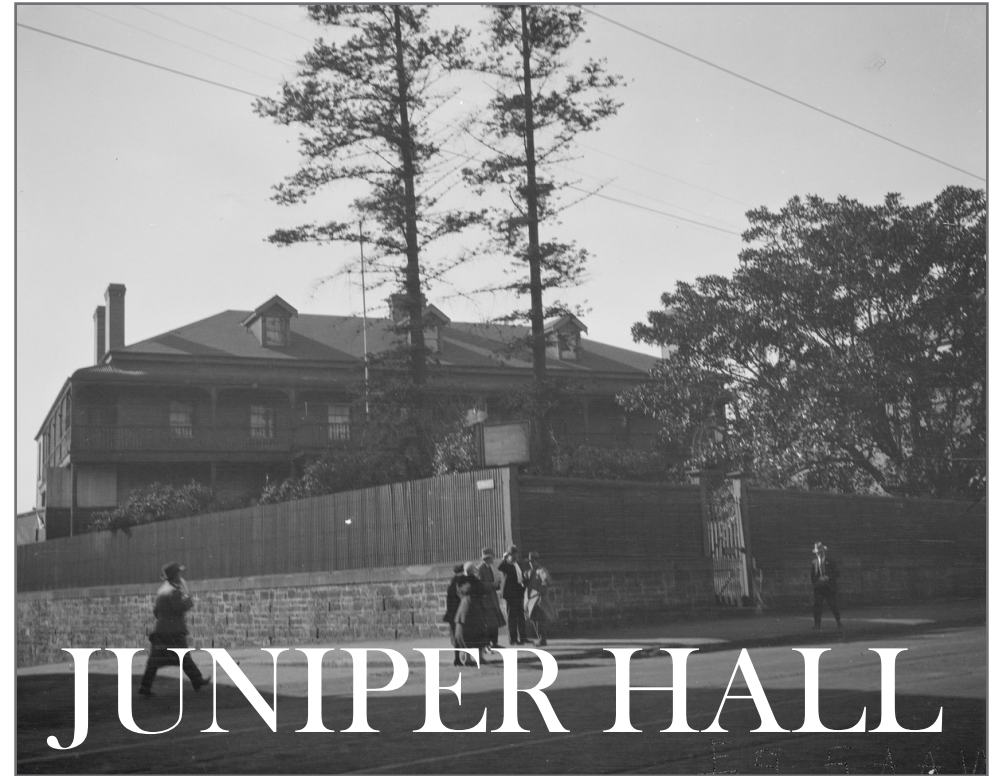




Photos above and front c1925 courtesy Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW

Dunn, Mark, Juniper Hall, Dictionary of Sydney, 2008, http://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/juniper_hall, viewed 05 Dec 2018

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"The completed house was a two-storey building with a basement. Four large rooms occupied each floor, while the basement contained the kitchen. To the rear were a coach-house, stables and servants' quarters."



Juniper Hall is the oldest standing example of a Georgian villa in Australia. Completed in 1824, Juniper Hall was built by the convict settler Robert Cooper.

Cooper, described as a distiller, publican, self confessed smuggler and likeable rogue lived in the building with his third wife Sarah May and their many children. Cooper had 12 children from his previous marriages and a further 14 children with Sarah. Sarah, 25 years his junior, was a strong minded woman whose business acumen enabled Juniper Hall to remain a family asset.

Cooper was a gin distiller, beer brewer, weaver and a builder, sometimes calling himself an architect. It is likely he designed Juniper Hall himself. He also built Sydney College (at Sydney Grammar School) and a number of workers' houses nearby.

"The adjoining building is Juniper Hall, a noble looking mansion surrounded with picturesque grounds and gardens. This estate belongs to our neighbour, an old Australian of the name of Cooper and a genuine specimen of his class...This fine house is very extensive and roomy and surrounded by a noble balcony."
Letter from John Hardwick to his mother 1853.

The name Juniper Hall was derived from the juniper berries used by Cooper in distilling the gin he produced. The building has also been known as Ormond House. Subsequent uses of Juniper Hall have included a children's court, orphanage, girls' school, artist colony and childhood museum.

Renovations were made to Juniper Hall in 1896 when the building became the administrative offices of the Children's Court; attic windows were added, the eastern wing extended and some doorways closed. In 1924 the home was auctioned to Sydney businessman, J. Gardiner who turned it into flats and built a row of shops on the Oxford Street frontage (which were later demolished).

In 1984, the building was purchased by the National Trust of Australia (NSW) and extensively restored as part of their bicentenary project.

The Moran family are the current trustees of Juniper Hall. The family have strong ties to the original owner and a history of restoring historic buildings. Greta Moran is a descendant of Robert and Sarah Cooper.

Juniper Hall has been rejuvenated by the Moran family. It is now home of the Moran Arts Foundation, used to house exhibitions of Australian art including the Moran Prizes (below).

