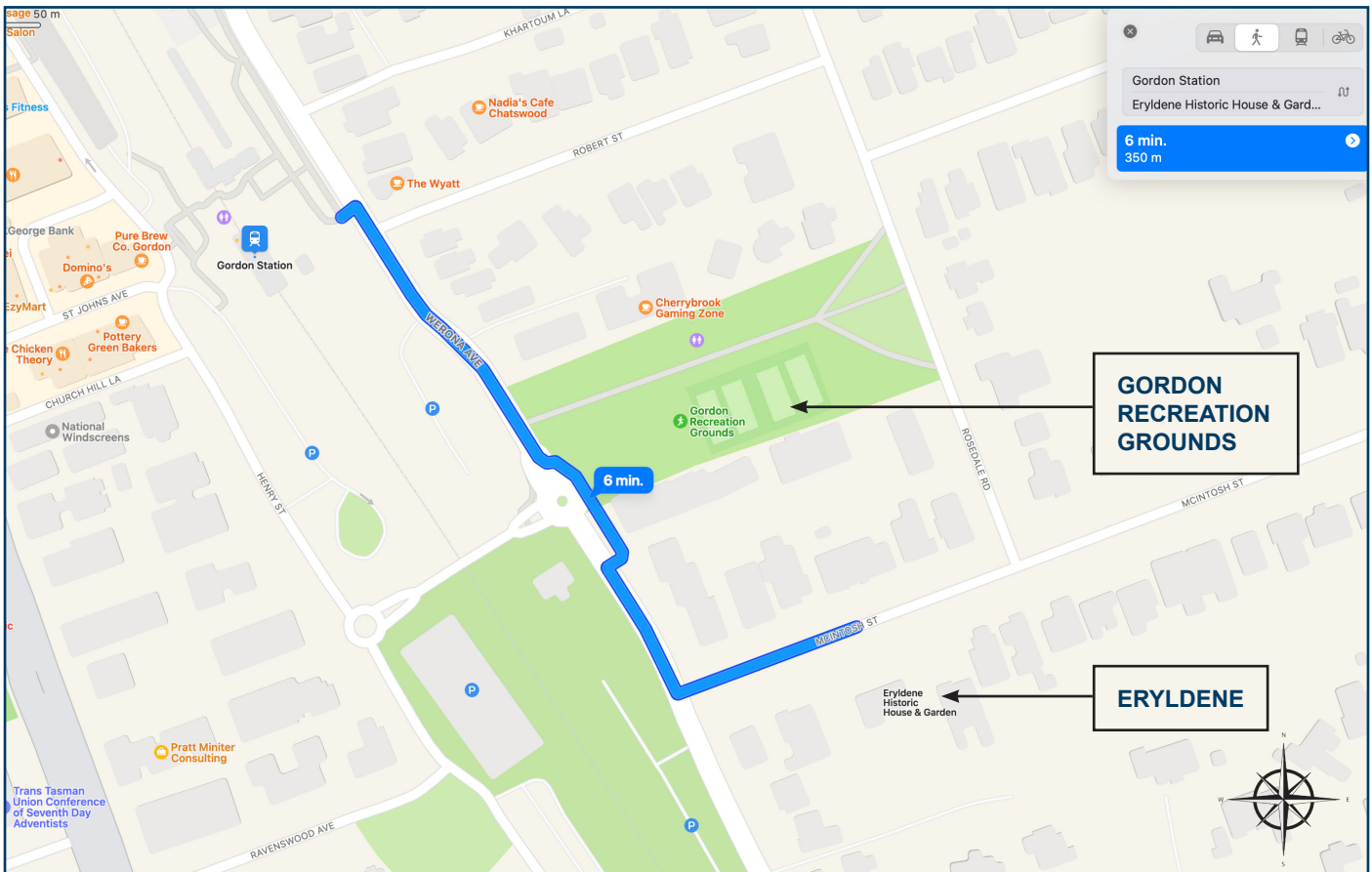




ERYLDENE

## WALKING TO ERYLDENE HISTORIC HOUSE & GARDEN 17 MCINTOSH ST, GORDON



### INFORMATION

The walk from Gordon Train Station (North Shore Line) to Eryldene Historic House & Garden should take approximately 5-10 minutes and is about 350m along suburban sidewalks.

The map above shows the most direct route along main roads from Gordon Station.

