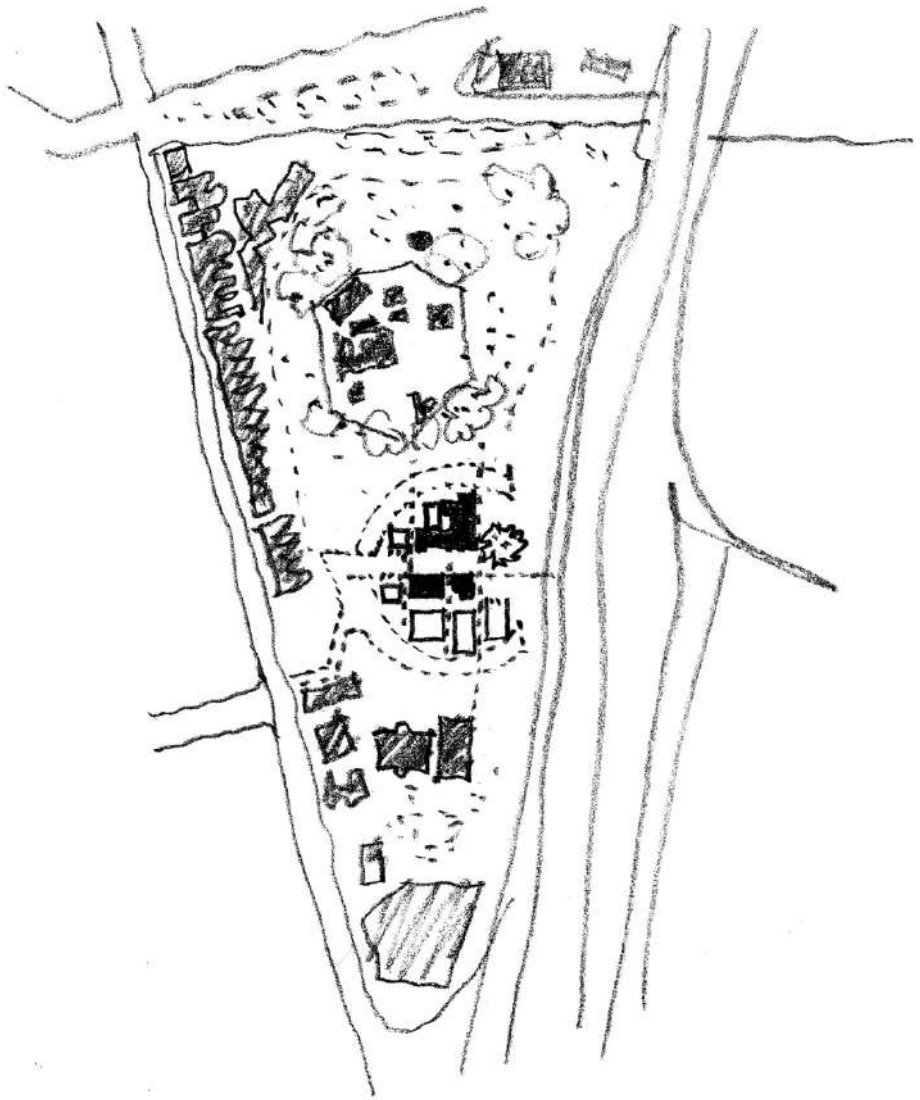
Fort Street Public School
Heritage Impact Statement

SSD 10340
Prepared by Curio Projects
For School Infrastructure NSW
11 March 2020



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Proposed Fort Street Public School Development. (FJMT Studio 2020)

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1	15/11/2019	Draft Report	For client review	Sam Cooling, Tatiana Barreto Natalie Vinton	Natalie Vinton
2	2/3/2020	Revised Final Draft	SSDA Revised Package Feb 2020. For client review	Sam Cooling	Natalie Vinton
3	11/3/2020	For SSDA Issue	Revised with client comments	Sam Cooling	Natalie Vinton

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Contents

Executive Summary

Curio Projects Pty Ltd was commissioned by School Infrastructure NSW (SI) to prepare a Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) for the Fort Street Public School (FSPS) project, located at Upper Fort Street, Millers Point (the study area). The Fort Street Public School has reached both student and functional capacity in its current built form, and therefore, SI proposes expansion of the school.

This report will accompany the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as prepared by Ethos Urban, to support a State Significant Development Application (SSDA) (Application no. SSD-10340) for the FSPS Expansion project, which is to be submitted to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces pursuant to Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). Approval is sought for the expansion of Fort Street Public School to accommodate a total of 550 primary school students.

The FSPS site is located on Observatory Hill, at Upper Fort Street, Millers Point, and is generally defined by the circular cut of the Cahill Expressway on ramp. The study area is located to the south of the Sydney Observatory, between the Bradfield Highway in the east, and residential development along Kent Street to the west. The FSPS site currently consists of four main buildings: The Fort Street School; The Messengers Cottage; The Bureau of Meteorology building (MET Building), and the Environmental Educational Centre (EEC) building. Of these four structures, only the EEC building is not heritage listed.

The Strategic Business Case for the FSPS Site[1] has identified the FSPS Site as a key school in the wider Sydney Inner-City School Community Group (SGC) cluster to be redeveloped. The design process (as lead by architects FJMT Studio) has therefore responded to the requirements of this development, as identified and stipulated by SI.

While summarised in this report, for further detail regarding the historical archaeological assessment and mitigation strategies, and Aboriginal archaeology and cultural heritage values, reference should be made to each of these specialised reports as follows:

- Curio Projects 2019, *Fort Street Public School—Historical Test Excavation Archaeological Report*. Report to Schools Infrastructure NSW; (Appendix A to this HIS)
- Curio Projects 2019, *Fort Street Public School—Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report.* Report to for Schools Infrastructure NSW; (Appendix B to this HIS)
- Curio Projects and TKD Architects 2020, *Fort Street Public School—Conservation Management Plan*, *SSDA 10340 Issue*. Report to School Infrastructure NSW.

Summary of Proposed Development

Architectural design of the expansion of the Fort Street Public School has been guided by many complex requirements and significant constraints that have required to be balanced throughout the process, including:

[1] NSW Education, School Infrastructure 2019, *Strategic Business Case- Fort Street Public School*, June 2019

- Identification of the FSPS site in the SI Business Case as a key public school site identified for expansion, required to accommodate 550 students to ensure future viability of the development.
- Design required to be developed in accordance with Department of Education (DoE) Educational Facilities Standards and Guidelines (EFSG), which ensures minimum standards are met and that space allocation is equitable across different schools.
- Physical constraints of the FSPS site as effectively constrained to the small area of land contained within the circle of the Cahill Expressway on-ramp.
- Substantial heritage significance of the FSPS site comprising several institutional, governmental and residential buildings in a setting that has developed from the early nineteenth century, of historical, aesthetic, and social significance.
- Wider heritage context of the site in connection to surrounding heritage items of exceptional significance in close vicinity, including the Sydney Harbour Bridge, Sydney Observatory, and the Millers Point SHR Conservation Area.
- Significant archaeological constraints.

Further, the SI Business Case identified key factors to be addressed through the site redevelopment as:

- Existing configuration of the main Fort Street Public School building and other teaching areas are not compatible with modern teaching practices in terms of their size and functional relationships.
- The Bureau of Meteorology building requires significant refurbishment to make it habitable. The building is deteriorating fast and may soon pose a risk to students. In the interim it requires upkeep just to keep safe and detract unauthorised access.
- Current facilities do not meet the Department of Education's cooler classrooms policy
- Current buildings do not meet modern energy efficacy standards.
- Functional open play space for children is currently below the desired 10sqm per student.

The Architectural and Urban Design Statement (FJMT Studio 2020) presents the proposed design for the expansion of the FSPS site. Development works proposed through the expansion of the FSPS site (as discussed in FJMT Studio 2020) include the following items (paraphrased by Curio Projects below to focus specifically on elements of the overall design that will be relevant to heritage). The figure below provides a plan of buildings and relevant labelling for locational context with respect to the description of works.

- Site preparation/remediation, demolition and bulk excavation works
    - Demolition of southernmost school building (EEC), the garage and storage shed west and east of the Bureau of Meteorology Building, and the toilet block adjoining the main school building.
    - New penetrations in East-West heritage boundary wall.
    - Bulk excavation works to facilitate the new southern buildings (i.e. new basement level for Building G- Communal Hall- in the southeast of the site) and western addition to the main school building.
- Retention of all heritage listed buildings (Fort Street Public School, Messenger's Cottage and Bureau of Meteorology building.
    - Sensitive adaptation/additions and alterations to heritage items to facilitate refurbishment and ongoing/future use of these buildings as part of the school.
    - Internal demolition/modifications in FSPS Building, Messenger's Cottage and Bureau of Meteorology building to allow functional space and connectivity to new development works- minimised as much as possible through design.
    - Restoration and refurbishment of Bureau of Meteorology building (currently in extremely poor state of preservation and disrepair)

  - New roof and in-fill addition to FSPS Building
- Construction of four new buildings (Buildings F, G, H & J) and new addition to existing school building
  - One new building in west of site for staff facilities. (Building F)
  - Two new, interconnected school buildings on southern third of the site (Buildings H & J)
  - New communal hall and canteen building (Building G)
  - North-western addition to the existing Fort Street Public School main building (Building A- Existing, Building D- Additions). Addition to accommodate a new lift and access/egress stair.
- Landscaping works
  - Tree removal
  - Retention of existing mature Fig (heritage significance) in northeast of site
  - Other landscaping works including new amphitheatre, deck around existing fig tree, new central plaza and multi-purpose forecourt
  - Roof gardens on new southern buildings (Buildings H & J), new building to west of FSPS (Building E) and Bureau of Meteorology building
- Installation of new hydraulic and electrical services
- Existing entrance road works, including alterations to the Bradfield Tunnel Services Building.
- Modifications to existing pick-up / drop-off arrangements.
- Signage.

Heritage Impact Assessment

This HIS presents a detailed assessment of all development works with respect to their potential to impact on heritage values, including physical, visual, and archaeological impacts. A summary of the impact assessment is as follows:

Physical Impacts

Main development works that may present physical impacts include: additions and alterations to existing buildings; demolition and excavation works; and construction of new buildings within the site. Assessment of these impacts is summarised as follows.

Existing Buildings (Additions and Alterations)

- The proposed development will retain all three existing heritage buildings within the FSPS Site (i.e. Fort Street Public School, Messenger's Cottage and Bureau of Meteorology Building).
- In general, physical intervention to heritage fabric has been reduced as much as possible, only as much as necessary to facilitate functional connection with the new development elements and buildings, and to allow function of the existing buildings with the functional requirements and parameters as defined by the Business Case and EFSG.

- While internal demolition and modification works are required within the Fort Street Public School building which will present physical impact to heritage fabric, proposed modification/demolition works will retain the alignment and readability of the original plan/configuration of the school rooms.
- Minor demolition and addition works are proposed for the Messenger's Cottage which will present a minor physical impact to heritage fabric (to be refined further through the final design)
- While restoration and modification works to allow the function of the MET Building as a school building will require some minor physical impacts to heritage fabric, on balance the adaptive re-use of the building is considered to be an overall positive heritage impact, re-introducing use and function to this currently un-used building.
- New penetrations will be required within the heritage boundary wall to facilitate connection between areas of the site- particularly new buildings in the south. While this will have a physical impact to heritage fabric, the penetrations have been minimised as much as possible.
    - While the orientation of the boundary wall has remained consistent since the mid 1800s, the physical fabric of the wall has been subject to numerous alterations, additions and renovations. Therefore the heritage significance of this wall is considered to relate more to the orientation over physical fabric, and therefore sensitive modifications are possible, as long as the orientation and physical dominance of the wall are maintained.

Bulk, Form and Scale

- New buildings set back from central corridor E-W through site will conserve heritage character of site.
- New buildings F, G, H & J have been designed to be appropriate in location, scale, height and bulk, commensurate with heritage character of the site without dominating the existing heritage items
- The MET Building will be retained as the tallest and most dominant building on the site.

Visual Impacts

The design process has considered the heritage setting and character of the FSPS Site, both in relation to heritage items located within the site, as well as in its wider heritage context on Observatory Hill and connection to the Sydney Harbour Foreshore and CBD.

- Consideration of visual connections and links between heritage items within the site, through the articulation of 'breezeways' and glazing to maximise available visual connections between heritage items.
- Avoidance of new development within key heritage viewlines- i.e. avoidance of development east of the Messenger's Cottage and in the northeast of the site, maintaining eastern significant view lines and appreciation of scale and form of the Cottage

- Application of materiality and colour palette to ensure new buildings and additions will be sympathetic to, but not mimic nor detract from, the existing heritage buildings and heritage character of the FSPS site.
- Bulk and massing of new buildings and additions has been restricted in order to respect proportions and bulk of existing heritage items, ensuring new buildings are visual subservient and recessive to heritage buildings.
- The new amphitheatre and services hardstand proposed for the northeast of the site will present a minor visual impact to the views in this location in visual relationship between the FSPS site and Bradfield Highway. However, this structure has been located here in order to conceal required fire hydrant, safety equipment and waste room without compromising on usable footprint area, and therefore is considered to be an acceptable impact.
    - Further, the proposed modifications to the existing Bradfield Tunnel Services Building (i.e. reduction in size and bulk of the existing structure and widening of Upper Fort Street in this location) will have a positive visual impact, offsetting the minor negative impact of the new ampitheatre.
- The exit of the new lift proposed for the MET Building to the roof has the potential to present a visual impact to the building, visible from other areas of the site and surrounds. This visual impact should be minimised through careful detailed design, including use of materials, colour, and clever mechanical design to reduce its visibility and impact.

Archaeological Impacts

Historical Archaeology

- Historical archaeological test excavation at the FSPS Site in July 2019 confirmed the presence of substantial archaeological evidence of the former Surgeon's House (c.1820s) in the south of the site (i.e. adjacent to/underlying the existing EEC building).
    - This archaeological resource has been assessed to be of State significance for its potential ability to provide important information from the archaeological evidence for the occupation of an element of a significant Government establishment from the early Colony.
- Therefore, development impacts in this location (i.e. new buildings H & J) have potential to impact this significant archaeological resource.
- Bulk excavation works have been designed to avoid the location of the footings of the Surgeon's House (as much as uncovered during the July 2019 test excavation works), with bulk excavation works for the new basement for Building G limited to further to the east.
- In response to the location of the archaeological resource/footings of the Surgeon's Cottage, the design of Building J was adapted to through piling/bridging

Aboriginal Archaeology

- There are no registered Aboriginal sites located within the FSPS study area. While there is a low potential for intact Aboriginal archaeological deposits to remain within the FSPS study area, should such deposits be found to be present within remnant natural soil profiles, these may have potential for moderate to high social, historical and scientific significance. Therefore, it is appropriate to develop strategies to mitigate this potential impact.

Summary of Heritage Impacts

- In order to meet the SI brief and EFSG requirements for the development, sensitive modifications and additions to the Fort Street Public School building (constructed as a purpose-built public school building) are considered to be appropriate and preferential from a heritage perspective - rather than incur additional heritage impact to other heritage items not originally constructed as school buildings, or potential sub-surface archaeological resources present within the site. The proposed additions and alterations to the FSPS main building will facilitate the continuing use of the building for the school, of which adaptation is necessary to meet current educational requirements, guidelines and needs.
- The proposed modifications and additions to the FSPS Building will retain the readability of its 1940s architecture, which, while exemplary at the time of its construction, is suitable for the application of evolving modification as required by the needs of school. The sensitive adaptation of the school building will in this way serve as a heritage best practice example for ways in which the ongoing improvement and evolution of purpose-specific school buildings from this era can be applied to meet with modern educational standards, ensuring continuity of use as a public school, with facilities capable of delivering high quality education.
- While minor physical impacts to the Messenger's Cottage are proposed, the adaptation of the heritage item is considered to be an overall positive heritage impact, ensuring the continued use of the building as part of the school.
- The restoration and adaptive re-use of the Bureau of Meteorology Building (currently in a serious state of disrepair and neglect) will be a major positive heritage impact, restoring function and access to the heritage item. Further, use of the MET Building as a library and meeting space for the school is appropriate as it will facilitate some public access (after hours, meeting spaces etc).
- The scale, bulk and height of the new buildings and additions will be visually recessive to the existing heritage items, as well as within the context of the wider heritage setting of the site, and is therefore considered to have a neutral visual impact in the locational heritage context of the FSPS Site.
- The proposed modifications to the Bradfield Tunnel Services Building will present an overall positive visual impact to the site, reducing the bulk of the existing services

building and widening Upper Fort Street in this location, improving views to the main school building from the north and northeast.

The constraints of the project brief, SI Strategic Business Case and EFSG have meant that the proposed development will unavoidably present some negative heritage impacts - both physically to heritage fabric and archaeology, as well as visually within the heritage context of the site. However, the design process has worked to minimise these impacts as much as possible using clever and pragmatic design options and solutions, developed in close consultation with relevant specialists (heritage, archaeology, stormwater, traffic etc). The remaining heritage impacts as proposed by the preferred design have been identified as necessary in order to keep the function and expansion of the Fort Street Public School possible, as per the required parameters of the development as stipulated by SI. The design process included rigorous analysis of all site development options, design, and locations for new buildings etc.

Therefore, the final iteration of this design process (as discussed in this HIS) is considered to be the best possible design option to reduce and/or balance heritage impacts, while meeting all of SI requirements to guarantee viability of the development. The identified heritage impacts will be offset and mitigated through careful detailed design (i.e. materiality and colour), heritage interpretation and archaeological investigation.

Conclusions

Generally, the design process for the expansion of the Fort Street Public School has included detailed and holistic consideration of the heritage values, built elements and archaeological potential of the site, on balance with the project brief and requirements of the EFSG and SI Business Case, in order to develop the best possible option for the development, given the highly constrained nature of the site.

While the design will still have some impact to heritage fabric, views and values, impacts have been minimised as much as possible through the application of creative design solutions, while still achieving the SI requirements necessary to facilitate the viability of the development.

- The FSPS site is located within the State Heritage Register (SHR) listed 'Millers Point and Dawes Point Village Precinct Conservation Area', as well as within the locally listed 'Millers Point and Dawes Point Village Precinct' Heritage Conservation Area (HCA) (Sydney LEP 2012).
- Three locally listed heritage items (Sydney LEP 2012) are located within the FSPS site (Fort Street Public School, Messenger's Cottage, and the Bureau of Meteorology Building), with other heritage items of both local and State significance are located in the general vicinity of (but outside of) the site.
- The proposed design includes: retention of all three heritage-listed items located within the FSPS site; construction of an additional four new buildings; additions and alterations to the heritage items; and other works including landscaping, signage, services, entrance road modifications, and modifications to the existing Bradfield Tunnel Services Building. The design will also retain the mature Fig tree in the northeast of the site, as well as the east-west boundary wall of heritage significance.

- The design has focused on the accommodation of additional learning spaces (as required by the SI project brief, Strategic Business Case Study, and EFSG) within the new buildings and additions to the existing Fort Street Public School building, in order to minimise required impacts on other heritage items and values.
- The MET Building is currently in a state of significant disrepair, the restoration and adaptive re-use of which (as proposed through the design) will be a major positive heritage impact to the values and significance of this heritage item- assuming that detailed design of elements such as the proposed lift is undertaken sensitively to reduce visual and physical impacts as much as possible.
- Curtilages of the heritage items, particularly the Messenger's Cottage and MET Building, as well as significant heritage views within and external to the site, have been considered in the location of new development, with new buildings confined to the south and west of the site.
- An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR; Curio Projects 2019a) has been prepared for the expansion of the FSPS Site, which includes an assessment of Aboriginal archaeological potential, the results of Aboriginal community consultation undertaken for the project, and provides recommendations for management of Aboriginal archaeology and cultural heritage with respect to the proposed development. The ACHAR concludes that:
    - The FSPS study area has been subject to very high levels of historical ground disturbance and use since 1788 relating to the use of the site as a Military Hospital, Sydney Observatory activities/Bureau of Meteorology, and Fort Street Public School, that would likely have impacted and/or removed the majority of natural soil profiles.
    - In general, the study area has low potential for Aboriginal archaeological deposits to be present, due to the high levels of historical disturbance at the site, as well as the propensity for Gymea soils for erosion following vegetation clearance.
    - Due to the high level of fill and confirmed presence of State significant historical archaeology present within the FSPS site, Aboriginal archaeological test excavation under the OEH *Code of Practice* has not been possible for the study area.
    - While the Aboriginal archaeological potential within the FSPS study area is considered low, should an Aboriginal archaeological deposit be found to be present within the FSPS study area, this may have moderate scientific significance for its ability to provide evidence for and insight into Aboriginal occupation and use of the Millers Point/Observatory Hill locality prior to 1788, representative of the FSPS study area as part of the wider Aboriginal cultural landscape of the Sydney Harbour Foreshore.

- Historical archaeological test excavation at the FSPS Site in July 2019 confirmed the presence of substantial archaeological evidence of the former Surgeon's House (c.1820s) in the south of the site (i.e. adjacent to/underlying the existing EEC building).
    - The design has been adapted to avoid these footings as much as possible, with use of discrete piling and bridging techniques applied to allow retention of the archaeology *in situ* beneath the new development.
    - Further historical archaeological investigation and intervention will be required at the site to ensure potential impact to the historical archaeological resource (both known and unknown) will be appropriately managed and/or avoided.

Recommendations

Should the SSDA for the Fort Street Public School expansion be approved as per the design and development works presented within this HIS, the development will require heritage and archaeological mitigation and management prior to development impacts. Heritage management strategies and requirements for the FSPS site include: refinement of materiality and colour palette through final design; archaeological mitigation (both Aboriginal and Historical archaeology); and implementation of heritage interpretation initiatives within the site. Summary of heritage recommendations for the development are as follows:

1. Careful and sensitive application of **Materiality and Colour Palette**, to be refined in the final design.
2. **Conservation works** to heritage items proposed to be undertaken as part of the development works (particularly urgent maintenance and repair works for the MET Building) should be overseen or undertaken in consultation with qualified and experience conservation professionals (i.e. heritage architect etc).
3. **Aboriginal archaeological monitoring/investigation**
    - While archaeological potential is low, should an Aboriginal archaeological deposit be present within the FSPS study area, this may have moderate to high significance, and therefore management strategies have been developed to mitigate any potential impacts.
    - As SSDA the development (once approved) will be exempt from the provisions of the NSW NPW Act and the requirement for an AHIP. However, appropriate best practice archaeological investigation and mitigation will be required to be undertaken in accordance with the methodology presented in Section 6 of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) for the FSPS Site, as a condition of consent of the SSDA approval.
    - Aboriginal archaeological mitigation is proposed to include three main methods of archaeological investigation: Targeted archaeological monitoring of development excavation works in identified areas; Targeted archaeological test excavation (if identified as being required following the results of monitoring);

and Aboriginal archaeological salvage excavation (if required) of any identified Aboriginal archaeological deposit (if encountered).

4. Historical archaeological monitoring/investigation

- As SSDA the development (once approved) will be exempt from the provisions of the NSW Heritage Act and the requirement for a Section 60 Excavation permit
- However, historical archaeological mitigation prior to development impacts/in conjunction with development impacts will still be required (likely as a condition of SSDA consent)
- Historical archaeological investigation should be guided by a Historical Archaeological Research Design and Excavation Methodology (ARD + EM) to be prepared as part of the conditions of consent for the development

5. Heritage Interpretation

Appropriate and meaningful heritage interpretation initiatives should be implemented within the FSPS site in order to communicate the heritage significance and history of the site as a way of mitigating the impact to heritage values as posed by the development works.

1. Introduction

1.1. The Purpose of this Report

Curio Projects Pty Ltd was commissioned by School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW) to prepare a Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) for the Fort Street Public School (FSPS) project, located at Upper Fort Street, Millers Point (the study area).

The Fort Street Public School has reached both student and functional capacity in its current built form, and therefore, SINSW proposes expansion of the school. Approval is sought for the expansion of Fort Street Public School to accommodate a total of 550 primary school students.

This report supports a State Significant Development (SSD) Development Application (DA) for the FSPS Expansion project (Application no. SSD-10340), which is to be submitted to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces pursuant to Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

This report has been prepared with reference to key heritage guideline documentation as detailed below (but not limited to):

- Curio Projects 2019a, *Fort Street Public School—Historical Archaeological Research Design, Test Excavation.* Report to School Infrastructure NSW;
- Curio Projects 2019b, *Fort Street Public School—Test Excavation Archaeological Report*. Report to School Infrastructure NSW; (Appendix A)
- Curio Projects 2019c, *Fort Street Public School—Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report.* Report to for School Infrastructure NSW; (Appendix B)
- Curio Projects and TKD Architects 2020, *Fort Street Public School—Conservation Management Plan*, *SSDA 10340 Issue*. Report to School Infrastructure NSW.
- NSW Heritage Branch 2009, *Assessing significance for archaeological sites and 'relics'*;
- NSW Heritage Office 1996, *Heritage Curtilages Heritage Council Guideline*, Dept. of Urban Affairs & Planning.
- NSW Heritage Office/RAIA, 2005, *Design in Context – guidelines for infill development in the Historic Environmen*t;
- *Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, The Burra Charter, 2013* (Burra Charter); and
- NSW Heritage Office 2001, *Assessing Heritage Significance*.

Key project documents utilised in the preparation of this HIS report include:

- FJMT Studio, *Fort Street Public School - SSDA 10340 Architectural Design Statement Rev. SSDA01*, 19 February 2020
- FJMT Studio, *Fort Street Public School – SSDA Landscape Architecture Design*, *Rev. SSDA01*, 21 February 2020

- FJMT Studio, *Fort Street Public School - SSDA Architectural Drawing Package,* 21 February 2020
- Ethos Urban 2020, *Visual Impact Assessment, Upper Fort Street, Millers Point, Fort Street Public School*, 17 January 2020
- Purcell 2019, *Fort Street Public School- Concept Design Scope of Conservation Works (DRAFT)*. Report to SI, 13 November 2019.

1.2. Approvals Context

On 28 June 2019[2], the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARS) were issued to the Department of Education for the Fort Street Public School (Application no. SSD-10340). This report constitutes the Heritage Impact Statement, as required by Condition 9 of the SEARS to be submitted as part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the SSDA. The specific requirements for EIS the with respect to heritage (as addressed through this HIS) are summarised in Table 1.1 below.

Table 1.1: SEARs—Heritage

SEARS—DESCRIPTION	REPORT REFERENCE
9. Heritage	
A heritage impact statement that addresses the heritage impact of the proposal on the significance and setting of the items on the site (including Fort Street Public School, Meteorological Building, 1830s Heritage Wall, the Messenger Building and Fig trees), as well as on the significance and setting of nearby heritage items (including the National Trust Centre, Sydney Observatory, and Observatory Hill Park) on views to and from the site and Observatory Hill, and on the significance and setting of the State listed Millers Point and Dawes Point Precinct (which includes Observatory Hill).	This report
The heritage impact statement is to: ▪ be in accordance with the relevant NSW Heritage Council guidelines. ▪ be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced heritage consultant. ▪ include compliance with the conservation policies of any conservation management plan that applies to the site, including the Fort Street Public School and Environs CMP, prepared by TDK Architects in October 2016, and justification for any non-compliances. ▪ outline measures to mitigate any adverse impacts identified ▪ include recommendations to enhance the significance and setting of the site and its environment.	TKD CMP 2016 is in draft form only. See Section 2.5 for details of revised CMP (2019)

[2] Revised SEARs were issued 22 November 2019. Revised SEARs did not alter heritage requirements.

SEARS—DESCRIPTION	REPORT REFERENCE
Provide a statement of significance and an assessment of the impact on the heritage significance of the heritage items on the site in accordance with the guidelines in the NSW Heritage Manual.	Section 6
Address the historical archaeological and potential significance of the site, the impacts the development may have on this significance and recommended measures to manage the archaeological resource. This is to be prepared in accordance with the relevant NSW Heritage Council Guidelines by a suitably qualified historical archaeologist.	Section 5
11. Aboriginal Heritage	
Identify and describe the Aboriginal cultural heritage values that exist across the site and document these in an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR). This may include the need for surface survey and test excavation.	Summarised in Section 5.2 of this HIS. See ACHAR for detail (Appendix B to this HIS).
Identify and address the Aboriginal cultural heritage values in accordance with the Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW (OEH, 2011) and Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigations of Aboriginal Objects in NSW (OEH, 2010).	See ACHAR (Appendix B to this HIS).
Undertake consultation with Aboriginal people and document in accordance with Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010 (DECCW). The significance of cultural heritage values of Aboriginal people who have a cultural association with the land are to be documented in the ACHAR.	See ACHAR (Appendix B to this HIS).
Identify, assess and document all impacts on the Aboriginal cultural heritage values in the ACHAR.	See ACHAR (Appendix B to this HIS).
The EIS and the supporting ACHAR must demonstrate attempts to avoid any impact upon cultural heritage values and identify any conservation outcomes.	See ACHAR (Appendix B to this HIS).
Where impacts are unavoidable, the ACHAR and EIS must outline measures proposed to mitigate impacts. Any objects recorded as part of the assessment must be documented and notified to OEH.	See ACHAR (Appendix B to this HIS).

1.3. Site Identification

The Fort Street Public School site (the study area) is located on Observatory Hill, at Upper Fort Street, Millers Point, and is generally defined by the circular cut of the Cahill Expressway on ramp (Figure 1.1). The study area is located to the south of the Sydney Observatory, between the Bradfield Highway in the east, and residential development along Kent Street to the west (Figure 1.2).

The Fort Street School (FSPS) site currently consists of four main buildings (Figure 1.3): The Fort Street School; The Messengers Cottage; The Bureau of Meteorology building (MET Building), and the Environmental Educational Centre (EEC) building. Of these four structures, only the EEC building is not heritage listed.

Figure 1.1: General FSPS Study area Location. Bradfield Tunnel Services Building is also included within scope of works, as indicated. (Source: Curio 2019)

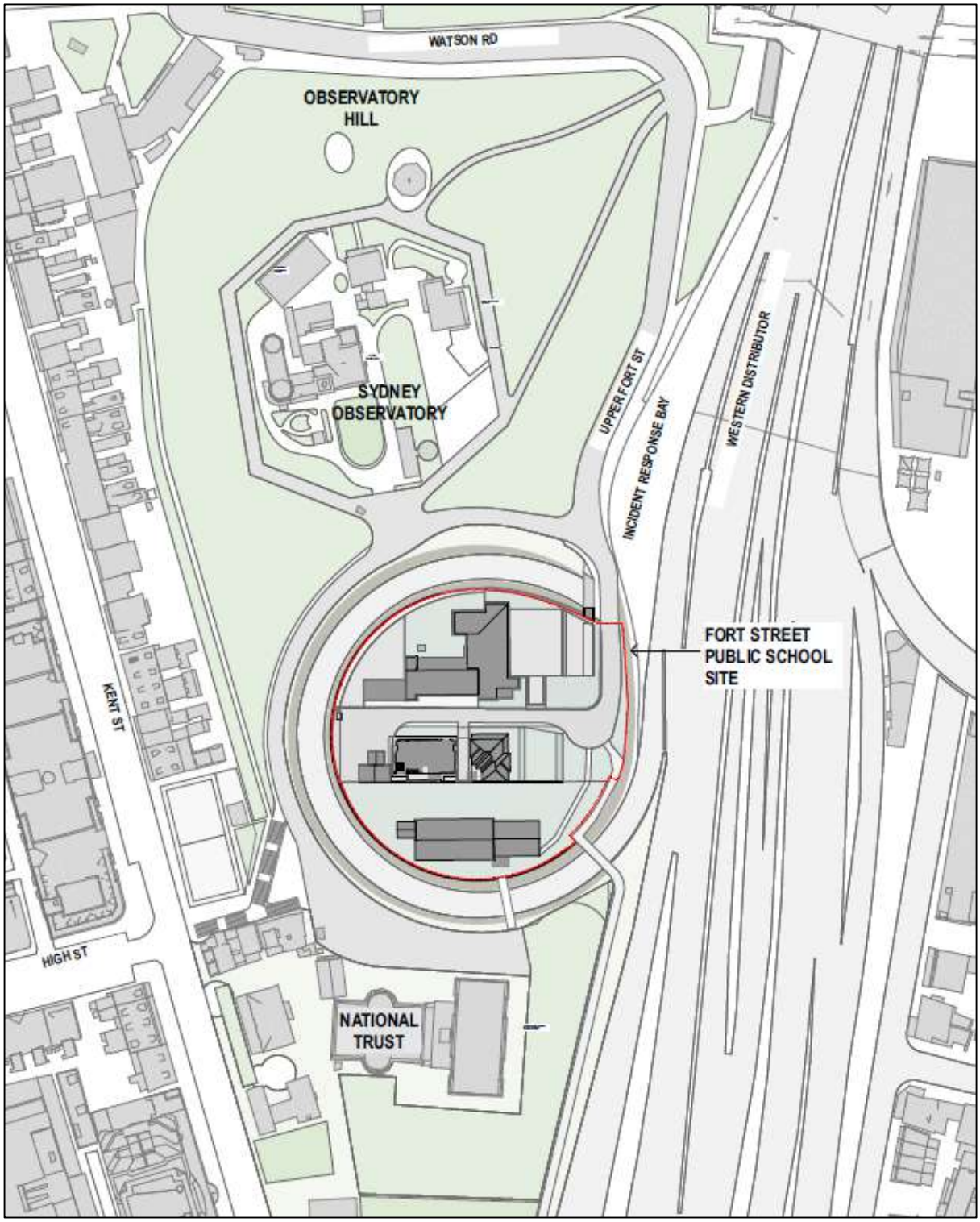

Figure 1.2: FSPS Location Plan indicating surrounding features (Source: FJMT Studio, 28.10.2019)

Figure 1.3: FSPS Site Plan (Source: TKD 2016, Fig. 36)

1.4. Limitations and Constraints

This report has been prepared primarily using the extensive historical data and documentation available for the FSPS study area and surrounds, including relevant Conservation Management Plans, archaeological reports, and assessments.

Curio Projects have recently updated the draft Conservation Management Plan (prepared by TKD Architects in 2016 but never finalised), and have undertaken additional primary research and historical archaeological test excavation, ensuring that the most accurate information possible has been utilised in this assessment. This report does not include assessment of any non-heritage related planning controls or requirements.

This report is a desktop assessment of environmental and Aboriginal archaeological context and potential only. The report includes a summary of the assessment of the potential for the site to impact on Aboriginal archaeological objects and/or places. For detailed assessment of the

Aboriginal archaeology and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Significance relevant to the study area, the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHAR) report should be referred to (Curio Projects 2019, *Fort Street Public School–Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report*) (Appendix B to this HIS).

1.5. Authorship and Acknowledgements

This report has been prepared by Sam Cooling, Senior Archaeologist/Heritage Consultant, with assistance from Tatiana Barreto, Architectural Consultant, both of Curio Projects Pty Ltd. Natalie Vinton, Director of Curio Projects, provided expert input and advice, and senior review of the report.

2. Statutory Context

In NSW, heritage items and known or potential archaeological resources are afforded statutory protection under the:

- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)* (EP&A Act);
- *Heritage Act 1977 (NSW)* (Heritage Act); and
- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)* (NPW Act).

There are further planning polices and controls that provide a non-statutory role in the protection of environmental heritage. These include Development Control Plans for each local Council area.

This section of the report discusses the local and State planning context for the site with respect to its built heritage values associated with local heritage items in the vicinity of the subject site.

2.1. Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment administers the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979* (the EP&A Act), which provides the legislative context for environmental planning instruments to be made to legislate and guide and the process of development and land use. Local heritage items, including known archaeological items, identified Aboriginal Places and heritage conservation areas are protected through listings on Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) or Regional Environmental Plans (REPs). The EP&A Act also requires that potential Aboriginal and historical archaeological resources are adequately assessed and considered as part of the development process, in accordance with the requirements of the NPW Act and the Heritage Act.

Part 4, Division 4.1 of the EP&A Act identifies and defines State Significant Development projects (SSD) as those declared under Section 89C of the EP&A Act. As part of the SSD approvals process, applicants are not required to obtain separate heritage statutory approvals, including built heritage and historical archaeology approvals under Section 60 of the Heritage Act or Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permits (AHIPs) under Section 90 of the NPW Act.

As the FSPS Expansion project will have a capital investment exceeding $20 million, development approval will be pursued as an SSD project.

In order to identify the potential for the development to impact on archaeological resources, the archaeological assessments as contained within this HIS (both Aboriginal and historical archaeology) have still been prepared in accordance with the appropriate Department of Planning and Environment (DoPE), Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and NSW Heritage guidelines to ensure that as part of the redevelopment of the site, any potential archaeological resources proposed to be disturbed, will be appropriately investigated, recorded and managed.

It is intended that any disturbance of archaeological resources will be undertaken in accordance with a detailed Archaeological Research Design to be prepared by a suitably qualified archaeologist. Following the issuing of final Notice of Determination (approval), the statutory

provisions of the NSW Heritage Act and the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act will apply again, if—once development commences—an unexpected discovery of historical archaeological relics or Aboriginal objects and/or Aboriginal places are made during the works program.

Should an unexpected archaeological resource be found, then there is a requirement to cease works in the immediate area and report the discovery of the unexpected archaeological find —to the relevant authority (NSW Heritage or OEH). This is the only statutory process not over-ridden by the SSD process. Should any archaeological remains identified in the assessments submitted with the EIS be found, these are not considered to be 'unexpected finds'.

2.1.1. Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012

The Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012 (LEP) provides local environmental planning provisions for land within the Sydney LGA. Clause 5.10 of the LEP sets out objective and planning controls for the conservation of heritage in the City of Sydney Council area, including the conservation of built heritage and archaeological sites. The LEP states that development consent is required for works that will involve:

> *(a) demolishing or moving any of the following or altering the exterior of any of the following (including, in the case of a building, making changes to its detail, fabric, finish or appearance)—*
>
> *(i) a heritage item,*
>
> *(ii) an Aboriginal object,*
>
> *(iii) a building, work, relic or tree within a heritage conservation area,*
>
> *(b) altering a heritage item that is a building by making structural changes to its interior or by making changes to anything inside the item that is specified in Schedule 5 in relation to the item,*
>
> *(c) disturbing or excavating an archaeological site while knowing, or having reasonable cause to suspect, that the disturbance or excavation will or is likely to result in a relic being discovered, exposed, moved, damaged or destroyed,*
>
> *(e) erecting a building on land—*
>
> *(i) on which a heritage item is located or that is within a heritage conservation area, or*
>
> *(ii) on which an Aboriginal object is located or that is within an Aboriginal place of heritage significance,*

Clause 5.10 (5) relates to the requirement for a heritage assessment to be required prior to development consent being given. Clause 5.10(7) specifically relates to the management of archaeological sites

Three main buildings within the FSPS Site are locally listed on the Sydney LEP 2012: the 'Bureau of Meteorology including interior' (#I936), the 'Messenger's Cottage for Sydney Observatory including interior' (#I937) and the 'Fort Street Primary School site including buildings and interiors, fig trees and grounds' (#I938).

