


Heritage Inventory Sheet

Item Name	Minali Special School (early twentieth century residence)		
Recommended Name	Superintendent's Residence for the Former Lidcombe State Hospital		
Site Image			
	No access available to site. Photo Source: OEH NSW State Heritage Register Listing Sheet for Minali Special School.		
Address	169 Joseph Street, Lidcombe 2141		
Lot/Section/DP	4	-	1046678
Current LEP ID	I183 (Cumberland LEP)		
Former LEP ID	I36 (Auburn LEP),		
Heritage Conservation Area	Not included		
Date Updated	March 2020		
Significance Level	LOCAL		
Site Type	Level 1	Built	
	Level 2	Education	

Curtilage Map



Revised curtilage recommended - Refer below.

Statement of Significance

This Minali Special School residence has local significance for its historic, aesthetic, associative and rarity values. The building was the residence of the superintendent of the Lidcombe State Hospital for many years, giving it rare associative and historic significance. It is a rare example of a relatively large residence erected in the study area in the early twentieth century. It is aesthetically significant as it provides a good example of a Federation residence erected in the municipality during this phase of development. The original fabric of the building is intact, though currently being restored, and it has attractive and interesting decorative detail.

Criteria Assessment

a) Historic	The Minali Special School residence is historically significant as an early twentieth century dwelling relating to the early operation of the former Lidcombe Hospital Site.
b) Associative	The residence was occupied by the superintendent of the Lidcombe State Hospital for many years.
c) Aesthetic/Technical	The item is aesthetically significant as it provides a good example of a Federation residence erected in the municipality during this phase of development. The original fabric of the building is intact, though currently being restored, and it has attractive and interesting decorative detail.
d) Social	The item does not meet this criterion.
e) Scientific	The item does not meet this criterion.
f) Rarity	The item is a rare example of a relatively large residence erected in the study area in the early twentieth century.

g) Representativeness	The item does not meet this criterion.
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Physical Description

As the site was not accessible during the site inspection, the following physical analysis has been replicated from the former listing sheet for the item, dated March 2011 :

The former residence that now lies within the grounds of the Minali Special School was built in the Federation style. It is a one storey building with a hip and valley roof, through which two simple chimneys project. The building has rough cast cement rendered exterior walls with buttresses and a variety of square bays at irregular intervals. The northern room has an arched opening to a sleepout, which has now been enclosed. The services area to the south leads onto a verandah which has since been enclosed. All windows and doors in the building have been recently removed, possibly for renovation. Evidently the front and back doors featured panels of amber and blue glass. An 'Oiel de Boeul' window is situated in one wall of the residence. Brackets where shutters have been fitted to the back windows are still evident.

Biosis Pty Ltd Statement of Heritage Impact (2017) describes the landscape surrounding the subject site. A row of mature trees surrounds the site and includes the following species:

- Brush Box
- Hop Pine
- Blackbutt
- African Olive
- Forest Red Gum
- Tallowood

As the site was inaccessible during the site inspection, a condition rating has not been provided.

Condition	Good	Fair	Poor
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Alterations and Additions

- Unknown, no access to site.

As the site was inaccessible during the site inspection, an integrity rating has not been provided.

Integrity	High	Moderate	Low
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* element detracts from the overall cultural significance of the place

Historical Notes

Construction years	1908
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The suburb of Lidcombe is located 14 kilometres west of Sydney and was first seen as an exploring party rowed up the Parramatta River came close to the area on 4 February 1788. Early land grants in the area were given to settlers around 1804 such as H.G. Douglas, Joseph Hyde Potts, and Samuel Haslam who established the first farms in the area. These early land grants ranged between 60 to 200 acres and were focused around Parramatta Road and the small tracks deviating from it.

The name "Lidcombe" is derived from the combination names of two former Mayors. When the name Rookwood no longer appealed to residents (due to its association with the expanding necropolis), a new name was created for the suburb. This combined Frederick Lidbury, an active local government figure and Mayor of Rookwood on several occasions with Alexander Larcombe, his main Mayoral opponent. The suburb was renamed to "Lidcombe" on 15 October 1913.

