


Heritage Inventory Sheet

Item Name	No 1 Section buildings, relics and place		
Recommended Name	Rookwood Cemetery and Necropolis, No 1 Section Buildings, Relics and Place		
Site Image			
Address	East Street, Lidcombe NSW 2141		
Lot/Section/DP	Crown Land	-	-
	7	-	46563
	490	-	48319
	492	-	48441
Draft Cumberland LEP ID	I00718		
Former LEP ID	I00718 (Auburn LEP)		
Heritage Conservation Area	Not included		
Date Updated	March 2020		
Significance Level	STATE		
Site Type	Level 1	Landscape / Archaeology – Terrestrial	

Curtilage Map



Statement of Significance

The 'Rookwood Cemetery and Necropolis, No 1 Section Buildings, Relics and Place' item has State heritage significance. The following Statement of Significance has been quoted from the *Rookwood - Conservation Management Plan* prepared by GML (2016):

- *Rookwood Necropolis is one of the largest burial grounds in the world and contains the largest 19th century cemetery in Australia;*
- *The scale of design, design features, use of plants, gardenesque layout, high quality and diversity of structures, monuments and details of Rookwood represent a rare surviving example of mid-late 19th century ideals for a major public cemetery. The choices of plants in these sections also demonstrate 19th century funerary etiquette and fashion by way of plant symbolism;*
- *The imagination and expertise of a number of prominent individuals are manifest in the historic fabric and design of Rookwood ...This includes its original design and subsequent development over almost 150 years. The Necropolis was designed as a pleasant setting both for the dead and a comforting site for visiting mourners. The landscape was equipped with visitor amenities such as carriageways, paths, plantings, fences, signs, chapels, shelters and drainage.*
- *The historical archaeological resource of Rookwood is vast and represents a wide array of domestic, industrial, spiritual and recreational activities for the greater Sydney population from the mid-nineteenth century onwards. Structural remains and sealed artefact deposits*

associated with use of the site have the potential to provide insight into the more intricate details of lifeways for those living, working and burying friends and family at Rookwood. Internments themselves can provide a rich source of data and coffins, other grave hardware, burial goods, and burial styles can inform our understandings of life and death for a cross-section of cultural groups within Sydney.

- Rookwood's memorials form a collection of architectural and monumental craftsmanship without parallel in Australia. They include examples that are unique in themselves or display a high degree of technical accomplishment, and others which represent changes in social burial customs since 1867; Rookwood contains a number of significant buildings, including the Frazer mausoleum, a rare example of mausoleum architecture in NSW.
- As a social document and genealogical resource, Rookwood is unique in its scale and comprehensiveness. The Necropolis is the burial place of a large number of noteworthy individuals; the Necropolis contains a rare collection of memorials moved from the Devonshire Street burial ground in the city (1901), and the old Petersham cemetery in the (1926-7). Headstones record members of the First Fleet, convicts, bushrangers, artists, scientists, businessmen and politicians alongside victims of accident, drowning, fire, epidemics and mass disasters. The cemetery has served a diverse range of faith communities throughout its history and is an important repository of the history of multicultural Sydney and resource for present day communities.
- Rookwood is of significance in providing habitats for two Threatened Ecological Communities (Cumberland Plain Woodlands and Cook's River Castlereagh Ironbark Forest) as well as threatened flora of Commonwealth and/or State significance. It also contains an unusual ecotone where a pocket of Sydney sandstone associated vegetation occurs in the midst of predominantly Wianamatta shale associated vegetation.

Criteria Assessment	
a) Historic	Rookwood is one of the largest burial grounds in the world and contains the largest 19th century cemetery in Australia. The scale of design, gardenesque layout, high quality and diversity of structures, monuments and details of the oldest sections of Rookwood represent a rare surviving example of mid to late 19th century ideals for a major public cemetery.
b) Associative	Rookwood is the known burial place of almost a million citizens, including scores of noteworthy individuals of importance to the growth and development of the city and suburbs of Sydney and NSW. Rookwood has strong associations with the diverse religious, social and ethnic communities of Greater Sydney and the presence, growth and impact of these communities on the society and culture of NSW.
c) Aesthetic/Technical	Many of the monuments are of outstanding aesthetic quality. Rookwood is so large that vistas can be found within it that are completely contained within the cemetery landscape, providing an aesthetic retreat for the senses of the viewer.
d) Social	Rookwood is a diverse cultural landscape that has provided a setting for burial and memorial traditions of many different faiths and denominations. Rookwood is a tangible manifestation of the social history of Sydney, documenting the cultural and religious diversity of Australian communities since 1867. Prominent individuals and families are recorded in memorials containing significant biographical information. The progressive layering, development and diversity of styles of memorialisation document the conceptual move away from the nineteenth century perception of death and dying to the more rationalist view prevailing at the present time. As a social document and genealogical resource Rookwood Necropolis is unique in its scale and comprehensiveness.
e) Scientific	The monumental masonry and other types of craftsmanship, including cast and wrought ironwork are fine examples of craft processes and reflect social attitudes to death and fashions in funerary ornamentation

	<p>since 1867. The Necropolis provides a habitat for two rare and endangered plant species.</p> <p>As an extensively used internment site, Rookwood Necropolis has exceptional research potential. The site's historical archaeological resource has the potential to answer a wide range of research questions that would provide insight into the treatment of life and death by a cross-section of cultural groups in the greater Sydney region from the mid-nineteenth century through to the present.</p>
f) Rarity	The item does not meet this criterion.
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 'Rookwood Cemetery and Necropolis' (2015). As the description features a comprehensive physical description, no amendment has been made to the physical description.

Rookwood Necropolis is the largest cemetery in Australia, the Southern Hemisphere (Jacquet, 2015, 8) and one of the largest in the world, having an area of 288 hectares and approximately 1,000,000 epitaphs recorded on 600,000 graves and 200,000 crematoria niches. It is a multi-denominational cemetery dating from 1867 onwards, with landscaped layout with a focus of a circular hub or roadway.

It is a suburb in its own right, perched on ridges 15km west of the Sydney CBD (ibid, 2015, 8).

Early Design

The original 200 acre layout is located in the north-western corner of the site. The road pattern radiates from a central hub and two different approaches to design are exemplified. The Wesleyan, Presbyterian, Independent, General and Catholic Cemeteries uses a curvilinear layout whereas the Anglican Cemetery uses a grid layout. The original designers followed a garden design, which was continued in the layout of individual sections.

Located in the Church of England No.1 Cemetery is an extensive system of serpentine drains and ponds. The open drain is brick-lined and approximately 1800mm deep. Extensive shelters, urns, bridges, fountains, and gardens ornament the serpentine drains. The paths, gardens and carriageways throughout the older sections are formed between finely detailed brick gutters which remain largely intact.

The Crematorium

The grounds are dominated by the Spanish Mission style building which is laid out in cruciform pattern to accommodate three separate chapels. The earlier parts of the garden are enclosed by a rendered brick wall with tiles capping that gives it an attractive unified appearance as viewed from the rest of the cemetery. Within the wall, formal gardens are laid out in an axial pattern using brick and stone to negotiate changes of levels. Ponds mark the intersection of the main pathways. The major axes terminate in wrought iron gates which afford attractive views over the rest of the cemetery.

Plants and Design

What remains on the site is an accretion of introduced and remnant native plants. Some of the introduced planting dates from the original layout of the cemetery. These include Araucaria pines (A.cunninghamii - hoop pine; A.bidwillii - Bunya pine; A.columnaris - Cook's pine; A.heterophylla - Norfolk Island pine), Magnolia grandiflora - evergreen magnolia / bull bay and Pinus spp. trees and Phoenix (P.canariensis - Canary Island date palms); P.dactylifera - date palm); P.senegalensis - clumping date) palms and Washingtonia robusta (Californian desert fan) palms. These have been planted in an ordered geometric grid which is transected by gardenesque curvilinear roads in turn bordered by avenue planting. Within this layout are pavilions, fountains and shelters that are important elements in the landscape.

