

ZONE 3 KIRKBRIDE ENTRANCE GARDEN AND EMBANKMENT TO KING GEORGE PARK

DESCRIPTION

The Kirkbride entrance garden is a designed Victorian parkland with a prominent public address to Balmain Road. The original grand entrance gates (Zone 2) give access to a modern driveway which leads through established parkland to the Kirkbride Block (Zone 4).

The enclosure is accentuated by the massive form of the Kirkbride Block perched on top of the western ridge and by double rows of large Figs and Brush Box along the southern Balmain Road and Manning Street borders. These dense tree canopies form a green backdrop to the gardens and are an effective buffer against the noise and intensity of the streetscape beyond. The gardens have been developed over the upper half of the valley leaving the lower part more open and allowing commanding views over adjoining, predominantly Victorian, housing to Iron Cove and beyond. More recent tree plantings in the lower section may have detrimental effects upon these views in the future.

The layout of the boundary plantings, picturesque parkland, entry gates, serpentine drive and vistas were an integral part of the original design by Charles Moore (Director of the Botanical Gardens), James Barnet and F.N. Manning. The grounds were designed to provide a positive public image of the mental hospital and a setting for the Kirkbride Block. This concept follows Thomas Kirkbride's principals for asylum design.

Much of the impact of the original landscape design has been lost or dissipated by the gradual addition of infill plantings. Early photos suggest that the original 1880s scheme consisted of a tall backdrop and boundary plantation of Morton Bay Figs and Pines along both Manning Street and Balmain Road, with a Fig, or possibly Fig and Pine avenue flanking the gravel carriage drive and several mass planting beds at both ends of the drive. Initially the creek was dammed to form an irregular pond aligned on the east-west axis of Kirkbride and later formalised into either a circular or keyhole shape. This initial planting suggests a pastoral landscape theme where there were broad, open, grassed slopes between tree plantings and where expansive views over the adjoining natural landscape would have been a major feature. In the 1890s additional tree and shrub plantings in lawn and a formal walk intensified the visual focus on the pond. This period of planting appears to have led to a distinctive boundary between the developed gardens in the upper valley and the undeveloped pasture lower down.

Throughout the 1900s additional waves of unplanned tree and shrub planting have progressively filled the open spaces in the original design. Whilst this has reduced the outlook from the gardens it is worth noting that the original views over a natural or pastoral countryside have also changed to a largely Victorian urban scene. The increased density of tree planting on the upper slope has also reduced the views through the gardens to the Kirkbride Block. More research is needed to clearly identify the phases of development that have produced the present layout.

This embankment to King George Park was originally the rocky shoreline of a small inlet which was later reclaimed and is now King George Park. The original rugged and treed slope contributed to the picturesque foreground setting for the Kirkbride Block. Whilst the zone contains some indigenous plant species and rock outcropping much is buried by loose fill and weed growth which has diminished its visual quality. There are important views out of the site from the top of the embankment.

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE


The zone's primary significance is its historic and aesthetic value. It demonstrates the landscape design and character which was an integral part of the original Callan Park Asylum design. Its historic value is in illustrating landscape design of the period, particularly in relation to attitudes toward the care of the mentally ill and the work of Charles Moore. Its aesthetic value is as a mature Victorian landscape, as a context for the Kirkbride Block and as a major component in the local streetscape. The tall tree canopies are an important element on the skyline in views across the site and from Iron Cove.

Later developments are intrusive elements in the original design but some have minor significance. Refer to the following inventory of individual items.

The embankment's significance is as part of the overall setting for the Kirkbride Block forming a rugged, undeveloped picturesque foreground.

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INVENTORY OF INDIVIDUAL ELEMENTS


ZONE 3 – KIRKBRIDE ENTRANCE GARDEN and EMBANKMENT TO KING GEORGE PARK		
ITEM No. EPA Station ORIGINAL NAME: Weather Station 85A CURRENT USE: Weather Station	CONSTRUCTION DATE: Recent ARCHITECT / BUILDER: Not relevant	HERITAGE LISTINGS: <input type="checkbox"/> National Estate <input type="checkbox"/> S170 List <input type="checkbox"/> National Trust <input type="checkbox"/> Leichhardt LEP <input type="checkbox"/> State Heritage Register
BUILDING: LOCATION:	EPA WEATHER STATION GRID: K5-6 ZONE: 3	
DESCRIPTION: Equipment surrounded by chain wire fence		
SIGNIFICANCE:	None, minor intrusion.	
GUIDELINES:	Retain or consider removal if practicable.	


