

## Heritage Inventory Sheet

<b>Item Name</b>	Prospect Hill		
<b>Recommended Name</b>	Prospect Hill		
<b>Site Image</b>			
<b>Address</b>	Clunies Ross (primary), Butu Wargun Drive (alternate), Reconciliation Road (alternate), Great Western Highway (alternate), Pemulwuy, NSW, 2145		
<b>Lot/Section/DP</b>	201-202	-	1121844
	669	-	1148337
	Part Lot 107	-	1028208
	Part Lot 901	-	1078814
<b>Draft Cumberland LEP ID</b>	I01662		
<b>Former LEP ID</b>	I01662 (Holroyd LEP)		
<b>Heritage Conservation Area</b>	Not included		
<b>Date Updated</b>	March 2020		
<b>Significance Level</b>	STATE		

<b>Site Type</b>	Level 1	Archaeology - Terrestrial
	Level 2	Landscape - Cultural

### Curtilage Map



### Statement of Significance

The Prospect Hill area has State significance due to its unique combination of significant landscape feature, potential archaeological site and association with important historical phases. As a dolerite outcrop rising to a height of 117 metres above sea level, Prospect Hill is a rare geological and significant topographic feature providing expansive views across the Cumberland Plain.

The site is significant as a major reference point for early explorers from 1788 and as the site of a number of the earliest farms in New South Wales, which were established in 1791. Prospect Hill is also associated with Aboriginal frontier warfare during the early days of the colony and as the site of one of the first Aboriginal/European reconciliation meetings, held in 1805, involving Samuel Marsden and Prospect Aboriginal groups.

Through its ongoing pastoral and rural use, the site has the potential to provide archaeological evidence of early farming practice and settlement. The landscape of Prospect Hill is likely to be one of the only remaining areas of rural land within the local and regional area that has retained its long-term pastoral use since the earliest days of the colony.

Criteria Assessment	
a) Historic	Prospect Hill is historically significant as the site of a number of the earliest farms in New South Wales, with a number of time-expired convicts settled on the land in 1791 by Governor Phillip. As a significant landmark on the Cumberland Plain, Prospect Hill provided an important reference point for early explorers from 1788 and played a role in the earliest exploration of the east coast of Australia. Prospect Hill is also associated with an important phase of Aboriginal/European contact; firstly through Pemulwuy's guerrilla warfare in the area between 1797 and 1802 and in 1805 as the site of a reconciliation meeting involving Samuel Marsden.
b) Associative	Prospect Hill has historical associations arising from the use of the site over time; including the Aboriginal frontier leader Pemulwuy, Samuel Marsden and those earliest former convicts who settled at Prospect Hill including William Butler, Samuel Griffiths and William Parish.
c) Aesthetic/Technical	Prospect Hill has aesthetic significance as Sydney's largest body of igneous rock, which rises to a height of 117 metres and provides expansive views across the Cumberland Plain. The large dolerite formation of Prospect Hill is a rare geological and landmark topographic feature, lying centrally within the Cumberland Plain. Through the long-term use of the site for pastoral use, the landscape retains an essentially rural character, which is becoming rare in the locality.
d) Social	Through its continued use for research purposes over the last forty years, the CSIRO complex, which is located at the foot of Prospect Hill, has significance for those employees who have worked at the research facility and in particular for those scientists who have carried out work which is of importance to Australia's cultural history.
e) Scientific	Through its continual pastoral/rural use since 1791, Prospect Hill has the potential to provide archaeological evidence of early historical settlement or agricultural techniques used.
f) Rarity	Prospect Hill is unique as a significant landmark site and through its ability to demonstrate historical links with early European exploration and settlement as well as Aboriginal conflict and reconciliation, with the landscape retaining its continual pastoral use since the early days of the colony.
g) Representativeness	The item does not meet this criterion.

### Physical Description

The following physical description has been quoted from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage State Heritage Register listing sheet for 'Prospect Hill', dated 2018. As the description features a comprehensive physical description, no amendment has been made to the physical description.

*Prospect Hill is Sydney's largest body of igneous rock and rises to a height of 117metres above sea level. The hill is located between the south-west corner of CSIRO Division of Animal Production site and the south-east corner of the Boral Resources (NSW) site at Greystanes. The CSIRO portion of Prospect Hill is generally cleared for pasture grasses, with remnant stands of native vegetation along a creek line that runs from north to south along the site. The portion of Prospect Hill located within the Boral site has remnant stands of trees and has been partially used as part of the Boral Brickworks operation.*

*The first settlement of the area occurred in 1791 on the eastern and southern slopes of Prospect Hill, however no buildings dating from the 18th or 19th centuries remain above ground (Higginbotham 2000). A number of the original boundaries of the Prospect land grants of 1791 can be identified when looking east across the CSIRO site from Prospect Hill (Ashton 2000). On the slope of Prospect Hill, north of the hilltop, is an abandoned quarry dating to the later part of the 19th century.*

### Condition

Due to the nature of the site and its location there was limited access to the landscape due to the presence of residential development and high security fencing. As a result, no built elements were visible from the public domain, therefore their condition could not be assessed.

