

Blue Mountains Heritage Register Review

Heritage Inventory - 2016 Heritage Review

SHI Number
1170389
Study Number
BH120 and

Item Name: **Blackheath General Cemetery & fmr stockade gra**
Location: **322-331 Great Western Highway, Blackheath [Blue Mounta**

Address: 322-331 Great Western Highway **DUAP Region:** Sydney West
Suburb / Nearest Town: Blackheath 2785 **Historic region:** Sydney
Local Govt Area: Blue Mountains **Parish:**
State: NSW **County:**
Other/Former Names: Blackheath Stockade Cemetery Gravemarkers
Area/Group/Complex: Blackheath General Cemetery **Group ID:** 1170389
Aboriginal Area: (not given)

Curtilage/Boundary:

Item Type: Landscape **Group:** Cemeteries and Buria **Category:** Cemetery/Graveyard/
Owner: Local Government
Admin Codes: **Code 2:** **Code 3:**
Current Use: Cemetery
Former Uses: Cemetery

Assessed Significance: State

Endorsed Significance:

Statement of Significance: Blackheath General Cemetery is an important component of the heritage of the City of Blue Mountains as it directly records a number of individuals and families prominent in local and wider State history. It provides a direct historical record of the people of the local district for over a century and is still in use.

Blackheath Cemetery includes five significant surviving Colonial-era monuments dating to the 1840s. They are early and locally rare monuments which document the presence of an important roadside convict stockade in the local area.

Blackheath Cemetery demonstrates the use of a particularly unusual formal layout. It also contains the remnants of some earlier planting schemes and large areas of remnant indigenous vegetation in the areas originally reserved for cemetery sections but not yet developed or used.

Blackheath General Cemetery contains a representative range of many nineteenth and twentieth century monument types, executed by a range of monumental masons, including local and regional firms from Sydney. These monuments are important for their ability to demonstrate the craft skills and the attitudes of past generations.

Using the assessment framework provided by the NSW Heritage Criteria, the Blackheath Cemetery qualifies as an item of State Heritage Significance.

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Historical Notes or Provenance: Refer to detailed history relating to Blackheath Cemetery in 2003 BMCC Cemeteries CMP Vol3 (p92).

The land was dedicated for cemetery purposes in 1887, outside the village reserve gazetted in 1885. The earliest gravemarker dates from 1892 and the cemetery is still in use, containing the remains of over 1100 local people. Canon Boyce, the formidable Anglican cleric who owned Boscabel (PBH 126), is buried here.

Old Blackheath Military Cemetery (ref SHI 1170310)

The convict road-gang stationed under Captain John Bull at Eighteen Mile Hollow (now known as Bull's Camp) was moved to Blackheath in 1844. The complex, housing some 130 convicts and over 40 military personnel, occupied the site of the present Blackheath Public School on the Great Western Highway. Bull laid aside land for a cemetery some distance away, on the north side of what is now Railway Avenue. The stockade closed on 1 April 1849 and the convicts were transferred to Cockatoo Island in Sydney Harbour.

William Mylecharane, the prominent Lithgow surveyor, later in the nineteenth century described the Stockade Cemetery as 'an old military cemetery ... which contains only about a dozen graves and headstones'. By 1911 the gravemarkers and, where possible, the human remains had been transferred to their present location, about 80 metres outside the northern apex of Blackheath General Cemetery. No record of the transfer of the gravemarkers has been located.

There are seven markers on the present site, four of them commemorating convicts who died between 1845 and 1849. The other two legible markers date from 1883 (a miner, William Evans, killed at Katoomba Coal Mine) and 1884 (an infant called Oliver Biles). The reason for these two later burials in the Old Stockade Cemetery is not known.

No photograph or detailed plan of the Railway Avenue cemetery has been located and it is not possible to know whether the present rather curious lay-out is an attempt to recreate the original relationships of gravemarkers.

Themes:	National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
2. Peopling		Convict	The Western Road
7. Governing		Government and administra	Military Stockade
9. Phases of Life		Persons	General Cemetery

Designer:

Maker / Builder:

Year Started: 1887

Year Completed:

Circa: No

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Physical Description: Refer to detailed Description relating to Blackheath Cemetery in 2003 BMCC Cemeteries CMP Vol3 (p94-105).

