

Blue Mountains Heritage Register Review

Heritage Inventory - 2016 Heritage Review

SHI Number

1170133

Study Number

LA015

Item Name: **Leuralla, garage, outbuilding, amphitheatre, garde**

Location: **43-69 Balmoral Road, Leura [Blue Mountains]**

Address: 43-69 Balmoral Road

DUAP Region: Sydney West

Suburb / Nearest Town: Leura 2780

Historic region: Sydney

Local Govt Area: Blue Mountains

Parish:

State: NSW

County:

Address: Olympian Parade, Gordon Road

DUAP Region: Sydney West

Suburb / Nearest Town: Leura 2780

Historic region: Sydney

Local Govt Area: Blue Mountains

Parish:

State: NSW

County:

Other/Former Names:

Area/Group/Complex:

Group ID:

Aboriginal Area:

Curtilage/Boundary:

Item Type:

Group:

Category:

Owner: Private - Individual

Admin Codes:

Code 2:

Code 3:

Current Use: Museum

Former Uses: Residence

Assessed Significance: **Local**

Endorsed Significance:

Statement of Significance:

Leuralla is a fine example of an early twentieth-century permanent residence for a very wealthy family. Its later connections with the Evatt family, well-known in politics and law, have local significance. Leuralla is an imposing two storey house set in extensive grounds. It is a fine example of a large Federation free classical style residence with unusually formal features for the Blue Mountains, such as the entry portico and stair, strict symmetry, and bracketed cornice. As the centre of musical activity in Katoomba-Leura between the wars, Leuralla had high social significance locally. Its publicly accessible museums of toys, railways and Evatts give it today a moderate social significance at the local level. The site includes an unusually stylistic garage with Anglo-Dutch influences. The grounds of Leuralla are a good example of a formal garden laid out by the original owner, Harry Andreas, and later improved by the important landscape designer, Paul Sorensen. The sculpture gardens on the south side of Olympian Parade provide a popular public space as a complement to the gardens. The amphitheatre on edge of the escarpment is a fine early example in the mountains of using a simple restrained design to take advantage of a spectacular setting.

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Historical Notes or Provenance: The present Leuralla is the second house on the site. The first Leuralla was built in 1903-4 for the well-to-do Harry and Alice Andreas and their young family. This house was burnt down by a bushfire at the end of 1909, but over the next few years was rebuilt by Andreas in its present form. The new design owed something, according to Clive Evatt junior, the present owner, to the influence of Frank Lloyd Wright, the American architect.

Already before the 1909 fire, Andreas had established a major exotic garden, much of which was saved in 1909 and redeveloped around the new house, occupying nearly 5 hectares (12 acres). The amphitheatre overlooking the Jamieson Valley was also constructed before 1909 by Andreas, with the dam and pumping station below to supply the garden with plentiful water.

Harry and Alice Andreas continued to live in the second Leuralla until after World War II. The Evatt connection began only in 1928 when Clive Evatt married an Andreas daughter, Marjorie. H.V. Evatt, the politician and public figure, Clive's brother, had no particular connection with the house and had a home of his own in Leura Mall. Clive Evatt junior, the son of Clive and Marjorie and grandson of Harry and Alice Andreas, now owns the property and is responsible for the exhibition of H.V. Evatt memorabilia and for the New South Wales Toy and Railway Museum displayed in various buildings.

The music room, with its grand piano, continues to be used. It has special significance as the home of the Katoomba Music Society in the 1930s, when many visiting musicians of international reputation performed there.

Themes:	National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
	4. Settlement	Accommodation (Housing)	(none)
	8. Culture	Creative endeavour (Cultur	(none)

Designer:

Maker / Builder:

Year Started: 1910 **Year Completed:** 1914 **Circa:** Yes

Physical Description: Leuralla comprises a two storey house in large formally landscaped grounds which extend across Olympian Parade to the escarpment overlooking the Jamieson Valley. The main house is on the north side of Olympian Parade and faces east to Balmoral Road. A large garage is located in the grounds to the north of the house and a sandstone outbuilding is in the grounds west of the house. The grounds on the south side of Olympian Parade are less formally landscaped and are used as a sculpture garden. An amphitheatre was built in the southern grounds with views over the Jamieson Valley.

House

A hipped roof symmetrical two storey house facing east to Balmoral Road with short projecting hipped wings on the south and north sides. The house is approached by a wide

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sandstone stair which has flights from the north and south at the garden level meeting at a central landing and continuing on to a single storey portico. The portico has a first floor balcony with a rendered balustrade. Below the lower flights of the stair is a recessed undercroft on Doric columns leading to the sub-floor space. Within the north and south wings is a ground floor verandah.

The front door is multipaned with sidelights and either side of the entry portico are hipped roof bay windows. Other windows are multipane double hung windows, with leadlights windows to the west (rear). Large picture windows open from the south hipped roof wing. The roof is slate with terracotta ridging and a wide bracketed cornice. The 3 chimneys are rendered.

The house has rendered walls and a rockfaced sandstone base forming a terrace either side of the entry portico.

Garage

A Dutch gabled garage on an east-west axis with a glazed tiled roof. Walls are shingled with a weatherboard spandrel. The sides of the Dutch gable are shingled. The east Dutch gable is bracketed.

