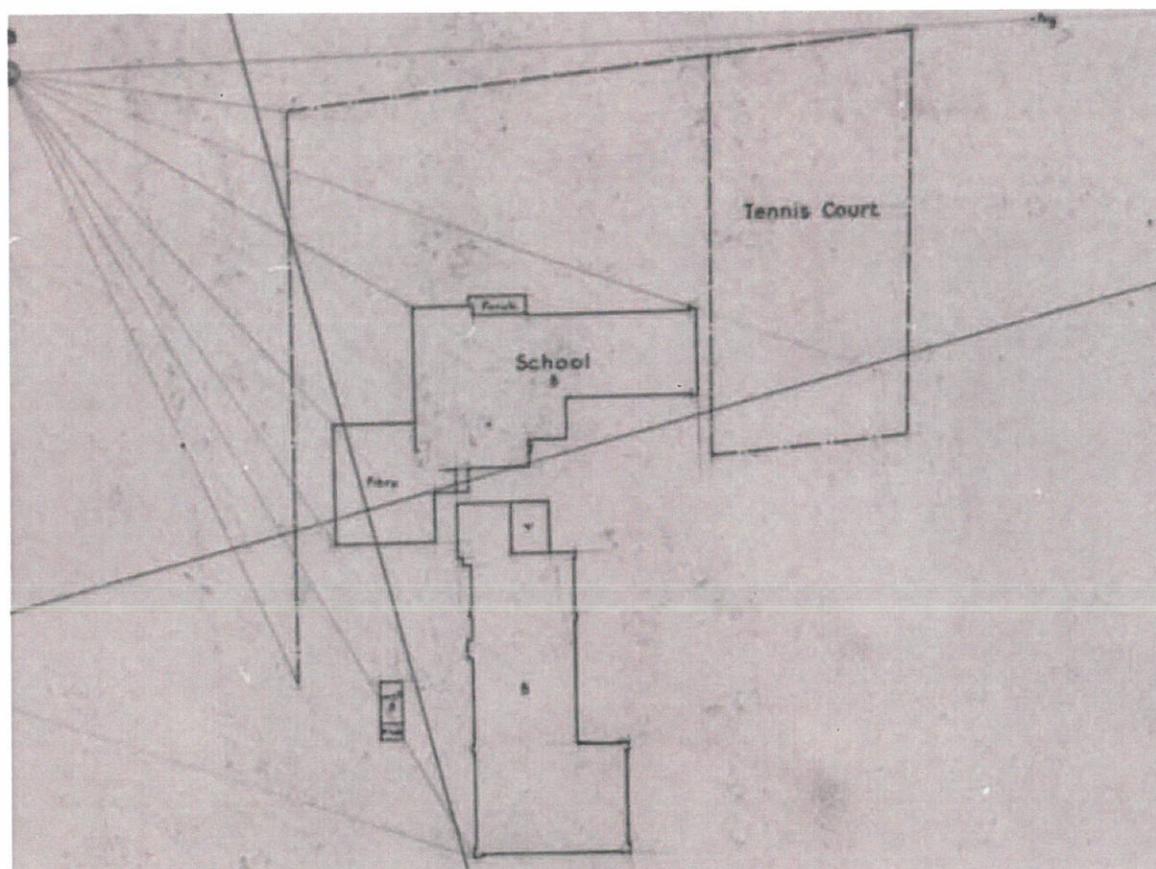


Figure 2.14 Detail of the 1927 Sydney Water survey of the Milton Grammar School. (Source: Sydney Water Archives)



Figure 2.15 c1927 school building, published in Cook, KM 1991, *The Railway Came to Ku-ring-gai*, Genlin Investments, Pymble. (Source: Ku-ring-gai Historical Society photographic collection)



Figure 2.16 The school buildings c1927, published in Cook, KM 1991, *The Railway Came to Ku-ring-gai*, Genlin Investments, Pymble. (Source: Ku-ring-gai Historical Society photographic collection)



Figure 2.17 c1930 school building and garden path, published Cook, KM 1991, *The Railway Came to Ku-ring-gai*, Genlin Investments, Pymble. (Source: Ku-ring-gai Historical Society photographic collection)

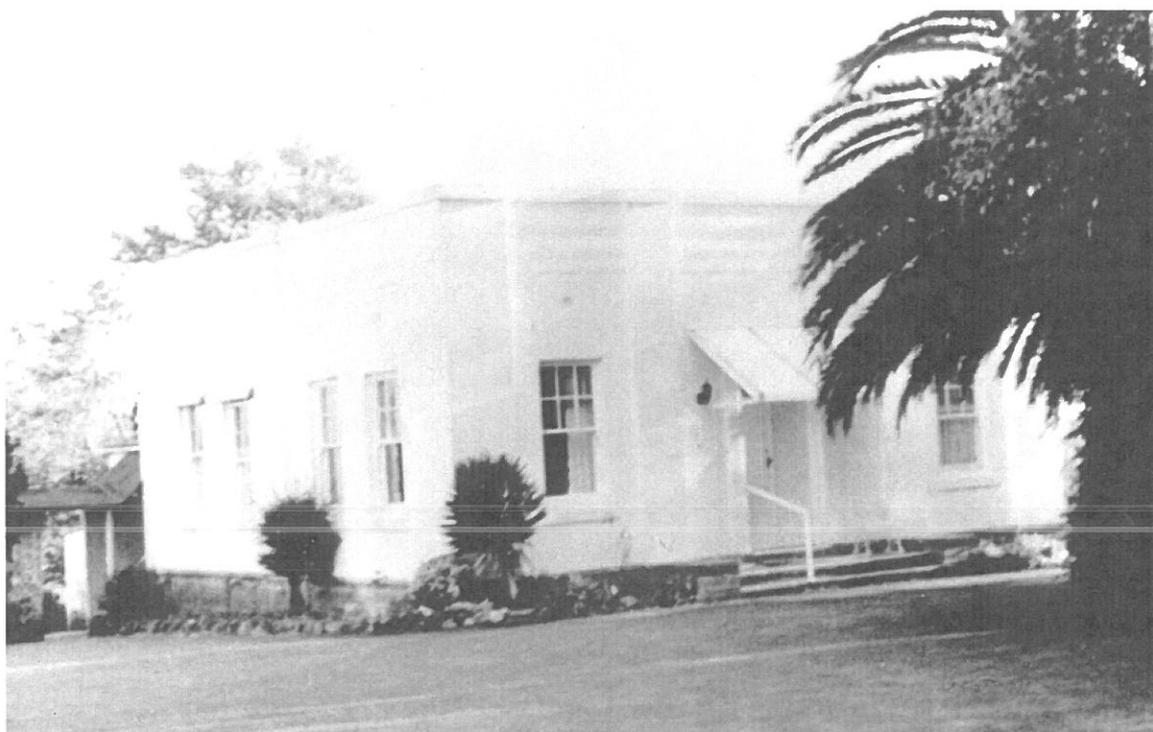


Figure 2.18 This building was most likely located to the west of Headfort House, and was constructed between 1928 and 1943. Its use is unknown. Published in Cook, KM 1991, *The Railway Came to Ku-ring-gai*, Genlin Investments, Pymble. (Source: Ku-ring-gai Historical Society photographic collection)



Figure 2.19 1942 view of the former school buildings, here being used by the Australian Women's Army Service. The east elevation of Headfort House is on the left. The arched structure was constructed in 1928. (Source: Australian War Memorial, viewed 22 February 2017 <<http://www.awm.gov.au/collection/P01343001>>)



Figure 2.20 c1943 photograph of the former school buildings, viewed from the east. (Source: Australian War Memorial, viewed 22 February 2017 <<http://www.awm.gov.au/collection/P00204.0011>>)



Figure 2.21 1943 aerial of the subject site and grounds. A series of tents (like Figure 2.24) can be seen on the former school grounds. (Source: SIX Maps, LPI NSW)



Figure 2.22 Australian Women's Army Service erecting tents while wearing tin helmets and gas respirators, c1944. (Source: Australian War Memorial, viewed 22 February 2017 <<http://www.awm.gov.au/collection/064733>>)

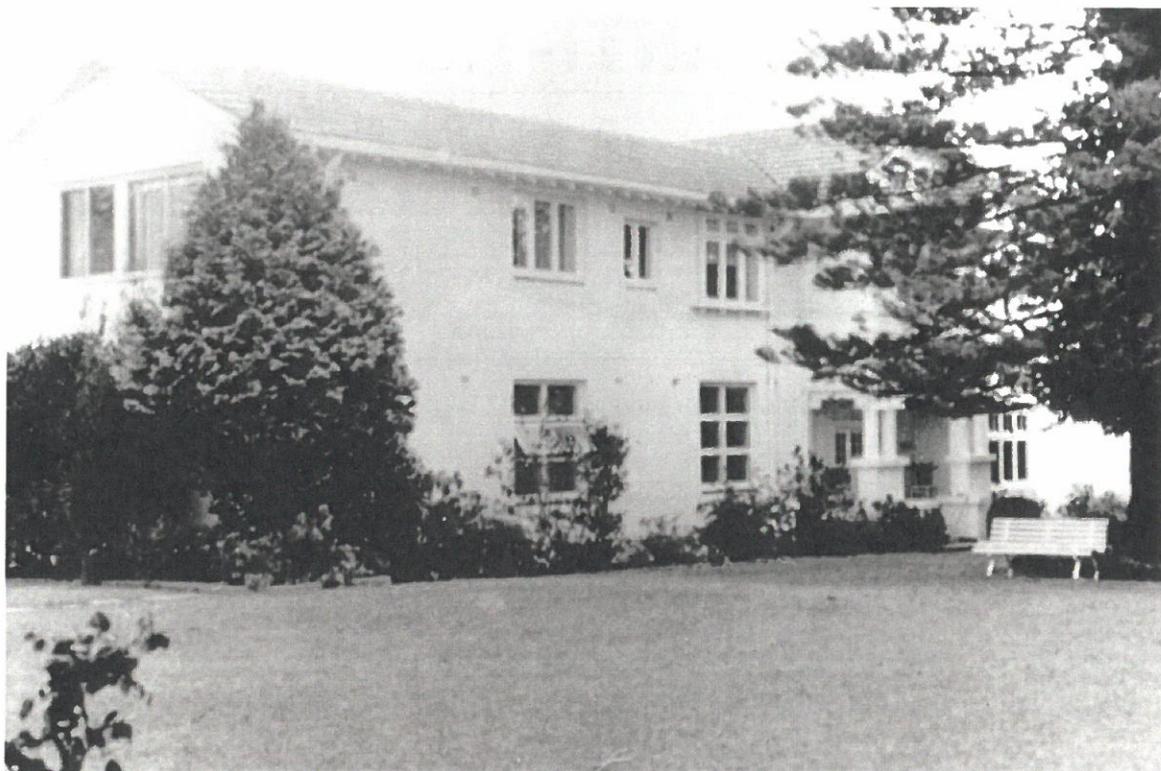


Figure 2.23 Headfort House c1950s, published in Cook, KM 1991, *The Railway Came to Ku-ring-gai*, Genlin Investments, Pymble. Note that the original windows in the chapel wing have been replaced. (Source: Ku-ring-gai Historical Society photographic collection)



Figure 2.24 The site c1960s, published in Cook, KM 1991, *The Railway Came to Ku-ring-gai*, Genlin Investments, Pymble. (Source: Ku-ring-gai Historical Society photographic collection)

IMPOSING ANTI-T.B. PROJECT

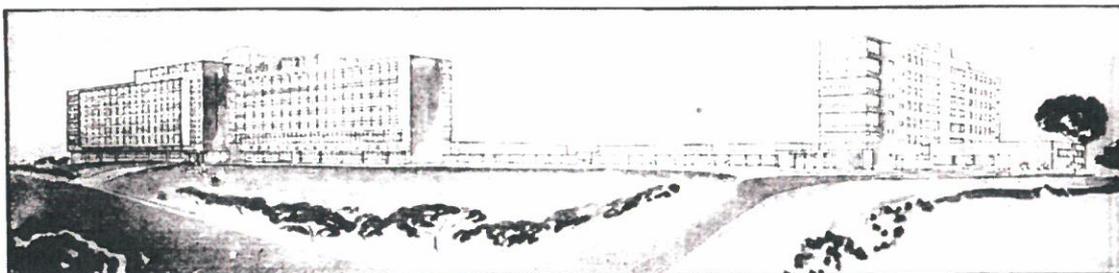


Figure 2.25 Published drawing of the proposed 250-bed hospital (not realised). (Source: *Catholic Weekly*, 12 October 1950)