The more recent cemetery areas in the south and eastern portions of the site revert to informal arrangements of native trees and shrubs. The cemetery provides a habitat for two rare and endangered plant (shrub) species, *Acacia pubescens* and *Dillwynia parvifolia*. It also contains an unusual ecotone where a pocket of Sydney sandstone associated vegetation occurs in the midst of predominantly Wianamatta shale associated vegetation. It also supports populations of 19 species of frogs and reptiles and a large number of bird species. (CALM) (National Trust 1988)

Archaeological potential

The main features of archaeological significance include:

- monumental masonry;
- former railway siding and site of Mortuary Station, sites of 3 other Stations;
- cast iron section markers on Necropolis Circuit;
- drainage channels, roads, bridges, paths;
- other buildings, works and sites. (Schwager Brooks et al, 1996).

Condition	Good	Fair	Poor
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Alterations and Additions

The following alterations and additions have been quoted from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage State Heritage Register listing sheet for 'Rookwood Cemetery and Necropolis' (2015).

- 1862 - Government purchases 200 acres near Haslem's Creek station (later Lidcombe) (in north west of current Necropolis lands). Originally six denominations: Roman Catholic, Anglican, Wesleyan, Presbyterian, Jews and Independent (Schwager Brooks et al, 1996)
- 1866 - Entire cemetery enclosed, access roads built and denominational subsections cleared.
- 1864 - branch railway line to cemetery handed over - first record of funeral train 4/1864
- 1867 - Necropolis first dedicated (Schwager Brooks & Partners, 19..), Necropolis Act and burials commenced, railway line and siding provided, and opens.
- 7th April 1868 - All land dedicated as cemetery.
- 1869 Mortuary Station number one opens.
- 1874-1882 - Serpentine drain constructed in Church of England Section.
- 1878-9 Necropolis enlarged with purchase of additional 577 acres to accommodate demand for burial plots (Schwager Brooks et al, 1996)
- 1869 - two sandstone receiving houses (for funeral trains) built, one at Regent St., Redfern, one in the Necropolis
- 1879 - Government purchases 577 acres of adjoining land.
- 1890 - St Michael the Archangel Chapel built.
- 1897 - Railway branch line extended.
- 1901 - Railway branch line extended with (now) four cemetery stations.
- 1908 - Railway branch line extended
- 1923 - Crematorium opens.
- 1948 - Railway branch line closes - Lidcombe station services Mortuary trains
- 1952 - Railway line pulled up and stations sold.
- 1957 - No 1 Mortuary Railway Station removed (to become the North Ainslie Anglican Church, Canberra, ACT)
- 1980s - construction of Railway Street on the Necropolis and Cemetery's northern side alongside the main western railway.
- 1990s - new East Street main entrance constructed
- 2006 9 mature maritime pines (*Pinus pinaster*) removed, Independent Cemetery near Haslem's Drive, West. Also 28 matured (1989) she oak (*Casuarina* sp.) trees removed between southern wall of NSW Garden of Remembrance and AWG Boundary with Section 20 of the Anglican Cemetery (JCNTrustees, meeting 10-01, Executive Manager's Report, 5/7/06).

Integrity	High	Moderate	Low
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* element detracts from the overall cultural significance of the place

Historical Notes

Construction years	1862
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The following history is comprehensive and has therefore been quoted from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage State Heritage Register listing sheet for 'Rookwood Cemetery and Necropolis' (2015).

Prior to European settlement, the traditional owners of the area now occupied by Rookwood were the Wangal people, a Darug language-speaking 'clan' group. The Wangal group original extended from Sydney Cove westerly to Parramatta (POM, 23). Aboriginal occupation of this region dates back well into the Pleistocene period (over 10,000 years ago)(Jacquet, 2015, 27).

The Haslem Creek Cemetery, as Rookwood was originally known, was the result of urban encroachment. By the 1840s, only half a century after the arrival of the First Fleet, Sydney's third cemetery at Devonshire Street (now the site of Central Station and railway yards) was facing the same fate as its predecessors: it was running out of space and suffering from urbanisation. Land values were increasing, and for a young city there were better uses for the space it occupied (DPI, 23).

By the mid 1850s the need for a new cemetery was becoming urgent. In response the NSW Government embarked on a great Victorian enterprise - mirrored only 10 years earlier at Brookwood outside London - the search for a large-enough parcel of land to bury Sydney's dead in perpetuity (DPI, 23). In 1860 the Government advertised that it wanted to purchase land along the railway for a cemetery. After a number of site inspections the Government had narrowed its choice to two possible sites, the Wentworth's Homebush Estate and the Hyde Park Estate.

On the 18th September 1862 the Government of New South Wales purchased 200 acres of the Hyde Park Estate owned by Mr Edward Cohen. During the same month Surveyor Heady sketched the site for the cemetery. By November 1862 Charles Moore, Director of the Botanical Gardens had begun supervising the fencing of the land. In 1863 the Lands Department invited the major denominations to nominate trustees for portions of the cemetery. The area was divided among the denominations according to their proportion in the population in the 1861 census. Roman Catholic, Church of England, Independent (Congregational), Wesleyan, Presbyterian and Jews were invited to name their trustees. Within the area allocated, preparation of the cemetery grounds was to be at the expense of each denomination. At this time the area was known as Haslem's Creek Necropolis.

In June 1864 Colonial Architect, James Barnet, submitted plans for the construction of a lodge for a manager and this was constructed by mid 1865. In December 1865 the Government surveyor, John Armstrong, surveyed the route for the railway into the cemetery and it was opened in April 1867. Rookwood was unusual internationally in having two specially designed 'necropolis' railway stations to cater for funerals and visitors - one at Sydney (Regent Street), which still survives and one in the cemetery, since dismantled and re-erected as a church in Ainslie, Canberra.

Management of the Haslem's Creek Necropolis was resolved by the passing of the Necropolis Act of 1867, which specified that the internal arrangements and ornamentation of each section of the cemetery were to be managed by the nominated trusts. Burials commenced in January 1867 under the authority of this Act.

David Jones, (b.1793) founder of the well-known department store, died in 1873 and was buried at Rookwood.

Between 1874 and 1882 the serpentine drain was constructed in the Church of England No.1 cemetery.

More ground was soon needed so in July 1879 the government purchased 577 acres of adjoining land to the south and east. The new trust areas were gazetted in February 1889. As a result of the cemetery expansion, the railway was extended in 1897 and again in 1908.

In 1881 bushfire caused extensive damage to property at Rookwood. (Daily Telegraph archive)

By 1890 one of the most impressive buildings was the St Michael the Archangel Chapel built by Sims and Devitt.

A major change to the Necropolis was the introduction of facilities for cremation. After ten years of lobbying against public opposition - not just to a crematorium in Rookwood but to the very idea of cremation itself (GML, 2017, 23).

The scale of loss in World War 1 had been attributed as contributing to a decline in the elaborate memorialisation and rituals that had been a feature of Victorian-era cemeteries like Rookwood, while the regimented rows of graves adopted by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission for the vast war cemeteries in Europe also promoted a simpler style of graves in civil ceremonies in Australia. In this atmosphere, the NSW Cremation Co., Ltd., formed in 1915, was able to convince the government that as part of amendments to the Necropolis Act in 1923, four acres were set aside at Rookwood for a crematorium. Designed by architect F. l'Anson Bloomfield, the crematorium was to include a Spanish mission or Mediterranean style building, with red-tiled roof and white-rendered walls. The chimney was disguised as a belltower, with chapel, and columbarium inside and an entrance loggia opening into a garden at the rear. It opened in 1925 and was the first crematorium in Australia. Bloomfield had detailed designs for the building and landscaped gardens, which were implemented as money became available. In 1926 the chapel, known as the East Chapel, was completed, devoid of overt religious symbolism so it would be appropriate for all denominations. In the first year of operation there were 122 cremations. By 1929 there were 500. A sale of shares in the company in 1928 and 1929 raised funds to enable completion of much of the design, with the columbarium, furnace room extended (including two new furnaces), and completion of the Garden of Remembrance. Such was its popularity a second chapel was added in 1934, with a special AIF Memorial columbarium unveiled in 1936. This was reserved for returned servicemen of WW2 who had died of wounds or illness since their return (ibid, 2017, 23).