ZONE 3 – KIRKBRIDE ENTRANCE GARDEN and EMBANKMENT TO KING GEORGE PARK		
<p>ITEM No. B 395</p> <p>ORIGINAL NAME: War Memorial</p> <p>CURRENT USE: War Memorial</p>	<p>CONSTRUCTION DATE: circa 1925</p> <p>ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Raymond McGrath; plaques and fountain by Eileen McGrath</p>	<p>HERITAGE LISTINGS:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> National Estate</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> S170 List</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> National Trust</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Leichhardt LEP</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> State Heritage Register</p>
<p>BUILDING:</p>	<p>B 395 WAR MEMORIAL</p>	
<p>LOCATION:</p>	<p>GRID: K8 ZONE: 3</p>	
<p>DESCRIPTION:</p> <p>Spanish style structure with curved form flanked by tall pylons, pergolas on either side of structure. Rough rendered with cordova pattern tile roof / coping. Painted inscriptions may cover earlier inscriptions. Dwarf walls originally contained timber benches with high backs. Decorative plaques containing inscriptions and damaged kangaroo head fountain by Eileen McGrath. Western plaque commemorates Captain Donald McArter (McArthur?) 1914-1918, Lt. Colonel J Miller and Sergeant W O McDougall 1939-1945. Eastern plaque contains quotation from Rupert Brooke, a celebrated young English poet noted for his sonnets and other poetry written during World War I. Pedestal (without original basin) situated in the niche at centre of memorial.</p>		
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>		
<p>CONDITION:</p>	<p>Fair. Original timber seating has been removed, the kangaroo head fountain has been vandalised and the basin beneath it removed from the pedestal, urns have been removed from plinths at bases of pylons. White paint is not original.</p>	
<p>SIGNIFICANCE:</p>	<p>High. Designed by significant architect Raymond McGrath, embellishments by significant sculptor Eileen McGrath. Some social and historic significance as a war memorial. Aesthetic significance as a “Spanish Mission” style war memorial with an unusual form. Historical significance as a record of staff participation in two World Wars. Significant in current location.</p>	
<p>HISTORY:</p>	<p>Erected at the suggestion of Herbert McGrath, assistant manager of Callan Park, to commemorate staff members who had fallen in World War I. Eileen and Raymond McGrath were his children. Both were highly regarded and exceptional students who showed great early promise, achieving prominence at a young age. Staff names added after World War II.</p>	


CALLAN PARK
CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN


REFERENCES:	1991 DPWS Heritage Study; <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> , 19 March 1930 p.12; Rayner Hoff (editor), <i>The Work of Eileen McGrath</i> ; Donal O'Donovan, <i>God's Architect: A life of Raymond McGrath</i> .
GUIDELINES:	Retain and conserve. Reconstruct missing and damaged elements including the seating and fountain components. Paint wall surfaces in appropriate colours - site evidence suggests stone coloured paint. Finish pergolas appropriately – early photographs indicate they were painted a dark colour or stained. Plaques may originally have been unpainted – restore only after careful investigation.

LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS

ZONE 3 – KIRKBRIDE ENTRANCE GARDEN and EMBANKMENT TO KING GEORGE PARK	
<p>ITEM No. 1C</p> <p>ORIGINAL NAME:</p> <p>CURRENT USE: Vehicular and pedestrian movement</p>	<p>CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1920s to 1940s</p> <p>ARCHITECT / BUILDER:</p> <p>HERITAGE LISTINGS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Estate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S170 List <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Trust <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leichhardt LEP <input type="checkbox"/> State Heritage Register
<p>ITEM:</p> <p>LOCATION:</p>	<p>1C ROAD AND PATH NETWORK</p> <p>GRID: - ZONE: 3</p>
<p>DESCRIPTION:</p> <p>Kerbed and guttered bitumen roads. Paths concrete or sandstone paving, some with inlaid dates.</p>	
<p>CONDITION:</p>	<p>Most intact, some paths in need of repair.</p>
<p>HISTORY:</p>	<p>Park Drive built in the 1920s, replacing original entry carriageway. Other paths and roads added 1930s to 1960s. Some paths laid by patients in 1942.</p>
<p>REFERENCES:</p>	<p>1991 DPWS Heritage Study. 1920s photo panorama, 1930 air photo, 1952 air photo</p>
<p>SIGNIFICANCE:</p>	
<p>GUIDELINES:</p>	<p>Over time add/reconstruct pedestrian path network representative of the 1920s and earlier and remove intrusive paths and roads. New road locations, design materials to be sympathetic to the heritage significance of the gardens as a whole. Where appropriate, retain small representative sections of paths by patients with inlaid dates and incorporate into new paths.</p>

