

Heritage Assessment

'Carabene' Ewingsdale Rd.

1. Background

A proposal has been put to Byron Shire Heritage Panel for proposed inclusion on the Byron LEP 2014 heritage schedule of 'Carabene', Ewingsdale, with an attachment of historic information from Cllr Jan Hackett. This report considers the potential significance of the item against the heritage criteria.

2. Heritage Assessment Criteria.

There are seven criteria under which a place can be assessed in the context of State or Local heritage themes as outlined in the NSW Heritage Management System, Assessing Heritage Significance (NSW Heritage Office 2001). It will be considered to be of State or Local significance if it meets one or more of the following criteria.

Criterion a) Historical significance: *an item is important in the course, or pattern of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).*

Criterion b) Historical (Social /Associative) significance; *an item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person or a group of persons of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).*

Criteria c) Aesthetic significance: *an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area).*

Criteria d) Social significance; *an item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.*

Criteria e) Research potential: *an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area). Significance under this criterion must have the potential to yield new or further substantial information.*

Criteria f) Rarity: *an item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (for the cultural or natural history of the local area).*

Criteria g) Representativeness: *an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics or a class of NSW's (or local area's) Cultural or natural places or Cultural or natural environments.*

'Carabene', Ewingsdale Rd



A historical background and early photographs of the farmhouse are provided in the attached information from Clr Hackett. In summary, William Flick and Sarah Flick were pioneer settlers who came to the Ewingsdale area in the 1880s. The house 'Carabene' was constructed in the late 1880s when William Flick took up 860 acres of prime farming land at Ewingsdale. William Flick was instrumental in establishing the hall, church and school. He had the church and hall built and a school building relocated and sited there for his own and local farm workers children. He also planted the avenue of trees. The Flick family are fourth generation residents in the area who have been associated with farming for over 100 years.

The nearby St Columbus church group is an existing heritage listed group which includes the church, the community hall, the former schoolhouse site and the avenue of trees planted by the Flicks on the old Pacific Hwy, now William Flick Lane. For some reason 'Carabene' the early homestead of the Flicks, was not included in this group at the time of the Byron Heritage Study in 2004. Although the original acreage has been subdivided and the original farm reduced in size, the house, "Carabene", still stands as the original site of settlement and is inextricably connected to the church group.

Assessment of Significance

Criterion a) Historical significance: *an item is important in the course, or pattern of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area.)*

Carabene holds historical significance to the Byron Shire as a late Victorian homestead developed by pioneering settlers, the Flicks, who were also instrumental in the development of the nearby school, community hall and church at Ewingsdale.

Criterion b Historical (Social /Associative) significance; *an item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person or a group of persons of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).*

Carabene demonstrates Historical Associative significance with William and Sarah Flick pioneer settlers of this property, who were also instrumental in the development of the nearby school, community hall and church at Ewingsdale, which has a strong association with the Ewingsdale community. The land was originally part of the former holdings of Sir Thomas Ewing 1856-1920, a Department of Lands surveyor, and later a politician.

Criteria c) Aesthetic significance: *an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area).*

The house demonstrates aesthetic significance for its historical form, scale and remaining original fabric including a 1920s concrete and tiled ornamental fence. It is a notable historic dwelling visible on the main road entry to Byron Bay with some mature plantings in its setting. Whilst it has been modified by some external alterations over the years it retains its overall form, scale, the hipped and gabled roof extensions and is recognisable to its early origins. Internally it retains considerable amount of internal fabric worthy of conservation including original teak flooring, timber ceilings and timber wall linings.

Criteria d) Social significance: *an item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.*

The property is linked to the St Columbus group of church, hall and former school site which are of high significance to the Ewingsdale community

Criteria e) Research potential: *an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area). Significance under this criterion must have the potential to yield new or further substantial information.*

The property is not likely to yield information of a nature which would meet this criteria.

Criteria f) Rarity: *an item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (for the cultural or natural history of the local area).*

Carabene homestead meets this criterion as it is rare locally in the context of the Ewingsdale and is important element of the St Columbus Church Group which is assessed as having rarity locally.

Criteria g) Representativeness: *an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics or a class of NSW's (or local area's) Cultural or natural places or Cultural or natural environments.*

Carabene is representative of a dwelling erected in the late 1880s with Federation era additions and can be compared to remaining early homesteads of this period in the Shire.

Recommendation

'Carabene' demonstrates historical, historical associative and aesthetic and social significance and is recommended to be included on Schedule 5 of Byron LEP 2014 as a heritage item.

The property is worthy of careful conservation, reinstatement of the original details, and retention of an appropriate setting including the historic concrete and tiled fence and mature plantings. A Conservation Management Plan and further research would assist in this process to guide future conservation and reconstruction works.

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Deborah Wray B.A Hons, M.P.I.A. M. ICOMOS

clarenceheritage@gmail.com

PO Box 1759, GRAFTON, NSW 2460 | M: 0427 425558 | P 0266 444 000