In 1943 a section on the cemetery's western boundary was set aside to serve as a war cemetery, maintained by the Army Graves registration unit. At first graves were marked by simple wooden crosses, but after the war these were replaced with standard marble headstones, representing equality in death of all soldiers that the Imperial War Graves Commission, later the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, had set forth on their establishment in 1918. Rookwood's war cemetery was primarily the resting place for servicemen and women who died at nearby Concord Military hospital from wounds received in combat or from illness. In total 732 burials from WW2 were carried out here. Rookwood was used as temporary cemetery for American service personnel, with 466 buried there during WW2 years. Their remains were removed to America from Rookwood in 1947 (ibid, 2017, 24).

The years after WW2 saw a change in burial practice in Australia away from the elaborate memorialisation of the Victorian and Edwardian eras, with large imposing monuments in the older sections of Rookwood. A new style of low, unpretentious monument became prevalent throughout newer sections. From the 1920s on, these graves, known as 'slab and desk' (with details of the deceased inscribed on a low headstone) allowed long lines of sight over an ordered, uncluttered landscape. From the 1950s, as well as this style of monuments, new lawn cemetery areas were being used at Rookwood, further distancing the new styles from those of the 19th century (ibid, 2017, 25).

With the advent of motor cars and buses the cemetery railway closed in 1948 and the line and station buildings were sold in 1952 (CALM 1993) (National Trust of Australia (NSW), 1988).

New migrant communities began to be buried together, much as denominational groups had from the beginning. Russian and Greek Orthodox, Croatians, Vietnamese and Muslim sections all appeared, reflecting ever-increasing diversity of Sydney's population in the second half of the 20th century. A growing Chinese community expanded the Chinese section away from the small area set aside in the 1870s with small, austere headstones, to larger monuments often in red or black granite and marble. Many of the recent graves from the 1980s have also appropriated the Italian custom of inserting a photograph of the deceased into the headstone, showing a divergence of cultural practices in the

cemetery landscape. The three-barred crosses of the Orthodox faith and extensive garden plantings on Muslim graves also add distinctive character to these sections (*ibid*, 2017, 26).

In 1987 the entire cemetery was enclosed behind secure fencing for the first time, which led to a drop off in illegal dumping in the grounds. The same year a second Necropolis Amendment Act (1987) saw the formation of a Joint Committee, with representatives of the state government, the National Trust of Australia (NSW), the Heritage Council of NSW, the crematorium and members of the seven trusts to manage the upkeep, maintenance and heritage values of the cemetery. One of their first tasks was commissioning a plan of management for the Necropolis to assess its heritage significance and begin coordinated planning for protection and growth of the site. The growing awareness of the cemetery as a site of heritage value saw it classified by the National Trust of Australia (NSW) in 1981. Formal government recognition followed in 1989 with a Permanent Conservation Order gazetted under the NSW Heritage Act by the Heritage Council of NSW, upgraded in 1999 to State Heritage Register listing (*ibid*, 2017 27-28).

In 1993 the Friends of Rookwood was formed by concerned and interested community members keen to help restore and preserve the Necropolis. They set about raising funds to conserve important monuments, restoring landscape and garden areas and promoting the cemetery to a wider public. By instigating a series of walking tours through the cemetery, the Friends highlighted the site's importance via the social history of its inhabitants and raised the profile of Rookwood as a place to visit and contemplate, as had been the idea behind its earliest incarnation as a gardenesque public landscape (*ibid*, 2017, 28).

In 1993 the East Street new entry/gates were built and primary road implementation - Necropolis Drive and Cohen Avenue were upgraded with avenue tree plantings. That year the indigenous vegetation of the cemetery was surveyed, and identified as significant (POM, 15).

In 1996 a boundary planting program commenced and the road heirarchy was confirmed - Hawthorne Avenue (part) was upgraded including avenue tree plantings (POM, 15).

In 1998 the Catholic Trust Mausoleum opened. In 1999 the Independent Trust Mausoleum opened and the Flora & Fauna Survey of the cemetery was updated. From 1999-2001 the Serpentine Drain was restored in the No. 1 Anglican cemetery. An interpretive structure was installed at Mortuary Station No. 1, with grant funding. Also in 2001 Memorial Avenue (part) Primary Road was upgraded including avenue tree plantings. In 2002 cemetery identified Vegetation Conservation Areas were ground-truthed - and a Property Management Plan (for vegetation) was adopted. Bush regeneration works continued (POM, 15).

In 2006 the Quong Sin Tong monument was restored. In 2007 part of Necropolis Drive was upgraded including avenue tree plantings. Also that year the Catholic Trust Crematorium started operating. In 2008 the Catholic Trust John Paul 11 Crypt on Sheehy Avenue was completed. In 2009 Sheehy Avenue was upgraded. That year the Jewish Trust commenced restoration of No.1 Jewish cemetery areas, Reflections Cafe and flower shop opened near the Strathfield entry gate. In 2010 Lot 10 construction commenced and in 2011 crypts were completed in the Independent Trust area and the Jewish Trust office opened (POM, 15).

The Necropolis' management has also evolved. In 2012 the Rookwood General Cemeteries Reserve Trust (RGCRT) was formed, amalgamating the former Anglican, General, Independent, Jewish and Muslim Trusts into one management unit, with the Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (CMCT) managing the Catholic sections and new Catholic crematoria. Between them these two Trusts manage over 90 different religious and cultural groups that use the cemetery grounds (*ibid*, 2017, 28).

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.	X	12. Alterations and additions should respond to the existing pattern of development, with careful consideration of the setting (form, scale, bulk, setback and height).	X
2. Maintain this item's listing as part of the Heritage Conservation Area.		7. Unsympathetic alterations that detract from the cultural significance of the item should be removed.		13. New alterations and additions should respect the historic aesthetic/character of the item and area (e.g. paint scheme, materiality, style, landscape elements).	X
3. Consider delisting as an individual item from the LEP.		8. Maintain heritage landscape elements and schemes.	X	14. Future uses for this item should be compatible with its historical functions/associations.	X
4. Consider additional research to nominate this item for the State Heritage Register.		9. Maintain the existing setting of the heritage item, informed by the historic pattern of neighbouring development (form, scale, bulk, setback and height).	X		
5. The heritage curtilage for this item should be revised/reduced.		10. Maintain the historic aesthetic/character of the item and area (e.g. paint scheme, materiality, style, landscape elements).	X		
		11. The condition of this item is poor. Condition and maintenance should be monitored.			

Other recommendations and/or comments:

- Manage in accordance with the *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW).

Listings		
Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number
Heritage Act – State Heritage Register	Rookwood Cemetery and Necropolis	00718
Local Environmental Plan	No 1 Section buildings, relics and place	I00718
Heritage Study	No 1 Section buildings, relics and place	I00718
National Trust Australia Register	Listed, no item number.	S9531 S11492

Previous Studies			
Type	Author	Year	Title
Heritage Study	Extent Heritage Pty Ltd	2019	Cumberland LGA Heritage Study
Heritage Review	DPC	2007	Auburn Town Centre Heritage Review
Heritage Study	Neustein & Associates	1996	Auburn Heritage Study
Heritage Study	Terry Kass	1995	Draft Historical Context Report: Auburn Heritage Study

Other References
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GML Heritage. 2016. <i>Rookwood Conservation Management Plan</i>.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GML Heritage. 2016. <i>Rookwood – Archaeological Assessment</i>.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Archaeological Heritage and Management Solutions Pty Ltd. 2010. <i>Aboriginal Archaeological Potential Desktop Assessment</i>.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tallents, C and Rawling, J. 2015. <i>Rookwood Necropolis - Property Management Plan</i>. UBM Consultants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DEM (Aust.) Pty Ltd. 2014. <i>Rookwood Necropolis - Management Unit Policies</i>.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DEM (Aust.) Pty Ltd. 2010. <i>Rookwood Visual Significance Study</i>.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Design 5 Architects. 2003. <i>Quong Sin Tong monument No.1 General Cemetery, Rookwood Cemetery, Rookwood, Sydney, NSW 2141 : Conservation Management Plan</i>.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Devine, M. 2000. <i>The Necropolis at Rookwood - the garden of mourning</i>.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jacquet, F. Landscape Architect, Cemetery Specialist. 2015. <i>Rookwood Necropolis Trust - Landscape Masterplan</i>.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NSW Department of Primary Industries - Catchments & Lands. 2014. <i>Rookwood Necropolis - Plan of Management</i>.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ P & J Smith Ecological Consultants. 1999. <i>Flora & Fauna Survey of Rookwood Necropolis</i>.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lavelle, S. 1996. <i>Rookwood Necropolis: archaeological appraisal of sites of former buildings and abandoned and derelict buildings, ruins and structures</i>.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Society of Australian Genealogists. 1989. <i>The Sleeping city: the story of Rookwood Necropolis</i>.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Zammit, J. 2001. <i>Conserving the Roses of Rookwood</i>.

