



Rural



Colonial  
Landscape

Conserve  
the Mulgoa  
Valley



Biodiversity



Heritage

# MULGOA VALLEY DEFINED

Glenleigh

Glenmore  
Golf Course

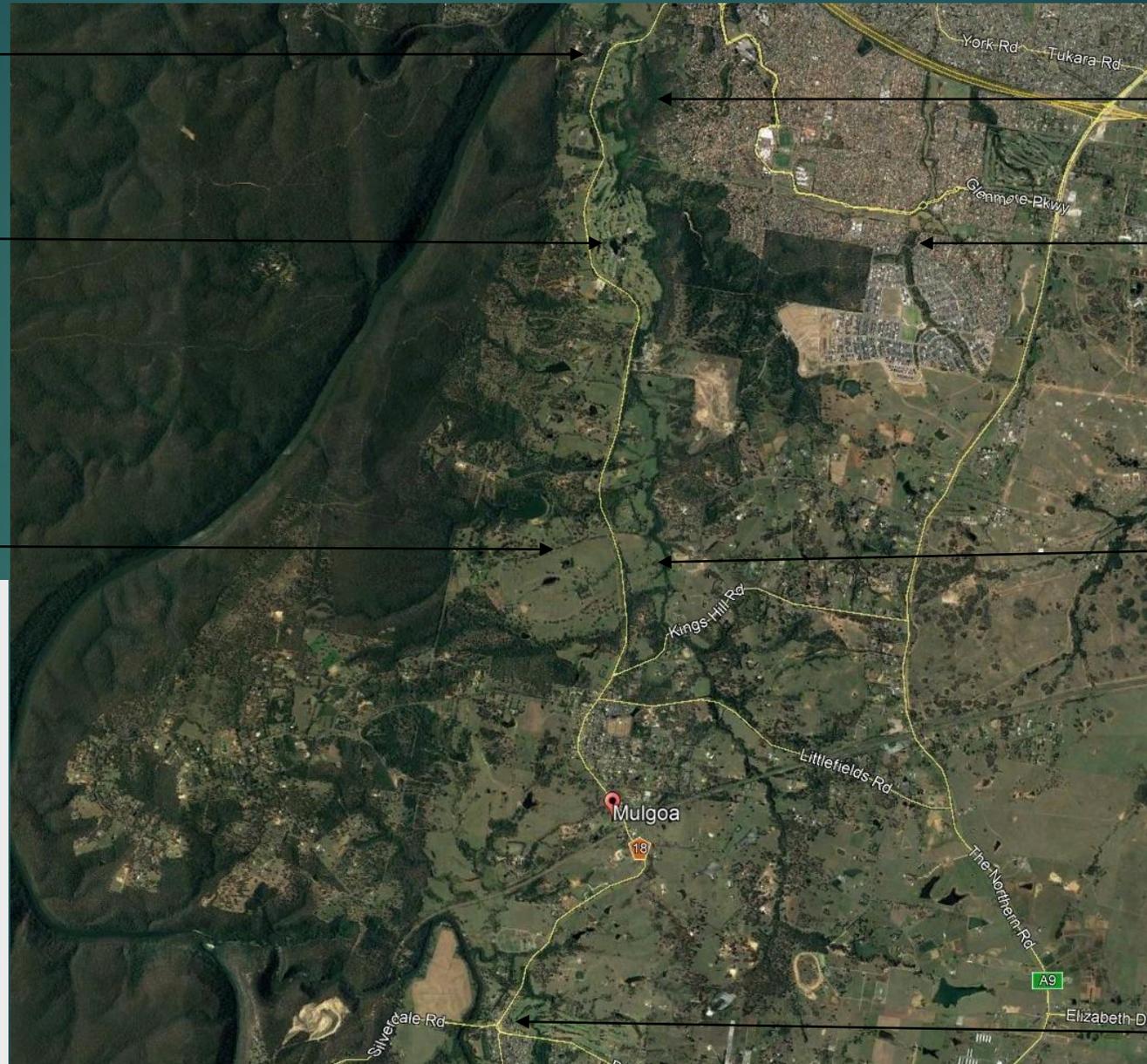
Fernhill

Mulgoa Nature  
Reserve

Glenmore Park

The Cottage

Wallacia



The Mulgoa Valley Precinct is bounded on the west by the Nepean River and Blue Mountains National Park, on the south by the village of Wallacia, on the east by Luddenham and on the north by Glenmore Park and Regentville. (Penrith Development Control Plan 2014 E9 Mulgoa Valley and shown on the LEP Clause Application Map 6350 with a notation 'Mulgoa Valley')

