

Item Details

Name

Casuarina School - Building B00A

SHR/LEP/S170

s170

Address

100 Garfield Road RIVERSTONE NSW 2765

Local Govt Area

Blacktown

Local Aboriginal Land Council

Unknown

Item Type

Built

Group/Collection

Unknown

Category

School - State (public)

All Addresses

Addresses

Records Retrieved: 2

Street No	Street Name	Suburb/Town/Postcode	Local Govt. Area	LALC	Parish	County	Electorate	Address Type
	Cnr Garfield Road East and Piccadilly Street	RIVERSTONE/NSW/2765	Blacktown	Unknown	Gidley	Cumberland	Unknown	Alternate Address
100	Garfield Road	RIVERSTONE/NSW/2765	Blacktown	Unknown	Gidley	Cumberland	Unknown	Primary Address

Boundary Description

See Curtilage Map

Significance

Statement Of Significance

Casuarina Special School, formerly Riverstone Public School and then Riverstone Infants' School, is historically significant because it is located on the second site of a public school at Riverstone. The school provides evidence of the growth and consolidation of the town during the 1920s and is likely to have significance for the residents of Riverstone and for former staff and pupils.

The principal northern façade of the building is significant and unusual because it demonstrates the influence of the Inter War Spanish Mission style, rarely found in school buildings of the 1920s in NSW. The rest of the building's exterior and interior is very intact and representative of permanent school buildings erected in NSW during the 1920s in terms of its plan, overall design and original detailing. The 1920s school building, B00A, and the former weather shed, Building B00C, which is also relatively intact, demonstrate the planning and hierarchy of school design during the interwar period. The public school is an important architectural element in the Riverstone town centre.

(TKD Architects 2016)

Criteria a)

Historical Significance

Casuarina Special School, formerly Riverstone Public School and then Riverstone Infants' School, is historically significant as the second site of a public school at Riverstone. The building provides evidence of the growth and consolidation of the town during the 1920s. (TKD Architects 2016)

Criteria b)

Historical Association Significance

The 1929 public school building is associated with architects of the Department of Education headed by Albert Sparke. (TKD Architects 2016)

Criteria c)

Aesthetic/Technical Significance

The principal northern façade of the building is significant because it demonstrates the influence of the Inter War Spanish Mission style, most evidently in the ornamental design of the central parapet, the projecting end bays and the arched heads of window openings in this and the eastern elevation. The rest of the building's exterior is generally characteristic of schools constructed during the 1920s in NSW.

The school building, B00A, and the former weather shed, Building B00C, demonstrate the planning and hierarchy of schools during the 1920s through their placement relative to each other and the different building materials used in each.

Casuarina Special School Building B00A is an important element in the town centre of Riverstone because of its imposing architectural character and because it is a major public building within the town.

(TKD Architects 2016)

Criteria d)

Social/Cultural Significance

The school is likely to have significance for the residents of Riverstone and for former staff and pupils.

(TKD Architects 2016)

Criteria e)

Research Potential

This criterion is not fulfilled.

(TKD Architects 2016)

Criteria f)

Rarity

Casuarina Special School has some rarity value because of the distinctive design of its principal façade, which demonstrates the influence of the Inter War Spanish Mission style.

(TKD Architects 2016)

Criteria g)

Representative

Casuarina Special School is representative of permanent school buildings erected in NSW during the 1920s in terms of its planning, overall design and original detailing.

(TKD Architects 2016)

Integrity/Intactness

Building B00A has retained a high level of original internal and external fabric, along with its original plan configuration, which has undergone relatively little modification.

Owners

Records Retrieved: 0

Organisation	Stakeholder Category	Date Ownership Updated
No Results Found		

Description

Designer	Builder/Maker
Department of Education under Acting Departmental (later Departmental) Architect Albert Sparke (1929)	SW and RC Potter

Physical Description

Updated

Casuarina Special School Building B00A is a single-storey brick building with timber flooring and a hipped and gabled roof covered with concrete tiles and punctuated on its southern side by a series of cement rendered chimneys with semi-circular caps. External walls are lined with cement render above a face brick base that rises to about floor level. The principal northern façade, facing Garfield Road East, is symmetrical in design and has been detailed in a distinctive manner, with a decorative central parapet influenced by the Inter War Spanish Mission style. The name of the school is mounted at the base of the parapet. Below the lettering is a tall arch-headed window flanked by smaller arch-headed windows, and the remaining windows across the façade are all arched, timber framed and contain multi-paned sashes. Small pavilions project at either end of the building. These contain an arched entrance accessed by short flights of stairs.

