



MEDIA RELEASE

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Australia's first Agricultural School recommended for heritage listing

Hurlstone Agricultural High School Education and Research Precinct, in the south-west Sydney suburb of Glenfield has been recommended for listing on the National Trust Register by the National Trust's Historic Buildings Committee.

The grounds hold significance for the history of education in NSW – Hurlstone Agricultural High School (HAHS) was Australia's first agricultural high school and the first public high school in NSW to accommodate boarders. The grounds of the precinct are also significant for being amongst the longest continuously cultivated agricultural and pastoral lands in NSW and Australia.

As early as 1822 the Meehan Estate (Macquarie Fields House) was leased by Reverend Reddall for use as a private school. Although HAHS was originally established in Sydney's inner west near Ashfield in 1907, the school moved to the Glenfield site in 1926 in order to access these larger and better quality agricultural lands.

The National Trust believes the Hurlstone Agricultural High School Education and Research Precinct, the subject of a recent State Government inquiry into the sale of this land, is of historical significance as a largely intact colonial landscape entirely constituted from lands first granted in 1809 to two leading pioneers, Charles Throsby and James Meehan.

Graham Quint, Advocacy Manager, National Trust said: "This area has extraordinary heritage significance warranting its recommendation for listing on the National Trust Register. We are awaiting the outcome of the Hurlstone Inquiry into the sale and possible development of this land and believe that we have put a good case forward for its conservation and continuing operation for agricultural and educational purposes. The lands also comprise essential teaching land at our only secondary, selective, boarding and co-ed agricultural school".

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