

## Item Details

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### Name

Manse, The

### SHR/LEP/S170

LEP #

### Address

23 The Avenue MOUNT DRUITT NSW 2770

### Local Govt Area

Blacktown

### Local Aboriginal Land Council

Unknown

### Item Type

Built

### Group/Collection

Religion

### Category

Presbytery/Rectory/  
Vicarage/Manse

## All Addresses

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### Addresses

Records Retrieved: 1

Street No	Street Name	Suburb/Town/Postcode	Local Govt. Area	LALC	Parish	County	Electorate	Address Type
23	The Avenue	MOUNT DRUITT/NSW/2770	Blacktown	Unknown	Rooty Hill	Cumberland	Unknown	Primary Address

## Significance

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### Statement Of Significance

The building is significant for its construction as a substantial Victorian rental cottage and its subsequent early use as the Presbyterian manse for the district. Subsequent extensions and alterations that occurred during the time of occupancy by numerous ministers who lived in the cottage reflect its special role as a Manse within the community.

### Criteria a)

#### Historical Significance

The Manse is one of a small number of residential cottages erected after the construction of the railway platform at Mt Druitt which opened up the area to modest development. It is one of 5-6 remaining buildings from the 19th century development in Mt Druitt. It is the sole survivor of a group of buildings which included the Manse and two churches which catered for the spiritual and social needs of the Presbyterian community in Mt Druitt. (Graham Edds: 2007)

### Criteria b)

#### Historical Association Significance

The Manse has strong association with Robert and Margaret Kennedy, noble local philanthropists who gave lavish financial aid to set up the Presbyterian Church at Mt Druitt. They were also renounced for their charity towards less fortunate members of the local community. The cottage has strong association with the Presbyterian community and particularly the various ministers who lived in the Manse and preached in the locality. There is strong association with John Harris, a local notable who lived at Shanes Park, who erected the cottage in the 1880s. It was one of numerous rental cottages he built at Mt Druitt and across other parts of Sydney and the Cumberland Plain. (Graham Edds: 2007)

### Criteria c)

### Aesthetic/Technical Significance

The Manse has aesthetic significance as a remaining older building from the first subdivision of Mr Druitt, indicating a Victorian Georgian style for a simple speculative cottage for upper middle class rental. Typical features in the front 6 rooms of the building retain their original Victorian fabric.

### Criteria d)

#### Social/Cultural Significance

The Manse has strong association with the Ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Mt Druitt as the manse and also its association for many years with the Presbyterian Church building on adjacent land. It is identified by the community as one of their recognised nineteenth century buildings and the contribution it makes to history and early development of Mt Druitt following the establishment of the railway platform. (Graham Edds: 2007)

### Criteria f)

#### Rarity

The cottage from its original 6 room form and the substantial extensions which occurred within the first twenty years of its life, together with subsequent alterations and fashionable change, reflect the changing needs of the Presbyterian ministers within the community they served.

The cottage is a rare remaining example of the initial development of Mount Druitt after the opening of the railway station and is one of the larger remaining buildings.

#### Integrity/Intactness

Good

## Owners

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Records Retrieved: 0

Organisation	Stakeholder Category	Date Ownership Updated
No Results Found		

## Description

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### Designer

### Builder/Maker

John Harris

### Physical Description

Updated

The site is reasonably level with mature eucalypts to the western side. A large cistern and footings from the garage are located to the east of the Manse.

Generally, The Manse is a single storey brick house in rectangular plan with hipped roof and separately roofed verandah on two sides. The centrally placed small gable roof ventilator and replacement of the verandah floor are more recent modifications.

The original portion of the building is a long rectangular structure with 6 rooms and central hallway with hipped roof and separate verandah, generally symmetrical. It is of sandstock brick construction with walls layered in a combination of Flemish bond and stretcher bond. The front and rear walls are 2 courses thick solidly bonded with Flemish bond. Unusually, the eastern and western external walls have been layered as single brick walls in stretcher bond. The western wall has been faced with stucco lined out with ashlar markings. Windows are generally 12 pane Georgian style in symmetrical formation. One window on the eastern extremity has been altered to a door.

The front verandah, originally extending through the length of the street elevation now continues around the corner for the length of the brick wall section of this eastern elevation. The original verandah section has a stop chamfered beam and rectangular stop chamfered posts. The roof of the verandah and the main building are corrugated galvanised sheeting.

The original building has been substantially extended to the rear. The timber framed extensions contains 2 large rooms beneath a Dutch gable roof and 3 further rooms (bathroom, toilet, laundry) and an enclosed verandah beneath a skillion roof at the rear. The extensions are symmetrical with central hallway continuing from the original hallway. The timber framed walls are clad with splayed timber weatherboarding externally; some being replaced with fibre cement weatherboards. The windows are 4 pane Victorian styles in vertically rectangular proportion. (Graham Edds: 2007)

#### Physical Condition

Updated 11/19/2015

The building was restored in 2008 by Blacktown City Council. A special DCP for the surrounding development areas was developed in 2006.

#### Modifications And Dates

c1895-1922 - timber framed addition and alterations to interior of original section. 1950s refurbishment of the laundry, bathroom and toilet along with the replacement of wall claddings. 2008 Conservation and restoration (Graham Edds: 2007)

#### Further Comments

#### Current Use

Community Organisation

#### Former Use

private residence, manse/presbytery

## Listings

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#### Listings

			Records Retrieved: 2		
Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Local Environmental Plan	Amend No 143		4/12/2002 12:00:00 AM	72	2262
Local Environmental Plan	Blacktown Local Environmental Plan 2015	151	7/7/2015 12:00:00 AM	430	

## Procedures/Exemptions

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Records Retrieved: 0

Section of Act	Description	Title	Comments	Action Date	Outcome
No Results Found					

## History

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### Historical Notes or Provenance

Updated

The Manse is located on 1,000 acres of land granted to Major George Druitt in 1821 to acknowledge his work in overseeing construction of roads and bridges in the New South Wales colony. The grant was named Mount Druitt and now is the main part of the Mount Druitt suburb. The land was sold following his death in 1842.

The Mount Druitt Estate changed ownership a number of times before being purchased by William Lowder Lees in 1854 and subdivided it the following year. Following sales eventually saw George Kennedy King purchased a large section of the estate. Kennedy subdivided the estate. Unsold lots later were sold as the Garfield Estate.

In 1884 John Harris purchased land fronting The Avenue. In the 1880s he built a brick cottage with a bedroom, sitting room, kitchen and servant's quarters on the land and rented it to tenants including Samuel and Jane Greenhalgh in 1890.

Following the death of John Harris in 1891 in a train accident, his assets were dispersed among family members. In 1895 ownership of the house and land at Mount Druitt was transferred to Harris's niece Margaret Howard and her husband Robert Kennedy. Kennedy arranged for the cottage to be used as the manse for the Rupertswood Presbyterian Church's minister. As well as donating towards the construction of the first Presbyterian Church in the area, Kennedy willed the Mount Druitt cottage in The Avenue to the church. It is thought that the land was intended to be used for the construction of a church to the east of the Manse and a Sunday school to the west of the Manse. The weatherboard Sunday school was constructed and used as a church. The ownership of the residence and over one hectare of land was transferred to the Presbyterian Church in 1918 after some clarification of the land boundary.

A timber church was opened at Mt Druitt in 1932. It was built on land adjoining the Manse. Known as the Rupertswood church, it was destroyed by a fierce storm in 1942. (Graham Edds: 2007)

The western part of the land was sold in the late 1950s.

The Manse was transferred to Blacktown Council in 1999 and is reserved for use for community purposes.

### Historic Themes

Records Retrieved: 4

National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
8. Culture	Religion	Unknown
4. Settlement	Towns, suburbs and villages	Subdivision and urban growth
4. Settlement	Land tenure	Unknown
4. Settlement	Accommodation	Unknown

## Recommended Management

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### Management Summary

### Management

Records Retrieved: 0

Management Category	Management Name	Date Updated
No Results Found		

## Report/Study

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### Heritage Studies

Records Retrieved: 3

Report/Study Name	Report/Study Code	Report/Study Type	Report/Study Year	Organisation	Author
In House Heritage Items Review			2009		Margaret Fallon
Blacktown Heritage Study			1995		(not stated)
Blacktown Heritage Study			1988		Jonathan Falk Planning Consultants in association with Rodney Jensen and Assoc.s

## Reference & Internet Links

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### References

Records Retrieved: 3

Type	Author	Year	Title	Link
Written	Graham Edds & Associates	2007	Fabric Significance Review and Schedule of Conservation Works	
Written	DPC Heritage	2006	26-28 The Avenue, Mount Druitt Statement of Heritage Impact	
Written	Rappoport Pty Ltd	2004	Conservation Management Plan - "The Manse" Mt Druitt	

## Data Source

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The information for this entry comes from the following source:

Data Source	Record Owner	Heritage Item ID
Local Government	Blacktown City Council	1140048

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