The cemetery is on flat cleared land just north of the Great Western Highway. It occupies 4.6 hectares (11 acres 36 perches), with a bush background to west, north and east. On the south there is a screen of trees, cypress and liquid amber, separating the cemetery from the highway.

The central driveway leads to a circular drive connecting the various denominational sections. There is a modern shelter hut at the junction.

The number of burials exceeds 1100 and the cemetery is still in use.

Old Blackheath Military Cemetery (ref SHI 1170310)

The seven re-erected stone gravemarkers lie beside a bush-track leading from the north-west section of Blackheath General Cemetery, out beyond the boundary fence about 80 metres. There are three bush-tracks in the vicinity: the relevant one is the middle of these, the second track just north of the Baptist section. There is a small sign-post within the cemetery.

Six of the gravemarkers lie on the east side of the track and the seventh, the only table monument, closes off the north end of the track. From south to north the markers are:

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Six of the gravemarkers lie on the east side of the track and the seventh, the only table monument, closes off the north end of the track. From south to north the markers are:

1. a fallen stone with no legible inscription
2. separated from but adjacent to 3, the simple stone for Oliver Biles, who died on 19 November 1884 aged 15 months
3. immediately adjacent to 2, the first of three very similar stones for convicts who died at the stockade: Thomas Head died aged 25 on 19 November 1846
4. the second convict grave, immediately adjacent to 3, is that of John Carroll, who died aged 51 on 6 March 1845
5. the third convict grave, immediately adjacent to 4, is that of Samuel Jones, who died aged 27 on 16 June 1845
6. some distance to the north with a footstone beside the track, is the gravemarker of William Evans, who met his death

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by accident at the Katoomba Coal Mine, December 12 1883,
aged 36 years

7. the table monument to the north-west of 6 is no longer legible,
but is probably the one read by Isobel Bowden as 'Sacred to
the memory of Robert ... 1849', the year in which the stockade
closed, on 1 April.

All markers are in local sandstone. There are no masons' names, but it seems certain that
markers 3,4, and 5, the three convict markers, were carved by the same mason in 1845-6.

Physical Condition: Good

Modification Dates: Some headstones and remains(?) were relocated in 1904 to the then new Blackheath
General Cemetery from the original Blackheath Stockade Cemetery then in Railway Avenue
in Blackheath. Ref BMCC Blackheath Cemeteries CMP dd April 2003 and Newspaper
Article 8th July 1904 - Blackheath.

Recommended Management: Refer to detailed Conservation Policies included in BMCC Cemeteries CMP dd April 2003
(p98-105)

Management: Statutory Instrument Nominate for State Heritage Register (SHR)
Recommended Management Carry out interpretation, promotion and/or education

Further Comments: Research and site inspection required to clarify the Graves in the Old Military Cemetery.
The original Blackheath Stockade appears to have include at least 25 grave sites. The
exact number is uncertain. In 1904 25 grave sites were excavated and 7 headstones
relocated to the Blackheath General Cemetery. The original listings for the Old Blackheath
Military Cemetery referred to 7 re-erected headstones. The 2003 CMP for the Blackheath
General Cemetery referred to 5 significant surviving Colonial-era monuments.

Refer also to detailed CMP and Policy Recommendations relating to Blackheath Cemetery
in 2003 BMCC Cemeteries CMP Vol3 (p94-105).

Criteria a) Blackheath Cemetery provides documentary evidence about the origins andLocal nature of
the local community over the past 100 years. The monuments are a direct record of the local
area's population, including its origins and composition. The cemetery is the burial place of
many historically significant local identities and business people, and several rriore widely
known individuals. Some monuments include biographical details and the adjacent
groupings of monuments often reflect family connections, for example the burial of Eleanor
Dark in her father's grave plot (Local).

The cemetery reserve is a significant feature of most substantial villages. Blackheath is a
representative example.

Criteria b) Blackheath Cemetery contains the graves and monuments of individuals from all classes
and social levels, providing a complete cross-section of the society that has existed in the
local area over the past 100 years. The cemetery contains some substantial monuments
indicative of a prosperous local community. The cemetery monuments are representative of

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the beliefs
and tastes of the local community (Local).

Blackheath Cemetery also includes several significant monuments relocated from the former stockade cemetery. These monuments record several individuals associated with the stockade occupation (State).

