



Figure 1-1 Location plan of Hoskins Park, not to scale.
Source: NearMap, May 2012.



Figure 1: Hoskins Park & Environs Heritage Conservation Area – HCA 36

3 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Hoskins Park is located in the middle of an established residential area. It is bounded by Davis and Pigott Streets to the north and south respectively, by the former Wardell Road-Darling Island goods line to the west and by residential allotments to the east. The Waratah Mills development rises beyond the railway to the west.

The residential character of the locality reflects various periods of development. The development on the northern side of Davis Street is predominantly nineteenth century in character. It is partially screened from Hoskins Park because of the realignment of the street to form the railway bridge, which took place after the development had occurred. The stylistic character of dwellings on the southern side of the street, to the east of the Park, suggests they were built during the first two decades of the twentieth century - the residue of land between Hoskins Park and Denison Street that resulted from the sale of the (future) park site was put onto separate title in 1911.

Pigott Street also has an early twentieth century character. Houses along the northern side are more or less contemporary with those on the southern side of Davis Street, while houses on the southern side of the street were constructed between circa 1910 and circa 1935. Whilst both streetscapes are relatively intact, a number of houses have been modified and there is a small amount of more recent development. On the whole, however, the early character of the streets is easy to appreciate.

Hoskins Park is an important component of these streetscapes and makes a considerable contribution towards the amenity of the locality. It has an irregular lot configuration due to the sweeping curve of Davis Street as it approaches the bridge over the railway line and topography that falls towards the railway line and from Davis Street. The topography at Davis Street resulted from construction of the road bridge in 1914. Trees that appear in the 1943 aerial photograph (Figure 2-5 above) have matured and their canopies enhance the character of the locality. Species include Brushbox and a variety of palms, which are characteristic of interwar era park planting. The Park is traversed by a diagonal path that bisects it into two sections and a path adjacent to the eastern boundary.

The Park has retained a substantial number of features from the interwar period, which include:

- Entry pergolas - one at the south west corner of the site on Pigott Street and two on Davis Street. The timber joists are supported off pre-cast concrete Tuscan order columns, One of the latter has had two columns and timber rafters removed, although column bases have been left in place.
- The name of the Park incorporated into paving beneath the Pigott Street pergola and the stone nameplate on Davis Street, adjacent to the western pergola;
- Sandstone edging, garden bed retaining walls and steps in the northwestern corner of the Park;
- Coursed concrete paving forming the two footpaths.

The lavatory block is understood to have been constructed after World War II. This supposition is supported by its overall form and utilitarian character, relieved by the decorative detailing of a wrought metal grille over one opening.

Hoskins Park and its context are described in the following photographs.



Figure 3-1 Looking north along Davis Street from near Victoria Street.



Figure 3-2 Development on the northern side of Davis Street, opposite Hoskins Park.



Figure 3-3 Looking towards the intersection of Davis and Victoria Streets from Hoskins Park.



Figure 3-4 Residential development on the southern side of Davis Street abutting Hoskins Park.



Figure 3-5 Views along Pigott Street towards the railway line. The Waratah Mills development forms the backdrop to the western end of Hoskins Park. The Park is complemented by the scale of residential development and by street and garden trees and other planting.





Figure 3-6 Interwar era dwellings on the southern side of Pigott Street.



Figure 3-7 Dwellings in Pigott Street directly opposite Hoskins Park.



Figure 3-8 Looking east along Piggott Street – Hoskins Park at left.



Figure 3-9 Entry pergola on Pigott Street.



Figure 3-10 Park name inscribed in paving under Pigott Street pergola.



Figure 3-11 Footpath adjacent to eastern site boundary.



Figure 3-12 Lavatory block and trees associated with early planting on the eastern side of the Park.



Figure 3-13 Modified eastern pergola on Davis Street. Houses in Pigott Street form a backdrop to the Park.



Figure 3-14 Western Davis Street pergola.



Figure 3-15 Stone nameplate adjacent to the western pergola. The nameplate was relocated several years ago.



Figure 3-16 Hoskins Park looking southwest.



Figure 3-17 Hoskins Park looking southeast.



Figure 3-18 Recent mulching and garden edging at the western end of the Park.



Figure 3-19 Interwar stone edging, retaining walls and stair at the northwestern corner of the Park.



Figure 3-20 Recently upgraded playground area viewed from Davis Street (left) and the northwestern corner of Hoskins Park.
Source: Marrickville Council (photograph at left).

5.1 Preamble

The Municipality of Petersham parks that were surveyed during the course of this study have all retained interwar era improvements and, as noted above, share many common features.

Enmore, Maundrell, Petersham and Weekley Parks are listed as heritage items by Marrickville Council. The following statements of heritage significance for the parks have been extracted from the State Heritage Inventory database.

Statement of Significance for Enmore Park

This is significant as the first park to be proclaimed in the area. It lies in close proximity to the densely settled working class areas of Newtown and to the original village of Marrickville. The park is of social significance for its use as a recreational facility by locals of the area.

The inventory notes the contribution of the surrounding area to the character of the park.

Statement of Significance for Maundrell Park:

This park is used for passive recreation and relates well to the surrounding residential areas which include some excellent examples of early (c.1860) housing, and to the adjoining All Saints Church. The design features of the park are important and further loss of traditional planting should be avoided.

Statement of Significance for Petersham Park:

Petersham Park is largely intact and provides active and passive recreational space within an attractive setting, which includes many important design features.

Statement of Significance for Weekley Park:

This park is socially important for the surrounding community, being heavily used for both active and passive recreation. The aesthetics are outstanding and should be carefully maintained to prevent encroachment of active recreation and new planting styles. The surrounding residential areas are in scale with the park and make an important contribution to its character.