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



Overview of Old Presbyterian section showing Frazer Mausoleum in background.



Old Presbyterian section of Rookwood.



View to Mausoleum within Rookwood cemetery.



The Serpentine Canal.



View of significant landscapes within No. 1 Section.



Overview of Rookwood No. 1 Section showing built and natural landscape.



Rookwood No. 1 Section.



Rookwood No. 1 Section.




Plaque marking site of No 1 Mortuary Receiving Railway Station.



Plaque detailing restoration of No 1 Mortuary Receiving Railway Station.

Heritage Inventory Sheet

Item Name	Rookwood Cemetery or Necropolis		
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Site Image			
Address	East Street, Lidcombe NSW 2141		
Lot/Section/DP	Crown Land	-	-
	7	-	46563
	490	-	48318
	492	-	48411
	493-494	-	48448
	502, 505-506	-	1016919
	507-511	-	1029770
	472	-	45130
	2-6	-	1140277
	482-483	-	47759
	470	-	752036

	484-485	-	48201
	10	-	829656
	Part 1	-	1184042
Draft Cumberland LEP ID	A2 and I299		
Former LEP ID	A00718 (Auburn LEP)		
Heritage Conservation Area	Not included		
Date Updated	March 2020		
Significance Level	Part LOCAL / Part STATE (refer to SHR item 00718 and Cumberland LEP)		
Site Type	Level 1	Landscape / Archaeology – Terrestrial	
	Level 2	Cemeteries and Burial Sites	

Curtilage Map



Revised curtilage recommended – refer below

Statement of Significance

The following statement of significance has been adapted from GML Heritage (2016) *Rookwood - Conservation Management Plan*:

Rookwood Cemetery and Necropolis is a significant cultural landscape at the local and State level for its historic, associative, aesthetic, social and scientific heritage values. The cemetery is the largest cemetery in Australia and one of the largest in the world, covering an area of 280 hectares with approximately 1,000,000 epitaphs recorded on 600,000 graves and 200,000 crematoria niches. The site contains significant buildings and structures that date from all of Rookwood's history. They have historical significance for being representative of the growth and development of the Necropolis; aesthetic significance as landmarks or important examples of architecture in their own right, and are associated with cultural landscape areas that reflects the spiritual significance of the place to the different faith communities represented there.

The original 200-acre layout followed a gardenesque design, which was continued in the layout of individual sections is historically and socially significant as emblematic features of a nineteenth-century commemorative garden landscape. The remainder of the cemetery includes a great variety of commemorative landscapes and structures illustrating an evolution of visual languages of death and mourning. It is a major natural, archaeological and genealogical resource, containing unique records of early colonial Sydney such as monuments transplanted from pre-existing burial grounds. It contains innovative engineering, including a system of canals and ponds, and landforms and historical archaeology that clearly reveal the original railway link to the city and changing patterns of use, growth and occupation.

The area outside the SHR curtilage also contains cultural landscapes and memorials, which have been created and sustained by a host of different ethnic and religious communities, and is representative of the exceptional cultural diversity of Sydney. Rookwood is a tangible manifestation of the social history of Sydney, documenting the cultural and religious diversity of Australian communities since 1867 to present-day. It is one of Sydney's largest public open spaces and a major resource in terms of biodiversity.

Criteria Assessment	
a) Historic	Rookwood is one of the largest burial grounds in the world and contains the largest 19th century cemetery in Australia. The scale of design, gardenesque layout, high quality and diversity of structures, monuments and details of the oldest sections of Rookwood represent a rare surviving example of mid to late 19th century ideals for a major public cemetery.
b) Associative	Rookwood is the known burial place of almost a million citizens, including scores of noteworthy individuals of importance to the growth and development of the city and suburbs of Sydney and NSW. Rookwood has strong associations with the diverse religious, social and ethnic communities of Greater Sydney and the presence, growth and impact of these communities on the society and culture of NSW.
c) Aesthetic/Technical	Many of the monuments are of outstanding aesthetic quality. Rookwood is so large that vistas can be found within it that are completely contained within the cemetery landscape, providing an aesthetic retreat for the senses of the viewer.
d) Social	Rookwood is a diverse cultural landscape that has provided a setting for burial and memorial traditions of many different faiths and denominations. Rookwood is a tangible manifestation of the social history of Sydney, documenting the cultural and religious diversity of Australian communities since 1867. Prominent individuals and families are recorded in memorials containing significant biographical information. The progressive layering, development and diversity of styles of memorialisation document the conceptual move away from the nineteenth century perception of death and dying to the more rationalist view prevailing at the present time. As a social document and genealogical resource Rookwood Necropolis is unique in its scale and comprehensiveness.
e) Scientific	The monumental masonry and other types of craftsmanship, including cast and wrought ironwork are fine examples of craft processes and reflect social attitudes to death and fashions in funerary ornamentation since 1867. The Necropolis provides a habitat for two rare and endangered plant species. As an extensively used internment site, Rookwood Necropolis has exceptional research potential. The site's historical archaeological resource has the potential to answer a wide range of research questions that would provide insight into the treatment of life and death by a cross-section of cultural groups in the greater Sydney region from the mid-nineteenth century through to the present.
f) Rarity	The item does not meet this criterion.
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 'Rookwood Cemetery and Necropolis' dated 2015. As the description features a comprehensive physical description, no amendment has been made to the physical description.

Rookwood Necropolis is the largest cemetery in Australia, the Southern Hemisphere (Jacquet, 2015, 8) and one of the largest in the world, having an area of 288 hectares and approximately 1,000,000 epitaphs recorded on 600,000 graves and 200,000 crematoria niches. It is a multi-denominational cemetery dating from 1867 onwards, with landscaped layout with a focus of a circular hub or roadway.

It is a suburb in its own right, perched on ridges 15km west of the Sydney CBD (ibid, 2015, 8).

Early Design

The original 200 acre layout is located in the north-western corner of the site. The road pattern radiates from a central hub and two different approaches to design are exemplified. The Wesleyan, Presbyterian, Independent, General and Catholic Cemeteries uses a curvilinear layout whereas the Anglican Cemetery uses a grid layout. The original designers followed a garden design, which was continued in the layout of individual sections.

Located in the Church of England No.1 Cemetery is an extensive system of serpentine drains and ponds. The open drain is brick-lined and approximately 1800mm deep. Extensive shelters, urns, bridges, fountains, and gardens ornament the serpentine drains. The paths, gardens and carriageways throughout the older sections are formed between finely detailed brick gutters which remain largely intact.

The Crematorium

The grounds are dominated by the Spanish Mission style building which is laid out in cruciform pattern to accommodate three separate chapels. The earlier parts of the garden are enclosed by a rendered brick wall with tiles capping that gives it an attractive unified appearance as viewed from the rest of the cemetery. Within the wall, formal gardens are laid out in an axial pattern using brick and stone to negotiate changes of levels. Ponds mark the intersection of the main pathways. The major axes terminate in wrought iron gates which afford attractive views over the rest of the cemetery.

