This is the first case in which use has been made of the 1963 amendment to the Act to secure the preservation of a licensed premises on the ground of its "national, special historic or architectural interest".

The Minister's decision follows an inquiry recently conducted by the Licensing Court at Moss Vale at which submissions in support of the declaration were made on behalf of the National Trust and other preservation societies.

It is understood that alterations will be made to the building to restore it to the original form in which the old hostelry commenced to dispense comfort to travellers about 1834.

The provision in the Act for the declaration of historic inns arose out of representations made by the National Trust at the instigation of the Berrima District Historical Society several years ago when the hotel was threatened with demolition because it could not comply with the modern requirements of the Act. The Surveyor-General will now remain as a feature of the Berrima Village Trust and will stand as a monument to the efficacy of local vigilance and initiative, acting through the National Trust, in safeguarding the nation's heritage.

JAMES RUSE'S GRAVE, CAMPBELLTOWN:

The grave stands in St. John's Cemetery on the top of a hill overlooking Campbelltown.

This monument to Australia's first farmer, with its eloquently mis-spelt inscription carved in the tombstone by Ruse himself, will be cared for by a committee which the National Trust has set up in collaboration with the Campbelltown Municipal Council and the Australian Catholic Historical Society.

"ADVANCE ILLAWARRA! — A COAL MINE OPENED":

On the 20th April, 1857, the "Mercury" published the following item of news: "We have much pleasure in recording the perfect success of the trial of the new coals from the mine at Mount Keira, henceforth to be called the Osborne Wallsend Mine. The manager of the mine brought to the wharf at Wollongong, on Thursday evening last, 34 tons of their 7ft. thick seam. These were immediately shipped in the steamer Illawarra. The fires were lighted with the coal at early dawn, and the steamer, with abundance of steam and to spare, performed her voyage most satisfactorily and with her usual speed. The result cannot be surpassed, and we have now an export equal, if not superior, to the best coal of the Hunter. The engineer, Mr. Young, who has the thanks of our community for his attention in the trial, reports most favourably. The coal will be next tried in the tubular boilers, but of their entire success there is not the shadow of doubt. The victory is won, and Illawarra is in possession of an article of domestic use and export not second in importance to the richest goldfield in the country, or indeed in the world, for gold-mining disturbs the social relations of life, creates unhealthy speculation, and is uncertain and inexhaustible. Our black diamonds will promote commerce and add to our social industry. The coal is fine in appearance—bright and splinty—burns bright and strong and leaves no clinkers. The residuum appears to be in the same proportion as the best coal in the colony. In every respect there appears to be no drawback whatever. As the mine advances into the mountain the manager states the coal will improve at least 5 per cent over present quality. Taking the Osborne Wallsend seam altogether it appears one of the finest in the world."

NOTE: This mine is still working today under the name of "KEMIRA".