2.2. Heritage Framework

2.2.1. NSW Heritage Act 1977

In NSW, heritage items are afforded statutory protection under the *NSW Heritage Act 1977* (the *Heritage Act*). Heritage places and items of particular importance to the people of New South Wales are listed on the NSW State Heritage Register. The *Heritage Act* defines a heritage item as a 'place, building, work, relic, moveable object or precinct'. The *Heritage Act* is responsible for the conservation and regulation of impacts to items of State heritage significance, with 'State Heritage Significance' defined as being of 'significance to the state in relation to the historical, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural or aesthetic value of the item'.

The NSW Heritage Council is the approval authority under the *Heritage Act* for works to an item on the SHR. Section 57(1) of the *Heritage Act* requires Heritage Council approval if the work involves the following tasks:

> *(a) Demolishing the building or work*
>
> *(b) Damaging or despoiling the place, precinct or land, or any part of the place, precinct or land*
>
> *(c) Moving, damaging or destroying the relic or movable object*
>
> *(d) Excavating any land for the purpose of exposing or moving the relic*
>
> *(e) Carrying out any development in relation to the land on which the building, work or relic is situated, the land that comprises the place, or land within the precinct*
>
> *(f) Altering the building, work, relic or movable object*
>
> *(g) Displaying any notice or advertisement on the place, building, work, relic, movable object or land, or in the precinct*
>
> *(h) Damaging or destroying any tree or other vegetation on, or remove any tree or other vegetation from the place, precinct or land.*

Application for an approval in accordance with Section 57(1) can be sought via a Section 60 Application to the NSW Heritage Division. Demolition of an SHR item (in whole) is prohibited under the *Heritage Act*, unless the item constitutes a danger to its occupants or the public. A component of an SHR item may only demolished if it does not contribute to the significance of the item. The requirement for a Section 60 approval also applies to archaeological relics within an SHR site.

Exemptions and Excavation Permits

Standard exemptions have been gazetted (5 September 2008) that apply to all SHR sites. The purpose of Standard Exemptions is to streamline the approvals process, particularly where works are minor and/or have little impact on significance. For further details of the standard exemptions, refer to the NSW Heritage Division website.

Prior to conducting any work which may be exempt, an Exemption Notification Form under Section 57(2) of the *Heritage Act* (not a Section 60 application) must be completed and submitted

to the NSW Heritage Division with sufficient information to determine whether the works meet the standard exemption guidelines. Sufficient information normally takes the form of a short report clearly stating the scope of the work and how it meets the guidelines. The Exemption Notification Form must be approved prior to work commencing.

The *Heritage Act* protects heritage, however historical archaeological remains are additionally protected from being moved or excavated through the operation of the 'relics' provisions. These protect unidentified 'relics' which may form part of the State's environmental heritage, but which have not been listed on the SHR or protected by an Interim Heritage Order. An archaeological site is an area of land which is the location of one or more archaeological 'relics'.

Since amendments were made to the Heritage Act in 2009, a 'relic' has been defined as:

> *any deposit, artefact, object or material evidence that:*
>
> *(a) Relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement*
>
> *(b) Is of State or local heritage significance.*

Division 9 of the *Heritage Act* is titled 'Protection of certain relics', with Section 139 stating that "a person must not disturb or excavate any land knowing or having reasonable cause to suspect that the disturbance or excavation will or is likely to result in a relic being discovered, exposed, moved, damaged or destroyed unless the disturbance or excavation is carried out in accordance with an excavation permit". Such permits are issued under Sections 140 and 141 of the Act, or under Sections 60 and 63 of the Act, in cases where 'relics' are situated within sites or places listed on the SHR.

An excavation permit is also required if a relic has been discovered in the course of excavation without a permit (Section 139(2) of the Act).

If an excavation permit is required by Section 139 of the *Heritage Act*, an application is made under Section 140 of the Act (a Section 140 Application). To obtain an excavation permit, an Archaeological Assessment and Research Design needs to be prepared in accordance with the NSW Heritage Division's relevant guidelines, including *Historical Archaeological Sites* and the *Historical Archaeology Code of Practice*. For further details of these guidelines, refer to the OEH Heritage Division website.

In addition, Section 146 of the *Heritage Act* relates to the requirement to report the discovery of relics to the Heritage Council. Specifically, Section 146 of the *Heritage Act* states:

> *146 Notification of discovery of a relic*
>
> *A person, who is aware or believes that he or she has discovered or located a relic (in any circumstances, and whether or not the person has been issued with a permit) must:*
>
> *(a) within a reasonable time after he or she first becomes aware or believes that he or she has discovered or located that relic notify the Heritage Council of the location of the*

relic, unless he or she believes on reasonable grounds that the Heritage Council is aware of the location of the relic, and

(b) within the period required by the Heritage Council furnish the Heritage Council with such information concerning the relic as the Heritage Council may reasonably require.

In accordance with the Section 146 provisions of the *Heritage Act*, the discovery of relics is generally reported to the Heritage Division, in the form of a post-excavation report or similar, depending on the circumstances in which the discovery was made- and in accordance with any requirements of the Minister.

No *individual* items within the FSPS site are listed on the SHR, however the FSPS site itself is located within the curtilage of the SHR conservation area 'Millers Point and Dawes Point Village Precinct' (SHR #01682).

2.2.2. National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW) (NPW Act)

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NPW Act), administered by the (former) NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH- now known as the Biodiversity & Conservation Division (BCD) of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE)), is the primary legislation that provides statutory protection for all 'Aboriginal objects' (Part 6, Section 90) and 'Aboriginal places' (Part 6, Section 84) within NSW.

An Aboriginal object is defined through the NPW Act as:

> *"any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale) relating to the Aboriginal habitation of the area that comprises New South Wales, being habitation before or concurrent with (or both) the occupation of that area by persons of non-Aboriginal extraction, and includes Aboriginal remains."*[3]

The NPW Act provides the definition of 'harm' to Aboriginal objects and places as:

> *"…any act or omission that:*
>
> *(a) destroys, defaces or damages the object or place, or*
>
> *(b) in relation to an object-moves the object from the land on which it had been situated, or*
>
> *(c) is specified by the regulations, or*
>
> *(d) causes or permits the object or place to be harmed in a manner referred to in paragraph (a), (b) or (c),* (NPW Act 1974)

The NPW Act also establishes penalties for 'harm' to Aboriginal objects and declared Aboriginal places, as well as defences and exemptions for harm. One of the main defences against the harming of Aboriginal objects and cultural material is to seek an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) under Section 90 of the NPW Act, under which disturbance to Aboriginal objects could be undertaken, in accordance with the requirements of an approved AHIP.

[3] NPW Act 1974, Part 1: 5

In order to best implement and administer the protection afforded to Aboriginal objects and places as through the NPW Act, and EP&A Act, the former OEH (now BCD of DPIE) have prepared a series of best practice statutory guidelines with regards to Aboriginal heritage. These guidelines are designed to assist developers, landowners and archaeologists to better understand their statutory obligations with regards to Aboriginal heritage in NSW, and implement best practice policies into their investigation of Aboriginal heritage values and archaeology in relation to their land and/or development. This report has been prepared in accordance with these guidelines, including:

- DECCW 2010a, *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in NSW.* (the Due Diligence Code of Practice)
- OEH 2011a, *Guide to Investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW.* (the Guide to Investigating)
- DECCW 2010b, *Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales.* (the Code of Practice)
- DECCW 2010c, *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010.* (the Consultation Guidelines)
- OEH 2011b, *Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permits, a Guide for Applicants*.

2.2.3. Native Title Act 1993

The *Native Title Act 1993* provides the legislative framework to recognise and protect native title, which recognizes the traditional rights and interests to land and waters of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Under the *Native Title Act*, native title claimants can make an application to the Federal Court to have their native title recognised by Australian law.

No native title claimants are registered to include the FSPS Site.

2.3. Statutory Heritage Listings

The FSPS Site is located within the curtilage of the SHR listed 'Millers Point and Dawes Point Village Precinct Conservation Area' (SHR #01682, Figure 2.1), as well as within the locally listed Millers Point Heritage Conservation Area (HCA C35) (LEP). (Figure 2.2). Three locally listed heritage items (LEP) are located within the FSPS Site including:

- The Bureau of Meteorology including interior - 9 Upper Fort Street (Sydney LEP #I936)
- The Messenger's Cottage for Sydney Observatory including interior - 9A Upper Fort Street (Sydney LEP # I937)
- Fort Street Primary School Site including buildings and their interiors, fig trees and grounds - 1005 Upper Fort Street (Sydney LEP # I938)

In addition to the heritage items located within the FSPS site, several other heritage items are located in close proximity and association to the site, including:

- National Trust Centre Including Buildings & Their Interiors, Retaining Walls & Ground - 1001 Bradfield Highway (Sydney LEP # I876).
- Tennis Court and Pavilion - 96-108 Kent Street (Sydney LEP #I920)
- Sydney Observatory (SHR 01449 and Sydney LEP #I934)
- Observatory Park Including Boer War Memorial, Bandstand, Fences and Landscaping – Upper Fort Street (Sydney LEP #I935)
- Agar Steps, Millers Point (Sydney LEP #I868)

Figure 2.1: SHR Millers Point & Dawes Point Village Precinct. FSPS site indicated in blue. (Source: SHR Listing)

Figure 2.2: Local Heritage Map. FSPS site indicated in blue. (Source: Sydney LEP 2012, Heritage Map - Sheet HER_014)

2.4. Non-Statutory Heritage Listings

A number of organisations maintain registers of buildings or sites which they have assessed as having cultural heritage significance. These registers have no statutory authority; however the inclusion of a place on a non-statutory register suggests a certain degree of community esteem and appreciation. Non-statutory registers include the National Trust (NSW) Register, the NSW National Trust Industrial Archaeology Sites List, the RAIA 20th Century Register of Significant Buildings, and the Art Deco Society of NSW's Art Deco Building Register.

No heritage items within or including the FSPS site are listed on any non-statutory heritage registers. However, Sydney Observatory and Park are listed on the National Trust Register, as well as the Register of the National Estate.

2.5. FSPS Conservation Management Plan

A draft Conservation Management Plan (CMP) was prepared by TKD Architects in 2016 for the FSPS Site, however the draft report was never finalised, nor submitted to the NSW Heritage Council for review or endorsement. In 2019, Curio Projects were commissioned by SI to prepare a revised and updated CMP for FSPS site (using the TKD draft CMP as a baseline document- with many sections of the 2016 document remaining relevant), to properly address the current form, function, and future direction of the FSPS site. Curio undertook a gap analysis and assessment of the TKD draft CMP (2016), in order to identify any omissions in the document and/or areas

requiring additional research to ensure the CMP complies with NSW Heritage Division criteria for the preparation of CMPs.

A consolidated CMP has therefore been prepared with sections extracted from the TKD Architects draft CMP document, supplemented by additions and revisions (where appropriate) by Curio Projects.

The proposed development has been assessed against the policies of the revised CMP (Curio & TKD Architects 2019) in Section 8.6.

3. Historical Overview

This historical summary has been extracted and consolidated from the *Fort Street Public School Conservation Management Plan* (Curio Projects & TKD Architects 2019c, in preparation) and *Fort Street Public School- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report* (Curio Projects 2019b). Sources have been referenced as appropriate. For the full detailed site history, see Section 2 of the CMP.

3.1. Aboriginal Ethnohistory

The traditional owners of the Sydney Cove region are the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. The traditional territory of the Gadigal stretches along the southern side of Sydney Harbour from South Head, west to approximately Darling Harbour, and south towards Botany Bay. The Sydney region has two main language groups: Darug–with two main dialects, one spoken along the coast, and another in the hinterland/Cumberland Plain region of western Sydney; and Tharawal–spoken to the south of Botany Bay[4]. Within the Darug language group, people belonged to smaller family/territorial groups or clans, through which they were connected to, and occupied, different areas of land across Sydney, of which the Gadigal people are one.

While the Observatory Hill locality would most likely have been an original contact site between the new colonists and Sydney's first inhabitants, few accounts or evidence remain to provide further information about contact in this location. The local Aboriginal people living in the area of the Fort Street Public School would have pursued a mixed food economy in the region, utilising and relying upon the abundant natural resources of Sydney cove, including marine resources from the harbour and surrounding waters, hunting terrestrial mammals, as well as collecting and processing local plants (Figure 3.1).

At the time of arrival of the First Fleet and Captain Arthur Phillip in January 1788, it is estimated that at least 1500 Aboriginal people would have lived along the coastal region between Broken Bay and Botany Bay. The arrival of the First Fleet devastated the lives and activities of Aboriginal people of the Sydney Harbour area, restricting access to areas traditionally used for hunting and gathering, shelter and for ceremonial purposes, while introducing devastating diseases such as smallpox. It is estimated that almost half of Sydney's Aboriginal population died in the first smallpox epidemic recorded in the colony in 1789[5]. However, despite the widespread devastation of colonial arrival and establishment to the Aboriginal inhabitants of Sydney, the Gadigal endured and remain a continuing culture in Sydney today.

[4] Attenbrow, V. 2010 *Sydney's Aboriginal Past. Investigating the Archaeological and Historical Records* (Sydney, UNSW Press)
[5] Hinkson, M. & Harris, A. 2010, Aboriginal Sydney: a guide to important places of the past and present, 2nd ed, Aboriginal Studies Press, Canberra

Figure 3.1: View of Parramatta River from Observatory Hill, c.1789 (Source: NLA. http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-135681388)

3.2. Historic Phases of Site Use

The study area and the Millers Point landscape is known to have been occupied through seven main historical phases of development, governed by periods of prosperity and social change. The following phases are described on the NSW State Heritage Inventory Sheet (#10682) as:

Phase 1 (1788-1820)—Early European alterations to the natural environment including the establishment of quarries and early roadway infrastructure.

Phase 2 (c.1820-1850)—Significant modification of the original Millers Point landscape occurred during the establishment phase of maritime industries, with wharves, commercial/warehouse premises and residential quarters constructed to fill local demand, together with local features such as the Argyle Cut.

Phase 3 (c.1850-1890s)—A steady progression of larger-scale commercial housing edged out the smaller structures, and a changing economic climate resulted in housing adapted from large single buildings to boarding houses and temporary accommodation. Also 1870s-1880s' boom and better transport allowed managers/owners to relocate to more salubrious areas (Potts Point etc.)

Phase 4 (c.1890s-1900s)—A further phase of modification of the area occurred in the late nineteenth century with Council street re-alignment and modernisation, with a

subsequent mass resumption in the early twentieth century, with the plague epidemic serving as grounds for political expedience.

Phase 5 (1905-1918)—Following redevelopment or reconstruction of wharves/worker housing in the early twentieth century, only sporadic modification has been carried out on the Millers Point landscape, so that it provides intact examples of nineteenth and twentieth century industry and community.

Phase 6 (c.1919-1950)—Included the 1932 construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge altered the visual qualities, streetscape and social isolation of Millers Point, from that of The Rocks and the city proper, as well as reinforcing the 'village' community and perceptions.

Phase 7 (c.1950-1990s)—Limited modifications to the landscape

These seven historical phases have been named as relevant to the development of the FSPS study area and surrounds as follows.

Phase 1 (1788-1820)—Fort Phillip and Windmill Hill

Phase 2 (c.1820-1850)—Military Hospital and Quarrying

Phase 3 (c.1850-1890s)—Fort Street National School, Observatory and Messengers Cottage

Phase 4 (c.1890s-1900s)—Fort Street Girls High School, Additions

Phase 5 (1905-1918)—Ongoing School Use and Kent St Pavilion Construction

Phase 6 (c.1919-1950)—Bureau of Meteorology, New Fort St School and Cahill Expressway

Phase 7 (c.1950-1990s)—High School Relocation & National Trust

An additional phase has also been added relevant to the FSPS site being:

Phase 8 (1990s – Present)—Continued School Use and Occupation of surroundings buildings

3.3. Summary of Historical Development of the FSPS Study Area

Below is a general historic timeline summary for Millers Point with a focus on the developments within the FSPS study area (those that relate to the School Site specifically are indicated in bold). Historical overlays have been prepared for the current study area (including both the FSPS study area, as well as the wider investigation site) over key historical plans for each of the main phases of historical development and site use. These overlays are presented below, cross-referenced as relevant.

Phase 1 **1790s:** Government windmills built on the high land; construction of Dawes Point fort and observatory (Figure 3.2).

1804: Construction of Fort Phillip[6] on the heights of the peninsula ridge.

1806: A third government windmill, a large wooden structure, was built c.1806 by Nathaniel Lucas near the site where Fort Street public school now stands (Figure 3.3).

1815: Construction of Military Hospital begins in the Old Colonial Georgian style by Lt. J. Watts (current National Trust Centre site) (Figure 3.5).

Included 'a brick-built barrack for the accommodation of the Military surgeon and one assistant surgeon' (Figure 3.6)

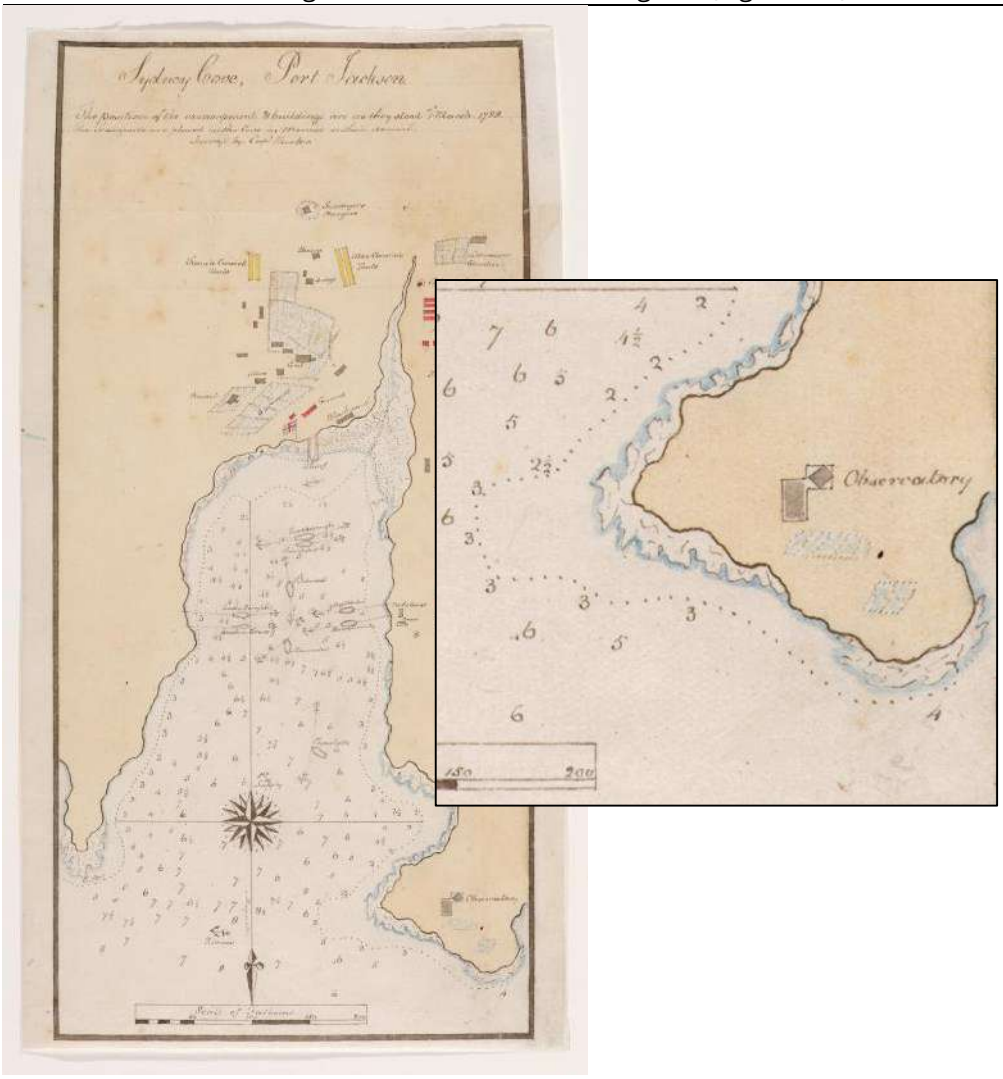

Figure 3.2: Sydney Cove, Port Jackson March 1788, William Bradley, Inset of Observatory. Charts from his Journal A Voyage To New South Wales Ca. 1802 (Source: SLNSW Safe 1 14, 7).

[6] Fort Phillip was proposed as a strategic stronghold, however it was never finished, and was abandoned in 1807. In 1840, part of the Fort was demolished and a new signal station erected in its place, later incorporated into Sydney Observatory.

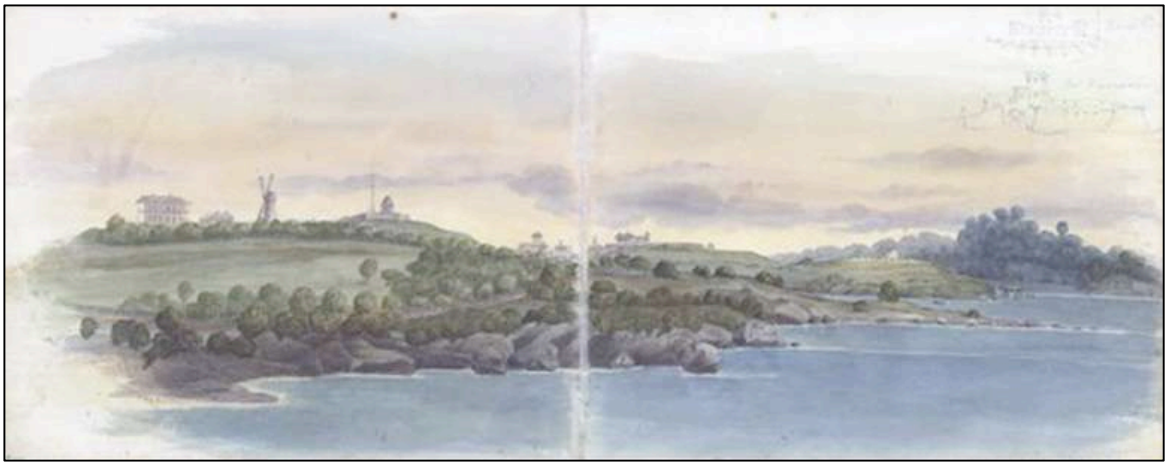

Figure 3.3: Phase 1–c.1818 (Left To Right) Military Hospital, Third Government Windmill (Smock Mill) And Fort Phillip By Edward Charles Close. Source: NLA.Pic-An4563834-S8).

Figure 3.4: c.1818 Third Government Windmill (Current School Site) in front of Fort Phillip (Source: Mitchell Library SLNSW A1528797/Ml942). This image would have joined the left panorama view of Taylor's Panorama (Figure 3.8 to Figure 3.10)

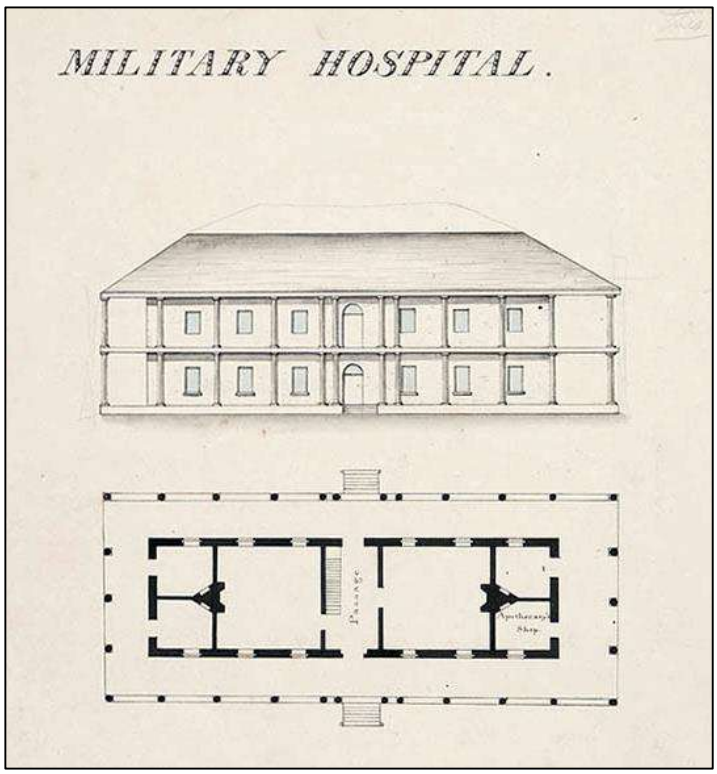

Figure 3.5: Plan of Military Hospital (1824) From Standish Lawrence Harris – 'Report & Estimate of the Value of the Improvements which have taken place in the Public Buildings of Sydney, etc..' (Source: SLNSW C 225/FL3255338).

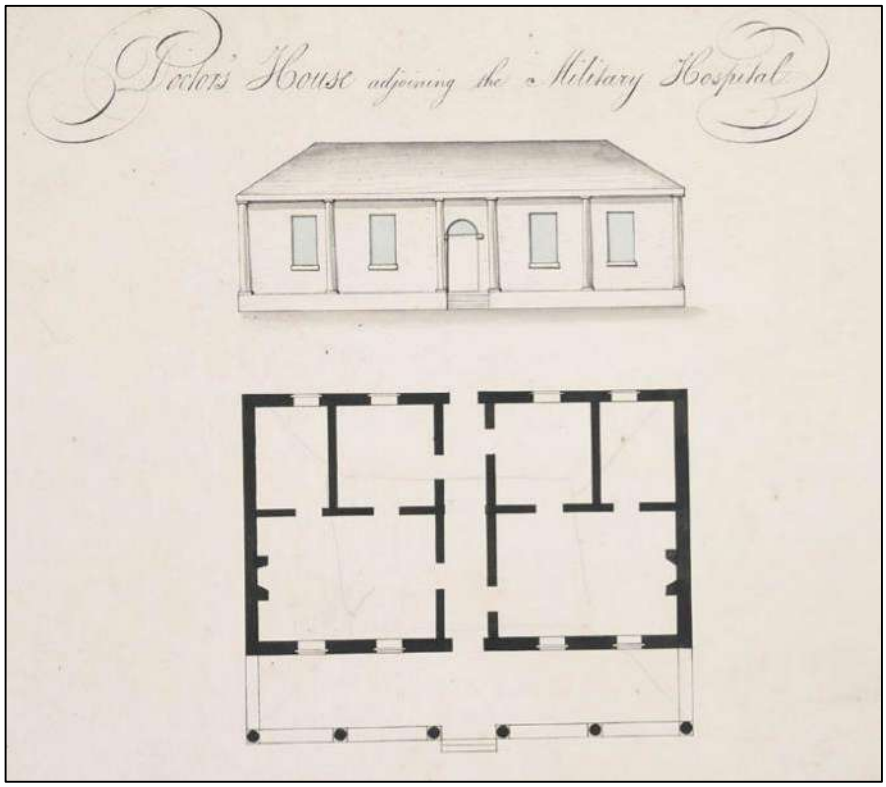

Figure 3.6: Plan of 'Doctor's House' (1824) From Standish Lawrence Harris – 'Report & Estimate Of The Value Of The Improvements Which Have Taken Place In The Public Buildings Of Sydney, Etc..' (Source: SLNSW C 225/ Fl3255340).

Phase 2

1820s-80s Spread of urban development across whole Millers Point and Dawes Point precinct (Figure 3.7).

1818: Edward Charles Close's painting of the west side of Farm Cove with a distant view of the Military Hospital and Surgeons cottage, 'smock-mill' third Government windmill and Fort Philip (Figure 3.4)

1820: Major James Tayler's panorama shows the buildings fences and daily activities that occurred in the subject site. The Military Hospital and palling fences, the Surgeon's house, kitchen and servant's apartment are shown made of brick. There are also men depicted quarrying stone to the north of the buildings (Figure 3.8 to Figure 3.10).

1822: Plan for the study area shows four residential dwellings–one is the Surgeon's house (and fences)–in the current Fort Street School site and two residential buildings and the Military Hospital with two outbuildings in the National Trust Centre site.

1827: Colonial Engineers report describes the condition of the Military Hospital, 'kitchen, servant's apartments and dead house … in a detached building', suggested a cess pool be created in the corner of the grounds and that a pump be established at the present well. The land at the back of the kitchen and servant's apartment was noted for being higher than the front causing damp and the 'privies require reshingling'.

1829: Robert Burford's painting showing a panorama of Sydney with the Military Hospital, outbuildings and the windmill in the distance (Figure 3.14).

1830s-1880s: Active quarry along Kent Street (visible in Figure 3.12)

1833: Plan showing windmill and structures (including surgeon's cottage) in the Fort Street School Site and the Military Hospital (National Trust site) (Figure 3.12).

1848: Removal of the Military Hospital stables and coach house and replacement with stone, remove the water closets, relay floors, lathe and plaster rooms above the kitchen, two new glass windows, repair the cellars and kitchen, build a wall of stone (current National Trust Centre site).

1849: Peter McBeath, builder, tendered to "build a wall of stone 6 feet high corresponding with the one presently built with copping" and "excavate the ground in front of the National school to the level of the base course to the present line of the road in front and thee yards at the end through to the line of the road at back levelling the ground with the same…"

1849 Relocation of Military Hospital to Paddington, Commanding Engineer officially relinquishes possession of hospital site to National School (National Trust site)

1849 Fort Street School was established, remodeling/adaptation of Military Hospital.

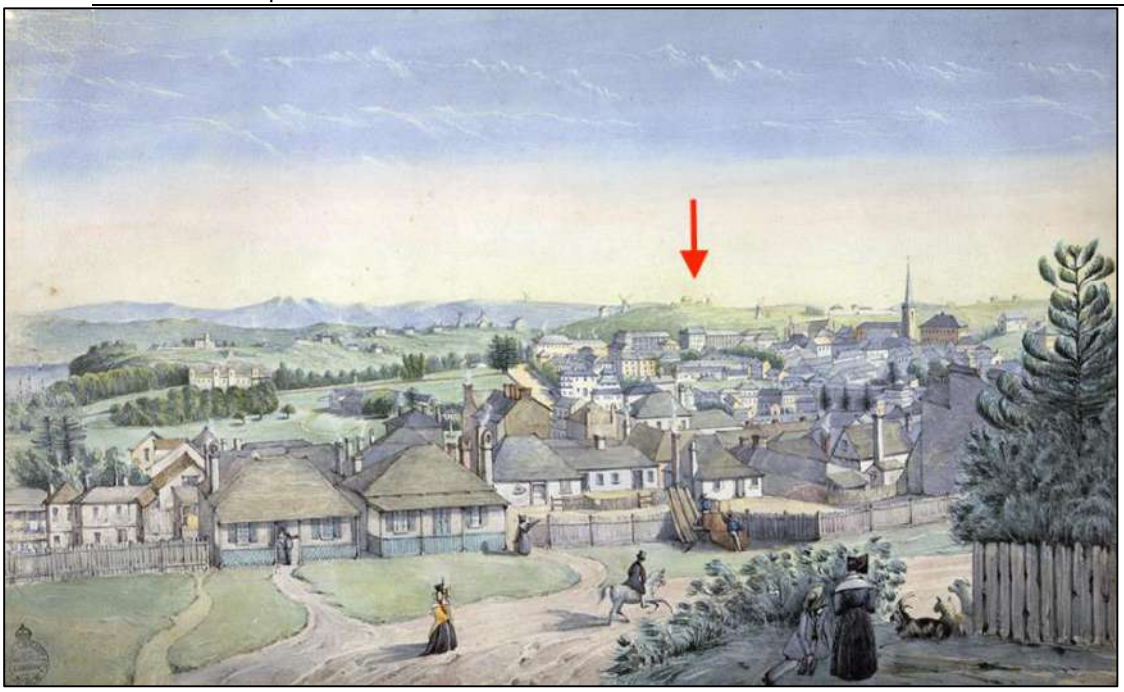

Figure 3.7: c.1844 View to Flagstaff [Observatory] Hill, Sydney. (Source: SLNSW A623022 /V1/1845+/2).

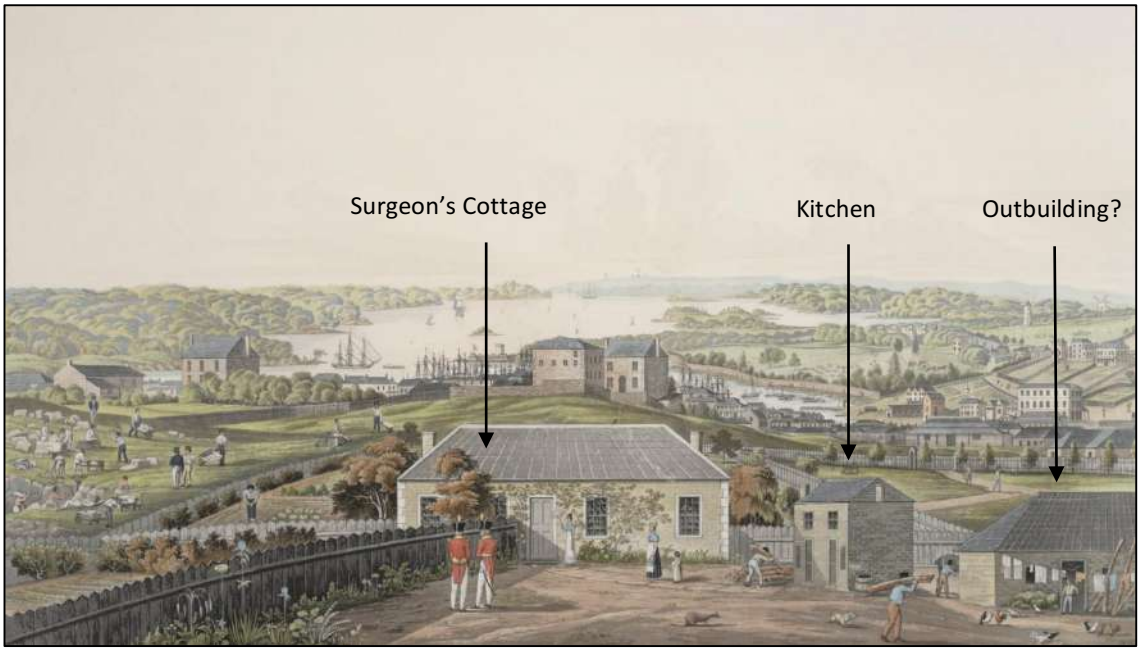

Figure 3.8: 1820 Major Taylor's Panorama (Left Detail) View approx. north (Military Hospital Would be just out of frame, to the right- See centre detail below). Convicts quarrying windmill hill visible in left of frame

Panoramic views of Port Jackson Major James Taylor's original watercolours painted 1820 were reproduced in England as a 3 sheet printed engraving, hand coloured for sale 1823. This enlargement is made from Tim McCormick's historical reprint 1988, made from original copper plates in the State Library of New South Wales. a Reprinted by Tim McCormick from original copper plate held in the State Library of New South Wales.

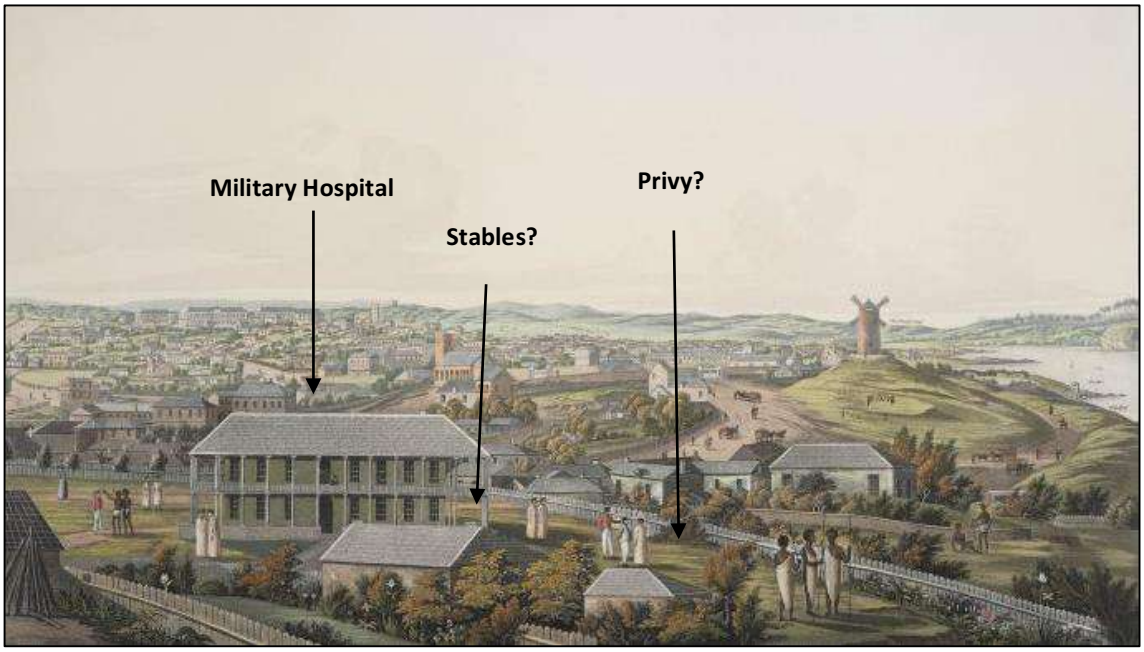

Figure 3.9: Phase 2—1820 Taylor Panorama (Centre Detail). (Military Hospital).