<b>Condition</b>	Good	Fair	Poor
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### Alterations and Additions

- Weldmesh fence boundary around the site.

As Prospect Hill remains relatively unchanged it has high integrity overall.

<b>Integrity</b>	<b>High</b>	Moderate	Low
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\* element detracts from the overall cultural significance of the place

### Historical Notes

Construction years	N/A
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The following history has been quoted from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage State Heritage Register listing sheet for 'Prospect Hill', dated 2018.

#### **Aboriginal & European settler history**

*The area of Prospect Reservoir is an area of known Aboriginal occupation, with favourable camping locations along the Eastern Creek and Prospect Creek catchments, and in elevated landscapes to the south. There is also evidence to suggest that the occupation of these lands continued after European contact, through discovery of intermingled glass and stone flakes in archaeological surveys of the place. The area was settled by Europeans by 1789.*

*Prospect Hill, Sydney's largest body of igneous rock, lies centrally in the Cumberland Plain and dominates the landscape of the area. Very early after first settlement, on 26 April 1788, an exploration party heading west led by Governor Phillip, climbed Prospect Hill. An account by Phillip states that the exploration party saw from Prospect Hill, 'for the first time since we landed Carmathen Hills (Blue Mountains) as likewise the hills to the southward'. Phillip's 'Bellevue' (Prospect Hill) acquired considerable significance for the new settlers. Prospect Hill provided a point from which distances could be meaningfully calculated, and became a major reference point for other early. When Watkin Tench made another official journey to the west in 1789, he began his journey with reference to Prospect Hill, which commanded a view of the great chain of mountains to the west. A runaway convict, George Bruce, used Prospect Hill as a hideaway from soldiers in the mid-1790s.*

*During the initial struggling years of European settlement in NSW, Governor Phillip began to settle time-expired convicts on the land as farmers, after the success of James Ruse at Rose Hill. On 18 July 1791 Phillip placed a number of men on the eastern and southern slopes of Prospect Hill, as the soils weathered from the basalt cap were richer than the sandstone derived soils of the Cumberland Plain. The grants, mostly 30 acres, encircled Prospect Hill. The settlers included William Butler, James Castle, Samuel Griffiths, John Herbert, George Lisk, Joseph Morley, John Nicols, William Parish and Edward Pugh.*

*The arrival of the first settlers prompted the first organised Aboriginal resistance to the spread of settlement, with the commencement of a violent frontier conflict in which Pemulwuy and his Bidjigal clan played a central role. On 1 May 1801 Governor King took drastic action, issuing a public order requiring that Aboriginal people around Parramatta, Prospect Hill and Georges River should be 'driven back from the settlers' habitations by firing at them'. Kings edicts appear to have encouraged a shoot-on-sight attitude whenever any Aboriginal men, women or children appeared.*

*With the death of Pemulwuy, the main resistance leader, in 1802, Aboriginal resistance gradually diminished near Parramatta, although outer areas were still subject to armed hostilities. Prompted by*



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suggestions to the Reverend Marsden by local Prospect Aboriginal groups that a conference should take place 'with a view of opening the way to reconciliation', Marsden promptly organised a meeting near Prospect Hill. At the meeting, held on 3 May 1805, local Aboriginal representatives discussed with Marsden ways of ending the restrictions and indiscriminate reprisals inflicted on them by soldiers and settlers in response to atrocities committed by other Aboriginal clans. The meeting was significant because a group of Aboriginal women and a young free settler at Prospect named John Kennedy acted as intermediaries. The conference led to the end of the conflict for the Aboriginal clans around Parramatta and Prospect. This conference at Prospect on Friday 3 May 1805 is a landmark in Aboriginal/European relations. Macquarie's 'Native Feasts' held at Parramatta from 1814 followed the precedent set in 1805. The Sydney Gazette report of the meeting is notable for the absence of the sneering tone that characterised its earlier coverage of Aboriginal matters.

From its commencement in 1791 with the early settlement of the area, agricultural use of the land continued at Prospect Hill. Much of the land appears to have been cleared by the 1820s and pastoral use of the land was well established by then. When Governor Macquarie paid a visit to the area in 1810, he was favourably impressed by the comfortable conditions that had been created.