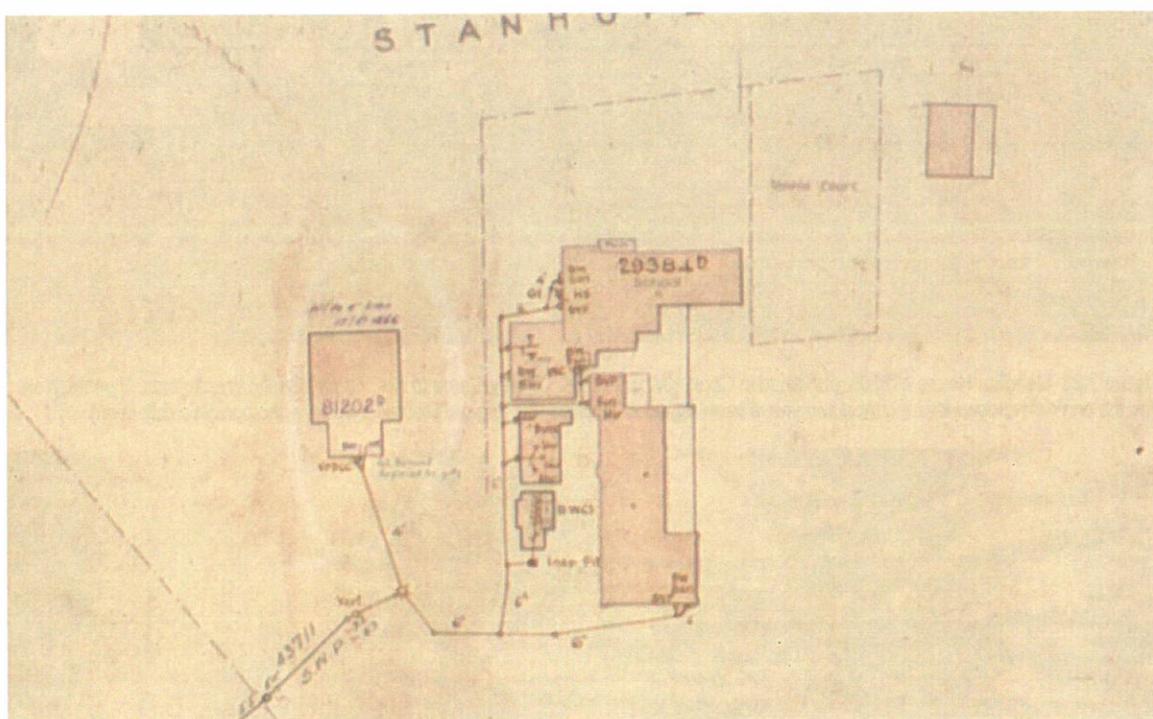


Figure 2.26 The Blackwattle Plan of the subject site, dating between 1927–c1953. (Source: Sydney Water Archives)



Figure 2.27 1956 aerial of the subject site showing buildings and immediate gardens, including established gardens on the tennis court, grotto and garage, of the Lourdes Hospital. (Source: LPI NSW)



Figure 2.28 1970 aerial of the subject site showing buildings and immediate gardens of the Lourdes Hospital. (Source: LPI NSW)



Figure 2.29 1986 aerial of the subject site showing the newly constructed Lourdes Retirement Village. Headfort House can be seen in the top left corner. (Source: LPI NSW)



Figure 2.30 Detail of subject site on 1986 aerial showing one of the former school buildings already demolished and the footings of the new administration building. (Source: LPI NSW)



Figure 2.31 2011 aerial of subject site. (Source: Google Earth, 2016)

2.11 Endnotes

- 1 Ku-rin-gai Concil website, <http://www.kmc.nsw.gov.au>, accessed 24/02/2017.
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- 7 Edwards, Z, and Rowland, J 2008, 'Killara', Dictionary of Sydney, viewed 14 February 2017 <<http://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/killara>>.
- 8 LPI NSW, CT 2491–46, CT 2491–47, CT 2491–48.
- 9 LPI NSW, CT 2369–250.
- 10 LPI NSW, CT 2807–6.
- 11 *The Sands Directory*, 1900–1919.
- 12 LPI NSW, CT 2916–9.
- 13 LPI NSW, CT 2369–250.
- 14 Walsh, GP 1990, 'Wade, Robert Thompson (1884–1967)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, viewed 16 February 2017 <<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/wade-robert-thompson-8942/text15715>>; Darby, C 2015, 'Lourdes Retirement Village: A History of the Site', *The Historian*, vol 44, No. 1, pp 87–88.
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- 17 'Advertising', *The Farmer and Settler*, 11 January 1918, Trove, p 8, viewed 15 February 2017 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article116630636>>.
- 18 'Advertising', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 13 May 1918, Trove, p 1, viewed 15 February 2017 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article15768201>>; Darby, C 2015, 'Lourdes Retirement Village: A History of the Site', *The Historian*, vol 44, No. 1, December 2015, p 86.
- 19 'Advertising', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 29 June 1918, Trove, p 10, viewed 15 February 2017 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article15791342>>; Darby, C 2015, 'Lourdes Retirement Village: A History of the Site', *The Historian*, vol 44, No. 1, December 2015, p 86.
- 20 'ABBOTSHOLME COLLEGE', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 18 December 1918, Trove, p 12, viewed 15 February 2017 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article15816200>>; Darby, C 2015, 'Lourdes Retirement Village: A History of the Site', *The Historian*, vol 44, No. 1, December 2015, p 86.
- 21 LPI NSW, CT 2916–9; 'HEADFORT SCHOOL', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 22 December 1919, Trove, p 9, viewed on 15 February 2017 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article15864994>>; Darby, C 2015, 'Lourdes Retirement Village: A History of the Site', *The Historian*, vol 44, No. 1, December 2015, p 86.
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- ²⁸ Morris, HG (President, Ku-ring-gai Historical Society [KHS], 1988–91) to Gorton, Rt Hon Sir J, Letter of response, 15 November 1990 in KHS Vertical Files 'Schools. Headfort' in Darby, C 2015, 'Lourdes Retirement Village: A History of the Site', *The Historian*, vol 44, No. 1, December 2015, p 87.
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- ³³ 'MILTON GRAMMAR', *The Sun*, Trove, 27 August 1927, p 7, viewed 16 February 2017 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article222492447>>.
- ³⁴ 'Milton Grammar School', *The Queenslander*, Trove, 15 December 1927, p 51, viewed 16 February 2017 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article25303779>>; Darby, C 2015, 'Lourdes Retirement Village: A History of the Site', *The Historian*, vol 44, No. 1, December 2015, pp 88–89.
- ³⁵ 'Advertising', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, Trove, 18 February 1935, p 3, viewed 16 February 2017 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article17162293>>.
- ³⁶ 'PERSONAL', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, Trove, 11 January 1935, p 10, viewed 16 February 2017 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article17122348>>; Darby, C 2015, 'Lourdes Retirement Village: A History of the Site', *The Historian*, vol 44, No. 1, December 2015, pp 88–89.
- ³⁷ Darby, C 2015, 'Lourdes Retirement Village: A History of the Site', *The Historian*, vol 44, No. 1, December 2015, p 89.
- ³⁸ Darby, C 2015, 'Lourdes Retirement Village: A History of the Site', *The Historian*, vol 44, No. 1, December 2015, p 89.
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3.0 Physical Analysis

3.1 Site Inspection

A physical survey of Headfort House was undertaken by Anna Simanowsky on 7 February 2017. This was a visual inspection only to determine the age of the building, its integrity and what changes have occurred over time.

3.2 Context

The subject site is located at the eastern end of Stanhope Road, Killara, in an area that is primarily residential. The area is characterised by large detached dwellings dating primarily from the first half of the twentieth century. The houses are set back from the road behind lawns and private gardens, which feature mature trees and plantings. The topography is undulating.

Stanhope Road is a wide tree-lined street that caters mainly to local traffic. At its eastern end it connects to Lourdes Avenue, a loop road that provides vehicular access to dwellings and facilities within Lourdes Retirement Village (LRV).

The Crown Blocks Conservation Area extends to the western perimeter of the subject site, and encircles the wider LRV site on its southern and eastern sides.

3.3 Setting

Headfort House is located in the northwestern part of the LRV complex, close to Stanhope Road. Attached to the rear (south) side of Headfort House is a large one–two storey building housing administrative and community facilities for the complex, and which is the formal entrance of the complex. The other buildings of the LRV are located to the east and south of Headfort House, separated from Headfort House by roadways and gardens.



Figure 3.1 The north (front) elevation of Headfort House at 95 Stanhope Road, Killara (facing Stanhope Road), in its garden setting. (Source: GML 2017)

The front of Headfort House addresses Stanhope Road (although the main entrance to the Chapel is on the southern side of the building) (Figure 3.1). The front of the building is parallel to the roadway, and a rectangular front yard—with perimeters defined by garden beds containing hedge plants—separates the building from Stanhope Road (Figure 3.2). The front yard consists primarily of open lawns. Three mature trees are located within the front lawn area—two large Norfolk Island pine trees and a Moreton Bay fig tree, the latter surrounded by a roughly circular garden. Other planting consists of small shrubs and ground covers, generally exotic species. The extent and form of the front garden—areas of flat lawns surrounded by hedges with some planting interspersed—largely matches the 1943 aerial photograph. However, the front garden currently extends further to the east than it did in 1943, when its eastern boundary roughly aligned with the eastern wall of Headfort House. Photographs dating from the late 1920s and 1930s show the front garden's northern and western perimeters further defined by timber post and rail fences with wire mesh infill; these fences no longer exist. On its eastern side was a fenced open area, possibly a tennis court.

Historic photographs also show a meandering paved path through the garden leading from Stanhope Road to the front door of the building, with a branch of the path curving around to the western side of the building. Whereas this path no longer exists, a break in the (1980s?) brick garden edging on the Stanhope Road boundary is evidence of where the path was once started (the hedge plants are continuous across the gap) (Figure 3.3). The double-leaf timber joinery gates that marked the start of the path and the public entrance to the garden, as shown in a photograph from the 1930s, no longer exist. Although the three trees within the front yard are mature, only one of the pine trees appears to possibly exist in an aerial photograph dating from 1943. None of these trees appear in the 1927 photograph of the front of the building.

A concrete path extends across the full width of the front yard, close to the building. The path cannot be seen in early photographs, and its physical characteristics further suggest that it was constructed at a later date (late twentieth century).



Figure 3.2 View of Headfort House from the northeast. The hedges around its front garden and large trees within the garden can be seen. (Source: GML 2017)



Figure 3.3 View across the front garden looking towards Stanhope Road. The gap in the garden edging at the property boundary (marked with an arrow) is likely the location of the original gateway to the property. (Source: GML 2017)

A driveway and small bitumen-paved carpark is located to the immediate west of the front garden and Headfort House. The carpark is bitumen paved with concrete kerb edging, possibly built c1980 (Figure 3.4). A curved concrete driveway leads to the carpark from Stanhope Road. The driveway has garden surrounds that are edged with narrow sandstone blocks (nominally 80mm thick). Dense vegetation—

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mature trees and shrubs—largely screens the carpark from view from Stanhope Road to the west. Two large metal water tanks are located between the carpark and the western boundary of the site (Figure 3.4). It is not possible to tell if the driveway exists in the 1943 aerial photograph, but there was a cleared open area (possibly paved) in the location of the current carpark. To the south was located a detached building with flat or mono-pitched roof with lean-to structure on its southern side, possibly a verandah. This building no longer remains.

The main entrance (vehicular and pedestrian) to the LRV from Stanhope Road is to the east of Headfort House and its front garden, where a roadway extends from Stanhope Road to a drop-off bay near the southeastern corner of Headfort House (Figure 3.5). A concrete footpath runs parallel to the roadway, through the front garden of Headfort House. Both driveway and path are most likely contemporary with the LRV complex (1980s).