The original plan is still very evident and consists of and a central assembly hall with a row of five classrooms along the southern side of the building. Ancillary spaces are contained on either side of the hall and separated from the classrooms by corridors. The building has also retained a substantial amount of original interior fabric. The central section of the hall has exposed timber trusses and ceilings that partially follow the rake of the roof over the central section of the space (echoed externally by windows, parapet and gambrel roof form). A stage is located in its north-eastern corner while a kitchen has been installed on the hall's western side. Arched windows have square heads internally. Fireplaces in classrooms have been blocked off but retain terrazzo sills supported off brick corbels. Timber bi-folding doors remain in place, as do the windows between classrooms and corridors that are very characteristic of interwar era public school buildings. Classroom ceilings are divided into panels by grids of battens contained within a margin around the periphery of the spaces.

Building B00C, the former weather shed, is a single-storey timber-framed building, the external walls of which are lined with timber weatherboards. It has a gabled roof covered with corrugated steel sheeting and exposed rafter ends. There is a verandah on the northern side of the building, which has a corrugated steel skillion roof supported off simple timber posts. Aluminium-framed windows have been installed on the northern side of the building; other windows are located high up in east, south and west walls and are contained in small openings. Internal walls and ceilings are lined with timber boards; ceiling linings partially follow the rake of the northern and southern roof planes. Bracing has been installed below the ceiling in the building corners. Skillion roofed store rooms are located on the eastern and western sides of the building – the eastern store has corrugated steel wall linings, the western store has timber weatherboard wall linings. The building is now used as a general learning space. (TKD Architects 2016)

Physical Condition

Updated

Building B00A is in good condition and has been recently refurbished.
Building B00C is also in good condition.

Modifications And Dates

Building B00A:

- Original hat rooms have been modified;
- Original roof tiles were replaced with concrete roof tiles prior to 1983;
- 1988 - boys toilet (formerly disabled toilet) constructed on the western end of the building, a ramp constructed on the eastern end of the building;
- Kitchen installation on the western side of assembly hall after 1990.

Building B00C:

- Ramp added on northern side;
- The building is likely to have been completely enclosed with construction of a later wall across one side. Aluminium framed windows are not original;
- Skillion roofed addition with corrugated steel roofing added to eastern side of the building;
- Addition of internal bracing in corners.

Further Comments

The listing applies to Building B00A, although consideration could be given to extending it to the former weather shed, Building B00C, which is contemporary with Building B00A and which provides a greater understanding of the original functioning and layout of the school.

The following buildings are excluded from the listing: Building B00B, Building B00D, Building B00I and Building B00M

Current Use

School for Special Purposes

Former Use

Public School

Listings

Listings

			Records Retrieved: 1		
Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Heritage Act - s.170 NSW State agency heritage register			12/4/2019 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

The site of Casuarina Special School, formerly Riverstone Public School, is part of 1,000 acres granted to Maurice Charles O’Connell on 22 March 1814.

It was not the site of the first public school at Riverstone. An application for the establishment of a school in this locality was made during August 1879 and approved about two months later. An acre of land was offered for its site and the transfer of title took place during September 1880. It was located in the vicinity of Casuarina Special School. At this time the settlement had a population of around 100, about 40 of whom were school-age children. However, the school buildings were not completed until January 1883 and included a small school-house to accommodate 42 children and a two room residence for the teacher. Despite subsequent additions to house increasing enrolments and the acquisition of additional land, the site proved to be very unsatisfactory as it included a natural watercourse that was the cause of ongoing damp problems during wet weather.

In October 1924 Inspector W E James examined a number of potential new school sites in the vicinity of the existing establishment and recommended the acquisition of over an acre of land on the opposite side of the Windsor Road – the present school site. The land was acquired during July 1925, off the trustees of the estate of Ellen Schofield. The widow of Methodist minister William Schofield, prior to her death in 1893 Ellen Schofield was noted for her beneficence within the Church. The potential school site was part of the subdivision of about 100 acres of land initiated by solicitor Andrew Hardie McCulloch, sales of which commenced in September 1881. McCulloch had acquired a substantial amount of the lands granted to O’Connell in 1810 and 1814 by the mid-1860s. Lots 1 and 10 of Section M of the subdivision, bounded by Elizabeth, Piccadilly and Windsor Road, were sold to Walter Dewhurst in September 1883. Dewhurst sold the land to Samuel Kennedy, who in March 1885 sold it to draftsman John James Slade. Further subdivision took place and in August 1887 Slade mortgaged land to Ellen Schofield, subsequently transferring its title to her in September 1889.

Consent for a new building on the site was given by the Minister for Education in September 1926. Plans were prepared by the Department’s architectural staff, at that time headed by Albert Sparke, Architect for Public Schools between the last quarter of 1926 and his death in August 1928. Documentation was essentially complete by September 1927 and tenders were called from March 1928. A contract with contractors SW and RC Potter was signed in May 1928. The completed school was officially opened by the Minister for Education on 2 February 1929. It comprised a single-storey building with five classrooms, an assembly hall that could be subdivided into three additional classrooms, principal’s office, staff room, hat rooms and circulation corridors. The building was designed to take an additional storey to meet future needs. Weather sheds and a lavatory block were also constructed, located across the open playground behind the school building. Enrolments at this time were around 230.

