

MOSMAN HERITAGE REVIEW 1996

STREET ADDRESS

Bradleys Head Road

REFERENCE NO 062

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1915-1927

ARCHITECT/DESIGNER

Various

STYLE

Various. Inter-War, Exotic

BUILDER

Public Works Department

HERITAGE LISTINGS

- ☐ Register of the National Estate (AHC) - Register
- ☐ Register of the National Estate (AHC) - Interim
- ☒ Regional Environmental Plan Heritage Schedule
- ☒ Local Environmental Plan Heritage Schedule
- ☐ LEP Heritage Schedule - Conservation Area
- ☐ Heritage Council Register - PCO
- ☐ Heritage Council Register - ICO
- ☐ Institute of Engineers (NSW) Heritage Register

- ☐ Heritage Council Register - s130 Orders:
- ☐ Government Department Heritage Register:
- ☒ Register of National Trust of Australia:
- ☐ Within National Trust Conservation Area:
- ☒ Register of Significant 20th Century Architecture (RAIA)
- ☐ Art Deco Society
- ☐ Other listing/s (please specify)

PERIOD

- 1788 - 1840 ☐
- 1840 - 1890 ☐
- 1890 - 1915 ☐
- 1915 - 1940 ☒
- 1940 - 1960 ☒
- 1960 - ☒

HISTORICAL NOTES

Sydney's original zoo was established in 1800 on seven acres of land at Billy Goat Swamp in Moore Park where Sydney Girls' High School was subsequently built. The Zoo was operated by the Royal Zoological Society of NSW. By the beginning of this century, the Zoo had outgrown its site and plans were made to exchange the land to Aston Park at Mosman. The Mosman land was dedicated for the purposes of zoological gardens on 12th April 1912. It appears that the original work was carried out by private contractors for the Royal Zoological Society. In 1915 however, the Public Works Department took over the construction. The Zoo was officially opened on 7 October, 1916 under the control of the Taronga Zoological Park Trust. The Zoo is now administered by the Zoological Parks Board of New South Wales.

OTHER INFORMATION SOURCES

Written

Oral

Graphic

SIGNIFICANCE

Local:

State: Recreation. Cultural Sites, Leisure.

Regional:

National:

Statement

A major social facility and entertainment and recreational venue for Sydney, with international prominence. Recognised as the leading Australian zoo facility. It contains some remarkable and unusual structures, many of them deliberately exotic or grand in their presentation. It demonstrates present and past zoological practices, both for the exhibits and the manner in which they are displayed. It remains a prominent landscape feature in Sydney Harbour.

Representative

Rare

Aesthetic

S

Historic

S

Scientific

S

Social

S

Level of Significance: N=National S=State R=Regional L=Local.

GODDEN MACKAY PTY LTD, 78 GEORGE STREET, REDFERN NSW 2016 PH (02) 319 4811

Appendix C

National Trust of Australia (NSW) Listing Card for Taronga Zoo

MOSMAN	TARONGA ZOOLOGICAL PARK PRECINCT	Bradleys Head Road
(Town or District)		
Post Code 2088 Mosman Mtn Local Govt Area Council	CARD 1 OF 8	
Author of Proposal G Downes		
Date of Proposal April 1982		
Suggested Listing Category CLASSIFIED PRECINCT	(Name or Identification of Listing) Bibliography Prince, J.H. The First One Hundred Years of the Royal Zoological Society of NSW 1879-1979	(Address or Location) Owner and Address The Zoological Parks Board of New South Wales
Committee (Trust Use) See over		
Council (Trust Use)		

Description Briefly cover the points on the following check list where they are relevant and within your knowledge.

Style Sydney's original zoo was established in 1880 on seven acres of land at Billy Goat Swamp in Moore Park where Sydney Girls' High School was subsequently built. The Zoo was operated by the Royal Zoological Society of NSW.

