


Heritage Inventory Sheet

Item Name	Auburn War Memorial		
Recommended Name	Auburn War Memorial		
Site Image			
Address	Railway Park/Auburn Memorial Park on Rawson Street, Auburn NSW 2144		
Lot/Section/DP	1-2	-	1174373
Current LEP ID	A1 (Cumberland LEP)		
Former LEP ID	A49 (Auburn LEP)		
Heritage Conservation Area	Not Included		
Date Updated	March 2020		
Significance Level	LOCAL		
Site Type	Level 1	Built	
	Level 2	Monuments and Memorials	
Ownership	Owner of carpark site: Linfield Auburn Pty Ltd		
	Owner of park site: Cumberland City Council		

Curtilage Map



Note: The above map shows the new curtilage for the Item due its relocation.

Statement of Significance

The Auburn War Memorial is significant at a local level for its historical, social and rarity values. The monument is socially significant to the local community as a place of remembrance relating to local involvement in WW1 (1914-1918), WW2 (1939-1945), Korea (1950-1954), Malaysia (1950-1957), Vietnam (1962-1973), and UN Peace Keeping Forces. The War Memorial is a rare example of its type in Auburn, though it is typical of suburbs and country towns.

Criteria Assessment

a) Historic	The item is an elaborate war memorial monument erected by the Railway Department in 1921 to commemorate those who fell in WW1 (1914-1918). It now also commemorates WW2 (1939-1945), Korea (1950-1954), Malaysia (1950-1957), Vietnam (1962-1973), and UN Peace Keeping Forces.
b) Associative	The item does not meet this criterion.
c) Aesthetic/Technical	The item does not meet this criterion.
d) Social	The item is socially significant to the local community as a place of remembrance relating to local military involvement.
e) Scientific	The item does not meet this criterion.
f) Rarity	The War Memorial is a rare example of its type in Auburn, though it is typical of suburbs and country towns.
g) Representativeness	The item does not meet this criterion.

Physical Description

The War Memorial, located between Railway Park and Auburn Memorial Park, consists of a sandstone pedestal and plinth with one soldier, flanked by two kneeling female figures in white marble. The plinth houses a range of bronze plaques. Behind the monument is a rounded, low marble wall with three anodised aluminium signs. The monument is surrounded by a formal garden which contains two stone floor plinths with bronze plaques. The area surrounding the plinth is also paved with brick and stone paving.

Overall, the War Memorial is in good condition though there are some signs of deterioration to the stone.

Condition	Good	Fair	Poor
------------------	-------------	------	------

Alterations and Additions

- Relocated twice – in 1987 to the carpark of the Auburn RSL and 2014 to its present location.

Overall, the War Memorial has a high level of integrity.

Integrity	High	Moderate	Low
------------------	-------------	----------	-----

* *element detracts from the overall cultural significance of the place*

Historical Notes

Construction years	1921
--------------------	------

The land which forms part of the modern suburb of Auburn was first developed in 1790s, when a track from Sydney to Parramatta was first developed and early land grants were given to free settlers and ex-convicts in the area. Most early land grants were small, measuring between 30-100 acres and were awarded to people such as Edward Gould, Henry Marr, Thomas Bates and John O'Donnell. Larger grants were given to established merchants and officials, such as James Chisholm, a merchant, who received a 600-acre grant, and Joseph Hyde Pots, who was given 410 acres.

In 1855, the first railway line from Sydney to the Parramatta Junction allowed for suburban development around the area. The suburb of Auburn developed in the 1860s-80s from the subdivisions by John Yelverton Mills near the railway station. Mills named the suburb after the village in Oliver Goldsmith's poem 'The Deserted Village'. During this period, several main roads were built through the area and by 1880 it was reported that there were about 40 residences and a population of 200 people living in Auburn. By 1912–13, Auburn had established itself as suburb with the 11th largest number of new buildings in the metropolitan area for that year, with 268 approvals.