The opening of the railway station at Lidcombe (known as Haslam Creek station) in 1859 led to the subdivision and subsequent development of Lidcombe. The NSW government was an active subdivider in the area, specifically in a portion of land north of Rookwood cemetery not incorporated into the Rookwood Necropolis. The land now bounded by Bachell Street, Nicholas Street, Swete Street and the railway, was subdivided and sold at auction by the government from the 1880s onwards. Other prominent subdividers at Lidcombe and Rookwood included land, building and investment companies. Groups such as the Sydney and Provincial Land and Building Company Ltd, Land Company of Australasia, and National Permanent Building, as well as others were responsible for much of the subdivision and sale of estates.

Lidcombe experienced a housing and industrial boom in the 1920s. High-tech industries that were established in the area at included the manufacture of electrical goods, motor car manufacturing, steel construction and wool and knitted industries. The Ford Motor Company of Canada, Jantzen (Australia) Ltd and Associated General Electric Industries are only some examples of the industrial companies that developed within Lidcombe.

Lidcombe Hospital

The New South Wales government bought the land in 1879 from HG Douglas and Joseph Hyde Potts. Some of it was used to expand Rookwood Cemetery while another section was used for a boys' reformatory to teach farming and other useful skills to young offenders.

Established in 1893, the asylum (later Lidcombe Hospital) occupied 1300 acres (526 hectares) in the suburb now called Lidcombe. In 1907, it occupied 755 acres (306 hectares). Over time, land was transferred or sold to other institutions. Carnarvon Golf Course, on the western side of Joseph Street, was part of the dairy for the hospital until 1948. In other developments, in 1959 the State Institute of Clinical Pathology moved to a new building on the southern border of the land; Minda Child Remand Home opened in 1966; Cumberland College of Health Sciences (later the Lidcombe campus of the University of Sydney) appeared in 1974; Paraquad NSW opened Ferguson Lodge in 1979; the Multiple Sclerosis Society came in 1984; and the Lidcombe College of Technical and Further Education was set up in 1993.

In summary, the site underwent the following name and use transformations:

- 1885-1892: Boys Reformatory and Model Farm (proposed)
- 1893-1913: Rookwood Asylum for the Aged and Infirm
- 1914-1926: Lidcombe State Hospital and Asylum for Men
- 1927-1966: Lidcombe State Hospital and Home
- 1966-1995: Lidcombe Hospital (Note: the Jack Lang Wing remained in use for hospital purposes until 1997).
- 1998-2000: Olympic Media Village

Superintendent's Residence

The Minali Special School residence was once the home of Dr. Robert Fox, the former medical superintendent of the former Lidcombe State Hospital. It occupied part of the hospital's extensive grounds. The residence was built circa 1908.

From 1966, the Minda Remand Home opened for the detention of young juveniles who were awaiting court appearances. At this time the residence was used as the Deputy Manager's Residence.

