



Royal North Shore Hospital
St Leonards

Survey to Identify Historic Kerb and Guttering



October 2008

Graham Brooks & Associates Pty Ltd
Incorporated in NSW
Architects, Planners & Heritage Consultants
71 York St, Level 1
Sydney 2000 Australia
Tel: (61) 2 9299 8600
Fax: (61) 2 9299 8711
Email: gbamain@gbaheritage.com
www.gbaheritage.com
ABN: 56 073 802 730
CAN: 073 802 730
Nominated Architect: Graham Leslie Brooks
NSW Architects Registration: 3836

Contents

- 1.0 Introduction.....4
 - 1.1 Background4
 - 1.2 Report Objectives4
 - 1.3 Site Identification.....4
 - 1.7 Authorship4
 - 1.6 Report Limitations4

- 2.0 Development of the Site’s Road Network.....5

- 3.0 Site Description9
 - 3.1 Introduction9
 - 3.2 Precinct 1 - Core Hospital Precinct10
 - 3.3 Precinct 2 - Clinical Teaching11
 - 3.4 Precinct 3 - Staff Precinct.....12
 - 3.5 Precinct 4 - Cottage Precinct13
 - 3.6 Precinct 5 - Old Precinct15
 - 3.7 Precinct 6 - UTS Precinct.....16
 - 3.8 Precinct 7 - Main Block Precinct16

- 4.0 Conclusions and Recommendations.....17
 - 4.1 Summary of Kerb and Guttering Survey .17
 - 4.2 Sandstone Kerb in Reserve Road17
 - 4.3 Kerb and Guttering Adjacent to Building 3118
 - 4.4 Lanceley Cottage Kerbing18
 - 4.5 Herbert Street Connection with the Blue Road18
 - 4.6 Location of the Historic Kerb and Guttering18

Introduction

1.0

1.1 Background

This *Survey to Identify Historic Kerb and Guttering* at the Royal North Shore Hospital, St Leonards, has been prepared to satisfy condition M12.4 of the terms of approval of Major Project No. 06_0051, for the redevelopment of the site.

Condition M12.4 requires:

Historic kerb and guttering should be identified and where its removal is unavoidable it should be retained for use in appropriate locations elsewhere on the site.

1.2 Report Objectives

The main objective of this report is to document the site survey made on 2 October 2008. It describes the types of kerb and guttering present on the site and identifies the location of that which is considered to be of historic significance.

1.4 Site Identification

The Royal North Shore Hospital is sited on an area of approximately 13 hectares of land north of the Pacific Highway, and west of Herbert Street, at St Leonards.

1.5 Authorship

This Report has been prepared by Gail Lynch, Senior Heritage Consultant, of Graham Brooks and Associates Pty Ltd, and has been reviewed by the Director, Graham Brooks. Unless otherwise noted all of the photographs and drawings in this report are by Graham Brooks and Associates Pty Ltd.

1.7 Report Limitations

This Report is limited to the survey of kerb and guttering within the site which was readily accessible. Those areas of the site currently undergoing development were not surveyed. These include the area in the vicinity of Building 52 and that to the north of Building 11.

Assessment of the significance of the site's landscape elements, such as garden beds, retaining walls, pathways and steps, is outside the scope of this Report.



Figure 1-1
Location map, showing the Royal North Shore Hospital coloured pink

Source: google.maps



Figure 1-2
Aerial photograph showing the study area outlined in red

Source: Urbis

Development of the Site's Road Network

2.0

The Royal North Shore Hospital at St Leonards was opened in 1903. The original buildings were constructed in the area identified in the 2005 City Plan Heritage *Royal North Shore Hospital Heritage Assessment* as the Core Hospital Precinct.

As the Hospital expanded the adjacent land was resumed. Houses fronting Gore Road and Herbert Street were converted for hospital use in the 1920s and Eileen and Herbert Streets were converted into covered walkways. Later expansion programs saw most of these cottages demolished to make way for later buildings.

The 1914 site plan, reproduced in Figure 2-1, shows the perimeter roads of the site were largely unkerbed at that time. Eileen Street to the north, Herbert Street to the east, and Lane Cove Road (now Pacific Highway) to the south, are shown as having unkerbed footpaths. Reserve Road, to the west, is shown as being kerbed between the hospital entrance, adjacent to the Administration Building (Building 31), and Lane Cove Road.

