

**MINUTES OF MEETING
State Heritage Register Committee**

Wednesday October 1, 2008
Commencing at 1:15 pm

Heritage Branch – Department of Planning
Heritage Branch Library
3 Marist Place
Parramatta



1.0 Attendance

PRESENT Sharon Sullivan (Chair)
Michael Clarke
Jason Ardler
Gabrielle Kibble

APOLOGIES Rosemary Annable
Ross Fitzgerald
Tina Jackson

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE
(Heritage Branch)** Cameron White
Perpetual Fernandes
Lucy Moore
Mary Ann Hamilton

Opening – Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting at 1:15 pm

2.0 Declarations of Interest

The Chair advised the Committee that she has recently been appointed as an Acting Commissioner – Land & Environment Court and has advised the court that she cannot deal with matters relating to the activities of the Heritage Council.

3.0 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting of August 6th 2008 were noted and adopted by the Committee

Moved: Jason Ardler
Seconded: Michael Clarke

4.0 Action Report

The action report was noted and adopted by Committee Members. Cameron White informed the Committee that the Listing Team staff were working on a strategy to reduce the outstanding number of nominations where the listing process had been commenced but was yet to be completed.

5.0 Minutes, reports and matters arising from HC Advisory Panels

NIL

6.0 Presentations

1. Bankstown sites – Draft Nominations

A presentation was made by Scott Robertson from Robertson & Hindmarsh Pty. Ltd relating to a group of Bankstown sites - No 1 Fighter Sector Headquarters, No 1 Fighter Sector Headquarters Accommodation, No 1 Fighter Sector VHF/RT Station, Bankstown Airport/RAAF Station as well as the Former World War I Military Hospital, Georges Heights

Mr Robertson explained that the Bankstown Aerodrome was a RAAF base and also a manufacturing assembly plant for fighters, bombers and Mosquitoes plus Clyde Engineering Works. Some of the significant components are the physical remains of the manufacturing facility. The different hanger types include Main, Singapore, Royal Navy B1 and Bellman Hangers. He advised that the airport is privately owned and the owners want to develop parts of the site.

He also advised that the No. 1 Fighter Sector Headquarters is a semi-underground bunker and used as an indoor rifle range. This is one of four semi-underground operations rooms in NSW. The 2-storey controlled the air defence network from Sydney to Newcastle. Mr Robertson discussed the heritage significance of the other elements of the group.

Mr. Robertson then advised the Committee about the World War I auxiliary military hospital buildings at Upper Georges Heights, Mosman. He informed the Committee that these buildings are rare examples of a World War I hutted hospital. They are the only World War I hutted hospital buildings in NSW, one of only two hutted hospital building complexes within Australia and possibly one of the two remaining World War I hutted hospital complexes in the world.

The asbestos cement cladding used on the World War I hospital buildings at Upper Georges Heights is an early use of imported asbestos cement and the survival of such original fabric is rare.

The Chair thanked Mr. Robertson for his presentation and information.

2. Australian Technology Park

Mr Graham Stevens, Asset Manager at ATP and Mr Maclaren North, heritage consultant, spoke to the matter. The Australian Technology Park (ATP) is a subsidiary of the Redfern

Waterloo Authority, established in 2004 to manage the revitalisation of the Eveleigh precinct in the inner city. The ATP manages the former Locomotive Workshop Building; the former Engine Shop (National Innovation Centre) and the former Works Manager's Office (International Business Centre) which are listed on the State Heritage Register. Heritage is considered to be a major management function by the ATP.

The ATP submitted the tabled HAMS document to the Heritage Branch seeking formal Heritage Council acceptance, as required by the State Agency Guide. The document demonstrates how heritage issues are integrated into the asset management decisions of the agency.

The SHRC commented particularly on ATP's need to address the significant movable heritage collections currently located in Bay's 1 & 2 of the Locomotive Workshop and the significance of these collections to the site and the State. While the HAMS has identified the significance and value of the movable collection, the SHRC identified the need to monitor the management of this collection.

7.0 State Heritage Register – Notice of intention to list - Draft Nominations

7.1 Draft Nominations for Review

Lucy Moore spoke to the following nominations:

- 1. Bankstown Aerodrome Network**
- 2. No 1 Fighter Sector Headquarters, Bankstown**
- 3. No 1 Fighter Sector Headquarters Accommodation, Bankstown**
- 4. No 1 Fighter Sector VHF/RT Station, Bankstown**
- 5. Bankstown Airport/RAAF Station**
- 6. Former World War I Military Hospital, Georges Heights**

The Committee considered the presentation by Scott Robertson. Lucy Moore informed the Committee that the Bankstown sites could be assessed as a precinct.

With regard to the Military Hospital, Lucy Moore said that this nomination was the last surviving example in NSW. The material used in the construction is rare as it predates the production of asbestos cement in Australia.