Construction Use By the beginning of this century, the Zoo had outgrown its site and plans were made to exchange the land to Ashton Park at Mosman. The Mosman land was dedicated for the purposes of zoological gardens on 12th April 1912. Work on the site began in August 1912. It appears that the original work was carried out by private contractors for the Royal Zoological Society. In 1915, however, the Public Works Department took over the construction. The final drawings for the main entrance buildings are signed by L Davis, the Director-General of Public Works, and dated 12th January, 1916. They contain an approval dated 12th August, 1916, by the Government Architect, George McRae.

Architect/s The Zoo was officially opened on 7 October, 1916 under the control of the Taronga Zoological Park Trust. The Zoo is now administered by the Zoological Parks Board of New South Wales.

Builder/s

Date of Construction

Present Condition

History

Owners

Boundaries of proposed listing

Reasons for listing Taronga Park Zoo is a unique complex of highly individual structure. The three main buildings (Main Entrance, Indian Elephant House and Lower Exit) are an economical adaptation of a grand style, and show an interesting mixture of classical, Italianate and Orientalizing features. The various other Baroque, Oriental and rustic structures are an important record of fashions in landscape architecture and concepts behind animal housing at the time of construction. The extensive use of concrete and cement in cages and rustic structures is particularly noteworthy, and presents an educational contrast with the greater use of timber and natural vegetation in the more modern open plan enclosures.

Photographs
Number of Photographs

COMMITTEE REFERENCES:

LSC/77: 17/ 7/78: recommended CLASSIFY
HBC/241: 21/ 8/78: defer pending report
LSC/104: 25/ 8/80: recommended CLASSIFY
HBC/264: 11/ 9/80: prepare CLASSIFIED listing proposal
HBC/270: 2/ 2/81: referred to (alterations to Lower Entrance)
HBC/285: 12/10/81: prepare listing proposal - urgently
HBC/294: 31/ 5/82: defer pending better reasons for listing
HBC/295: 21/ 6/82: recommended CLASSIFIED
HBC/298: 13/ 9/82: defer
HBC/299: 27/ 9/82: amend proposal
HBC/354: 19/5/86: G Downes to inspect

MOSMAN

TARONGA ZOOLOGICAL PARK PRECINCT

Bradley's Head Road

Description (continued)

The Zoo site covers approximately seventy acres. The principal buildings on the site which have architectural merit are the main entrance, the Indian elephant house, the lower entrance, the aquarium, the floral clock, a number of enclosures in which cement and concrete is used to simulate rocks and various rustic elements, particularly seating.

The Indian elephant house is one of the key buildings in the Zoo. It was built to house Taronga Zoo's most famous exhibit at the time, Jessie, the Indian elephant. Jessie was given to the Zoo in 1883 by the King of Siam. She was an important feature of the Zoo until 1939 when she died. The importance which the people of Sydney attached to her is demonstrated by the extraordinary interest in her removal from Moore Park to Mosman. Most accounts of the Zoo all record her voyage by ferry across the Harbour. The storey of Jessie is important because of the light it may shed upon the architectural style of the principal buildings at the Zoo. The Indian elephant house, with its large central dome, and oriental decoration, is clearly intended to give the flavour of the "Taj Mahal" and similar great buildings of India.

The main entrance and lower exit are high Victorian in style although they were designed and built late in the Edwardian period. To some extent, the Indian influence is carried across into the main entrance which has a large dome as its central feature. The main entrance is decorated with sculptural representations of animal heads and the entrance hall is tiled and also decorated with animal heads.

BUILDINGS AND ITEMS OF NOTE IN TARONGA ZOOLOGICAL PARK PRECINCT

MAIN ENTRANCE

THE INDIAN ELEPHANT HOUSE

LOWER EXIT

THE AQUARIUM

THE FLORAL CLOCK

AVIARIES

RUSTIC AND OTHER ELEMENTS INCLUDING

THE TREE HOUSE: RUSTIC SEATING: BAROQUE LANDSCAPING NEAR THE ELEPHANT

HOUSE: CAST IRON LIGHT STANDARDS OR POWER POLES: THE GIRAFFE HOUSE:

HIMALAYAN TAHR ENCLOSURE AND AFRICAN LION ENCLOSURE.

