



Rob Stokes MP
Minister for the Environment
Minister for Heritage
Minister for the Central Coast
Assistant Minister for Planning

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 2 July 2014

HERITAGE CAMPAIGNER'S FORMER KINGS CROSS HOME LISTED

The terrace house at 202 Victoria Street Potts Point where Juanita Nielsen lived from 1968 until her mysterious disappearance in 1975, has been placed on the State Heritage Register.

Heritage Minister Rob Stokes said the house has state heritage significance for its association with the life and work of heritage campaigner Juanita Nielsen.

"This is the house where Ms Nielsen published her local newspaper 'NOW' through which she led her campaign (from 1973-1975) against the overdevelopment of Victoria Street and Woolloomooloo," Rob Stokes said.

"202 Victoria Street has local heritage significance as part of a rare surviving group of workers terraces in the area.

"The five terraces at 198-202 Victoria Street and 11-13 Earl Street are rare examples of the early, simple workman's terraces which characterised the southern end of Victoria Street during its first phase of development from 1840 to 1870.

"Nielsen's activism and newspaper editorials in NOW were instrumental in raising public awareness of heritage conservation in NSW, particularly the threat to heritage precincts in the absence of statutory heritage protection."

"NOW was originally a local issues and advertising newspaper, promoting local businesses and services and reflecting the bohemian lifestyle of Kings Cross.

"By mid-1973, the focus of the paper began to shift as Nielsen became more involved in local issues including growing pressure by developers on the tenants of terrace houses along Victoria Street to vacate their homes for redevelopment.

Nielsen lent her support to a green ban on any development in Victoria Street in late 1973; imposed by the Builders Labourers Federation, which effectively halted all work. Nielsen's disappearance in July 1975, at the height of the campaign against tenant eviction and overdevelopment in Kings Cross and Woolloomooloo further raised her profile and remains one of Sydney's most enduring unsolved mysteries.

The NSW Government is committed to conserving, revitalising and caring for places of heritage significance.