# MULGOA VALLEY LOOKING SOUTH



Glenmore Park



Glenmore Golf Course



Mulgoa Nature Reserve



# MULGOA VALLEY HERITAGE



Glenleigh



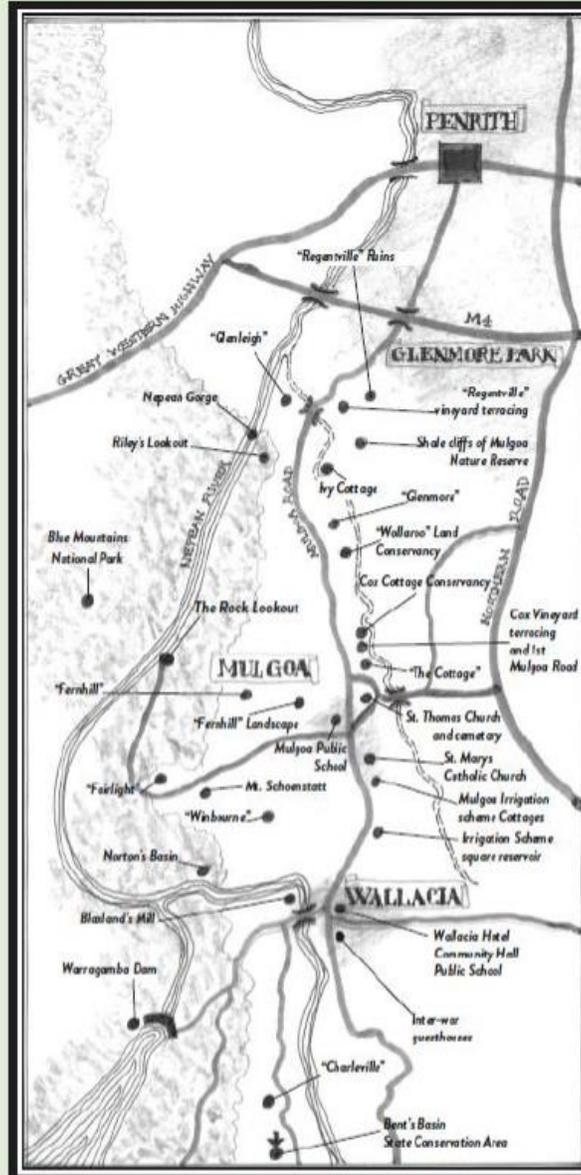
The Rock Lookout



The Cottage



Fairlight



Glenmore



Shale Cliffs



Fernhill



St Thomas Church

# “Pure Merinos” of Mulgoa Valley

(“Pure Merinos” the historian Stephen Roberts called them).

State Library of New South Wales



Edward Cox, ca 1825

**Built Fernhill**  
**A member of the Legislative Council.**



Edward King Cox, ca 1860 / by Olsen

**“Great improver of the Australian Merino”**  
**“King of thoroughbred breeders”**



Sir John Jamison

**“Knight of Regentville”**  
**‘Australia’s first titled settler’**  
**A founder of Bank of NSW, Sydney Turf Club, a zoologist, a member of the Legislative Council**

# COX'S COTTAGE



**Built in c1810 by William Cox, extended in c1820 and today retains this early form: a hipped roof, single storey verandahed cottage – the classic Australian colonial bungalow.**

**The Cottage was the nucleus of the early Mulgoa Settlement. It was the site of religious gatherings before the construction of St Thomas Church.**

**Described as the oldest weatherboard house in New South Wales and the oldest house in private occupation in Australia. It is also one of the last remaining Sydney farmhouses of the period still in its original setting.**

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=5045078>

**In 2010 the NSW Govt. approved an extension to the State heritage listing boundary to include a 10 hectare parcel of farmland and vegetation along Mulgoa Creek and to protect the peaceful views and original colonial landscape of the Cottage, along with remnants of the Cottage's first vineyard and the original road linking Cox properties.**