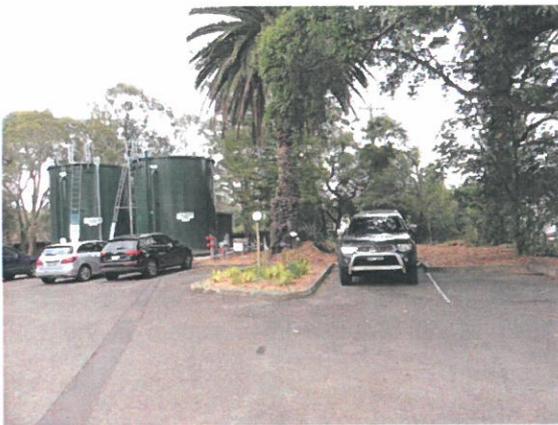


Figure 3.4 The carpark located to the west of Headfort House. (Source: GML 2017)

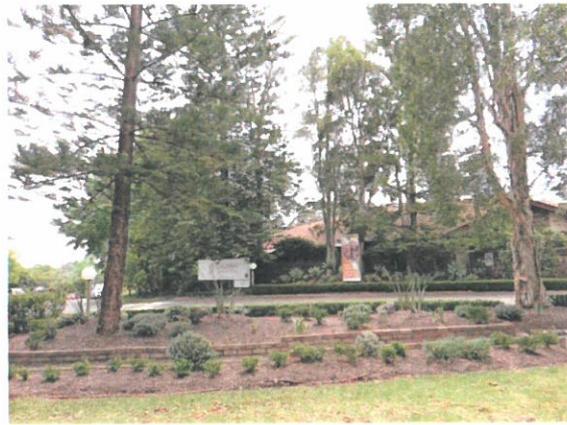


Figure 3.5 The main entrance to the LRV, as seen from the front yard of Headfort House. (Source: GML 2017)

3.4 Headfort House

Headfort House is a one–two storey masonry building, with pitched tiled roofs. The two-storey parts of the building comprise the main part of the building—the original Headfort ‘schoolhouse’ constructed 1917–1918—and the chapel wing constructed between 1918 and 1921. Other early buildings and building components that were part of the Headfort School have been demolished.

External walls of Headfort House are generally masonry with painted stucco finish. The main roofs are pitched with red glazed terracotta tiles and painted metal eaves gutters. The architecture of the main part of the building is of the Arts and Crafts style, but the chapel wing is more austere externally, with little architectural decoration and a simplicity of form. The single storey portions of the building (garage and ancillary rooms to the chapel on its south and east sides) date from the mid to late twentieth century. Figures 3.6 and 3.7 show the current floor plans of the building, coloured to express the different construction periods of the various parts of the building.

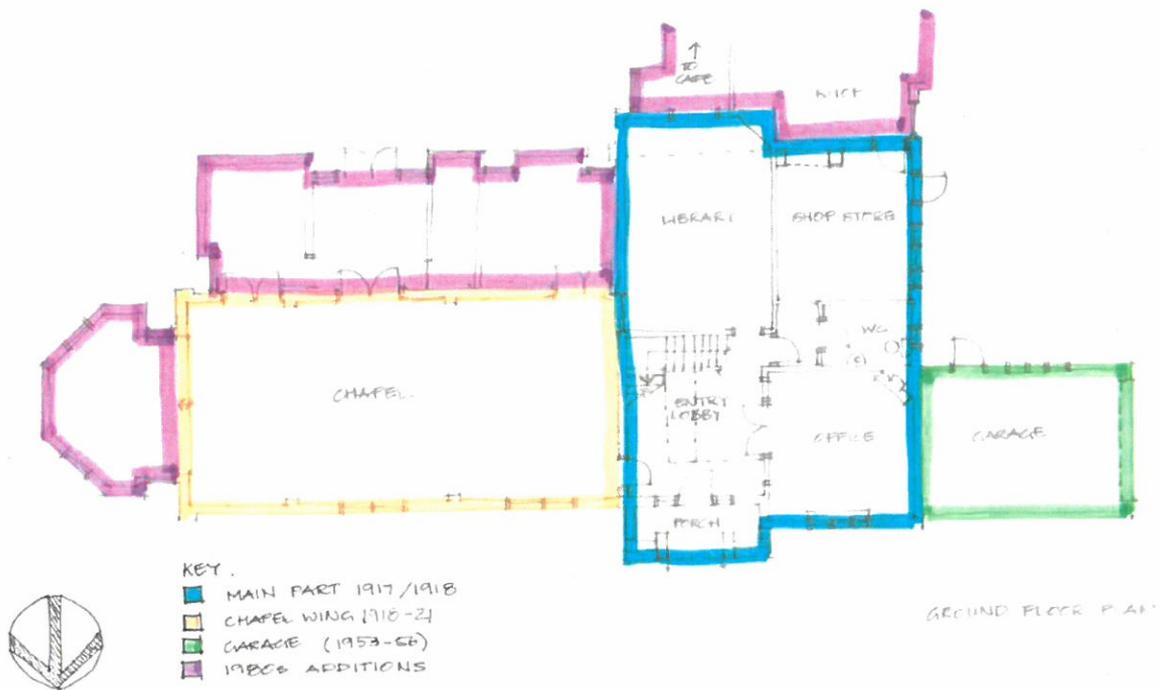


Figure 3.6 Sketch of the existing ground floor plan of Headfort House, coloured to show the construction periods of various components. (Source: GML)

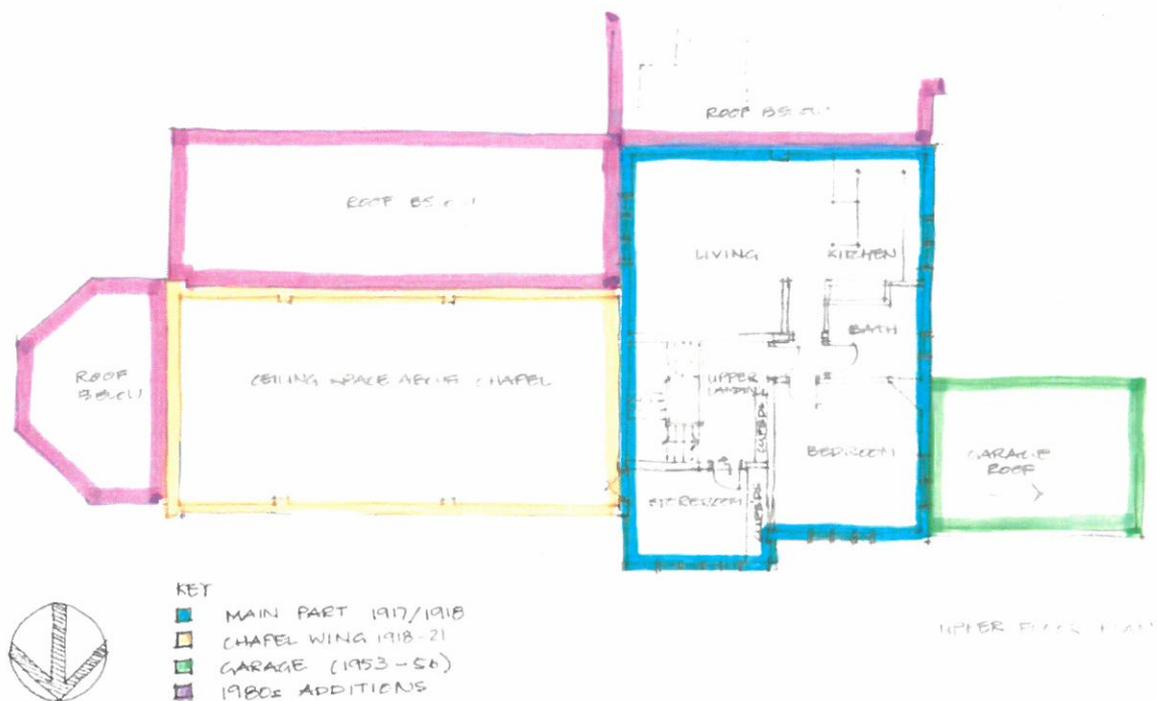


Figure 3.7 Sketch of the existing upper floor plan of Headfort House, coloured to show the construction periods of various components. (Source: GML)

3.4.1 Exterior: Main Part of the Building

North Elevation

The north elevation of the main part of the building faces Stanhope Road (Figure 3.8). It has a double roof gable and features an entry porch which provides access to the building's original front door. The external walls are primarily masonry with painted stucco finish, although framed wall panels are a feature of the north elevation. These wall panels—the walls below the windows (ground and first floors)—are framed with fibrous cement sheet cladding, paint finished to match the stuccoed walls (Figure 3.9). The framed walls feature expressed vertical timber battens, which are also used on the building's gables. Although the timber battens are currently painted to match the walls, early photographs show that the expressed timber elements and window frames were originally painted or stained to be dark coloured, to contrast with the light coloured broad walls. Similar detailing is used on the gables on the north elevation. The two timber framed windows within the framed wall panel on the north elevation match those in early photographs, and are most likely original.

The recessed entry porch (north elevation) has two half-height stuccoed masonry piers with smooth rendered pediments and twin timber columns above (Figure 3.10). Faux projecting timber beams decorate the tops of the timber columns. The detailing of the entry porch matches the detailing visible in a 1920s photograph of the building. The soffit is timber boarded and painted, and is most likely original, although the surface mounted fluorescent light fitting is not. The floor has a slight fall away from the door, and is finished with (contemporary) tiles which extend beyond the masonry piers. It is likely that the floor of the porch has been adjusted to be slightly ramped in order to remove the step at the edge of the porch which can be seen in the c1930 photograph. There is a timber electrical box mounted high on the wall of the porch.

The front door is a high-waisted timber joinery door, with obscure glazing to its upper portion, divided into nine equal panes (Figure 3.10). Side-lights exist on both sides of the door, each with six equal panes. The door and sidelights appear to be original. The door and sidelights feature obscure patterned glass, a single type used throughout. The door has a contemporary stainless steel lever and lock.

Directly over the entry porch is a projecting framed structure that was originally built as a semi-recessed verandah, but which has now been enclosed (Figure 3.11). Walls are framed and clad with fibrous cement sheet to about one metre in height and feature expressed vertical timber battens, these being the original balustrades around the verandah. Above the balustrade level the original opening on the northern wall has been infilled with timber framed windows with casement sashes. There is a flat roof over the former verandah, with wide projecting eaves that are timber boarded with expressed timber rafters. The verandah structure remains substantially as originally built, except for the insertion of the timber framed window.



Figure 3.8 The north (front) elevation of the main part of Headfort House at 95 Stanhope Road, Killara (facing Stanhope Road), in its garden setting. (Source: GML 2017)



Figure 3.9 The framed wall panels below the windows on the north (front) elevation of Headfort House. (Source: GML 2017)



Figure 3.10 The entry porch and front door. (Source: GML 2017)



Figure 3.11 The verandah above the entry porch. The windows are a later addition. (Source: GML 2017)

West Elevation

The west elevation was designed as a secondary elevation, and is not as detailed as the north elevation (Figure 3.12). Masonry walls are stucco and paint finished. Eaves are timber boarded and raking with expressed timber rafters, matching those on the other elevations. The sandstone foundations are also visible on the western elevation.

There are three upper floor windows. The window near the northern corner—aluminium framed with sliding sashes—is a later addition; early photographs show no windows in this location. The central window is an awning window, which is most likely a replacement for an original window in the same

location. The third window is a timber framed twin double-hung window (bottom sashes altered to suit internal requirements). Detailing of the windows suggests that it is a later addition.

There are two ground floor windows, of which the small casement window is most likely original. It is timber framed, and consists of a single casement sash divided into four equal panes. The head of the opening is slightly arched. The larger window is a timber framed window, with three lower casement sashes and three upper awning sashes. Directly above the window is a narrow farmed flat awning, which provides a degree of weather protection to the window. The awning has a timber boarded soffit and expressed timber rafters. The window is most likely original, or has been relocated from elsewhere on the site (Figure 3.13). To the south of this window is a single leaf door. The door frame is timber and the door leaf is a featureless flush door. The threshold is terrazzo, and is badly damaged. This door is unlikely to be original.

The Garage

The garage is a single-storey masonry structure attached to the western elevation of Headfort House, close to its northern corner. Aerial Photographs and plans indicate that the garage is a later addition to the building, built between 1953 and 1956. The garage's external walls are stucco and paint finished, and extend up to form a parapet on three sides (Figure 3.14). The metal deck roof has a low pitch, and falls to a box gutter adjacent to the western wall. There is a metal roller door (contemporary) on its western elevation, and a single leaf door and window on its southern elevation. The door is a high-waisted timber joinery door with three lower panels, matching the door to the main bedroom; it has most likely been salvaged from elsewhere on the site and reused here (Figure 3.15). The small timber window has three equal casement sashes. It is also possibly salvaged from elsewhere on site: a similar window can be seen in early photographs on the north elevation of the chapel wing (which is no longer in place). There is steel framed carport lean-to on the southern side of the garage (late twentieth century).



Figure 3.12 The west elevation of Headfort House. (Source: GML 2017)



Figure 3.13 Detail of the large timber framed window, west elevation. (Source: GML 2017)



Figure 3.14 The north elevation of the garage. (Source: GML 2017)



Figure 3.15 The south elevation of the garage, with door and window that are likely to have been salvaged from elsewhere on the site. (Source: GML 2017)

South Elevation

Due to the adjacent 1980s building on the southern side, only the upper wall of the south elevation is visible. This part of the wall is clad in fibrous cement planks. Eaves are sheet lined. There alterations are recent, and relate to the construction of the 1980s building. No original detailing is visible (Figures 3.16, 3.17).