Plants and Design

*What remains on the site is an accretion of introduced and remnant native plants. Some of the introduced planting dates from the original layout of the cemetery. These include *Araucaria pines* (*A.cunninghamii* - hoop pine; *A.bidwillii* - Bunya pine; *A.columnaris* - Cook's pine; *A.heterophylla* - Norfolk Island pine), *Magnolia grandiflora* - evergreen magnolia / bull bay and *Pinus spp.* trees and *Phoenix* (*P.canariensis* - Canary Island date palms); *P.dactylifera* - date palm); *P.senegalensis* - clumping date) palms and *Washingtonia robusta* (Californian desert fan) palms. These have been planted in an ordered geometric grid which is transected by gardenesque curvilinear roads in turn bordered by avenue planting. Within this layout are pavilions, fountains and shelters that are important elements in the landscape.*

*The more recent cemetery areas in the south and eastern portions of the site revert to informal arrangements of native trees and shrubs. The cemetery provides a habitat for two rare and endangered plant (shrub) species, *Acacia pubescens* and *Dillwynia parvifolia*. It also contains an unusual ecotone where a pocket of Sydney sandstone associated vegetation occurs in the midst of predominantly Wianamatta shale associated vegetation. It also supports populations of 19 species of frogs and reptiles and a large number of bird species. (CALM) (National Trust 1988)*

Archaeological potential

The main features of archaeological significance include:

- monumental masonry;*
- former railway siding and site of Mortuary Station, sites of 3 other Stations;*
- cast iron section markers on Necropolis Circuit;*

-
- drainage channels, roads, bridges, paths;
 - other buildings, works and sites. (Schwager Brooks et al, 1996).

In addition to above, the follow areas are located outside of the SHR listed area. This text has been quoted from the GML Heritage (2016) *Rookwood - Conservation Management Plan*:

Moving east from Necropolis Drive towards the Strathfield Gates, Rookwood is made up of the following areas:

Northeastern Area

- *Anglican Unit 4, which continues the characteristics and patterns of Old Anglican No. 1. Its grid arrangement is punctuated by circular nodal features sometimes occupied by rest houses, these becoming smaller and less decorative moving further east. This area also contains long axial views towards Necropolis Drive, and towards the Anglican buildings and chapel along Hawthorne Avenue.*
- *Anglican Unit 5, which is predominantly open in character. It has 'slab and desk' burials dating from 1940–1970 and is also the site of:*
 - ◆ *Mortuary Station 4;*
 - ◆ *the 1940's US War Cemetery and former office;*
 - ◆ *the merchant navy walled burial area; and*
 - ◆ *the RGCRT monuments and maintenance staff shed, which is found at the base of this area.*
- *Anglican, Russian/Serbian Orthodox Unit 6, which is visible from Necropolis Drive adjacent to the entry gates and is characterised by mid-twentieth-century slab and desk burials in gridded formation.*
- *Jewish (Unit 14 A, B and C), which has a finer grain enclosed character necessitated by the surrounding circulation network and features a .variety of highly significant early and twentieth century Jewish burials and an intimate war memorial*

Southwestern Area

Moving south from Necropolis Circuit out of the SHR area and into the southwestern portion of the site there is a distinct transition of cemetery character as burials and layouts become notably twentieth century in style and form.

The main precincts of the southwestern portion of the site are:

- *Unit 10 Independent, which retains distinct characteristics in its various areas, including a gentle modified grid and original circular gardenesque layouts, but also marks a transitional area of Rookwood as it opens up in the southern area of the unit, leading into the dominant twentieth century character of the area beyond.*
 - *Unit 11 Independent and Catholic, which is a low-rise area dominated by burials dating from the 1940s–1960s in slab/desk form. It also contains a biodiversity pocket of protected vegetation at its centre up to where it borders with Independent Unit 10 (Cooks River Castlereagh Ironbark Forest).*
 - *Unit 13 and 13C Independent, which occupies the centre of Rookwood and contains a vast variety of monument typologies from many ethnicities including Russian Orthodox, Muslim, Ukrainian and Greek Orthodox originating from throughout the twentieth-century.*
 - *Unit 9 Catholic No 2, which is characterised by dense twentieth-century burial patterns laid out in a north to south and east to west grid pattern within the main road alignment. A significant Canary Island palm avenue is located along Freeman Street and the Southern Canal.*
 - *Unit 16 Lutheran, which adopts a rectilinear mid-twentieth century burial pattern within which intricate planting schemes create 'outdoor rooms', with a focus around a central tree-lined avenue leading to the World War I memorial.*
 - *Unit 17 Catholic and Lutheran, which is punctuated by the Catholic Crown of Thorns shrine built in late-twentieth century Ecclesiastical style. It includes a semicircular lawn burial area, the Sacred Heart Chapel, the Catholic Crematorium and the former site of Mortuary Station 3.*
 - *Unit 18 Catholic (A, B and C), which forms three subsections that dominate the southern end of Rookwood and contains predominantly post-1940 burials and memorials. These are laid out*
-

in a skewed grid form of northeast and southeast alignment, with rhomboid shapes between intersections that are legible when viewed from on high elsewhere in the site.

Southeastern Area

Moving back up north from the Catholic administrative hub and large southern Catholic sections, the southeastern portion of Rookwood splits again into a wide variety of denominational sections and burial styles, branching out from the central spine of Memorial Avenue and the notable activity hub made up by Rookwood Crematorium and Gardens. This portion of the site is made up of:

- *Unit 15 Crematorium and Gardens, which is characterised by the intricate landscape pattern of the 1930s-era walled and sunken gardens filled with ornamental shrubs, clipped bushes and flowering plant forms that surround the Interwar Mediterranean style crematorium building (the oldest of its kind in Australia).*
- *Unit 19 Catholic, which is directly south of Memorial Avenue and is one of the newest areas of burial at Rookwood being generally open and low-rise with uniform lawn burials and looping circulation routes delineated by recent planting schemes.*
- *Unit 20 Anglican (A, B and C), which is predominately modern in character and form, contains subsets of Chinese, Serbian and Muslim burials displaying a cross-section of recent monumental trends.*
- *Unit 21 Sydney War Cemetery and NSW Garden of Remembrance, which is defined by an entrance off Memorial Avenue via a sandstone-clad loggia with pointed arch entryways and uniform white marble headstones, set in a manicured lawn landscape.*
- *Unit 22 Anglican, one of the most recent burial areas defined by a cross-section of recent monumental trends in a gridded layout.*
- *Unit 23 Muslim, which is defined by medium densities of burials oriented to Mecca (northwest) and also contains the Muslim office.*
- *Unit 24, known as Lot 10, which is a narrow corridor of land at the southern extremity of Rookwood half of which is Vegetation Conservation Area whilst the other half has been allocated for new burials which have commenced at the time of writing.*

Appended to the listing sheet for this item are two maps prepared by GML Heritage (2016) for *Rookwood- Conservation Management Plan* showing significant cultural landscapes and heritage items, and an assessment of archaeological potential for the entirety of Rookwood Cemetery.

Condition	Good	Fair	Poor
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Alterations and Additions

The following alterations and additions have been quoted from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage State Heritage Register listing sheet for 'Rookwood Cemetery and Necropolis' (2015).

- 1862 - Government purchases 200 acres near Haslem's Creek station (later Lidcombe) (in north west of current Necropolis lands). Originally six denominations: Roman Catholic, Anglican, Wesleyan, Presbyterian, Jews and Independent (Schwager Brooks et al, 1996)
- 1866 - Entire cemetery enclosed, access roads built and denominational subsections cleared.
- 1864 - branch railway line to cemetery handed over - first record of funeral train 4/1864
- 1867 - Necropolis first dedicated (Schwager Brooks & Partners, 19..), Necropolis Act and burials commenced, railway line and siding provided, and opens. 7th April 1868 - All land dedicated as cemetery.
- 1869 Mortuary Station number one opens.
- 1874-1882 - Serpentine drain constructed in Church of England Section.
- 1878-9 Necropolis enlarged with purchase of additional 577 acres to accommodate demand for burial plots (Schwager Brooks et al, 1996)
- 1869 - two sandstone receiving houses (for funeral trains) built, one at Regent St., Redfern, one in the Necropolis
- 1879 - Government purchases 577 acres of adjoining land.
- 1890 - St Michael the Archangel Chapel built.
- 1897 - Railway branch line extended.