Figure 3.10: 1820 Taylor Panorama (Right Detail). View from Observatory Hill, West Towards Cockle Bay

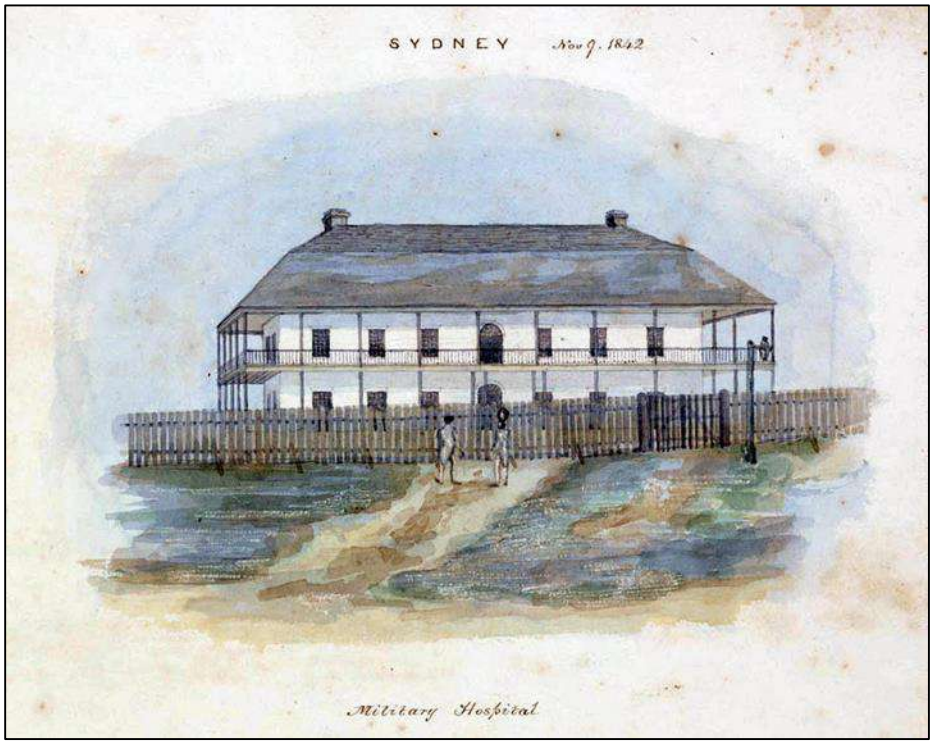

Figure 3.11: Military Hospital 9 November 1842 By Edmund Thomas Blacket (Source: Mitchell Library SLNSW A881004, PXE 925 Box 1/3).

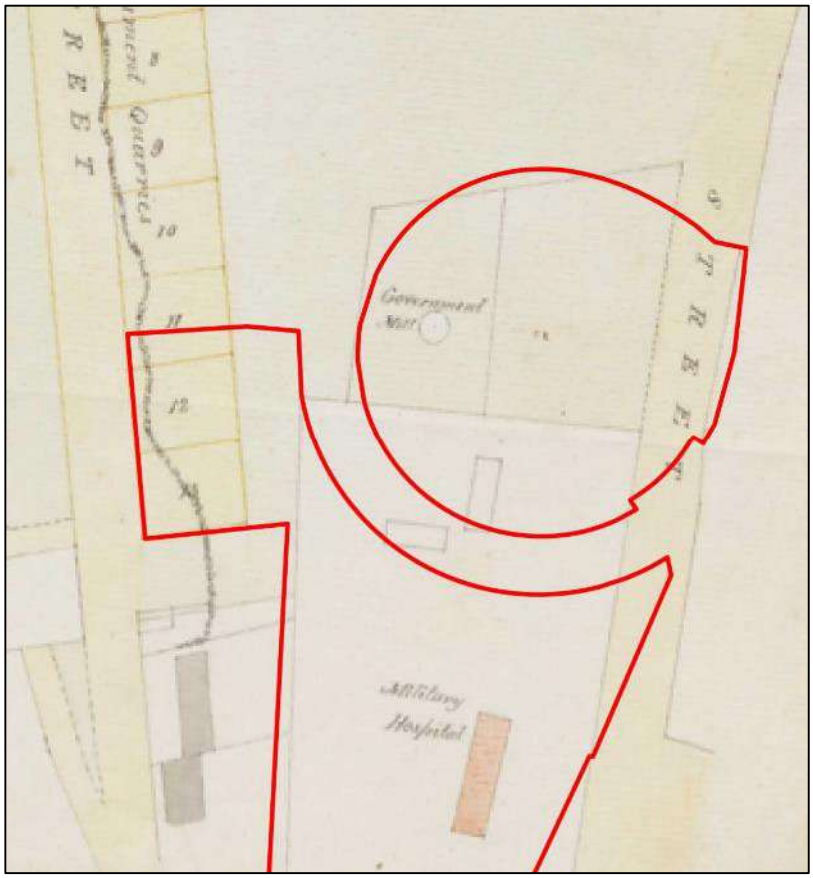

Figure 3.12: 1833 Plan (Phase 2), 3rd Government mill within FSPS Site (Source: SLNSW A4694001/Ca83/14)

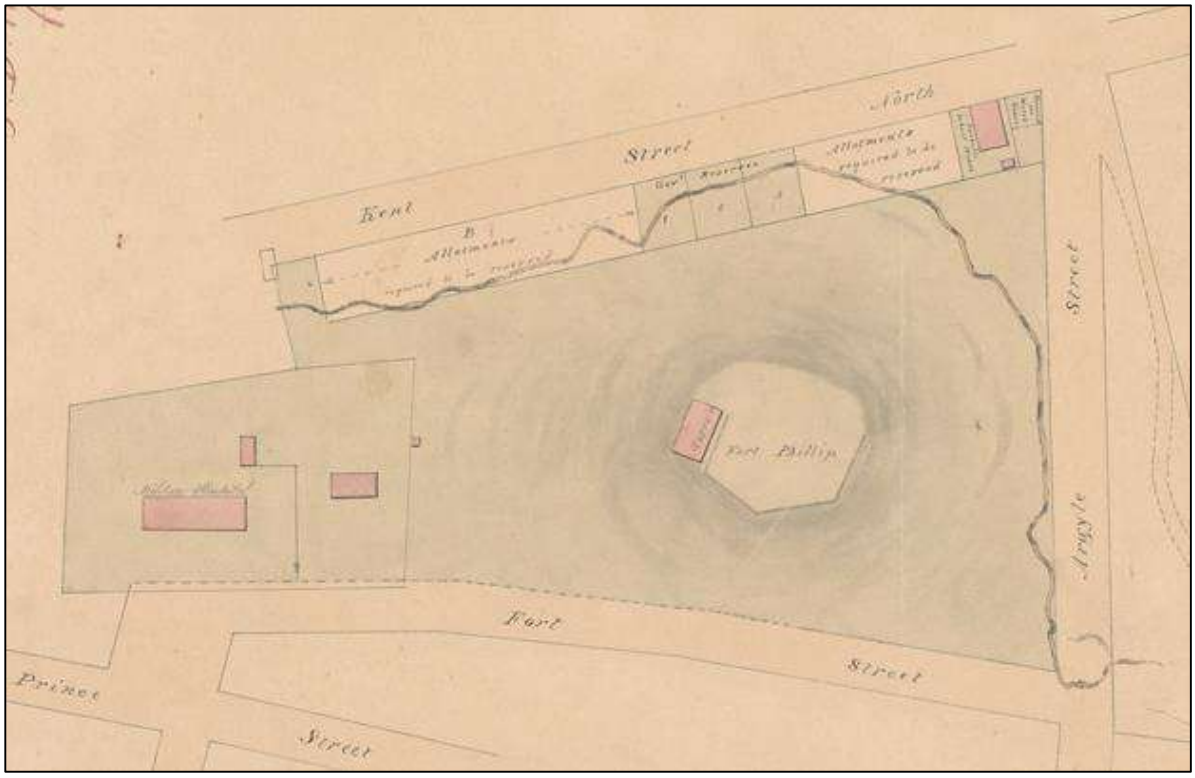

Figure 3.13: 1836 Sketch of Ground at Fort Phillip (Military Hospital and Surgeons Cottage in left) By George Barney, Captain of Royal Engineers (Source: NSW State Archives, NRS13886[X755]_a110_000118)

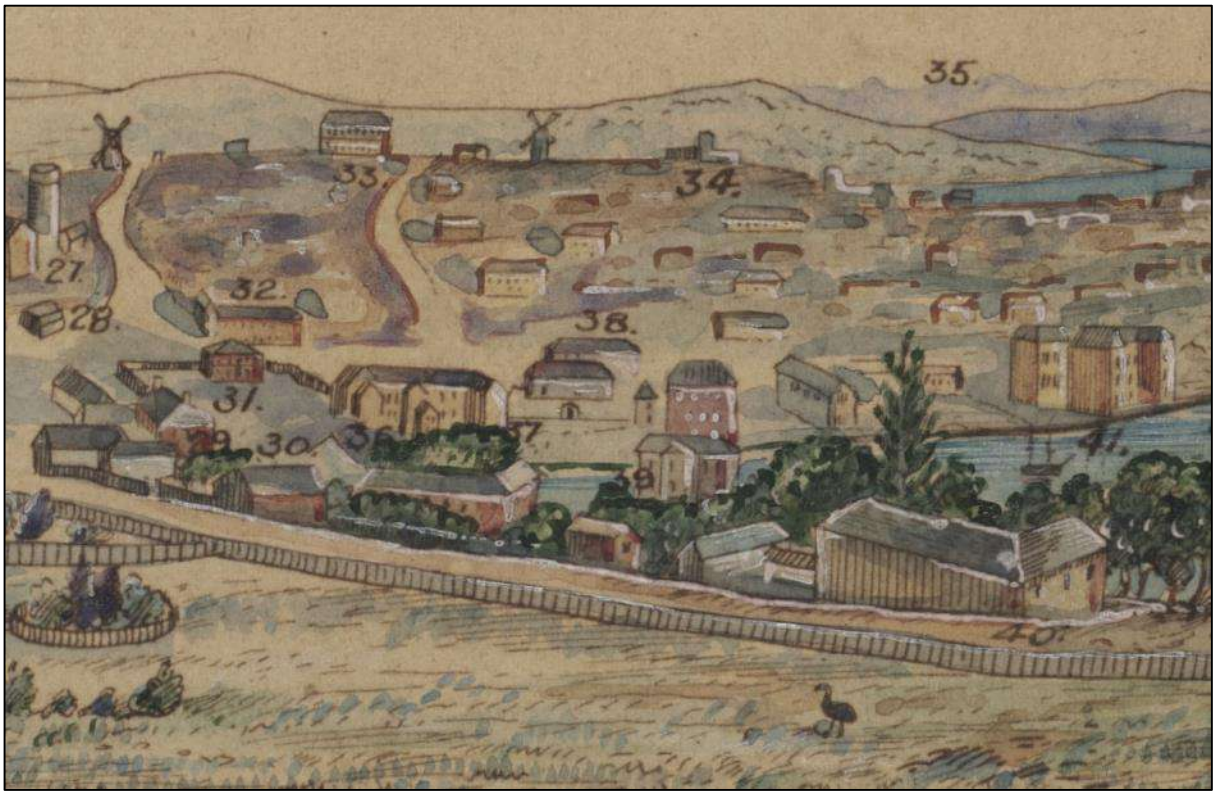

Figure 3.14: 1829 Panorama of Sydney, Military Hospital (#33), Observatory (#34) (Source: SLNSW Dg Xv1a).

Phase 3 **1850s** Military Hospital building modified for school use to carry the two storey arcade by infilling the encircling verandah altering the building to Victorian Mannerist style, carried out by M. Lewis. The gallery was fixed for school seats.

Thomas Brown installed a gas lamp at the front of the National School. Additions were also made to the stone walls. Flagging was laid from the front of the school to Princes Street

1850s: Adaptation of Fort Phillip site for Observatory and parklands. The current Observatory was constructed between 1857-1859.

1854: Plan of the subject site shows the 1849 school building in the Fort Street School site, which is to the north of the Military Hospital building in the National Trust site (Figure 3.15).

1855: Plan of the subject site shows the 1849 school building with outbuildings in the Fort Street School site. The Military Hospital building and the new 1855 school building, plus one brick and one wooden building (sheds) in the north-west and one brick building (privies) on the southern boundary of the National Trust site are shown (Figure 3.15).

1862 Messenger's Cottage for Sydney Observatory was built in the study area (Figure 3.16).

1862 Fort Street Infants school erected (west of Surgeons residence, likely associated with original structure of military kitchen outbuildings) (Figure 3.16).

1865: Plan of the subject site shows the 1849 school building and the Messenger's Cottage with the locations of their associated outbuildings and fences. The Military Hospital, 1855 school building, brick shed on the southern boundary, as well as the 1862 Infants school brick buildings on the north-west boundary of the National Trust site are shown. One building is shown in the Tennis Court and Pavilion site (Figure 3.16).

1870s: Military Hospital building repairs and the introduction of gym equipment (Figure 3.17). Inadequate toilet, sewerage and drainage systems were highlighted in correspondence.

1880: Dove Plan of the subject site shows the 1849 school building and the Messenger's Cottage with verandahs and out buildings in the Fort Street school site. The Military Hospital has been extended to join the 1855 school building with an additional out building at the rear on the west boundary, the Infants school is on the northwest boundary and three out buildings (privies) are shown on the southern boundary of the National Trust site (Figure 3.18).

1887-1889: Classroom buildings added and repairs made to existing school buildings (current National Trust Centre site).

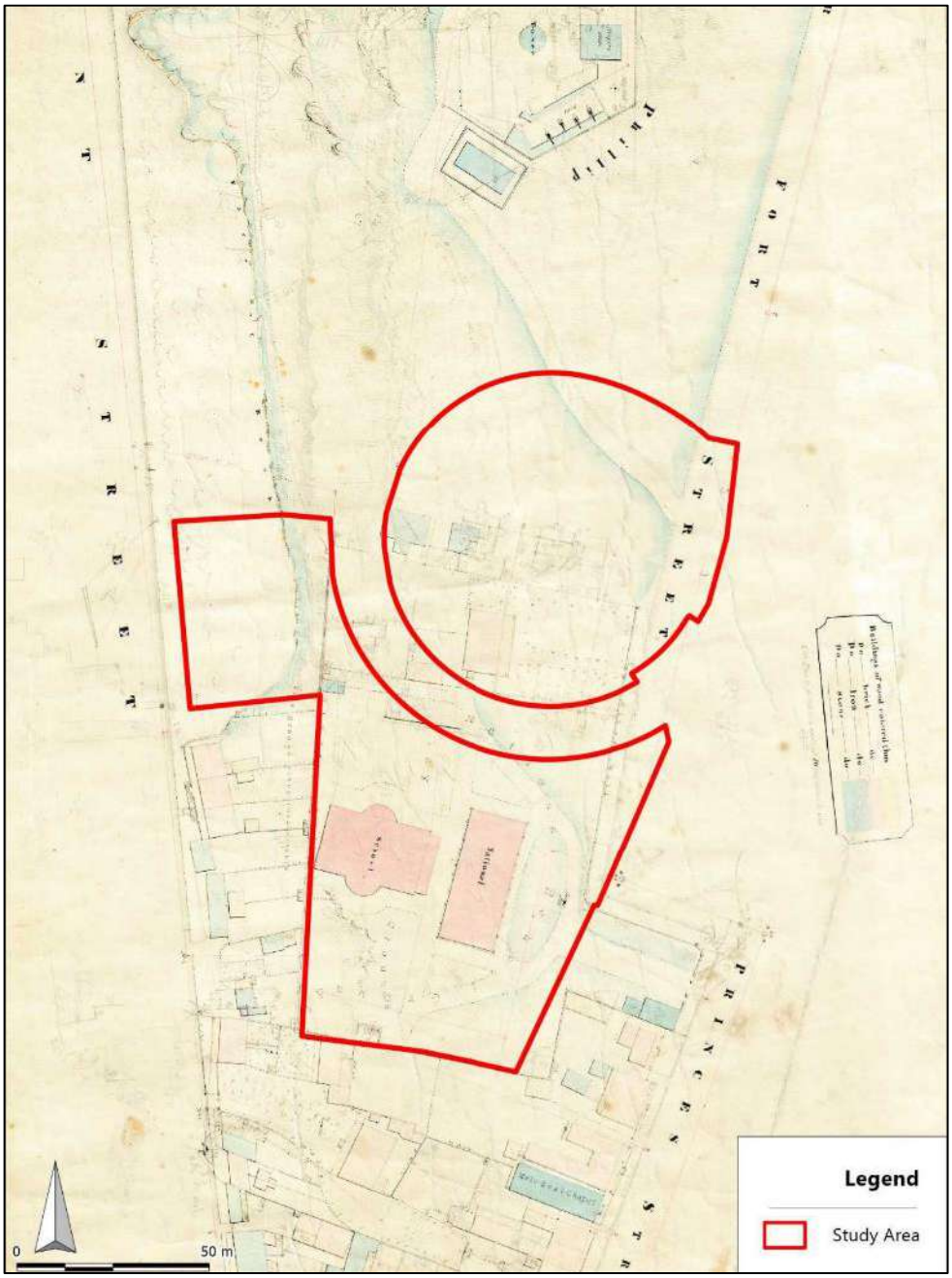

Figure 3.15: 1855 Overlay (Phase 3), Fort St School. City of Sydney- Detail Plans 1855, Map 1 (Source: Historical Atlas of Sydney)

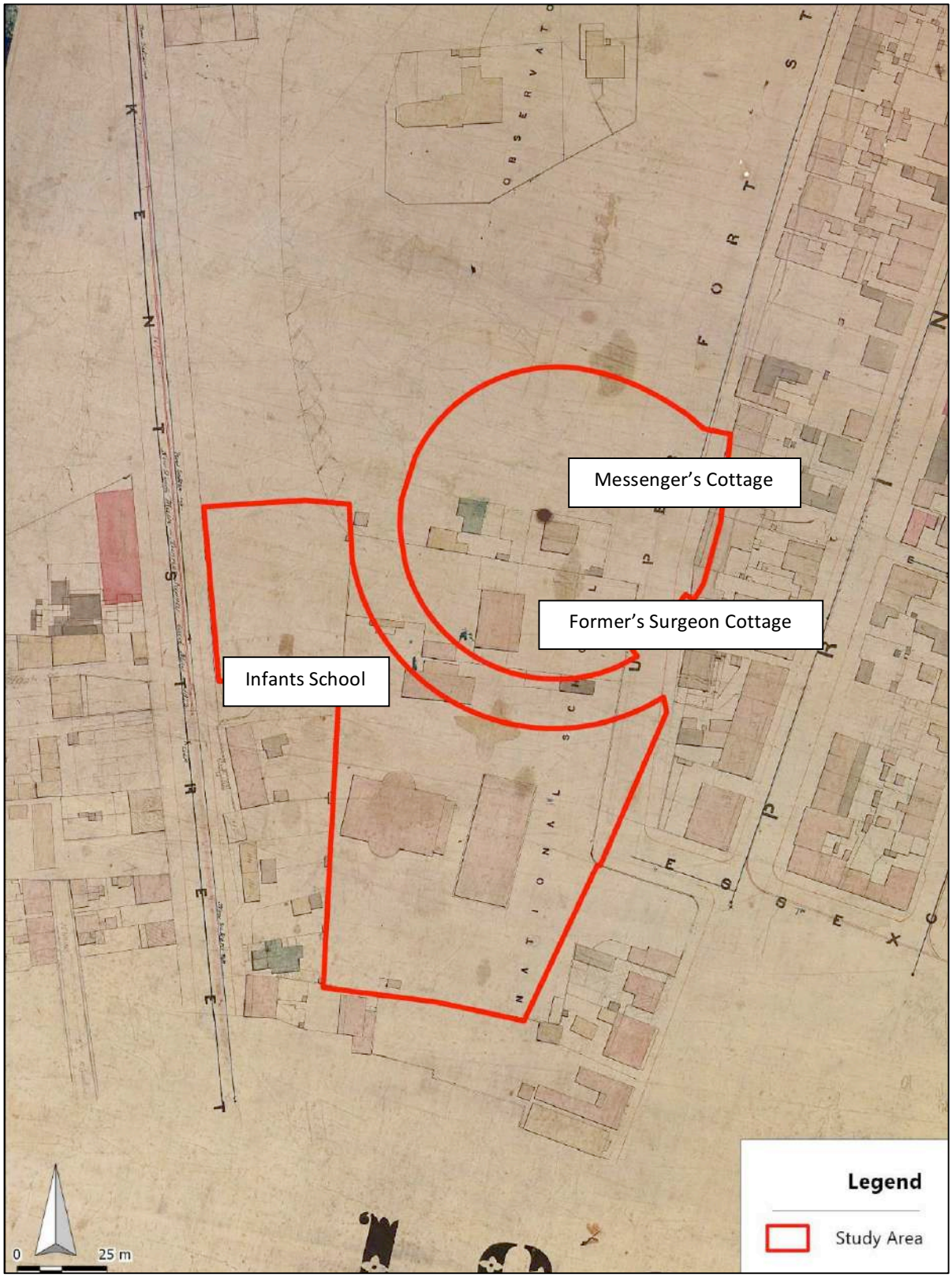

Figure 3.16: 1865 Overlay (Phase 3), New infants' school and Messenger's Cottage. (Source: Historical Atlas of Sydney)

Figure 3.17: Fort Street Public School 1871 (From the South-East) (Source: SLNSW A089443 Spf443)

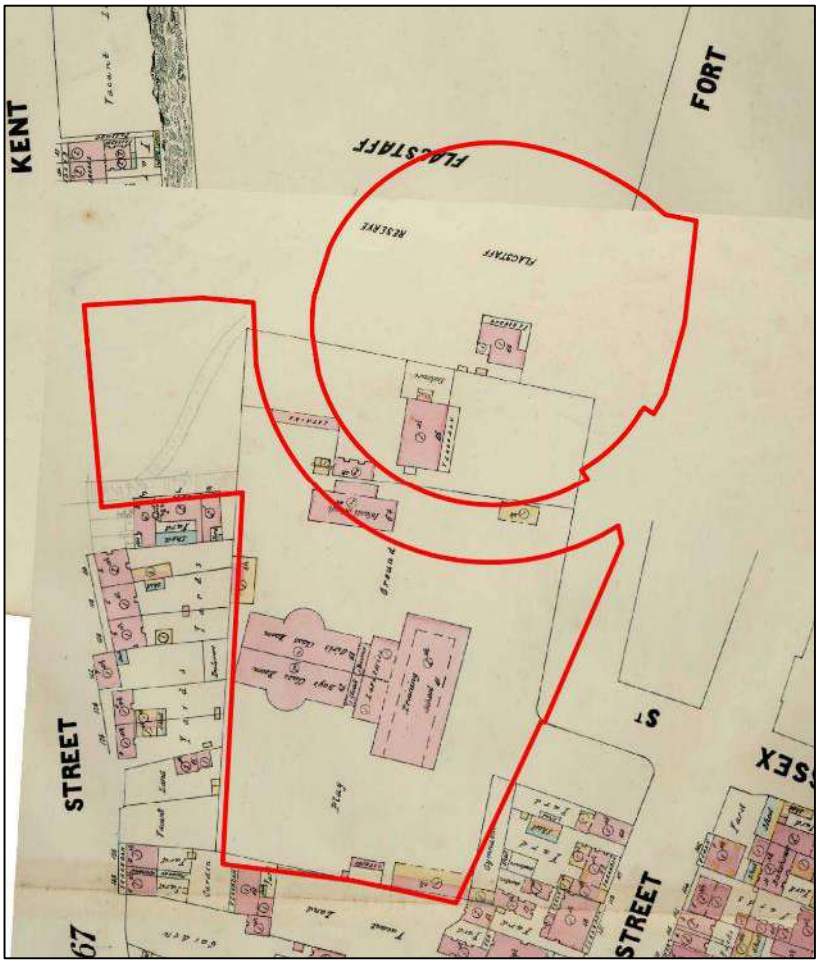

Figure 3.18: 1880 Overlay. Former Surgeon Cottage, Playground retaining walls, infants school. Dove's Plan of Sydney (Source: Historical Atlas of Sydney)

Phase 4	**1890-91:**	Timber carpentry shed built (current National Trust Centre site) (rear of the 1855 school building).
	1890:	Two storey brick building containing a classroom and needlework/sewing room was constructed in the place of the old sheds.
	1894:	Construction of link between former Military Hospital building and 1855 school building.
	1900s:	Post plague demolitions and rebuilding throughout the precinct, less so in Dawes Point.
Phase 5	**1901:**	Plan of the subject site shows the 1849 school and Messenger's Cottage with outbuildings and landscaped paths in the Fort Street School site. The Military Hospital and 1855 school building are shown as one building, there are an additional two out buildings shown on the south-west boundary as well as the out buildings along the southern and western boundaries of the National Trust Centre site. (Figure 3.19).
	1909:	Military Hospital kitchen block and cellar demolished, playground repairs, construction of retaining wall and fence.
	1916:	Boys relocated to new Fort St High School at Taverners Hill, Fort St School, Millers Point became girls school only.
	1910s-20s:	Construction of Walsh Bay wharves.

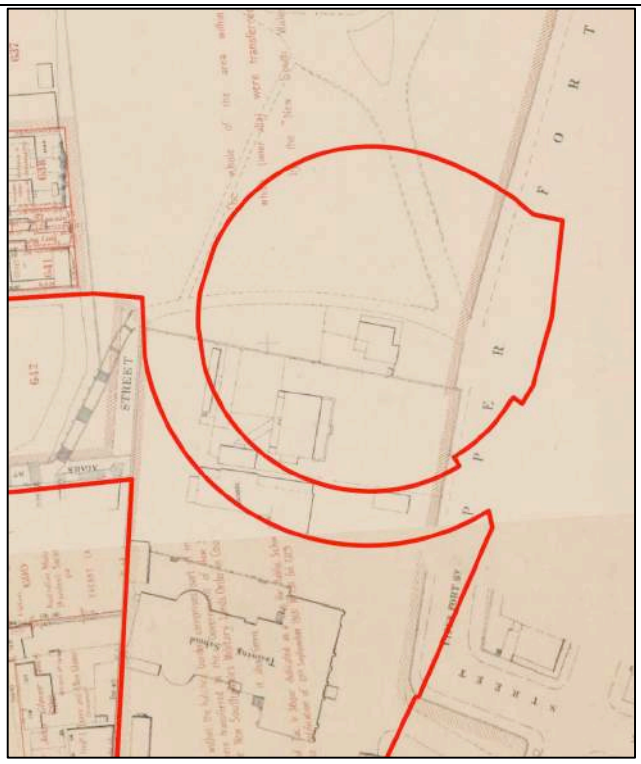

Figure 3.19: 1901 Overlay (Phase 5). Messengers Cottage and School Buildings (Source: Historical Atlas of Sydney).

Phase 6	**1920-30s:**	Construction of Sydney Harbour Bridge and approaches on the heights of the peninsula ridge.
	1922:	Purpose built Bureau of Meteorology Building (MET) constructed.
	1929:	Military Hospital building remodeled.
	1940s	School buildings south of MET Building demolished, including former surgeon's residence and infants school.
	1930s-1950s:	New group of school buildings constructed including hall, gymnasium and several classrooms.
	1940-1950s:	Construction of the ring road to the Cahill Expressway for the Sydney Harbour Bridge.
	1940-41:	Construction of present Fort Street Primary School by Clive Evatt the Minister for Education at the time (Figure 3.20).
	1943:	Aerial photograph of the subject site shows buildings densely packed and the ring road leading to the Sydney Harbour Bridge has cut through the site (Figure 3.20).
	1949	Fanny Cohen Gymnasium constructed (now Environmental Educational Centre (EEC))

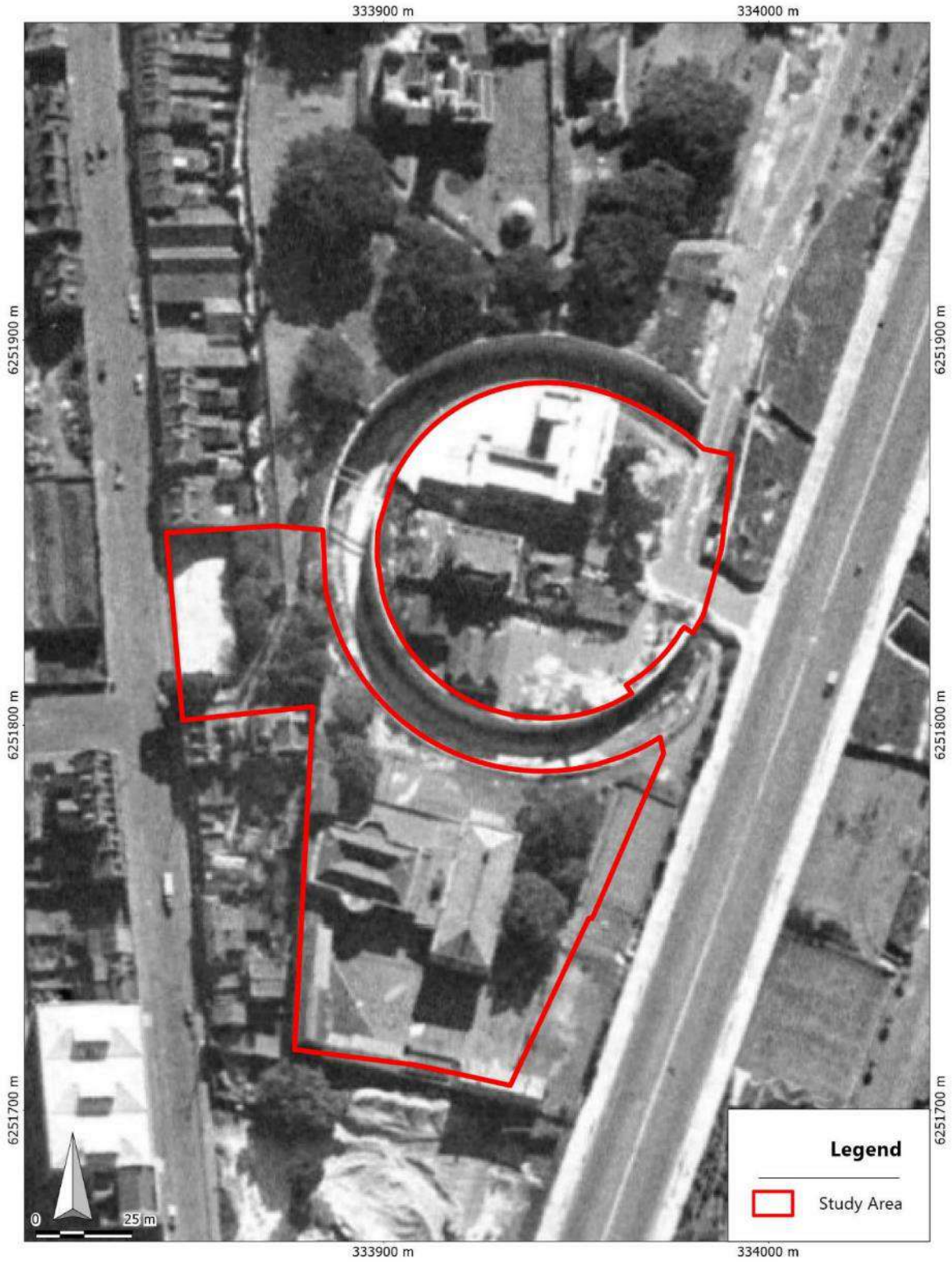

Figure 3.20: 1943 Overlay (Phase 6). Current School Building, MET and Messengers Cottage. (Source: NSW Six Maps)

Phase 7	**1950s**	Fort Street School pupils (secondary) relocated to Taverner's Hill. The primary school pupils vacated the model school to occupy the newer buildings (current FSPS main building)
	1954	Classroom added to 1940 primary school building. Demountable building constructed to west of MET building
	1957	Second bridge over Cahill cutting, linking gymnasium to footway alongside Harbour Bridge approach
	1960:	Removal of several sheds and new roof added to the Military Hospital building (current National Trust Centre site).
	1961	Two larger demountable classrooms constructed for Fort Street Girls School to NW of Gymnasium (EEC)
	1962:	The Cahill Expressway road isolated Fort Street School from Observatory Hill (Figure 3.21).
	1963	Bureau of Meteorology vacated MET building, weather forecasting and measuring equipment remained at Messenger's Cottage.
	1970-80s:	Construction of Darling Harbour wharves, moving the western shoreline c200m westwards.
	1975:	Military Hospital/former school buildings adapted for National Trust occupation.
	1979-c2000:	Various uses of Messengers Cottage, including by National Trust 'Young Trust Group', and as Childcare Centre. Some repair, alterations and conservation works undertaken

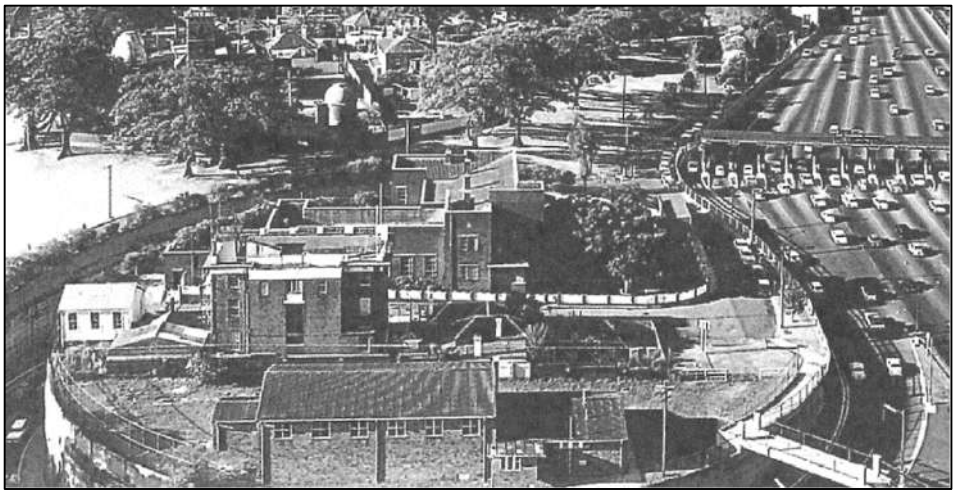

Figure 3.21: View north across FSPS Study area, 1966. Cahill Cut and EEC present, additional demountable buildings west of MET (Source: TKD 2016)

Phase 8 **1991:** Use of MET building by National Trust for storage

2000: MET Building fell into major disrepair and disuse

c2000-Present: Use of Messengers Cottage by Fort Street Public School

3.3.1. Historical Timeline Summary of Key Events

DATE	EVENTS
1790s:	Government windmills built on the high land; construction of Dawes Point fort and Observatory.
1804:	Construction of Fort Phillip on the heights of the peninsula ridge.
1806	A third government windmill, a large wooden structure, was built by Nathaniel Lucas near the site where Fort Street public school now stands
1815-20	Construction of Military Hospital and associated outbuildings (Surgeon Quarters, kitchen, servant's apartments)
1820s-80s	Spread of urban development across whole Millers Point and Dawes Point Precinct, active quarrying along Kent Street
1840	Part of Fort Phillip demolished, new signal station erected in its place, later incorporated into Sydney Observatory
1849	Relocation of Military Hospital to Paddington, Commanding Engineer officially relinquishes possession of hospital site to National School
1849	Fort Street School established, remodelling/adaptation of Military Hospital
1850	Military Hospital building modified for school use to carry the two storey arcade by infilling the encircling verandah altering the building to Victorian Mannerist style.
1850s	Adaptation of Fort Phillip site for Observatory and parklands. (Current Observatory constructed between 1857-1859.)
1862	**Messenger's Cottage** for Sydney Observatory constructed
1862	Fort Street Infants school erected (west of Surgeons residence, likely associated with original structure of military kitchen outbuildings)
1880	Doves 1880s plan shows that Military Hospital has been extended to join the 1855 school building with an additional out building at the rear on the west boundary, the Infants school is on the northwest boundary and three out buildings (privies) are shown on the southern boundary of the National Trust site
1887-89	Classroom buildings added and repairs made to existing school buildings
1900s	Post plague demolitions and rebuilding throughout the precinct, less so in Dawes Point.
1909	Military Hospital kitchen block and cellar demolished, playground repairs, construction of retaining wall and fence.
1916	Boys relocated to new Fort St High School at Taverners Hill. Fort St School, Millers Point became girls school only
1920-30	Construction of Sydney Harbour Bridge and approaches on the heights of the peninsula ridge.
1922	Construction of purpose-built **Bureau of Meteorology Building (MET)**
1929	Military Hospital remodelled

DATE	EVENTS
1940s	School buildings south of MET Building demolished, including former surgeon's residence and infants school.
1930-50s	New group of school buildings constructed including hall, gymnasium and several classrooms.
1940-50s	Construction of the ring road to the Cahill Expressway for the Sydney Harbour Bridge
1940-41	Construction of **present Fort Street Primary School** by Clive Evatt the Minister for Education at the time
1949	**Fanny Cohen Gymnasium** constructed
1950s	Fort Street School secondary pupils relocated to Taverner's Hill. The primary school pupils vacated the model school to occupy the newer buildings (current FSPS main building)
1954	Classroom added to 1940 primary school building. Demountable building constructed to west of MET building
1957	Second bridge over Cahill cutting, linking gymnasium to footway alongside Harbour Bridge approach
1961	Two larger demountable classrooms constructed for Fort Street Girls School to NW of Gymnasium
1963	Bureau of Meteorology vacated MET building, weather forecasting and measuring equipment remained at Messenger's Cottage
1975	Military Hospital/former school buildings adapted for National Trust occupation.
1979-2000s	Various uses of Messengers Cottage, including by National Trust 'Young Trust Group', and as Childcare Centre. Some repair, alterations and conservation works undertaken
1991	EEC opens in former Fanny Cohen Gymnasium
1991	Use of MET Building by National Trust for storage
2000	MET Building fell into major disrepair and disuse
2000-Current	Use of Messengers Cottage by Fort Street Public School

4. Physical Context

This section presents an overview of the physical elements present at FSPS Site, providing a summary assessment of the existing environment and landscape of the FSPS site including key site elements and built structures, in relation to the wider cultural and physical setting of the site in the context of other significant landscape and heritage elements.