East Elevation

Only a small portion of the east elevation is visible, that being the upper floor external wall above the 1980s single storey additions to the Chapel wing. This wall is stucco and paint finished. The one window in this wall—timber framed, with three lower casement sashes and three upper awning sashes—matches those windows on the north and west elevations, and is most likely original (Figure 3.17).



Figure 3.16 The boarded gable is the only part of the south elevation of the main part of the building that is visible. The brown tiled roof in the foreground is part of the 1980s building. (Source: GML 2017)



Figure 3.17 The original timber window that exists in the upper part of the east elevation of the main part of the building. The boarded gable of the south elevation can be seen on the left. (Source: GML 2017)

3.4.2 Exterior: The Chapel Wing

The chapel wing has masonry external walls with painted stucco finish, built on sandstone footings (visible on the north elevation). The pitched roof is tiled, and eaves are timber boarded with expressed timber rafters. A comparison of the building's current condition with early external photographs indicate that the overall size and form of the wing remains unchanged, although there have been changes to the wing's fenestration. Discontinuities in the stucco finish on the north and east walls indicate that several upper floor windows have been removed and the openings infilled—three windows on the north wall and one window on the east wall. On the north elevation, the two timber framed windows that currently exist on the ground floor have contemporary detailing, and are not original, although the location of these windows approximates the location of original window openings. There are three rows of terracotta wall vents on the north elevation which match those visible in early photographs (Figure 3.18).

The eastern gable is finished in fibrous cement sheet with exposed timber battens and decorative timber trims. Battens are arranged in a lattice pattern at close to the ridge. This corresponds with the gable detailing that can be seen in early photographs. It also matches the detailing of the main gable on the north elevation (Figure 3.21).

Most of the southern elevation is concealed by 1980s additions (Figure 3.19). However, 'shadows' in the stucco finish indicate upper floor openings that have been infilled. A row of high level wall vents remains, which match those on the northern elevations.

1980s Single Storey Additions

Single storey 'lean-to' additions were constructed in the 1980s on the southern and eastern sides of the Chapel (Figure 3.20). These additions have face brickwork external walls and hipped dark brown glazed tiled roofs with raking eaves with exposed timber rafters, matching the larger 1980s building located on the south side (and connected to) Headfort House.



Figure 3.18 The north (front) elevation of the chapel wing. 'Shadows' of former window openings can be seen in the stucco finish. (Source: GML 2017)



Figure 3.19 The upper part of the wall of the chapel wing can be seen above the 1980s tiled roofs. (Source: GML 2017)



Figure 3.20: The 1980s addition on the eastern side of the chapel wing. (Source: GML 2017)



Figure 3.21 The eastern gable of the chapel wing. The shadow in the stucco below shows the location of the window that was originally located in this wall. (Source: GML 2017)

3.4.3 Interior: The Main Part of the Building

Ground Floor

The ground floor consists of an entry lobby with stairs to the upper floor, a library, a storeroom for the café, an office and a bathroom. The upper floor is a residential flat, with bedroom, bathroom, large living/kitchen, and hall. The former verandah, now enclosed, is used as a storeroom.

The entry lobby retains its original layout and proportions, and timber detailing is largely intact (Figures 3.22–3.25). Walls are smooth set and painted, and floors framed and carpeted. Skirtings are 150mm high with curved top edge: these are used consistently throughout the building and appear to be original. The ceiling is sheet-lined and battened with profiled plaster cornice. A simple timber batten rail runs around the walls at door-head height. An original window/hatch under the stair has been blocked in, but the recess and timber surrounds remain intact. A small timber joinery door gives access to the storeroom under the stairs.

The single leaf door leading to the chapel (timber frame, flush door) is not original (Figure 3.23). The doorway to the office has elaborate built-in joinery at its sides, but the glazed door leafs themselves are not original, and there are signs that indicate that the opening has been adapted to accommodate these door leafs (Figure 3.25). The stair is timber framed with timber newel posts and handrails most likely original. The grooved stair rails appear to be more recent however, and perhaps relate to the installation of the chair lift that runs on the inside face of the balustrade. It is unclear if other parts of the balustrades are also recent replacements for original components.

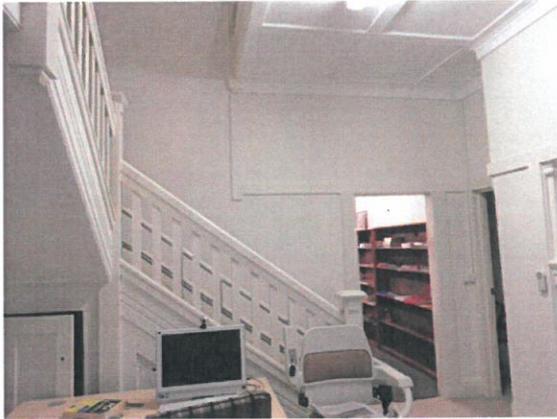


Figure 3.22 The entry lobby, looking towards the southern wall. (Source: GML 2017)



Figure 3.23 The east wall of the entry lobby, with door to the chapel. (Source: GML 2017)



Figure 3.24 The north wall of the entry lobby, with front door and sidelights. (Source: GML 2017)



Figure 3.25 The door to the office, as seen from the entry lobby. (Source: GML 2017)

The floor of the office consists of tongue and groove timber boards with carpet finish. The walls and ceiling are smooth set and the room's plaster cornices and timber skirtings match those in the entry hall. A grooved timber rail runs around all walls at door head height. Built-in timber joinery fixtures, consisting of open shelves and other decorative features, frame the door on either side (Figure 3.26). The built-in timber window seat/storage box is a later addition. There is a fireplace in the southwestern corner with painted brick hearth and surrounds, and a timber mantelpiece (Figure 3.27). The style of the timber joinery in the space is consistent with the Arts and Crafts style, although it is unclear if the grooved timber wall rail is original. Two gridded wall grilles are located at high level in the western wall.

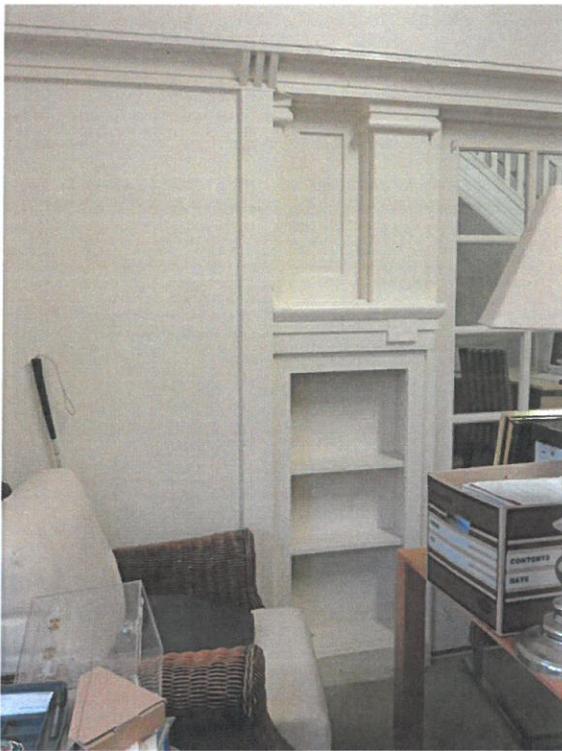


Figure 3.26 The timber joinery adjacent to the door of the office. (Source: GML 2017)



Figure 3.27 The fireplace in the office. (Source: GML 2017)

The bathroom is accessed through a small anteroom. The bathroom floor is tiled (contemporary) with matching tiled skirtings, and the walls and ceiling are smooth set (Figure 3.28). The room has a small coved contemporary plaster cornice. Bathroom fixtures are contemporary. The timber casement window with casement flyscreen is most likely original. The anteroom has smooth set walls and ceiling without cornices. It has a timber skirting that matches the profile of the skirting in the entry hall, but is shorter. The doors to both the anteroom and bathroom are contemporary lush doors, but timber frames and architraves are detailed alike, and are most likely original.

The library is legible as a single large room, even though it is partly subdivided by a glazed screen wall which is a contemporary addition (Figures 3.29–3.31). It has a framed floor with carpet finish, smooth set walls and a smooth set ceiling with battened detail. The room's plaster cornices and ceilings match those in the entry hall and are most likely original. There is a lower section of ceiling adjacent which is not original (with small coved cornices), and its form and finishes are likely to relate to the 1980s building connection. Parts of the room have a timber skirting which matches that in the entry lobby. At the southern end of the room there is a wide opening which allows access into the 1980s building adjacent (Figure 3.31). This has a timber door frame and highlights with obscure glazing, but no doors. On the northern wall is an opening with timber frame leading to the entry lobby, but again there is no door leaf. Both of these doorways are likely to be original. On the eastern wall there is a blocked-in doorway that previously led to the chapel, and it is unclear if this opening is original (Figure 3.29). On the eastern wall at high level are two air grilles that match those in the office, and are original. In the southwestern corner the splayed wall is suggestive of a chimney breast. Bookshelves placed hard against this wall indicate that even if a fireplace remains behind the shelves, no protruding mantelpiece or hearth remains.

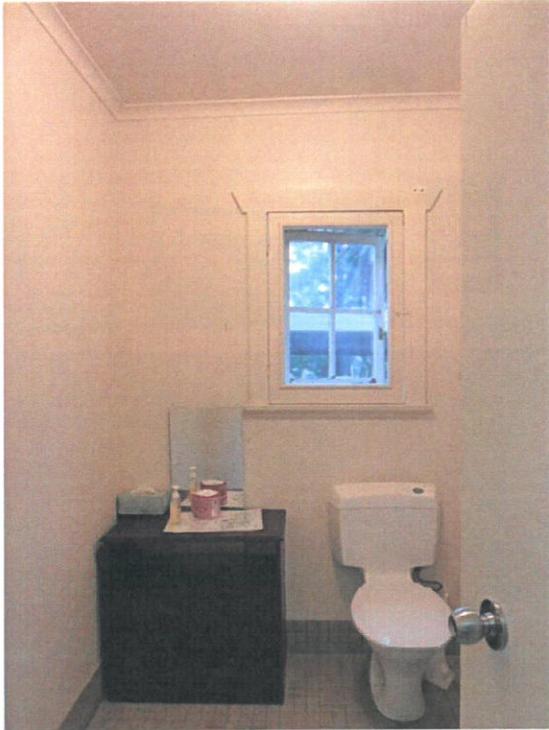


Figure 3.28 The bathroom: the window is original, but fixtures and fittings in the room are contemporary. (Source: GML 2017)

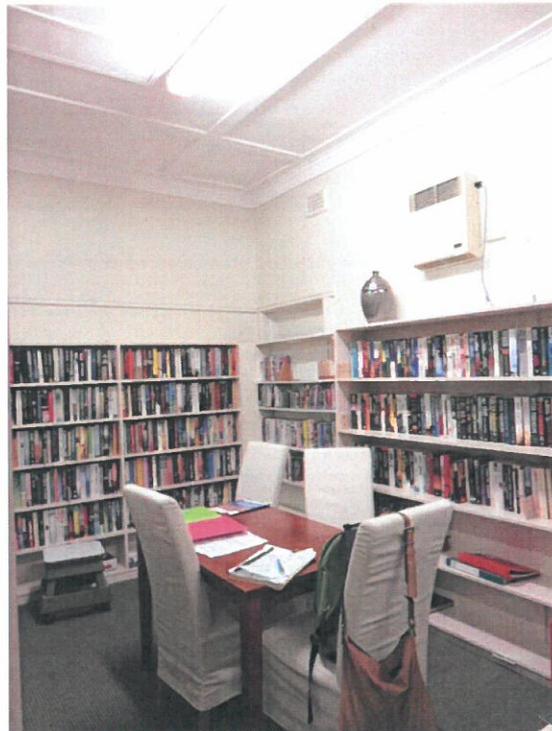


Figure 3.29 The library, looking towards the northeastern corner. The former doorway to the chapel can be seen behind the bookshelves. (Source: GML 2017)



Figure 3.30 The contemporary glazed screen wall that divides the room. (Source: GML 2017)



Figure 3.31 The doorway in the southern wall that leads to the 1980s building. (Source: GML 2017)

The shop store is accessible from the shop, which is located in the 1980s building. The shop store was likely to have originally been a kitchen; there is a large former cooking hearth in the southeastern corner (Figure 3.32). The former hearth now contains a built-in cupboard, but the original timber mantelpiece remains above. Floors are vinyl sheeted (1980s?) with coved vinyl skirtings. The floor is framed, except for a large concrete section close to the cooking hearth, the extent of which is defined by cracking in the vinyl floor sheeting. Walls are smooth set, with a dado line formed in the plaster that extends around the room. Ceilings are smooth set and without any cornice. The two doors into the room are flush doors. The door that led to the shop is a new opening. The doorway to outside is possibly an early or original opening, but the door leaf is new (Figure 3.33).



