

King Street/Enmore Road

Boundary

The King Street/Enmore Road Heritage Conservation Area (HCA) in Newtown/Enmore, consists of all the properties along King Street and Enmore Road from the junction with Church Street in the north to Stanmore Road in the west and Illawarra Railway Road in the south.

Topography

The streets generally follow the ridge line slowly descending southwards to the Cooks River.

History

The area developed around the major transport routes to the south west of Sydney. Its success as a major retail area was due to its close walking proximity to Sydney, the early development of the surrounding area first by fine villa estates in the 1830's – 1860's and then by wealthy residents in the 1870's and early 1880's and latterly by the high density working class cottages and terraces of the late 1880's to the early 1900's, the arrival of the railway line and Newtown Station in 1855 and the construction of the tram lines in the 1880's all assisted in creating a convenient location for the development of a retail area.

By the end of the 19th century it was reputed to even rival Sydney centre. In 1981, Newtown was described as the great emporium for a large surrounding district.

Character of the Heritage Conservation Area

The curving retail streetscape includes some fine examples of late 19th century and early 20th century premises to both sides of the street. The central area has a group of fine civic buildings.

The building stock has a degree of integrity despite the removal of the original first and second, balconies and verandahs. Early photographs and etchings show the powerful impact that these features had on the streetscape, in creating an outstanding urban space.

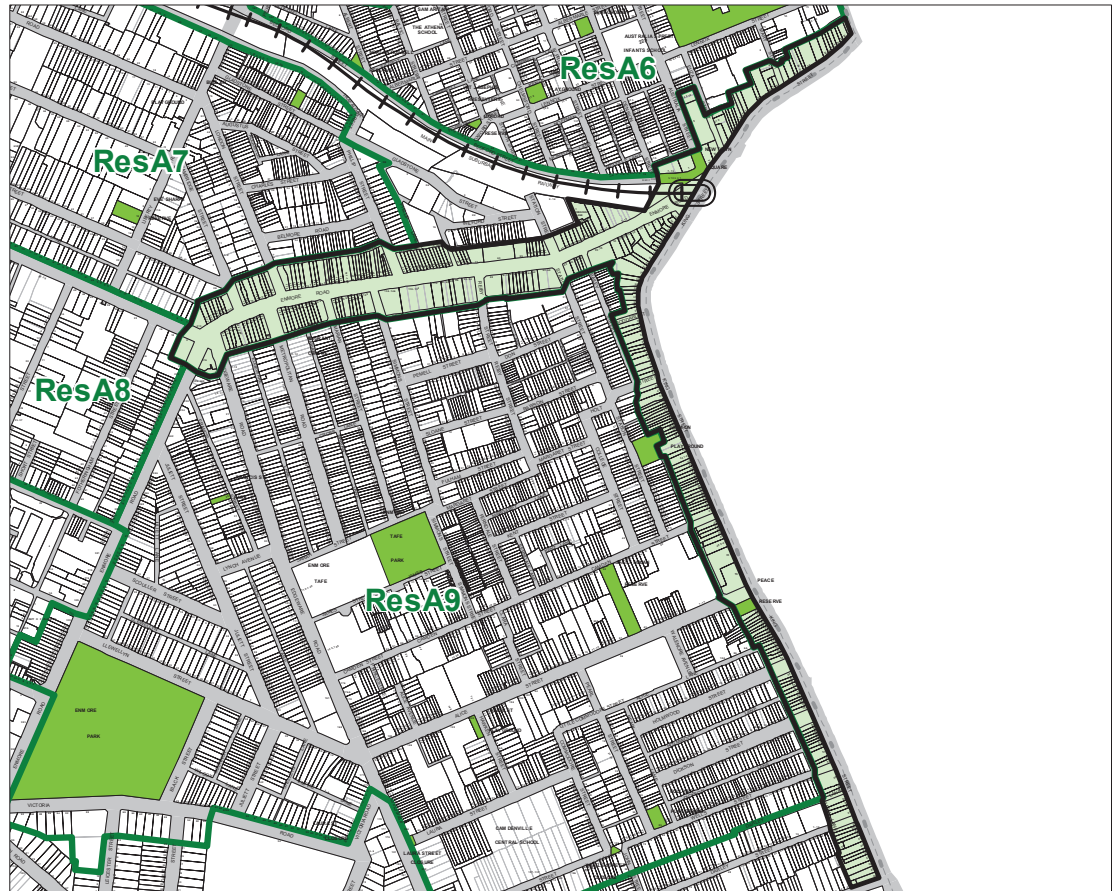
The relatively unbroken rhythm of original buildings together with the streets curve and gradual slope make the area unique in Sydney and one of the few of such quality in the state.

Statement of Significance

1. The area consists of a late 19th century retail precinct which has a high degree of integrity, uniformity of scale and form.
2. The building stock represents a good collection of fine late Victorian commercial buildings which together with the streets curve and slopes makes it unique in the Sydney metropolitan area and of such quality in the NSW state.
3. The uniformity of scale and continuity of facades, awnings, articulated skyline created by elaborate parapet detailing and repetitive narrow allotments creates a fine urban space with enclosed views and vistas.
4. The continuous building pattern and rhythm to the street is only marred by a few intrusive elements and gaps to the street frontage.
5. The area has a high level of social significance for both the local area and the Sydney community. The first suburban tramway in NSW was opened between Newtown Railway Station and the corner of Illawarra Road and Marrickville Road.
6. The removal of the 1st and 2nd storey Victorian balconies to most of the buildings to comply with traffic regulations is the only major loss of original fabric and detailing in the area.

King Street/Enmore Road

Heritage Conservation Area HCA2



Legend

- HCA2 King Street / Enmore Road Heritage Conservation Area
- ResCA, RCA Conservation Area
- Property boundary
- Land parcel boundary
- Park
- Roads
- Council Boundary
- Railway
- RS Railway Station

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