- 1901 - Railway branch line extended with (now) four cemetery stations.
- 1908 - Railway branch line extended
- 1923 - Crematorium opens.
- 1948 - Railway branch line closes - Lidcombe station services Mortuary trains
- 1952 - Railway line pulled up and stations sold.
- 1957 - No 1 Mortuary Railway Station removed (to become the North Ainslie Anglican Church, Canberra, ACT)
- 1980s - construction of Railway Street on the Necropolis and Cemetery's northern side alongside the main western railway.
- 1990s - new East Street main entrance constructed
- 2006 9 mature maritime pines (*Pinus pinaster*) removed, Independent Cemetery near Haslem's Drive, West. Also 28 matured (1989) she oak (*Casuarina* sp.) trees removed between southern wall of NSW Garden of Remembrance and AWG Boundary with Section 20 of the Anglican Cemetery (JCNTrustees, meeting 10-01, Executive Manager's Report, 5/7/06).

This area of the cemetery has high heritage integrity, as shown by the landscape and intactness of historic elements.

Integrity	High	Moderate	Low
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* *element detracts from the overall cultural significance of the place*

Historical Notes

Construction years	1862
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The following history is comprehensive and has therefore been quoted from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage State Heritage Register listing sheet for 'Rookwood Cemetery and Necropolis', dated 2015. This includes a brief summary of the history of the entire site.

Prior to European settlement, the traditional owners of the area now occupied by Rookwood were the Wangal people, a Darug language-speaking 'clan' group. The Wangal group original extended from Sydney Cove westerly to Parramatta (POM, 23). Aboriginal occupation of this region dates back well into the Pleistocene period (over 10,000 years ago) (Jacquet, 2015, 27).

The Haslem Creek Cemetery, as Rookwood was originally known, was the result of urban encroachment. By the 1840s, only half a century after the arrival of the First Fleet, Sydney's third cemetery at Devonshire Street (now the site of Central Station and railway yards) was facing the same fate as its predecessors: it was running out of space and suffering from urbanisation. Land values were increasing, and for a young city there were better uses for the space it occupied (POM, 23).

By the mid-1850s the need for a new cemetery was becoming urgent. In response the NSW Government embarked on a great Victorian enterprise - mirrored only 10 years earlier at Brookwood outside London - the search for a large-enough parcel of land to bury Sydney's dead in perpetuity (POM, 23). In 1860 the Government advertised that it wanted to purchase land along the railway for a cemetery. After a number of site inspections the Government had narrowed its choice to two possible sites, the Wentworth's Homebush Estate and the Hyde Park Estate.

On the 18th September 1862 the Government of New South Wales purchased 200 acres of the Hyde Park Estate owned by Mr Edward Cohen. During the same month Surveyor Heady sketched the site for the cemetery. By November 1862 Charles Moore, Director of the Botanical Gardens had begun supervising the fencing of the land. In 1863 the Lands Department invited the major denominations to nominate trustees for portions of the cemetery. The area was divided among the denominations according to their proportion in the population in the 1861 census. Roman Catholic, Church of England, Independent (Congregational), Wesleyan, Presbyterian and Jews were invited to name their trustees. Within the area allocated, preparation of the cemetery grounds was to be at the expense of each denomination. At this time the area was known as Haslem's Creek Necropolis.

In June 1864 Colonial Architect, James Barnet, submitted plans for the construction of a lodge for a manager and this was constructed by mid 1865. In December 1865 the Government surveyor, John Armstrong, surveyed the route for the railway into the cemetery and it was opened in April 1867. Rookwood was unusual internationally in having two specially designed 'necropolis' railway stations to cater for funerals and visitors - one at Sydney (Regent Street), which still survives and one in the cemetery, since dismantled and re-erected as a church in Ainslie, Canberra.

Management of the Haslem's Creek Necropolis was resolved by the passing of the Necropolis Act of 1867, which specified that the internal arrangements and ornamentation of each section of the cemetery were to be managed by the nominated trusts. Burials commenced in January 1867 under the authority of this Act.

David Jones, (b.1793) founder of the well-known department store, died in 1873 and was buried at Rookwood.

Between 1874 and 1882 the serpentine drain was constructed in the Church of England No.1 cemetery.

More ground was soon needed so in July 1879 the government purchased 577 acres of adjoining land to the south and east. The new trust areas were gazetted in February 1889. As a result of the cemetery expansion, the railway was extended in 1897 and again in 1908.

In 1881 bushfire caused extensive damage to property at Rookwood. (Daily Telegraph archive)

By 1890 one of the most impressive buildings was the St Michael the Archangel Chapel built by Sims and Devitt.

A major change to the Necropolis was the introduction of facilities for cremation. After ten years of lobbying against public opposition - not just to a crematorium in Rookwood but to the very idea of cremation itself (GML, 2017, 23).

The scale of loss in World War 1 had been attributed as contributing to a decline in the elaborate memorialisation and rituals that had been a feature of Victorian-era cemeteries like Rookwood, while the regimented rows of graves adopted by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission for the vast war cemeteries in Europe also promoted a simpler style of graves in civil ceremonies in Australia. In this atmosphere, the NSW Cremation Co., Ltd., formed in 1915, was able to convince the government that as part of amendments to the Necropolis Act in 1923, four acres were set aside at Rookwood for a crematorium. Designed by architect F. l'Anson Bloomfield, the crematorium was to include a Spanish mission or Mediterranean style building, with red-tiled roof and white-rendered walls. The chimney was disguised as a belltower, with chapel, and columbarium inside and an entrance loggia opening into a garden at the rear. It opened in 1925 and was the first crematorium in Australia. Bloomfield had detailed designs for the building and landscaped gardens, which were implemented as money became available. In 1926 the chapel, known as the East Chapel, was completed, devoid of overt religious symbolism so it would be appropriate for all denominations. In the first year of operation there were 122 cremations. By 1929 there were 500. A sale of shares in the company in 1928 and 1929 raised funds to enable completion of much of the design, with the columbarium, furnace room extended (including two new furnaces), and completion of the Garden of Remembrance. Such was its popularity a second chapel was added in 1934, with a special AIF Memorial columbarium unveiled in 1936. This was reserved for returned servicemen of WW2 who had died of wounds or illness since their return (ibid, 2017, 23).

In 1943 a section on the cemetery's western boundary was set aside to serve as a war cemetery, maintained by the Army Graves registration unit. At first graves were marked by simple wooden crosses, but after the war these were replaced with standard marble headstones, representing equality in death of all soldiers that the Imperial War Graves Commission, later the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, had set forth on their establishment in 1918. Rookwood's war cemetery was primarily the resting place for servicemen and women who died at nearby Concord Military hospital from wounds received in combat or from illness. In total 732 burials from WW2 were carried out here. Rookwood

was used as temporary cemetery for American service personnel, with 466 buried there during WW2 years. Their remains were removed to America from Rookwood in 1947 (*ibid*, 2017, 24).

The years after WW2 saw a change in burial practice in Australia away from the elaborate memorialisation of the Victorian and Edwardian eras, with large imposing monuments in the older sections of Rookwood. A new style of low, unpretentious monument became prevalent throughout newer sections. From the 1920s on, these graves, known as 'slab and desk' (with details of the deceased inscribed on a low headstone) allowed long lines of sight over an ordered, uncluttered landscape. From the 1950s, as well as this style of monuments, new lawn cemetery areas were being used at Rookwood, further distancing the new styles from those of the 19th century (*ibid*, 2017, 25).

With the advent of motor cars and buses the cemetery railway closed in 1948 and the line and station buildings were sold in 1952 (CALM 1993) (National Trust of Australia (NSW), 1988).