Figure 3.32 The former cooking hearth in the southeastern corner of the shop store. (Source: GML 2017)

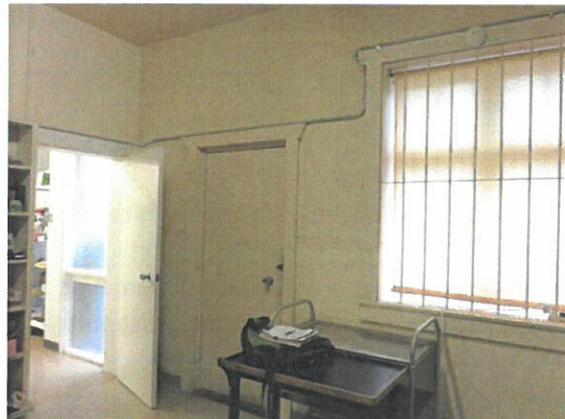


Figure 3.33 The southeastern corner of the shop store. The door on the right leads outside. (Source: GML 2017)

Upper Floor

The upper landing is a large circulation space at the top of the stair that leads from the entry lobby. Both the stair and upper landing have carpeted framed floors. Walls and ceilings are smooth set, and the ceiling is raking above the stair. There are no cornices, but two air vents exist at high level on the eastern wall above the stair; the air grilles suggest that this wall was originally an external wall, and that the chapel wing was a later addition (Figure 3.34). The raking ceiling, which rakes downwards to the east, suggests that the roof over the stairwell originally raked in the same line as the ceiling. This adds weight to the suggestion that the hipped junction of the chapel wing's roof was constructed after the roof over the main part of the building was completed.

A grooved timber rail runs at door head height around the walls. Skirtings are original on the eastern wall (stair rails) and northern walls, but a different profile skirting has been used on the other walls. On the western wall is a timber joinery cupboard, the upper portion of which is clearly contemporary. The lower portion (up to door head height) is detailed to match other original timberwork in the house, and is most likely original, although it has been relocated from elsewhere; the timber rail on the wall runs along the wall behind the cupboard (Figure 3.35). The timber balustrade at the landing has been replaced, although the newel posts are original.

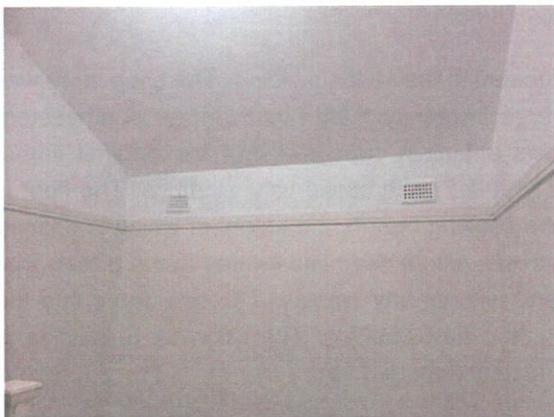


Figure 3.34 The upper part of the eastern wall of the upper landing, above the stair. The air grilles suggest this was originally an external wall. (Source: GML 2017)



Figure 3.35 The joinery unit in the upper landing, which appears to have been relocated from elsewhere in the building. (Source: GML 2017)

The bedroom has a framed floor with carpet finish (Figures 3.36, 3.37). Walls and ceilings are smooth set, with the ceiling partly raking. Cornices are contemporary coved plaster cornices. Timber skirtings match those in the entry hall, and a grooved timber rail runs around all walls at door head height. The aluminium-framed window in the western wall is of recent construction, but the door appears to be original—the door leaf is a high-waisted timber joinery door, and the door frame is timber (Figure 3.37). Door hardware is however contemporary. Below the window on the northern wall the framed wall has expressed timber battens, matching the external detail (Figure 3.36). The small hall adjacent to the bedroom matches the bedroom in finishes, skirtings and rails. However, unlike the bedroom it has no cornices.



Figure 3.36 The wall of the bedroom. (Source: GML 2017)



Figure 3.37 The original door into the bedroom. (Source: GML 2017)

The bathroom floor has a contemporary tiled finish and skirtings, matching the tiles in bathroom on the ground floor. Walls and ceiling are smooth set. Cornices are coved contemporary cornices. All fixtures and fittings are contemporary. The door is a modern flush door, and the timber door frame is possibly original.

The living room and kitchen are located within a single large room at the southern end of the building (Figures 3.38–3.39). Floors are framed with carpet or sheet vinyl finish. Walls and ceilings are smooth set. The ceilings are partly raking, and have contemporary plaster coved cornices. Skirtings are contemporary, as are all fixtures and fittings. The timber window in the eastern wall is original and matches other windows in the building.



Figure 3.38 The living room, looking west towards the kitchen. (Source: GML 2017)



Figure 3.39 The southeastern corner of the living room. (Source: GML 2017)

The storeroom/former verandah is accessed from the upper landing (Figures 3.40–3.42). There is a step down into the storeroom at the doorway, the raised form visible beneath the carpet suggesting a stone or concrete door threshold beneath the carpet. The floor of the storeroom is carpet finished over a framed floor. The ceiling is smooth set and rakes slightly down to the north. Cornices are contemporary coved plaster cornices. The southern wall and half of the eastern wall (the masonry walls) are lined with horizontal Western Red Cedar boards, most likely installed to cover the original stucco finish on these walls (Figure 3.40). The remainder of the eastern wall, as well as the northern wall, is framed and lined with smooth set sheet lining (Figure 3.41). The western wall is concealed by built-in cupboards (late twentieth century), but at the rear of the cupboards the original stucco wall is visible. The door leaf is a contemporary flush door but the timber door frame is possibly original.

There is a small door on the eastern wall that provides access to the ceiling space above the chapel. Within this opening the original white painted stucco finish of the external walls of the main part of the building is visible. The stucco continues around the eastern wall (the chapel's west wall), which again supports the idea that the chapel wing was built as a later addition to the main part of the building (Figure 3.42).



Figure 3.40 The cedar boarding on the south and east walls of the storeroom. The small door in the panelled wall gives access to the chapel's ceiling space. (Source: GML 2017)



Figure 3.41 The north wall of the storeroom. (Source: GML 2017)



Figure 3.42 When opened the access door allows for views of the building's original external stucco finish and the space above the ceiling of the chapel. (Source: GML 2017)

3.4.4 Interior: The Chapel

The chapel is a double-height space occupying the whole of the chapel wing (originally the chapel wing had two storeys within the same volume of space) (Figures 3.43–3.46). The floor is framed with carpet finish. Walls are generally smooth set, although western red cedar boarding has been used as a lining on the eastern wall, and upper sections of the northern, southern and western walls. These walls also feature high level air grilles at regular intervals. ‘Shadows’ in the wall plaster suggest a horizontal dado once ran around the room at about 1200mm above floor level. The ceiling is partly raking, and is lined with cedar boards to match those used on the walls. Narrow piers are located on the northern and southern walls, their uppermost portion also lined in cedar boards. These piers have slightly rounded corners for most of their height, but transition to sharp square corners at high level (Figure 3.45). Doors and windows into the room are contemporary, as are all fixtures and fittings.

At the eastern end of the room, there are two steps leading up to the sanctuary, which is located within a 1980s extension to the room. Doors on the southern side of the room lead into ancillary rooms that are also 1980s additions.

It is possible to view the ceiling space above the chapel, through a small access door in the storeroom on the upper floor (Figure 3.46). The view of the ceiling space reveals the original tongue and groove boarded ceiling intact above the cedar ceiling, which runs across the entire length of the space. Dark lines on the ceiling are possible indications of locations of former walls, indicating that there was at one time a central corridor with rooms on both sides. The ceiling space also shows that walls of the upper floor within the wing were smooth set, with a horizontal dado formed in the plaster. Wall vents can be seen, which are of a slightly different detail to those in the main part of the building, being installed flush with the wall rather than slightly proud of the finished wall surface.

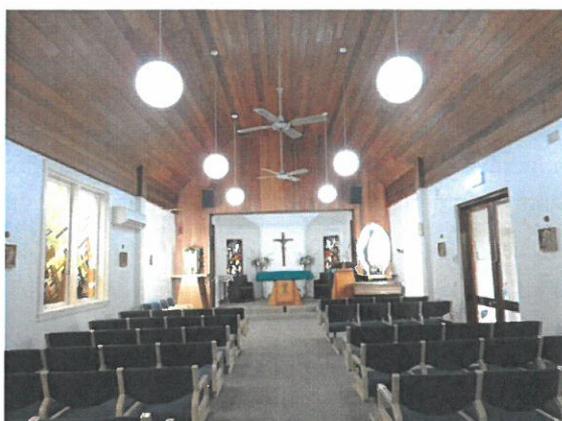


Figure 3.43 The chapel, looking east. (Source: GML 2017)



Figure 3.44 The chapel, looking west. (Source: GML 2017)



Figure 3.45 A typical wall pier in the chapel. (Source: GML 2017)



Figure 3.46 The original boarded ceiling remains above the newer cedar ceiling in the chapel. The dark lines possibly indicate the former location of walls. (Source: GML 2017)

3.4.5 Integrity

The original building footprint (including the chapel wing) remains intact and legible, with the exception of the single storey ancillary rooms that may have originally existed on the western and southern sides of the building. The original roof forms are intact except for a single-storey gable element which was demolished to allow for connection to the new building in the 1980s. It is unclear if the roof tiles are original. All chimneys above the roof line have been removed. Downpipes remain in original locations, though have been replaced. The external painted stucco is most likely the original wall finish (early photographs show the external walls finished a light colour) although the stucco has been patched in areas, and the walls have been repainted. Areas of old stucco that can be seen in the enclosed verandah show it had been painted white.

The north elevation of the main part of the building—its main elevation—is substantially intact, except for the enclosure of the upper floor verandah. Fenestration and timber detailing is original and is generally in good condition. However, all the original windows on the north elevation of the chapel wing have been removed and infilled, or replaced. Wall vents on the chapel wing's north wall are however largely original.

Fenestration on the west elevation of the main part has been altered, with only two original windows intact. The garage on the western side is of later construction, although its single leaf door and window appear to have been salvaged from elsewhere on the site and may constitute original fabric.

The south elevation of the main part has been completely compromised by the 1980s addition, with only the gable roof form legible as original. All original fenestration has been removed from the south elevation of the chapel wing.

The east elevation of the main part retains one original window on its upper floor. The original window on the east wall of the chapel wing has been removed.

The main part of the building remains substantially intact in its internal layout, although the upper floor verandah has been enclosed, and internal alterations have been made to the living/kitchen area on the upper floor. There is also evidence that some doorways have been altered or constructed at a later date. Many original windows and timber door frames are intact, although most door leaves have been replaced—an exception to this is the front door. The ground floor ceilings and cornices are mostly intact, but on the upper floor most of the ceilings and cornices have been replaced. Timber skirtings

are generally intact on the ground floor, although on the upper floor many of the skirtings have been replaced. All wall grilles that are visible internally are original. Fittings and finishes in both bathrooms are contemporary. The timber joinery and detailing in the entry hall and office is largely intact, as is the fireplace (including hearth and mantelpiece) in the office. The stair is original, but there have been some alterations to the side rail and top balustrade, and the chairlift is a contemporary fitting (it appears that it can be removed without damaging the stair). The library on the ground floor is intact as a space, but alterations to original doors and window openings have been made, in association with the construction of 1980s additions.

The Chapel wing has lost much of its integrity internally. The upper floor has been removed, and a new double-height space created. No original doors, windows, fixtures or fittings remain. A new cedar ceiling and wall linings have been installed, although the original boarded ceiling of the original upper floor remains intact above the new ceiling, and in good condition.

The original form of the front garden remains legible, as a rectangular yard with open lawns surrounded by hedges. The original perimeter fences no longer remain, nor does the entry pathway that led from Stanhope Road to the front door. Brick garden edging is new, although the sandstone edging around the driveway constitutes early fabric possibly contemporary with the garage. The larger of the yard's pine trees appears to date from the 1940s. The hedge plants are recently planted, and no planting in the garden area appears to be original.

3.5 Condition

The building is generally in good condition, and is well-maintained and fully utilised as part of the LRV complex. One area of concern is the ground floor office, where the wall plaster is drummy and cracked in places.

