

## Heritage Inventory Sheet

<b>Item Name</b>	Jack Lang Plaque		
<b>Recommended Name</b>	Jack Lang Plaque		
<b>Site Image</b>			
<b>Address</b>	4 Auburn Road, Auburn NSW 2144		
<b>Lot/Section/DP</b>	1	-	119916
	1	-	66358
<b>Current LEP ID</b>	I3 (Cumberland LEP)		
<b>Former LEP ID</b>	I15 (Auburn LEP)		
<b>Heritage Conservation Area</b>	Not included		
<b>Date Updated</b>	March 2020		
<b>Significance Level</b>	LOCAL		
<b>Site Type</b>	Level 1	Built	
	Level 2	Monuments and Memorials	
<b>Ownership</b>	Mr Bassam Ibrahim (C/- Professionals Real Estate, 4 Auburn Road, AUBURN NSW 2144)		

## Curtilage Map



**Revised curtilage recommended – refer below.**

## Statement of Significance

Installed in 1967, the Jack Lang Plaque is of local significance for its associative significance, as a tribute to Mr John T Lang (1900 – 1958) who was the Mayor of Auburn, Colonial Treasurer of NSW, Premier of NSW and a pioneer of social welfare legislation over his lifetime.

### Criteria Assessment

a) Historic	The item does not meet this criterion.
b) Associative	The item is dedicated to Mr John T Lang who was the mayor of Auburn, Colonial Treasurer of NSW, Premier of NSW and a pioneer of social welfare legislation over his lifetime.
c) Aesthetic/Technical	The item does not meet this criterion.
d) Social	The item does not meet this criterion.
e) Scientific	The item does not meet this criterion.
f) Rarity	The item does not meet this criterion.
g) Representativeness	The item does not meet this criterion.

## Physical Description

The item consists of a bronze plaque which reads:

“A tribute to a distinguished man of the people who occupied this site from 1900 – 1958 Mr. John T. Lang: Mayor of Auburn 1909 – 1910; Colonial Treasurer of New South Wales 1920 – 1922; Premier of New South Wales 1925 – 1927. A pioneer of social welfare legislation. Erected by The Citizens Council of Auburn. This plaque unveiled by his worship the Mayor of Auburn ALD. S. L. HEDGES on 7<sup>th</sup> November 1967.”

The plaque shows signs of oxidisation and there are some paint droplets on the plaque from painting works to the wall surrounding.

<b>Condition</b>	<b>Good</b>	Fair	Poor
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## Alterations and Additions

- None

Overall, the integrity of the item is high.

<b>Integrity</b>	<b>High</b>	Moderate	Low
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*\* element detracts from the overall cultural significance of the place*

## Historical Notes

Construction years	1967
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The land which forms part of the modern suburb of Auburn was first developed the 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 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.

John Thomas (Jack) Lang (1876-1975), estate agent and politician, was born on 21 December 1876 in George Street, Sydney. In 1906 he became secretary of the Starr-Bowkett Ballot and Sale Society, a workers' co-operative home-buying group. In 1903 Lang was secretary of the Granville Labor League, in 1906 of the Nepean Federal Council of the party, and in 1913 president of the Granville Electoral Council. He was also secretary of the Newington Progress Association. He was associated with St Joseph's Hospital and took part in Catholic social life. In 1907-14 he represented Newington Ward on the Auburn Council and was Mayor in 1909-11 and the local seat of Granville in 1913. Lang was commonly referred to as 'The Big Fella' in reference to his physicality.

Jack Lang was a significant figure in New South Wales and Federal government and politics from the time of his election as a Political Labor Party (later Australian Labor Party) member to the NSW Legislative Assembly in 1913. During Lang's political career he is celebrated as the pioneer of social welfare legislation. He is remembered as a great reformer during his first premiership introducing the 44-hour working week, child endowment, widow's pension, and workers compensation. Lang also abolished fees for secondary school during this time.

