

Heritage Inventory Sheet

Item Name	Fenton House		
Recommended Name	Fenton House- Federation Commercial Building		
Site Image			
Address	35–47 Joseph Street, Lidcombe NSW 2141		
Lot/Section/DP	35	-	1018049
Current LEP ID	I185 (Cumberland LEP)		
Former LEP ID	I30 (Auburn LEP)		
Heritage Conservation Area	Not included		
Date Updated	March 2020		
Significance Level	LOCAL		
Site Type	Level 1	Built	
	Level 2	Commercial	
Ownership	Invocare Australia Pty Limited		

Curtilage Map



Revised curtilage recommended - refer below.

Statement of Significance

Fenton House is locally significant for its historic and aesthetic values. It is historically significant for its role in serving the area as a corner retail and residential building since 1916. It provides evidence of the major population boom during the Federation and Inter-War period when residential development and the associated civic infrastructure grew at pace throughout the city in response to industrial activity. The building has aesthetic significance as a detailed and largely intact example of a Federation/ Inter-War style of architecture. The siting of the building on a prominent street corner also makes it a notable and attractive landmark in its local area.

Criteria Assessment

a) Historic	The building has served as a corner retail / residential building since 1916. It provides evidence of the major population boom during the Federation / Inter-War period when residential development and the associated civic infrastructure grew at pace throughout the city.
b) Associative	The item does not meet this criterion.
c) Aesthetic/Technical	The building has aesthetic significance as a detailed and largely intact example of Federation / Inter-War architecture. The siting of the building on a prominent street corner also makes it a notable and attractive landmark in its local area.
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

Fenton House is a two storey Federation style corner shop located on Joseph Street and James Street. The building is constructed of brick which has been rendered and painted. The corner of the building has a high parapet, with roughly rendered panels and protruding piers with cornices. A medallion emblem and the building name are featured in the brickwork of the canted corner. A series of unusual paired, quarter arch, timber, double hung windows exist in the first floor wall. A suspended awning extends along one facade and rounds the corner, though it is terminated before it reaches the other end of the building. Some timber framed windows remain on the ground floor, set high in the wall. The shopfronts to the street facing elevations have been altered, with the introduction of aluminium framed windows and doors to the lower facade, air-conditioning units and modern signage for 'Guardian Funerals'. The lower façade is less intact than the upper façade.

To the east, the shop has been extended in brick with a substantial two-storey structure which contains a roller door. Further, a large brick warehouse has been extended off the later brick addition. The warehouse is fronted by a concrete carpark.

Overall, the original shop building appears to be in good condition. The additional structures are also in good condition.

Condition	Good	Fair	Poor
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Alterations and Additions

- Aluminium framed windows and doors*
- Air-conditioning units to street facing elevations*
- Modern signage*
- Brick extension to the east*
- Brick warehouse*

Due to a range of alterations to the façade elements, the integrity of the building is considered to be moderate.

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

Historical Notes

Construction years	1916
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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 of the 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 New South Wales 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.

As the residential estates of Lidcombe grew around the ever-growing industrial activity, many estates contained their own general / corner store. It was usually a family business to provide for everyday requirements, particularly where the town centres were not within walking distance. Such stores were usually additions to existing residences, though there are some freestanding examples as well as some semi-detached residences / stores built as complete entities. Not many of these stores are still functioning and many have been converted into private rooms.

Fenton House was built in 1916 as a local store to service the residences in the surrounding area. Today, it is used by Guardian Funeral as a commercial property.

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).	X
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.	X	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.		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).	X		
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		

		<p>11. The condition of this item is poor. Condition and maintenance should be monitored.</p>		
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Other recommendations and/or comments:

- Should the opportunity arise, the air-conditioning units to the façade should be removed and the windows / walls made good. Further, the aluminium windows should be replaced with timber.
- As the listing should concern the original shop only, not the face brick extension and associated warehouse, the heritage curtilage shown below should be considered as a revised curtilage for the new Cumberland LEP.
- 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	Fenton House	I182
Heritage Study	Fenton House	I182
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

- 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.

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



Fenton House.



View to rear of Fenton House.