The photographs that follow show some of the early roads and paths within the site.



Figure 2-1
1914 Plan of North Shore Hospital

Source: NSW Department of Commerce
Archives PH163/15



Figure 2-2
1905 view of the front of the Hospital Administration Building (31)

Source: Sherington, *A Century of Caring*



Figure 2-3
Circa 1908 view of the Hospital from Reserve Road shows little evidence of pathways in this part of the site

Source: Sherington, *A Century of Caring*



Figure 2-4
Circa 1920 view of the Hospital from Lane Cove Road

Source: Sherington, *A Century of Caring*



Figure 2-5
Photograph showing the covered walkway which replaced Rawson Street

Source: Sherington, *A Century of Caring*



Figure 2-6
1922 Aerial photograph showing the roads and paths within the Hospital site

Source: Godden Mackay Logan *RNSH Archaeological Assessment*

The 1943 plan, reproduced in Figure 2-7, shows there to be a network of paths and roads linking the buildings on the extended Hospital site. However the circular gardens at the front of the Administration Building (31), the Nurses Home (11), and the Maternity Block (13) cannot be seen on the 1943 aerial photograph of the site. The plan indicates there are footpaths along the site's perimeter roads but the photograph's resolution does not allow confirmation of the presence of kerb and guttering.



Figure 2-7
1943 Block Plan of Royal North Shore Hospital

Source: NSW Department of Commerce Archives PH163/115



Figure 2-8
1943 aerial view of Royal North Shore Hospital

Source: NSW Department of Lands

The following photographs provide some evidence of the kerb and guttering that was constructed as the site evolved.



Figure 2-9
Circa 1920 view of the rear of the Administration Building (31) and the Kitchen Block (33) showing the presence of concrete paths and a kerbed edge to the road to the south of the buildings

Source: Sherington, *A Century of Caring*



Figure 2-10
Photograph of the Princess Elizabeth Pavilion (35), opened in 1934, showing a concrete kerb and gutter on the adjacent roadway

Source: Sherington, *A Century of Caring*



Figure 2-11
Circa 1948 photograph of the Kolling Institute (25) showing a brick kerb to the footpath

Source: Sherington, *A Century of Caring*



Figure 2-12
Circa 1964 photograph of the Main Block (1) showing the concrete kerb and guttering of the road way and carpark

Source: State Library of NSW

Site Description

3.0

3.1 Introduction

The Royal North Shore Hospital site is bounded to the north by Westbourne Street and First, to the west by Gore Hill Memorial Cemetery and Gore Hill Park, to the south by the commercial towers facing Pacific Highway and to the east by Herbert Street. It is bisected by Reserve Road.

The 2005 City Plan Heritage *Royal North Shore Hospital Heritage Assessment* divided the site into seven precincts, as shown in Figure 2-1. The precinct descriptions included below have been reproduced from the Assessment.

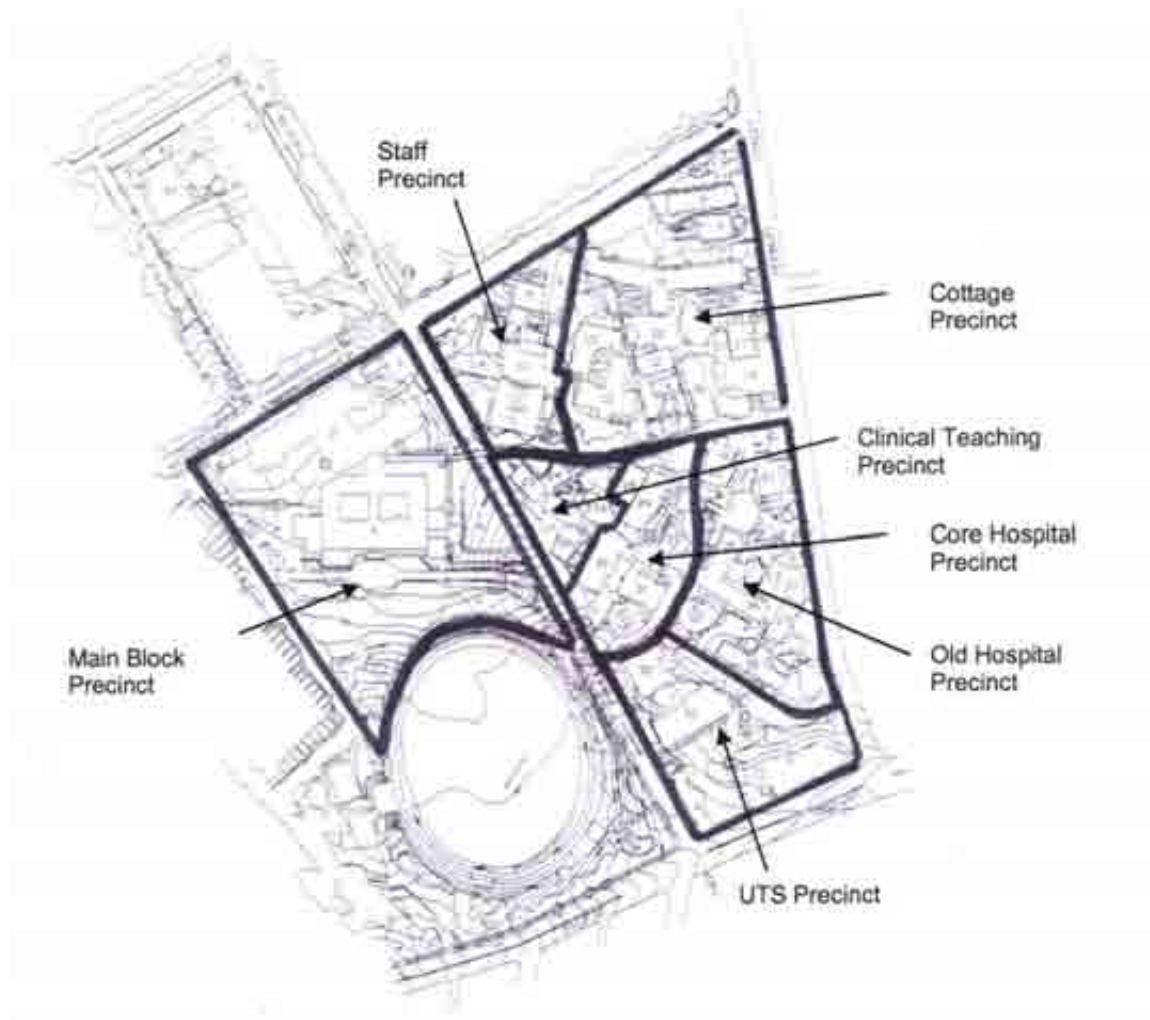


Figure 3-1
Map of Royal North Shore Hospital showing Precincts

Source: *Royal North Shore Hospital Heritage Assessment*, City Plan Heritage, 2005

3.2 Precinct 1 - Core Hospital Precinct

This precinct is prominently situated near the centre of the Royal North Shore Hospital complex. It contains structures, infrastructure and other natural and built elements that forms a key component of the site's spatial relationship, and documents the establishment of the Royal North Shore Hospital throughout the earliest years of the twentieth century. It provides physical evidence of architectural, medical and institutional mindsets of the Federation period, being the heart from which all other facilities radiated, and contains formal gardens and landscaping from the first establishment period of the hospital. The precinct overlooks Reserve Road, the main entry for the Hospital, which has significant views extending along the length of the road.

This Precinct is bounded to the north by Eileen Street, to the east by Precinct 5 - Old Hospital Precinct, to the south by Precinct 6 - UTS Precinct, and to the west by Reserve Road and Precinct 2 - Clinical Teaching Precinct.

There are a variety of kerb and gutter types present in this precinct including:

- Approximately 8 metres of sandstone kerbing on Reserve Road, which forms the western boundary of this precinct. This is located between the entry and exit points of the circular driveway in front of Building 31.
- A brick lined drain on the northern side of Building 31.
- Concrete and brick kerbs and gutters constructed in various styles.



