

Blue Plaques Guidance: Developing a historically accurate nomination

This document provides guidance and resources for developing a Blue Plaque nomination that is based on historical facts

To be eligible for a Blue Plaque, nominations must be supported by information about the person, people or event which is factually correct and demonstrates their lasting impact on NSW.

You will be asked to provide responses in the nomination form to the following prompts:

1. Provide a short summary of the person, people, or event that you are nominating, which must include what their impact was on a place in NSW, or on the state as a whole.
2. What is the connection to the nominated location where the plaque would be placed?

You will be also asked to provide details about your information sources.

Where to find historically accurate information:

The most important step for developing a historically accurate nomination is to find credible information sources. Before developing your responses to the above questions, we suggest you visit the below resources to find information or verify your story.

Check	Suggested resource
	Contact a local heritage advisor or historical society for any information, preferably published, about your proposed nomination. These organisations will specialise in the history of your local region and you can search for them online (often they have websites or Facebook pages).
	Search your local library’s Local Studies Collection for information about your proposed nomination. Make sure you also speak with your local studies librarian while there.
	Check the Australian Dictionary of Biography (https://adb.anu.edu.au/) for entries about your person or people associated with your group or event, including Obituaries Australia, Indigenous Australia, Women Australia and Labour Australia, where appropriate.
	For a person, people or event associated with Sydney, check the Dictionary of Sydney (https://dictionaryofsydney.org/).
	For people, groups or events associated with the Sydney CBD and nearby suburbs in the City of Sydney local government area, check the City of Sydney Archives (https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/history-archive-collections/archives).

	Use the NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages website (https://www.nsw.gov.au/births-deaths-marriages) to confirm dates.
	7. Use Trove (https://trove.nla.gov.au/) and the State Library of New South Wales website (https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/) to search for other sources of information, including primary sources such as newspapers and photographs.

Dos and Don'ts for developing a nomination

- **DO** use credible and historically accurate sources (such as those suggested above). Avoid using Wikipedia, Facebook or relying on other general website searches. If you do use Wikipedia to research your nominations, use credible sources to verify the information you have used.
- **DO** check if your nomination includes any contested history (e.g. disputed facts). If you know of any disagreement between credible sources on a detail of your nomination, please note this in your response and, if possible, provide the different sources. For the best chance of success, we recommend that you avoid nominating a story whose crux is contested.
- **DO** contact us at heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au for advice if you are unsure whether a source is credible or whether you should include certain information
- **AVOID** submitting a nomination that is based on family 'folklore'. If your nominated person, people or event is part of your family history, use publicly available credible sources to verify the details of your nomination. If our independent historians are unable to find information to verify your nomination, it won't be eligible for a Blue Plaque.
- **AVOID** relying on 'first' claims as a key element of your nomination. Nominations about the 'first' person or people to do or achieve something can be difficult to verify. On their own, these claims do not necessarily demonstrate that your nominated story is historically significant. Ensure that your nomination explains the broader impact of the person, people or event on a place in NSW or on the state as a whole.