**View from the  
verandah of  
Cox Cottage  
looking  
toward the  
government  
owned Cox  
Conservancy  
land beyond  
the 2<sup>nd</sup> fence.**



Rural scene around the Cottage

**Rural scene along Mulgoa Road  
between the Cottage and Fernhill**





***“1810 cadastral map of land grant in Mulgoa, N.S.W. of an unmeasured land grant attributed to Edward Cox” (NSW State Archives). NB Mulgoa Creek is referred to as Salt Water Creek***



**Vineyard terracing on Cox Cottage Conservancy**



**The track on Cox Cottage Conservancy that linked Glenmore with The Cottage 1815 - 1850.**

Rural lands of Cox Cottage  
Conservancy opposite Fernhill



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12.7% or 701.3 ha of the Mulgoa Valley (Mulgoa section) is under heritage protection and listed on the NSW State Heritage Register

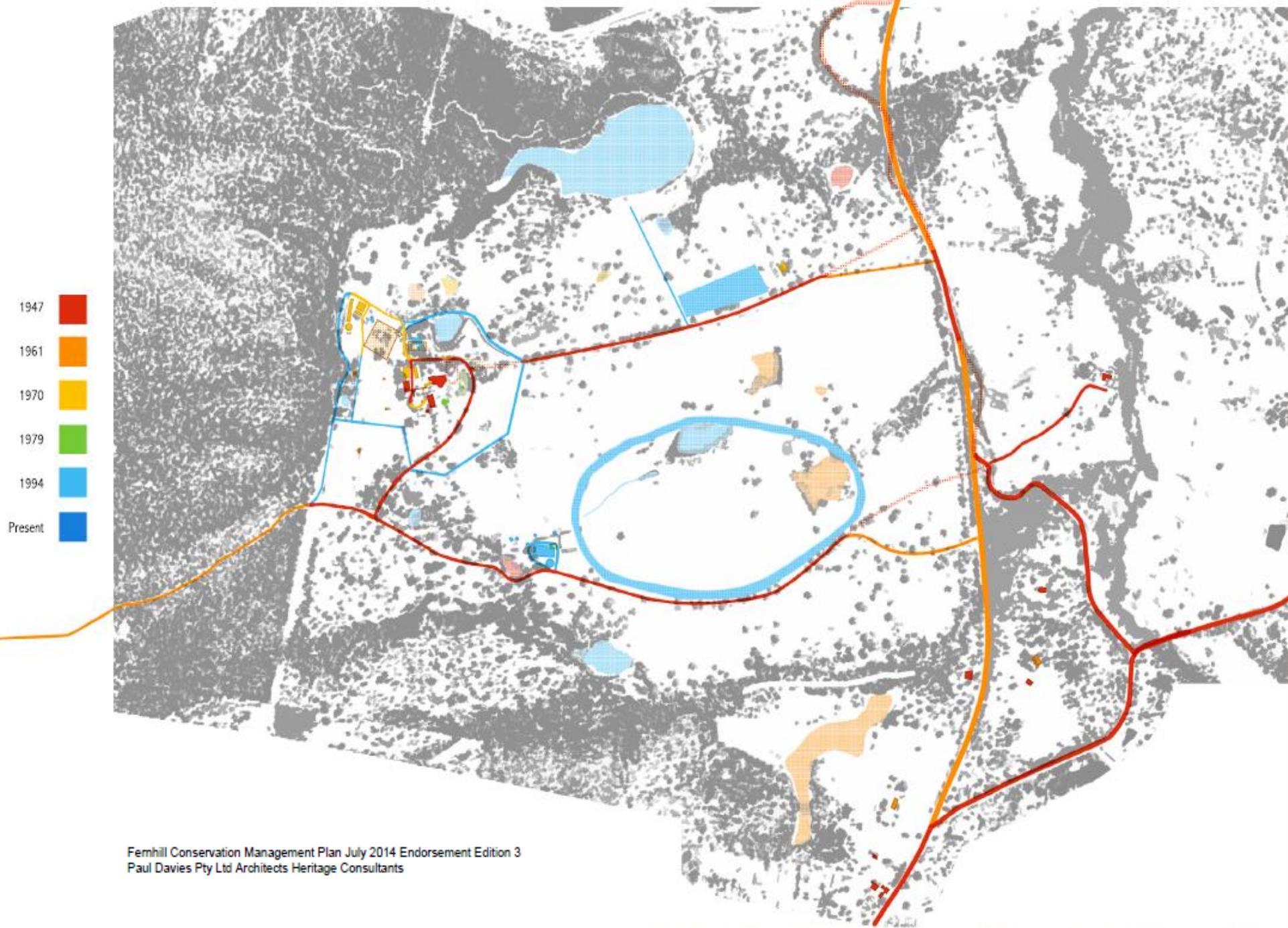


The National Trust listing (1976) of three of the Cox buildings at Mulgoa (The Cottage, St Thomas Church and Fernhill) states: *“A group of three individual classified buildings ....retaining the original visual relationship to each other and demonstrating the ambitions and changes in wealth and status of an important early colonial family from c.1810 through the prosperity of the 1830’s and the financial crises of the early 1840’s”.*



