

Item Details

Name

George Reading Group of Dwellings including former Temperance Hall

SHR/LEP/S170

George Reading Group of Dwellings
including former Temperance Hall

Address

9,11,13,15,17,19,25 Lismore Road BANGALOW NSW 2479

Local Govt Area

Byron

Local Aboriginal Land Council

Tweed Byron

Item Type

Built

Group/Collection

Residential buildings (private)

Category

House

All Addresses

Addresses

Records Retrieved: 1

Street No	Street Name	Suburb/Town/Postcode	Local Govt. Area	LALC	Parish	County	Electorate	Address Type
9,11,13,15,17,19,25	Lismore Road	BANGALOW/NSW/2479	Byron	Tweed Byron				Primary Address

Boundary Description

The property boundaries. The adjoining grassed road reserve also contributes to the overall setting.

Significance

Statement Of Significance

Anchored by the George Reading store at the top of the hill, this group of early dwellings, including the former Temperance Hall, now residence, demonstrate historical, historical associative and aesthetic significance. They are evidence of the early settlement of Bangalow by pioneers, prior to the 1903 Robinsons subdivision, and hold association with George Reading. The historic dwellings exhibit the timber and iron vernacular design aesthetic of the North Coast region, retain a high level of consistency of modest scale, form and front and side setbacks, roof form, landscaping, low picket fences and spatial settings with no dominant garages or driveways, and are fine example of local timber construction and craftsmanship. They are a landmark group on the entry to the township of Bangalow and retain high integrity as a group.

Criteria a)

Historical Significance

This group of historic modest dwellings demonstrate historical significance as part of the early settlement and development of the township of Bangalow prior to the Robinson Subdivision of 1903.

Criteria b)

Historical Association Significance

The dwellings are associated with early settler George Reading who operated the Reading Stores and was successful in the early commerce and development of the area.

Criteria c)

Aesthetic/Technical Significance

Anchored by the George Reading store at the top of the hill, this group of early dwellings including the former Temperance Hall now a residence, demonstrate aesthetic significance. The historic dwellings exhibit the timber and iron vernacular design aesthetic of the North Coast region, retain a high level of consistency of modest scale, form and front and side setbacks, roof form, landscaping, low picket fences and spatial settings with no dominant garages or driveways, and are fine example of local timber construction and craftsmanship. They are a landmark group on the entry to the township of Bangalow and retain high integrity as a group.

Criteria f)

Rarity

The buildings demonstrate rarity locally for their historical and social links to early pioneer settlers and as a highly intact group with high prominence on a town entry.

Criteria g)

Representative

The buildings are representative of timber and iron domestic architecture of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Integrity/Intactness

High

Owners

Organisation	Stakeholder Category	Date Ownership Updated
No Results Found		

Description

Designer

Builder/Maker

Physical Description

Updated 11/16/2022

7 houses were built on the land for George Readings workers from 1894-1903 as they were there at the time of the 1903 subdivision. Anchored by the George Reading Store at the top of the hill, and Blanch's House at the bottom of the hill, this group of cottages lines the town entry to Bangalow from the south and are located opposite the railway line. They comprise a consistent group in terms of modest single storey scale, with predominant hipped roof form, front and side generous setbacks, no dominant garages, landscaped settings and low front fences, abutted by grassed verge and the footpath. The materials are consistent in term of predominantly uncoloured metal galvanised roofing, light coloured weatherboard walls, (although earlier colour schemes may well have been more earth and stone based in colour) verandahs to front and sides, windows of vertical proportions and timber joinery.

Physical Condition

Updated

All appear in good condition and well maintained.

Modifications And Dates

Some modifications by addition of simple carports to sides, detached garage to rear, and enclosure of verandah at no 15.

Further Comments

A well maintained historic group.

Current Use

Residential dwellings

Former Use

Residential dwellings and former Temperance Hall.

