

A.2022

21st September 2022

RESEARCH DESIGN

12 HASSALL STREET, PARRAMATTA

Background

GQ Hassall Street Pty Ltd propose the redevelopment of 12 Hassall Street, Parramatta. The proposal includes demolition of the existing structures on the site and construction of a 61-storey mixed use commercial and residential tower with five levels of basement carparking. The study area is shown in Photographs 1 and 2.

A historical archaeological assessment was undertaken which determined that the site contained historical archaeological potential and that it would be necessary to undertake monitoring, testing and salvage prior to the redevelopment of the site.

The project is being assessed as a State Significant Development and the SEARS have issued. Therefore, a s140 permit will not be required.



Photograph 1: Study area edged in yellow.



Photograph 2: The study area

Brief History and Archaeological Potential

For a detailed history of the site please see the report titled: *12 Hassall Street, Parramatta, Historical Archaeological Assessment*, September 2022 by Comber Consultants (Version D.2022). Following is a very brief overview of the history of the site

Historical research has revealed that a residence named “Northwood” was constructed on the eastern side of the site around 1882-1883 and was demolished in around 1960-62. The Police Boys Club was then constructed on the site. The Police Boys Club will be demolished to allow the redevelopment to proceed.

A cottage which still stands on the western side of the site was constructed in 1927. This cottage will also be demolished. A car park is located to the rear of the cottage.

The site has the potential to contain relics dating from 1882 and to contain other evidence of occupation such as wells, cisterns and 19th century building foundations. Such evidence would be of local significance.

Research questions

To ensure that the archaeological testing and salvage is focused and to enable the maximum information to be gained from the site, it is necessary to pose a series of questions that direct the research process. The questions to be asked in respect of this site are:

Testing

Testing will be undertaken to determine the nature and extent of the archaeological deposit. To guide the testing the following questions will be asked:

- What evidence remains on site from the Phases 4-6 occupation of the site, the construction and ongoing occupation of Northwood. Phases 1-3 contained vacant land.
- If there is any evidence of Phases 4-6, what is the nature and extent of such evidence?
- What evidence remains on site from the Phase 7, the 1927 construction of a cottage which is still extant.
- If there is any evidence of Phase 7, what is the nature and extent of such evidence?



If no relics or evidence of occupation are uncovered, it will not be necessary to proceed to salvage, although monitoring of earthworks will still be required.

If relics or evidence of occupation of local or state significance are uncovered it will be necessary to undertake salvage. To guide the program of salvage excavation, the following questions will apply:

Salvage

- Is there evidence of the Northwood residence that was later the Tara Private School?
- Is there evidence from the Tara Private School use of Northwood such as relics related to school activities?
- If so, the degree of intactness or survival and impacts from the construction of the Police-Citizens Boys Club.
- Is there sub-floor evidence of occupation underneath the 1927 cottage on the western side of the site?
- Is there evidence of use of the land at the rear of the cottage, now a carpark, such as outbuildings, gardens, wells etc.?
- The significance of the evidence uncovered, against the currently assessed significance?
- How does this site compare with other similar sites in Parramatta?

Questions related to who built, owned and lived in Northwood and the cottage have been addressed in the historical research. However, questions as to how they lived will be asked, such as:

- Is there evidence of the nature of life in the households?
- Is there evidence of childhood?
- Is there evidence of the Tara School?
- Is there evidence of how gender identities and activities were constructed?
- The nature of the material culture and consumption patterns of the residents

Methodology

Aims

The aims of the archaeological excavation will be to determine:

- If evidence of the former structures still remain on the site, and if so, their nature and extent. If such evidence remains, the location of these structures will be mapped.
- Whether any relics remain on site, which could answer the research questions detailed above.

Monitoring

- Removal of the concrete/asphalt surface at the rear of the cottage on the western side of the site will be monitored to ensure that relics are not adversely impacted upon.
- The removal of fill across the site will be undertaken by excavator and will be monitored to ensure that archaeological evidence is not impacted upon. The removal of the fill will also provide an opportunity to identify areas of archaeological potential, particularly in respect of the location of Northwood foundations.

Testing

- Use of machinery to open up the foundations of Northwood and to undertake testing.
- The exact number of trenches will be determined in the field, depending on the results of the first test trench. It is estimated that at least two test trenches measuring approximately 1m wide x 10m in length will be excavated across the location of Northwood to locate the foundations. The location of these trenches cannot be determined at this stage.
- If uncovered, the foundations will be recorded, drawn and mapped in detail.
- Once the foundations have been exposed and the internal layout determined, one test trench 2m x 5m will be excavated within the kitchen area of the house to test for sub-floor deposits. The location of this trench cannot be mapped at this stage.
- Testing of possible locations for wells/cess pits will be undertaken for both the rear of the 1927 cottage and Northwood. These locations will be determined once the fill has been removed.

Salvage

- Depending on the results of the testing, where remains are found open area stratigraphic salvage excavation and recording may be undertaken and the following recording methods used:
 - Context recording forms and context numbers will be used to record all archaeological information.
 - Harris Matrix will be used as part of the recording program.



- Underfloor deposits will be recorded by feature (if discernible) or within a 50cm grid, 5 cm spits and 100% sieved.
- Wells and cesspits will be excavated in 20cm spits or tip lines (if identifiable), with changes of context numbers where relevant. These deposits will be sieved.
- All structural remains, post holes and features will be planned to scale.
- Detailed photographic recording.
- Collection labelling, safe storage, washing sorting and boxing of artefacts.
- The site will be recorded by a qualified surveyor using a total station.

State Significant Archaeology

Should any potential state significant archaeology be identified during the archaeological program, all works will cease in the area and Heritage NSW will be contacted for further advice.

Artefact Analysis

The excavation report will contain an analysis of artefacts and their deposits and contexts. This analysis will be illustrated using tables in the final report.

Excavation report

A detailed excavation report will be produced describing the results of the archaeological program. The report will include an artefact analyses and a response to the research questions. The significance of the relics and site will be assessed.

Induction

Once the excavation has been completed GFM Investment Management will commence their works. Prior to the commencement of works all contractors and personnel participating in works at the site will be briefed by an archaeologist on the significance of the site and the requirements of the *NSW Heritage Act 1977* in relation to heritage listed items and archaeological relics.

Aboriginal archaeological excavation

Comber Consultants will also be undertaking Aboriginal archaeological testing and salvage. However, the historical archaeological testing and salvage will be undertaken first. During the Aboriginal archaeological testing and salvage all trenches will be monitored for relics. If found, they will be bagged and catalogued.

Personnel

The following personnel will be engaged on this project.

Primary Excavation Director:

Dr Jillian Comber, BA, Litt.B, PhD

Jillian has over 30 years' experience in archaeology and cultural heritage management. She is experienced at monitoring, survey, assessment and excavation. Jillian has previously held s140 permits and meets the Excavation Director's criteria.

Jillian will be on site for all work where there is likelihood that relics will be disturbed. She will not be present when overburden is being removed and there is no likelihood for relics to be disturbed, nor when planning and photography is being undertaken or if work has to cease due to contamination etc. She will actively mentor the secondary excavation director, in all aspects of the excavation.

Secondary Excavation Director

The secondary excavation director will either be Dr Agata Calabrese or Ms Tory Stening, depending on availability. Dr Calabrese has extensive international excavation experience and has been engaged on historical archaeological projects in Australia. Ms Stening has experience in historical archaeological excavation and has previously held s140 permits.

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Director/Archaeologist