- Criteria c)** The monuments and surrounds in the cemetery display the work of a range of local and non-local firms. The majority are of typical and standard monumental designs. A few display considerable creative and technical accomplishment, indicative of a high degree of skill in their execution. They include the surviving 1840s headstones relocated from the stockade cemetery, and the unusual large cement rendered 'broken column' monument (Local).

The surviving landscape of the cemetery demonstrates the use of a particularly unusual formal layout and the remnants of some earlier planting schemes in combination with the textural variety provided by individual grave plantings and monumental elements (Local).

- Criteria d)** The detailed transcripts compiled by the Blue Mountains Family History Group indicate that the cemetery has some contemporary community esteem and that there is interest in the preservation of the information recorded by the monuments in the cemetery (Local).

Some monuments, such as that recently erected for Dave Magoffin in 2001, indicate a special association with particular 'communities of interest' in his case, rowing and the Brisbane Boys College. Other individuals such as the clergyman F B Boyce and the novelist Eleanor Dark are also widely known and respected beyond the local area (State).

All cemeteries, particularly those still in operation, have considerable social significance for the community and Blackheath is no exception.

- Criteria e)** Completion of further research, including more detailed family history may yield new insights into local relationships and historic and social connections. Additional research would provide more information about the individuals commemorated on the stockade cemetery headstones (Local).

- Criteria f)** Blackheath Cemetery also includes five surviving significant Colonial-era monuments which record individuals who died during the 1840s. These headstones are rare and valuable in a local context, since they document the burials of individuals prior to Civil Registration. They are also significant physical reminders of the presence of the Blackheath Stockade, established in the area from 1844 to 1849. Blackheath was the last roadside stockade in NSW (State).

Blackheath Cemetery includes monuments to people of significance in the State history of the local area, and some of significance to the wider community at a State level. Some headstones in the cemetery are of relatively high quality in a local context (State).

- Criteria g)** Blackheath Cemetery contains representative examples of the range of local monumental masonry available over the past 100 years. The monuments chosen for the cemetery

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reflect the aspirations and economic circumstances of the local community. (Local)

Integrity / Intactness: High

References:	Author	Title	Year
	Burke, C., and Lehany, M.	National Trust Cemetery Index Card	1980
	Hubert Architects in Association with Lavelle, Jack, Morris	Blue Mountains Cemeteries CMP Volumes 1-4	2003

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Jack, R. I. for University of Sydney	Blue Mountains Heritage Register Review	BH120 and BH028	1999
	Blue Mountains City Council	LEP 2015 Heritage Review	BH120	2016

Parcels:	Parcel Code	LotNumber	Section	Plan Code	Plan Number
	LOT	7316		DP	1144038

Latitude:

Longitude:

Location validity:

Spatial Accuracy:

Map Name:

Map Scale:

AMG Zone:

Easting:

Northing:

Listings:	Name:	Title:	Number:	Date:
	Local Environmental Plan	LEP2015	BH120	21/12/2015
	Heritage study		BH120	

Local Instrument: LEP 2015

Local Identifier: BH120

Draft Instrument:

Technical Comment: Refer to detailed CMP and Policy Recommendations relating to Blackheath Cemetery in 2003 BMCC Cemeteries CMP Vol3 (p94-105).

Old Blackheath Military Cemetery listing (BH028) absorbed into Blackheath General Cemetery listing (BH120) as part of 2016 Heritage Review.

Update Notes: (1) 2016 Review - Item Name updated, Item types updated, Aboriginal Area and Heritage added, Statement of Significance rewritten, Historical Notes merged BH028, Themes added, Lot/DP added, Physical description merged BH028, Management Recommendations added, Further Comments added, Assesment Criteria rewritten, References added, 2003 CMP Policies referenced, Aboriginal statement added (CA/2016 Heritage Review)

Aboriginal Heritage: The Blue Mountains Local Government Area is within the Country of the Darug and Gundungurra peoples and Blue Mountains City Council respects their cultural heritage and deep ongoing connection to this Country.

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This inventory sheet documents the European occupation of the site only, and the heritage significance of the place in this context (assessed against the heritage criteria set by the NSW Heritage Council).

This does not therefore, represent a complete history of the place, or represent the perspectives of Darug and Gundungurra Traditional Owners in relation to the colonial impacts on this site. Consultation with Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal stakeholders is required, before Aboriginal Cultural Heritage that may be associated with this place, can be recorded.