The front garden is similarly well maintained and in good condition.

4.0 Comparative Analysis

4.1 Introduction

A comparative analysis of Headfort House has been undertaken using two points of comparison: comparing the building with other local examples of the same architectural style, and comparing the building with others that demonstrate a similar historical pattern of use. The comparative analysis thus considers Headfort House:

- as an Arts and Crafts style building; and
- as an early twentieth-century building adapted for later use as a healthcare facility.

4.2 Arts and Crafts Style Buildings in Killara

A physical inspection has been undertaken to locate and compare Headfort House at 95 Stanhope Road with the Arts and Crafts style houses in the local area. It was found that there are many houses in the area—both heritage listed and non-listed—that display characteristics of the Arts and Crafts style, which are similar to that of Headfort House at 95 Stanhope Road. The houses include both single and two storey examples.

The house at 2 Stanhope Road, Killara (a heritage item listed on the Ku-ring-gai LEP 2015), is an Arts and Crafts style two-storey masonry building. Like the Chapel, the building has steeply pitched tiled roofs, double gables with lattice detail, and features timber columns on a masonry base around the upper verandah. The verandah has a flat roof similar to that of the verandah of Headfort House. However, its detailing is more refined than that of Headfort House, and includes bay windows and a timber shingle skirted balustrade.

The house at 49 Springdale Road, Killara (not listed as a heritage item), has steeply pitched tiled roofs, timber battened detailing to its gables, and a defined covered entry porch slightly proud of the main building—all Arts and Crafts style characteristics that are in common with Headfort House.



Figure 4.1 2 Stanhope Road, Killara. (Source: <<http://www.realestate.com.au>>)



Figure 4.2 49 Springdale Road, Killara. (Source: GML 2017)

The house at 77 Arnold Street, Killara (not listed as a heritage item) has pitched tiled roofs with boarded gables, and expressed timber rafters on its eaves. Large and small roof gables have been used to affect the composition of the street elevation of the house.



Figure 4.3 77 Arnold Street, Killara. (Source: Google Maps)

There are several houses in Springdale Road that display characteristics of the Arts and Crafts style. Steeply pitched roofs and boarded gables are common features to these houses. The house at 26 Springdale Road also has a flat verandah roof with double timber columns, similar in detail to the entry porch of Headfort House. The single storey house at 24 Springdale Road (listed as a heritage item of local significance) also has a boarded front gable. The front features timber half columns on a heavy masonry base, similar to the detail used on Headfort House.



Figure 4.4 26 Springdale Road, Killara. (Source: GML 2017)



Figure 4.4 24 Springdale Road, Killara. (Source: GML 2017)

4.2.1 Conclusion

This survey revealed that Headfort House at 95 Stanhope Road has similar Arts and Crafts style design features to many houses built in the local area between 1900 and 1920. However, compared with both listed and non-listed examples, Headfort House is not an outstanding example of the Arts and Crafts style. Although many of its features are intact, the addition of the chapel wing has compromised the composition of the street-front elevation of the original building. There are many examples of Arts and Crafts style buildings in the area with original composition and setting intact, and with finer detailing, which better exemplify the Arts and Crafts style.

4.3 Early Twentieth-Century Buildings Adapted for Re-use as Hospitals

4.3.1 Neringah Hospital, Wahroonga

The original house at the Neringah Hospital, Wahroonga, was constructed in 1912. It is a two-storey Arts and Crafts/Old English style building. Originally built as a family home by Margaret and Andrew Reid, it was donated to the Australian Red Cross Society in 1940 for use as a convalescent home for returned World War II soldiers. Since that time the original house has functioned as part of various hospitals and convalescent homes, and now remains part of Neringah Hospital, a private palliative care facility.¹

4.3.2 Rippon Grange, Wahroonga (former John Williams Memorial Hospital)

Rippon Grange is a two-storey Federation Queen Anne house designed by architect Howard Joseland and Sir John Sulman c1898 (and extended 1905). In 1951, Ernest Robert Williams (who had purchased the property in 1935) donated Rippon Grange to the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children, for treating children with polio. The hospital was named the John Williams Memorial Hospital. New classrooms were built in 1954 and 1960. In 1980 the hospital was transferred to the Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai District Hospital and then the Ku-ring-gai Disability Service. Since that time, development has been proposed for the site but has not been approved. The house sits in expansive grounds that include gardens considered to be of heritage significance.²

4.3.3 Conclusion

Both Neringah Hospital and Rippon Grange are examples of late nineteenth century/early twentieth century houses within the Ku-ring-gai LGA that have been adapted for use as healthcare facilities. Whereas Headfort House at 95 Stanhope Road differs slightly in that it was purpose-built for use as part of a school, a substantial part of the building was a residence for the school's headmaster, and the building has a residential scale.

Therefore, in considering the history of Rippon Grange and the original house at Neringah Hospital, it can be concluded that the adaptive re-use of Headfort House as a healthcare facility is not rare within the Ku-ring-gai LGA, and this pattern of use is not uncommon for large residential buildings (on large allotments).

4.4 Endnotes

¹ Clive Lucas, Stapleton and Partners Pty Ltd, 'Ku-ring-gai Council Review of 14 Draft and Potential Heritage Items', 2014.

² Federation House website, viewed 28 February 2017 <<http://federation-house.wikispaces.com>>.

5.0 Heritage Significance Assessment

5.1 Introduction

The Burra Charter defines cultural significance as 'aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for the past, present or future generations'. Cultural significance is embodied in the place itself, its fabric, its setting, its use, associations, meanings, related places and objects.

The assessment of heritage significance identifies whether a place (or element of a place) may be considered important and valuable to the community. A place may also have a range of values important to different individuals or groups.

The terms 'cultural significance', 'heritage value' and 'heritage significance' are synonymous, interchangeably used in this report and in Australia by organisations such as the NSW Heritage Council, the National Trust of Australia (NSW) and the NSW Heritage Branch.

5.2 Heritage Significance Assessment

5.2.1 New South Wales Heritage Assessment Guidelines

The *NSW Heritage Manual* guidelines, prepared by the NSW Heritage Office and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, provide the framework for the following assessment and statement of significance for Headfort House at 95 Stanhope Road, Killara. These guidelines incorporate the five types of cultural heritage values identified in the Burra Charter into a specifically structured framework which is currently accepted as the required format by heritage authorities in NSW.

Under these guidelines, items (or 'places' to use Burra Charter terminology) are assessed in accordance with a specific set of criteria, as set out below:

- a) *An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).*
- b) *An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in the cultural or natural history of NSW (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).*
- c) *An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area).*
- d) *An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.*
- e) *An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).*
- f) *An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).*
- g) *An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's:*
 - *cultural or natural places; or*
 - *cultural or natural environments**(or a class of the 'local areas')*

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- *cultural or natural places; or*
- *cultural or natural environments).*

An item is significant if the kind of attributes listed in the inclusion guidelines under each particular criterion help to describe it (see tables in Section 5.2.2 below). Similarly, the item is not significant if the kind of attributes listed in the exclusion guidelines under each particular criterion help to describe it.

Statutory protection of heritage places (ie by local and/or state governments) is usually related to the identified level of significance. Items of state significance may be considered by the Heritage Council of NSW for inclusion on the State Heritage Register (SHR).

5.2.2 Heritage Assessment

This section sets out an assessment of the heritage significance of Headfort House at 95 Stanhope Road, Killara, in accordance with the standard criteria identified in the Heritage Office, Department of Planning guidelines. The evaluation includes consideration of the original and subsequent layering of fabric, uses, associations and meanings of the place as well as its relationship to its immediate and wider settings. The exclusion guidelines that are considered to be met are identified by bolding.

Criterion (a)—an item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

Headfort House was purpose-built as the establishment building of a private school for boys with boarding facilities (Headfort School), c1918. It is evidence of development in the Killara area at the time, as the suburb expanded and its population grew, and the need for new schools arose.

Later, Headfort House, together with other buildings on the site (now demolished) and adjacent open areas, was used by the Australian Army as a base for housing and training women for the Eastern Command of the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) during World War II.

Following World War II, the building was used as part of Lourdes Hospital, and later became part of Lourdes Retirement Village.

Guidelines for Inclusion	Guidelines for Exclusion
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shows evidence of a significant human activity.• Is associated with a significant activity or historical phase.• Maintains or shows the continuity of a historical process or activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has incidental or unsubstantiated connections with historically important activities or processes.• Provides evidence of activities or processes that are of dubious historical importance.• Has been so altered that it can no longer provide evidence of a particular association.

The property has local significance under this criterion. Its construction as a school is evidence of the growth and development of Killara. It has further significance for its use by AWAS during World War II. Its later use as a tuberculosis hospital is evidence of the specialised facilities that were required at the time for the treatment of tuberculosis.

Criterion (b)—an item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in the cultural or natural history of NSW (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

The property has an association with the Reverend Robert Thompson Wade, who founded the Headfort School on the site in 1918, and who commissioned the construction Headfort House as the establishment building of the school. Wade was the headmaster of Headfort School until 1928. Wade is best known for his work as an ichthyologist and palaeontologist, although he worked extensively in education throughout his career. Wade is considered to be a person of significance with whom Headfort House is associated.

John Gorton, Prime Minister of Australia 1967–1971, was a student at Headfort School for two years while living in Killara. Although Gorton is a person of importance to NSW, his attendance at the school was short-lived, and he also attended other schools. The site's association with Gorton is therefore considered to be a minor one.

Guidelines for Inclusion	Guidelines for Exclusion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shows evidence of a significant human occupation. • Is associated with a significant event, person, or group of persons. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has incidental or unsubstantiated connections with historically important people or events. • Provides evidence of people or events that are of dubious historical importance. • Has been so altered that it can no longer provide evidence of a particular association.

The property has local significance under this criterion, for its association with the Reverend Robert Thomas Wade.

Criterion (c)—an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area)

Historical documents suggest that Headfort House was architect-designed, but the identity of the designer is not known.

The materials and building technology used—sandstone, brickwork, stucco and timber—are typical of the period, and were not used in any innovative way. Although it is documented that the building was designed as a school, the floor plan of Headfort House is unremarkable. The main part of the building does not differ in any substantial way from a residential building, and the original floor plan of the chapel wing is no longer intact. As such, it is not considered that the building displays any technical or creative innovation or achievement.

Headfort House faces Stanhope Road, set back from the road behind a wide front yard. Although the building has a streetscape presence, it does not have landmark qualities beyond the bounds of the LRV; within the LRV the building is architecturally distinctive as the only early twentieth century building on the site. However, when considered as part of the wider Killara area, the domestic scale of the house, its simple Arts and Crafts style and its typical garden setting mean that the building is unremarkable within its largely residential surroundings.

The north elevation of the building—its main elevation—is the most detailed of the building's elevations. The north elevation of the main part of the building is intact, and demonstrates a considered composition and uses timber battens as an architectural feature. The use of expressed

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timber battens is a common feature of the Arts and Crafts style and has been used here in a simple but effective manner. The use of rough stucco on the walls is most likely original, and has been used in contrast with the smooth sheet cladding of the framed wall sections. However, the north elevation of the chapel wing is largely featureless. The original fenestration on the chapel wing has been removed on all elevations. Overall, beyond the use of the stucco and timber battens there is little applied decoration, and the building design is perfunctory. Internally, rooms are of a domestic scale and proportion. There is some interesting detailing—mainly timber—extant in the ground floor entry lobby and office, which are the most intact rooms of the building. However, the interior of the building is generally unremarkable. As such, it is not considered that the building exemplifies the Arts and Crafts style.

The original form of the front garden is legible and partly intact: the original garden was simple in design, with lawns surrounded by gardens and hedges, and this concept has been maintained. The original gates have been demolished.

Guidelines for Inclusion	Guidelines for Exclusion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shows or is associated with creative or technical innovation or achievement. Is the inspiration for a creative or technical innovation or achievement. Is aesthetically distinctive. Has landmark qualities. Exemplifies a particular taste, style or technology. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is not a major work by an important designer or artist. Has lost its design or technical integrity. Its positive visual or sensory appeal or landmark and scenic qualities have been more than temporarily degraded. Has only a loose association with a creative or technical achievement.

The property does not have heritage significance under this criterion.

Criterion (d)—an item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

Headfort House is the last building remaining on site from the time prior to the retirement village. As such, it has an association with groups that had prior use of the site. Headfort House has a special association with the Eastern Command of the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS), who occupied the site between 1942 and 1944. Headfort House also has a special association with the Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary, who established the Lourdes Hospital on the site in 1944. It also has a special association with former patients and staff of Lourdes Hospital.

Headfort House, through its various historical uses and current use as a retirement village, is important to the Ku-gin-gai community's sense of place.

Guidelines for Inclusion	Guidelines for Exclusion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is important for its associations with an identifiable group. Is important to a community's sense of place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is only important to the community for amenity reasons. Is retained only in preference to a proposed alternative.

The property has local significance under this criterion.

Criterion (e)—an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW’s cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

Historic photographs show that a single storey building was located to the west of Headfort House, now partly occupied by the carpark. This building was demolished after 1943. There is some archaeological potential in the part of the site where this building was located. Elsewhere, extensive building works associated with the development of the LRV means that there is little archaeological potential elsewhere in the vicinity of Headfort House.

Guidelines for Inclusion	Guidelines for Exclusion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has potential to yield new or further substantial scientific and/or archaeological information. • Is an important benchmark or reference site or type. • Provides evidence of past human cultures that is unavailable elsewhere. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The knowledge gained would be irrelevant to research on science, human history or culture. • Has little archaeological or research potential. • Only contains information that is readily available from other resources or archaeological sites.

The property does not have heritage significance under this criterion.

Criterion (f)—an item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW’s cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

Stylistically, Headfort House at 95 Stanhope road exhibits Arts and Crafts style features that are common to many houses in Ku-ring-gai, both large and small. It is considered that the Arts and Crafts style of architecture is better represented by other properties in the Ku-ring-gai local government area.

As an early 20th century building adapted for use as a hospital, Headfort House is not rare. The original house at Neringah Hospital, Wahroonga, (1912) was converted for use as part of a convalescent hospital in 1939, and now exists as part of a larger health-care facility.

Guidelines for Inclusion	Guidelines for Exclusion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides evidence of a defunct custom, way of life or process. • Demonstrates a process, custom or other human activity that is in danger of being lost. • Shows unusually accurate evidence of a significant human activity. • Is the only example of its type. • Demonstrates designs or techniques of exceptional interest. • Shows rare evidence of a significant human activity important to a community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is not rare. • Is numerous but under threat.

The property does not have heritage significance under this criterion.

Criterion (g)—an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW’s (or a class of the local area’s): cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments

The building has some interest as being purpose-built as the Headfort School. However, the chapel wing has lost much of its integrity, with little of the original design intact beyond its external form. In addition, the second large building which was a part of the school—built soon after Headfort House—has been demolished, as have other smaller buildings and facilities that were part of the school. In this sense, little integrity remains of the site as a school.

Guidelines for Inclusion	Guidelines for Exclusion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is a fine example of its type. • Has the principal characteristics of an important class or group of items. • Has attributes typical of a particular way of life, philosophy, custom, significant process, design, technique or activity. • Is a significant variation to a class of items. • Is part of a group which collectively illustrates a representative type. • Is outstanding because of its setting, condition or size. • Is outstanding because of its integrity or the esteem in which it is held. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is a poor example of its type. • Does not include or has lost the range of characteristics of a type. • Does not represent well the characteristics that make up a significant variation of a type.

The property does not have heritage significance under this criterion.

5.3 Conclusion

Headfort House at 95 Stanhope Road meets three of the criteria for listing as an item of local heritage significance. The building has historical significance as evidence of the growth of Killara, and its development from rural area to residential suburb. It is also significant as evidence of the effect of World War II on the local area with the building used by the AWAS in the 1940s, and for its later use as a tuberculosis hospital. The property has significance for its association with the Reverend Thomas Wade, who was the original headmaster of Headfort School. The property also has significance for social values related to the use of the site: it has a special association with the AWAS, the SMSM and former patients and staff of the Lourdes Hospital. Through its many former uses, as well as its current use as a retirement village, the building is important to the Ku-ring-gai community’s sense of place.

5.4 Statement of Significance

Headfort House has significance at a local level. Headfort House has historical significance as it is evidence of the early Twentieth-Century growth and development of the suburb of Killara and the resultant need for schools in the area. It has further historical significant for its use by the Australian Women’s Army Service (AWAS) for training during WWII, and for its later use as a tuberculosis hospital. Headfort House is associated with the reverend Robert Thomas Wade, a prominent educator, ichthyologist and palaeontologist who was the founding headmaster of the Headfort School. The building also has potential social significance for its association with the AWAS, patients and staff of Lourdes Hospital, and for its importance to the Ku-ring-gai community’s sense of place.

31 May 2017

Mr Lucas Flecha
Stockland
Level 25, 133 Castlereagh Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000 Our Ref: 16-0330lfc2

Re: Lourdes Retirement Village, 95 Stanhope Road, Killara—Response to Draft Urban Design Study, May 2017

Dear Mr Flecha,

GML Heritage (GML) has been engaged by Stockland to comment on the draft Urban Design Study (UDS) for Lourdes Retirement Village dated May 2017, and the Planning Proposal dated 26 May 2017, both prepared by Architectus. The Master Plan included in the UDS aims to consolidate site development and intensify Lourdes Village's built form to bring accommodation to a standard that meets current demand and provides improved accessibility, retaining the site's mature landscape setting.

To achieve this Master Plan, initial heritage advice has informed the planning proposal which seeks amendments to the *Ku-ring-gai Local Environment Plan 2015 (LEP)* in terms of a higher density land use zoning, and increased height and floor space ratio controls applicable to the site.

Heritage Listing Context

The heritage context of the site has been an important consideration in the concept development of the Master Plan to date, and is articulated in the UDS. Whilst the site is not presently heritage listed, GML's Heritage Significance Assessment (prepared for Stockland in 2017) found that the former Headfort School building (Headfort House) in its garden setting is of heritage significance to Ku-ring-gai. The site is immediately adjacent to two heritage items listed on the LEP 2015.

The Seven Little Australians Park (heritage item I1100) adjoins the eastern, southern, and part of the northern boundary of the site of Lourdes Village. The Crown Blocks Heritage Conservation Area (HCA) (C22) adjoins to the west, south and east of the site and several other individually listed items are also in the vicinity.

Residential development is located to the north and west of the site. Houses on Stanhope Road are single or two-storey free-standing houses of Interwar and later construction. These are generally built in face brick, with timber joinery and terracotta tiles, and set back from the street in large gardens with mature trees—both remnant native forest and exotic plantings. The importance of conserving the local streetscape context has been integrated in the urban design treatment of the proposed Stanhope Road interface of the

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development, the site entrance and the conservation of historic Headfort House in its garden curtilage.

History of the Site

The development history of Lourdes Village site is characteristic of Ku-ring-gai municipality. Aboriginal occupation was gradually displaced by European settlement, initially timber getting, followed by modest farming pursuits. Clarke's Dairy is recorded on the site after 1899, operating until the land was purchased for the establishment of Headfort School in 1917, and the surrounding land was gradually subdivided for residential development. Headfort School grew quickly to accommodate 20 boarders and 100 day boys, eventually being sold in 1927 to the Congregational Union, which re-named it Milton Grammar. The school closed in 1934 and the site was subdivided.

The buildings were left vacant until 1942, and were dilapidated when requisitioned by the Australian Army for the AWAS training company, which ran courses there until 1944. The main site area of 12 acres was purchased by the Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary in 1944 and the Catholic Church Trust, which converted the buildings for use as a hospital. The Lourdes Hospital opened in 1946, with 16 beds for tuberculosis (TB) patients. In 1966 it became an annex of the Mater Hospital, continuing to treat acute TB cases. In 1980 the site was sold to the Hibernian Australia Catholic Benefit Society, who developed the Lourdes Retirement Village after 1982. At that time the former Headfort School building was refurbished to include a chapel and administration rooms were added to the rear, linking to a community centre.

The Proposed Development

The site currently includes 108 independent living units, an 83 bed residential aged care facility (RACF) and a range of administration and communal facilities dating from the 1980s. The Master Plan consists of the major reorganisation of the site, including the relocation RACF and Community Centre, which will be carried out by Opal, the current owners, in conjunction with Stockland.

The proposed Master Plan identifies several precincts of distinct character which will accommodate approximately 266 new independent living units and serviced apartments, as well as a residential aged care facility (RACF) which will accommodate 130 residents. The project will include the restoration (to future detail) of Headfort House as the gateway to the site, a new Village Green and community hub, with terraced gardens and open spaces linking between. A series of layout options has been developed and assessed, considering the traffic and transport issues, bushfire and heritage considerations.

Proposed building heights will vary across the site from three storeys up to six storeys (at the centre of the site) with a range of building heights, footprints and envelopes relating to landscaped communal spaces of lower scale towards the fringing bushland and adjoining residential properties. The six-storey building components are part of three-to-six storey buildings, with the six-storey components responding to the topography of the site. Existing vegetation along Stanhope Road is to be retained and the remaining garden elements of Headfort House will be conserved. It is proposed that Headfort House be conserved within its garden curtilage, which will form an important element of the new gateway to the village.

Headfort School Site

The Lourdes Retirement Village has been constructed largely on the former site of the Headfort School grounds. The original two-storey Arts and Crafts style Headfort House facing Stanhope Road remains relatively intact. The eastern wing was converted into the Lourdes Village chapel in the 1980s. An

administration wing has been added to its rear and ancillary rooms to the south. Upstairs continues in use as a residence.

Although the appearance of Headfort House has been altered by the extension and loss of original fenestration of the east wing, it still presents strongly as a heritage house in a mature garden setting to Stanhope Road. The Master Plan proposes to retain it as an integrated component of the Village redevelopment. Careful consideration of its refurbishment and adaptive reuse as a community entry point will be essential and a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) is recommended to guide its conservation. The front garden includes several mature plantings and its original spatial layout is evident. A curtilage delineation within the CMP is needed to define and manage an adequate setting for the house.

Grotto

A small bush-rock memorial grotto is located to the east of the administration area in a garden setting. It features statuary—Our Lady of Lourdes—and a plaque commemorating missionary sisters of the Society of Mary who died in Guadalcanal in 1942. The social significance of the grotto needs research and community consultation as part of the redevelopment process. Depending on the outcome of this research, it is anticipated that the relocation of the elements of significance within the grotto (statue and plaque) would be acceptable to a suitable location on the site.

Statutory Context—Heritage

The Lourdes Retirement Village site is not statutorily listed as a heritage item. However, GML's Heritage Significance Assessment report for the building (2017) concluded that Headfort House in its garden setting is of local heritage significance for Ku-ring-gai, and the concept development of the Master Plan has incorporated this commitment.

The 2015 LEP and the *Ku-ring-gai Development Control Plan 2015* (DCP) are the relevant Ku-ring-gai Council legislative considerations and guidelines for the proposed redevelopment and Master Plan. LEP considerations are discussed under the relevant sections below.

The site immediately adjoins the heritage item Seven Little Australians Park (I1100) to the east and south, and the Crown Blocks HCA (C22) to the west, south and east—which is also listed on the 2015 LEP. Lindfield Soldiers Memorial Park (I1099) is located to the east of the site, and Swain Gardens (I1103) is located to the west—both areas are listed as individual heritage items on the 2015 LEP and are within the Crown Blocks HCA.

Ku-ring-gai LEP 2015—Heritage Provisions

The preparation of the Master Plan for the redevelopment of the site will need to take into consideration Clause 5.10(5) of the 2015 LEP in respect of the Seven Little Australians Park and the Crown Blocks HCA adjoining the site:

(5) Heritage assessment

The consent authority may, before granting consent to any development:

(a) on land on which a heritage item is located, or

(b) on land that is within a heritage conservation area, or

(c) on land that is within the vicinity of land referred to in paragraph (a) or (b),

*require a **heritage management document** to be prepared that assesses the extent to which the carrying out of the proposed development would affect the heritage significance of the heritage item or heritage conservation area concerned.*

The statutory listing provides an effective mechanism for managing change to heritage places across Kuring-gai. Heritage listing on the 2015 LEP generally means that proposals for external and structural alterations, demolition and subdivision of a heritage item or within an HCA need to be approved by council so that the impacts on the item, or HCA as a whole can be considered.

A Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) will need to be prepared at the Development Application (DA) stage to accompany the Master Plan assessing the potential impact of the development on the heritage significance of Headfort House and the adjacent heritage items and conservation area.

Although not a listed heritage item, it is recommended that the Master Plan take into consideration Clause 5.10(6) of the 2015 LEP in respect of the former Headfort House:

(6) Heritage conservation management plans

The consent authority may require, after considering the heritage significance of a heritage item and the extent of change proposed to it, the submission of a heritage conservation management plan before granting consent under this clause.