Three sliding framed and sheeted doors are on the east side of the garage and a cat head beam and a dovecote are in the gable over. A 2 over 2 pane double hung window is centred over the sliding doors.

Windows are multipane casement on the sides.

The rear (west) elevation has a framed and sheeted door and 2 no. casement windows.

Sandstone Outbuilding

A single storey gabled roof building reached by the driveway from Olympian Parade (south) with a slate roof and terracotta ridging. The gable is timber shingled and the walls are random coursed rock faced sandstone. At the north end is a corrugated steel skillion roofed wing, open on the east side.

Amphitheatre

The amphitheatre has curved seating cut into the slope facing south to the Jamieson Valley. The seating is paved with slate with sandstone edging. The stage is paved in slate and has a simple steel balustrade.

The southern grounds have a pointed picket fence and a pair of framed gates with diagonal boarding to the lower panels and turned posts to the top panels.

The fence to the house is slatted with a simple fretwork pattern in the slats. Fenceposts are square with chamfered corners at the tops and ball caps.

The driveway gates from the corner of Balmoral Road and Gordon Road have square gateposts with ball caps. The gates are framed braced and dowelled with curved top rails.

The gardens to the house block are laid out with formal pathways and mature plantings.

The southern section of the site (south of Olympian Parade) has a cleared lawn with an informal sculpture garden featuring large scale cartoon sculptures in the main clearing. The remainder of the south section has native plantings.

Physical Condition: Good

Modification Dates: Ancillary buildings associated with the railway museum are located northwest of the main house

Recommended Management: Lapsed item under LEP 1991, now zoned LEP 2005 and included in LEP 2005 Heritage Schedule.

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Management:

Further Comments:

Criteria a) Leuralla is a fine example of an early twentieth-century permanent residence for a very wealthy family. Its later connections with the Evatt family, well-known in politics and law, have local significance.

Criteria b)

Criteria c) Leuralla is an imposing two storey house set in extensive grounds. It is a fine example of a large Federation free classical style residence with unusually formal features for the Blue Mountains, such as the entry portico and stair, strict symmetry, and bracketed cornice. The site includes an unusually stylistic garage with Anglo-Dutch influences. The grounds of Leuralla are a good example of a formal garden laid out by the original owner, Harry Andreas, and later improved by the important landscape designer, Paul Sorensen. The sculpture gardens on the south side of Olympian Parade provide a popular public space as a complement to the gardens. The amphitheatre on edge of the escarpment is a fine early example in the mountains of using a simple restrained design to take advantage of a spectacular setting.

Criteria d) As the centre of musical activity in Katoomba-Leura between the wars, Leuralla had high social significance locally. Its publicly accessible museums of toys, railways and Evatts give it today a moderate social significance at the local level.

Criteria e)

Criteria f)

Criteria g)

Integrity / Intactness: High

References:	Author	Title	Year	
	Armitage	The Katoomba-Leura Story		
	Evatt, Clive, Jr.	Letter to BMCC, 31 May 1991	1991	
Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Blue Mountains City Council	Technical Audit BM Heritage Register	LA015	2008
	Tropman and Tropman	Heritage Study Review, Blue Mountains	LA015	1992
	Croft & Associates Pty Ltd & Meredith Walker	Blue Mountains Heritage Study	LA015	1983
	Blue Mountains City Council	LEP 2015 Heritage Review		2016
	Heritage Advisor	Technical Review		2010

Parcels:

Latitude:

Longitude:

Location validity:

Spatial Accuracy:

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Map Name:

Map Scale:

AMG Zone:

Easting:

Northing:

Listings:

Name:

Title:

Number:

Date:

Local Environmental Plan

LEP2005

LA015

7/10/2005

Local Environmental Plan - Lapsed

LEP1991

LA015

27/12/1991

Heritage study

LA015

Local Instrument: LEP 2005 (Note: Deferred from LEP 2015 as in proposed R6 zone)

Local Identifier: LA015

Draft Instrument: Proposed deleted item in LEP 1991 Heritage Schedule- Lapsed under LEP 1991, now in LEP 2005 Schedule.

Technical Comment:

Update Notes: (i) Heritage Review 2016 - address corrected, interiors added, Aboriginal statement added (SR/Oct2016)

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.
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: 02/12/1999

Date Updated: 28/10/2016

Status: Partial

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Image:



Caption: Leuralla, Garage, Outbuilding, Amphitheatre and Gardens

Copyright:

Image by:

Image Date: 19/09/2000

Image Number: 1170133b01

Image Path:

Image File: 1170133b01.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File:

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Image:



Caption: Leuralla, Garage, Outbuilding, Amphitheatre and Gardens

Copyright:

Image by:

Image Date: 19/09/2000

Image Number: 1170133b02

Image Path:

Image File: 1170133b02.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File:

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Image:



Caption: Leuralla, Garage, Outbuilding, Amphitheatre and Gardens

Copyright:

Image by:

Image Date: 19/09/2000

Image Number: 1170133b03

Image Path:

Image File: 1170133b03.jpg

Thumb Nail Path:

Thumb Nail File: