

Register of Historic Places and Objects

SHI Number
4671014

The PHA NSW Heritage Register

Item Name: **Yellow House (The)**

Location: **57-59 Macleay Street, Potts Point**

Address: 57-59 Macleay Street

Corner:

Suburb / Nearest Town: Potts Point 2011

State: NSW

Local Govt Area: Local Government Area:
South Sydney City

DUAP Region:
Sydney South

Historic region:
Sydney

Property Identifier: Lot 1 DP 110483

Boundary:

Item Type: Built

Group: Residential buildings (Category: Terrace

Owner: Private - Corporate

Owner Codes:

Code 2:

Code 3:

Current Use: Boarding House

Former Uses: Residential

Assessed Significance:

Endorsed Significance:

Statement of Significance: The Yellow House is significant because it is one of the few remaining buildings associated with the Bohemian period in Kings Cross and Potts Point from the 1920s to the 1970s. During the early 1970s it was associated with key figures in Australia's avant-garde art movement, comprising film-makers, writers and artists, including George Gittoes, Brett Whitely, Martin Sharp and others, who contributed to and shaped the nation's cultural identity.

Historical Notes or Provenance: No 57 San Diego and No 59 Amador were built by architect, Maurice B. Halligan, as part of a ten house terrace in 1897. They remained in residential use until 1957, when the front rooms became the Terry Clune Gallery, which acquired a reputation for showing young, radical artists. Between 1970-72 the building became the Yellow House, run by a co-operative of artists, including George Gittoes, Brett Whitely, Martin Sharp and others. Many of the artists involved are now of national standing. After 1972 it returned to residential use, and presently functions as a boarding house (Sue Rosen, David Sheedy, Report to Heritage Council: nomination of the Yellow House, 57-59 Macleay Street, Potts Point, 1997; NSW Heritage Office, State Heritage Inventory, 1999).

National Themes:

State Themes: Cultural sites

Persons

Townships

Study Themes:

Designer: Maurice B. Halligan

Maker / Builder:

Year Started: 1897

Year Completed: 1897

Circa: No

Professional Historians Association (NSW) Inc

Date: 18/08/2001

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Item Name: **Yellow House (The)**Location: **57-59 Macleay Street, Potts Point**

Physical Description: A three storey pair of attached brick Federation Queen Ann style terrace houses having a well modulated and detailed brick and render facade with a tile roof. The features include arched entrance porches, double bayed windows with gables at the centre and timber doors and window sashes.

Physical Condition: The building appears virtually intact and adds considerably to the remaining attractive streetscape of Macleay Street with the adjoining buildings, particularly No. 61, it relates well to the nineteenth century character of Challis Avenue.

Modification Dates:

**Recommended
Management:**

Further Comments:

Historical Significance: (a) The Yellow House is representative of a number of houses in Potts Point which have served as home and studio to many artists of national standing who were attracted to the area because of its unique Bohemian and cosmopolitan milieu. The area was a place where difference and artistic expression could be nurtured in an atmosphere of tolerance that did not exist in suburbia. The establishment of the Yellow House was a continuation of that tradition (Rosen, Sheedy, 1997.). Emeritus Professor Bernard Smith has recently described the Yellow House as 'a ...centre of great significance for avant garde art in Sydney...' during the 1970s (NSW Heritage Office, 1999.).

The dimensions, layout and fabric of the rooms within the Yellow House formed an integral part of the exhibitions, installations and works produced and shown in the place and thus provide evidence of the artists' occupation of the space (NSW Heritage Office, 1999.).

(b) The Yellow House is historically significant because of its association from the 1920s with artists of national standing. It is also associated with key creative talents of the early 1970s who subsequently contributed to and shaped the nation's sense of cultural identity through painting, film, fiction, criticism, photography and music (Rosen, Sheedy, 1997.).

Aesthetic Significance: The building (plus Nos 55, 61-63) is a fine and distinctive example of Federation Queen Anne style terrace housing remaining in Sydney, and a major work by the architect Maurice B. Halligan (NSW Heritage Office, 1999.).

Social Significance: It is socially significant because of its identification with the creative people who occupied it. It is also significant to the residents of the area who associate the Yellow House with a past that was characterised by a strong artistic and creative presence in contrast to the current image of the area. Long-term residents see the current dominance of what they call 'sleaze' on Darlinghurst Road as a legacy of the R&R days of the Vietnam War (Rosen, Sheedy, 1997.).

Technical / Research:

Representativeness:

Rare Assessment: It is rare because of its long sustained association with significant Australian artists and because it is one of few remaining buildings associated with the artists' quarter and the Bohemian period in Kings Cross and Potts Point between the 1930s and 1970s (Rosen, Sheedy, 1997.).

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References:	Author:	Title:	Year:
	Baskerville, B.	Report to the Heritage Council: nomination for a PCO, 57-59 Macleay St, Potts Point	1997
	Rod Howard Heritage Conservation Pty Ltd	The Yellow House, Potts Point: Analysis of Statement of Cultural Significance	1997
	Rosen, Sue & Sheedy, David	Report to Heritage Council: nomination of the Yellow House, 57-59 Macleay St, Potts Point	1997

Studies:

Listings:	Name:	Title:	Number:	Date:
	Heritage Act - Interim Heritage Order		00020	31/03/00
	Heritage Act - Interim Heritage Order		00020	12/05/00
	Heritage Act - Interim Conservation Order		00949	19/03/99
	Heritage Act - Interim Conservation Order - Lapsed		00937	19/12/97

Custom Field One:**Custom Field Two:** Rosemary Kerr of Sue Rosen & Associates, Heritage Assessment And History**Custom Field Three:** 4/09/2000**Custom Field Four:****Custom Field Five:****Custom Field Six:****Data Entry:** Date First Entered: 04/07/2001 Date Updated: 04/07/2001 Status: Completed