Figure 3-2
Sandstone kerb in Reserve Road, adjacent to
Precinct 1 - Core Hospital Precinct



Figure 3-3
Sandstone kerb at the rear of Building 31



Figure 3-4
Brick lined drain on the northern side of Building 31



Figure 3-5
The concrete kerbing of the circular garden at the front of Building 31, constructed after 1943



Figure 3-6
A combination of brick and concrete kerbing, east of Building 32



Figure 3-7
Typical concrete kerbing on the north east of Precinct 1
- Core Hospital Precinct

3.3 Precinct 2 - Clinical Teaching

The Clinical Teaching Precinct is a densely-built triangular space geared principally towards the enhancement of learning. It occupies the north-west corner of the original hospital site, resumed in 1899 and bounded by the former Eileen Street; this is now a roadway bisecting the eastern campus of the Hospital. The majority of the space is occupied by built elements, and only a small portion of the precinct is dedicated to landscaping and open space. It flanks the Core Hospital Precinct and Reserve Road, with some buildings being visually prominent along its viewline. With the exception of the Kolling Institute, the buildings in this precinct were constructed from the end of the World War Two period through the 1960s and 1970s, at a time when the Hospital's role was evolving.

This Precinct is located on to the east of Reserve Road. It is triangular in shape and bounded by Precincts 1 and 3 and Reserve Road.

In addition to the concrete kerb and guttering found throughout the site, Precinct 2 - Clinical Teaching Precinct has brick kerbing and paths with timber edgings.



Figure 3-8
Brick kerb and guttering in the vicinity of Building 26



Figure 3-9
Timber edging to path found in Precinct 2 - Clinical Teaching Precinct

3.4 Precinct 3 - Staff Precinct

The Staff Precinct is located in the north-western corner of the eastern campus, on the corner of Reserve Road and Westbourne Street. Another boundary runs partway along the former Eileen Street alignment, south of Vindin house, and extending between, and effectively segregating, the two nurses homes from the former Maternity and Thoracic Buildings (Building 13 and 10 respectively, situated within the Cottage Precinct). The precinct is occupied by a series of buildings that cater for nursing and professional staff in a variety of purposes; these include offices, accommodation, and recreational rooms and sports facilities. These date from the Depression Period to the 1980s, but the precinct is visually dominated by 1960s Post War international architectural styles. The later twentieth century buildings (Rotary Lodge) provide accommodation for families of patients. Most buildings are oriented north-east - southwest, to benefit for the sun. Exceptions to this are the Rotary Lodge buildings, which were constructed on the very corner of Reserve Road and Westbourne Street. Other elements within the precinct include the pool and tennis court.

Development in Precinct 3 - Staff Precinct is already underway with the demolition of Buildings 4, 5 and 6, and the construction of the new R & E Building complete. Access to this part of the site was limited by preparations that were underway for the demolition of Building 11. There is concrete kerb and guttering present in those areas that could be accessed.

The street edges bounding this precinct have concrete kerbs and gutters, of varying ages.



Figure 3-10
Concrete kerb and guttering west of Building 11

3.5 Precinct 4 - Cottage Precinct

The Cottages Precinct is situated on the corner of Herbert and Westbourne Street, and extends across much of the northern part of the hospital complex, terminating at the former Eileen Street roadway. Early development of the land was for workers cottages affiliated with the nearby brickworks. This area was resumed in a staged process of acquisition by the Hospital from 1921 to 1965, with most of the cottages demolished periodically until the 1970s., leaving only Lanceley Cottage (Building 9) and the Diabetes Unit (Building 7) to bear witness to this previous occupation of the site. This precinct comprises a number of buildings of differing function and architectural style.

This Precinct is bounded to the north by First Avenue (a continuation of Westbourne Street), to the east by Herbert Street, to the south by Eileen Street, and to the west by Precinct 3 - Staff Precinct.

The area around the site of Building 13 was not able to be assessed as these buildings have been demolished and the space sealed for use as a carpark.

The following photographs show the variety of concrete and brick kerb and gutter styles present in this precinct. Of particular interest is the kerbed edge of the garden paths at Lanceley Cottage (Building 9), which is the last of the resumed cottages remaining in this Precinct. The decorative kerb edge to the pathways may be an original or early feature of the garden layout.