This summary of the physical context of the site has been extracted from the *Fort Street Public School - Conservation Management Plan* (Curio Projects & TKD Architects 2020, in preparation). For a full physical analysis of the FSPS Site, reference should be made to the CMP.

4.1. Built Elements/Structures

The FSPS Site is surrounded by the road circle of the cut for the Cahill Expressway, and contains a small array of buildings of different ages (Figure 4.1). A pair of pedestrian bridges on the south eastern side of the site provides a connection to the National Trust Centre.

LEGEND

- CAHILL CUT
- HERITAGE BUILDING
- NON-HERITAGE BUILDINGS
- HERITAGE TREE

1. Fort Street Public School (1940-41)
2. Mature Fig Tree (Heritage Significance)
3. Bureau of Meteorology Building (1922)
4. Heritage Boundary Wall (c1830s)
5. Messenger's Cottage (1862)
6. Observatory Hill Environmental Education Centre (1949)

Figure 4.1: Site Plan. Buildings and Significant Landscape Features (Source: FJMT 2019)

4.1.1. Fort Street Public School

Fort Street Public School is a brick building constructed in the Inter War Functionalist style, with reinforced concrete floors and an L-shaped plan, consisting of a two storey wing extending north containing classrooms on each level and a high single storey wing extending west containing an assembly hall and attached external toilet block (Figure 4.2 to Figure 4.5). The layout and plan of the building is little changed from its original construction. The roof is covered with steel decking.

The exterior of the building is substantially intact, with minor alterations including replacement of steel framed awning and fixed windows with aluminium framed window units, removal of glass bricks from the entry porch, small openings located above the foundation stone at base of the tower on the southern end of the east elevation, and removal of the lettering spelling out the name of the school above these openings. The only later addition to the building is a store room alongside the assembly hall, beneath part of the external canopy that extends along its northern side.

The two wings of the school extend in an 'L-shape' (north and west respectively) from the southeastern stair and entrance hall. The southeastern stairwell has a tall narrow opening lighting the stair contains the war memorial leadlight window. The southeastern side of the building - adjacent to the main staircase/entrance to the building (Figure 4.6)- also contains an office (ground floor) and staff room (first floor) (Figure 4.7). The western wing contains a high assembly hall with a stage at the far western end (Figure 4.8).

A corridor extends to the north along the eastern wing (Figure 4.9). On the eastern side of the corridor are three classrooms each on the ground and first floor (Figure 4.10). On the western side of the corridor is an additional stair and a classroom on both levels. Each classroom has a fireplace in one corner. Originally there was also a hat room and store on each level (along the western side of the corridor), but these spaces have been modified to accommodate ancillary storage and office functions (Figure 4.11). Apart from the modification of the hat rooms and stores the only notable internal modifications have been the refurbishment of the southern staff room and the lavatory adjacent to it (first floor). Finishes within the building are very restrained, with very little decorative detailing. Stair balustrades are equally simple and fabricated out of steel while the tops of newel posts have a stepped profile.

Figure 4.2: Fort Street Public School viewed from the north east (left) and from the south east (right). The main entry to the building is located at the base of the tower, which contains the main stair (distinguished by its projecting roof slab). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 45)

Figure 4.3: Porch at the main entry to the Public School (left); north elevation of the Public School viewed from Observatory Park (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 48)

Figure 4.4: Wide reinforced concrete canopy along northern side of hall, later store room addition constructed (highlighted by brightly coloured paint) (left). Western toilet block (right) (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 50)

Figure 4.5: The western girls' and boys' toilets consist of separate, unconnected rooms containing stainless steel troughs and lavatory fixtures. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 66)

Figure 4.6: Ground floor entry hall (left) and view from the stair to the hall, looking towards the assembly hall (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 54)

Figure 4.7: First floor Staff room (left) and adjacent lavatory (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 60)

Figure 4.8: Western (left) and eastern (right) views of the assembly hall. The eastern end has a perforated acoustic finish above the door opening. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 57)

Figure 4.9: Eastern wall of the ground floor corridor, which is punctuated by what appear to be original windows providing light and air to classrooms (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 56)

Figure 4.10: Ground floor classroom interior. Doors to classrooms have deep fanlights. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 58)

Figure 4.11: Ground floor corridor looking towards the hall. The section of wall containing the small window and door has infilled an opening that served the ground floor hat room (left); short passage from the corridor to the playground (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 55)

4.1.2. Messenger's Cottage

The former Messenger's Cottage, which currently houses administrative functions associated with Fort Street Public School, is a single storey brick building with a hipped roof covered by corrugated steel, with two chimneys on the western and southern sides of the roof. The corrugated steel roofing was installed during the first half of 2016, replacing earlier corrugated steel roofing (which at some stage replaced slate) (Figure 4.12). External masonry wall surfaces have been lined with cement render that has been scribed to resemble ashlar coursing. Detailing of timber framed double hung window sashes indicates that original windows have been replaced. A verandah with a concrete floor extends across the northern and part of the eastern side of the building, the roof of which is supported off timber posts with decorative brackets (reconstructions of originals) (Figure 4.13).

A timber structure with skillion roofs and walls lined by vertical beaded timber boards is located at the south western corner of the building (Figure 4.14). Another skillion-roofed structure extends across the rear of the cottage, that abuts the brick wall separating the cottage and EEC grounds. It is understood to have been constructed after 1892 and may have been built during the first decade of the twentieth century. The external wall at the western end is also timber framed and lined with vertical beaded timber weatherboards. The wall at the western end is constructed of brick and is lined externally with cement render. A small weatherboard shed is located to the south west of the Cottage near the brick wall separating its grounds from the EEC. The shed post-dates the initial occupation of the Cottage by the National Trust.

The Cottage consists of four main rooms (of which the front three are connected via a small central hallway), a kitchen in the south and a bathroom/WC in the southwest. The earliest

section of the Cottage is the section containing two rooms on its northern side. The main entrance to the cottage is directly from the northern verandah into Room 1. Rooms 1 and 2 are connected; access to the east of the building is via a door opposite the main entrance, which accesses a short hall terminating at a kitchen to the rear of the Cottage. A small bathroom, the structure of which shows in the 1864 photograph of the building, and lavatory are located on the western side of the hall and a large room that was added to the original building during the 1870s (Room 3) is on its eastern side. This space connects to the eastern side of the verandah via a pair of French doors and to a small space at its rear (Room 4) that is connected in turn to the kitchen at the rear of the Cottage.

The Cottage has undergone a number of modifications since its construction, the most significant of which were undertaken during the period of the National Trust occupancy of the Cottage in the 1980s.

Figure 4.12: The Messenger's Cottage viewed from the east (left) and the north (right). The photograph at left was taken in February 2016, prior to the replacement of the roof covering. Security fencing and gates across Upper Fort Street were installed during the second half of 2016. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 69)

Figure 4.13: Eastern section of the Messenger's Cottage verandah (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 70)

Figure 4.14: Skillion roofed timber weatherboard structures enclosing the bathroom and WC at the rear of the Cottage (left); western wall of the skillion roofed section containing the kitchen and Room 4 at the rear of the Cottage (right). The small shed can be seen in both photographs. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 71)

Figure 4.15: Looking to the south east across Room 3, originally added to the Cottage in the 1870s (left); fireplace and chimney breast in Room 1 (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 72)

Figure 4.16: Looking north along the hall to the main entrance in Room 1 (left); recently refurbished bathroom in the Cottage (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 73)

Figure 4.17: Cottage kitchen and the early fireplace in the south eastern corner of the space (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 74)

4.1.3. Bureau of Meteorology

The former Bureau of Meteorology (MET) building is a three storey brick structure with timber framed floors and a timber roof structure. Although the basic brick structure appears to be sound, the roof, first and second floor structures are in some locations in very poor condition and unsafe, while other parts of the building's interiors have been damaged by water ingress. Due to the extensive deterioration of floor and roof fabric a full inspection of the building has not yet been able to be undertaken.

The exterior of the MET building demonstrates a number of characteristics of the Inter War Free Classical style, including symmetrical composition of elevations, the centrally placed and classically detailed main entry elevations, the cement rendered frieze below the wide eaves overhang, modulation of corners by recessing sections of brickwork and the detailing of piers and brackets associated with the second floor loggia on the northern side of the building. Windows consist of timber framed multipaned double hung sashes – those on the second floor are smaller than on lower levels. The corners of the building are subtly modulated by recessed areas of brickwork on each elevation. Sections of the wide timber-lined eaves are deteriorating badly.

The principal northern façade is distinguished by the elegantly detailed main entrance and porch, with glazed doors, sidelights and highlights, and the second floor loggia, which is partly recessed within the building envelope and partially cantilevers from the façade. A simply detailed wrought metal balustrade encloses the cantilevered section and is repeated at roof level, where it extends between low brick piers.

The eastern and western elevations each contain two bays of windows while the southern elevation incorporates a recessed light well serving lavatories on the first and second floors. There are a limited number of window openings on the ground and first floor levels in this elevation. Windows on this side of the building are boarded up.

A pair of simple gable roofed garages, one of which projects to the north of the second, are located on the western side of the building. It does not appear in early photographs of the building but was evidently in place by 1939.

The interior of the building is in poor condition. Of particular concern is the amount of damage caused by water ingress, which has caused section of ceiling linings to collapse and is resulting in the deterioration of timber floor framing.

The ground and first floor levels of the building were originally intended to house the activities of the Bureau of Meteorology, while the second floor provided accommodation for the State Meteorologist and his family. The building is served by three stairs – a timber stair in the south eastern section of the building serves the residential flat and gives access to other levels of the building, a concrete stair in the south western section of the building extends between the ground floor and roof, and another stair that is accessed from the reception area adjacent to the main entry connects the ground and first floors. A lift was installed in the well of the residential level stair at some time after the building was completed Original fabric survives within the building and includes timber skirting boards, doors and architraves, fibrous plaster ceilings and cornices, stair fabric and fireplaces. The condition of the fabric varies on each level.

Figure 4.18: Bureau of Meteorology and Messenger's Cottage viewed from the Environmental Education Centre (left); Bureau of Meteorology viewed from the west (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 75)

Figure 4.19: Bureau of Meteorology viewed from the west (left); portion of the south elevation, including the recessed light well (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 76)

Figure 4.20: Deteriorating eaves fabric (left) and window joinery (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 78)

Figure 4.21: Wrought metal balustrade, bracket and piers associated with the second floor loggia. Medallions are located above the piers in the frieze (left). Similar balustrading is located at roof level (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 79)

Figure 4.22: Steel-framed tower that was installed to support the wind recording apparatus (left); roof membranes are in very poor condition and are missing in some locations (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 80)

Figure 4.23: Private entry porch to the residential level at the south eastern corner of the building (left); pair of garages to the west of the building (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 81)

Figure 4.24: Ground floor reception area adjacent to the main entrance. The space has retained a substantial amount of original fabric, including timber joinery items such as the counter and highlight window over it. Decorative plaster cornices are suffering from water damage. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 82)

Figure 4.25: Terrazzo stair on the northern side of the building linking the ground and first floors (left), stained and polished timber stair providing access to the residential apartment (centre) and concrete stair connecting all levels of the building, including the roof (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 83)

Figure 4.26: General views across the first floor of the building. Ceiling linings are coming away from the floor structure above in places. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 87)

4.1.4. Environmental Education Centre

The building referred to as the Environmental Education Centre (EEC) was constructed in the early 1950s as a gymnasium for Fort Street Girls' High School. At the time of writing, the EEC facilities had been relocated off site due to FSPS demand for further teaching space. The existing EEC building is currently used as a staff room, teaching space, and library.

The EEC is a single storey brick building with a shallow pitched gabled roof covered by corrugated steel sheeting. The building has three components, a long high section that originally contained the gymnasium, a low subsidiary section on its eastern side that originally contained changing facilities, lavatories and staff accommodation, and a small projecting section at its western end.

The different functions assigned to each portion of the building were clearly reflected in the placement and design of fenestration. A shallow concrete canopy along the northern side of the building shades door openings, which are separated by cement rendered and painted panels.

The building has relatively wide overhanging eaves lined with spaced timber battens to provide some roof ventilation. The principal entry is at the south eastern end of the building, reflecting the relationship between the building and Fort Street Girls' High School.

As might be expected, the interior of the building has undergone some modification to suit changing user needs. The large high space that formerly contained the gymnasium has been subdivided into three separate spaces. The original flush finished ceiling, with perforated acoustic linings along the northern and southern sides of the rooms and inset shallow domed recesses light fittings, extends across the three rooms. Ceilings in the administrative section are also flush finished. Wall surfaces are cement rendered and painted throughout. Plain white ceramic wall tiles in spaces used for storage indicate the location of shower facilities associated with gymnasium use.

Figure 4.27: Two views of the northern side of the EEC. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 91)

Figure 4.28: EEC viewed from the east (left) and from the grounds of the National Trust Centre to its south (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 92)

Figure 4.29: Spaces within the eastern section of the building, utilised for administrative and staff functions. The photograph at right shows part of the reception area near the principal entrance to the building. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 94)

Figure 4.30: Commemorative items at the EEC include the engraved stone foundation stone on the exterior of the building near the principal entrance (left) and the engraved metal plaque marking the official opening of the building, which is mounted on one of the walls in the reception area (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 95)

4.1.5. Heritage Boundary Wall

The brick wall that extends across the boundary between the EEC and land occupied by the Bureau of Meteorology building and the Messenger's Cottage is constructed out of sandstock bricks set in a soft mortar over a sandstone foundation. It has been suggested that the wall was part of the Military Hospital compound.[7] According to one source the likely period in which the wall was constructed was the 1830s and 1840s, based on an analysis of bricks and mortar composition, although the sandstone footings are part of the northern wall to the Military Hospital.[8] However, what appears to be a timber fence in this location is shown on Sheet 01 of the 1855 City Detail Sheets held at the City of Sydney Archives, on which brick and stone walls are carefully noted and delineated (Figure 4.31). It does show up behind the Messenger's Cottage in the 1864 photograph of Flagstaff Hill). Repairs, repointing and reconstruction of damaged

[7] State Heritage Inventory database entry for the Bureau of Meteorology.
[8] Edward Higinbotham, *Report on Historical and Archaeological Sites in Observatory Hill Management Plan*, Appendix II, pp.5; Edward Higinbotham, *Inventory for Military Hospital Boundary Wall in Inventory of Historical and Archaeological Sites in Observatory Hill Management Plan*, Appendix 3.

sections have been undertaken using the bricks that were available at the time set in a harder mortar. The 1900-01 resumption plans depicts a wall in its current location (Figure 4.32).

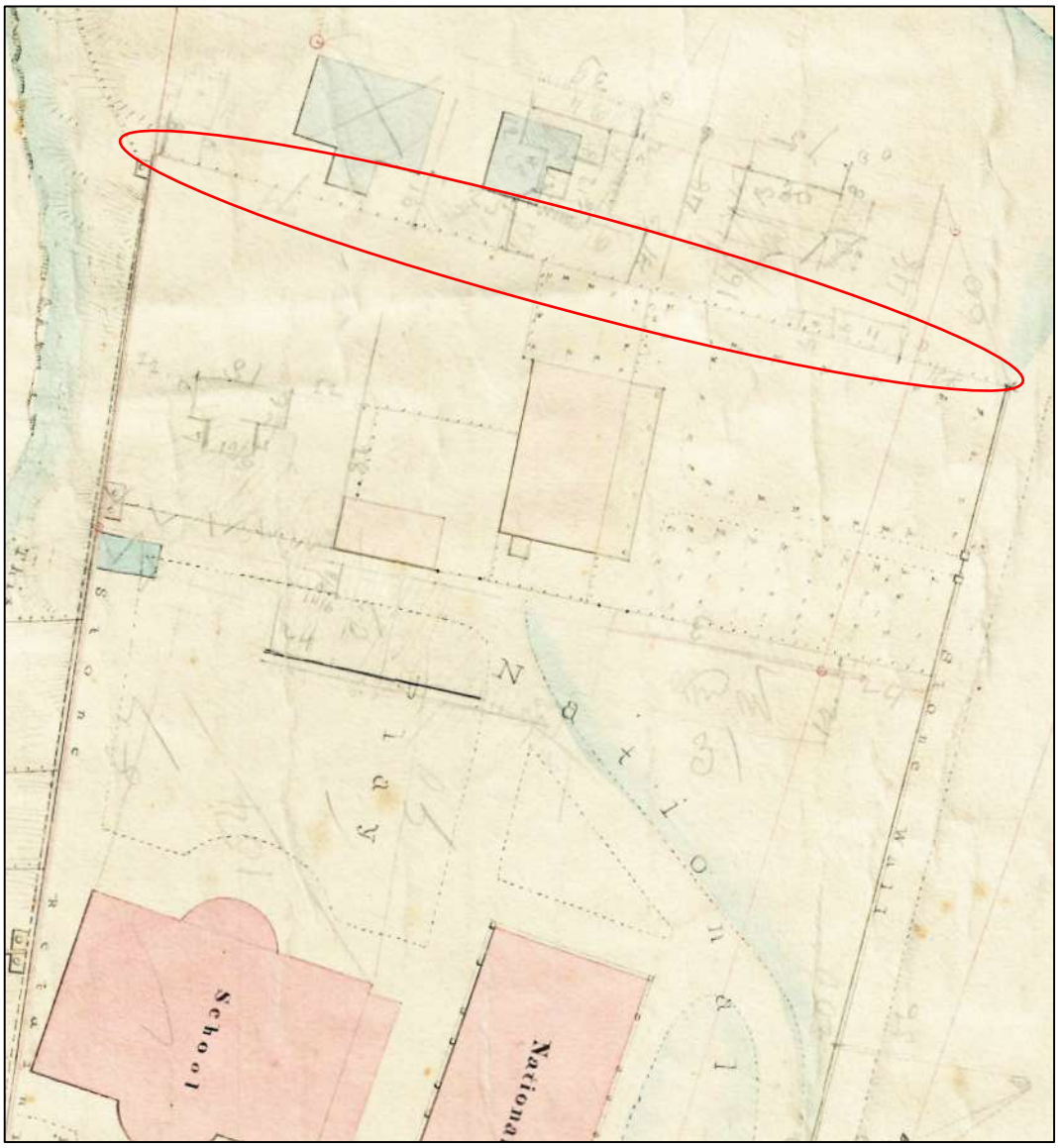

Figure 4.31: 1856 Plan showing stone wall to east and west of national school (former military) compound. Northern boundary line between Messengers cottage and school buildings not specified as stone. Likely still a fence boundary. (Source: Historical Atlas of Sydney - City Detail Sheets, 1855 – Sheet_01)

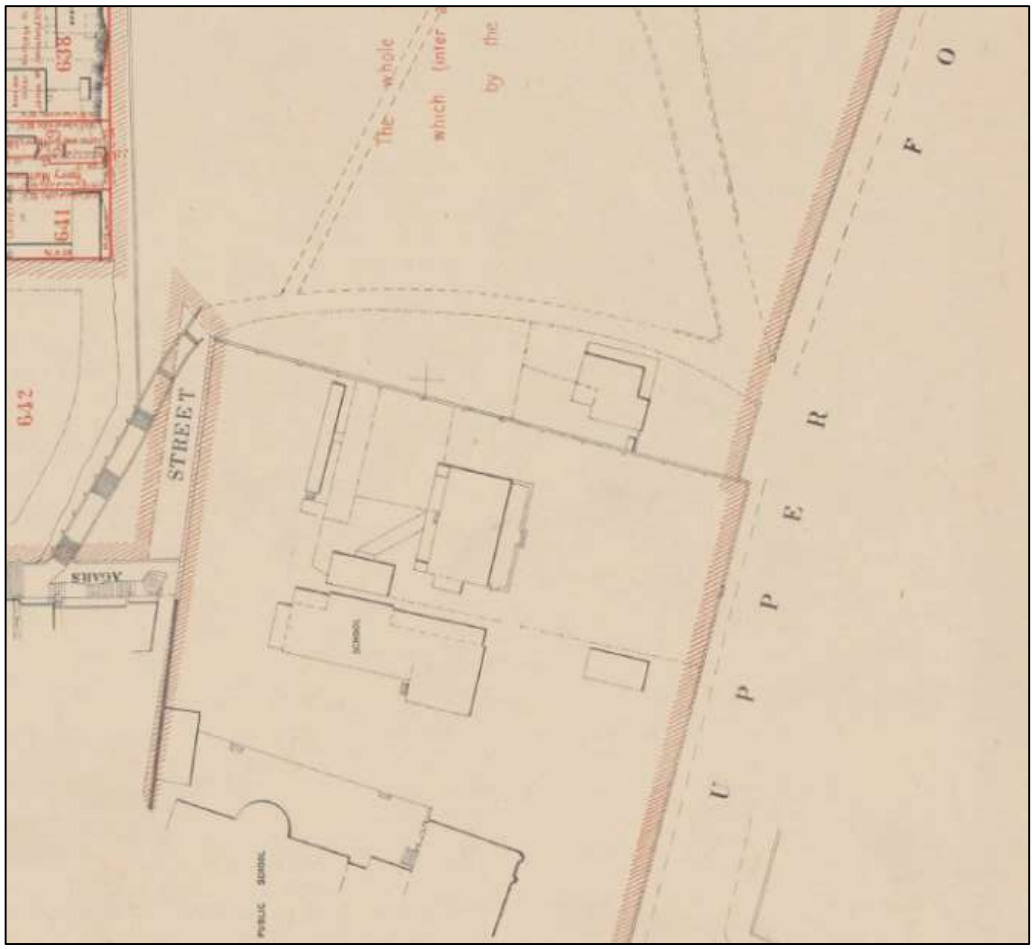

Figure 4.32: Sydney 1900-01 Resumption plan showing northern boundary in its current location as a wall

Figure 4.33: Circa 1910 photograph showing children being taught about gardening in front of the southern side of the wall. (Source: State Records Digital ID 15051_a047_005381)

Figure 4.34: Northern section of the wall, to the east of the Messenger's Cottage. Later works associated with the upper sections of the wall are clearly visible (left); southern section of the wall, which is strengthened by brick piers (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 97)

Figure 4.35: The extant brick wall is constructed over stone footings. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 98)

4.1.6. Cahill Expressway Cut

The following description has been extracted from the Millers Point and Walsh Bay Heritage Review Final Report, prepared for City of Sydney Council by Paul Davies, 2007.

The expressway was first proposed in 1945 as part of an overall expressway plan for Sydney. Public opposition began when the proposal was first made public in 1948, with the Quay Planning Protest Committee being formed. Despite the opposition, construction on the elevated section of the expressway went ahead in 1955. Funding was provided by the Sydney Council and the NSW Government, and the elevated section was opened on 24 March 1958. Work on the sunken section commenced almost straight away after that, and the additional section was opened on 1 March 1962.[9] *The Expressway is named after the then NSW Premier Joseph Cahill, who also approved construction of the Sydney Opera House. While a vital link in the Sydney road system, it is generally not well loved by Sydneysiders, for its ugly appearance and the way it divides the city from its waterfront.*

The Cahill Expressway was controversial from when it was first proposed. Its elevated nature, proximity to the city and utilitarian appearance meant that when the design of the elevated section

[9] http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/history/sydneystreets/How_to_Build_a_Street/Cahill_Expressway/default.html

was first unveiled to the public, it was described as ridiculous, ugly, unsightly and a monstrosity. An early example of freeway revolt. Sydney Morning Herald writer Elizabeth Farrelly describes the freeway as 'doggedly first proposed. Its elevated nature, proximity to the city and utilitarian appearance meant that when the design of the elevated section was first unveiled to the public, it was described as ridiculous, ugly, unsightly and a monstrosity. An early example of freeway revolt. Sydney Morning Herald writer Elizabeth Farrelly describes the freeway as 'doggedly symmetrical, profoundly deadpan, severing the city from the water on a permanent basis'.[10]

Davies also notes the Cahill Expressway as:

> *An important feature for the [Millers Point] precinct but not a highly visible one is the circular stone excavation for the Cahill Expressway that separated the school grounds from Observatory Hill and from the National Trust Centre (former school building). (Davies 2007: 84)*

While the cutting for the Cahill Expressway is a dominant physical and visual feature in relation to the FSPS site, its presence is not directly connected to the history of the site as a military hospital and Fort Street Public School.

Figure 4.36: Cahill Expressway Cut, view from EEC to National Trust (Source: Curio 2019)

[10] SMH, 12/02/02-Opening up the Cahill Expressway won't be a dynamic change

Figure 4.37: Cahill Expressway Cut, view from National Trust towards EEC (Source: Curio 2019)

4.2. Setting and Visual Character

The Fort Street Public School site is visually prominent in its location, located at the northern road entrance to the Sydney CBD. The wider landscape setting of the FSPS site on Observatory Hill places it in a complex, layered and varied topographical and built form setting, with a strong presence of landscaping and trees- closely linked with Millers Point and the Rocks. The built form is generally dominated by its heritage buildings, which are smaller in scale and height that those of the adjoining CBD.

The locality of Fort Street Public School is significant in its location in connection and/or proximity to several other significant heritage items and places- some of which are readily visible to, and from the site. These include:

- Sydney Observatory
- National Trust Building (former Fort Street School)
- Sydney Harbour Bridge
- Millers Point
- Sydney Opera House.
- Agar Steps

Visually, however, the connection between the FSPS site and the above significant heritage items has been impacted and interrupted to varying degrees by landscape features such as the rising topography between the water's edge to Observatory Hill, and built elements such as the cut for the Cahill Expressway, and the alignment of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. For example, despite

their relative proximity, there are no clear view lines between the Fort Street Public School site and the Sydney Opera House. The Bradfield and Cahill Expressways present physical and visual boundaries in the locality that serve to create a sense of isolation of Observatory Hill and FSPS from the Rocks to the east and Millers Point to the north and west. The Fort Street Public School building is visible from the eastern side of the Harbour Bridge approaches, while the Bureau of Meteorology can be seen from Kent Street.

Other notable elements of the immediate setting and visual character of the Fort Street Public School site include:

- Mature fig tree and associated landscaping at the southeastern corner of the site (Figure 4.39);
- Demarcation of the school boundary by palisade fencing and stone piers (Figure 4.40 and Figure 4.41);
- Perimeter landscaping planting between the school grounds and Cahill Expressway cut and vicinity of EEC (Figure 4.42); and
- Cahill Expressway cut (Figure 4.43 and Figure 4.44).

Figure 4.38: Diagram indicating elements in the vicinity of the subject site, which contribute to its setting. Source: Spatial Information Exchange with TKD Architects overlay. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 99)

Figure 4.39: Fort Street Public School viewed from different sections of Upper Fort Street. The fig tree is a defining element at the south eastern corner of the school site and an important part of the setting of the school and Observatory Hill Park. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 100)

Figure 4.40: The section of Upper Fort Street between Fort Street Public School, and the Messenger's Cottage and Bureau of Meteorology. The school site is bounded by a palisade fence. Originally a simple timber post and rail fence marked the boundary. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 101 (Left); Curio 2019 (Right))

Figure 4.41: This stone pier to the east of the Messenger's Cottage was constructed around 1942, as indicated in the archival photograph at left. Construction took place after the Public School was completed and while the southern section of Upper Fort Street was being formed. (Source: City of Sydney Archive SRC13421; TDK 2016: Fig 102)

Figure 4.42: Well-established native trees planted on the western boundary (left) and northern boundary (right) of the area occupied by the EEC. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 107)

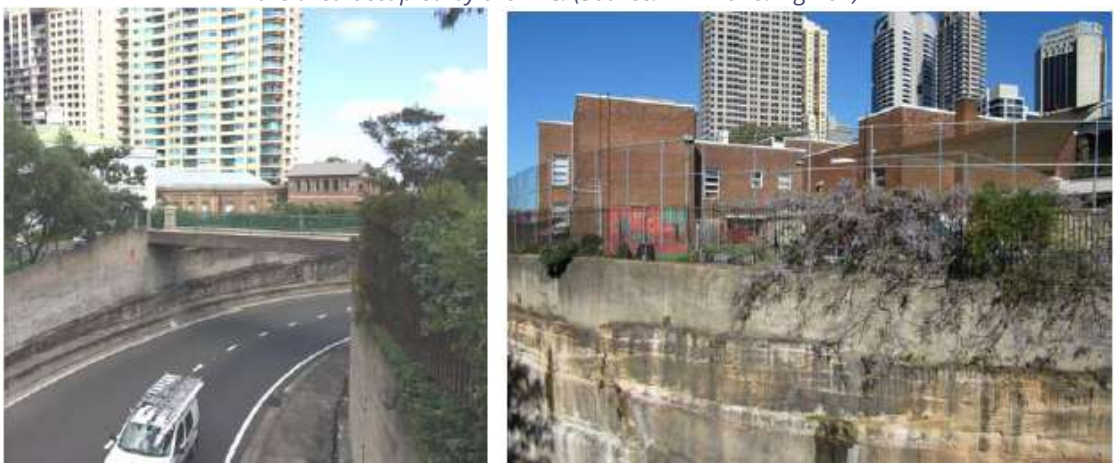

Figure 4.43: Cahill Expressway road circle. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 108)

Figure 4.44: EEC viewed across the road circle cutting from the west (left); Fort Street Public School and the Bureau of Meteorology viewed from the west across the cutting (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 109)

5. Archaeological Assessment

An Archaeological Assessment was prepared by AMBS in 2016 as part of the draft CMP (Appendix A). Since the preparation of this assessment, further archaeological assessment and investigation has been undertaken at the FSPS site (Curio Projects 2019). Therefore, the following sections provide a summary of the AMBS assessment extracted from the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (Curio, 2019c), and then goes on to provide further assessment and information with respect to the Aboriginal and historical archaeological potential for the FSPS site.

5.1. Historical Archaeology

A Historical Archaeological Research Design (HARD) (Curio Projects 2019a, Appendix C to this HIS) was prepared for the FSPS site to guide a program of historical archaeological test excavation undertaken at the site (July 2019- see relevant section below). The HARD included an assessment of the historical archaeological potential of the FSPS site in accordance with seven identified historical phases of use of the site as follows.

5.1.1. Historical Archaeological Potential

Phase 1 (1788-1820)—Windmill Hill

It is considered that the study area generally has low to moderate potential to contain archaeological evidence related to the 1788-1820 use of the site, particularly relating to the 3rd Government Windmill (Smock Mill). Remains from this period may include:

- Stone footings of the smock mill and/or other ephemeral evidence associated with the use of the site for mill activities
- Evidence of the pre-settlement environment through to evidence of changes brought about to the environment through land clearing and early landscaping and development activities (potential to be recovered through palaeobotanical data retrieved from soil samples)
- Other evidence related to onsite activities from c1788-1820 for which we have very little detail or, to date, have remained undocumented including small outbuildings, postholes, remnant footings, fencelines, early rudimental drainage attempts, pathways, and other remnant, fragmentary pockets of construction may also exist.
- Historical archaeological 'relics' recovered from wells, cesspits and rubbish dumps, if discovered, are likely to include a broad range of cultural materials that might provide an insight into the everyday life in early colonial NSW—evidence of the types of foods eaten, such as animal bones, oyster shells, seeds and other material evidence that helps to build the picture of the daily lives of early colonists.

Phase 2 (c.1820-1850)—Military Hospital

It is considered that the study area generally has moderate to high potential to contain archaeological evidence related to the 1820-1850 military use of the site. Remains from this period may include:

- Evidence associated with the Surgeon's Cottage and other outbuildings associated with the Military Hospital (such as kitchen, servant's quarters and outhouse), possibly towards the southern boundary of the FSPS study area. Evidence associated with this phase of the site's use is likely to include remnant fabric associated with the construction and use of the buildings—such as structural remains, footings, drainage, sewer systems, pathways, stone boundary walls, gardens and related landscaping elements.
- Significant subsurface features such as cellars cut into the sandstone bedrock, known to be associated with the kitchen and/or surgeon's house.
- Other evidence related to undocumented buildings and onsite activities from the Military Use period, or features for which we have very little detail, including small outbuildings, postholes, remnant footings, fencelines, pathways, and other remnant, fragmentary pockets of construction.

Phase 3 (c.1850-1890s)—Fort Street National School, Observatory and Messengers Cottage

It is considered that the study area generally has moderate to high potential to contain archaeological evidence related to the 1850–1890s early school and observatory use of the site. Remains from this period may include:

- Deeper subsurface features such as wells, cisterns, and rubbish dumps, which may be present within the study area, likely undocumented, potentially cut into the sandstone bedrock.
- Evidence of the two cottages originally located to the west of the Messengers Cottage (i.e. see 1855 historical plan), assumed to be associated with Observatory activities at the time.
- Other evidence related to undocumented buildings and onsite activities from early school use and Observatory activities (i.e. messengers cottage), or features for which we have very little detail, including other school outbuildings (kitchen, sheds, privies, etc.), former classrooms, postholes, remnant footings, fencelines, pathways, gardens, other remnant, fragmentary pockets of construction, and other drainage and landscape features.

Phase 4 (c.1890s-1900s) and 5 (1905-1918)—Ongoing School Use and Additions

It is considered that the study area generally has moderate to high potential to contain archaeological evidence related to the 1890s-1918 ongoing school use of the site. Remains from this period may include:

- Other evidence related to undocumented buildings and onsite activities from early school use and Observatory activities (i.e. messengers cottage), or features for which we have very little detail, including small outbuildings, postholes, remnant footings, former classrooms e.g. carpentary shed), fencelines, pathways, gardens, other remnant, fragmentary pockets of construction, and other drainage and landscape features.

Phase 6 (c.1919-1950)—Bureau of Meteorology, New Fort St School and Cahill Expressway

It is considered that the study area generally has high potential to contain archaeological evidence related to the 1919–1950 use of the site. Remains from this period may include:

- Structural remains relating to demolished school buildings from this period, such as structural remains/footings of the Infants School (although it is considered likely that the majority of the Infants School was removed for the Cahill Cutting), additions and alterations made to the former military buildings (surgeons cottage, kitchen etc) in their adaptation for school use.
- Evidence associated with use of the site by the Bureau of Meteorology, including undocumented outbuildings, relics and artefact deposits associated with the construction and/or use of the MET building, use by the Bureau of the Messengers Cottage and surrounds, use of the site as the Bureau weather station etc.
- Evidence for fill and soil movement associated with the construction of the Cahill Cutting.

Phase 7 (c.1950-1990s) and 8 (1990s–Present)—High School Relocation, National Trust and FSPS

It is considered that the study area generally has moderate to high potential to contain archaeological evidence related to the later use of the site (1950s–Present). Remains from this period may include:

- Ephemeral and artefactual evidence of school use.
- Evidence of the demountable classrooms erected to the west of the MET building (although considering the semi-permanent nature of these structures, they are unlikely to leave a substantial archaeological signature.

5.1.2. Summary of Historical Archaeological Potential

There is potential within the study area for an archaeological resource to be present associated with the initial European settlement of the area 1788-1820 (Phase 1), continuing through the various periods of occupation and site development (Phases 2—Phase 6), through until the present day.

During Phases 2 and 3 (1820 – 1850) the site was used as the Military Hospital and any remains from these periods would meet the criteria for State significance for their association with early colonial settlement, military life, and health and medical practices in the early period of Australian colonisation. Any remaining hospital deposits may also be considered significant for their comparative value, which may permit an evaluation of different health and medicine practices in the early settlement periods with, for example, the Sydney 'Rum' hospital, Parramatta hospital, and the Port Arthur hospitals. Archaeological remains associated with the Military hospital, besides the building itself, also include the Surgeon's house, kitchen building, servants apartment, morgue (cellar), wells, other associated out buildings (privies, laundry, etc.), rubbish dumps and cess pits, and landscape features (paths, drains, stone walls, etc.), which are indicated on historic plans to be within the southern area of FSPS site itself.

The site was occupied by the first public school in Australia from Phase 3 (1850-1870) up until present. The archaeological remains associated with the model school from Phases 3 and 4 may be assessed as having State significance for their association with the establishment of Australia's public education system. Archaeological remains from these phases may also be

assessed as significant for their association with the growth and development of the colonial settlement and in this case, there an opportunity to examine childhood through the archaeological record that may exist from the school's occupation of the site for over a century (1850-1950). Archaeological features and deposits that may remain from the Fort Street school, besides the buildings which are still standing include, school outbuildings (kitchen, sheds, privies, etc.), former classrooms (e.g. the carpentry shed), which are indicated on historic plans to be in the subject site particularly in the southern, northern and western portions.

Other archaeological remains that may exist in the site include deposits that are associated with the buildings still standing on site, notably, the Messenger's cottage (1860) (Phase 4) and Bureau of Meteorology (1922) (Phase 5). These remains may be assessed as of State significance for their association with science and technological developments, communication, astronomy and meteorology. These deposits may include the former structure used to house the Bureau of Meteorology, other landscape features, rubbish pits etc.

While previous heritage studies have focused on the built heritage in the subject area (the elements of which have been assessed as locally significant- i.e. Messengers Cottage, MET Building, and Fort St School Building), the early ages (Phase 1-3) and themes associated with the potential archaeological features and deposits on site may be assessed as having either local and/or State significance. The assessments of significance will depend on whether these archaeological features and deposits still exist on site and the condition (whether they are intact) of the remains. The significance of the subject area as a whole must also be considered in relation to its surrounds, especially as part of the Miller's and Dawes Point conservation area, and for its comparative relationship to other early settlement sites in Australia.