From the 1870s, industrial development had a significant impact on Auburn's development. This process began in the 1860s when the New South Wales government began buying small lots of railway rolling stock locally. Some notable industries that came to Auburn include Henry Vale & Co. who built locomotives around Auburn, car and tractor maker Caldwell Vale, and Purcell Engineering. As the area was known for its clay-based soil, pottery and brickmakers flourished in the area, such as the Auburn Brick, Tile & Pottery Company who took over Duck River Brickworks.

The War Memorial was erected by the Railway Department in 1921, to commemorate those who fell in WW1 (1914-1918). The item was relocated to the carpark of the Auburn RSL Club in 1987, then relocated to its present location in 2014. Over time, several new plaques have been installed to commemorate other military involvement.

Recommendations					
Heritage Management		Existing Built and Landscape Elements		Future Development and Planning	
1. Maintain this item's heritage listing on the LEP.	X	6. Original fabric is highly significant and should be maintained.	X	12. Alterations and additions should respond to the existing pattern of development, with careful consideration of the setting (form, scale, bulk, setback and height).	
2. Maintain this item's listing as part of the Heritage Conservation Area.		7. Unsympathetic alterations that detract from the cultural significance of the item should be removed.		13. New alterations and additions should respect the historic aesthetic/character of the item and area (e.g. paint scheme, materiality, style, landscape elements).	X
3. Consider delisting as an individual item from the LEP.		8. Maintain heritage landscape elements and schemes.	X	14. Future uses for this item should be compatible with its historical functions/associations.	X
4. Consider additional research to nominate this item for the State Heritage Register.		9. Maintain the existing setting of the heritage item, informed by the historic pattern of neighbouring development (form, scale, bulk, setback and height).			
5. The heritage curtilage for this item should be revised/reduced.	X	10. Maintain the historic aesthetic/character of the item and area (e.g. paint scheme, materiality, style, landscape elements).	X		
		11. The condition of this item is poor. Condition and maintenance should be monitored.			

Other recommendations and/or comments:

- This listing should be converted from an archaeological item to a heritage item with landscape elements.
- Due to the relocation of the war memorial from the carpark of the Auburn RSL Club to its present location in the Railway Park/Auburn Memorial Park on Rawson Street, Auburn, the curtilage shown above provides the new heritage curtilage for the Auburn War Memorial to be used in the Cumberland LEP. The noted Lot/DP is correct for this listing sheet.

Listings		
Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number
Heritage Act – State Heritage Register	N/A	-
Local Environmental Plan	Auburn War Memorial	11
Heritage Study	Auburn War Memorial	11
National Trust Australia Register	N/A	-

Previous Studies

Type	Author	Year	Title
Heritage Study	Extent Heritage Pty Ltd	2019	Cumberland LGA Heritage Study
Heritage Review	DPC	2007	Auburn Town Centre Heritage Review
Heritage Study	Neustein & Associates	1996	Auburn Heritage Study
Heritage Study	Terry Kass	1995	Draft Historical Context Report: Auburn Heritage Study

Other References

- Kass, T 1996, Auburn Heritage Study Draft Final Report. Volume 2 Historical Context Report. Sydney: Auburn Council.
- Kass, T 2008, *Auburn*, retrieved 27 March 2019, <https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/auburn>
- Jervis, J 1933, *The story of Parramatta and district*, Sydney.
- Liberty Plains Parish Map, no. 235, Sydney NSW.
- New South Wales Real Estate Annual, 12 Nov 1913, p 9.
- Post Office file, Auburn Part 1, National Archives of Australia, CRS SP 32/1

Limitations

1. Access to all heritage items was limited to a visual inspection from the public domain. The interiors of buildings and inaccessible areas such as rear gardens were not assessed as part of this heritage study.
2. Condition and site modification assessment was limited to a visual inspection undertaken from the public domain.
3. Unless additional research was required, historical research for all heritage items was based on an assessment of previous LGA heritage studies, the Thematic History (prepared by Extent Heritage, 2019) and existing information in former heritage listing sheets.

Additional Images



Facing south-west, context of memorial within park landscape.



Detail of memorial plaque with a poem by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.



Detail of memorial plaque with names listed.



Detail of 2015 plaque, a memorial to 'all Australians who served their country in war and peace'