‘Eryldene’

Address
17 McIntosh Street, Gordon, NSW, 2072

Practice
William Hardy Wilson

Designed
1913

Completed
1913-1914

History & Description

Eryldene was designed for Professor EG Waterhouse and his wife Janet by William Hardy Wilson, a leading advocate of the Colonial (Georgian) Revival movement in Australia. The house is a single storey rendered brick bungalow of conventional domestic construction with a hipped roof of terracotta shingle. A symmetrical facade faces the formal garden frontage from which a central sandstone path and steps lead to an entrance verandah beneath the roof line. The verandah terminates at a loggia at each end and is broken up into five bays with wooden Doric columns placed at regular intervals, four of which are paired to mark the entrance at the centre. At the rear, the building wraps around a central courtyard framed by columns and open to the garden. Internally, a central hall separates two main rooms on either side. A hall at the rear echoes in plan the verandah and opens to the courtyard and the remaining rooms. The interior spaces are modest in scale and proportion. They are enriched by detailed elements inspired by colonial architecture researched by Wilson, including windows, doors and fanlights, architraves, skirtings, picture rails and mantelpieces. The house was designed to link with its formal garden setting, which was laid out by Wilson and Professor Waterhouse and is testimony to their shared interest in the Orient. Garden structures designed by Wilson and others include a Temple in the front garden (Wilson 1913); Garden Study, Fountain and Pigeon-house (Wilson and John L Berry (int.) 1921-22), Garden Shed (Berry 1924), Tea House (Wilson 1927) and Garage and Moon Gate (1936). The house was approved as a museum in 1993, and operates under the administration of a Trust. (Refer NSW SHR database, UIA nominations Clive Lucas Stapleton and Partners 2004, published works by Edwards, Z., 1995, 2001 and www.eryldene.org.au).

Statement of Significance

Eryldene is one of the earliest, most complete and intact examples of the Australian Colonial (Georgian) revival movement. The house exemplifies key characteristics of the movement in its form and symmetry, and the use of classical and Georgian-inspired elements internally and externally. The architecture and garden of Eryldene are recognised for their aesthetic value and the creative achievement of both architect and client. They include oriental influences culminating in the building of the Tea House (1927) as part of a series of outdoor rooms that were enhanced by planting according to oriental themes and garden structures, most of which were designed by Wilson. The house, including internal rooms and some furnishings and outbuildings, are significantly intact and remain a valuable resource for the study of the Colonial (Georgian) revival movement (Refer NSW SHR). Eryldene is acknowledged as a seminal work of the architect William Hardy Wilson, who was a prominent advocate of the Georgian Revival movement during the early 20th century and who is recognised as a key practitioner of the period.

Criteria Applicable

N1. Significant heritage value in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class or period of design
N2. Significant heritage value in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics
N3. Significant heritage value in establishing a high degree of creative achievement
N4. Having significant monumental and symbolic heritage value to the development of architecture and the history of architecture
N5. Having a special association with the life or works of an architect of significant importance in our history