Figure 3-11
Shows the kerbed edge of the paths in the Lanceley Cottage grounds which appears to be the same as that in the earlier photograph below



Figure 3-12
Earlier photograph of Lanceley Cottage showing the front garden layout and kerb detail

Source: Sherington, *A Century of Caring*



Figure 3-13
Concrete kerb, guttering and crossover on Herbert Street, in the vicinity of Building 10, where the new Blue Road is to be constructed



Figure 3-14
Concrete drain at the corner of Herbert Street and First Avenue



Figure 3-15
Concrete kerbing, west of Building 12



Figure 3-16
Concrete drain at the north west corner of Building 17



Figure 3-17
Kerb and guttering constructed of brick and concrete, west of Building 19



Figure 3-18
Brick kerb and guttering, north east of Building 28



Figure 3-19
Brick kerbing at the rear of Building 9



Figure 3-20
Brick kerbing at the rear of Building 8

3.6 Precinct 5 - Old Precinct

The Old Precinct is a mix of buildings that have a range of functions; these include research laboratories, patient facilities, storehouses and workshops, and the child care centre and effectively comprised the former, functioning hospital prior to the development of the Main Block Precinct. This precinct also contains the visually dominant chimney located at the southern end of the boiler house. These industrial elements comprise a considered proportion of the built elements within this precinct, far more than in other hospital precincts. The precinct extends along the southern part of Herbert Street, towards the Pacific Highway. At its southernmost extent, the land inclines downwards, being a remnant of the former creek bed that was still in existence when the land was resumed in 1912. The built elements in this precinct are irregular in height and bulk, ranging from low-lying cubiform bunkers along the Herbert Street perimeter, to the polygon of the Cummins Unit and the higher, multi-storied buildings 35 and 36, formerly known as the Princess Elizabeth Pavilion and the Wakehurst Wing. Fronting the Pacific Highway are multistorey commercial and business-related buildings that bear no association with the hospital but which occupy the site once used for the Outpatients Department. This building which was originally designed to cater as a venereal disease clinic, was demolished approximately ten years ago.

This Precinct is bounded to the north by Eileen Street, to the east by Herbert Street, to the south by Precinct 6 - UTS Precinct, and to the west by Precinct 1 - Core Hospital Precinct.

This Precinct has undergone frequent renewal and there are a variety of concrete kerb and gutter styles present reflecting its staged development.



Figure 3-21
Concrete kerb and gutter to Eileen Street



Figure 3-22
Concrete kerb in the vicinity of Building 21



Figure 3-23
Concrete kerb in the vicinity of Building 21



Figure 3-24
Concrete kerb and gutter in the vicinity of Building 22

3.7 Precinct 6 - UTS Precinct

This Precinct comprises land resumed by the Government in 1912 for the purpose of hospital extensions, and includes the low-lying creek bed (no longer in existence). The site occupies the south eastern corner of the Hospital complex. Close to the site was formerly the Venereal Diseases, later outpatients, building designed by the Colonial Architect and constructed in the early 1920s. This structure was demolished approximately ten years ago.

This Precinct is bounded to the north by Precinct 1 - Core Hospital Precinct and Precinct 5 - Old Hospital Precinct, to the east by Herbert Street, to the south by Pacific Highway, and to the west by Reserve Road.

At the time of the survey inspection there was no access available in the vicinity of Building 52 due to work in progress.

There are a variety of kerb and gutter types present in this precinct including:

- Approximately 3.7 metres of sandstone kerbing, partially covered with concrete on Reserve Road. This extends south from the exit road on the southern side of the circular garden in front of Building 31.
- Timber edgings.
- Various concrete kerbs and gutters.

3.8 Precinct 7 - Main Block Precinct

The Main Block Precinct is located on the west side of Reserve Road, away from the traditional hospital site and in close proximity to the Gore Hill Cemetery. This parcel of land was resumed for Hospital use and expansion in October 1951, when it became apparent that the existing hospital complex would not be sufficient for the long term future use. This precinct is bounded to the south by the Gore Hill Oval, and to the north by Westbourne Street, formerly Gore's Road. Directly opposite the Precinct, on the other side of Westbourne Street, is the North Shore Private Hospital, resumed c1952-1974.

