

National Trust in Waverley

The register of the National Trust of Australia (NSW) lists places which are 'components of the natural or the cultural environment of Australia, that have aesthetic, historic, scientific or social significance or other special value for future generations, as well as for the present community'.

The Municipality of Waverley is well represented in the Register which details a number of buildings considered by the Trust to have significance or special value to the community. These properties span 100 years from the oldest, [Bronte House](#) built 1838-45, to the most recent addition to the Register, Waverley Reservoir No. 3 built in 1938.

The 19th Century properties include churches, cottages, houses, shops and terraces. Birrell Street, Waverley, boasts some of the very fine buildings including [St Mary's Anglican Church](#), consecrated in 1864; stone houses at 91 and 93-97 Birrell Street; the War Memorial Hospital's three main buildings built by the Vickery family - "Edina", "Banksia" and "Witchagil", as well as the stables and ornate wrought-iron gates. This fine group of High Victorian buildings dates from the 1880's.

In Victoria Street, Charing Cross, two churches have been classified: Grahame Memorial Church which opened in 1898, and the Mary Immaculate Roman Catholic Church built between 1912- 1929. The [Friary](#), however, which dated from the 1890's was demolished in 1985. Also in Victoria Street are "Dalrye", a large old family home at No. 74, built in 1891; and "Westgate", at No. 11, a two-storey stone house from the 1860's.

"Glenrock Terrace", a row of two-storey terraces, was built in 1866 and can be found in High Street, Charing Cross. "Evansdale", at 105 Carrington Road, is a late Victorian terrace-type house with a carriageway that leads to a carriage house in the rear yard. "Westgate", 17-19 Oxford Street, is a substantial home of fine proportions, once part of the St James Glebe.

Shops and residences at 63-69 Oxford Street have an interesting exterior decoration and should be properly observed from the opposite side of the street. At the turn of the century these shops were occupied by a carriage builder, a grocer and a draper.

Lesser known properties in the Register include No. 1 and No. 2 Woodstock Street; "Espagnol Flats" at 64 Sir Thomas Mitchell Road; terrace houses, in Fitzgerald Lane; and a cottage at 1 Blenheim Street.

Both [Waverley Cemetery](#) and South Head Cemetery have been classified and are the last resting place of many historic personages. Henry Kendall, Henry Lawson, Victor Trumper, David Fletcher the first Mayor of Waverley, are among the personalities buried at Waverley Cemetery. Some notable names of South Head Cemetery include Sir Walter Davidson, Governor of N.S.W., and Sir Edmund Barton, first Prime Minister.

Not to be forgotten are [The Boot Factory](#) in Spring Street which used to be run by Thomas Barton and was recently renovated by Waverley Municipal Council and, of course, Bondi Pavilion.

In 1987 the National Trust classified the Waverley Reservoirs of Waverley Park; No. 1 having been built in 1887; nos. 2 and 3 in 1917; and the most recently constructed in 1938, which has a capacity of 76 mega litres (17 million gallons). Until the Botany Swamps source of supply came into service in 1859, Sydney has no service reservoirs. The advent of that scheme led to the progressive construction over a period of 40 years of a group of five reservoirs which now constitutes Sydney's oldest water reservoirs:

- Crown Street Reservoir (1859)
- Waverley (1887)
- Paddington (1864)
- Centennial Park (1899)
- Woollahra (1880)

The Waverley group of reservoirs reflects not only the advance made over the years in reservoir construction, but also in the approach to reservoir roofing.

All [registered properties](#) are strong part of Waverley's heritage and well worth seeing for their historic and architectural interest. Many of the buildings, however, are privately owned and their inclusion must not be interpreted as allowing any right of access to the public.

Published by Waverley Library, from its Local History Collection and National Trust source material.