

## Item Details

### Name

Bicentennial Museum

### SHR/LEP/S170

LEP #

### Address

81 Garfield Road East RIVERSTONE NSW 2765

### Local Govt Area

Blacktown

### Local Aboriginal Land Council

Unknown



### Item Type

Built

### Group/Collection

Education

### Category

School - State (public)

## All Addresses

### Addresses

Records Retrieved: 1

Street No	Street Name	Suburb/Town/Postcode	Local Govt. Area	LALC	Parish	County	Electorate	Address Type
81	Garfield Road East	RIVERSTONE/NSW/2765	Blacktown	Unknown	St Matthew	Cumberland	Unknown	Primary Address

## Significance

### Statement Of Significance

The Blacktown Bicentennial Museum building is an item of local significance. Originally constructed in 1883 as a school, its original classroom and teacher's house - now visible in foundation only - is an early example of a small school building. Extensions to the school in 1887, 1893 and 1907 survive to document its development, as do the subsequent school buildings on the opposite side of Garfield Road East.

The foundations of the teacher's dwelling clearly demonstrate a past means of housing essential public servants and the level of comfort considered appropriate for such people. The fact that it has survived, despite closing in 1928 and later being used as the Masonic Hall in 1987, demonstrates a high level of local appreciation of its contribution to their sense of place.

The second phase of use and adaption as a masonic hall and temple has spiritual associations with freemasonry, which can be demonstrated in the fabric of the building and provides additional significance because the Masonic Hall was an important community centre. The conservation of the building as a museum in 1988 shows that sufficient residents in the Blacktown Municipality and the Blacktown City Council value the heritage of the building and the objects associated with the district's past which they wish to keep and exhibit there. (Broomham 2005: 46)

### Criteria a)

#### Historical Significance

As it was constructed for the first school in Riverstone, the Bicentennial Museum building marks an important stage of local development, and is also significant in the development of education in NSW. It demonstrates the high value that the Riverstone community placed on Education (Broomham 2005: 43)

The museum has historical significance as the site of the Masonic hall from 1928 and now as the repository for the historical resource for the colonially significant Riverstone and Marden Park area.

### Criteria c)

#### Aesthetic/Technical Significance

The collection of buildings at the Riverstone School, mark the development of the school site over a period from 1883 through to 1929 with the growth and addition of classrooms. The masonic Hall additions in 1931 indicate the styling typical of interwar Masonic Halls with the Classical pediment and window door arrangement to the street. The setting of the museum and the artefacts contained contribute to the aesthetic significance of the site.

### Criteria d)

#### Social/Cultural Significance

The site has strong spiritual associations with the Freemasons from the time that that the building served as the local Masonic Temple. The site's importance to the community's sense of place is demonstrated by the desire to preserve it by turning it into a museum. (Broomham 2005: 44)

### Criteria e)

#### Research Potential

The Blacktown Bicentennial Museum site has archaeological potential to reveal additional information about the lives of pupils and their teachers, in particular the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The unexpected discovery of the footings of the school masters residence is demonstrative of this potential. (Broomham 2005: 45)

### Criteria g)

#### Representative

The Blacktown Bicentennial Museum building at Riverstone and the remainder of its site provide an example of a school built to cater for a small township in a rural area. (Broomham 2005: 45m)

#### 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

Public Schools Architect, William Kemp

#### Builder/Maker

not known

#### Physical Description

Updated

The site of the Riverstone Bicentennial Museum sits within the parklands setting adjacent to the Riverstone swimming Pool and the Bicentennial Park. The grounds and adjacent parkland include mature shade trees and lawn areas. The museum site includes the original T shaped School building consisting of one classroom facing the street (which has been adapted after 1928 to be a Masonic Hall) and the large school room running east west. The School room is entered from the western end verandah fronting the street. The building is gabled brickwork with a parapet added to the frontage gable to Garfield Road East possibly when the building was altered to accommodate the Masonic Hall. Adjacent to the school classroom buildings is another L shaped building incorporating a cottage and an additional classroom. This may have been an earlier school structure. A new galvanised shed has been built to the rear of the museum in 1988 to house larger items of the collection. The museum houses a large and important collection of historical materials and artefacts from the local area.