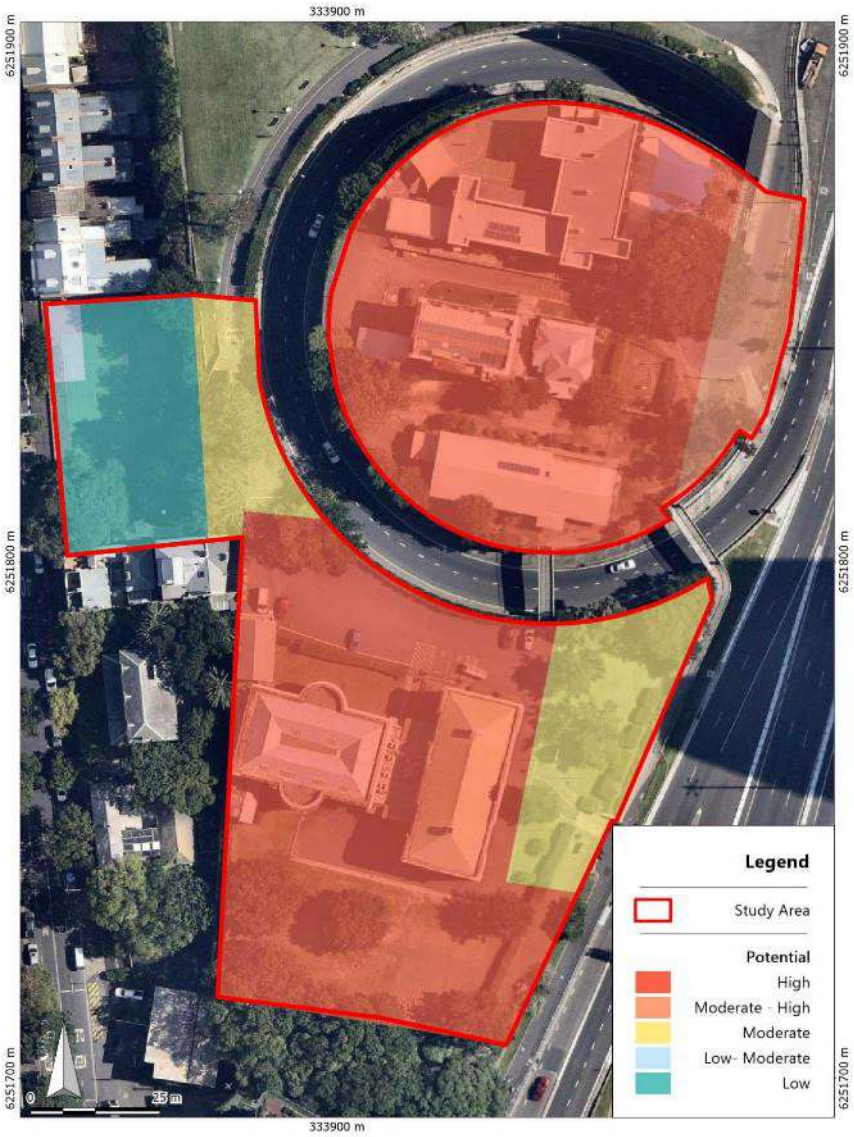

Figure 5.1: Historical Archaeological Potential for the FSPS Study Area (Source: Curio 2019).

5.1.3. Historical Archaeological Test Excavation

As the FSPS study area has been subject to continuous development and use since the establishment of the Military Hospital in this area in 1815, and the redevelopment proposal calls for substantial construction impacts to allow for new building stock at the site, historical archaeological testing was required to better determine the presence, nature and extent of any archaeological resources identified as potentially surviving to inform detailed design planning (supported by the HARD as described above).

Historical archaeological test excavation was undertaken at the FSPS site in July 2019 in accordance with a Section 60 excavation permit issued by the NSW Heritage Division in May 2019. Seven archaeological test excavation trenches (Test Trench 1-7) were excavated within the FSPS study area, along with a further three pits (Pits 8-10) excavated by environmental scientists under archaeological supervision (Figure 5.2).

The major feature exposed during the test excavation was the brick footings of the former surgeon's house below the EEC building (Test Trenches 4 and 6), confirming the presence of substantial evidence of the surgeon's house brick footings and a suggestion of an attached outbuilding retained within the FSPS site (Figure 5.3 to Figure 5.5). While not encountered during the July 2019 test excavation investigation, the FSPS site retains further un-investigated archaeological potential for occupation deposits and deeper sub-surface features.

The test excavation also revealed potentially intact soil profiles (Test Trench 5, Environmental Pit 8 & 9) demonstrating potential for archaeological remains to be present in areas surrounding the EEC and adjacent to the Messenger's Cottage. Test Trenches 1-3 revealed substantial modern truncation of the profile at the crest of the site and demonstrated the extensive nature of construction disturbance surrounding the main Fort Street Public School building.

Test Trenches 1 and 2 were located to investigate the potential for evidence of the third government windmill and early quarrying, however recovered no archaeological evidence of this former feature- with investigation demonstrating substantial modern truncation of the soil profile at the crest of the site and extensive nature of construction disturbance around the main Fort Street Public School building.

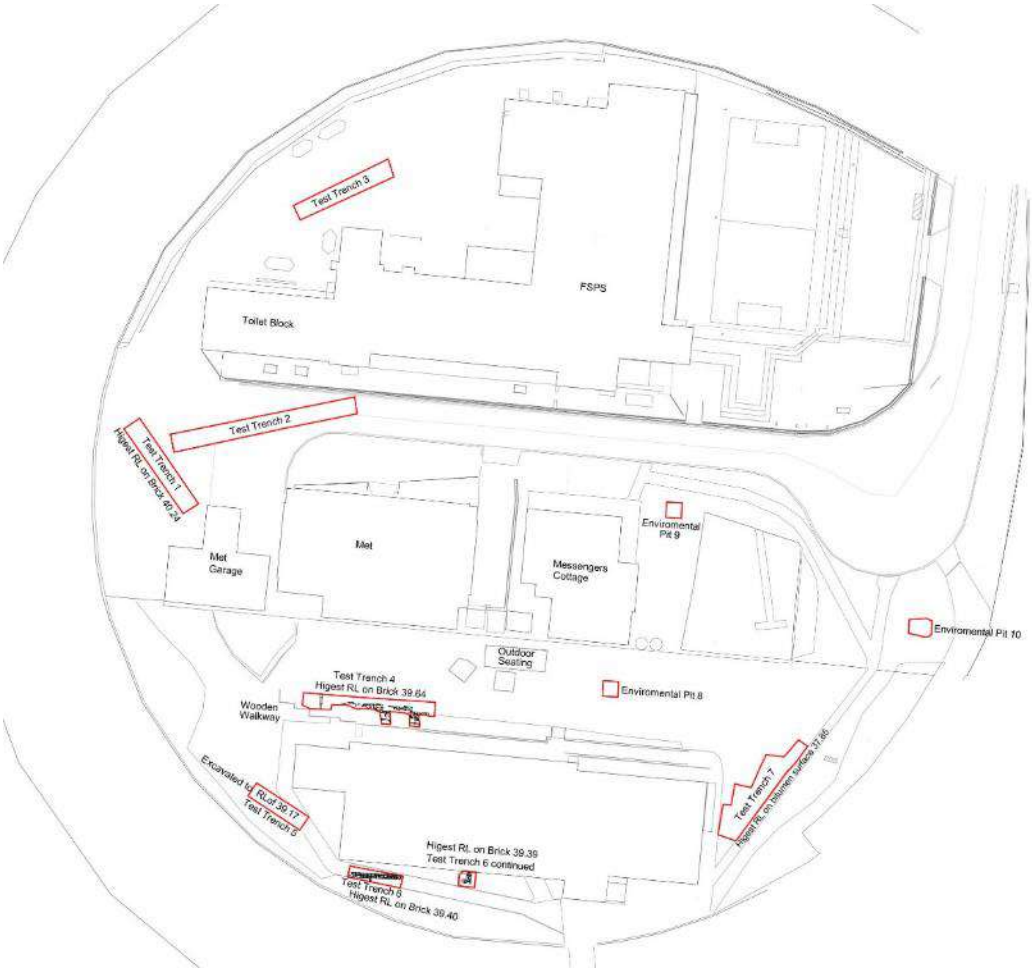

Figure 5.2: Historical Archaeological Test Excavation Trenches Location (Source: Curio 2019b, drawn by B. Owens)

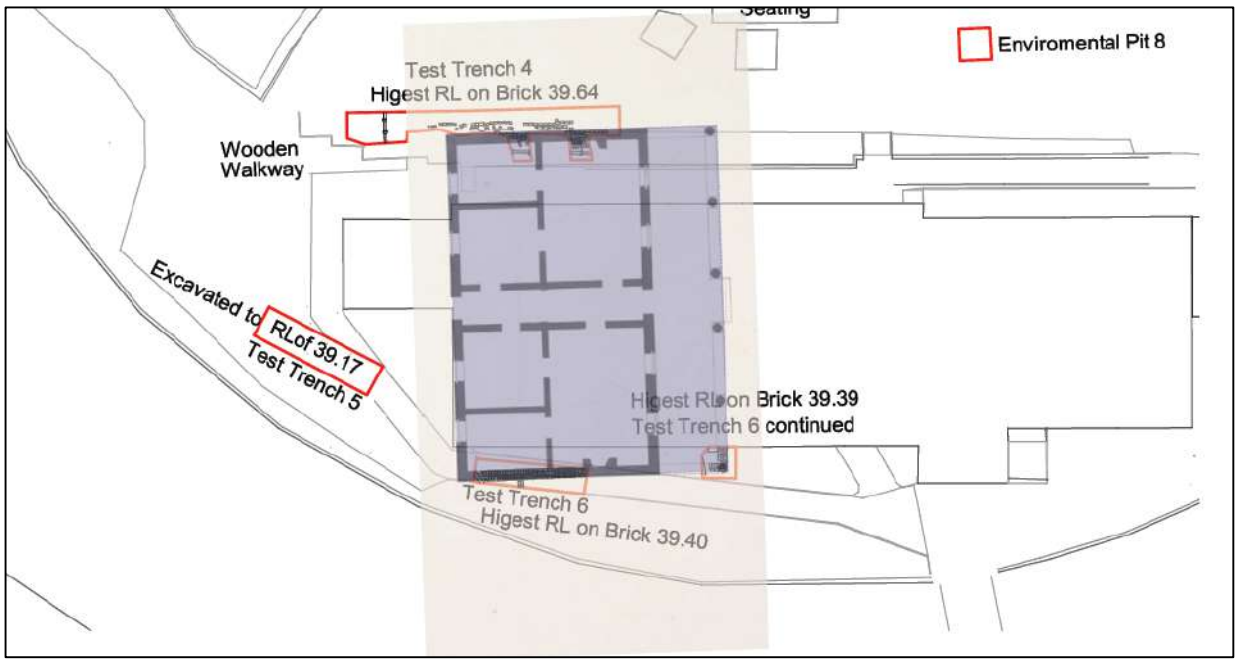

Figure 5.3: Overlay of Surgeons Cottage Plan (1824) on archaeological survey plan

Figure 5.4: Remnant footings of Surgeons Cottage on northern side of EEC (Source: Curio 2019)

Figure 5.5: Remnant footings of Surgeons Cottage on southern side of EEC (Source: Curio 2019)

5.2. Aboriginal Archaeology

The ACHAR prepared for the FSPS Expansion project undertook an Aboriginal archaeological assessment of the site and its potential to retain Aboriginal archaeological deposits. The following section has been summarised from the ACHAR. For more detail, direct reference should be made to the relevant sections of the ACHAR (Appendix B to this HIS).

5.2.1. Archaeological Evidence of Aboriginal Occupation in Sydney Region

The diversity of the geology and landforms of the Sydney region landscape means there is a wide range of existing Aboriginal archaeological evidence and sites in existence all across the region. The presence of Aboriginal archaeological sites in Sydney were first noted by the First Fleet officers upon their arrival in Sydney, where Governor Phillip commented on the rock engravings in the sandstone around Sydney Cove, Botany Bay and Broken Bay[11]. Each geographical element of the Sydney landscape provides different conditions for the survival of physical reminders of the long term Aboriginal habitation and occupation of the Sydney region, including shell midden sites along the coast and sand dunes, rock engraving and art sites in sandstone shelters and surfaces, occupation sites in remnant soils containing Aboriginal stone tools, remains of hearth and cooking sites, remnant scarred and carved trees, and other archaeological evidence preserving the pre-1788 history of the Gadigal people.

[11] Attenbrow 2010

Early researchers in Sydney's colonial history (late 19th Century) recorded and published a range of information regarding Aboriginal sites in the Sydney region, such as palaeontologist and museum director Robert Etheridge Jr, who (along with Thomas Whitelegge) documented an early archaeological excavation of Aboriginal stone tool sites along the coast, including the first identification of an artefact type that has come to be known as a 'bondi point', a type of small pointed stone tool that is common to the Sydney region (Attenbrow 2010: 6). Hundreds of Aboriginal archaeological sites have been excavated across Sydney, especially from the 1960s onwards.

Aboriginal archaeological sites in the Sydney region have been scientifically dated, including Discovery Point in Tempe (a hearth dated to c.9376BP), the Prince of Wales Hospital site (a hearth dated to c.8400BP), and Captain Cooks Landing Site at Kurnell (dated to c.1330BP) (Attenbrow 2010).

5.2.2. Environmental Context

The study area is located on the Gymea soil landscape profile, underlain by Hawkesbury Sandstone (Figure 5.6). Gymea soils are generally shallow to moderately deep (30-100cm) on crests and insides of benches, shallow (<20cm) on leading edges of benches, and moderately deep (<100cm) on drainage lines, with a high propensity for sheet erosion following vegetation clearance. The depth of the underlying bedrock across the FSPS study area generally follows the topography of Observatory Hill, which generally slopes towards the east.

Located on Observatory Hill, the crest of a rocky ridge overlooking Sydney Harbour the elevation and geographical location of the study area would have afforded advantageous views of the harbour and surrounding landscape in every direction, and would likely have been a popular and/or important lookout for the local Aboriginal population. The study area is located at the western end of the former catchment area for the Tank Stream, as well as in close proximity to Sydney Harbour- the location would have therefore allowed easy access to both fresh and salt water (and all the resources afforded by both).

Prior to European settlement and subsequent land clearing, the vegetation of the study area and surrounds would have generally comprised of dry sclerophyll open woodland and forest across ridges and upper slopes. Common varieties would have included Red Bloodwood, Scribbly Gum, Brown Stringybark and Old Man Banksia. The understory would have consisted of a variety of native shrubs.

The fauna of Sydney at and prior to 1788 would have consisted of species such as kangaroo, wallaby, wombat, echidna, flying fox, emus, quolls, various native rats and mice, snakes and lizards. Marine faunal resources would have also been easily accessed from the study area.

While little ethnographic evidence is available regarding the use and occupation of Observatory Hill by Aboriginal people prior to 1788, the elevation of the FSPS study area and associated access to resources, indicates that the area would almost certainly been utilised by Aboriginal people prior to colonisation.

Ongoing intensive use of the study area and surrounds has continued successively from 1788 to the present day, which accordingly has presented high levels of disturbance to the natural environment including soils, vegetation and landscape. This will have impacted the ability for an Aboriginal archaeological resource to be retained within the FSPS study area.

Geotechnical investigations undertaken at the FSPS Site in 2017 and 2019 (JK Geotechnics and Douglas Partners, respectively), have identified that residual natural soils have likely been historically removed across most of the site- shown by locations presenting as historical fill directly over sandstone bedrock- however some small select areas potentially still may present with isolated pockets of residual clayey sand soils.

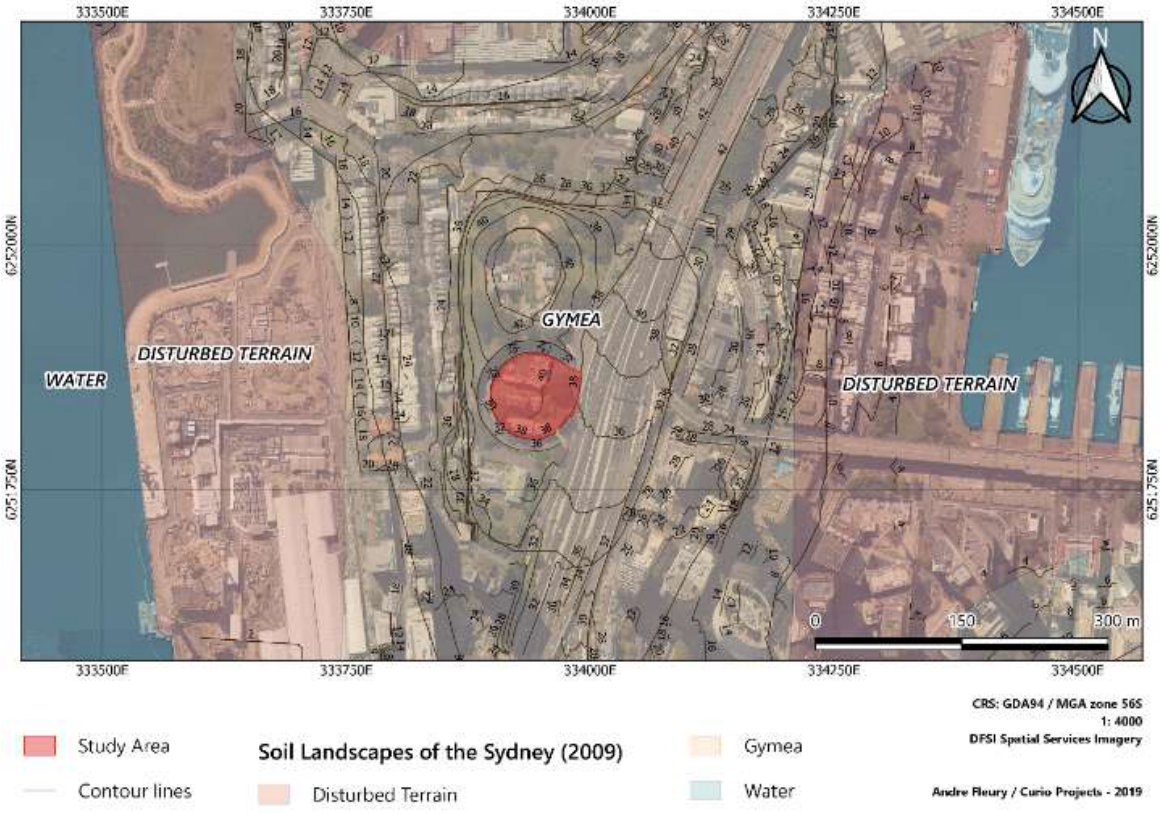

Figure 5.6: Soil Landscapes and Topography (Source: Curio 2019)

5.2.3. Aboriginal Archaeological Context

An extensive search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database, was undertaken on 7 August 2019, centred on the FSPS study area with a buffer of 1km, and returned 23 results (Figure 5.7). No registered sites were located directly within the current study area. The most common site types registered in the area are artefact + midden sites and Potential Archaeological Deposits (PADs). The closest sites to the FSPS study area are 'Lilyvale' (AHIMS 45-6-1853) and '171-193 Gloucester Street (AHIMS 45-6-2742): a shell midden and PAD respectively.

The AHIMS results, combined with the landforms and geology of the subject site suggest that the most likely site types to be present within the study area and surrounds would be limited to

stone artefact sites and PAD sites, as the required geology and environment for other site types such as art sites, shelters, grinding grooves and scarred trees etc is not present.

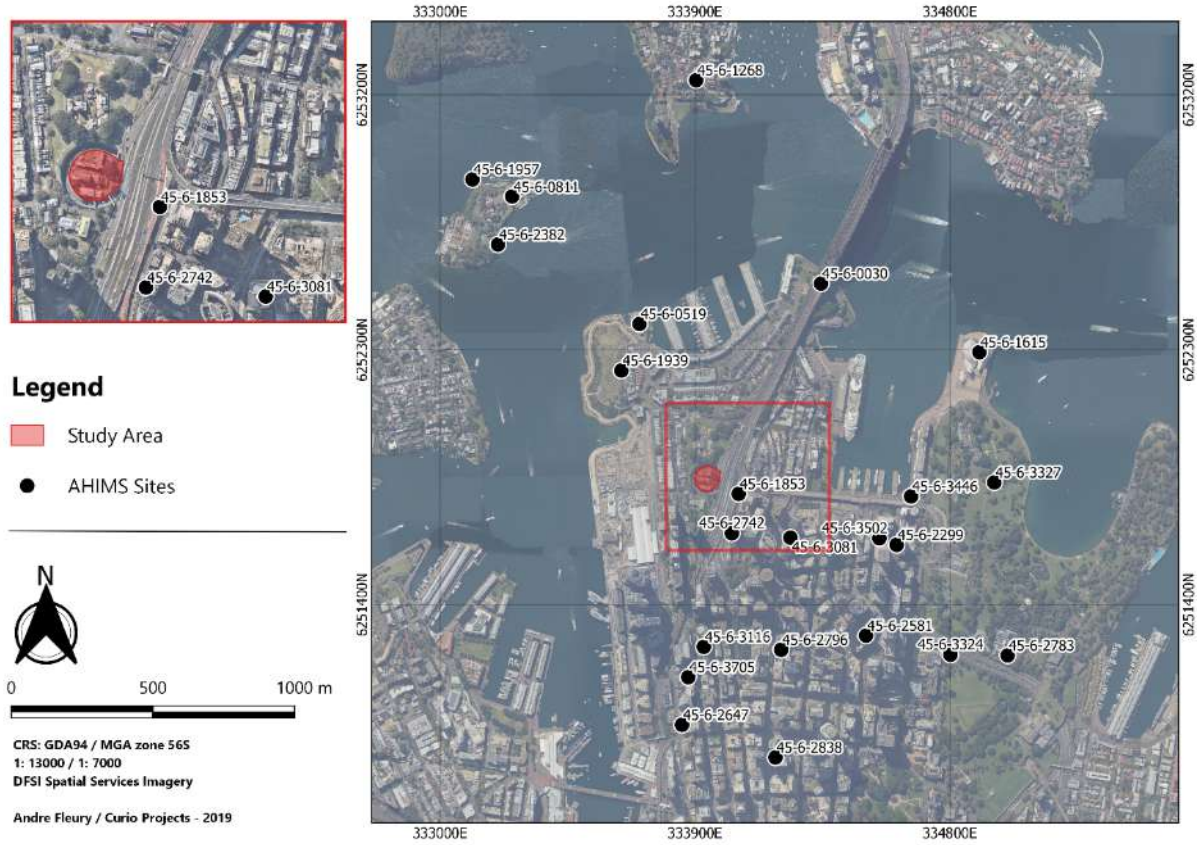

Figure 5.7: AHIMS Search Results Sites (Source: Curio 2019)

5.2.4. Summary of Aboriginal Archaeological Potential

The assessment of Aboriginal archaeological potential within the study area is based on a combination of the environmental assessment, including original landform, possible levels of disturbance across the site, and original resource zones that would have been favourable to, or sustained local Aboriginal populations of the area prior to European settlement, in combination with known previous archaeological research in the vicinity of the subject site, or on comparable sites in Sydney. Consideration of these above factors determines the likelihood for Aboriginal archaeology, artefacts or physical objects to remain at the subject site in a subsurface capacity.

The following predictions are made with regards to Aboriginal archaeological potential within the FSPS study area:

- In order for Aboriginal archaeological deposits to be present in situ within the study area, they would require the retention of natural soil profiles in the area that would be extant from 1788- and require these natural soils to be intact- subject to limited amounts of natural erosion.
- Artefact and midden sites are the most common site type in the region, and are the most likely site types to be present within the study area, should the site conditions allow the

preservation of such a site (i.e. where historical land disturbance activities have not already removed all natural soil profiles)

- There may also be potential for isolated Aboriginal artefacts (stone artefacts and shells) to be present in a disturbed context.
- The study area has no potential for site types such as scarred trees, rockshelters and grinding grooves, as the natural features required for these types of sites are not present.
- It is highly likely that the study area landscape was occupied and used in some way by Aboriginal people prior to 1788- especially in consideration of the commanding presence and advantageous views from (what is now referred to as) Observatory Hill.
- The Gymea soil landscape has a high propensity for sheet erosion following vegetation clearance, and this would have impacted the ability for the soils within the study area to retain an Aboriginal archaeological deposit.
- The study area has been subject to very high levels of historical ground disturbance and use since 1788 relating to the use of the site as a Military Hospital, Sydney Observatory activities/Bureau of Meteorology, and Fort Street Public School, that would likely have impacted and/or removed the majority of natural soil profiles.

Overall, the FSPS study area is considered to have low potential for intact Aboriginal archaeological deposits to be present. However, should an Aboriginal archaeological deposit be found to be present within the FSPS study area, this may have significance (social, historical scientific and aesthetic) for its ability to provide evidence for and insight into Aboriginal occupation and use of the Millers Point/Observatory Hill locality prior to 1788, representative of the FSPS study area as part of the wider Aboriginal cultural landscape of the Sydney Harbour Foreshore (see Section 6.2 for discussion of Aboriginal cultural heritage and archaeological significance).

6. Heritage Significance Assessment

The *NSW Heritage Manual Guideline—Assessing Heritage Significance*, prepared by the NSW Heritage Division, provides a framework for assessing significance of sites and heritage items, with the main aim of producing a succinct statement of significance to summarise an item or site's heritage values. The guidelines are predicated on the five types of cultural heritage value, as presented in *The Burra Charter 2013*: historical, aesthetic, scientific, social, and spiritual significance. The NSW heritage assessment criteria provides the following criterion for the assessment of heritage significance.

> *An item will be considered to be of State (or local) heritage significance if, in the opinion of the Heritage Council of NSW, it meets one of more of the following criteria:*
>
> - *Criterion (a)—an item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);*
> - *Criterion (b)—an item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in the cultural or natural history of NSW (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);*
> - *Criterion (c)—an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area);*
> - *Criterion (d)—an item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;*
> - *Criterion (e)—an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);*
> - *Criterion (f)—an item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);*
> - *Criterion (g)—an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's (or a class of the local areas'):*
>   - *cultural or natural places; or*
>   - *cultural or natural environments.*

The following statements of significance for the site have been prepared in accordance with the above-mentioned guidelines, and have been sourced from the NSW Office of Environment & Heritage website.

6.1. Statements of Significance

The following section provides extracts from the Statements of Significance prepared as part of the SHR or LEP heritage listings for the relevant heritage items- both within the FSPS Site, and immediately outside of (but still relevant to the significance) of the site. The following

statements have been summarised or truncated to be of the most relevance to the FSPS Site and this HIS.

6.1.1. Within the FSPS Site

Millers Point and Dawes Point Village Precinct Conservation Area – SHR and LEP

Millers Point & Dawes Point Village Precinct is of state significance for its ability to demonstrate, in its physical forms, historical layering, documentary and archaeological records and social composition, the development of colonial and post-colonial settlement in Sydney and New South Wales.

The natural rocky terrain, despite much alteration, remains the dominant physical element in this significant urban cultural landscape in which land and water, nature and culture are intimately connected historically, socially, visually and functionally.

The close connections between the local Cadigal people and the place remain evident in the extensive archaeological resources, the historical records and the geographical place names of the area, as well as the continuing esteem of Sydney's Aboriginal communities for the place.

The post-colonial phase is well represented by the early 20th century public housing built for waterside workers and their families, the technologically innovative warehousing, the landmark Harbour Bridge approaches on the heights, the parklands marking the edges of the precinct, and the connections to working on the wharves and docklands still evident in the street patterns, the mixing of houses, shops and pubs, and social and family histories of the local residents.

Millers Point & Dawes Point Village Precinct has evolved in response to both the physical characteristics of its peninsular location, and to the broader historical patterns and processes that have shaped the development of New South Wales since the 1780s, including the British invasion of the continent; cross-cultural relations; convictism; the defence of Sydney; the spread of maritime industries such as fishing and boat building; transporting and storing goods for export and import; immigration and emigration; astronomical and scientific achievements; small scale manufacturing; wind and gas generated energy production; the growth of controlled and market economies; contested waterfront work practises; the growth of trade unionism; the development of the state's oldest local government authority the City of Sydney; the development of public health, town planning and heritage conservation as roles for colonial and state government; the provision of religious and spiritual guidance; as inspiration for creative and artistic endeavour; and the evolution and regeneration of locally-distinctive and self-sustaining communities.

The whole place remains a living cultural landscape greatly valued by both its local residents and the people of New South Wales. (NSW State Heritage Register[12])

Fort Street Primary School (LEP)

Fort Street School is significant in providing evidence of educational use at Observatory Hill from the 1850s to the present day. The current school building is significant as a

[12] https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=5054725

good example of post war modernism in a complete building complex with only minor changes since construction. Designed by the Government Architects office, it is part of a fine tradition of well designed school buildings in contemporary styles located in a prominent location within the centre of a very significant historic precinct. The building is a rare example of a modernist school.

The Messenger's Cottage (LEP)

Messenger's Cottage for Sydney Observatory (c.1862) is aesthetically significant as a fine and largely intact single storied rendered brick cottage with hipped corrugated iron roof and timber framed verandah in the simple asymmetrical Victorian cottage style. It was built in its current location far from the Observatory on the suggestion of Government Astronomer William Scott in order to reduce expense by allowing a brick building to be constructed. The building is significant for its association with architect Alexander Graham.

The Bureau of Meteorology (LEP)

The Bureau of Meteorology Building is significant as one of the first purpose built building for Meteorology in NSW in 1922. The building is associated with the Bureau of Meteorology which is an Executive Agency of the Australian Government responsible for providing weather services to Australia and surrounding area which was established in 1906 under the Meteorology Act, and brought together the state meteorological services that existed before then. The buildings dominant location beside and above City of Sydney, made it an appropriate site for meteorological observations. The building is significant for its operation as a Weather Bureau for over 70 years from 1922 until 1992. The buildings' size, colour, massing and position render it a dominant physical element in its immediate setting. Designed by the Commonwealth Department of Works and Railways, it is part of a fine tradition of well designed Commonwealth buildings in a prominent location within the centre of a very significant historic precinct. The building is a rare example of a mid war Georgian revival style building purposefully designed for meteorological observations and reflects the economic constraints of the period in which it was built with only minor changes since construction.

6.1.2. Outside the FSPS Site

While the following heritage items are located outside of the curtilage of the FSPS Site, the history and heritage significance of these items contributes to the holistic understanding of the wider heritage context within which the FSPS site is located. The following statements of significance of relevant heritage items surrounding the FSPS site are provided below.

Sydney Observatory Group (SHR & LEP)

The Observatory is a fine and rare example of a purpose built observatory structure and is of exceptional significance for its dominant location in the City of Sydney. The site has a long history of changing uses, all of which reflected important stages in the development of the colony including milling (the first windmill); defence (the first, and still extant, fort fabric); communications (the flagstaffs, first semaphore and first electric telegraph connection); astronomy, meteorology and time keeping. The surviving structures, both above and below ground, are physical evidence of 195 years of social

and technical development. The place has an association with an extensive array of historical figures most of whom have helped shape its fabric including colonial Governors, military officers and engineers, architects, signallers and telegraphists and astronomers. The building is amongst the few surviving examples of the work of Alexander Dawson, Colonial Architect.

The siting, with its harbour and city views and vistas framed by mature Moreton Bay fig trees of the surrounding park, make it one of the most pleasant and spectacular locations in Sydney. The picturesque Italianate character and stylistic interest of the Observatory and residence building, together with the exceptional craftsmanship evident in the fabric of all major structures on the site, combine to create a precinct of unusual quality.[13]

Observatory Park (LEP)

The Observatory Park is of outstanding historical significance and a major component of the Observatory Hill precinct. The park commands panoramic views to the north, west and south.

The Observatory is of exceptional significance in terms of European culture. Its dominant location beside and above the port town and, later, City of Sydney made it the site for a range of changing uses, all of which were important to, and reflected, stages in the development of the colony. These uses included: milling (the first windmill); defence (the first, and still extant, fort fabric); communications (the flagstaffs, first semaphore and first electric telegraph connection); astronomy, meteorology and time keeping.

The surviving structures of the Observatory Hill precinct, both above and below ground, are themselves physical documentary evidence of 195 years changes of use, technical development and ways of living. As such they are a continuing resource for investigation and public interpretation.

Observatory Hill has an association with an extensive array of historical figures most of whom have helped shape its fabric. These include: colonial Governors Hunter, Bligh, Macquarie & Denison; military officers and engineers Barrallier; Bellasis and Minchin; convicts: the as yet unnamed constructors of the mill and fort; architects: Greenway (also a convict), Lewis, Blacket, Weaver, Dawson and Barnet; signallers and telegraphists such as Jones and the family Moffitt; astronomers: particularly PP King, Scott, Smalley, Russell, Cooke and Wood.

The elevation of the site, with its harbour and city views and vistas framed by mature Moreton Bay fig (Ficus macrophylla) trees of the surrounding park, make it one of the most pleasant and spectacular locations in Sydney. [14]

Agar Steps (LEP)

The Agar Steps make an important contribution to the aesthetic quality of Observatory Hill and Millers Point because of their design and the materials used in their construction. Designed and constructed by the Municipal Council of Sydney, they have

[13] https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=5051545
[14] https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=2424599

the ability to evoke the historic character of the place and a sense of past lifestyles in the locality. They have some significance because of the dwellings that line the southern side of the Main Steps and the combination of retaining walls, natural rock faces and landscaping in other sections.[15]

National Trust Centre (LEP)

The National Trust Centre is of state historical significance providing evidence of the Military Precinct located between Dawes Point and the Wynyard Barracks c1815 to c1850 of which the former Military Hospital; the first and earliest purpose built hospital building associated with the colony, was an integral part. It is of aesthetic significance in providing an example of the spread of architectural taste and standard building forms during the first half of the nineteenth century by the Royal Engineers and subsequently the Colonial Architect and architects designing public schools including John Watts, Mortimer Lewis and Henry Robertson.

The extant building, now the finest largely intact example of the Victorian Mannerist style in the city, includes the adoption of archaeologically correct motifs based on published measured drawings of Greek monuments adapted to new building forms, and demonstrates the alterations carried out by Robertson based on model English design. The building has been associated with a range of institutional purposes, being an early example of the reuse of a colonial building from a hospital to the largest national school of its time and again adapted as the headquarters of the National Trust. The National Trust Centre occupies a prominent position on Observatory Hill overlooking the southern approaches to the Harbour Bridge, its elevated position giving an important visual and contextual relationship to the Observatory and Upper Fort Street.

The major part of associated structures on the site are significant as fine examples of mid-nineteenth century buildings constructed in the Victorian Free Classical and Victorian Regency styles. The buildings have a prominent position and an important visual and contextual relationship with the former Military Hospital building. These buildings have significance as part of the largest national school to be established in the colony during the mid 1850s. They have had a lengthy association with a variety of historically important persons and organisations and are significant as a design of the colony's first Schools Architect, Henry Robertson. The buildings have social significance for their association with the change from denominational to government schooling and for their association with community functions since their construction. The buildings have scientific significance for demonstrating the sequential development of an educational institution.[16]

6.2. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Archaeology

6.2.1. Aboriginal Community Consultation

A formal process of Aboriginal Community Consultation was undertaken for the FSPS expansion project (in accordance with OEH Consultation Guidelines). This also included the preparation of

[15] https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=2424595
[16] https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=2423506

an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR), prepared in accordance with OEH Guidelines *Guide to Investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW*.

The ACHAR documents the process of investigation, consultation and assessment with regards to Aboriginal cultural heritage and Aboriginal archaeology, as undertaken for the FSPS project. A summary of the process and findings of the ACHAR (Curio Projects 2019c- Appendix B to this HIS) is presented below.

The Aboriginal Community Consultation process in accordance with OEH Guidelines consists of four main stages:

Stage 1—Notification of project proposal and registration of interest

Stage 2—Presentation of Information about the Proposal Project

Stage 3—Gathering Information about Cultural Significance

Stage 4—Review of Draft Cultural Heritage Assessment Report

On behalf of SINSW, Curio Projects initiated a new process of Aboriginal Community Consultation for the FSPS study area in accordance with OEH consultation guidelines in April 2019. Stage 1 notifications identified the nature and location of the FSPS Expansion project. In accordance with Stage 1.2 of the consultation guidelines, letters were sent to the relevant statutory bodies on 16 April 2019 (NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, the Registrar Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983, the National Native Title Tribunal, Native Title Services Corporation Limited, City of Sydney Council, and the Greater Sydney Local Land Services), requesting names of Aboriginal people who may have an interest in the proposed project area and hold knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and places relevant to the FSPS study area.

A public notice advertising the FSPS Expansion project was also placed in the Daily Telegraph on 18.4.19 (consistent with Stage 1.3 of the Consultation Guidelines), advising of the project location and proposed development, and inviting registration from local Aboriginal people.

All names compiled from Stage 1.2 of the process were then written to via email and/registered post in May 2019, inviting registration in the process of community consultation for the FSPS project. Response was requested within 14 days of the date of the letter.

As a result of Stages 1.2 and 1.3, nine Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) were identified for the FSPS Expansion project (in alphabetical order):

- Barking Owl Aboriginal Corporation;
- Biamanga;
- Cullendulla
- Darug Land Observations;
- Darug Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessments;
- Didge Ngunawal Corporation;
- Goobah;

- Metropolitan LALC; and
- Murramarang

Each project RAP was provided with written details of the proposed project and the draft proposed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment methodology for the project (Stage 2 of the consultation guidelines). This letter was sent to all project RAPs in June 2019. Request was made for comment and/or review within 28 days of provision of the methodology document. A copy of the methodology document is provided in Appendix A.

All project RAPs were invited to a site visit on 13 August 2019, providing an opportunity to visit the site, and to discuss the overall project and proposed methodology. This meeting was attended by Selina Timothy (Metro LALC), Sam Cooling (Curio Projects), Sheena Duggan (JohnStaff Projects), and James Rongen-Hall (MAAS).

While an opportunity was made for project RAPs to visit the project site, no archaeological survey was able to be undertaken, due to the nature of the study area as a highly developed and urbanised site, completely covered with existing structures, building, hardstand, landscaping, therefore presenting with no potential for surface artefacts nor landscape/landform features capable of informing Aboriginal archaeological assessment, to be visible.

