



Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

INCLUSION OF A PLACE IN THE NATIONAL HERITAGE LIST

I, Ian Gordon Campbell, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, having considered, in relation to the place listed in the Schedule of this instrument -

- (a) the Australian Heritage Council's assessment whether the place meets any of the National Heritage criteria; and
- (b) the comments given to the Council under section 324G of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*; and

being satisfied that the place specified in the Schedule has the National Heritage value or values specified in the Schedule include, pursuant to section 324J of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, the place listed in the Schedule in the National Heritage List.

Dated 28th day of July 2005

Ian Gordon Campbell
Minister for the Environment
and Heritage

SCHEDULE

STATE

Local Government Area

Name:

Location

Criteria / Values

NEW SOUTH WALES**Sydney City****First Government House Site:**

Located around the intersection of Bridge and Phillip Streets, Sydney, being an area bounded on the west by paving defining the western edge of First Government House Place (and its alignment) and by the western wall of the foyer of the Museum of Sydney, by the southern wall of the foyer of the Museum of Sydney (excluding the staircase), by the eastern wall of the foyer of the Museum of Sydney in a line running north-west until it meets the Museum of Sydney loggia, then easterly via the loggia and its alignment to its intersection with the eastern alignment of Phillip Street (including footpath), then northerly via that alignment to its intersection with the northern alignment of Bridge Street (including footpath), then westerly via that alignment to its intersection with the alignment of the paving defining the western edge of First Government House Place.

Criterion**Values**

(a) the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history.

First Government House, built in 1788 and demolished in 1845 leaving archaeological remains, has left an archaeological site which is directly associated with the founding of British settlement and therefore the beginning of post-1788 Australia. Erected only a few months after the arrival of the British and subsequently extended, the place reaches back to a momentous event and an extremely noteworthy period in Australia's history. It is the most tangible link with the foundation of European settlement in Australia. First Government House is associated with the leadership and administration of the colony of New South Wales during the first half century of settlement, with the administration of the convict system in New South Wales and with British power and authority at that time. It was the home and offices of the Governors of New South Wales from 1788-1845 and the official, social and administrative centre of the colony from 1788-1845. As such, it is associated with numerous political, cultural and social events in Australia's development. It is a link with the major decisions of the period, major events such as Governor Bligh's arrest during the Rum Rebellion, and the beginnings of policy towards Aboriginal people and the first efforts to open communication between settlers and Indigenes. The colony's first Legislative Council met at the house in 1824. First Government House is

(a) continued.

associated with the development of Sydney – Australia's first city – and early planning of this fledgling settlement. The first *Government Orders* (1795) and Australia's first newspaper (1803) were printed at the site. The place represented a social centre and major point of interest in the early colony; consequently, it is the centrepiece of numerous early works of art and played a role in the visual recording of early Sydney.

The symbolism of the First Government House site is the defining event of 1788: contact on contested ground, the turning point for issues such as colonization, invasion and the nature of authority (Curthoys, 1996:221). First Government House was also a structure which symbolises the seat of power for the new colony for Indigenous people and settlers.

Associated with First Government House and its site are some of the major policy decisions which were made relating to Aborigines and their flow on effect.

Although there is no direct connection between Pemulway and the First Government House, Pemulway's behavior caused consternation in the colony. A response to this was where Governor King decided to act forcefully and set a precedent for direct action by settlers in opposing Aboriginal resistance (Mulvaney, 1985:15).

Also of particular note is the decision by Governor Gipps to take direct action against Europeans involved in the Myall creek massacre of 1838 (Mulvaney, 1985:15).

The National Heritage List values are expressed through the fabric associated with the first Government House and its associated outbuildings, including footings, walls, floors, drains, cuttings, pavings, trenches, privies, garden soil, impressions of removed materials and artefacts.

(b) the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia's natural or cultural history.

The First Government House Site contains the earliest building remains in mainland Australia, dating from the very first year of British settlement, 1788. It is the only known mainland site dating from the first year of settlement, and was the first major European structure erected on the mainland. The site contains the earliest known mainland evidence of the manufacture of European building materials. The building was the first example of architectural style in mainland Australia, and was the first two-storey building erected there. Works associated with the printing office and metal printing type provide rare information about the first printing in Australia. The remains provide evidence of Australia's major phases of history, architecture, building technology and administration of the colony of New South Wales.

- (b) continued. The National Heritage List values are expressed through the fabric associated with the first Government House and its associated outbuildings, including footings, walls, floors, drains, cuttings, pavings, trenches, privies, garden soil, impressions of removed materials and artefacts.
- (c) the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Australia's natural or cultural history. The First Government House Site has proven research significance having provided rare evidence of Australia's major phases of history, architectural and building technology, and administration of the colony of New South Wales. The National Heritage List values are expressed through the in situ fabric, archaeological records and artefact collections uncovered by archaeological investigation. These have the potential to reveal further information about the place and its role in Australian history.
- The First Government House Site has the potential to yield further historical and archaeological information about the earliest years of British settlement in Australia in all unexcavated areas of the First Government House Site. Sub surface remains, artefacts and other fabric can reveal much about early Australian building and manufacturing methods and materials and the culture of this early period of European settlement in Australia . The unexcavated areas of the Site possess National Heritage values that will contribute to an understanding of the place and its role in Australia's cultural history with the potential to yield, through archaeological investigation, further information about footings, drains, pavings, floors, artefacts and other fabric.
- (g) the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. The First Government House Site symbolises to the Australian people the most tangible link to our past and the foundation of white settlement in this country. It provides a publicly accessible cultural focus and landmark for many Australians of British descent, for First Fleet descendants and for Aboriginal people.
- The National Heritage List values are expressed through all the fabric discovered by archaeological investigation, including footings, walls, floors, drains, cuttings, pavings, trenches, privies, garden soil, impressions of removed materials and artefacts, and also include the fact that the place is publicly accessible.

(h) the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Australia's natural or cultural history.

The First Government House Site is associated many historical figures, both European and Aboriginal. It is associated with Arthur Phillip, the first governor of the first permanent European settlement in Australia and thus the man who led the first British colony in Australia in its embryonic years. The next eight Governors (Hunter, King, Bligh, Macquarie, Brisbane, Darling, Bourke and Gipps) all lived in the building. The first interaction between the Governor, First Government House, and the colony with Aboriginal people was at an individual level rather than at a collective level. The three men who were captured and formed these initial relationships were Arabanoo, Colbee and Bennelong. Pemulway, Nanbaree and Booron are also noteworthy regarding their impacts and interactions with the new settlement. Prominent colonists and overseas visitors were also associated with the place.

The National Heritage List values are expressed through all the fabric discovered by archaeological investigation, including footings, walls, floors, drains, cuttings, pavings, trenches, privies, garden soil, impressions of removed materials and artefacts.

For a description of any references quoted above, and more information on each of the places please search the Australian Heritage Database at <http://www.deh.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl> using the name of the place.