This Precinct is bounded to the north by Westbourne Street, to the east by Reserve Road, to the south by Gore Hill Park, and to the west by Gore Hill Memorial Cemetery. The kerb and guttering in this Precinct is constructed in concrete.

Although the area north of Precinct 7 - Main Block was not included in the 2005 Heritage Assessment it was surveyed for this report as it is identified as part of the greater Hospital site. The kerb and guttering in this Precinct is constructed in concrete, and that present in the western part of the site is similar to that of Precinct 7 - Main Block. Kerb and guttering on the eastern side of this area appears to be quite new.



Figure 3-25
Timber edging (foreground) and concrete kerbing (background) behind Building 52



Figure 3-26
Sandstone kerbing, partially covered with concrete, in Reserve Road, adjacent to Precinct 6 - UTS Precinct



Figure 3-27
Concrete kerb and guttering, typical of that found in Precinct 7 - Main Block, and the area to its north

Conclusions and Recommendations

4.0

4.1 Summary of Kerb and Guttering Surveyed

The site survey shows the kerbs and gutters of the Royal North Shore Hospital site have been constructed over a wide time frame, as the use of the site has intensified. There is evidence of a variety of construction materials and forms.

Historic plans and photographs indicate there was little in the way of kerbed roads and paths within, and around, the site in the early years of its operation. There is evidence to suggest that as buildings were added to the site roads and paths were also constructed. As the site evolved these roads were replaced, connected and improved.

Although the various concrete and brick kerbs and gutters demonstrate the methods and materials popular at the time of their construction they are not generally considered to be of sufficient historical importance to warrant retention and reuse. The exception to this is the decorative brick kerbing to the paths within the grounds of Lanceley Cottage and the sandstone elements identified below.

The following elements of kerb and guttering, identified in the site survey and shown in Figure 4-1, are considered to be of historical interest:

1. The sandstone kerbing in Reserve Road, adjacent to Precinct 1 - Core Hospital Precinct
2. The partially covered sandstone kerbing in Reserve Road, adjacent to Precinct 6 - UTS Precinct
3. Sandstone kerbing at the rear of Building 31
4. Brick drain on the northern side of Building 31
5. Decorative brick kerbing to the paths within the grounds of Lanceley Cottage.

Recommendations for the future management of these site elements is detailed below.

4.2 Sandstone Kerb in Reserve Road

A 1914 plan of the site shows there was a kerbed footpath in Reserve Road, between Lane Cove Road (Pacific Highway) and the entrance to the Hospital site. As sandstone was commonly used for kerb and guttering at that time it is likely the section of exposed and partially covered sandstone kerb found in Reserve Road may date from this period. It is possible there is also remnant unexposed early kerbing beneath the concrete.

Recommendation

Should it be necessary to remove this kerb in future upgrading of Reserve Road the sandstone should be retained within the site. If it is found to be unsuitable for use as kerbing within the site it should be incorporated into the site landscaping.

4.3 Kerb and Guttering Adjacent to Building 31

The sandstone kerb and brick drain identified in the vicinity of Building 31 are considered to be of historical interest.

A circular garden at the front of the Administration Building (Building 31) is shown in an early photograph of the site. As this garden was not present when the 1943 aerial photograph was taken it is concluded that the existing garden and its kerbing were constructed after this time and their fabric does not relate to the original construction period of the building.

Recommendation

Further evaluation of these elements should be made in the preparation of the Conservation Management Plan for the historic precinct.

4.4 Lanceley Cottage Kerbing

Lanceley Cottage (Building 9), is one of the last resumed cottages remaining in this Precinct. Photographic records suggest the decorative kerb edge to the pathways may be an original or early feature of the garden layout for this cottage.

Recommendation

Prior to marking any changes to the landscape area around Lanceley Cottage the decorative brick kerbing to the paths should be further investigated to determine its significance.

4.5 Herbert Street Connection with the Blue Road

As no historic kerb and guttering was identified in Herbert Street the modifications required to provide new access points to the Hospital site, including construction of the new Blue Road, do not require further investigation or reporting on their historical significance.

