

# *KIERA-VILLE*

Lot E DP 162716 No. 20 Hansens Road, Minto Heights  
Late Victorian House, built 1890's



## **HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION:**

Kiera-Ville was built in the 1890's as the home of John Rider, a renowned colonial glass engraver.

Rider (1851-1934) completed his apprenticeship in England with Thomas Webb & Sons. He arrived in Australia during the 1880's stayed and established a successful glass engraving and etching business in Sydney.

In 1896 Rider moved to east Minto from Marrickville but continued to commute to his shop in the Strand Arcade by train.

The Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences is interested in Rider's work, which has been discussed in several books on the period. His work has been purchased by the Sydney Art Gallery and the Old Technological Museum.

The most important feature of Kiera-Ville is a fanlight located over French doors to the front of the house. It is believed to be a surviving example of Riders work. As well as an intricate design, it features the words "Kiera-Ville". Should "Kiera-Ville" ever be demolished, it would be imperative that the fanlight be preserved. Steps should also be taken to ensure that the fanlight is protected if the house becomes vacant.

Adjacent to Kerra-Ville is a property that is owned by W.J. Thomas, an artist and Rider's brother-in-law. For a time they shared a shop in the Royal Arcades. The Mitchell Library has examples of Thomas' work.

Rider lived at Kiera-Ville until he moved to Condamine Street shortly before he died in 1934. After East Minto Public School burnt down in 1946, the building was used as a temporary school.

## **CONDITION AND USE:**

As the house lies in the path of the proposed Georges River Parkway, the property has been purchased by the Macarthur Development Board. It is still used as a dwelling.

## **HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:**

- The house is of Historical, Architectural, and Aesthetic significance
- It is of local significance to Campbelltown because:
  - it contains "in situ" a fine example of the renowned colonial glass engraver John Rider's work
  - it was built as the home of John Rider;
  - it is a surviving example of the push for city workers to reside in the country and commute by train – a largely successful exercise until the 1960's; and

- it is an interesting and intact, although dilapidated example of late nineteenth century architecture.

**HERITAGE LISTING:**

**LOCAL:** LEP 2002

**STATE:** *NSW Heritage Act 1977:* Listed under Act – although not on the State Heritage Register