New migrant communities began to be buried together, much as denominational groups had from the beginning. Russian and Greek Orthodox, Croatians, Vietnamese and Muslim sections all appeared, reflecting ever-increasing diversity of Sydney's population in the second half of the 20th century. A growing Chinese community expanded the Chinese section away from the small area set aside in the 1870s with small, austere headstones, to larger monuments often in red or black granite and marble. Many of the recent graves from the 1980s have also appropriated the Italian custom of inserting a photograph of the deceased into the headstone, showing a divergence of cultural practices in the cemetery landscape. The three-barred crosses of the Orthodox faith and extensive garden plantings on Muslim graves also add distinctive character to these sections (*ibid*, 2017, 26).

In 1987 the entire cemetery was enclosed behind secure fencing for the first time, which led to a drop off in illegal dumping in the grounds. The same year a second Necropolis Amendment Act (1987) saw the formation of a Joint Committee, with representatives of the state government, the National Trust of Australia (NSW), the Heritage Council of NSW, the crematorium and members of the seven trusts to manage the upkeep, maintenance and heritage values of the cemetery. One of their first tasks was commissioning a plan of management for the Necropolis to assess its heritage significance and begin coordinated planning for protection and growth of the site. The growing awareness of the cemetery as a site of heritage value saw it classified by the National Trust of Australia (NSW) in 1981. Formal government recognition followed in 1989 with a Permanent Conservation Order gazetted under the NSW Heritage Act by the Heritage Council of NSW, upgraded in 1999 to State Heritage Register listing (*ibid*, 2017 27-28).

In 1993 the Friends of Rookwood was formed by concerned and interested community members keen to help restore and preserve the Necropolis. They set about raising funds to conserve important monuments, restoring landscape and garden areas and promoting the cemetery to a wider public. By instigating a series of walking tours through the cemetery, the Friends highlighted the site's importance via the social history of its inhabitants and raised the profile of Rookwood as a place to visit and contemplate, as had been the idea behind its earliest incarnation as a gardenesque public landscape (*ibid*, 2017, 28).

In 1993 the East Street new entry/gates were built and primary road implementation - Necropolis Drive and Cohen Avenue were upgraded with avenue tree plantings. That year the indigenous vegetation of the cemetery was surveyed, and identified as significant (POM, 15).

In 1996 a boundary planting program commenced and the road hierarchy was confirmed - Hawthorne Avenue (part) was upgraded including avenue tree plantings (POM, 15).

In 1998 the Catholic Trust Mausoleum opened. In 1999 the Independent Trust Mausoleum opened and the Flora & Fauna Survey of the cemetery was updated. From 1999-2001 the Serpentine Drain was restored in the No. 1 Anglican cemetery. An interpretive structure was installed at Mortuary Station No. 1, with grant funding. Also in 2001 Memorial Avenue (part) Primary Road was upgraded including avenue tree plantings. In 2002 cemetery identified Vegetation Conservation Areas were ground-truthed - and a Property Management Plan (for vegetation) was adopted. Bush regeneration works continued (POM, 15).

In 2006 the Quong Sin Tong monument was restored. In 2007 part of Necropolis Drive was upgraded including avenue tree plantings. Also that year the Catholic Trust Crematorium started operating. In 2008 the Catholic Trust John Paul 11 Crypt on Sheehy Avenue was completed. In 2009 Sheehy Avenue was upgraded. That year the Jewish Trust commenced restoration of No.1 Jewish cemetery areas, Reflections Cafe and flower shop opened near the Strathfield entry gate. In 2010 Lot 10 construction commenced and in 2011 crypts were completed in the Independent Trust area and the Jewish Trust office opened (POM, 15).

The Necropolis' management has also evolved. In 2012 the Rookwood General Cemeteries Reserve Trust (RGCRT) was formed, amalgamating the former Anglican, General, Independent, Jewish and Muslim Trusts into one management unit, with the Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (CMCT) managing the Catholic sections and new Catholic crematoria. Between them these two Trusts manage over 90 different religious and cultural groups that use the cemetery grounds (ibid, 2017, 28).

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.	X	12. Alterations and additions should respond to the existing pattern of development, with careful consideration of the setting (form, scale, bulk, setback and height).	X
2. Maintain this item's listing as part of the Heritage Conservation Area.		7. Unsympathetic alterations that detract from the cultural significance of the item should be removed.		13. New alterations and additions should respect the historic aesthetic/character of the item and area (e.g. paint scheme, materiality, style, landscape elements).	X
3. Consider delisting as an individual item from the LEP.		8. Maintain heritage landscape elements and schemes.	X	14. Future uses for this item should be compatible with its historical functions/ associations.	X
4. Consider additional research to nominate this item for the State Heritage Register.		9. Maintain the existing setting of the heritage item, informed by the historic pattern of neighbouring development (form, scale, bulk, setback and height).	X		
5. The heritage curtilage for this item should be revised/reduced.		10. Maintain the historic aesthetic/character of the item and area (e.g. paint scheme, materiality, style, landscape elements).	X		
		11. The condition of this item is poor. Condition and maintenance should be monitored.			

Other recommendations and/or comments:

- A comparison between the Auburn LEP heritage curtilage (A00718) and the curtilage identified in the GML Heritage “Rookwood Conservation Management Plan” shows that the Auburn LEP curtilage excludes a small section of the cemetery to the south. Refer below for the study area shown in the CMP. The heritage curtilage may need to be extended for the Cumberland LEP. As this includes new land not previously covered by an LEP, this will form part of the Stage 2 assessment of Cumberland Heritage Study.



(Source: GML Heritage, CMP 2016, 3).

Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number
Heritage Act – State Heritage Register	Rookwood Cemetery and Necropolis	Inclusive of 00718
Local Environmental Plan	Rookwood Cemetery and Necropolis	A2 and I300
Heritage Study	Rookwood Cemetery and Necropolis	A2 and I300
National Trust Australia Register	Listed, no name.	-

Previous Studies

Type	Author	Year	Title
Heritage Study	Extent Heritage Pty Ltd	2019	Cumberland Council Heritage Study
Heritage Review	DPC	2007	Auburn Town Centre Heritage Review
Heritage Study	Neustein & Associates	1996	Auburn Heritage Study
Heritage Study	Terry Kass	1995	Draft Historical Context Report: Auburn Heritage Study

Other References

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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



Overview of Section No. 1 of Rookwood Cemetery.



Overview of Old Presbyterian section showing Frazer Mausoleum in background.



View to significant plantings along main road through within Rookwood.



Overview of Rookwood Cemetery 20th Century burials.



Overview of 20th Century burials.



Overview of 20th Century burials.



View to 20th Century burials.



