

**Area 5****Leichhardt****Street/Stanley****Street****Landform**

This conservation area comprises a gently sloping area of land on the northeast of the Norton Street ridge falling from Balmain Road to McKenzie Street.



Figure 5.1 Leichhardt Street/Stanley Street Conservation Area Map.

**History**

The subdivision history of this area has proved difficult to unravel, and has not been possible to research within the constraints of this study. Fieldwork suggests that the process of building up the area was well under way by 1891, with Leichhardt and Wetherill Streets being built upon in the 1890s-1910s period. The northern part of Stanley Street appears to have been developed in the late 1930s, with double fronted face brick hipped roof houses, low brick fences and Art Deco glass to the front windows.

**Sources**

Information provided by Max Solling.

**Significant Characteristics**

- Relatively spacious low-rise residential area.
- Three wide streets (surveyors' one chain in width).
- Grassed nature strips.
- Regular allotment widths, generally, with some early combinations and re-subdivisions of original allotments to create some wider lots.
- Narrow allotments in Balmain Road and part of Stanley Street.
- Houses built close to street alignment.
- Small front gardens generally containing plants and some lawn.

- Single-storey residential buildings.
- Width of houses vary from double-fronted to single-fronted. Some semidetached houses and groups of single-storey terraces.
- Hipped and some gabled roofs.
- Pattern of V-shaped spaces between roofs of buildings.
- Face brick construction to almost all buildings.
- Exceptions are the few Victorian Italianate double-fronted villas with plastered walls.
- Render sometimes used on parts of the wall, or around the entrance for decorative purposes.
- Roof cladding of unglazed terracotta tiles and slates.
- Narrow range of domestic styles – predominantly of the 1890s.
- 1930s houses on north side of Stanley Street repeat established scale and materials palette of the area.
- Range of decorative elements – notable use of small square or pyramidal towers over front entrances; glazed tiles; part render of walls; chimneys; roof ridging; decorative plaster mouldings; terracotta ridging and restrained finials; Art Deco glass in Stanley Street.
- Low fences allow public view of front gardens. Some iron palisade fences on very low brick bases; late nineteenth-century brick fences, and less decorated 1930s brick fences.
- Sandstone kerbs and gutters with rare interruption for garage/carport access.
- Street plantings of native trees and shrubs.

#### Statement of Significance or Why the Area is Important

- One of a number of conservation areas which collectively illustrate the nature of Sydney's early suburbs and Leichhardt's suburban growth, particularly between 1871 and 1891, with pockets of infill up to the end of the 1930s (ie prior to World War II). This area was developed mostly between 1890s-1910s and is significant for its surviving development from that period and the later group of houses in Stanley Street most likely belonging to the 1930s.
- Demonstrates, by contrast with Balmain Road or McKenzie Street, the effect of the Width of Streets and Lanes Act of 1881 on the layout of suburban subdivisions.
- Through its pattern of subdivision allowing for double and single-fronted detached and attached houses, and terraces, and through the scale, shape, siting and materials of its buildings, it provides a good example of a turn-of-the-century artisan's and tradesmen's suburb.

- It demonstrates, through its architectural embellishments, the social aspirations of its first residents.
- It is of streetscape value for the unity of its scale, shape and consistency of materials, for the pattern of spaces between buildings and for the gardens between buildings and nature strips.
- It clearly illustrates through its construction materials the ready availability of machine-made face bricks during the period of its development.

## Management of Heritage Values

### Generally

This is a conservation area. Little change can be expected other than modest additions and discrete alterations. Buildings which do not contribute to the heritage significance of the area may be replaced with sympathetically designed infill.

### Retain

- All sandstone kerbs and gutters, uninterrupted by any new vehicular driveways.
- All existing buildings.
- All face brick walls. Encourage restitution of face brick surfaces where necessary.
- Plastered finishes to the few late Victorian Italianate villas, and where used decoratively to the face brick buildings.
- Original fences – including all the remaining iron palisade fences and the low brick fences contemporary with the construction of the houses.
- Original architectural features and embellishments.
- Front gardens and street verges as green garden space.

### Avoid

- Amalgamation of any allotments to create larger building sites.
- Alterations to the form of the existing roof, including two-storey additions – extensions should be to rear of existing house only.
- Any new two-storey buildings on the street front – two-storey buildings should be at the rear, screened by single-storey forms.
- Painting or plastering of any existing unpainted brick surface.
- Road chicanes which alter the straight line of the streets.
- Timber picket fences or high brick walls.

## Notes

Further work is required to fully understand the history of the subdivision and development of the area. This would assist in formulating focused development controls for its future management.