

Scanned copy of original submission

TO: The Commissioner  
Productivity Commission

Hearing Tuesday 31st January 2006  
RE: Conservation of Australia's Historic Heritage Places

Please accept my submission as I was unaware of this hearing until a couple of days ago, and cannot personally attend as I have medical appointments.

As a resident of Richmond Avenue, I would like to see the PETTIT AND SEVITT DISPLAY VILLAGE in our street preserved for future generations so that they can appreciate the history of Architecture in Australia.

These houses represent a significant change in the design and approach to Architect designed houses which previously were beyond the affordability of the average Australian. They also portrayed an "open-plan" living and they nestled into the Australian BUsh landscape.

I personally visited this "Village" in 1965 with my then Architect husband, my children and my in-laws who were relocating to Sydney and had purchased a block of land at Killarney Heights. It would have been impossible for my husband to design and have built a like dwelling at that price, therefore he recommended that they choose the "low-line" which they did and built on their block at Killarney Heights.

It appears that the majority of the residents of these 8 houses purchased them knowing that they had Heritage value. The owners of No. 29 however, did purchase their home BEFORE that time, but are perfectly happy for their home to be so listed. This I checked with them again to-day.

It seems also that the Heritage Office of NSW is agreeable to assist residents who wish to extend their hares by arranging for plans to be drawn up within the scope of the original designs, and offering to pay the costs thereof.

When I spoke with Mr Ken Woolley, the original Architect, at a past Kur-ing-gai Council Meeting, he reaffirmed that the houses were designed to be extended to cope with growing families requirements as they were built in 3ft modules, and even to-day all the building materials required are readily available and used extensively.

Surely the emotive issues being raised by some of the residents of these houses should be thoroughly checked out particularly in relation to the potential losses envisaged which seem to be exaggerated. All these issues should be confirmed in writing by professional experts.

I live in a Pettit and Sevitt "low-line" house myself, which has been extended by adding a Granny Flat, plus minor changes to the interior, and the addition of doors and windows, which changes have been acne in accordance with the over-all design and using the same materials. However, as a couple of the homes are in a "bushfire prone area" AS 3959 would apply. Particularly to No. 29.

Surely "THE ROCKS" would not be alive to-day if the "greenies" had not taken a stand all those years ago!  
Sincerely

(T. Whitmore)