Figure 172: Northern Bridge approach, looking south towards second bridge around bend. Paul Davies 2014.

Figure 244: 1947 Overlay showing the features extant in 1947 on the 1947 landscape



Fernhill Conservation Management Plan July 2014 Endorsement Edition 3  
Paul Davies Pty Ltd Architects Heritage Consultants

Figure 249: 1994-1998 Features overlaid on current aerial photography

# FERNHILL



**The Fernhill estate comprises an extensive area of modified and natural landscape which provides the setting for a house completed c.1845 for Edward Cox, which is a fine example of Greek Revival architecture, exceptionally well crafted.**

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=5045436>



Plate 10.30 Fernhill, Mulgoa. Undated photograph. Mitchell Library, State Library

The expansive verandah of the garden front with its colonnade of ten sandstone columns – each shaft a single piece of stone, twelve feet or so high – of the Doric order.

To give some semblance of completeness to Fernhill, feted by the Depression of the 1840s to remain single-storied, the Coxes built a porte-cochère (removed 1950s) to shelter the door – but its columns were tree trunks, its pediment and entablature of wood.

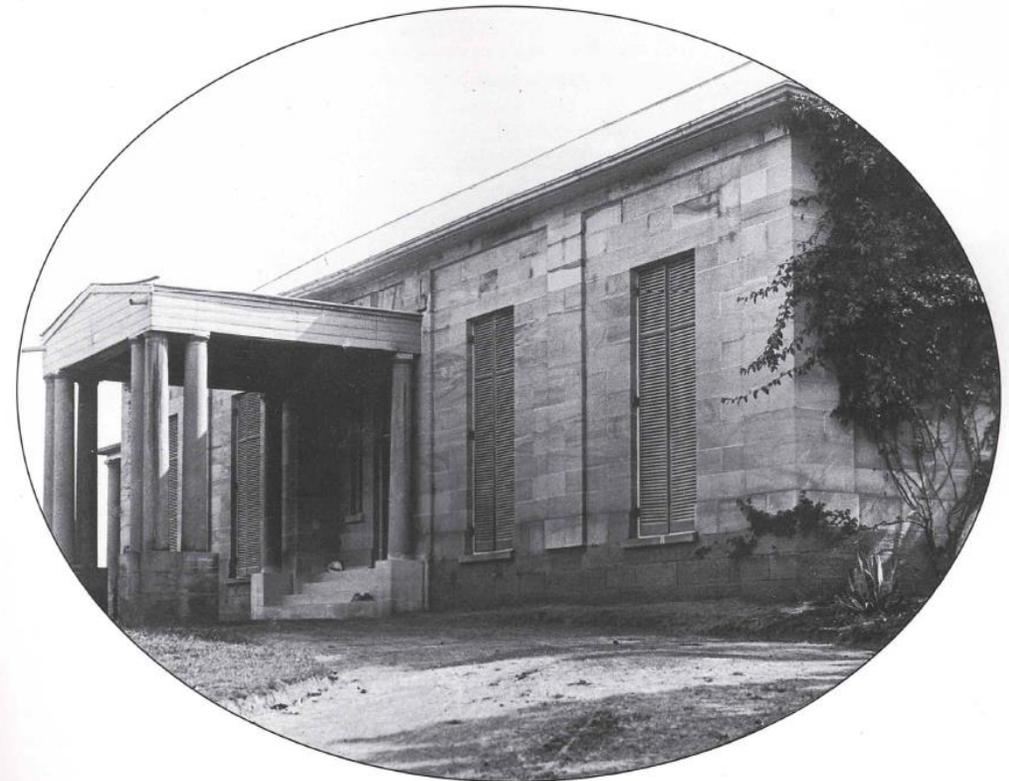


Plate 10.31 Fernhill, Mulgoa. Porte-cochère. Undated photograph. Mitchell Library, State