6.2.2. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Archaeological Significance

The FSPS Site ACHAR (Appendix B) undertook an Aboriginal cultural heritage values assessment, the Statement of Significance of which has been extracted as follows:

> *Social, cultural and spiritual values of a site can only be identified through consultation with Aboriginal people. However, it is likely that should an Aboriginal archaeological deposit be present within the study area, it would be viewed to be of high social and cultural significance by the Aboriginal community, providing a direct and tangible link to past Aboriginal life and activity in Sydney's centre.*
>
> *While little historical evidence is available regarding Aboriginal historical use of the study area and surrounds, as the highest point in Sydney Cove, Observatory Hill would likely have been a popular and/or important lookout for the local Aboriginal population. Therefore, Aboriginal archaeological deposits, if found to be located within the study area, may be of historical value.*
>
> *Should an Aboriginal archaeological deposit be found to be present within the FSPS study area, this may have moderate scientific significance for its ability to provide evidence for and insight into Aboriginal occupation and use of the Millers Point/Observatory Hill locality prior to 1788, representative of the FSPS study area as part of the wider Aboriginal cultural landscape of the Sydney Harbour Foreshore.*
>
> *The FSPS study area may have aesthetic value to the local Aboriginal community in the context of the wider Sydney Aboriginal landscape it exists in. Should Aboriginal archaeological deposits be found to be present within the FSPS study area, they may potentially have aesthetic significance for technological form of the artefacts, or as potentially considered useful for education and interpretative purposes.*

6.3. Historical Archaeological Significance

The historical archaeological test excavation report (Appendix A) undertook an assessment of the historical archaeological significance of the site, summarised as follows:

- The archaeological resource of the former surgeon's house (confirmed to be extant within the FSPS site) has the potential to provide important information from the archaeological evidence for the occupation of an element of a significant Government establishment from the early Colony. The archaeological evidence is likely to relate to several periods of different use of the structure, and surrounds, most significantly the occupation of the building by the military hospital's surgeon and/or assistant surgeon from 1815 onwards.
- Later use for the Fort Street School, while not as significant is nevertheless likely to be substantial and provide insights into the operation of this important educational establishment that are not available from historical sources.
- This site is rare as it reflects a specialist use for the first 20 or so years of its occupation. The quarters of such establishment figures as the hospital surgeon (or assistant) are uncommon. This fact and the combination of occupations, i.e. medical then educational, simply add to this site's rarity.
- The potential archaeological evidence may be further assessed as highly significant as the site, the individual occupants and the nature of their occupation are largely historically undocumented. This site may bear historical comparison with other early colonial hospital sites such as the earlier George Street hospital and the former southern wing of the 'Rum' Hospital on Macquarie Street. However, for reasons of the individual site development neither of these sites has produced substantial information related to their use and occupation by medical personnel.
- The archaeological excavation of the study area has the potential to augment our information about the early colony, the colonial elites, the medical profession, the transformation of the site for educational purposes and its use for this purpose through the latter nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
- The archaeological resource of the former surgeon's house within the FSPS site has been assessed to be potentially of State Significance.

6.4. Statement of Significance

The following Statement of Significance for the FSPS Site has been extracted from the CMP:

> *The Fort Street Public School site comprises several institutional, governmental and residential buildings in a setting that has developed from the early nineteenth century, and is a site of historical, aesthetic, and social significance.*
>
> *The Aboriginal archaeological resources within the Fort Street Public School area, if present, have the potential to contribute knowledge regarding resource gathering and subsistence strategies of Aboriginal people in the area prior to European contact. While*

midden sites are the most common Aboriginal archaeological sites recorded in the local area, a limited number have been archaeologically investigated.

The Aboriginal archaeological resources within the footprint of Fort Street Public School would have moderate significance. Although an assessment of cultural value has not been undertaken it is likely that, if present, the local Aboriginal community would view any Aboriginal archaeological deposits as being of high cultural value to the community.

The historical archaeological resource associated with the early buildings within the footprint of Fort Street Public School, the Military Hospital's surgeon's residence (later associated with the National School), the Observatory's Messenger's Cottage and associated buildings and facilities, have the potential to provide information regarding the lives of the people living and working at these early colonial institutions. Particular aspects of colonial Sydney would be demonstrated in the physical evidence of buildings and in an artefact assemblage of the detritus of everyday life discarded by military and medical personnel, teachers and students, and staff of the Observatory. An extensive artefact assemblage that may be present in wells, rubbish and / or cess pits would have the potential to provide an insight into lifestyles associated with the Military Hospital or Observatory that would contribute to substantive questions regarding institutional life in the colony. The historical archaeological resources within the foot print of Fort Street Public School have state significance.

Fort Street Public School is associated with Fort Street School, a highly significant school that was established as a National School in 1850. Although not a part of the original school site, the building is the only section of the school at Observatory Hill that continues to serve its original function. It resulted from the construction of roadworks of the historically significant City Circle railway loop viaduct and the Cahill Expressway. Fort Street Public School reflects the influence of prominent architect Harry Rembert, amongst the most significant architects to have worked in the Department of Public Works Government Architects Branch during the middle third of the twentieth century, The building is a fine, representative and generally intact example of the Inter War Functionalist style and a rare example of this style applied to public school architecture by the Government Architect's Branch. Its planning is a concise representation of public school design during the interwar period. The building is also significant for its visual contribution to the setting of Observatory Hill Park. Fort Street Public School has social significance, particularly for former pupils and is likely to have significance for parents of pupils and former staff.

The Messenger's Cottage is historically significant because of its associations with the Sydney Observatory. and because of its strong associations with the Bureau of Meteorology, which occupied it for several years between 1916 and 1922, and continued to use it after that period. The Cottage is also historically significant because it housed what has been claimed to be the first corporate childcare centre in Australia, opened in 1987. The two main nineteenth century phases of construction are associated with the office of the Colonial Architect headed by Alexander Dawson and James Barnet. The Messenger's Cottage is a representative and relatively intact example

of a modestly scaled Victorian era cottage that was built to house a government employee of the Sydney Observatory and may have some rarity value because of that. It has aesthetic significance because of its scale and picturesque massing. It is one of three comparable cottages on Observatory Hill.

Messenger's Cottage provides a tangible historical connection between the FSPS Site and the Observatory to the north, its very presence being representative of the wider connectivity and historical use of the whole of Observatory Hill from the mid 1800s onwards- many years prior to the physical boundary created by the excavation for the Cahill Expressway.

The Bureau of Meteorology building is historically significant as the first purpose-designed building to house the Bureau's activities in Sydney and possibly NSW after the formation of the Commonwealth Meteorological Bureau in 1908. It has strong historical associations with weather observations on Observatory Hill and with the former Messenger's Cottage, which housed the Bureau at the beginning of the twentieth century. It is a fine example of the work of the Department of Works and Railways under the direction of John Smith Murdoch and is a restrained and relatively intact example of the Inter War Free Classical style that demonstrates subtle refinement in the detailing of its external fabric. The Bureau of Meteorology building was built as purpose designed headquarters for the main NSW branch of the organisation and is considered to be rare both at State and National level.

The EEC (former Fanny Cohen Gymnasium) has some historical significance as the last purpose designed building to be erected at Observatory Hill for Fort Street Girls' High School and is associated with architects of the Government Architect's Branch. A relatively early post World War II school building, the EEC is considered to be representative of post-World War II school gymnasia and school halls. While it demonstrates typical characteristics of the architecture of this period, the building has little aesthetic distinction. It is understood to be a relatively uncommon example of a post-World War II school gymnasium.

6.5. Gradings of Significant Components

The CMP assesses the significance of the key elements of the FSPS Site in relation to their contribution to the overall heritage values of the place. The grading of significance provides further context of the heritage significance of each element of the site, and provides guidance for appropriate heritage management and retention/tolerance for change.

This grading of significance components is presented in Table 6.1 and Figure 6.1.

Table 6.1: Grading of significant components of Fort Street Public School Site

GRADING	DEFINITION	RECOMMENDATION	FSPS ELEMENT
Exceptional	Rare or outstanding element directly contributing to an	Retain, conserve (restore/ reconstruct) and maintain.	Potential Aboriginal and historical archaeological resources within the FSPS site curtilage

GRADING	DEFINITION	RECOMMENDATION	FSPS ELEMENT
	item's local and State significance	Intrusive elements and fabric should be removed.	Archaeological remains of former surgeons cottage (c.1815) Fort Street Public School Building (1940s) Bureau of Meteorology Building Boundary wall between Messengers Cottage/MET Building and EEC Mature Morton Bay Fig tree on eastern side of Fort Street Public School
High	High degree of original fabric. Demonstrates a key element of the item's significance. Alterations do not detract from significance.	Retain, conserve (restore/ reconstruct) and maintain. Intrusive elements and fabric should be removed. Adaptation is appropriate provided that it is in accordance with Burra Charter principles and with the specific guidelines provided in the CMP.	Messenger's Cottage
Moderate	Altered or modified elements. Elements with little heritage value, but which contribute to the overall significance of the item.	Retain, adapt and maintain. Demolition/removal may be acceptable provided that there is no adverse impact on the significance of the place.	Palisade fencing above the road circle and bounding Fort Street Public School Garages on the western side of the Bureau of Meteorology Toilets on the western side of Fort Street Public School
Little	Alterations detract from significance. Difficult to interpret.	Retain, alter or demolish/remove as required provided that there are no adverse impacts on the heritage	Former Fanny Cohen Gymnasium (EEC) Landscaping associated with the EEC

GRADING	DEFINITION	RECOMMENDATION	FSPS ELEMENT
		significance of the place. Sensitive alteration or demolition/removal may assist with enhancing the heritage significance of components of greater heritage significance.	Shade structures surrounding Fort Street Public School
Intrusive	Damaging the item's heritage significance.	Demolish/remove when the opportunity arises while ensuring there are no adverse impacts on the significance of other more significant components.	Nil

Key- Built Form Elements

1. Fort Street Public School Building
2. Shade structures surrounding FSPS
3. Mature Morton Bay Fig tree
4. Palisade fencing around Cahill Cut
5. Bureau of Meteorology Building
6. Shed near SW corner of Messenger's Cottage.
7. Messenger's Cottage
8. EEC
9. Archaeological remains of Surgeons Quarters

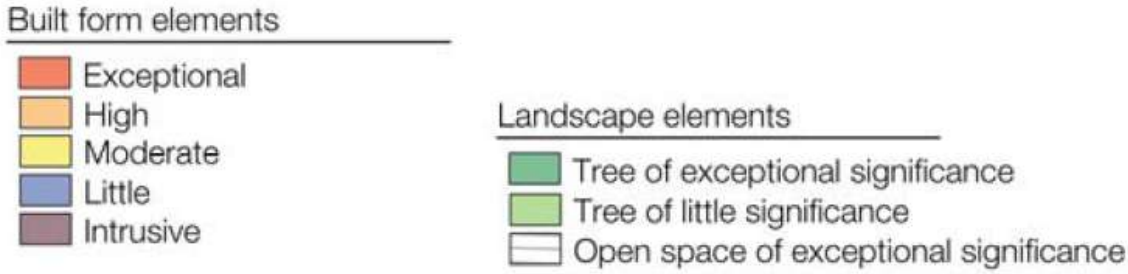

Figure 6.1: Grading of Site Components (Curio & TKD 2019)

6.6. Significant Views

The CMP has identified five key significant views in relation to the FSPS site that require consideration in any proposed development activity at the site, with respect to potential visual impact that development activities may have (Figure 6.2). Of these key views, the most significant are Views 1 (North) and 2 (East), as these vantage points best allow the relationships between the site and heritage elements of the FSPS site and the wider heritage context and connectivity, to be visually read and understood

These key views are summarised as follows:

1. *Views to and from Observatory Hill (North)*

The historical connection between the FSPS site and Sydney Observatory remains evident through the visual connection between the two sites.

2. *Views of the site from Bradfield Hwy (East)*

The FSPS is a key visual feature visible from the Bradfield Highway in the east, particularly from the northern approach (from the Harbour Bridge towards the city). Views to the FSPS site from the eastern side of the Bradfield Highway visually presents the site as part of the wider Observatory Hill precinct with clear eastern views to the site of the 1940s school building, and the Messengers Cottage The eastern side of the FSPS site as visible from the Bradfield Highway approach is characterised by the open landscaping space and low scale built context of the buildings.

3. *Views to and from Millers Point and FSPS/Observatory Hill (West)*

While significant differences in elevation and landform between the FSPS Site atop Observatory Hill and lower lying area of Millers Point means that direct visual connections between these two locations are somewhat limited, parts of the site are still partly visible from Kent Street and the wider Millers Point precinct to the west.

4. *Views to and from National Trust Building (South)*

The National Trust Building is significant in its location and connection to the FSPS Site as the former Military Hospital, and the original Fort Street Public School Building. While the visual connection between the FSPS Site and the National Trust building has been significantly impacted over time by the Cahill Cut (which has effectively created a visual and physical isolation of the site within the circle of the expressway excavation), and location of the EEC building, remaining visual connections between the FSPS Site and the National Trust Building are of heritage significance.

5. *Views to and from Harbour Bridge (Northeast)*

The Sydney Harbour Bridge is an internationally recognisable element of Sydney Harbour, dramatic and iconic in its aesthetic quality and setting. Inappropriate development within the setting of the Harbour Bridge has the potential to affect the values of the Bridge, dependent

upon the type and location of the development. Minor views of the Harbour Bridge are afforded from the eastern side of the FSPS Site.

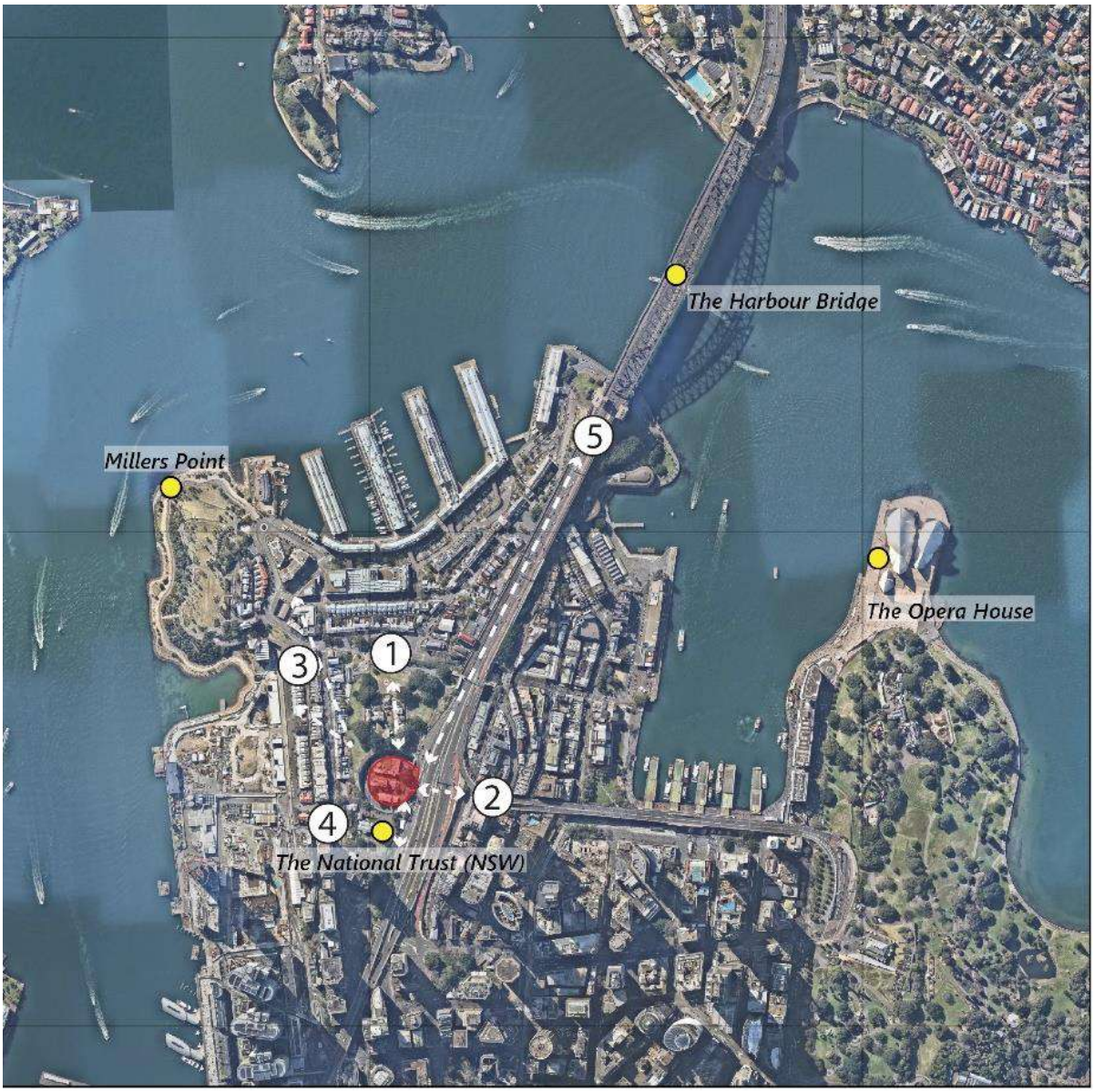

Figure 6.2: Significant External Views and Vistas (Source: Curio 2019)

7. Project Description and Proposed Works

7.1. Design Context

Architectural design of the expansion of the Fort Street Public School has been guided by many complex requirements and significant constraints that have required to be balanced throughout the process, including:

- Identification of the FSPS site in the SI Business Case as a **key public school site identified for expansion**, required to accommodate 550 students to ensure future viability of the development.
- Design required to be **developed in accordance with Department of Education (DoE) Educational Facilities Standards and Guidelines (EFSG)**, which ensures minimum standards are met and that space allocation is equitable across different schools.
- Allowance for **future flexibility** of the campus.
- **Physical constraints** of the FSPS site as effectively constrained to the small area of land contained within the circle of the Cahill Expressway on-ramp.
- Substantial **heritage significance** of the FSPS site comprising several institutional, governmental and residential buildings in a setting that has developed from the early nineteenth century, of historical, aesthetic, and social significance.
- **Wider heritage context** of the site in connection to surrounding heritage items of exceptional significance in close vicinity, including the Sydney Harbour Bridge, Sydney Observatory, and the Millers Point SHR Conservation Area.
- Significant **archaeological constraints**.

The redevelopment of Fort Street Public School has been considered by the NSW Government for a number of years, with the development of a third business case since 2014 being undertaken in 2019.

The SI Strategic Business Case for the FSPS Site[17] has identified the FSPS Site as a key school in the wider Sydney Inner-City School Community Group (SGC) cluster to be redeveloped. The design process (as lead by architects FJMT Studio) has therefore responded to the requirements of this development, as identified and stipulated by SI- most notably the three key drivers of:

- Service Need
- Asset and Site Conditions
- Precinct Opportunities.[18]

The SI Business Case has identified the age of the buildings on site currently used by the School as providing a number of complications and difficulties for ongoing use that must be addressed

[17] NSW Education, School Infrastructure June 2019, *Strategic Business Case- Fort Street Public School*, V2.1
[18] NSW Education June 2019, *Strategic Business Case*: 8

through the expansion and redevelopment of the site. The key factors for the site redevelopment as required by the Business Case are:

- Existing configuration of the main Fort Street Public School building and other teaching areas are not compatible with modern teaching practices in terms of their size and functional relationships.
- The Bureau of Meteorology building requires significant refurbishment to make it habitable. The building is deteriorating fast and may soon pose a risk to students. In the interim it requires upkeep just to keep safe and detract unauthorised access.
- Current facilities do not meet the Department of Education's cooler classrooms policy
- Current buildings do not meet modern energy efficacy standards.
- Functional open play space for children is currently below the desired 10sqm per student.[19]

Further, all new public educational projects in NSW are designed in accordance with the Department of Education (DoE) Educational Facilities Standards and Guidelines (EFSG), which ensures minimum standards are met and that space allocation is equitable across different schools. Therefore, the design has also needed to consider the existing school spaces in comparison with those required by the EFSG. The business case estimates that the FSPS site could accommodate a 'Core 21' public school in accordance with EFSG principles, i.e. a population of up to 550 students.

SI (NSW) has undertaken a Master Planning phase for the expansion of the Fort Street Public School, following which, the preferred option ('Option 01- the Aspirational Redevelopment- On-site Option (within existing site/DoE land holding)') was then further developed. The proposed design for the expansion of the FSPS site is presented in detail in the SSDA *Architectural and Urban Design Statement* (FJMT Studio 2020, Rev SSDA01), which accompanies the EIS, which this HIS report also supports.

The master planning phase included an assessment of area requirements of the EFSG for a 'Core 21' school, in comparison with existing floor area and facilities (undertaken by SHAC- Educational Architects), and therefore summarising a breakdown of required additional areas for the expansion design to meet DoE brief and requirements (Figure 7.1). This analysis provided the basis of required area required to be met by the design of the FSPS expansion.

[19] NSW Education June 2019, *Strategic Business Case*: 22

Function	Existing Area (sqm)	490 Students (Core 14)		600 Students (Core 21)		1,000 Students (Core 35)	
		Required Area (sqm)	Area Gap (sqm)	Required Area (sqm)	Area Gap (sqm)	Required Area (sqm)	Area Gap (sqm)
Home Base Unit	489	1,995	-1506	2,470	-1981	4,180	-3691
Special Education	-	386	-386	386	-386	386	-386
Library Learning Unit	72	222	-150	298	-226	378	-306
Special Programs Unit	-	38	-38	108	-108	152	-152
Communal Hall	169	252	-83	328	-159	458	-289
COLA	-	150	-150	210	-210	330	-330
Administration	210	175	35	185	25	231	-21
Staff	68	90	-22	116	-48	178	-110
Student Amenities	14	73	-59	113	-99	171	-157
Canteen	-	55	-55	79	-79	103	-103
Storage / Services	130	70	60	96	34	123	7
OSHC	-	47	-47	63	-63	63	-63
	1,152	**3,553**	**-2,401**	**4,452**	**-3,300**	**6,753**	**-5,601**

Ancillary Function	Existing Area (sqm)	Recommended Area (sqm)	Area Gap (sqm)	Recommended Area (sqm)	Area Gap (sqm)	Recommended Area (sqm)	Area Gap (sqm)
Circulation (15%)	180	533	-353	667	-487	1,013	-833
Assembly Quadrangle	-	420	-420	630	-630	630	-630
Outdoor Play Space	3,000	4,900	-1900	6,000	-3000	10,000	-7000
70% Active Play Space							
30% Passive Play Space							
	3,180	**5,853**	**-2,673**	**7,297**	**-4,117**	**11,643**	**-8,463**

Figure 7.1: School Area Core Requirements as prepared by SHAC. Core 21 indicated. Sourced from FSPS Masterplan Report, June 2019. SHAC Area Analysis, Rev01 05.03.19 : 38

7.2. Design Concept

The design concept as summarised by FJMT Architects is proposed as:

> *The concept is highly contextual and references 3 important key elements:*
>
> - *the unique location of the site as part of Observatory Hill and the desire to maintain a continuous connection to the experience of being on top of a prominent headland on Sydney Harbour*
> - *the highly significant heritage fabric*
> - *the specificity of the education model, drawing from the theories of Reggio Emilia*
>
> *The concept is a campus of buildings connected with a hierarchy of courtyards and interstitial spaces. The main courtyard which runs in an east/west direction connects all campus elements.*
>
> *The courtyards are protected yet connected back to the city and the harbour through "Visual Connectors" which run in a north/south direction. The campus is developed as a hierarchy of spaces, all of which are inter related. Every space on the site is carefully considered and has a hierarchy of public to private use.*[20]

7.3. Description of Development Works

Approval is sought for the expansion of Fort Street Public School to accommodate a total of 550 primary school students. Specifically:

[20] FJMT Studio, 31 Oct 2019, *Fort Street Public School - SSDA 10340 Architectural Design Statement Rev SSDA01*: p. 30

- **Site preparation, demolition and excavation**
    - Site remediation.
    - Demolition of the southernmost school building, the garage and storage shed west and east of the Bureau of Meteorology Building (the Met/the Met Building), and the toilet block adjoining the main school building.
    - Selective removal of various elements of the main school building, as well as minor and insignificant elements of the Met Building and the Messenger's Cottage to facilitate refurbishment and future use of these buildings.
    - Bulk excavation works to facilitate the new southern buildings and onsite detention.
    - Tree removal.
    - Installation of hydraulic and electrical services.
- **Land use**
    - Use of all buildings for the purpose of a school.
- **Existing buildings**
    - Retention, refurbishment and extension of the existing Fort Street Public School, including construction of a new roof and rooftop additions.
    - Retention and refurbishment of the MET Building and internal alterations and additions.
    - Retention and minor alterations and additions to the Messenger's Cottage.
- **Construction of New buildings**
    - Construction of one new building on the western part of the site for a staff room.
    - Construction of two new, interconnected school buildings on the southern third of the site.
    - Construction of a new communal hall and canteen building.
- **Landscaping**
    - Retention of the existing large fig tree.
    - Landscaping works throughout the site, including construction of a new amphitheatre, new central plaza, and a multi-purpose forecourt.
    - Landscaping of roof gardens on top of the new southern buildings and the existing MET Building.
- **Other works**
    - Works to the existing entrance road, including alterations to the existing Bradfield Tunnel Services Building.
    - Modifications to existing pick-up / drop-off arrangements.
    - Provision of signage zones.
    - Installation of on-site detention tanks.[21]

[21] Ethos Urban 2020, *Environmental Impact Statement, Upper Fort St, Millers Point, Fort Street Public School*, Revised draft February 2020.

The development proposes to increase the school population capacity from its current population of 219, to 550 students, to consist of 24 'Home Base' units of 23 students each. The existing gross floor area of the school site is 2,073.9m^2, which will be increased to 4,023m^2. [22]

The masterplan and business case options also concluded that there were suitable locations on the site to place an additional building to house additional Home Base Units to the western edge of the site, as well as potential for a new footbridge connection across the Cahill Cutting/Expressway to the western edge of the site. Both of these potential elements are excluded from the current proposal, but have been preserved and referenced within the design as 'future potential growth opportunities for the school', but ensuring only 'soft' elements are proposed in these locations that could readily be altered in future to 'unlock the growth potential'.[23]

FJMT describes the overall development proposal for the FSPS site as:

> *best described as a number of elements - it is a true campus of connected places. The layout of the new buildings was informed by a number of over arching site strategies which were developed during the initial stages of the project.*
>
> *The buildings sit within a careful considered landscape providing a series of interconnected courtyards and interstitial spaces, external spaces of the campus are as important as the internal spaces, forming a network of experiences for the students.*[24]

Following from this, the built form of the new campus development has been classified into four main elements:

- The *Community Hub*. Consisting of:
  - Communal Hall (New Building G)
  - Library (Building M- the MET Building)
  - Administration (Building C- the Messenger's Cottage)
- The *Staff Hub*. Consisting of:
  - Administration BOH (Level G Building H)
  - Staff Lounge & Work Zone (Building D)
  - New Building F
- The *Learning Hubs*. Consisting of:
  - Fort Street School Building (Building A and D)
  - New Buildings J & H

The Observatory Hill Environmental Education Centre, previously proposed to be housed on is site, is to be retained in its current Gloucester Street accommodation offsite until such time as the facility on the FSPS site can be procured in a future phase of works.

Campus landscape elements will include:

- Central Courtyard

[22] FJMT Studio, 20 Feb 2020, *Fort Street Public School - SSDA 10340 Architectural Design Statement Rev SSDA01*: p. 4
[23] FJMT 2020: 36
[24] FJMT 2020: 30

- Multi-Purpose Forecourt
- Western Play Court
- Cottage Garden
- Linear Outdoor Play
- Green Colonnades
- Perimeter Pocket Parks; and
- Heritage Connector.

The FJMT Architectural Design Statement has assigned letters to each of the buildings on site for ease of reference through the design process as noted above and depicted in Figure 7.2.

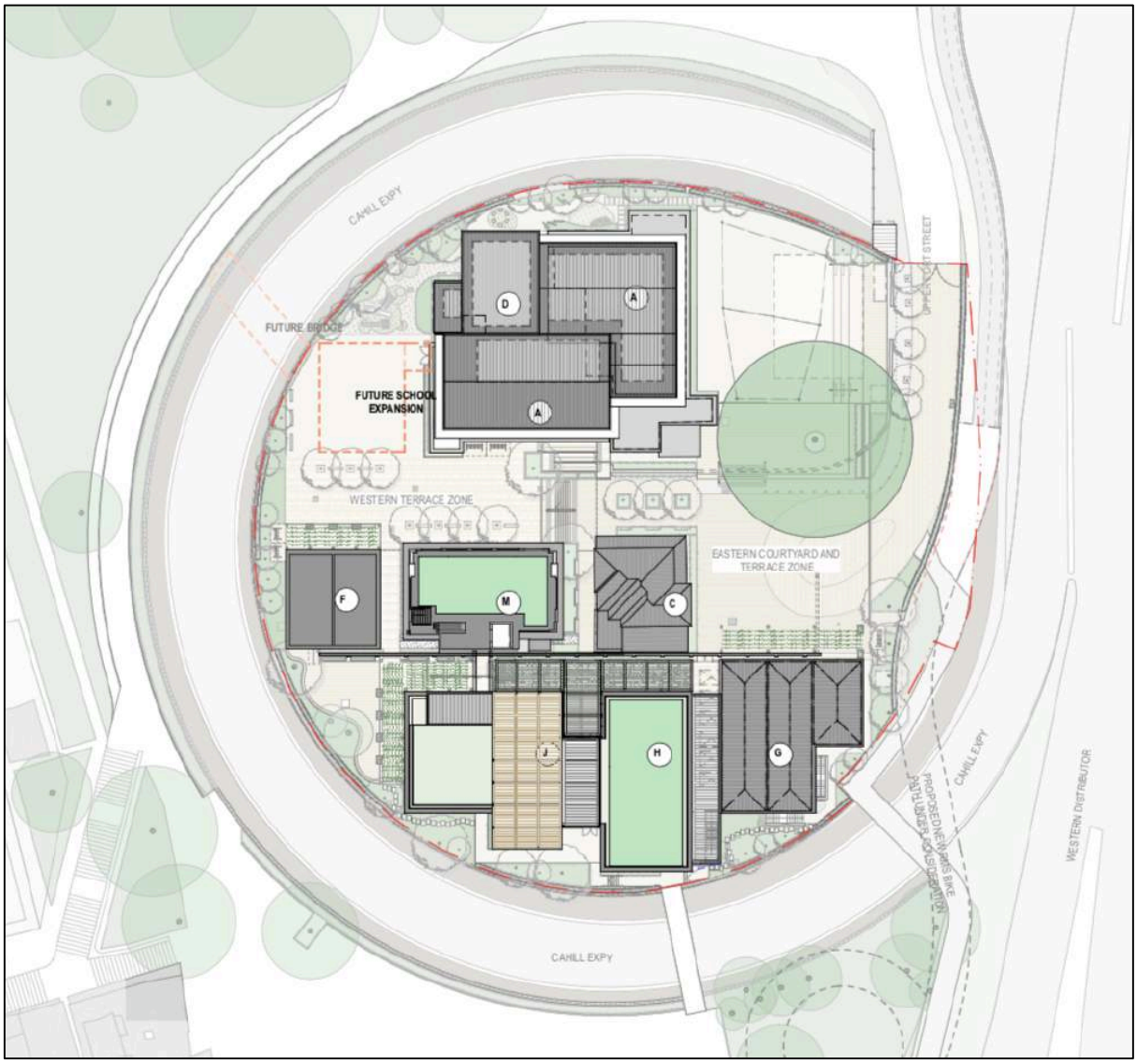

Figure 7.2: Proposed Site Plan- Buildings Labelled (Source: FJMT 2019, DWG DA-1211, SSDA01, 18.12.19)

Figure 7.3 to Figure 7.22 below present the proposed plans and renders for FSPS development.

Figure 7.3: Aerial View of the Proposed Fort Street Public School Site (Source: FJMT, SSDA 10340 Architectural Design Statement Rev SSDA01, 20.2.2020: p.5)

Figure 7.4: View of proposed FSPS site – Buildings C, G, H, J and M (Source: FJMT, SSDA 10340 Architectural Design Statement Rev SSDA01, 20.2.2020: p.7)

Figure 7.5: View of proposed FSPS site – Buildings A and D (Source: FJMT, SSDA 10340 Architectural Design Statement Rev SSDA01, 20.2.2020: p.29)

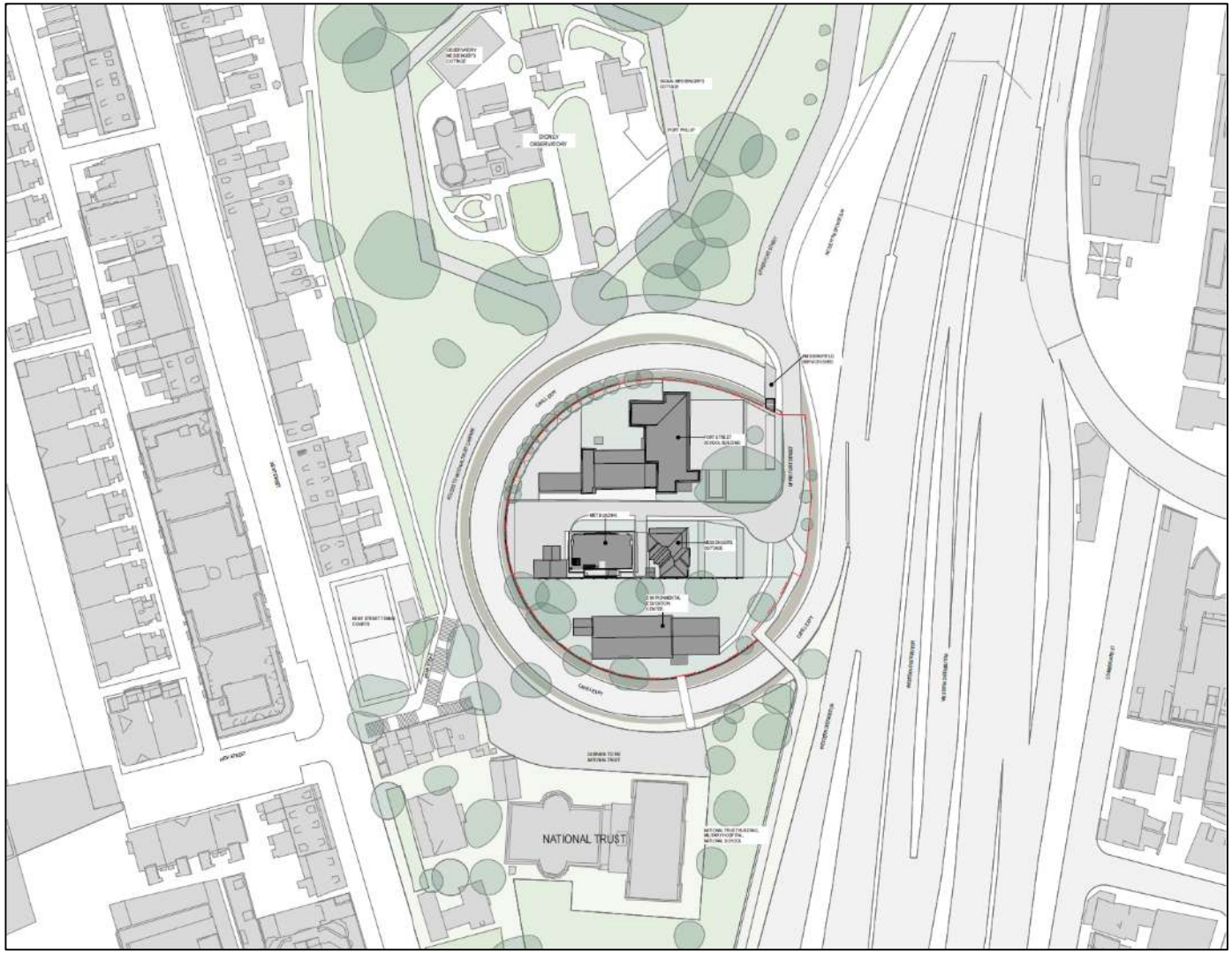

Figure 7.6: Existing Site Plan (Source: FJMT Studio, 18.12.2019)

Figure 7.7: Proposed Site Plan (Source: FJMT Studio, DWG DA-1211, 18.12.2019)

Figure 7.8: Proposed Lower Ground Floor 1 Plan (Source: FJMT Studio, DWG DA-2001, 18.12.2019)

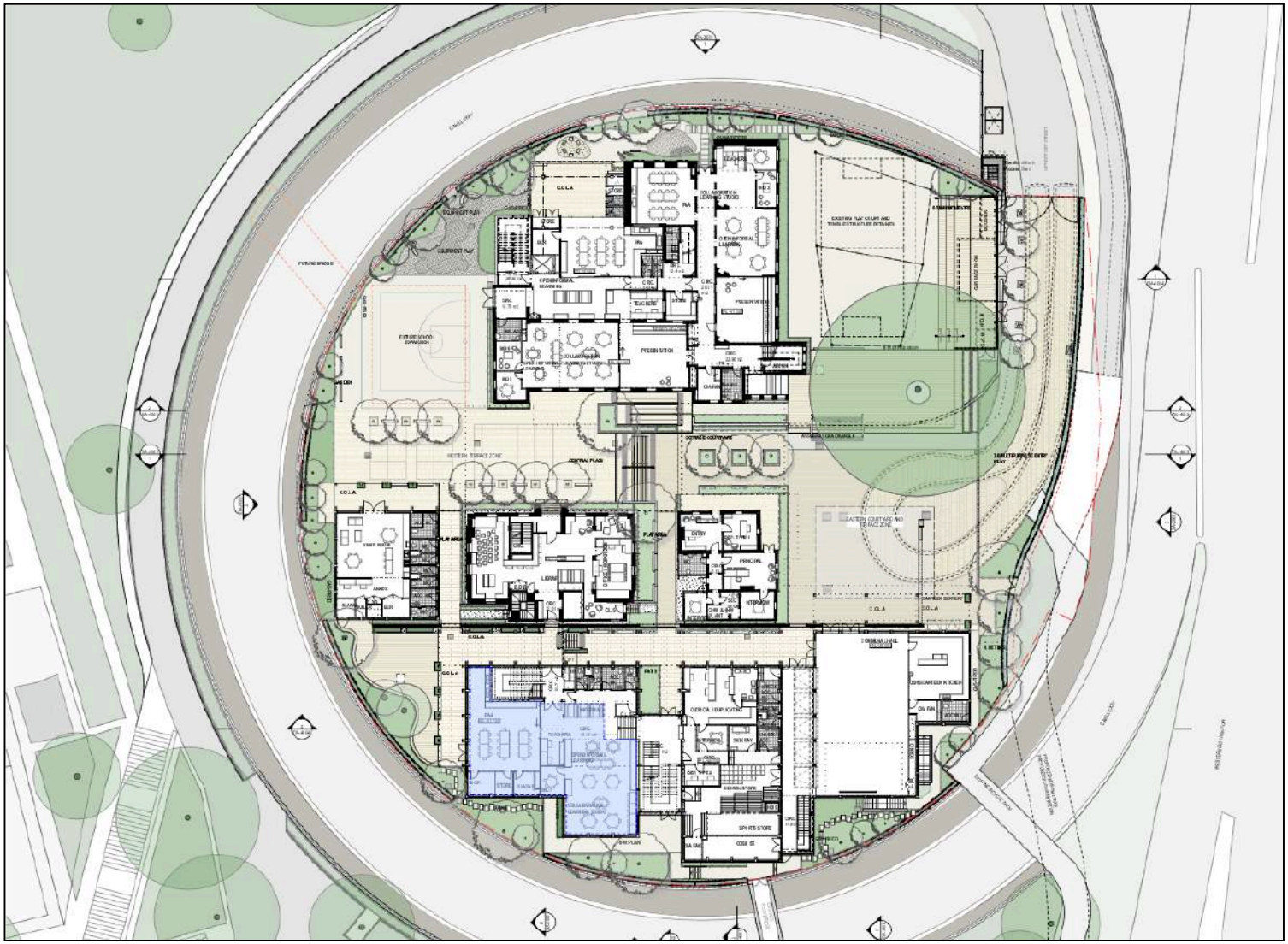

Figure 7.9: Proposed Ground Floor Plan (Source: FJMT Studio, DWG DA-2002, 18.12.2019)