At the end of the 1940s there were an additional 100 children attending the school. Planning for new buildings commenced and approval was given for the installation of portable classrooms on the site. Over six acres were resumed in 1949, forming a new site to the east of the existing school and initially it was proposed to construct an infants’ school but subsequently the decision was made to erect a primary school on the land. However, although tenders for its construction were called in 1951, additional land was resumed in 1953 and work did not commence until 1954. The primary school was completed in May 1956 and officially opened by Robert Heffron, Deputy Premier and Minister for Education, on 5 April 1957. The Garfield Road site was retained as the Riverstone Infants’ School.

The infants’ school was consolidated into the primary school in 2002. In 2004 the Garfield Road site re-opened as the Casuarina School, a special purposes school for students with behavioural problems.
(TKD Architects 2016)

Historic Themes

Records Retrieved: 1

National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
6. Educating	Education	Unknown

Recommended Management

Management Summary

A heritage impact assessment should be undertaken prior to any capital works undertakings on the site.

Any future changes to significant buildings should retain and conserve intact spaces and building fabric. The works should be clearly distinguishable as new fabric and the original layouts of buildings should be able to be interpreted.

Any future new buildings on the site should be sited so as to minimise impacts on the 1929 public school building and the weather shed. Materials not originally painted, such as face brickwork, should remain unpainted.

Retain original timber-framed windows and timber doors. Should replacement be required, then new windows or doors should be detailed to match existing elements.

Continue a program of regular building maintenance.

Consideration should be given to including Building B000C in the Department’s Section 170 listing for Casuarina School.

(TKD Architects 2016)

Management

Records Retrieved: 0

Management Category	Management Name	Date Updated
No Results Found		

Report/Study

Heritage Studies

Records Retrieved: 0

Report/Study Name	Report/Study Code	Report/Study Type	Report/Study Year	Organisation	Author
No Results Found					

Reference & Internet Links

References

Records Retrieved: 30

Type	Author	Year	Title	Link
Photograph	Riverstone and District Historical Society	2010	Photos of Riverstone	
Photograph	Riverstone and District Historical Society	2010	Photos of Riverstone	
Written	Terry Kass	2001	A history of Riverstone Public School (Infants Department) Garfield Road, Riverstone: final report	
Written	Terry Kass	2001	A history of Riverstone Public School (Infants Department) Garfield Road, Riverstone: final report	
Graphic	NSW Government Architect	1988	Drawings SB 2496/9, SB 2496/10 and SB 2496/11	
Graphic	NSW Government Architect	1988	Drawings SB 2496/9, SB 2496/10 and SB 2496/11	
Graphic	NSW Government Architect	1965	Drawings SB 1295/26 and SB 2496/16	
Graphic	NSW Government Architect	1965	Drawings SB 1295/26 and SB 2496/16	
Written		1929	"Riverstone's Day. Opening of New Public School", Windsor and Richmond Gazette, 8 February 1929	
Written		1929	"Riverstone's Day. Opening of New Public School", Windsor and Richmond Gazette, 8 February 1929	
Written		1928	"Late Mr A Sparke", Sydney Morning Herald, 29 August 1928	
Written		1928	"Riverstone", Windsor and Richmond Gazette, 18 May 1928	
Written		1928	"Late Mr A Sparke", Sydney Morning Herald, 29 August 1928	
Written		1928	"Riverstone", Windsor and Richmond Gazette, 18 May 1928	
Graphic	Department of Education	1927	Drawing SB/1295/2	
Graphic	Department of Education	1927	Drawing SB/1295/2	
Other		1925	Volume 3738 Folio 57	
Other		1925	Volume 3738 Folio 57	
Other		1923	Volume 3481 Folio 46	
Other		1923	Volume 3481 Folio 46	
Other		1887	Volume 846 Folio 239	
Other		1887	Volume 846 Folio 239	
Other		1885	Volume 758 Folio 114	
Other		1885	Volume 758 Folio 114	
Other		1883	Volume 669 Number 171	
Other		1883	Volume 669 Number 171	
Other		1881	Volume 544 Folio 224	
Other		1881	Volume 544 Folio 224	
Other		1865	Volume 17 Folio 235	
Other		1865	Volume 17 Folio 235	

Data Source

The information for this entry comes from the following source:

Data Source	Record Owner	Heritage Item ID
State Government	Department of Education - School Infrastructure	5064048

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 schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au

All information and pictures on this page are the copyright of the Heritage Division or respective copyright owners.