Data Entry:

Date First Entered: 10/04/2000

Date Updated: 11/11/2016

Status: Partial

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Image:



Caption: Blackheath Stockade Cemetery Gravemarkers

Copyright:

Image by:

Image Date: 31/05/2001

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 1170389b04.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File:

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Location: **322-331 Great Western Highway, Blackheath [Blue Mounta**

Image:



Caption: Blackheath Stockade Cemetery Gravemarkers

Copyright:

Image by:

Image Date: 17/10/2000

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 1170389b05.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File:

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Caption: Blackheath Stockade Cemetery Gravemarkers

Copyright:

Image by:

Image Date: 10/05/2001

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 1170389b06.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

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Image: BH2.3 Design and Layout

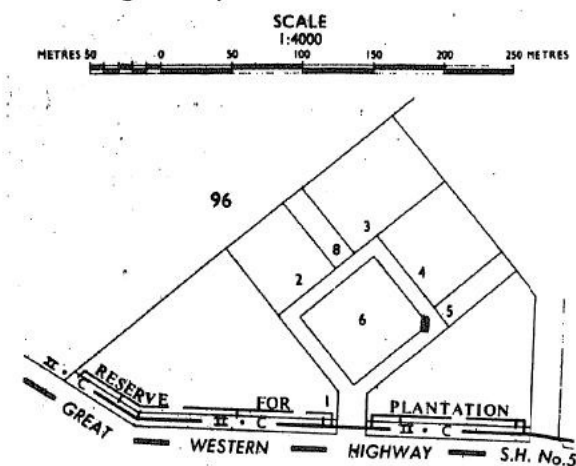


Figure BH 1

Blackheath Cemetery

Plan showing general layout

1. Church of England
2. Independent Section
3. General Section
4. Methodist Section
5. Jewish Section
6. Presbyterian Section

The section on the southeast corner is the Catholic section

Parish Map, Parish of Blackheath, County of Cook, Sheet 2

Source: Department of Lands

Caption: Blackheath Cemetery General Layout. The Old Blackheath Military Cemetery and Headstones are located in Section 3 General Section

Copyright: LPI

Image by: Department of Lands

Image Date: 25/10/2016

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 1170389b02.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File:

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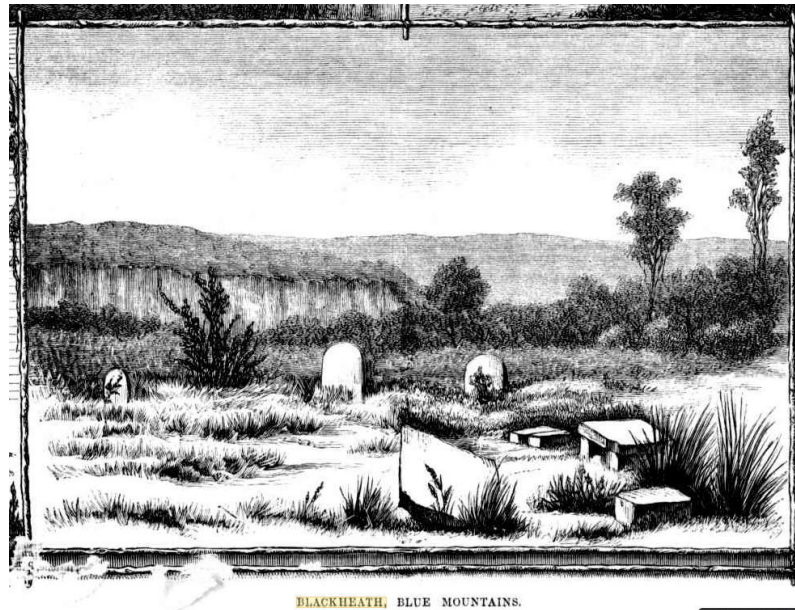
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Image:



Caption: Extract image from The Sydney Mail and NSW Advertiser Sat 9th October 1880 (Trove p668 Blackheath) showing the original Old Blackheath Military Cemetery at the Blackheath Stockade. The site is at Railway Avenue, Blackheath.

Copyright: Trove

Image by: Trove

Image Date: 25/10/2016

Image Number:

Image Path:

Image File: 1170389b03.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File:

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Location: **322-331 Great Western Highway, Blackheath [Blue Mounta**

Image:



Caption: Blackheath General Cemetery

Copyright:

Image by:

Image Date: 31/10/2006

Image Number: 1170389b01

Image Path:

Image File: 1170389b01.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: