

Item Details

Name

"Bronte", villa

SHR/LEP/S170

LEP #299

Address

50 Gidley Street ST MARYS NSW 2760

Local Govt Area

Penrith

Local Aboriginal Land Council

Unknown



Item Type

Built

Group/Collection

Residential buildings (private)

Category

Villa

All Addresses

Addresses

Records Retrieved: 1

Street No	Street Name	Suburb/Town/Postcode	Local Govt. Area	LALC	Parish	County	Electorate	Address Type
50	Gidley Street	ST MARYS/NSW/2760	Penrith	Unknown			Unknown	Primary Address

Significance

Statement Of Significance

Completed in 1889 for James Bennett, the manufacturer of Bennett wagons, the house demonstrates the rise of a resident professional class in St. Marys over the late nineteenth century, and is the only extant building which provides a tangible association with the Bennett family. The house is an excellent example of a late Victorian suburban middle-class villa, on a scale that is rare within the LGA. The building is one of a small number of structures in St. Marys erected over the nineteenth century and early part of the twentieth century which collectively demonstrate the pattern of village settlement. Collectively these properties imbue the suburb with high historic and aesthetic values.

Criteria a)

Historical Significance

The house dramatically demonstrates the rise of a resident professional class in St Marys over the late nineteenth century.

Criteria b)

Historical Association Significance

The property is associated with James Bennett, the local manufacturer of wagons, and is the only extant building which unequivocally demonstrates this association.

Criteria c)

Aesthetic/Technical Significance

The house is an excellent example of a late Victorian suburban middle-class villa.

Criteria f)

Rarity

The villa is one of two of this scale and date in the LGA, both being associated with industrialists of St Marys.

Criteria g)

Representative

The building is one of a small number of structures in St Marys erected over the nineteenth century and early part of the twentieth century which collectively demonstrate the pattern of village settlement. Collectively these properties imbue the suburb with high historic and aesthetic values.

Integrity/Intactness

High

Owners

Records Retrieved: 0

Organisation	Stakeholder Category	Date Ownership Updated
No Results Found		

Description

Designer

William Sykes

Builder/Maker

Joseph Sainsbury

Physical Description

The item is a rendered brick house on Gidley Street. The house is a two storey Italianate villa erected in 1889. The asymmetrical front elevation has a projecting two storey wing with gabled roof and with a two storey verandah with cast iron columns, lace brackets and valance. The verandah floor is finished in tessellated tiles. The external walls are decorated with vermiculated quoins and keystones, and moulded stringcourses, window sills and entablatures. Other decorative motifs include panels of figurative glazed tiles, and rendered medallion in the gable panel. The main roof is of the jerkin-head style with rendered chimneys featuring corbelled capitals and tri-precast cowl and decorative bargeboards. The roof is sheeted in corrugated metal, and the chimney flues are carried up on the side wall. The windows are timber framed sashes and there is a wide french door on the balcony. The house is set within the remnants of a garden setting with tall palms at the front. There is a utilitarian addition at the rear. The house is setback from the street within a large suburban allotment with a landscaped front garden which retains a small number of mature trees. With the elevated corner block and neighbouring an open park reserve the villa is highly visible in the neighbouring streets. The open reserve also contributes to interpreting the once expansive setting of the villa.

Updated

Physical Condition

Good

Updated 03/06/2005

Modifications And Dates

Further Comments

Current Use

Corporate

Former Use

Residential

Listings

Listings

Records Retrieved: 3					
Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Local Environmental Plan	Penrith Local Environmental Plan 2010	299	9/22/2010 12:00:00 AM		
Heritage study	Bronte	SM-11	4/1/1987 12:00:00 AM		
Heritage study		2260299	11/1/2007 12:00:00 AM		

Procedures/Exemptions

Records Retrieved: 0

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

History

Historical Notes or Provenance

Updated

Bronte was completed in 1889 for James Bennett of the famous firm of 'G and J Bennett', wheelwrights and wagon builders of St Marys. The house was designed by Penrith based architect William Sykes and was built by local St Marys builder, Joseph Sainsbury. A contemporary description of Bronte, appeared in the Nepean Times of 14 September, 1889, which provides some details of its features just after its completion:

"The first object which attracts the attention of anyone entering St Marys from Penrith is a fine house which has just been erected by Mr James Bennett. The house stands in a fine piece of ground over three acres in extent. On approaching the building one is struck with the beautiful finish and workmanship shown in both design and execution. The building is of brick on concrete foundation with iron roof, and contains six rooms on the ground floor and five (including bathroom) upstairs. Water is laid on in every room, the supply coming from a large underground tank, 14 x 14 ft, whence it is driven by means of an improved force pump in to three tanks placed above the kitchen. The interior of the house is in keeping with the exterior, everything from the hand painted ceilings to the marble mantels and improved grates being highly finished and in the most elegant taste. From the upper windows a most magnificent view is obtained as the house overlooks the whole town and the distant mountains."

Having passed out of the Bennett family many years ago the house continued as a private residence, and during the second world war a guesthouse. It was extensively renovated in the early 1990s and operated as a café.

Historic Themes

Records Retrieved: 3

National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
9. Phases of Life	Persons	Rural villages
8. Culture	Creative endeavour	Rural villages
4. Settlement	Accommodation	Rural villages

Recommended Management

Management Summary

Management

Records Retrieved: 0

Management Category	Management Name	Date Updated
No Results Found		

Report/Study

Heritage Studies

Records Retrieved: 5

Report/Study Name	Report/Study Code	Report/Study Type	Report/Study Year	Organisation	Author
Penrith Heritage Study Review			2005		Pail Davies Pty Ltd
Penrith Heritage Study Review			2005		Paul Davies Pty Ltd
Penrith Heritage Study Review			2005		Paul Davies Pty. Ltd.
Penrith Heritage Study Review			2005		Paul Davies Pty. Ltd.
Heritage Study City of Penrith			1987		Fox & Associates

Reference & Internet Links

References

Records Retrieved: 4

Type	Author	Year	Title	Link
Written		1991	Penrith Local Environmental Plan 1991 (Environmental Heritage Conservation).	
Written		1991	Penrith Local Environmental Plan 1991 (Environmental Heritage Conservation).	
Written			National Trust Listing Proposal	
Written			National Trust Listing Proposal	

Data Source

The information for this entry comes from the following source:

Data Source	Record Owner	Heritage Item ID
Local Government	Penrith City Council	2260299

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