#### Physical Condition

Updated 12/16/2015

Very Good - was restored in 1988

#### Modifications And Dates

The additions of the masonic hall were added to the building in 1931 in classical design.

#### Further Comments

The building was officially opened as a museum on 3 December 1988, in celebration of our Bicentenary.

#### Current Use

museum

#### Former Use

school, masonic hall

## Listings

#### Listings

			Records Retrieved: 2		
Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Local Environmental Plan	Blacktown Local Environmental Plan 2015	182	7/7/2015 12:00:00 AM	430	
Local Environmental Plan	Amend No 143		4/12/2002 12:00:00 AM	72	2262

## Procedures/Exemptions

Records Retrieved: 0

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

## History

#### Historical Notes or Provenance

Updated

Riverstone residents began applying for their own school in 1875 and again in 1877, but were rejected. In 1878 local fruit growers started a provisional school in Myers farmhouse on Garfield Road. The Council of Education's Inspector McCredie rejected their application for financial assistance due to doubts about the lack of training of the German teacher Daniel Tideman and the belief that the parents were timber getters and fruit growers who relied heavily on their children for labour and were not enthusiastic about education.

In 1879 a new application was made for a public school with 17 families promising to send a total of 47 children to school. The application was supported, particularly because of Andrew McCulloch's donation of a 1-acre school site within his subdivision for the Township of Riverstone.

McCredie recommended a weatherboard school with room for 30 pupils and a two room teacher's residence with kitchen. The public schools architect recommended a stone building. Construction commenced in 1882 and was finished 30 January 1883. The school room measured 20 x 17 feet and the teacher's house had two rooms and a kitchen. Construction was brick with a stone foundation and a galvanised iron roof. Great celebration surrounded the opening of the school, but it was immediately clear that the school was too small. Local Member of the Legislative Assembly, Henry Quade, promised to try and have both buildings extended. The building accommodated 42 students and the dwelling suitable for a single person only. The new teacher had a wife and six children. In December 1883 it was recommended to extend the residence.

The site of the school proved to be unsuitable due to a natural watercourse and in 1925 a new site on the corner of Garfield Road and Piccadilly Street was purchased. A new school was erected on the site and opened in 1929.

## Historic Themes

Records Retrieved: 7

National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
9. Phases of Life	Persons	Unknown
9. Phases of Life	Events	Unknown
8. Culture	Social institutions	Unknown
8. Culture	Domestic life	Unknown
8. Culture	Creative endeavour	Unknown
6. Educating	Education	Unknown
4. Settlement	Towns, suburbs and villages	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: 4

Report/Study Name	Report/Study Code	Report/Study Type	Report/Study Year	Organisation	Author
In House Heritage Items Review			2009		Margaret Fallon
Heritage Study of the North Western Sector of Sydney			1984		Howard Tanner & Associates in association with Max Kelly and Elizabeth Vines
Heritage Study of the North Western sector of Sydney			1984		Howard Tanner and Associates
Heritage Study of the North Western Sector of Sydney			1984		Howard Tanner & Associates Pty Ltd

## Reference & Internet Links

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### References

Records Retrieved: 2

Type	Author	Year	Title	Link
Written	Rosemary Broomham	2005	Blacktown Bicentennial Museum Mini Conservation Management Plan	
Written	Clive Lucas Stapleton & Partners	1998	Riverstone Release Area - European Heritage Study	

## 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	1140084

Every effort has been made to ensure that information contained in the State Heritage Inventory is correct. If you find any errors or omissions please send your comments to [council@blacktown.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@blacktown.nsw.gov.au)

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