Comments:

The Committee deferred consideration of the significance of the sites pending the progression of the approved World War I & II State Heritage Register listing theme.

The next three nominations were addressed again by Lucy Moore

- 7. Westbridge Migrant Hostel**
- 8. Manly Hydraulics Laboratory (MHL)**
- 9. Didsbury**

Westbridge Migrant Hostel

This item was nominated by Bankstown City Council in December 2001. This site was originally used as a munitions factory during World War II and it became one of the largest migrant hostels following the war. This place is evidence of Australia's solution to large-scale immigration following World War II and part of the site is still in use today as the Villawood Detention Centre.

The item has historical significance as evidence of former Leightonfield Explosives Factory that produced munitions during World War II. It also has social significance - being the settlement for many migrants after World War II, particularly in the 1970s and 80s. The site also has social associations with the rock bands AC/DC and The Easybeats, as all members were former residents. It is listed on the LEP and the Registers of the National Trust and National Estate.

Comments

The Committee noted that the role of the site as a detention centre had not been mentioned in the nomination and that this was an important role. The Committee asked the Heritage Branch to confirm with the Commonwealth its view on the heritage significance of the site. The Committee also sought confirmation about whether the site was on the Commonwealth Heritage List and whether Commonwealth land could be listed on the State Heritage Register. Greater information was required about the different areas of the site and their respective heritage importance. The Committee agreed to defer this until the additional information was received.

Manly Hydraulics Laboratory (MHL)

The item was established in 1944, and is a hydraulic modelling and testing laboratory, which, today is used for water engineering. The Manly Hydraulics Laboratory resides on the site of the original water supply facility that serviced Manly in 1892. This is the only facility of its type in NSW. The current building still incorporates elements of the original water treatment and pumping station. The owner is the Department of Commerce. The site is not on the Warringah Shire Local Environmental Plan.

The laboratory facilities are well maintained and remain in working order for model testing projects. The facilities are still used for leading edge engineering studies. Its historical significance lies in it being a centre of excellence for research into water infrastructure projects in NSW.

Comments

The Committee agreed that the site was a major hydraulic facility in the country. The Committee however deferred reaching a conclusion on its heritage significance and requested the Heritage Branch to seek the comments of the Department of Commerce, and confirm whether it was listed on the agency's S.170 Register. Following receipt of this advice, the Committee requested the nomination be resubmitted for consideration.

Didsbury

This item is a substantial 2-storey Inter-War Mediterranean residence. Associated with the seed merchant Yates family, this residence was built in 1929 by the prominent Sydney architect Augustus Aley and is one of a limited number of his constructions still existing. It is in a largely intact condition.

Comment

The Committee considered that the building was of local heritage significance.

The next nine nominations were spoken to by Maryann Hamilton.

10. Blayney Lime Kilns (Ruins)

11. British Flats, Broken Hill

12. The Torin Building, 23 Coombes Drive, Penrith

13. Port Kembla Telephone Exchange (Old Building)

14. Wilcannia Post Office

15. Lithgow State Mine. Update of action by the Heritage Branch

16. Oakey Park Coal Mine - Update of action by the Heritage Branch

17. Wentworth Goldmine, Lucknow - Update of action by the Heritage Branch

18. Waks House II - Update of action by the Heritage Branch

Blayney Lime Kilns (Ruins)

Blayney Lime Kilns are excellent example of the small D-type kilns and are located on a limestone outcrop on Millthorpe Rd just outside the town of Blayney. The lime from the Blayney kilns was used by the local construction industry. The kilns are in a ruinous condition, although the form of the kilns is readily recognisable. Associated mullock heaps and quarries are in evidence.

The site was nominated by the National Trust in 2004. Blayney Shire Council is strongly in support of the nomination. The kilns are not currently on the LEP but Council is proposing that the site be listed in the next review of the LEP. A brief survey of the Heritage Branch Database and other sources revealed that the only similar types are a pair at Queanbeyan and at Kingsdale near Goulburn.

Comments

The Committee agreed that the site had local significance and should be on the LEP as a heritage item.

British Flats, Broken Hill

The building now known as the British Flats and formerly the General and Assay Offices of the British Broken Hill Proprietary Company is located within the LGA of Broken Hill.

The item has been nominated by Broken Hill Council for listing on the State Heritage Register because of its historical significance as part of the mining infrastructure of the BHP Limited mining company.

The curtilage needs to be further investigated. Council informed the Heritage Branch that the previous owner donated the building to Line of Lode Association although there was no physical title exchange. Council has advised that the land is also Crown Land and Council is trustee of that area.

