

# Blue Plaques - FAQs for Property Owners

---

This document answers frequently asked questions about having a Blue Plaque installed at your property

---

## What is the program about?

The Blue Plaques program aims to inspire public interest and fascination in key personalities, historical events and places that are important to communities, regions and NSW as a whole. Thirty-five Blue Plaques are currently being installed at publicly visible locations throughout NSW as historical markers. Each plaque is linked to a digital story enabling people to learn more about the subject and place.

The program has recently opened a second round of public nominations for new Blue Plaques. You are likely reading these FAQs because you or someone else in the community is considering nominating your property for a Blue Plaque.

To find out more about the program, including which Blue Plaques have already been installed, please visit [blueplaques.nsw.gov.au](https://blueplaques.nsw.gov.au).

## Is this the same as the UK scheme?

The NSW program is inspired by the famous Blue Plaques program in London which started in 1866, and other similar programs around the world.

## How does a Blue Plaque get nominated?

Historical stories about people and events, and a corresponding location, are nominated for a Blue Plaque by the public during nomination rounds. The first Blue Plaque nomination round closed in October 2021 and over 750 nominations for Blue Plaques were received.

Heritage NSW has recently opened a second round of public nominations via the Blue Plaques website. Nominations are required to meet specific eligibility criteria and will be reviewed by Heritage NSW and independent historians before the final recommendations for Blue Plaques are made.

## Why is my property being considered for a nomination?

Your property has likely been considered for a Blue Plaque as it has an interesting association with a noteworthy person, people, or historical event. Whilst the Blue Plaques program focuses on individuals and events, the location of the plaque is central to telling these stories as it connects the story to a community and a place.

## What is the benefit of having a Blue Plaque?

Having a Blue Plaque publicly signals the unique history of your property. It also encourages community engagement with the history of the property.

For private residences, this may result in increased community recognition of your home. For businesses, cultural institutions, and other public spaces this engagement may also result in an increase in visitors.

### Does a property need to be heritage listed to get a Blue Plaque?

No. The essence of this program is the storytelling. Blue Plaques may be nominated for heritage listed items (privately or publicly owned) however the program is not limited to those places. Not all history lends itself to traditional forms of heritage listings and so the Blue Plaques will be a way to bring many other stories and places alive.

### Does having a Blue Plaque provide any regulatory protection or obligations for my property?

A Blue Plaque provides community recognition only. The addition of a Blue Plaque provides no regulatory protection to a site.

Sites which are already listed on the NSW State Heritage Register, a Local Environmental Plan, the Australian Heritage Register, or are declared Aboriginal Places will continue to be subject to their existing regulatory protections if they receive a Blue Plaque.

As the property owner you would be asked to be involved in the following:

- work with Heritage NSW to organise installation of the plaque
- be on site at the time of installation (or send a nominated representative)
- keep the plaque clean over time (simple instructions will be provided)
- notify Heritage NSW of any damage or vandalism
- notify Heritage NSW in advance if the plaque needs to be moved due to extenuating circumstances.

### Where would the Blue Plaque be positioned?

We will work with you to determine the most appropriate position for the plaque so that it is visible to the public and installed with minimal impact to your property.

The preference is to install the plaque on contemporary building fabric, rather than fabric that has heritage significance. With the appropriate development and heritage approvals, the latter will be considered if there is no other option.

### Will I need approval to install a Blue Plaque?

As the Blue Plaque is considered signage, approval for installation may be needed from your local council, Heritage NSW or Heritage Council of NSW. If a Blue Plaque is selected for your property (subject to your permission), we can coordinate any approvals needed to make this process as easy as possible.

### When would the Blue Plaque be installed?

Installation of Blue Plaques for successful nominations are expected to commence in mid-2023.

### Who would install the Blue Plaque?

All Blue Plaques will be installed by tradespeople approved by Heritage NSW.

### Will there be a cost for the property owner?

No. The Blue Plaques program will cover the costs of manufacturing, installation and development of to the online story.

### What would the Blue Plaque look like?

The main design is a 300mm circular plaque (vitreous enamel on a metal base plate) installed directly onto a vertical surface of a building, wall, front fence or other structure.

See this example of a Blue Plaque design.



Image credit: Matt Beaver Photography

### When will I know if the Blue Plaque on my property has been successful?

We expect that nominators and property owners will be informed if their Blue Plaque nomination has been successful in the first half of 2023. A public announcement of the successful nominations will also be made.

### How can I find more information?

If you have any questions about the Blue Plaques NSW program, feel free to contact us by:

- Email: [heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au)
- Phone: 02 9873 8500

We will also post updates on the [Blue Plaques NSW website](#) as the program develops.