As twice premier of NSW, he was one of Australia's most controversial politicians both loved and hated. Lang's second premiership occurred during the Great Depression. This was a tumultuous period that resulted in his dismissal from office by the NSW Governor for refusing to repay interest on Commonwealth loans. As a result, he was expelled from the Labor party in 1941. In 1971, Lang was re-admitted into the Party with the support of his young protégé, Paul Keating. Lang passed away in September 1975.

The plaque in Auburns town centre is recognition of Lang's contribution to the local government. The plaque was erected by the citizens and council of Auburn in 1967. It is unclear why the location at 4 Auburn Road was selected for the memorial. The land which formed part of Thomas Turners land grant in 1890 was acquired by the Commonwealth and transferred to Auburn Council in 1950.

Mr. Lang's professional history has been outlined in the table below.

Position	Start Date	End Date	Duration
Member of the NSW Legislative Assembly	06 Dec 1913	15 Aug 1946	32 years 8 months 10 days
Member for Granville	06 Dec 1913	21 Feb 1917	3 years 2 months 16 days
Member for Granville	24 Mar 1917	18 Feb 1920	2 years 10 months 26 days
Member for Parramatta	20 Mar 1920	17 Feb 1922	1 year 10 months 29 days
Colonial Treasurer	13 Apr 1920	10 Oct 1921	1 year 5 months 28 days
Colonial Treasurer	10 Oct 1921	20 Dec 1921	2 months 11 days
Colonial Treasurer	20 Dec 1921	13 Apr 1922	3 months 25 days
Member for Parramatta	25 Mar 1922	18 Apr 1925	3 years 25 days
Member for Parramatta	30 May 1925	07 Sep 1927	2 years 3 months 9 days
Premier Colonial Treasurer	17 Jun 1925	18 Oct 1927	2 years 4 months 2 days
Acting Minister for Agriculture	23 Mar 1926	03 Sep 1926	5 months 12 days
Secretary for Lands and Minister for Forests	25 Nov 1926	26 May 1927	6 months 2 days
Member for Auburn	08 Oct 1927	18 Sep 1930	2 years 11 months 11 days
Premier	04 Nov 1930	13 May 1932	1 year 6 months 10 days
Member for Auburn	25 Oct 1930	18 May 1932	1 year 6 months 24 days
Colonial Treasurer	04 Nov 1930	13 May 1932	1 year 6 months 10 days



Member for Auburn	11 Jun 1932	12 Apr 1935	2 years 10 months 2 days
Member for Auburn	11 May 1935	24 Feb 1938	2 years 9 months 14 days
Member for Auburn	26 Mar 1938	18 Apr 1941	3 years 24 days
Member for Auburn	10 May 1941	15 Jul 1943	2 years 2 months 6 days
Member for Auburn	02 Oct 1943	24 Apr 1944	6 months 23 days
Member for Auburn	27 May 1944	15 Aug 1946	2 years 2 months 20 days

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).
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.
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).		
		11. The condition of this item is poor. Condition and maintenance should be monitored.		

Other recommendations and/or comments:

- Owing to the size and location of the plaque the heritage curtilage should be reduced. The revised curtilage shown below should be updated as the new heritage curtilage for the item in the new Cumberland LEP.
- Should the revised curtilage be adopted, this listing sheet does not reflect the current Lot/DP which will need to be altered.



### Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number
Heritage Act – State Heritage Register	N/A	-
Local Environmental Plan	Jack Lang Plaque	I16
Heritage Study	Jack Lang Plaque	I16
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

- Dictionary of Biography. *John Thomas Lang* (1876-1975), <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/lang-john-thomas-jack-7027>
- 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.
- Parliament of NSW, *The Hon. John Thomas Lang (1876 – 1975)*, [https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/members/Pages/profiles/lang\\_john-thomas.aspx](https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/members/Pages/profiles/lang_john-thomas.aspx)

## 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



Context photograph showing location of plaque.