

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Lot 1 DP 247902 Maryfields, Off Narellan Road, Campbelltown







HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION:

The property of Maryfields stands on 130 acres granted to Patrick Cullen in 1823. Cullen's son sold it to John Terry Huges, who in turn sold it to John Rudd in 1838.

Maryfields homestead was altered by local architect Alfred Rose Payten.

Maryfields remained in the hands of the Rudd Family until 1930 when Miss Sarah Mary Keane (niece of Miss Georgina Rudd) transferred the property to the Franciscan Brothers.

Note: The Rudd, Cullen and Terry families were related by marriage.

The first Franciscan community moved to Maryfields on 7 September 1934. Maryfields was known throughout the Sydney metropolitan area and beyond for its celebration of the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, Via Crucis (way of the cross).

The first ceremony was held in 1936, when between 6,000 and 35,000 people attended. Realising the promotional and financial potential of the ceremony, Fr. Bernard Nolan imported a set of twelve terracotta "Stations of the Cross" from France for the 1937 ceremony. The Stations, which cost around 3000 pounds were donated by Sydney families and are located on a hill adjacent to the friary. Also for the 1937 ceremony, the Government created the Maryfield Station on the Camden Tramway, which had special trams for the following ceremonies. The ceremonies lasted for 50 years.

The Poor Clare nuns moved to the site in 1964.

CONDITION AND USE:

The Stations of the Cross are still in good condition on the Maryfield property – relatively unchanged since the 1930's.

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:

- The Stations of the Cross have Historical, Cultural and Social significance
- They have played part of an important religious ceremony for Campbelltown – especially so for Catholics.

HERITAGE LISTING:

LOCAL: LEP 2002

STATE: *Macarthur Regional Heritage Study: Map 5*