Comments

The Committee advised Heritage Branch to defer the matter at this time. Advice should be sought from the Commonwealth as to whether the building was included in Council's nomination of Broken Hill on the National Heritage List (yet to be determined by the Federal Minister). Members requested that the Branch confirm the status of the National nomination. The Committee also requested the Heritage Branch liaise with the Commonwealth to determine whether it held information about the significance of the building.

The Torin Building, 23 Coombes Drive, Penrith

The Torin Building was built in Penrith in 1975. It was designed by the internationally renowned master architect Marcel Breuer and the construction was overseen by the office of Harry Seidler. It is the only building to be designed by Breuer in Australia and is a powerful example of an industrial building in NSW.

The item was nominated by the Australian Institute of Architects. The building is owned by Pridham Investors Pty Ltd, Martin Investors Pty Ltd and Office Link Projects.

The building is not listed as a heritage item on the current LEP but is included in the heritage study review and the revised LEP which is currently awaiting approval /gazettal by the Department. There is currently a Development Application for the property that proposes subdivision.

It is as a rare and intact example of Late 20th Century International style industrial architecture designed by the master architect Marcel Bruer. The Heritage Branch considers it could be of State significance.

Comments

The Committee agreed with the opinion of the Heritage Branch that the building is of State heritage significance. The Committee noted the important international contribution of Marcel Bruer to Modernist architecture, agreeing that it was significant to have an example of his work in Australia.

Port Kembla Telephone Exchange (Old Building)

The Port Kembla Telephone Exchange is located on Five Islands Rd Port Kembla within the Wollongong LGA. The Port Kembla Telephone exchange commenced operation in 1956 and demonstrates changing automated telephone switching technology through the later half of the Twentieth Century.

The Port Kembla Telephone Exchange (Old Building) was nominated to be listed on the SHR by a community member on the basis that it is the only complete, surviving and still workable example of Step by Step automatic telephone switching equipment in NSW. It is one of the last if not the last exchange to contain 2000 type SXS telephone exchange installation in Australia. The curtilage comprises the Lot on which the exchange buildings are located. If the nomination were to proceed, a review of this curtilage would be required.

Comments

The Committee agreed that the site was of potential State Significance and advised Heritage Branch to contact Commonwealth Department of Environment Water, Heritage and the Arts to enquire whether it held information about the building. Members agreed it was important to also contact the Heritage Adviser at Wollongong Council. The Committee advised the Heritage Branch to notify Telstra of this nomination and advise that the site has potential State significance and to confirm what its community service obligations are for conserving heritage.

Wilcannia Post Office & Post Masters Residence

The Wilcannia Post Office and residence are located on Reid St Wilcannia and are part of an historic civic precinct dating from the 1880s which includes Wilcannia goal, police station and courthouse. Central Darling Shire is the owner and is supportive of the listing. The Post Office and residence are currently listed on the LEP and have received funding from the Heritage Branch for repairs on both buildings.

The items may be of State significance historically as they reflect the history of the town and its role in the development of NSW in the 1880s. Wilcannia was the third largest port in NSW at the time and provided passage of people, wool and other goods to and from commercial centres in NSW and South Australia.

The construction of the fine Barnet designed Post Office and Residence took place in 1880. The buildings were used continuously until 1997. The curtilage has not been investigated in detail as yet. The Heritage Branch will request comment from the Aboriginal Heritage Advisory Panel.

Comments

The Committee considered that the heritage significance of the town as a precinct should be examined by the Heritage Branch. Members inquired whether a heritage study of Wilcannia had been carried out. The Committee recommended that the investigations of listing the town be carried out in consultation with Council and that a joint working party be formed. Other participants in any working party should include the Department of Environment and Climate Change and the Department of Aboriginal Affairs. Liaison with the Commonwealth should also take place. Jason Ardler, on behalf of the Department of Environment and Climate Change offered his assistance in convening the working party.

Lithgow State Mine & Oakey Park Coal Mine

Mary Ann Hamilton informed the Committee that, at the request of the SHR Committee at its June meeting, the Heritage Branch had undertaken further research regarding the significance of the mines.

The Heritage Branch has spoken to Lithgow Council and the local heritage advisor about the nominations, consulted with mining history groups and conducted some preliminary research to gain an understanding of the comparative heritage significance of the mines both within Lithgow and in comparison with other areas in NSW.

Currently neither of the sites are listed on the LEP as heritage items, but are proposed for inclusion on the revised LEP. The owner of the Lithgow State Mine, the State Mine Heritage Museum Inc is supportive of listing on the State Register, while the owners of the Oakey Park Mine have expressed opposition to listing. The Lithgow State Mine is considered to be of local significance as an intact coal mining site. The Oakey Park Coal Mine has rarity values, especially in respect of the remnant coking ovens on site. Oakey Park Coal Mine site still retains the remains of the Welsh Coke ovens. These enhance the Mine site's significance through its association with the steel works established in Lithgow by William Sandford and then later operated by Hoskings Brothers. This was the first steelworks in Australia. Coke from Oakey Mine was supplied to the steel works.