Listings

Listings

						Records Retrieved: 2
Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page	
Potential Heritage Item						
Within a conservation area on an LEP	Byron Local Environmental Plan 2014	C0001	5/30/2014 12:00:00 AM	2014-297		

Procedures/Exemptions

						Records Retrieved: 0
Section of Act	Description	Title	Comments	Action Date	Outcome	
No Results Found						

History

Historical Notes or Provenance

Updated

11/16/2022 7:37:43 PM

Byron Shire Council recognises the Bundjalung of Byron Bay Arakwal people, the Minjungbal people and the Widjabul people as Traditional Owners and custodians for parts of the Byron Shire. In the Bangalow area, the Widjabul people of the Bundjalung Aboriginal language group had lived in the area for tens of thousands of years. Early explorers and settlers described the district as "the Big Scrub" because of the dense sub-tropical rainforest. Settlement of the area began in the 1840s when European timber cutters and cedar getters moved through the rainforest looking for timber to exploit. Little development occurred until 1869 when the whole district was subdivided. The first settler in the district was Thomas Robinson who purchased land near the present town site in 1881. Bangalow developed substantially after the construction of the Lismore to Tweed Railway, which reached Byron Creek (later named Granuaille then Bangalow) in 1892.

The name of Bangalow derives from the name of the palm that was abundant in the rainforest of the area. The first selectors of land included Thomas Robinson, who subdivided the elevated land in the south west of the town surrounding St Kevin's Roman Catholic Church: Robert Campbell who subdivided most of the central area of the town on the east and west sides of the railway; and William Barby, who subdivided the land on the eastern side of Byron Creek.

The town is connected strongly with the dairying industry, which commenced with Robinson's selection in 1881. A receiving depot at Bangalow channelled much of the dairy produce into the Norco Factory at Byron Bay, via the Tweed Railway, and thence to Australian and European markets via the port at Byron Bay. Bangalow flourished as a village during the last decade of the Nineteenth Century and the first decades of the Twentieth Century.

The growth in dairying was greatly facilitated by the formation of cooperatives, of which NORCO at Byron Bay was an outstanding example. In 1924 NORCO absorbed the dairy industry output of Bangalow, which had been served since 1912 by the Binna Burra butter factory. The Dairying industry in Bangalow declined when the dairying industry was de-regulated in the late 1960s.

Bangalow also served a timber industry which remained viable until the 1970s although the decline was a long one. The industry was killed off in the 1970s following forestry blockades which ultimately led to the creation of National Parks and exclusion of the forestry industry.

In the 1980s the township of Bangalow declined as business declined and essential services were withdrawn. At this time there was a growing interest in heritage and tourism and the discovery of Bangalow's excellent heritage values. Since that time the place has grown steadily into a boutique town with commercial and light industrial activities focussed in large measure on boutique and heritage activities. It is now a must-visit place on the Northern NSW tourism map.

This Item

This group of historic cottages predates the 1903 Robinson Subdivision and is associated with George Reading, who operated the Reading Store at the top of the hill, was closely connected with the dairy industry in the district, and was a director of the Norco dairy co-operative. The group also includes the former Temperance Hall which also holds significance to this movement. This is a significant group for their consistency which tell of domestic settlement prior to the turn of the 20th Century.

Historic Themes

Records Retrieved: 1

National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
4. Settlement	Towns, suburbs and villages	Unknown

Recommended Management

Management Summary

Carefully conserve all items in the group to maintain the consistency of original roof form, verandahs, scale, spatial settings, side and front setbacks, materials, landscaping, low fences appropriate to the era and lack of dominance of garages.

Management

Records Retrieved: 0

Management Category	Management Name	Date Updated
No Results Found		

Report/Study

Heritage Studies

Records Retrieved: 1

Report/Study Name	Report/Study Code	Report/Study Type	Report/Study Year	Organisation	Author
Byron Shire Community Based Heritage Study			2005		Donald Ellsmore and Ian Fox

Reference & Internet Links

References

Records Retrieved: 1

Type	Author	Year	Title	Link
Map		2020	Pers Comm Vivienne Gorec Bangalow Historical Society	

Data Source

The information for this entry comes from the following source:

Data Source	Record Owner	Heritage Item ID
Local Government	Byron Shire Council	5067890

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