Figure 7.10: Proposed Level 1 Plan (Source: FJMT Studio, DWG DA-2003, 18.12.2019)

Figure 7.11: Proposed Level 2 Plan (Source: FJMT Studio, DWG DA-2004, 18.12.2019)

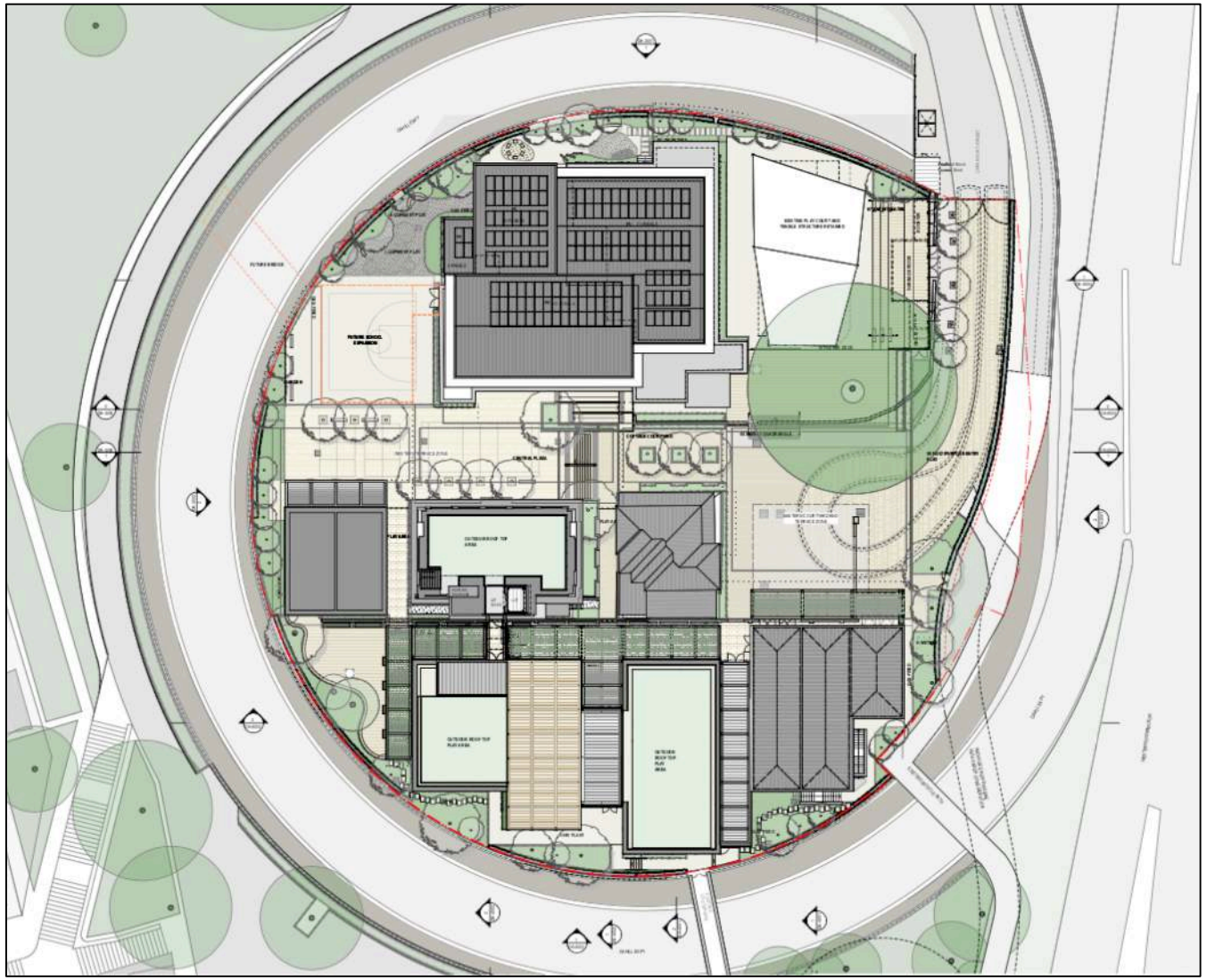

Figure 7.12: Proposed Roof Plan (Source: FJMT Studio, DWG DA-2005, 18.12.2019)

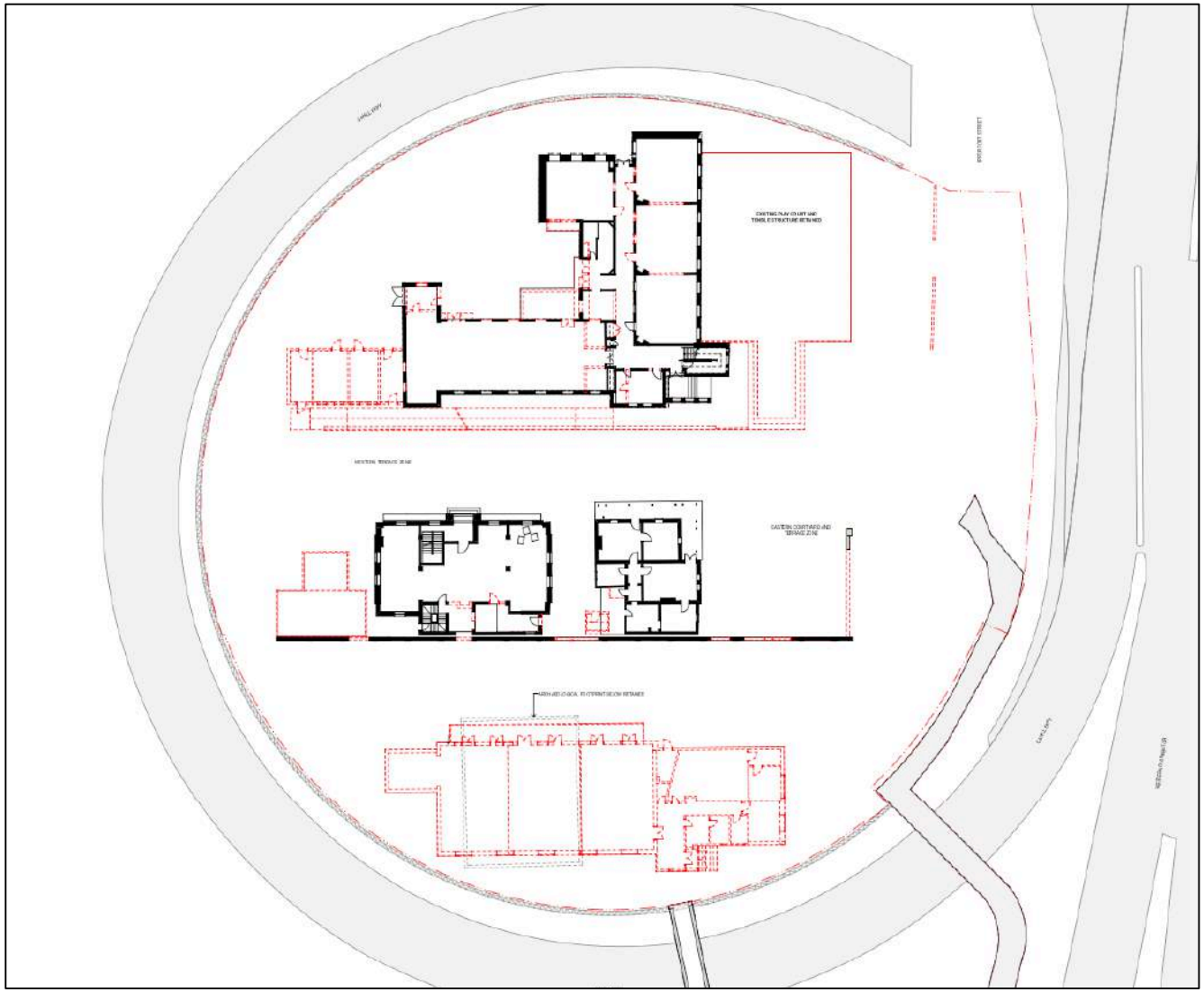

Figure 7.13: Demolition Plan – Ground Floor (Source: FJMT Studio, DWG DA-2101, 18.12.2019)

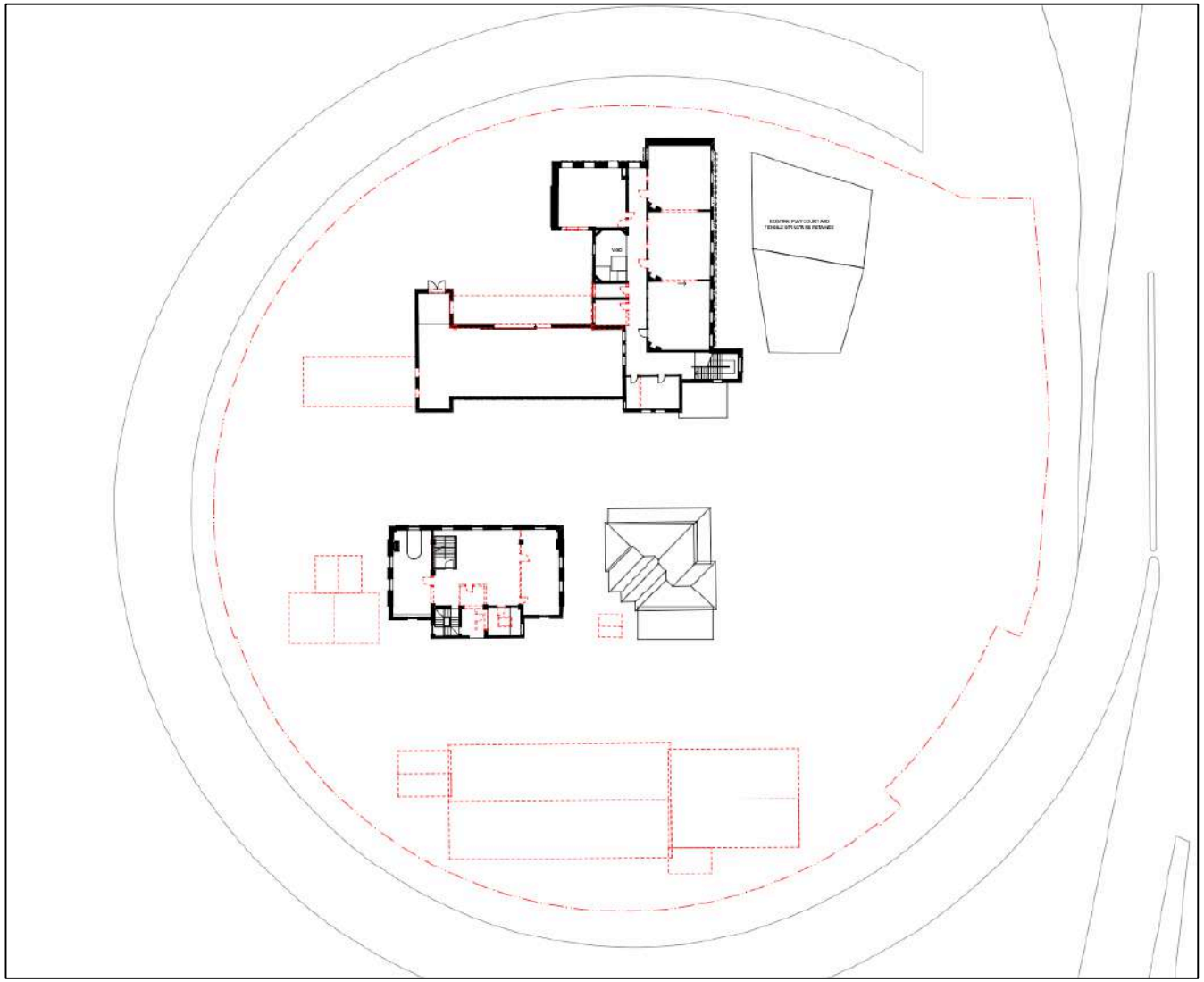

Figure 7.14: Demolition Plan – Level 1 (Source: FJMT Studio, DWG DA-2102, 18.12.2019)

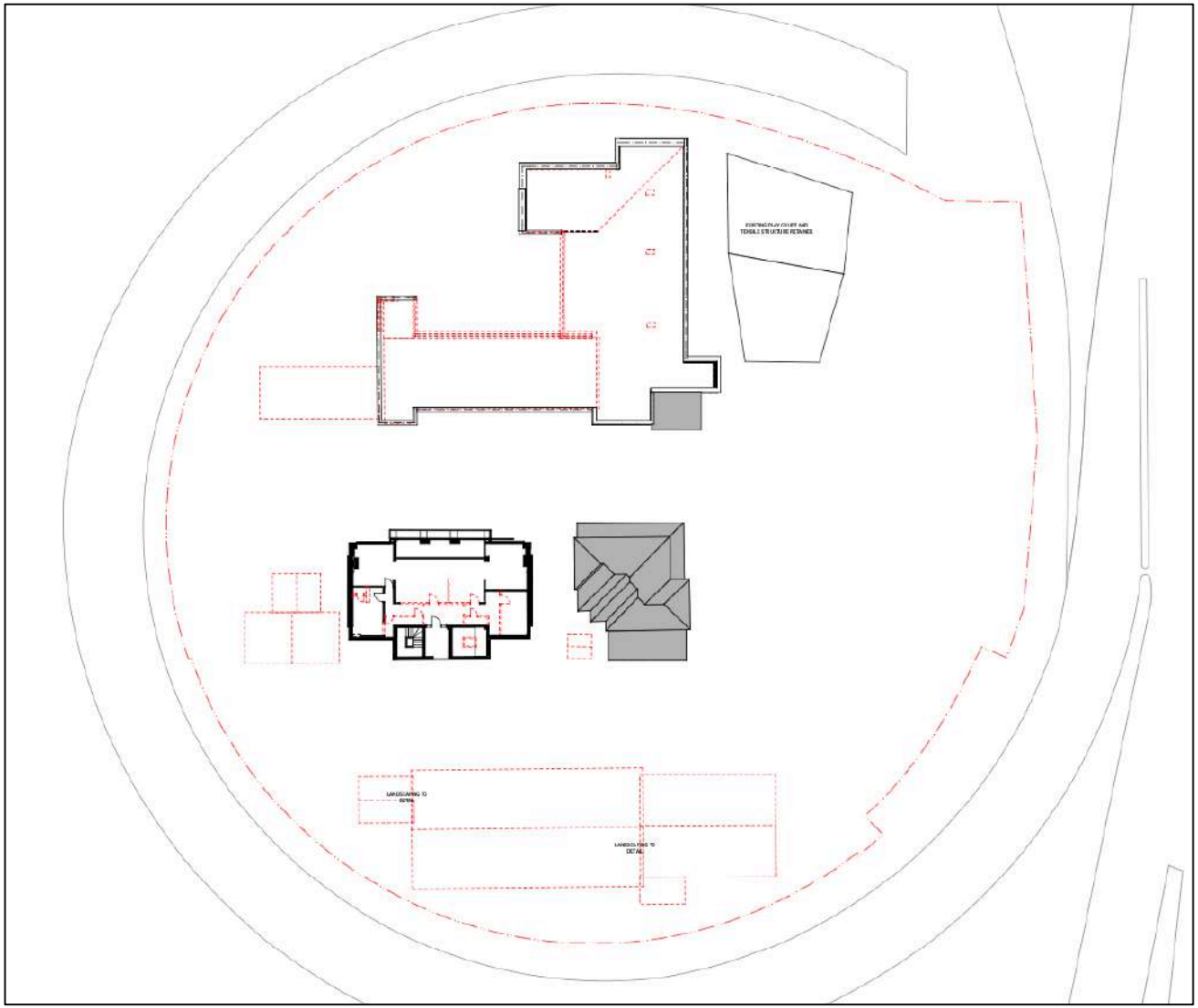

Figure 7.15: Demolition Plan – Level 2 (Source: FJMT Studio, DWG DA-2103, 18.12.2019)

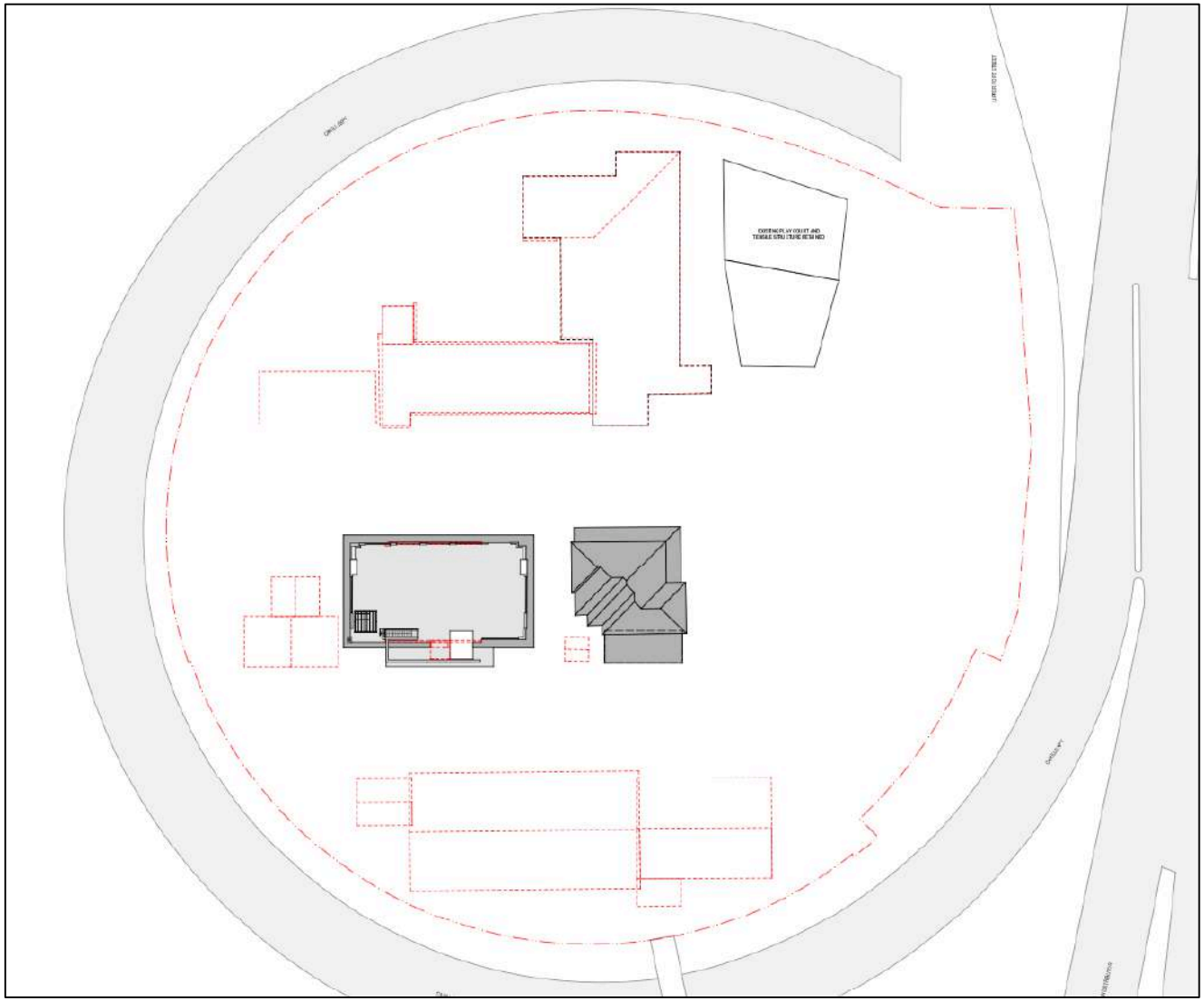

Figure 7.16: Demolition Plan – Roof (Source: FJMT Studio, DWG DA-2104, 18.12.2019)

Figure 7.17: Proposed Building A and Cottage Sections (Source: FJMT Studio, DWG DA-4001, 18.12.2019)

Figure 7.18: Proposed C.O.L.A. and MET Sections (Source: FJMT Studio, DWG DA-4002, 18.12.2019)

Figure 7.19: Proposed Main Street South and North Sections (Source: FJMT Studio, DWG DA-4003, 18.12.2019)

Figure 7.20: Proposed Buildings A-D and Buildings G-J Sections (Source: FJMT Studio, DWG DA-4003, 18.12.2019)

Figure 7.21: Proposed North and East Elevations (Source: FJMT Studio, DWG DA-3001, 18.12.2019)

Figure 7.22: Proposed South and West Elevations (Source: FJMT Studio, DWG DA-3002, 18.12.2019)

7.4. Materiality and Colour

Proposed materials and colours for the FSPS development have been selected to provide a balance between requirements to be economical, functional, durable and sustainable, while being complimentary and commensurate with the materiality, heritage character, and aesthetic of the existing heritage items and setting. Colours have been selected to reference both the existing built forms and landscape, generally responding to the immediate context of the site location in which they are proposed. The function of the FSPS site as a school also requires the application of colours that reflect nature, therefore the colour palette for the development has generally been developed of subtle shades both internally and externally. The development proposes the use of timber, clear glazing, lightweight metal cladding and aluminium, textured brickwork and sandstone paving in predominantly neutral and natural tones (Figure 7.23).

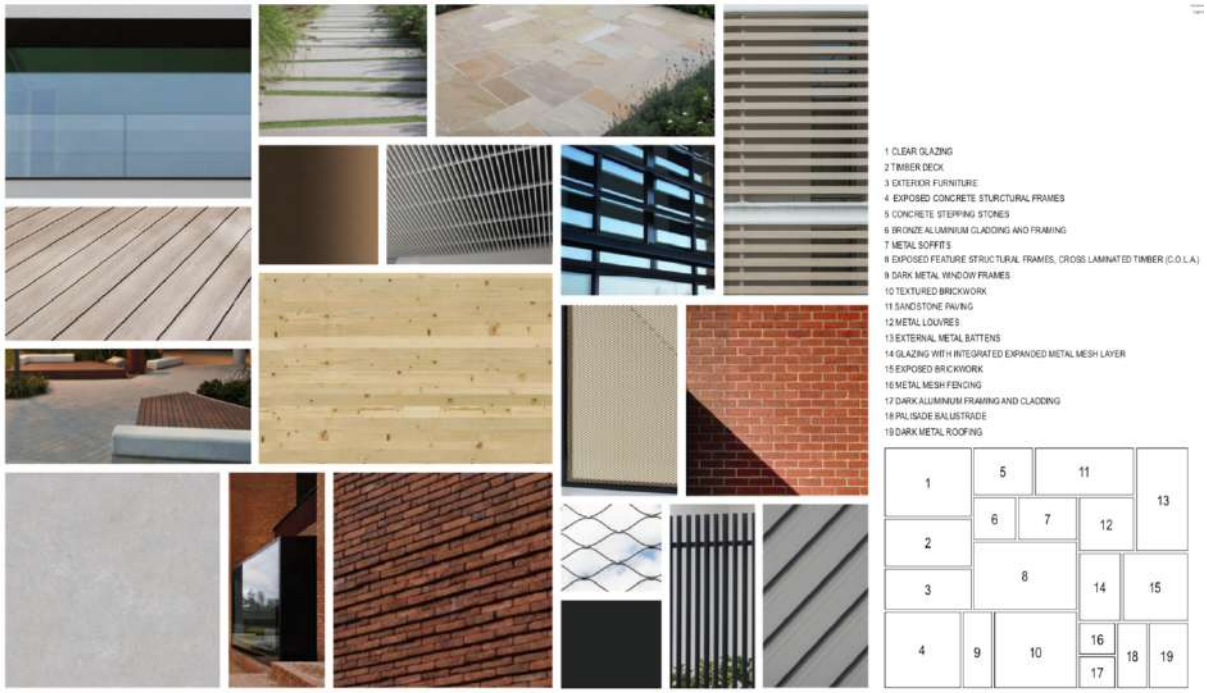

Figure 7.23: Schedules, Exterior Finishes Samples (Source: FJMT Studio, DWG DA-9011, 18.12.2019)

8. Assessment of Heritage Impact

The following section provides an assessment of the potential for the Fort Street Public School expansion project to present any heritage impact in its locational, built, and archaeological context. This assessment has been undertaken in relation to any potential impact to built heritage items in the vicinity of the site, as well as in relation to potential archaeological impact (both Aboriginal and historical), and potential impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage values.

8.1. Physical Impacts

8.1.1. Demolition and Bulk Excavation

The design proposes the demolition of the following key existing site elements (Figure 8.1):

- Existing EEC building (southernmost building on the site)
- Modern garage and storage shed located to the west and east of the MET Building respectively
- Toilet block located to the west of the existing school building
- Existing school playground in the northwest (existing play court and tensile structure east of main school building to be retained).

Other minor demolition works will include the removal of the existing driveway surface, pathways, curbs and associated landscaping elements across the site.

Key demolition works as described above relate to non-heritage listed site elements only, predominantly relating to modern and/or minor items that have been assessed to have moderate or little heritage significance in the context of the wider FSPS Site (as per the CMP and gradings of significant components, see Section 6.5).

The proposed demolition of the above elements of the existing site will have no major physical impact to heritage fabric, nor will they present any adverse impacts on the heritage significance of the FSPS Site in its immediate and surrounding heritage context.

The design also proposes bulk excavation works to facilitate the construction of the new southern buildings (i.e. a new basement level for Building G- Communal Hall- in the southeast of the site). As bulk excavation works will mainly present potential impacts to archaeological resources, they are discussed in further detail in Section 8.3 below.

Proposed demolition works that will impact heritage items and elements are addressed individually in Section 8.1.2 below.

Figure 8.1: Ground Floor Demolition Plan (Source: FJMT Studio, DA-2101, SSDA01, 18.12.2019

8.1.2. Heritage Buildings/Built Elements

All three of the heritage listed buildings located within the FSPS Site (Fort Street Public School, Messenger's Cottage and MET building) will be retained through the proposed development. Sensitive adaptation including additions and alterations are proposed for all three heritage items to facilitate refurbishment and ongoing/future use of these buildings as part of the school.

As part of the design process, heritage architects Purcell were commissioned by SI to provide advice relating to heritage condition and opportunities, as well as to advise on the likely scope of conservation works required.[25] This advice was incorporated into the design process, and has been addressed through this HIS as relevant.

The physical impacts to each of the existing heritage built elements are summarised and assessed in the following sub-sections.

[25] Purcell 2019, *Fort Street Public School- Concept Design Scope of Conservation Works (DRAFT).* Report to SI, 13 November 2019.

Fort Street School Building

The development will retain the existing heritage façade of the Fort Street School Building, including repair and make good to existing of all existing brickwork, pointing, concrete feature elements, metal drainage elements etc, where required (as recommended by Purcell).

The main physical impacts proposed by the design to the existing Fort Street School Building are:

- Construction of a new in-fill addition building to northwest of existing school building (referred to as 'Building D'), accommodating a new lift and access/egress stair
    - Associated internal demolition and modifications to connect existing building with new
- Demolition of existing roof, construction of additional storey (across both Building A and D)- inserted behind the parapet of the existing fabric.
- Construction of new roof across Building A & D, including new skylight area above existing assembly hall
- Replacement of existing non-original windows with new acoustic windowsets
- Internal demolition and modification works including:
    - New penetrations in internal walls dividing existing eastern classrooms on ground and first floors to open up bounding walls.)
    - Removal of internal windows to central hallway and demolition of wall beneath to floor level
    - Penetration in northern wall of existing assembly hall to allow connection with new additions
    - Demolition of store-room and canopy adjacent to northern wall of assembly hall (later intrusive addition)
    - Modifications to ground and first floor storerooms (west along corridor) and office/staff rooms on ground and first floors respectively (south)
    - Removal of doors from assembly hall north to playground to facilitate connection with new central building addition

The main southeastern staircase and the stained-glass window within it will also be retained.

While the internal modifications and demolition of fabric proposed for the existing school building have been minimised as much as possible, these works are required to connect the existing building to the new additions, as well as to incorporate space requirements for contemporary learning methodologies (i.e. targetting EFSG requirements).

Internal modification works proposed for fabric assessed in the CMP as being of 'exceptional' significance includes: penetrations in the eastern wing classroom walls; removal of central corridor windows and wall underneath to ground level; and penetration in northern wall of assembly hall.

With respect to fabric of exceptional heritage significance, the CMP states that 'adaptation is appropriate, provided that it is in accordance with the Burra Charter principles and with the specific guidance as provided in the CMP'. While these works will impact significant heritage

fabric, all demolition works have been minimised as much as possible, using penetrations and widening of existing openings only as required to facilitate the feasibility of the development and connections with new buildings, as opposed to complete demolition of walls.

Other impacts to the existing fabric of the existing school building assessed by the CMP to be of moderate significance includes modifications to the walls of the western store rooms (ground and first floor)- fabric assessed to be of lesser heritage significance due to later modifications in these locations; and demolition of the western toilet block (Figure 8.3). These modification works will present no adverse impact on the heritage significance of the place, and are therefore considered acceptable and a neutral physical impact to fabric.

The store-room along the northern wall of the existing assembly hall has been assessed as 'intrusive' fabric, the demolition of which will be a positive physical impact to the overall significance of the heritage item (Figure 8.4).

Overall, while the design will pose some physical impact to heritage fabric of significance within the existing school building, these impacts have been minimised as much as possible by the design (i.e. the use of penetrations in existing walls as opposed to total demolition and replacement), with the remaining physical impacts identified by the design as being necessary to enable the connection between the existing school building and the north additions to the north.

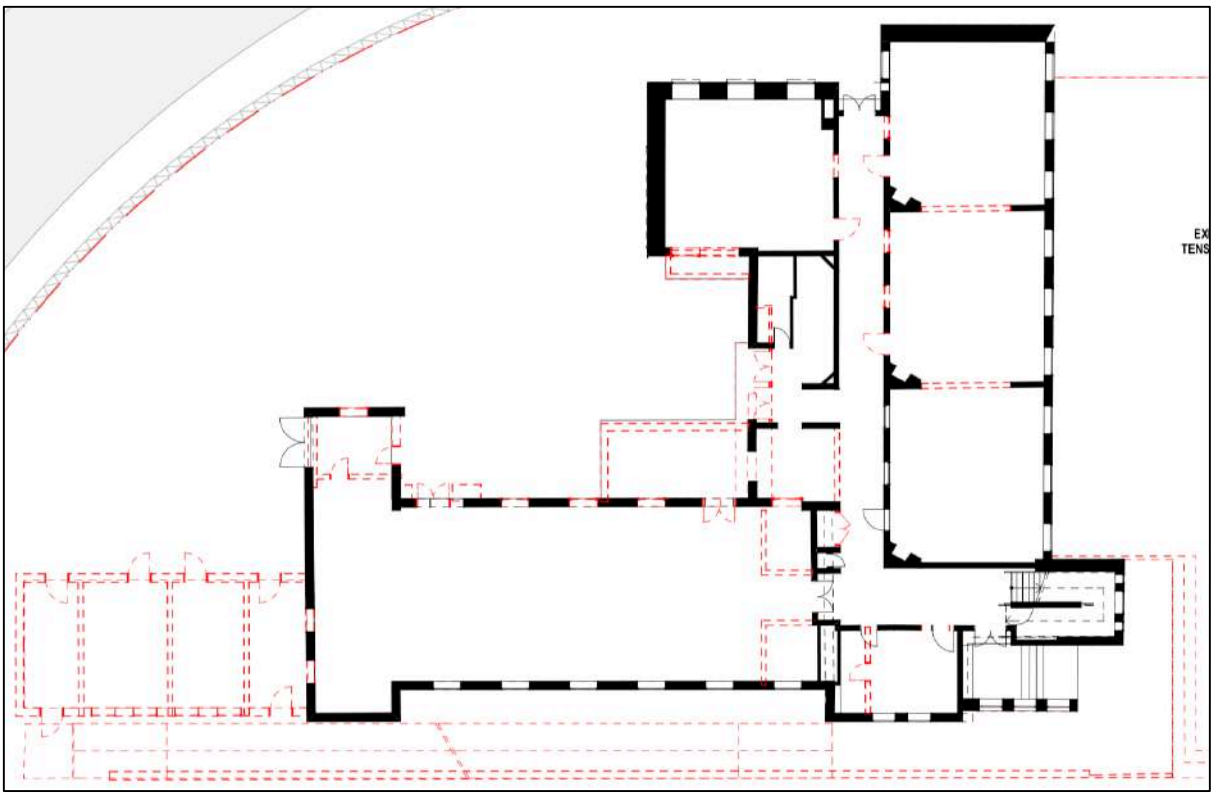

Figure 8.2: Fort Street School Building (A) Ground Floor Demolition Plan (Source: FJMT DA-2101, SSDA01, 18.12.19)

Figure 8.3: Western toilet block proposed for demolition is inconsistent with the scale and form of the main building

Figure 8.4: Intrusive Store room along north of assembly hall proposed for demolition

Messenger's Cottage

As the centrepiece of the new Central Plaza, the Messenger's Cottage will continue to be utilised as the 'Front of House Administration' for the FSPS (consistent with its current use). The existing heritage façade will be retained, with all existing brickwork, ashlar treatments and timber elements repaired and made good to existing where required in accordance with heritage architect's instructions.

Minimal physical intervention is proposed for the Messenger's Cottage, with only very minor modifications and additions proposed namely in the demolition of the southwest WC, and the construction of a small extension to the southwest of the Cottage to slightly expand the floor area and provide an additional interview room (also facilitated by the demolition of the southeastern shed- which is a later addition to the site of little heritage significance). The development will retain the existing room configuration of the Cottage (Figure 8.5). A future management solution will be required for this building to address accessibility.[26]

While the southwestern extension will presumably require some minor physical interface with the Messenger's Cottage for support, it has been designed as a lightweight 'verandah-style' structure to sit in behind the existing cottage wall, utilising an existing southeast doorway. Overall, the proposed development will present only a minor to neutral physical impact to the Messenger's Cottage- as required to attach and support the new extension. The nature of the methodology for attachment/construction of the extension will require further investigation through the design development to minimise physical impact to fabric through the construction of the extension.

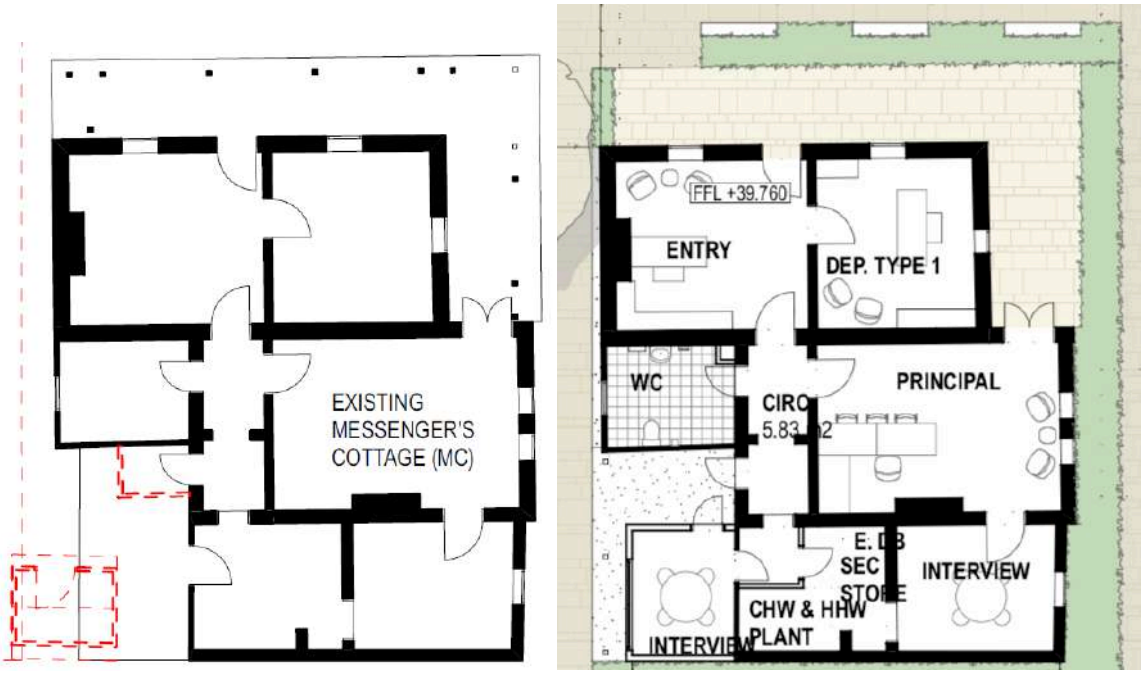

Figure 8.5: Existing/Demolition plan for Messenger's Cottage (left) in comparison with proposed (right) (Source: FJMT DA-2101 and DA-2002, 18.12.19)

MET Building

The MET Building is not currently in use, and has been assessed by Purcell (heritage architects) to be in an 'extremely poor state of repair…[and] requires emergency repair work to make it safe to enter and to prevent further deterioration'.[27] The design proposes to restore and refurbish

[26] FJMT 2020: 36
[27] Purcell 2019: 13

the MET Building, and undertake works for its adaptive re-use as the Library for the FSPS.[28] The main access to the MET Building will be directly from the Central Courtyard to its north, with a secondary new access provided via a new lightweight bridge connecting south to Building J. The majority of the existing heritage façade of the MET Building will be retained.