**Fernhill is possibly the only intact early colonial landscape laid out on the principles of the English Landscape Garden (a landscape "Park" in the picturesque manner), but relying entirely on indigenous plant material and the process of elimination (thinning and tree removal) rather than planting.**

Broadbent, J., for the National Trust of Australia (NSW)

**While increasing access to open space, it is essential that the unique cultural landscape of Fernhill is protected.**

Visiting Fernhill in the late 1840s Colonel Godfrey Mundy wrote: *“A stranger might imagine himself at the country house of some substantial English squire....a handsome stone house overlooks by far the most lovely and handsome view – as a home view – I ever met in Australia.”*



View of  
Fernhill from  
Chain of  
Ponds Road



Rural north  
eastern lands  
of Fernhill  
adjacent to  
Mulgoa  
Road.  
Biobanked  
vegetation  
behind.

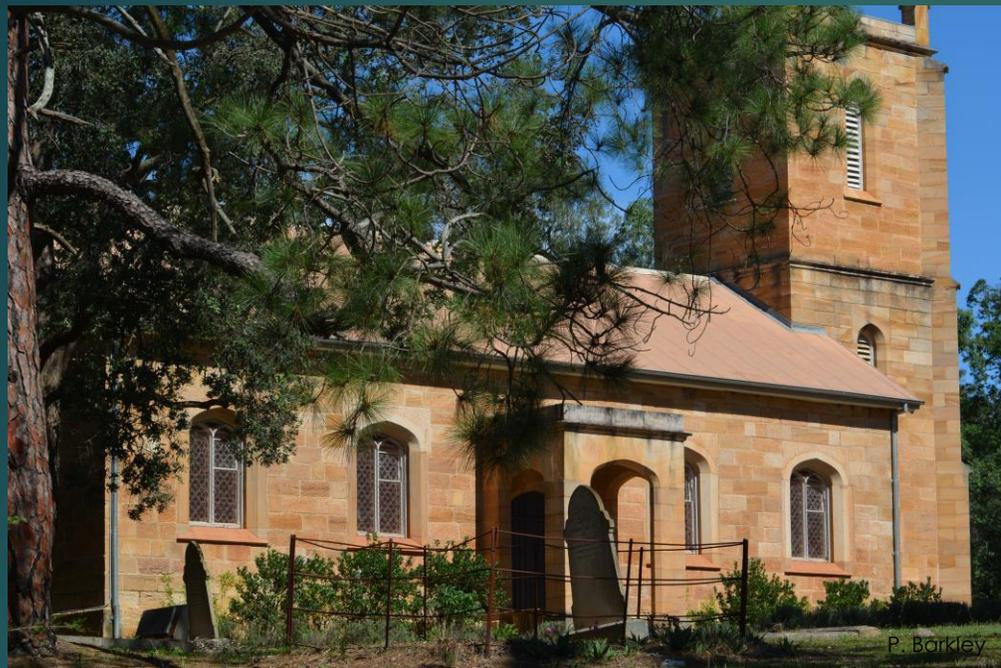


**A pair of Regent Honeyeaters, listed as critically endangered under the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995, nested and raised a chick on the eastern precinct of Fernhill. The Mulgoa Valley is the last remaining landscape within the Cumberland Plain IBRA subregion where Regent Honeyeaters breed.**

# Eastern lands of Fernhill on edge of Mulgoa Village



# ST. THOMAS CHURCH



St. Thomas' is the only extant example of a reasonably intact, late 1830s Gothic Revival, rural Anglican parish church in NSW. Its cemetery contains some important early monuments, dating from 1839 and the graves of members of prominent local families.

The church site is also of Aboriginal archaeological interest as a camping area overlooking the junction of the Mulgoa and Littlefields Creeks.