MOSMAN - BRADLEYS HEAD RD

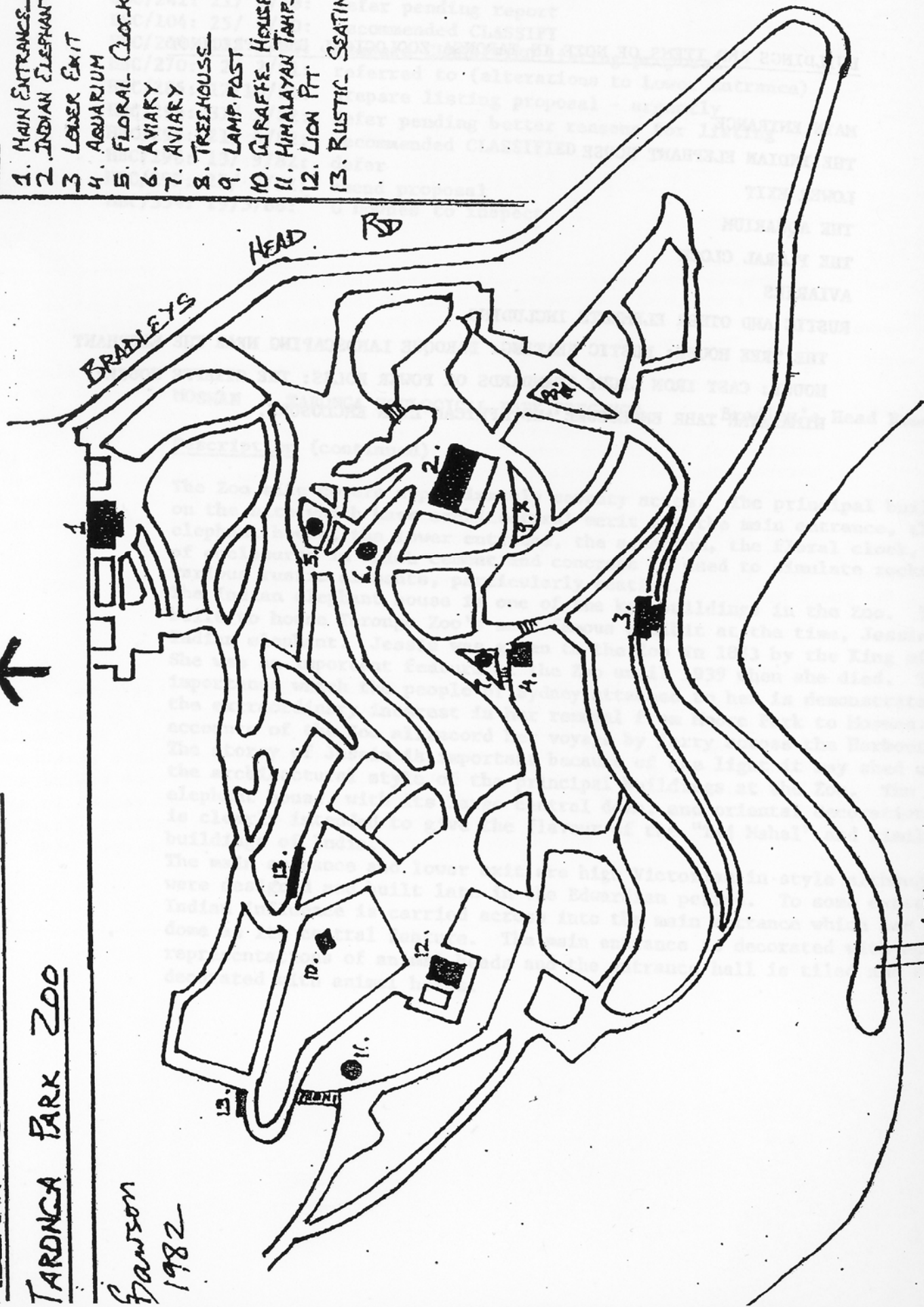
TARONGA PARK ZOO

Gawson
1982



KEY

1. MAIN ENTRANCE
2. INDIAN ELEPHANT HOUSE
3. LOWER EXIT
4. AQUARIUM
5. FLORAL CLOCK
6. AVIARY
7. AVIARY
8. TREEHOUSE
9. LAMP POST
10. GIRAFFE HOUSE
11. HIMALAYAN TAHR MOUNTAIN
12. LION PT.
13. RUSTIC SEATING



MOSMAN (Town or District)	MAIN ENTRANCE - TARONGA ZOO Part of TARONGA ZOOLOGICAL PARK PRECINCT	Bradley's Head Road
Post Code 2088 Mun. of Local Govt Area <u>Mosman</u>	CARD 2 OF 8	
Author of Proposal <u>G. Downes</u>		
Date of Proposal <u>April 1982</u>	(Name or Identification of Listing)	(Address or Location)
Suggested Listing Category <u>CLASSIFIED PRECINCT</u>	Bibliography	Owner and Address
Committee (Trust Use) <u>See Group card 1 HBC</u>		<u>The Zoological Parks Board of New South Wales</u>
Council (Trust Use)		
Description Briefly cover the points on the following check list where they are relevant and within your knowledge.		
Style Construction Use Architect/s Builder/s Date of Construction Present Condition History Owners Boundaries of proposed listing	The main entrance was constructed in 1915-1916 by the Department of Works in accordance with final plans prepared by the Department of Works and approved by the Government Architect. The style is high Victorian. The construction is in brick with decoration, probably in plaster, and incorporating sculptured animal heads. The central dome is the key feature of the structure.	
Reasons for listing		
Sketch plan and photos Attach additional photos if any.		

MOSMAN	LOWER EXIT	Bradley's Head Road
(Town or District)	Part of TARONGA ZOOLOGICAL PARK PRECINCT	
Post Code 2088 Mosman Local Govt Area Man. Council	CARD 3 OF 8	
Author of Proposal G. Downes	<i>top floor demolished 1981</i>	
