

# Orange Grove Public School upgrade

Factsheet | August 2023

Orange Grove Public School is listed on the Department of Education S170 heritage conservation register as an item of local heritage significance. The s170 listing specifies that buildings A, B and D are considered to contribute to the heritage significance of the local area.

During the recent review of the masterplan redistribution, the status of heritage formed one part of the review and the concerns raised about this aspect of the project were further explored. This factsheet aims to address key elements from the review and provide factual information about these concerns.

## Heritage significance of the school buildings



The school was established in the 1800s and originally named Leichhardt West Public School. During a statewide audit of school buildings conducted in 2018, it was determined that Orange Grove Public School was to be included in the NSW Department of Education's S170 heritage register because of its local heritage significance. Buildings A built in 1928, B in 1910 and D in 1894 were included in this listing as significant buildings.

It was identified that the principal façades and interiors of Buildings A, B and D of Orange Grove Public School, have historic, aesthetic and social significance at a local level. These buildings were identified as representative examples of historic public school buildings that have undergone change but still retain high integrity.

## Listing of NSW school buildings in the S170 register



All NSW Government Departments maintain their own S170 Heritage registers for places of local and State heritage significance. A building does not necessarily need to be added to the NSW State Heritage Register for it to be considered of heritage value to the NSW government.

This is the case for Buildings A, B and D of Orange Grove Public School. Their omission from the NSW State Heritage register does not mean these are of any less heritage significance to the people of NSW.

All listed heritage items, whether of local or State significance, are shown in the publicly accessible and searchable State Heritage Inventory <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/heritage/search-heritage-databases/state-heritage-inventory>

## Alterations to building D throughout the years



Building D is the oldest building remaining on site, it was originally built in the 1890s. A fire in 1938 burnt down the northern wing of the building but did not impact the remainder of the structure. The building has undergone several phases of repair; however, this does not impact the heritage status of the building, because much of the original building still survives.

The northern wing that was burnt down was never rebuilt and alterations to the building continued to occur throughout the years. The proposal to refurbish elements of this building, working within its heritage significance, includes restoring the classroom space of room 7 which was sub divided. Further, the original open verandah surrounding the building will be reinstated to provide continuous flow and connection with the rest of the school.

## Heritage reports



As part of the planning for the project, a heritage assessment was conducted and reviewed to inform the masterplan. Following the initial consultation period, an independent report was conducted to look deeper into the available data. This report is consistent with the findings of the original report and offered reassurance of the understood heritage value of the school.

The departments listing of Block D in the S170 register is one factor in the overall rationale to retain the building. The scope of this project does not allow the project to pursue an alteration to the S170 listing. Other factors that must be considered in the proposed masterplan include sustainability, pedagogy, EFSG, tree retention, school operation requirements and funding envelope.

## Heritage curtilage surrounding the buildings



Heritage curtilage and the area surrounding the school is of significant value. The reestablishment of significant view lines and curtilage relationship with Perry Street and Balmain Road will improve visual and functional relationships with the street frontages.

The area alongside Balmain Road was historically the school garden, which the project proposes to reopen and restore.

The department values the heritage significance of Buildings A, B and D and the proposed revised masterplan aims to take a holistic approach at working with the existing structures, while building on the existing character of the school.

For any further questions about any of the points above or any other information about the heritage of the school, please contact us on 1300 428 651 or email us at [schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au).