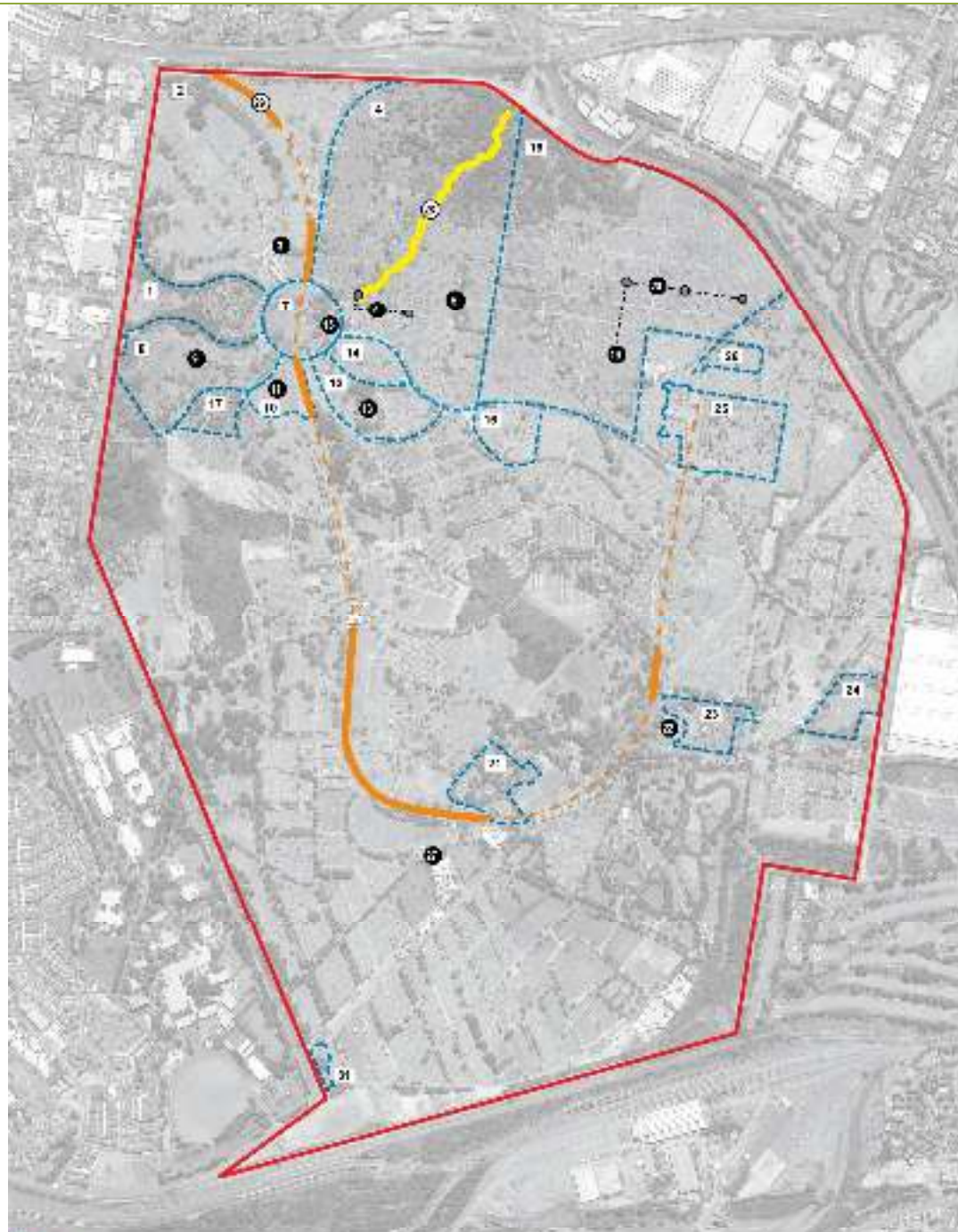
View to 20th Century mausoleums and burials.



View to Mausoleums.



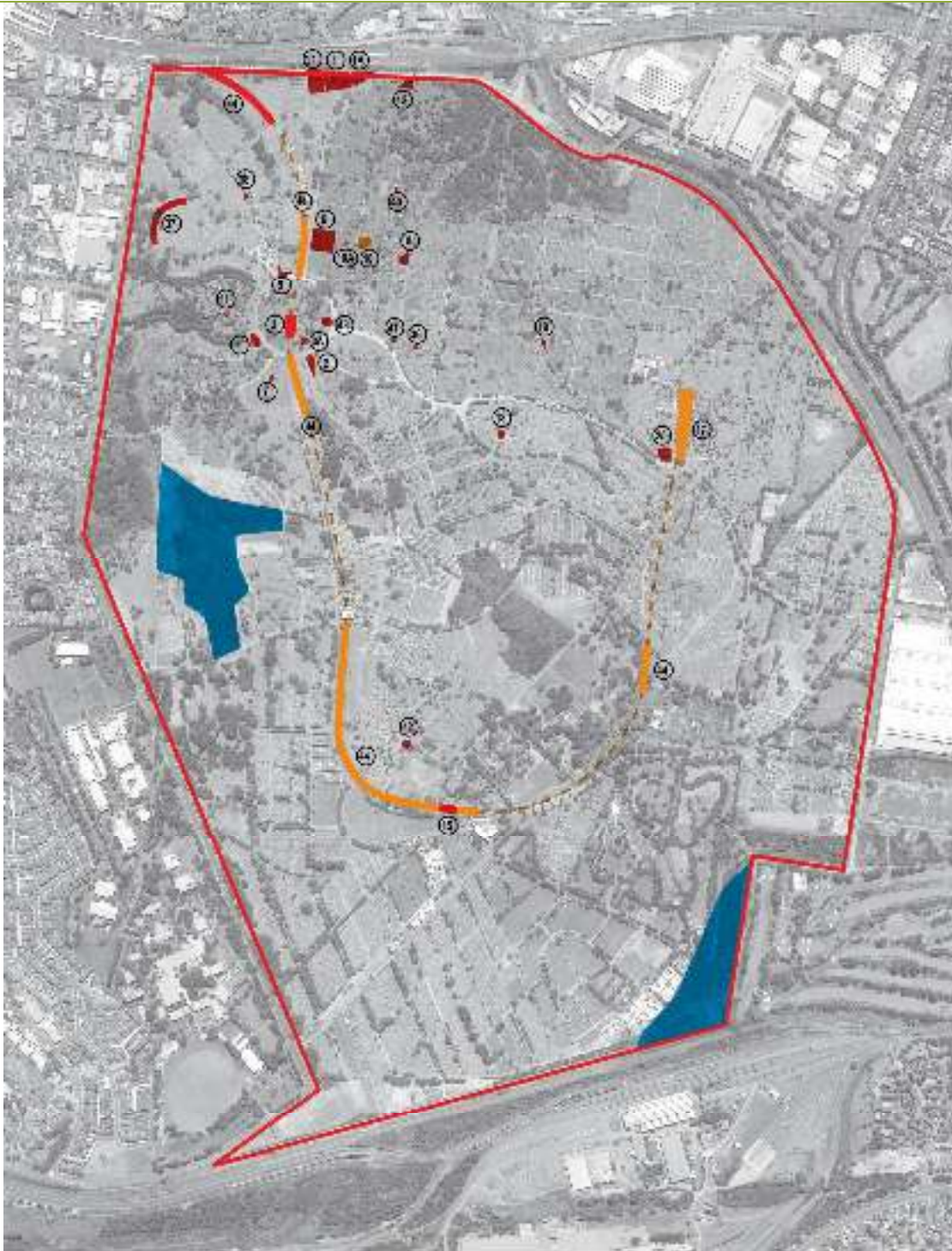
Overview of 20th Century burials.



Cultural Landscapes		Significant Buildings and Monuments	
01— Wesleyan Station	15—Jewish Cemetery (No.2)	03—St. Marks's Church	19—Oliver Dispensary Hut
02—Old St. Andrew's No. 1	17—Presbyterian (No. 2)	04—Eccott's House	20—Anglican Bk. St. John's
03—Old St. Andrew's No. 2	18—Anglican Cathedral	05—Immer Museum	21—Crematorium
06—Ladbroke Sheds	21—L'Enferan Res. Bldg.	11—Clung King Bldg.	22—Seaside Hotel (Crest)
07—Newport St. Circuit	23—Cronin/Kearney Res. Bldg. & Garage	13—Independent Office	31—Fountain Group
08—Old St. Andrew's Green	24—Sydney War Cemetery & Lodge	15—Martys Memorial	
09—Old St. Andrew's No. 1	25—W. J. Hall's Head		
10—Old St. Andrew's No. 2	26—J.S. W. Cemetery & Bldg.		
14—Jewish Old Ground			

Cultural Landscapes (Historic Infrastructure)	
25—Sydney Harbour Bridge	26—Sydney Harbour Tunnel
27—Sydney Harbour Bridge	28—Sydney Harbour Tunnel

Significant cultural landscapes, buildings and monuments (Source: GML Heritage, CMP, 2016, 64).



Key:

■	High Historical/Archaeological Potential
■	Moderate Historical/Archaeological Potential
■	Moderate Aboriginal Archaeological Potential

Assessment of Historical and Aboriginal Archaeological Potential (Source: GML Heritage, CMP 2016, 65).