**BOUNDARIES:** Area of glebe and privately owned land isolated by the Mulgoa Road and St. Thomas' Road. St. Thomas' church and cemetery are picturesquely sited overlooking Mulgoa Creek and approached through the original gates and drive from the Old Mulgoa Road. St. Thomas' is closely linked with the development of the Mulgoa/Wallacia Valley and particularly with the Cox family. Together with Fernhill and the Cottage it forms an interesting landscape group in the heart of the valley. The siting of the church in relation to the original landscaped drive to Fernhill is most important. The visual and historical relationship between these three important buildings, the first Cox homestead, "their" church and their later grand house - in their rural setting has, so far, remained undisturbed by later development.

# ST. THOMAS CHURCH



From St Thomas Road



Looking from St Thomas Church across St Thomas Rd. to Mulgoa Creek

**The golden stone church has a considerable aesthetic impact when glimpsed from St. Thomas' Rd.**

# ST THOMAS (OLD MULGOA) ROAD



St Thomas Road, on the eastern side of St Thomas' Anglican Church, is integral to the setting of St Thomas' Anglican Church, a place of state significance. The gates to the church are deliberately aligned with a straight stretch of the road, providing an important focal point to travellers, especially those travelling north to the church from Mulgoa. This relationship demonstrates the importance of the church to the community in the nineteenth century. Glimpses of the church from St Thomas Road have significant aesthetic value. The road itself retains much of the colonial character, meandering around the hillside with views over rural land interspersed with regenerated patches of natural vegetation. Such landscapes combining a colonial church precinct, roadway, rural lands and natural vegetation without substantial intrusion of modern development are now rare in New South Wales.

Penrith Heritage Inventory

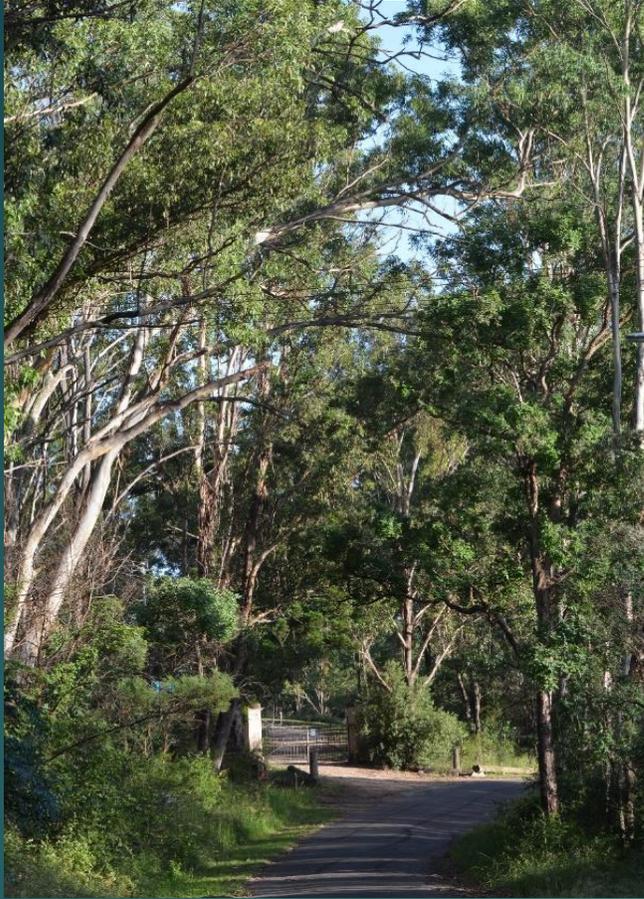
State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number  
2260844

Study Number  
MV\_27



P. Barkley



**St Thomas Road: such landscapes combining a colonial church precinct, roadway, rural land and native vegetation without substantial intrusion of modern development, are now rare around Metropolitan Sydney.**



**The winding and treed Mulgoa Road (surveyed 1863) provides a rare opportunity to travel through a pleasant rural valley so close to Sydney.**

# HERITAGE BUILDINGS FROM MULGOA ROAD

**View from Mulgoa Road across the eastern precinct of Fernhill which should not be built upon.**



**View from Mulgoa Road toward Cox Cottage**



# HERITAGE BUILDINGS FROM KINGSHILL ROAD, MULGOA

Fernhill from corner of Kingshill and Chain O' Ponds Roads



The Cottage from Kingshill Rd.



