
ST. MARK'S

Heritage Conservation Area

A fine collection of residential buildings, including nineteenth century villas and terraces and twentieth century cottages, adjacent to an important area of remnant bushland.

The area extends west from Glebe Gully to include parts of Dutruc Street, St Marks Road, Rae Street and Wood Street.

What is the area's significance?

Aesthetic Significance:

The St Mark's precinct boasts the City's largest, most consistent collection of nineteenth century dwellings. There are two or three main building groupings, which together provide a very good representation of styles, types and densities.

The first main grouping features several outstanding Victorian villas, on large lots, fronting St Mark's Road and Dutruc Street. The second includes impressive terraces, and more modest Victorian, Federation and Inter-War cottages and semi-detached, centred on Rae and Wood Streets. A third grouping consists of a mixture of styles and periods extending north to Frenchmans Road.

Although there are several modern and disruptive buildings present, there are two fine rows of intact buildings, one on the west side of St Mark's Road, and one on the north side of Rae Street. Most of these are individually listed as heritage items. The recently restored house on the pivotal corner of Rae and Dutruc Streets has become something of a landmark, and is an outstanding example of a Late Victorian villa.

Buildings and gardens combine well with the topography and some good street planting. The street pattern provides some interesting internal vistas, and there is a notable view south along Dutruc Street to the Brigidine Convent on the other side the Coogee valley.

Historic Significance:

St Mark's Road and Dutruc Streets have considerable historical interest. They were created by subdivision of the former Church of England Glebe Estate in 1888. The strong demand for land in the area ensured the establishment of substantial homes for the well-to-do, all within the significant Late Victorian "boom period".

The Church's continuing ownership of the adjoining Glebe gully was also of interest, as it ensured the gully's eventual preservation.

Other housing in the precinct is historically representative of the wide range of house types and styles built on smaller lots during the Victorian, Federation and Inter-War periods.

Scientific Significance:

The Glebe gully, now the Fred Hollows Reserve, has considerable natural heritage value. It is a rare surviving example of a well vegetated watercourse in the midst of an intensely developed residential area. The reserve is a habitat for significant local flora and fauna, including the rare Gully Skink.

Social Significance:

The surviving villas on St Mark's Road and Dutruc Street have social significance for what they reveal of the tastes and life styles of Randwick's elite, in the late nineteenth century. Randwick had, by now, become a settled residential area, in contrast to its semi-rural origins. The subdivisions of the Glebe lands provided generous lots for those wishing to build prestigious homes close to the commercial and civic centre. The highly ornamented " Boom Style" buildings reflected the prosperity of the time.

Themes Represented:

The following historical themes, identified in the 1989 Randwick Heritage Study, are directly illustrated in the conservation area:

- Modifying the landscape
- Speculation and promotion
- Promotion of culture, religion and education
- Recreation, entertainment and leisure
- Suburbanisation

The following themes are indirectly represented:

- Government and institutions
- Transport and communications