A Conservation Management Plan (CMP) should be prepared for the site prior to the DA stage, with a focus on Headfort House. The CMP will guide the development of the Master Plan and future development within the site. The CMP will:

- undertake further historical investigation to better understand the history of the site;
- assess the significance of the site and Headfort House;
- identify priority conservation works;
- identify unsympathetic alterations and additions that should be reversed;
- determine an appropriate landscaped curtilage surrounding Headfort House;
- include policies in relation development in the vicinity of Headfort House and adjacent heritage items; and
- recommend policies for the social values assessment, conservation and possible relocation of the grotto.

An Interpretation Strategy should also be prepared at the DA stage, with specific reference to the history of the site and Headfort House. Its selected recommendations will be developed into an Interpretation Plan to be implemented via construction certificate condition as part of the redevelopment of the site.

Ku-ring-gai DCP 2015

Council's 2015 DCP supplements the heritage controls contained in the 2015 LEP and provides more detailed guidance for new development within the HCAs and in the vicinity of heritage items.

Proposed development will need to take consideration of:

- Section 20F.1: Development in the Vicinity of Heritage Items or HCAs;

- Section 20F.2 Building Setbacks; and
- Section 20F.3: Gardens and Landscaping of the 2015 DCP.

Though not strictly a heritage consideration—Part 13 of the 2015 DCP: Tree and Vegetation Preservation—will also apply to the redevelopment of the site.

The overall design of the Master Plan will need to be in accordance with the above DCP guidelines.

Building in the Vicinity of a Heritage Conservation Area or Item

The Crown Blocks HCA is considered to be of high local aesthetic significance for its relatively intact and cohesive late nineteenth and twentieth-century subdivision pattern and development. The HCA is characterised by streetscapes of good, high-quality examples of one-two storey freestanding houses from the Federation, Inter-war and Post-war periods enhanced by garden settings, wide street proportions, street trees and plantings, remnant and planted native trees and introduced species.

The design of new buildings within the proposed redevelopment should not imitate nearby heritage buildings, but should be based on the careful analysis of the streetscape and character of the HCA. The NSW Heritage Office/RAIA (NSW), *Design in Context: Guidelines for Infill Development in the Historic Environment*, 2005, outlines the design criteria for new development in a HCA.

Swain Gardens, located to the west of the site, is a heritage item located within the Crown Blocks HCA. The English-style terraced gardens in a bushland setting contribute strongly to the aesthetic character and social significance of the HCA, and form a well-known local resource, now managed by council. Careful assessment of the impact of the village development on bushland views from the gardens is necessary. Its proximity may also offer an opportunity for developing a community relationship with the village through voluntary collaborations as a broader community contribution by the new development.

Bushland Reserves Plan of Management

The *Ku-ring-gai Bushland Reserves Plan of Management 2013* (Bushland Reserves POM) identifies the Seven Little Australians Park as a Ku-ring-gai bushland reserve (land management unit 165). The Bushland Reserves POM notes the park is 'High Value/Low Pressure', and indicates that development on the fringes of such bushland areas may create a range of management concerns such as the visual impacts of urban encroachment, and impacts on water catchment and endangered species (of which some may be located within the park). Section 6.7.2 of the POM (Heritage) identifies steps to be undertaken to ensure the protection of heritage items in bushland. Minimising urban encroachment on the park will require careful consideration of drainage, shadowing and visual analysis.

Consideration of the potential impacts on matters outlined in the Bushland Reserves POM, including Section 6.7.2, will be needed as the development of the Master Plan proceeds.

Aboriginal Heritage and Archaeological Values

The valley surrounding the site is recognised in the Bushland Reserves POM as having high Aboriginal archaeological potential and significance. Consideration of potential impacts on Aboriginal heritage values of development on the adjacent area is required. The assessment of Aboriginal heritage values comprises both the archaeological values and the cultural values of the area and will need to be undertaken at the DA stage so findings can be taken into consideration and responded to as the Master Plan proceeds.

An Aboriginal heritage due diligence assessment should be undertaken in accordance with the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales*, DECCW (September 2010). A due diligence approach to the assessment of Aboriginal heritage involves taking reasonable and practicable measures to determine whether development actions are likely to harm an Aboriginal object and whether an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) would be required. This assessment provides a defence against prosecution, should any unexpected Aboriginal objects be uncovered through development works at Lourdes Village. It is likely that the Director General's requirements will include an Aboriginal and non-indigenous archaeological assessment.

The Master Plan will need to take into consideration Clause 5.10(8) of the 2015 LEP in respect of places of Aboriginal heritage significance within and adjoining the site:

(8) Aboriginal places of heritage significance

The consent authority must, before granting consent under this clause to the carrying out of development in an Aboriginal place of heritage significance:

(a) consider the effect of the proposed development on the heritage significance of the place and any Aboriginal object known or reasonably likely to be located at the place by means of an adequate investigation and assessment (which may involve consideration of a heritage impact statement), and

(b) notify the local Aboriginal communities, in writing or in such other manner as may be appropriate, about the application and take into consideration any response received within 28 days after the notice is sent.

The *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW) (NPW Act) provides that a person who exercises due diligence in determining that their actions will not harm Aboriginal objects has a defence against prosecution for the strict liability offence if they later unknowingly harm an object without an AHIP.

The due diligence assessment would:

- identify whether or not Aboriginal objects are, or are likely to be, present in the area;
- determine whether or not the activities of the proposed project are likely to harm Aboriginal objects (if present); and
- determine whether an AHIP application is therefore required.

Given the layers of occupation of the site, the Master Plan will need to take into consideration Clause 5.10(7) of the LEP 2015 in respect of places of historical archaeological heritage significance within and adjoining the site:

(7) Archaeological sites

The consent authority must, before granting consent under this clause to the carrying out of development on an archaeological site (other than land listed on the State Heritage Register or to which an interim heritage order under the Heritage Act 1977 applies):

(a) notify the Heritage Council of its intention to grant consent, and

(b) take into consideration any response received from the Heritage Council within 28 days after the notice is sent.

Previous buildings on the site suggest that a historical archaeological assessment would need to be prepared at the DA stage in accordance with the *Archaeological Assessment and Assessing Historical Archaeological Significance* guidelines prepared by the NSW Heritage Branch.

Commentary

Following initial discussions with council in 2016, and further analysis of the constraints and opportunities of the site, GML has provided ongoing heritage advice to the development of the planning proposal, which is now focussed on the northern part of the site. It is understood that areas of the site to the south and east of First Avenue, currently occupied by independent living units, are to be excluded from consideration at this time. The planning proposal seeks approval for an amendment to zoning to facilitate development and use for seniors housing and an amendment to height controls to permit buildings of three to six storeys in height and an overall increase of floor–space ratio (FSR) controls to 0.8 across the site. The UDS illustrates the scale and type of building envelopes and footprints that could be achieved under the proposed controls, so the rezoning application can be assessed. All buildings would be subject to design and assessment through the DA process and at that point, the heritage matters outlined above would be assessed in detail.

The integration of early heritage advice in the planning of the proposed development has led to the careful conservation and sensitive adaptive reuse of Headfort House in its surrounding garden curtilage in the UDS. It proposes to engage the building as part of the gateway entry to the site, conserving its existing character and interface with Stanhope Road. As part of this strategy, the mature trees within the front garden will be retained, and the perimeter hedge restored. It is proposed that the grotto be relocated to a new garden area, located to the southeast of Headfort House, which will also feature a new lightweight pavilion structure. A bridge element is proposed to connect the chapel building to the proposed new RACF, which is consistent with the history of the building, and which has the potential to link the two buildings without adversely impacting on the chapel building. This will be part of the further consideration of heritage impacts of the proposal and the CMP would inform and accompany development applications prepared in consultation with council and the community.

The Master Plan retains the existing vegetation within the property along Stanhope Road, which will be further strengthened to provide a well landscaped setback for the new development. Building height slopes down and is lower near Stanhope Road, recognising the significance of the surrounding lower-scale HCA. The presentation and scale of the rear elevations of the new village main street buildings to Stanhope Road will require careful consideration of the adjoining Crown Blocks HCA which is characterised by detached housing, large garden settings and remnant and planted native trees.

The Master Plan locates the denser development towards the centre of the site, with three to six storeys close to the crest of the hill, which will break the tree canopy but is at the most distant point from the predominantly one to two storey scale of the surrounding HCA. The Master Plan includes the retention of the existing low-height independent units along the site's eastern and southern interfaces with Seven Little Australians Park, and these will act as a buffer between the new development and the park. Any future development proposed in these eastern and southern areas should be developed to act as a buffer in a similar way.

The impacts of permitting increased density and height require careful consideration of the massing of building envelopes, specific modulation, materials, colours and visual impacts. Scaling down the height of the buildings at the perimeter of the site, particularly along the bushland fringe is a positive design principle, the impact of apparent height from within the park will need to be assessed.

It is considered that the detailed design of the proposed five-storey RACF as shown on the masterplan can potentially be further developed to be sympathetic to Headfort House, and not adversely impact on its setting. The new building envelope of the RACF behind Headfort House is of five storeys, and is set back from the chapel. A reasonable setback (as shown on the Master Plan), together with localised stepping of the height of the building on its western side and careful articulation of the facades and materiality of the new RACF will be ultimately required to ensure that the new building will not overwhelm or visually dominate the chapel. These aspects of design development can be considered further at DA stage. The proposed development of landscaped gardens in the area currently occupied by a carpark has the potential to enhance the setting of Headfort House, and represents a suitable location for the relocated grotto.

Photomontages will assist in providing a better understanding of the streetscape impacts from key public viewpoints by showing how the proposed height and density of the village development will sit within the HCA and in relation to the heritage items in the vicinity such as Swain Gardens and points within Seven Little Australians Park.

Bushland Fringe Interface

Vegetation within the edges of the site adjoining the Seven Little Australians Park should be retained and protected to maintain an appropriate buffer between the redevelopment and the park. Original or significant landscape features associated with the Seven Little Australians Park and the Crown Blocks HCA, or which contribute to their setting, will need to be identified, assessed and retained. Plant species used in the new development should draw on characteristic native species within the Seven Little Australians Park and supported in a landscape plan.

Landscape Character

The established landscape character of the Seven Little Australians Park and the Crown Blocks HCA—including the height of the existing tree canopy and density of boundary landscape plantings—should be respected and strengthened through the Master Plan landscape concepts. Additional planting may be considered to provide appropriate screen planting on the side and rear boundaries of the site. Landscaping planning for the village in the vicinity of Headfort House, should respond to the historic garden features evident in the early aerials of the site, and remnant physical evidence of paths and remnant plantings, such as restoring the garden hedge.

Scale, Bulk, Height, Character, Setback, Colours and Materials

Careful consideration of colours, materials and setbacks of the village buildings will be needed to ensure that houses and their garden settings in the HCA and heritage items in the vicinity of the village will not be adversely affected by the development. The materials and finishes proposed in Section 4.2.10 of the UDS are considered to represent an acceptable conceptual basis for material selection.

Further Investigations to be undertaken as part of the next stages of design:

To fully assess the proposal from a heritage perspective GML recommends the preparation for the site of:

- A CMP for the site, including Headfort House, prior to the DA stage. This would require:
 - historical investigation to better understand the history of the site as a whole;
 - analysis of the significance of the site and its components;

- indication of priority conservation works;
- identification of unsympathetic alterations and additions to be reversed;
- delineation of appropriate curtilage and garden setting surrounding the building;
- management policies including:
 - o identification of locations for any extension in association with Headfort House;
 - o guidelines for development in its vicinity; and
 - o specific advice about the value and conservation of the grotto.

It should be noted that some aspects of this work have already been undertaken as part of the Heritage Significance Assessment for Headfort House undertaken by GML in 2017.

- An Aboriginal heritage due diligence assessment at the DA stage.
- An historical archaeological assessment at the DA stage.
- A HIS assessing the potential impact of the redevelopment on the heritage significance of the site and the heritage items and conservation area in its vicinity will need to be prepared at the DA stage.
- An Interpretation Strategy with specific reference to the history of the site and Headfort House will need to be prepared at the DA stage.
- Final photomontages showing the impact of the highest buildings from key public viewpoints in the HCA, Seven Little Australians Park and across the valley in East Lindfield will need to be prepared at the DA stage.
- An assessment of the impacts on matters outlined in the Bushlands Reserve POM will need to be undertaken at the DA stage.

The preparation of a Heritage Significance Assessment for the site, undertaken earlier this year, further reinforces Stockland's commitment to understanding and respecting the heritage aspects of the site. The early preparation of a CMP and IS to inform the design process would demonstrate Stockland's long term commitment to the retention and conservation of Headfort House, confirming that the significance of the heritage context of the development is seen as a foundation point of the Master Plan. The implementation of the CMP will ensure that the right decisions are made about site layout and curtilage delineation for the Lourdes Village design process.

Yours sincerely
GML Heritage Pty Ltd



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