The Cottage



Conrad Martens sketch (1835) from Kingshill Road looking towards Cottage (Historic Houses Trust). View is largely unchanged today.

# WINBOURNE



*©2019 Heng K Tey*

# GLENMORE



**Glenmore estate is an integral part of the relatively intact rural landscape developed by the pioneering Cox family in the early years of the colony of NSW. The remnants of early exotic plantings include some of the finest specimens of their species in New South Wales.**

**The existing house and garden remnants at Glenmore are a substantial and rare surviving example of an early 19th century country residence, adapted for changing uses over time. It demonstrates the adaptive re-use (as a golf course) of a colonial building and grounds as a tourist attraction.**

# FAIRLIGHT



P. Barkley

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=5045081>

**One of the few remaining substantial Victorian houses and barn within the Mulgoa Valley. It stands on land granted by Governor Macquarie to Nathaniel Norton in 1821. The present house and barn were built by Jarret in the late 1860's and there are a number of trees that may have been part of his garden, such as the carob, kurrajong and turpentine. The line of Chinese elms forming the drive to the east of the house mark part of the original driveway.**

# GLENLEIGH



**Glenleigh, constructed: 1882-1884, an important Victorian country house, “Scottish baronial” in style with elaborately decorated interiors. The house was designed by the architect William Wardell and the interiors painted and stencilled by Lyon and Cottier, who also worked at Government House Sydney.**

# REGENTVILLE



Vineyard terracing



Remains of cellarman's cottage

# MULGOA VILLAGE



Mulgoa Public School (c. 1883).



Post Office (c. 1893) on left and Mulgoa Irrigation Office on right.



St. Mary's Catholic Church c. 1892



Stone pines of Winbourne's old drive

# WALLACIA VILLAGE



Wallacia Hotel (c. 1937) an inter-war country resort hotel



Post office agency building of inter war era.



Former St. Andrew's Anglican Church, relocated to Wallacia from Greendale in 1926



Modest inter-war era public hall



Inter-war California Bungalow.

# MULGOA NATURE RESERVE

## SHALE CLIFFS FROM MULGOA ROAD



Mulgoa Nature Reserve is listed on the Register of the National Estate due to the geological significance of the 30m shale cliffs present along Mulgoa Creek – the only known example of this landform.

# ROCK (GIBRALTAR) LOOKOUT

(Blue Mountains National Park – Eastern Section)



©2020 Heng K Tey

Rock Lookout over Nepean Gorge



Caroline Simpson Collection: L2005/13 ; Caroline Simpson Library & Research Collection

Gibraltar Rock, Nepean River,  
July 13 1838 / Conrad Martens

Title

## Norton's Basin, Nepean River

(1862)

Artist

## Conrad Martens

England, Australia

21 Mar 1801 - 21 Aug 1878



[Artist profile](#)



Norton's Basin: Looking down at the basin from the East Side Crags.  
Photo D. Noble.



Conrad Martens Norton's Basin - Oct 15  
Conrad Martens sketches [of New South Wales, 1835-1842]

# WALLACIA



**Nepean River and Wallacia Bridge (Blaxland's Crossing) and rural landscape**



Casuarinas  
along Mulgoa  
Creek

The area of Mulgoa Valley is 5507 ha of which 16% is permanently conserved for biodiversity.