Date of Proposal April 1982	(Name or Identification of Listing)	(Address or Location)
Suggested Listing Category CLASSIFIED PRECINCT	Bibliography	Owner and Address
Committee Group Card 1 (Trust Use) HBC		Zoological Parks Board of NSW
Council (Trust Use)		
Description	Briefly cover the points on the following check list where they are relevant and within your knowledge.	
Style	1916	
Construction	This building is not as important as the main entrance or the Indian elephant house, but with those buildings completes the three main elements of the original architecture of the Zoo and for that reason is important.	
Use		
Architect's		
Builder/s		
Date of Construction		
Present Condition		
History		
Owner		
Boundaries of proposed listing		
Reasons for listing		
Sketch plan and photos Attach additional photos if any.		

MOSMAN (Town or District)	THE INDIAN ELEPHANT HOUSE Part of TARONGA ZOOLOGICAL PARK PRECINCT	Bradley's Head Road
Post Code 2088 Mosman Local Govt Area Mun. Council	CARD 4 OF 8	
Author of Proposal G. Downes		
Date of Proposal April 1982	(Name or Identification of Listing)	(Address or Location)
Suggested Listing Category CLASSIFIED PRECINCT	Bibliography	Owner and Address
Committee See Group Card 1 (Trust Use) HBC		Zoological Parks Board New South Wales
Council (Trust Use)		
Description Briefly cover the points on the following check list where they are relevant and within your knowledge. Style Construction Use Architect/s Builder/s Date of Construction Present Condition History Owners Boundaries of proposed listing This was constructed at the same time as the main entrance. The style also high Victorian with substantial oriental elements to give the overall impression of an Indian palace of the "Taj Mahal" style. (See also Group Card)		
Reasons for listing		
Sketch plan and photos Attach additional photos if any.		