5.2 Assessment of Heritage Significance

The following assessment uses the framework for the assessment of heritage significance advocated by the NSW Heritage Office in the guidelines included in the NSW Heritage Manual. In this framework places are assessed in accordance with the defined criteria set out below.

Criterion A An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

- Hoskins Park is one of a small number of contemporary parks that came under the control of Petersham Municipality during the second decade of the twentieth century and subsequently came under the control of Marrickville Municipality in 1949.
- Hoskins Park and its setting provide evidence of early twentieth century urban consolidation in Dulwich Hill, both with the provision of parks and development on the land

to the east (which was formerly on the same title) and along the western side of Pigott Street.

- The park was one of the first in the Municipality of Petersham to be named after a mayor, a practice that subsequently became common in both Petersham and Marrickville municipalities.

Criterion B An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance to NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

- Although Tom Hoskins has significance because of his careers on local and state politics and is significant at a local level, there are no apparent links between him and Hoskins Park.
- The Park does not have strong or special associations with other persons or groups of persons of historical significance.

Criterion C An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area)

- Although it has been subjected to some modification, Hoskins Park is still clearly identifiable as an interwar era park and shares features in common with other parks under the control of Petersham Municipality, such as pergolas, configuration of paths, names in paving and stone edged planter beds.
- Hoskins Park has an important visual relationship with late nineteenth and early twentieth century residential development along Pigott and Davis Streets and enhances their setting.
- The physical character of the park is amongst the most attractive of the surveyed parks, deriving from a combination of site configuration and topography, mature trees and landscaping, and smaller detail elements.

Criterion D An item has strong or special associations with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

- Although a survey of community attitudes towards Hoskins Park did not form part of the study, public esteem for the place is evident through the relatively high level of use observed during a weekday inspection and the level of community support for its heritage listing.

Criterion E An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

- This criterion is not fulfilled by Hoskins Park.

Criterion F An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

- This criterion is not fulfilled by Hoskins Park.

Criterion G An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's (or the local area's) cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments.

- Hoskins Park is representative of the parks that were formerly under the jurisdiction of Petersham Council. It shares several features from the interwar period in common with these parks. It is thus important within the context of this group of parks and demonstrates the consistent approach that a local government instrumentality took to the design of facilities to improve residential amenity of suburbs in the first half of the twentieth century.

5.3 Statement of Significance

Hoskins Park has heritage significance for a number of reasons.

It was one several parks under the control of Petersham Municipality (and subsequently came under the control of Marrickville Municipality in 1949). It is representative of these parks, sharing several features from the interwar period with them, and demonstrates the consistent approach that a particular local government instrumentality took to the design of residential amenity in the first half of the twentieth century. It's naming, after a mayor, reflects what may be a relatively common local government practice during the first half of the twentieth century.

Hoskins Park and its setting provide evidence of early twentieth century urban consolidation in Dulwich Hill, both by the provision of parks and by the consistent residential development on Davis and Pigott Streets. The character of the park derives from a combination of several features including site configuration and topography, mature trees and landscaping, and smaller detail elements, along with its important visual relationship with late nineteenth and early twentieth century housing along Davis and Pigott Streets.

6.1 Conclusions

It is considered that Hoskins Park warrants inclusion Schedule 5 of Marrickville Local Environmental Plan 2011 as a heritage item of local significance, because of its historical, aesthetic and social significance.

6.2 Recommendations

Designating the immediate locality as a conservation area will recognise the aesthetic relationships between the park and its environs and assist in conserving the special character of the place. The boundaries of the proposed Conservation Area should reflect early development on Davis Street and Piggott Street, some of which predates Hoskins Park.

6.3 Statement of Heritage Significance

The following statement of heritage significance for the Hoskins Park Heritage Conservation Area (HCA) is based on an understanding of its historical, physical and social significance:

The Hoskins Park HCA was developed during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It is largely the result of the construction of the Wardell Road-Darling Island Railway Line and the formation of Hoskins Park. The unusual configuration of Davis Street reflects the construction of the Wardell Road-Darling Island Railway Line and provides evidence of its impacts on the physical fabric of the Marrickville Local Government Area.

Hoskins Park is representative of the parks initiated by the Municipality of Petersham. The Park and its setting provide evidence of early twentieth century urban consolidation in Dulwich Hill, both by the provision of parks and by the consistent residential development on Davis and Piggott Streets. The character of the park derives from a combination of several features including site configuration and topography, mature trees and landscaping, and smaller detail elements from the 1920s, along with its important visual relationship with late nineteenth and early twentieth century housing along Davis and Piggott Streets.

The aesthetic significance of the HCA is due to the physical character of Hoskins Park along with the inter-relationship of the park and residential development around it. The aesthetic quality of the HCA is reinforced by the retention of original setbacks, garden spaces and street planting along Davis and Piggott Streets. The HCA has retained the early pattern of subdivision and contains Victorian dwellings along with late Federation and Inter War era bungalow style houses that reflect the different periods of subdivision and development in the locality. Although some individual buildings have been unsympathetically modified, the overall form of most houses is intact and contributes to the character of the streetscape.

6.4 Conservation Area Boundaries

The following diagram describes the recommended boundaries for the Hoskins Park HCA. The boundaries include the early development along Davis Street, Federation and Inter War era development in the vicinity of Hoskins Park and Victorian era dwellings at the intersection of Davis and Victoria Street that contribute to the character and aesthetic quality of the HCA.



Figure 6-1 Recommended boundaries for the Hoskins Park Heritage Conservation Area.
Source: NearMap, 2012 with Tanner Architects overlay.