However, if you have time, we suggest walking through the '**Gordon Recreation Grounds**' which were designed by Wilson, Neave and Berry. *Wilson, Neave & Berry (1920–27), was a firm noted for the Colonial Revival style of architecture for domestic design: fat, low-squatting Georgian boxes with colonnaded verandahs, spider-web fanlights on entrance doors and multi-paned windows with shutters. The firm's style followed the Colonial Revival based on the United States idiom, but also looked to Australian colonial architecture for inspiration. This style became very popular in the 1920s (Edwards, 2013, 770).* This is particularly relevant to Eryldene as the 'Wilson' in Wilson, Neave & Berry was William Hardy Wilson, the architect of Eryldene.

See over page for further information regarding the Gordon Recreation Park - including an extract from the recently published Gordon Recreation Ground Landscape Masterplan adopted by the Kuring-gai Council in June 2018.

## History and Heritage

The suburb of Gordon was developed adhering to the ideals of the 'Garden City' urban design movement of the early 20th century which promoted suburban housing situated close to rail lines with access for residents to nearby parkland and bushland.

The land for Gordon Recreation Ground was acquired by Council and opened in 1922 with tennis courts and a selection of children's play equipment. The layout, landscape and architectural style of Gordon Recreation Ground is an example of a 1920s semi-formal public park with a mixture of large remnant trees, feature trees fashionable for the era and gardens of exotic flowering plants.

An architectural competition was held to design entry gates, a children's summerhouse and a tennis and bowling pavilion for a proposed bowling green within the Recreation Ground. A local architect from Gordon, John Berry of Wilson, Neave and Berry architects won the competition. In 1923, the western gateway to Werona Avenue was the first structure to be completed and the remaining buildings and bowling green were proposed to follow. With the onset of the Great Depression, these proposals were never constructed.

The Recreation Ground became a popular place for gatherings and public recreation. A series of landscape embellishments were carried out in 1935 to accommodate the park's increased patronage. These works included the construction of gravel paths in the layout of the current path network, the planting of flowering garden beds, the formalising of a children's playground area, and the construction of low fencing to the Werona Avenue frontage.

The need for an amenities block for the users of the tennis court was acknowledged by the Council and designs were drawn up for toilets, change rooms and a kitchen. The current Tennis Pavilion structure was completed in 1936.

Architectural heritage consultants were commissioned by Council in September 2016 to review the heritage significance of the Tennis and Gateway Pavilions and prepare a Conservation Management Plan to guide the ongoing management of the structures. It is considered that the Gateway and Tennis Pavilion structures are of Local Heritage Significance.

A summary of the Conservation Management Plan's conclusions is outlined in the following recommendations:

- There is an opportunity to restore the Gateway Pavilion to its original 1923 appearance which will enhance its cultural significance.
- Large trees close to the Gateway Pavilion are causing damage to the structure and tree removal works are required.
- There is an opportunity to enhance the cultural significance of the Tennis Pavilion whilst being sympathetic to adaptive re-use of the internal spaces.
- Universally accessible toilet and amenity facilities should be provided.

The Gateway Pavilion and the Tennis Pavilion together help define Gordon Recreation Ground as a heritage setting and their conservation, restoration and adaptive re-use will enhance that setting and contribute to the enjoyment of the park for many years to come.<sup>1</sup>



Figure 02- Site photo c. 1930<sup>2</sup>

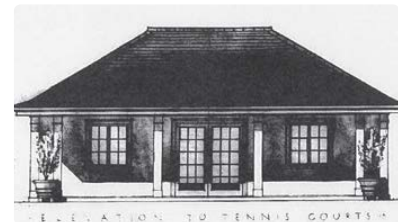


Figure 03 - Tennis Pavilion architectural drawing<sup>3</sup>



Figure 04: Newspaper article about park opening<sup>4</sup>

1. Phillips Marler (2017) *Gateway Pavilion and Tennis Pavilion at Gordon Recreation Ground Conservation Management Plan*

2. NSW Planning and Environment Commission (1975) *Sydney Region Open Space Survey*

3. Wilson, Neave & Berry architects (1922) *Elevation to Tennis Courts*, Collection of architectural plans of Wilson, Neave & Berry 1909-1937, State Library of NSW

4. Unknown (1922) Gordon Recreation Ground, *Sydney Morning Herald*, p.11. Available at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article16027386>