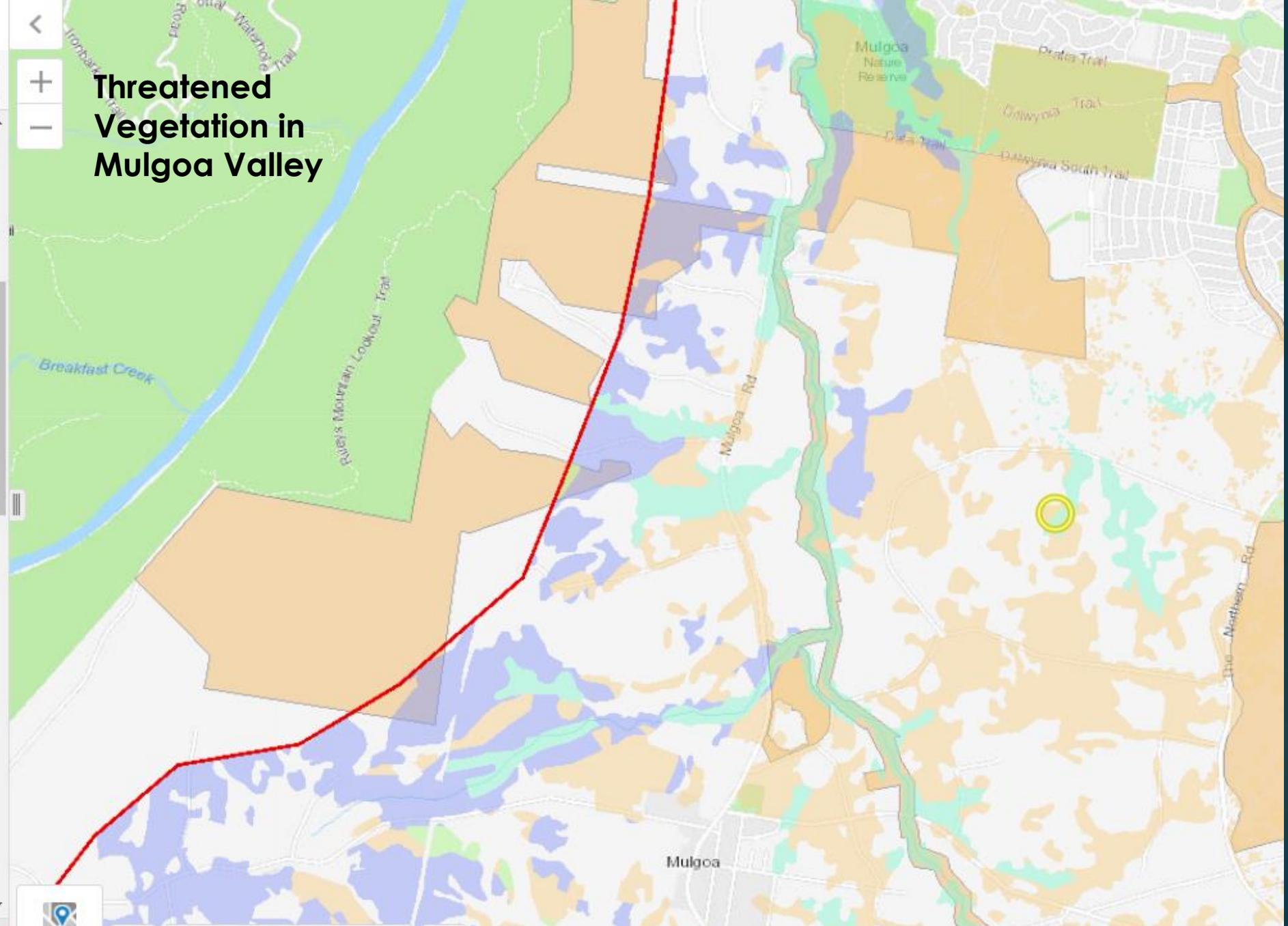


**Mulgoa priority conservation lands:**

- remnant vegetation consists mainly of Cumberland Plain Woodlands with significant areas of Shale Sandstone Transition Forest and River-flat Eucalypt Forest also present
- a priority biodiversity 'core area'

# Threatened Vegetation in Mulgoa Valley

- Native Vegetation >
- NSW Threatened Ecological Community >
- Cooks River Castlereagh Ironbark Forest
- Cumberland Plain Woodland
- Freshwater Wetlands
- Moist Shale Woodlands
- River-flat Eucalypt Forest
- Shale Gravel Transition Forest
- Shale Sandstone Transition Forest
- Swamp Oak Forest
- Western Sydney Dry Rainforest
- Georges River Koala Reserve >
- Important Koala Habitat and Restoration >
- Important Koala Habitat
- Restoration for Important Koala Habitat in the Georges River Koala Reserve



**Mulgoa Valley is the last unspoilt rural landscape in the Greater Sydney area and the richest in historic, cultural and natural sites.**

**Established and protected in similar ways to the unique area of outstanding natural and cultural beauty (AONB) sites in the UK, the well-defined Mulgoa Valley offers the potential for long term enjoyment.**