4.6 Location of the Historic Kerb and Guttering

The location of the kerb and guttering, identified in the site survey, as being of historical interest is shown in Figure 4-1, on the following page.

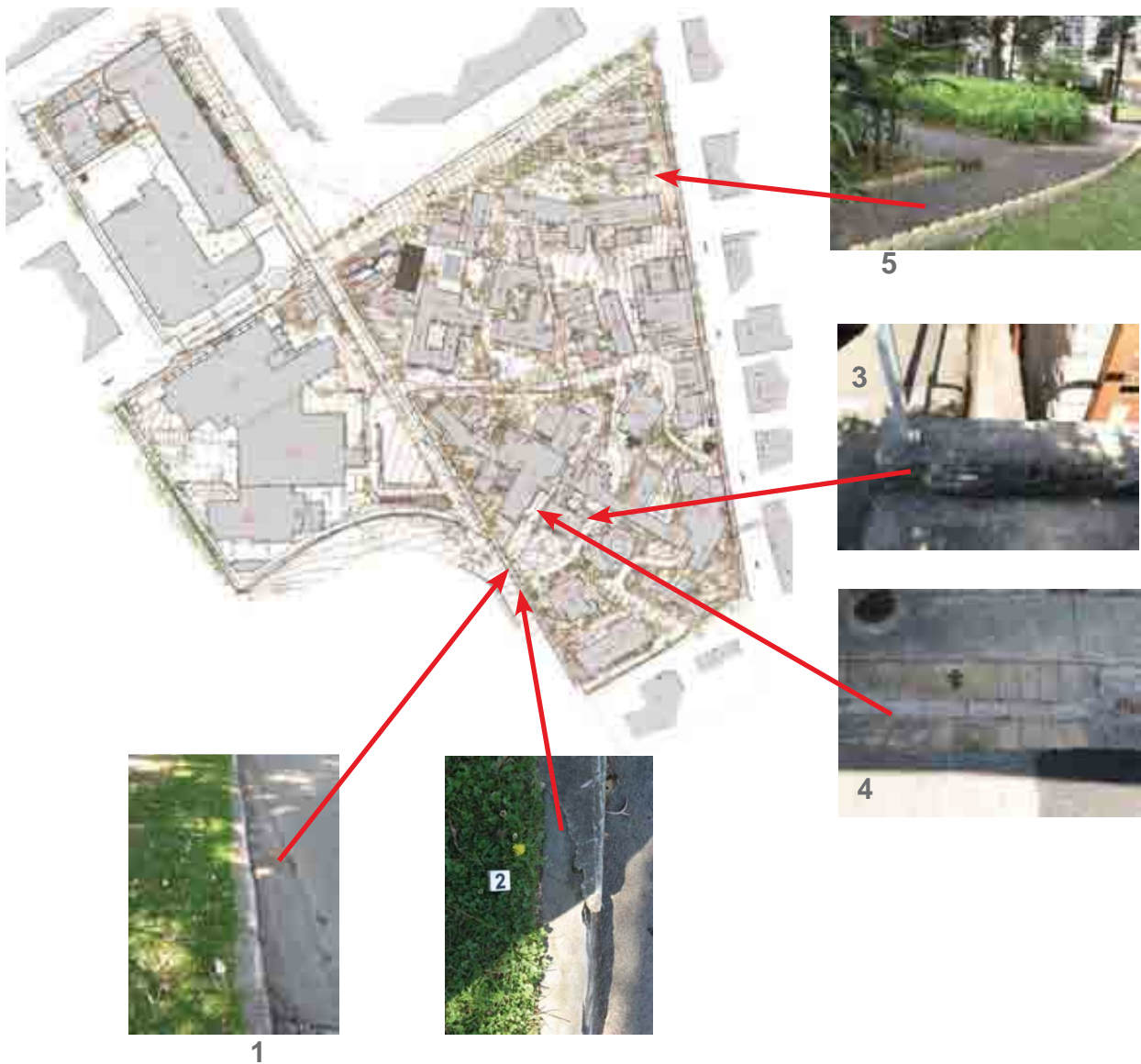


Figure 4-1
Plan showing the location of the kerb and guttering, identified in the site survey, as being of historical interest