Nelson Lawson, third son of explorer William Lawson (1774-1850), married Honoria Mary Dickinson and before 1837 built "Greystanes House" as their future family home on the western side of Prospect Hill. Lawson had received the land from his father, who had been granted 500 acres here by the illegal government that followed the overthrow of Governor Bligh in 1808.

Governor Macquarie confirmed the grant, where William Lawson had built a house, which he called "Veteran Hall", because he had a commission in the NSW Veterans Company. The house was demolished in 1928 and the site is now partly covered by the waters of Prospect Reservoir. Greystanes was approached by a long drive lined with an avenue of English trees - elms (*Ulmus procera*), hawthorns (*Crataegus* sp.), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), and woodbine (*Clematis* sp.) mingling with jacarandas (*J. mimosifolia*). It had a wide, semi-circular front verandah supported by 4 pillars. The foundations were of stone, the roof of slate, and the doors and architraves of heavy red cedar. It was richly furnished with articles of the best quality available and was the scene of many glittering soirees attended by the elite of the colony. Honoria Lawson died in 1845, Nelson remarried a year later, but died in 1849, and the property reverted to his father. Greystanes house was demolished in the 1940s (Pollon, 1988, 116, amended Read, S., 2006 - the house can't have been 'on the crest' of Prospect Hill as Pollon states, if its site was covered by the Reservoir).

By the 1870s, with the collapse of the production of cereal grains across the Cumberland Plain, the Prospect Hill area appears to have largely been devoted to livestock. The dwellings of the earliest settlers largely appear to have been removed by this stage. By the time that any mapping was undertaken in this vicinity, most of these structures had disappeared, making their locations difficult to pinpoint.

The land was farmed from 1806-1888 when the Prospect Reservoir was built. In 1867, the Governor of NSW appointed a Commission to recommend a scheme for Sydney's water supply, and by 1869 it was recommended that construction commence on the Upper Nepean Scheme. This consisted of two diversion weirs, located at Pheasant's Nest and Broughton's Pass, in the Upper Nepean River catchment, with water feeding into a series of tunnels, canals and aqueducts known as the Upper Canal. It was intended that water be fed by gravity from the catchment into a reservoir at Prospect. This scheme was to be Sydney's fourth water supply system, following the Tank Stream, Busby's Bore and the Botany (Lachlan) Swamps.

Designed and constructed by the Public Works Department of NSW, Prospect Reservoir was built during the 1880s and completed in 1888. Credit for the Upper Nepean Scheme is largely given to Edward Orpen Moriarty, the Engineer in Chief of the Harbours and Rivers Branch of the Public Works Department from 1858-88.

Quarrying of the basalt plug at Prospect Hill was well underway by the mid-nineteenth century (Higginbotham 2000). By the early twentieth century, Prospect Hill land had been acquired by quarrying firms anxious to expand their land holdings near this valuable source of raw material. The bulk of the

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present CSIRO site was acquired by the Commonwealth in 1946, and a further 15 hectares was acquired in 1963. In the early 1950s the site became operational and sheep were pastured for research purposes. In 2000, the CSIRO site has an area of 57.15 hectares and is the primary research centre of the Division of Animal Production, with some 40 buildings and sheds having been constructed over the last 40 years.

In 1998 Boral reviewed its holdings with a view to future redevelopment as its quarry neared the end of its life. SEPP59 was gazetted in 1999 applying to a number of Western Sydney holdings including Greystanes Estate, Nelsons Ridge, rezoning land on the hill's west for employment and on the hill's eastern side for housing and regional open space and providing precinct planning controls. Boral developed two precinct plans. Holroyd City Council adopted the residential precinct plan in 2002. The then Minister for Urban Affairs & Planning took over planning powers for the employment area in November 2000 and approved the Employment Precinct Plan in June 2001, approving subdivision and associated works in the northern employment lands later in June 2001. Since, parts of the employment land have been sold and further subdivided and sold.

In 2002 Delfin Lend Lease entered a joint venture with Boral to develop the residential lands. This part of the estate is now known as Nelson's Ridge (after Nelson Lawson who owned the Greystanes Estate and commissioned Greystanes House in 1837). Nelson's Ridge is being developed by Lend Lease in two stages with the first comprising the northern employment and northern residential lands and the second comprising the southern equivalents.

The former CSIRO site to the north of Nelson's Ridge was vacated in 1/2002 and sold to Stockland in March 2002. SEPP 59 also rezoned it for residential and employment uses. This site has its own precinct plan, now adopted into the Holroyd City Council's Development Control Plan: Part P Pemulwuy Residential Lands. It will eventually be integrated with the Nelson's Ridge development through Driftway Drive as well as cycleways and pedestrian links being established between the two (Whelans InSites, 2010, 5).