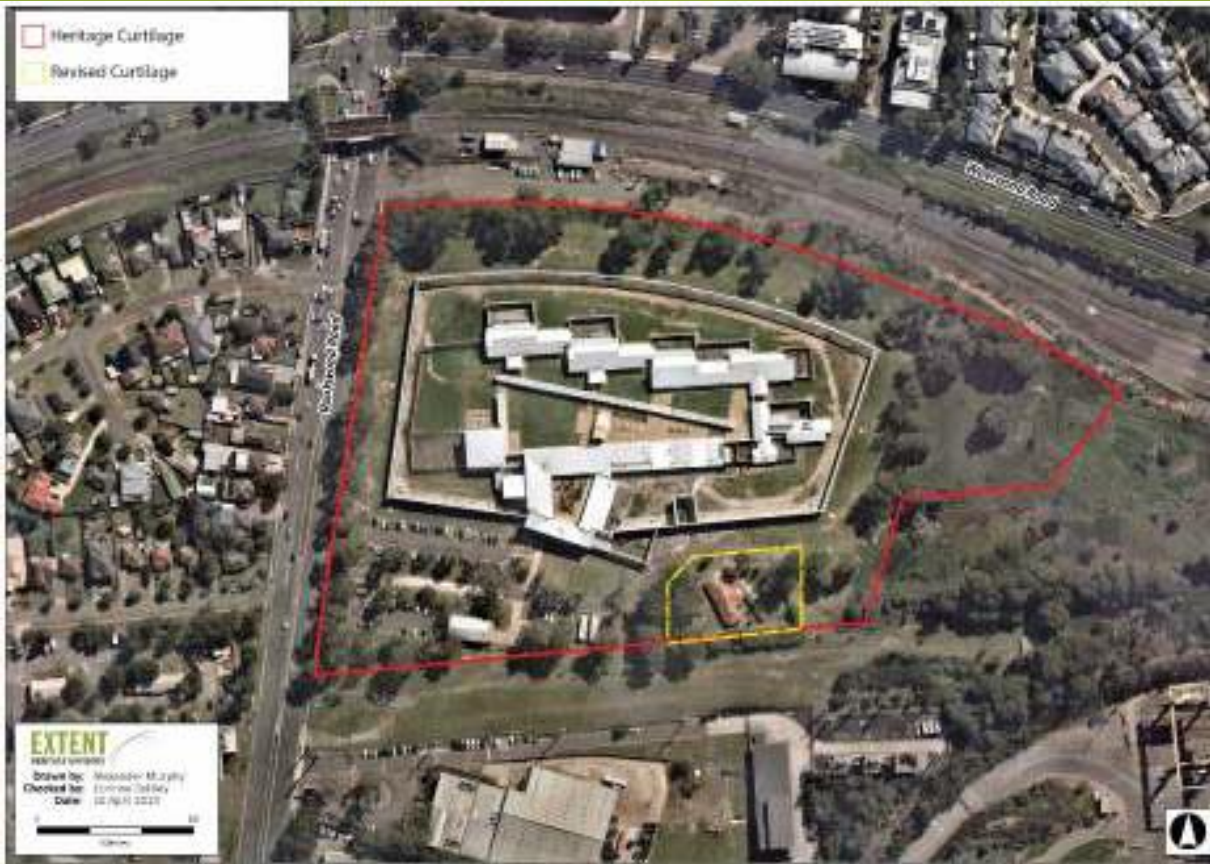
Minali Special School

Following the Minda Remand School, the Minali Special School was opened in 1975 to provide educational and residential facilities for state wards. The former Superintendent's Residence was utilised as the Minali Centre School Office until the closure of the Minali Special School in 1994. The residence remained vacant from the early 1990s until it was restored in 2006 and is currently used as administration offices for the Juniperina Juvenile Justice Centre.

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

Other recommendations and/or comments:

- It is recommended that the existing curtilage should be revised to reflect the Department of Juvenile Justice s170 register shown below. This has been replicated from Biosis Pty Ltd 2017, *Juniperina Juvenile Justice Centre: Heritage Assessment and statement of Heritage Impact*, prepared for Public Works Advisory, Department of Finance, Services, and Innovation.
- Should a revised curtilage be adopted, this listing sheet will no longer reflect the correct Lot/DP and will need to be altered.



Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number
Heritage Act – State Heritage Register	N/A	-
Local Environmental Plan	Minali Special School	1188
Heritage Study	Minali Special School	1188
National Trust Australia Register	N/A	-

Previous Studies

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

Other References

- Biosis Pty Ltd 2017, *Juniperina Juvenile Justice Centre: Heritage Assessment and statement of Heritage Impact*, prepared for Public Works Advisory, Department of Finance, Services, and Innovation.

- Kass, T 2008, *Lidcombe*, retrieved 27 March 2019, <https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/lidcombe>

- Godden Mackay Logan 2002, *Lidcombe Hospital Site – Conservation Management Plan*, Godden Mackay Logan.

- Cumberland Argus, Xmas Number, 19 Dec 1907, p. 25

- Liberty Plains Parish Map no. 235, Sydney NSW.

- NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, State Heritage Register listing sheet for Lidcombe Hospital Precinct, <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=5049732>

- NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, State Heritage Register listing sheet for, <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?id=1030029>

- Edmund Perrin, *Botanica and Lidcombe Hospital*, Dictionary of Sydney, 2008, https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/botanica_and_lidcombe_hospital

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

None.