ZONE 3 – KIRKBRIDE ENTRANCE GARDEN and EMBANKMENT TO KING GEORGE PARK	
ITEM No. 1D ORIGINAL NAME: CURRENT USE:	CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1903-1920s ARCHITECT / BUILDER: Flower beds constructed by patients. HERITAGE LISTINGS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Estate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S170 List <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Trust <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leichhardt LEP <input type="checkbox"/> State Heritage Register
ITEM: LOCATION:	1D SUNKEN GARDEN GRID: K7 ZONE: 3
DESCRIPTION: Circular, sunken garden edge by stone wall and hedge with openings. Circular stone edges and 4 flower beds and 4 cypress and central stone pedestal, all set in lawn.	
CONDITION:	Substantially intact as sunken garden.
HISTORY:	Originally an informal pond at the head of the creek, in Charles Moore's design, formalised in 1903 plan (possible Maiden influence) and filled in late 1920s following drawings. Flower beds built by patients
REFERENCES:	1991 DPWS Heritage Study. Site Inspection, c. 192- photo panorama in Powell. 1930 aerial photo.
SIGNIFICANCE:	Sunken Garden is significant in that it represents the visual focus and structural form of the original design and as a complete work by patients reflecting their participation in gardening as therapy.
GUIDELINES:	Restore enclosing retaining walls and hedges and physical relationship to Kirkbride Way as shown in c.1920 photo panorama in Powell. 1930 aerial photo. Restore enclosing retaining walls and hedges and physical relationship to Kirkbride Way as shown in c.1920 photo panorama. Preserve patient garden and restore the formal pond as an important design element in relation to the Kirkbride Block.

ZONE 3 – KIRKBRIDE ENTRANCE GARDEN and EMBANKMENT TO KING GEORGE PARK	
ITEM No. 1G ORIGINAL NAME: CURRENT USE:	CONSTRUCTION DATE: DESIGNER / BUILDER: Charles Moore HERITAGE LISTINGS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Estate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S170 List <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Trust <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leichhardt LEP <input type="checkbox"/> State Heritage Register
ITEM: LOCATION:	1G AVENUE TO ORIGINAL CARRIAGE DRIVE GRID: J8-L8 ZONE: 3
DESCRIPTION: Port Jackson Figs in curved rows with evidence of road base land flattening in parts.	
CONDITION:	Fair to good.
HISTORY:	Charles Moore designed an avenue beside the carriageway of Figs and Pines. Pines were removed probably in the late 1920s.
REFERENCES:	1991 DPWS Heritage Study. c.1920 photo panorama, c. 1903 phot, 1897 site plan.
SIGNIFICANCE:	Trees and archaeological evidence are significant as evidence of original major design element in Victorian picturesque landscape and representative of the work of Charles Moore. The existing trees maintain the integrity of the original alignment.
GUIDELINES:	Search for and document further evidence of original carriage drive. Potential to build new pathway along alignment in materials sympathetic to the original character, and utilise this path as a major pedestrian entrance to the Kirkbride Block, otherwise preserve. Replant missing figs and possibly add some <i>Pinus radiata</i> .

ZONE 3 – KIRKBRIDE ENTRANCE GARDEN and EMBANKMENT TO KING GEORGE PARK		
ITEM No. 11 ORIGINAL NAME: CURRENT USE:	CONSTRUCTION DATE: ARCHITECT / BUILDER:	HERITAGE LISTINGS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Estate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S170 List <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Trust <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leichhardt LEP <input type="checkbox"/> State Heritage Register
ITEM: LOCATION:	11 INDIVIDUAL TREES AND SHRUBS GRID: K7, K8 ZONE: 3	
DESCRIPTION: Trees of varying ages and mixed species of trees and some shrubs.		
CONDITION:	Fair to good.	
HISTORY:	Late 1880s and 1890s tree and shrub planting representative of species selection of Charles Moore also influenced by James Maiden infilled with subsequent individual plantings throughout 1900s and particularly 1960s and 1970s.	
REFERENCES:	1991 DPWS Heritage Study. Plate 56. Powell	
SIGNIFICANCE:	Older trees significant as representative elements in Victorian landscape, however integrity diminished by later plantings which reduce former spatial variations.	
GUIDELINES:	Undertake further research to survey existing trees and establish age. Remove intrusive or recent plantings to restore Victorian picturesque landscape of 1880s to 1900. Maintain significant trees. Restore definition between developed garden areas and broad site landscape.	