Prospect Hill was entered on the NSW State Heritage Register in October 2003. A conservation management plan prepared for the hill in 2006 has guided its staged development as a public parkland since. Staged subdivision of Boral lands into both housing areas and public parklands has proceeded in the past decade, c2006-2018.

In December 2018 Cumberland Council unveiled plans for future upgrades to Prospect Hill (Mar-Rong Reserve) as it seeks to prioritise upgrades and asset management (including visitor services provision, facilities for visitors and residents into the future).

### Additional Historical Notes

Long-term pastoral use on much of Prospect Hill has ensured the site retains its historical links and archaeological potential. However, Prospect Hill is under immediate threat from development, which has the potential to impact upon the significance of the site. This includes the rezoning of the site as part of SEPP 59 and development for residential/employment purposes, the continual quarrying of the southern portion of the hill; and new development proposals including a proposed flagpole to be erected on Prospect Hill commemorating Federation.

Recommendations				
Heritage Management		Existing Built and Landscape Elements		Future Development and Planning
1. Maintain this item's heritage listing on the LEP.	X	6. Original fabric is highly significant and should be maintained.		12. Alterations and additions should respond to the existing pattern of development, with careful consideration of the setting (form, scale, bulk, setback and height).

<b>2.</b> Maintain this item's listing as part of the Heritage Conservation Area.		<b>7.</b> Unsympathetic alterations that detract from the cultural significance of the item should be removed.		<b>13.</b> New alterations and additions should respect the historic aesthetic/character of the item and area (e.g. paint scheme, materiality, style, landscape elements).	
<b>3.</b> Consider delisting as an individual item from the LEP.		<b>8.</b> Maintain heritage landscape elements and schemes.	<b>X</b>	<b>14.</b> Future uses for this item should be compatible with its historical functions/ associations.	<b>X</b>
<b>4.</b> Consider additional research to nominate this item for the State Heritage Register.		<b>9.</b> Maintain the existing setting of the heritage item, informed by the historic pattern of neighbouring development (form, scale, bulk, setback and height).	<b>X</b>		
<b>5.</b> The heritage curtilage for this item should be revised/reduced.		<b>10.</b> Maintain the historic aesthetic/character of the item and area (e.g. paint scheme, materiality, style, landscape elements).	<b>X</b>		
		<b>11.</b> The condition of this item is poor. Condition and maintenance should be monitored.			

Other recommendations and/or comments:

- The existing 2005 Conservation Management Plan should be updated for Prospect Hill to understand in greater detail the history and significance of the place, as well as how to manage change and monitor conditions of the site.

#### Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number
Heritage Act – State Heritage Register	Prospect Hill	I01662
Local Environmental Plan	Prospect Hill	I01662
Heritage Study	Prospect Hill	I01662
National Trust Australia Register	N/A	-

#### Previous Studies

Type	Author	Year	Title
Heritage Study	Extent Heritage Pty Ltd	2019	Cumberland LGA Heritage Study
Heritage Study	Neustein & Associates	1993	Holroyd Heritage Study
Conservation Management Plan	Conybeare Morrison	2005	Prospect Hill Conservation Management Plan
Heritage Landscape Study and Plan	Government Architect's Office	2008	Prospect Hill - Heritage Landscape Study & Plan - Final Report

## Other References

- Ashton, W. 2000. Landscape Heritage Assessment- CSIRO Division of Animal Production
- Graham Brooks & Associates. 2007. *Heritage Impact Statement - State Heritage Register Precinct within the Lakewood Residential Estate, Pemulwuy.*
- Lend Lease. 2015. *Statement of Heritage Impact - Marrong Reserve South, Greystanes Estate, Pemulwuy (Nelsons Ridge Residential Lands).*
- Whelans InSites. 2010. *Mar-Rong Reserve, Pemulwuy - Construction of Landscaping and Public Domain Works, Greystanes Estate, Nelsons Ridge.*
- Higginbotham, E. 2000, Historical and Archaeological Assessment of the CSIRO site
- Karskens, G. 1991. Holroyd- a social history of Western Sydney
- NSW Office of Environment and Heritage Listing Sheet for 'Prospect Hill', accessed <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=5051526>
- Taylor, M. 2018, 'Prospect Hill growth and preservation plan unveiled by Cumberland Council

## Limitations

1. Access to all heritage items was limited to a visual inspection from the public domain. The interiors of buildings and inaccessible areas such as rear gardens were not assessed as part of this heritage study.
2. Condition and site modification assessment was limited to a visual inspection undertaken from the public domain.
3. Unless additional research was required, historical research for all heritage items was based on an assessment of previous LGA heritage studies, the Thematic History (prepared by Extent Heritage, 2019) and existing information in former heritage listing sheets.

## Additional Images



View along roadway adjacent to Prospect Hill.



View towards Prospect Hill.