Comments

The Committee agreed that the Lithgow State Mine was of local heritage significance. Regarding the Oakey Park Coal Mine, Members agreed that the coke ovens were of potential State heritage significance.

Wentworth Goldmine, Lucknow

This item was presented at the May 2008 SHR Committee Meeting. At that meeting Members felt the mine could be of State heritage significance but that further research was required. The Heritage Branch has subsequently contacted Orange City Council and the local heritage advisor about the nomination and conducted research to better ascertain comparative heritage significance in relation to other mines in the NSW.

The Wentworth Mine is probably one of the earliest and longest running operations in NSW. Goldmining started on the site in July 1851 and continued up until the 1960s. The Wentworth goldmine was one of very early operations to start up on that goldfield

commencing alluvial mining in July 1851. There are archaeological remnants of that period of alluvial goldmining.

As did many other long lived gold mines, the site had several productive periods marked by upgrades of plant equipment and associated buildings. A search of gold mines listed in the Heritage Branch data base found that just about all the mines listed are either archaeological sites or are ruins/s remnants. None seemed to demonstrate the range of technology and associated gold mining buildings in their original context as at the Wentworth Gold Mine site.

The nomination for this site claims that it contains the only intact original stamper battery located in the context of its mine. In relation to this Heritage Branch investigations found that there are 3 sites in NSW containing their original stamper battery in intact condition. Even so the Wentworth stamper should still be considered a rare example.

Comments

Members agreed that the site was of State heritage significance.

Waks House II

This draft nomination was presented to the June 2008 meeting of the Committee. The Committee considered that the matter should be deferred pending discussions with the Australian Institute of Architects (AIA).

The Heritage Branch discussed with Anne Higham from the AIA the listing of Seidler buildings and other examples of modernist buildings. Anne clarified the process by which the SHR nominations were prepared. All Seidler buildings were classified into types and then, after considerable research (including use of Harry Seidler's personal records), examples of buildings which best exemplified the type was chosen and a nomination developed. Prior to his death, Harry Seidler himself had input into this process. The Heritage Branch advised the AIA that this process should be articulated in the nomination so that it is clear that a comparative analysis has been carried out.

The Heritage Branch has also spoken to Willoughby Council about the nomination and its status in relation to the LEP. Willoughby Council has not listed Waks House II on the LEP - it was omitted as the 2001 Heritage Review had recommended that it not be listed. The review was carried out by Clive Lucas Stapleton and they made their recommendation on the basis that the original building had been significantly modified. The modifications occurred early in the 2000s and included the rendering of the unadorned concrete block work, the replacement of original steel framed windows and sliding doors with aluminium frames and tinted glass, the replacement of the original balustrades with stainless steel and glass on all decks. In addition the entrance stair has been replaced with marble and render with light steps, concrete ceilings have been replaced with plaster, wall panelling replaced with render, the fireplace faced with marble and a new bathroom and kitchen installed. In 2001 a DA was approved to enclose the undercroft to form a rumpus room

Comments

The Committee were in agreement that the Waks House II has been highly altered. Members agreed that the building was of local significance and should be listed on the Willoughby LEP.

8.0 State Heritage Register – Recommendation to Minister

Nil

9.0 State Government Heritage

9.1 Australian Technology Park – Heritage Asset Management Strategy

The Committee noted the report submitted, considered the presentation and endorsed the HAMS submitted.

Resolved:

That the State Heritage Register Committee:

- 1. accepts the tabled HAMS document submitted by Australian Technology Park, in accordance with the State Owned Heritage Management Principles and Heritage Asset Management Guidelines, issued under Section 170A(3) of the Heritage Act, 1977;**
- 2. directs the Director, Heritage Branch, Department of Planning, to write to this agency advising of same, and noting identified editorial comments for inclusion in the final document, to the satisfaction of the Director (Annexure B);**
- 3. identified the need to monitor ATP's future plans for the significant movable heritage collection currently housed in bay's 1&2 of the Locomotive Workshop; and,**
- 4. congratulates the agency for its HAMS submission.**

Moved: Jason Ardler

Seconded: Michael Clarke

10.0 Interim Heritage Orders

Nil

11.0 Environmental Planning Instruments & Heritage Studies

NIL

12.0 Matters for Consideration

Nil

13.0 General Business

Nil

The meeting closed at 3:50 pm

Next Meeting of the Heritage Council State Heritage Register Committee

Wednesday November 5th 2008
Heritage Branch – Department of Planning
Heritage Office Library
3 Marist Place
Parramatta

Minutes endorsed by the Heritage Council State Heritage Register Committee.	<hr/> Chair, State Heritage Register Committee Date:
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