The main physical interventions to the MET Building will include:

- Repair and make-good of all existing brickwork and timber elements (in accordance with recommendations and instructions from experienced heritage architects).
- Demolition of some internal walls and doorways on ground, first and second floors to allow functional use of the building as the FSPS library.
- Localised intervention to the southern external façade to facilitate construction of a new transparent light-weight bridge connecting the MET to Building J to the south (Figure 8.6).
- Construction of a new lift within the existing eastern stairwell to provide equitable access to rooftop of the building, including construction of an enclosing structure to the lift overrun on the roof, providing shelter to the lift accessway and Lobby space (visible in Figure 8.6).
- Rooftop open recreation area and managed garden including new safety balustrade set back from the parapet.

Inclusion of a new lift within the development is required to meet equitable access requirements (i.e. DDA Act etc) across the new southern campus of the FSPS Site. Following heritage advice, the design has located the lift within the existing volume of the eastern stairwell of the MET Building, in order to minimise below ground impacts in the southern part of the site (i.e. locations consistent with the archaeological footings of the former Surgeon's Cottage) and minimise impact to heritage fabric. A new enclosing structure is also proposed to be constructed on the roof of the MET Building to provide shelter to the lift overrun and accessway. The installation of the lift within the MET Building will require minor demolition of heritage fabric, however, considering the poor state of conservation of the building (and the significant restoration works required), this is considered to be an acceptable minor physical impact.

The location of the new lift within the MET Building is also consistent with the requirements of the development as a functional school site- located within the 'public zone' of the site, ensuring that the required security of the school 'Learning Hubs' is not compromised by public access.

The construction of the new 'connecting COLA' (lightweight bridge) connecting the MET Building to new southern Building J has been devised as a solution to the level changes across the site in an east-west direction, while providing a protected interstitial space for school use.

The new 'connecting COLA' will also require some minor impact to the heritage fabric of the southern façade of the MET Building, however this is proposed to be minimised as much as possible- using existing windows and penetrations where feasible (Figure 8.7). The heritage brickwork and timber window facades of the MET Building will be retained, with a new minor

[28] N.B. At the time of writing, the MET Building is not accessible for detailed physical assessment of condition, and therefore physical interventions proposed by the design may need to be reassessed based on further due diligence works, once able to be completed

penetration in the southern wall on the first floor to provide access to the lightweight bridge (as well as a new penetration on the ground floor providing access south to the COLA below) (Figure 8.8).

Overall, while the proposed development works will require physical impact to heritage fabric of the MET Building (minimised as much as possible through the design), these negative physical impacts will on balance be far outweighed by the positive physical impacts of the significant restoration and repair works proposed to be undertaken to conserve and restore function to the building.

Figure 8.6: New bridge connection proposed between MET Building and new Building J and roof-top lift pavilion- Elevation view west (Source: FJMT 'Façade Diagrams, DA-5907, SSDA-01, 18.12.19)

Figure 8.7: Existing southern façade of MET Building. Existing penetrations to be used in new southern bridge connection visible (Source: Curio 2019)

Figure 8.8: Detail of southern façade connection with new bridge (Source: FJMT Studio 2020: 65)

Boundary Wall

While the existing heritage boundary wall will be retained through the development, the design proposes five new penetrations in the wall to facilitate necessary connection and access between areas of the site (including reticulation of new underground services)- particularly to the new buildings in the south (Figure 8.9 to Figure 8.11). While the penetrations will have a physical impact to heritage fabric, the dimensions of the penetrations have been minimised as much as possible through the design. The design has assessed the penetrations in the heritage boundary wall as being critical to the future functionality of the expansion of the site.

In an effort to respond to the acknowledged physical impacts to the heritage boundary wall, the design has developed a strategy/methodology for the required penetrations in order to minimise physical and visual impacts to the wall as much as possible, while facilitating the necessary pedestrian passage between the north and south of the site. All new penetrations in the fabric of the wall will be carefully detailed as to identify new vs heritage fabric (discussed further in Visual Impact section below), and have been designed to be reversible as much as possible.

While the orientation of the boundary wall has remained consistent since the mid 1800s, the physical fabric of the wall has been subject to numerous alterations, additions and renovations (presented in Figure 8.12). Therefore the primary heritage significance of this wall is considered to relate more to its presence and general orientation since the 1830s (and the historical significance represented by this) over its physical fabric, and therefore sensitive physical modifications are overall considered to be an acceptable minor physical impact to the fabric of the wall, so long as the orientation and physical dominance of the wall are maintained.

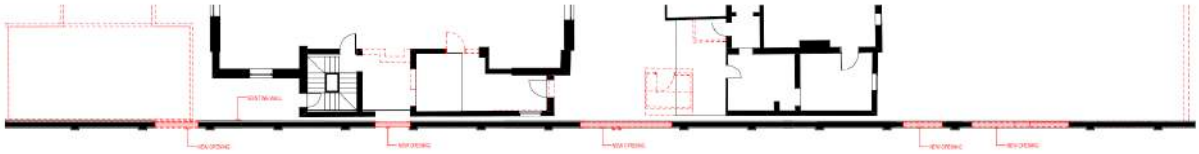

Figure 8.9: Proposed penetrations along heritage wall to connect northern and southern sections of site (Source: FJMT, DA-5001, SSDA01, 18.12.19)

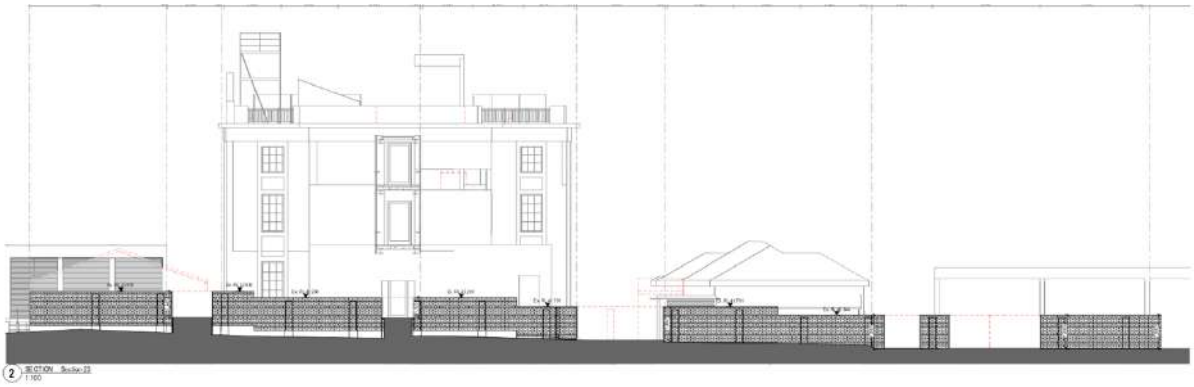

Figure 8.10: Section view north (Source: FJMT, DA-5001, SSDA01, 18.12.19)

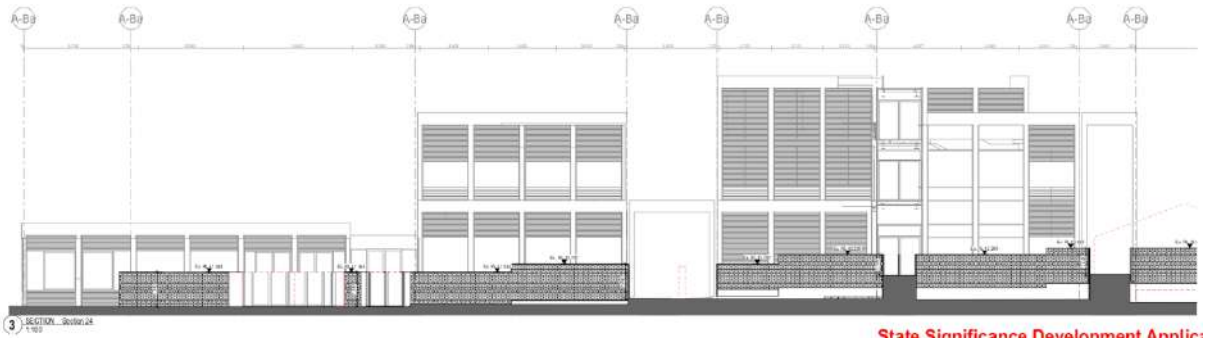

Figure 8.11: Section view south (Source: FJMT, DA-5001, SSDA01, 18.12.19)

Figure 8.12: Varying stages of construction, modification and repair of boundary wall

8.1.3. New Buildings and Structures

The design proposes the construction of four new buildings to the FSPS Site (Buildings F, G, H & J) as well as a new addition to the existing school building (Building D- addressed in conjunction with the existing school building). These new structures include:

- One new building in west of site for staff facilities. (Building F);
- Two new, interconnected school buildings on southern third of the site (Buildings H & J);
- New communal hall and canteen building (Building G);
- A new covered 'breezeway' zone to connect new Buildings J and H in the south with the MET Building to the north, and new Building G to the east;
- Other Covered Outdoor Learning Areas (COLA) located in a number of areas across the site; and

- New amphitheatre in the northeast of the site (to the east of the existing school building), abutting the existing canvas-roofed COLA.

The supporting structure for the covered 'breezeway' zone will be offset from the heritage boundary wall, avoiding physical impact to the wall while also providing a zone for planting. This covered zone will also function as an additional COLA for the school due to its acoustic protection.

Generally, the construction of new buildings and structures will have no physical impact to heritage fabric (other than those that will impact the heritage boundary wall, or require interface with existing heritage items- which are addressed in direct relation to the heritage elements themselves in the relevant sections of this report). Therefore, the main consideration for the new buildings and structures within the FSPS site will be potential visual impacts- addressed in Section 8.2 below.

8.1.4. Services

In order to minimise physical impact of the required services for the development on the existing heritage items within the FSPS site, service reticulation locations have been carefully considered, and generally located within new built elements where possible, or via carefully selected entry points into heritage items.

The key physical elements associated with installation and reticulation of new services for the development (with respect to heritage impact assessment) will be:

- Demolition of existing power supply and electrical infrastructure on site, provision of new infrastructure.
- Installation of a new below ground On-Site Stormwater Detention (OSD) tank- to be located east of the Messengers Cottage.
- New service trenching and below ground pipework.
- New photovoltaic solar cells on the roof of the additions to Building A and battery provisions in the Lower Ground Floor of Building G.
- New centralised Chilled and Hot Water Heating plants on top of Building J within a louvered enclosure.
- Modifications to the existing Bradfield Services Building in northeast of the site,- required to address the 'pinch-point' on Upper Fort Street at the access point to the school.

As the works proposed relating to new services for the site will mainly involve potential visual and archaeological impacts (rather than physical impacts to heritage fabric), the impact of the services are assessed in detail within the relevant Visual and Archaeological Impact sections below.

8.1.5. Landscaping

The SSDA Landscape Design report identifies landscape principles for the FSPS Site, effectively zoning the landscaping of the site into seven key categories: multi-purpose forecourt (1); fig tree

deck/ampitheatre (2); cottage garden - shade lunch area (3); linear outdoor play (4); perimeter pocket play (5); green colonnades (6); and heritage outdoor corridor (7) (Figure 8.13).

More generally, the key landscaping works proposed for the FSPS Site includes:

- Retention of existing mature Fig (heritage significance) in northeast of site
- Construction of a new amphitheatre abutting existing canvas-roofed COLA, deck around existing fig tree, new central plaza and multi-purpose forecourt with traffic calming measures for drop off/pick up times.
- Roof gardens on new southern buildings (Buildings H & J) and MET building
- Tree removal (19 trees) and other minor landscaping works throughout the site.

The landscaping design will also retain and incorporate other existing landscape items of heritage significance including: existing sandstone pier east of the Messenger's Cottage (1942); existing FSPS exterior fencing around the Cahill Cut (1940s); Fort St Public School Kerb wall (Figure 8.14); and the northeastern mature fig tree.

Again, the landscaping works relate more to potential visual and archaeological impacts within the site, and are therefore discussed further with respect to potential heritage impacts they present in the relevant sections below.

Figure 8.13: Landscape Design Principles across site (Source: FJMT 2020, Landscape Design Report, 21.2.20: 16)

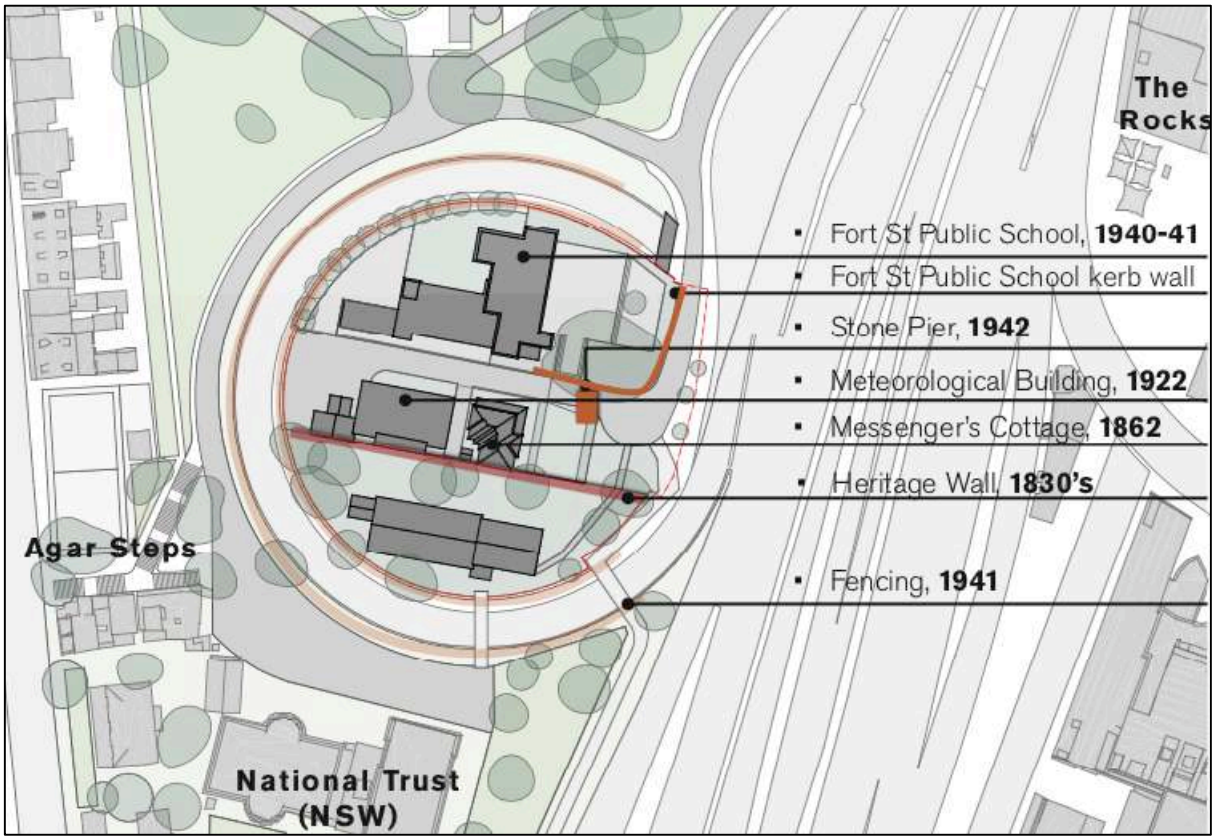

Figure 8.14: Summary of Existing Heritage elements (Source: FJMT 2020, Landscape Design Report, 21.2.20: 11)

Figure 8.15: Stone pier to the east of the Messenger's Cottage, constructed around 1942, (as per archival photograph in left). Construction after the 1940s building was completed and while the southern section of Upper Fort Street was being formed. (Source: City of Sydney Archive SRC13421; TDK 2016: Fig 102)

8.1.6. Summary of Physical Impacts

While the design for the expansion of the Fort Street Public School has aimed to reduce physical impacts on heritage fabric as much as possible, some necessary physical impacts have been identified as inevitable in order to facilitate the feasibility of the development, meeting all design brief requirements.

The physical impacts to heritage fabric are summarised as:

- Minor demolition and modification works to fabric of exceptional and moderate significance within the existing Fort Street School building (penetrations in walls between classrooms, expansion of existing window openings to central corridor etc);
- Demolition of fabric of moderate and intrusive heritage significance within the existing Fort Street School building (western toilet block, intrusive store-room north of assembly hall);
- Minimal physical impacts to the Messenger's Cottage (demolition of southeastern WC and addition of new southeastern verandah extension only);
- Minor fabric demolition/modification to MET Building to facilitate function of internal spaces, and connection with new buildings to south;
- Major positive restoration and repair works to the MET Building (currently in a very poor state of repair and conservation- with many repair works being classified as being required as 'emergency' works for future conservation of the heritage item); and
- Five sensitive penetrations in heritage boundary wall to facilitate through-site connections.

The existing school building has cultural significance as a purpose-built school, and therefore has higher tolerance for change to facilitate ongoing use for educational purposes than the other heritage items on site (Messenger's Cottage or MET building). Therefore, the design has intentionally focused physical impacts (where required) on the existing Fort Street School building, rather than on either of the other two heritage items.

While the development works will present some physical impact to significant heritage fabric, the design has worked to minimise these impacts as much as possible through the application of creative design solutions (e.g. use of penetrations preferred over holistic wall demolition), and are considered to be necessary to facilitate connection with new buildings and meet functional space requirements as per the EFSG and SI Business Case.

8.2. Visual Impacts

8.2.1. Bulk, Scale and Form

The bulk, scale and form of the new additions and modifications proposed by the design have been primarily informed and driven by the presence, form and scale of the three existing heritage items within the FSPS Site. The built form of the new proposed buildings including height, bulk and setbacks are a direct response to the heritage items, and aim to maintain the 'hierarchy of significance' of the existing heritage items- so that the heritage items remain distinctive within the visual context and form of the new development.

A maximum height of three storeys is proposed for new buildings, with height of new buildings relative directly to their immediate locational context. Generally, the height of the built form reduces to the west in order to maintain the visual dominance of the existing school building and the MET Building. The following height/storey limits are proposed for the development:

- New buildings F (west of MET Building) and G (south of Messenger's Cottage)= 1 storey

- Building H and J (south of MET/Messengers Cottage) = 2 storeys
- Height of existing school building (Building A with Building D addition) increased by one storey (third storey to be setback from original façade to north and east)

The design also intentionally aligns the positioning and proportions of the new southern buildings with that of the MET Building and Messenger's Cottage in order to maintain visual heritage connections north-south through the site as much as possible (Figure 8.16).

Overall the bulk, scale and form of the new buildings and additions proposed for the FSPS Site is considered to be an acceptable visual heritage impact.

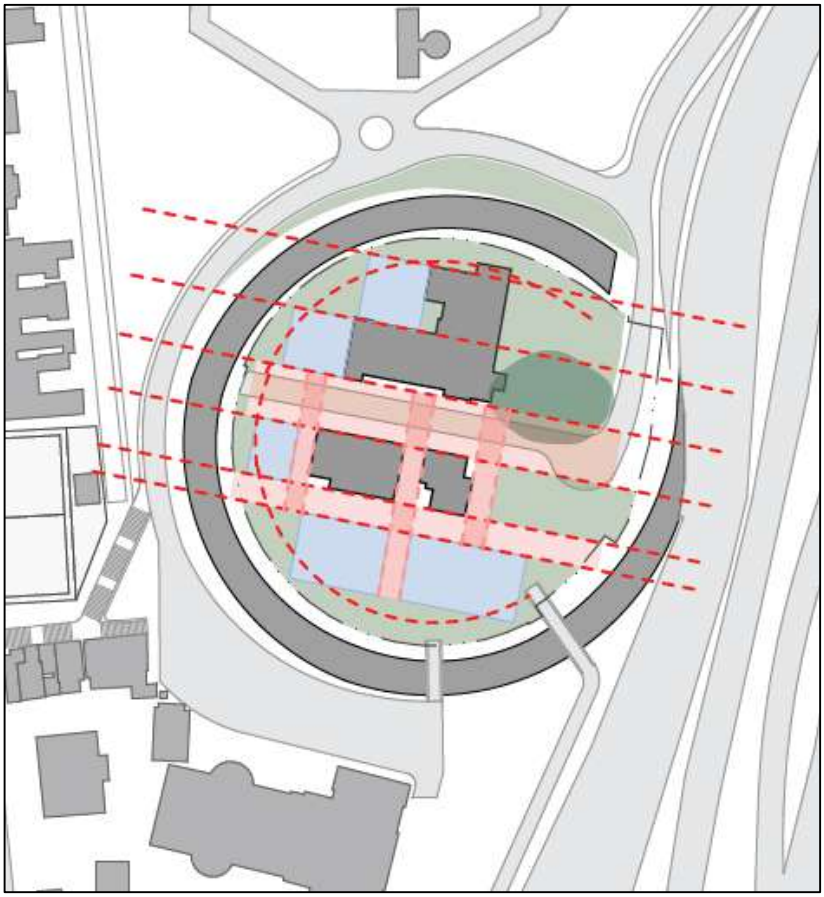

Figure 8.16: Key visual connections between heritage items factored into design process (Source: FJMT 2020: 31)

8.2.2. Setbacks

The design process was also guided by recognition of the immediate curtilage of each of the three key site heritage items, with new building placement aiming to respect and avoid these locations (Figure 8.17).

All new buildings have been setback from heritage items and fabric, either via a physical gap, or with a lightweight Covered Outdoor Learning Area (COLA) structure. In order to maintain the significant curtilage and readability of the MET Building as a free standing form functioning as a dominant architectural item within the FSPS site, Building F to the west has been offset by 1.5m,

while new Buildings J and H to the south of the MET are identified as distinct via the use of the lightweight covered walkway/connection bridge.

A constant nominal 1.5m perimeter boundary setback has also been imposed around the circular outer edge of the site to provide maintenance setbacks and allow for future land bridge connections (considered as part of the previous masterplan options but excluded from the current proposal).

Generally, the offsets are considered appropriate in relation to the visual context and setting of the heritage items, sufficient to avoid unnecessary visual impact to the items that would be caused by development of new structures too close to the heritage buildings.

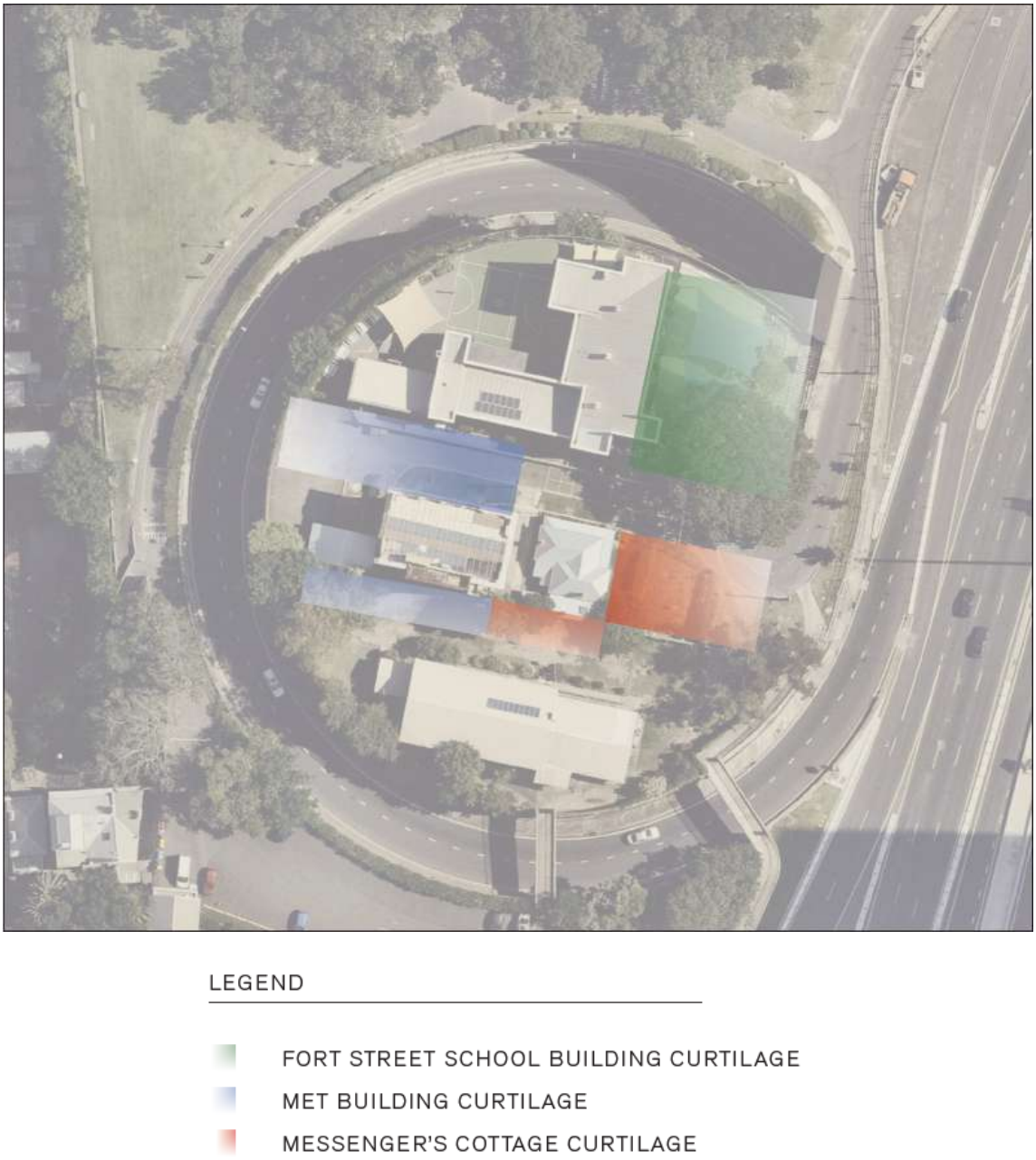

Figure 8.17: Recognised significant Curtilage for Heritage Buildings (Source: FJMT 2020: 15)

8.2.3. Heritage Items

Fort Street School Building

As a purpose-built public-school building, the existing school building has been identified as the heritage building on the FSPS site with the highest tolerance for change and adaptation for the new development (provided that the existing massing and scale of the original building is not compromised and remains readable with additions). The current main entrance to the school building (Building A) in the southeast will remain as primary entrance to the building.

The proposed internal modifications such as new penetrations in the walls of the existing classrooms in the eastern wing, have been designed as to retain the readability of the original alignment/floor plan of building (Figure 8.18). Demolition has been minimised as much as possible to allow function, without completely revising plan and format of building- particularly with respect to the eastern wing classroom configuration. The proposed modifications will allow for the new function and space requirements as required to meet current education standards (i.e. EFSG and SI Business Case requirements) without adversely compromising the visual presentation of the internal configuration of the existing school building.

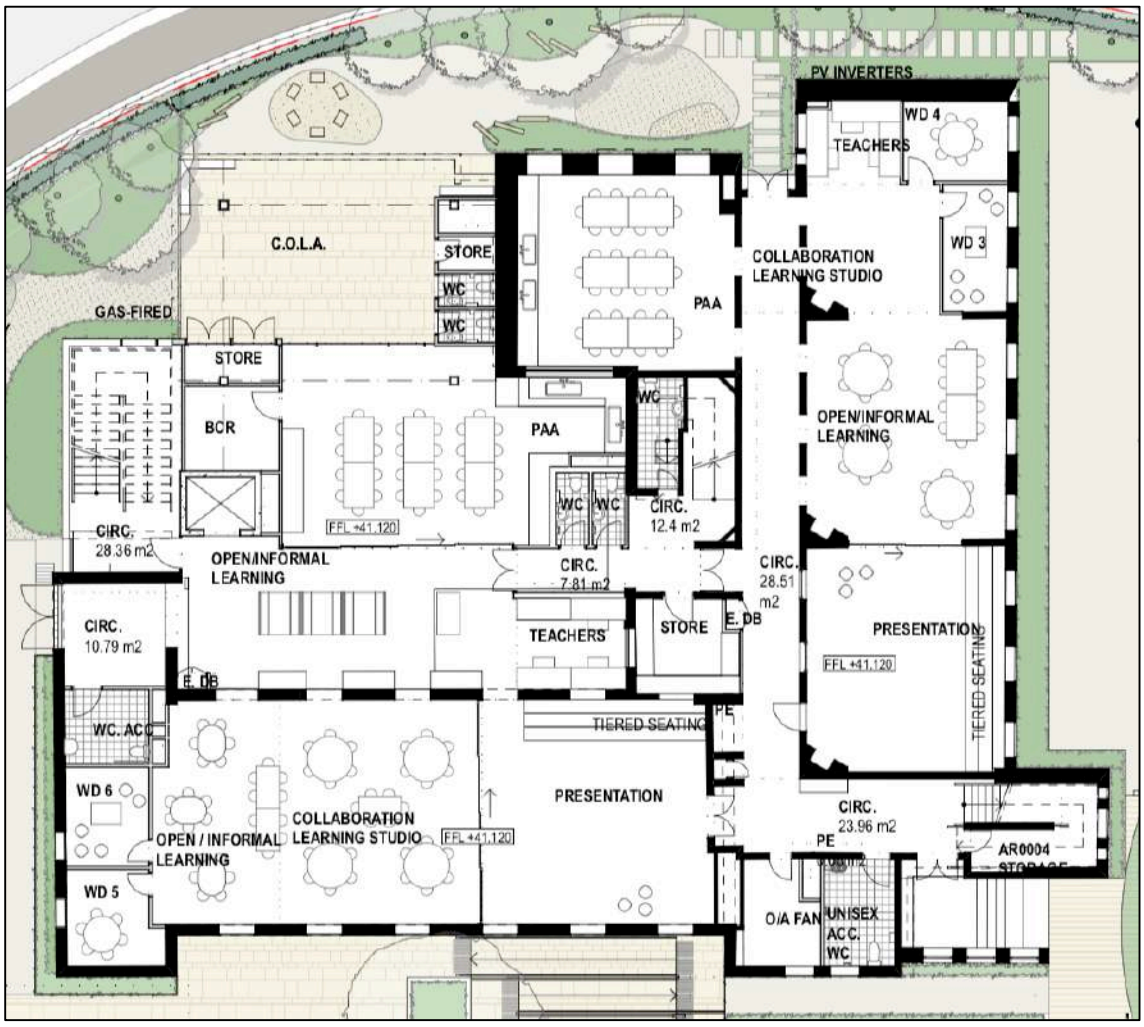

Figure 8.18: Proposed ground floor plan, existing school building and additions. Note the original 'L-shaped plan' of the 1940s structure and internal rooms are still clearly identifiable (FJMT DA-2002, 18.12.19)

The new storey addition to the Fort Street School Building has been setback from the existing façade, reducing visual impact to the original massing of the building in a further effort to ensure the readability of the original form of the L-shaped plan of the 1940s structure is maintained (Figure 8.19 and Figure 8.20). Materiality and colour will be used to further encourage the new additions to be visually recessive to the original building, through the use of a glazed aluminium framed façade system (FT02 in Figure 8.19) and custom profiled metal eaves (Figure 8.21).

Similarly, the new façade of Building D (FT03 in Figure 8.20) has been configured using recessive form and materiality of the adjacent new structure, such as powdercoated metal elements (eaves, parapets, frames etc) to preserve the hierarchy between the existing school building and new building.

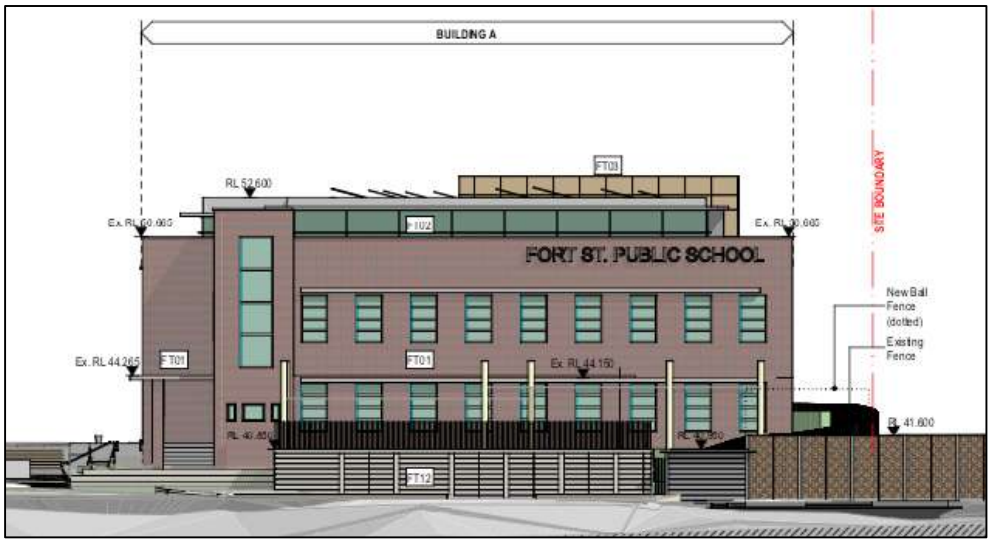

Figure 8.19: Setback of new storey addition from northern façade- eastern elevation, allowing readability of original form of 1940s building. View from east (Source: FJMT DA-3001, SSDA01, 18.12.19)

Figure 8.20: Setback of new storey addition from northern façade-northern elevation, allowing readability of original form of 1940s building. View from north (Source: FJMT DA-3001, SSDA01, 18.12.19)

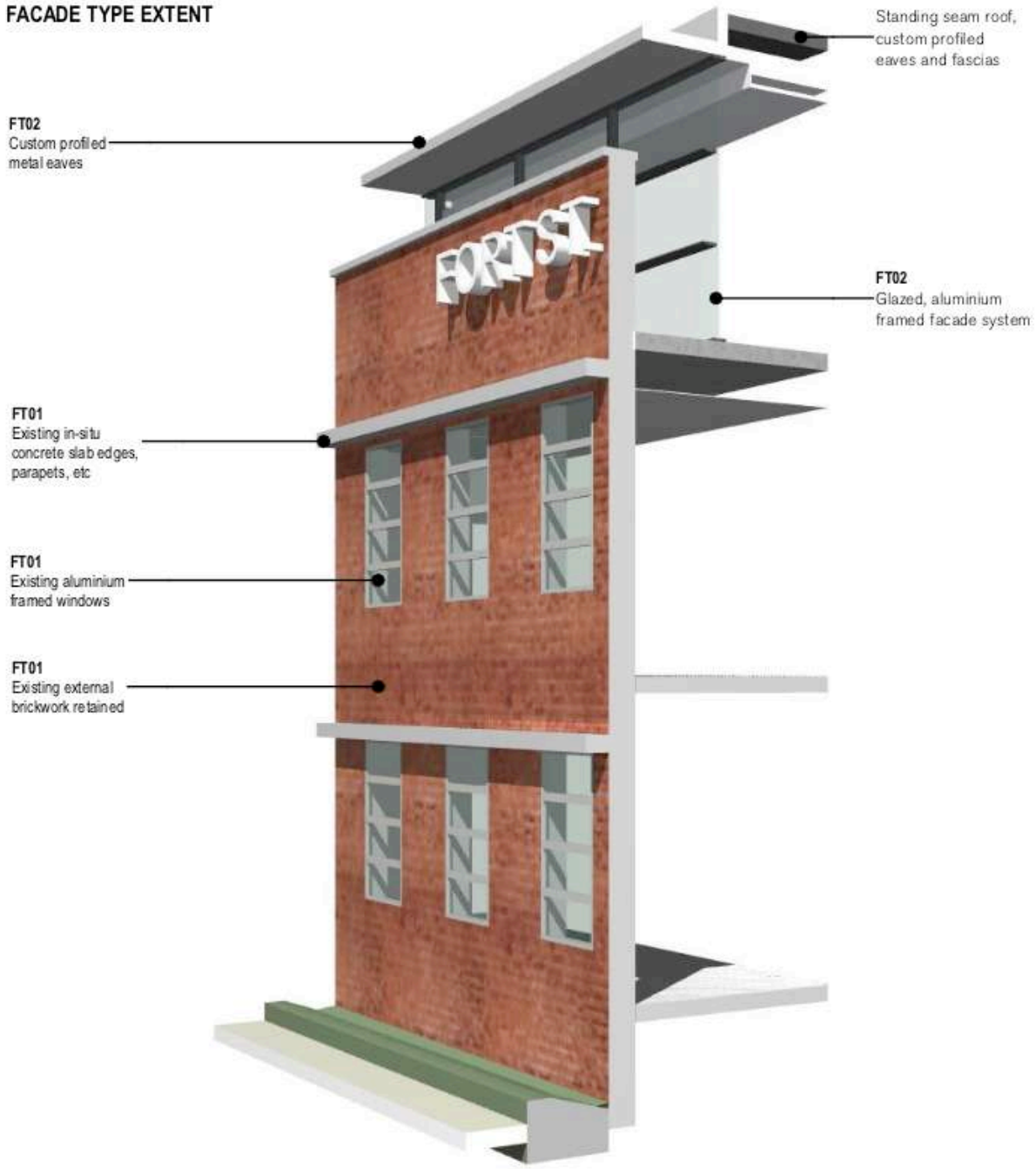

Figure 8.21: Materiality of new addition roof, eastern facade (Source: FJMT DWG DA-5901, 18.12.19)

Messenger's Cottage

The design has avoided new development to the east of the Messenger's Cottage which will retain the setting and curtilage of the Cottage from both the north and the east, continuing the open and low scale heritage character of the FSPS site in this location. Views to the Cottage from the eastern approach to the site will also be retained (Figure 8.22).

The small southwestern extension to the Messenger's Cottage adopts the 'verandah language' of the northern side of the existing structure, and will be made distinctive from heritage fabric by its homogenous and modest metal cladding and awning roof structure, while its smaller scale

and proportion ensure it is recessive and deferential to the heritage form and bulk of the cottage.

Overall, the proposed development will have a neutral visual impact to the setting and form of the Messenger's Cottage.

Figure 8.22: Low scale and open heritage setting of Messenger's Cottage retained (Source: FJMT 2020 Design Statement: 77)

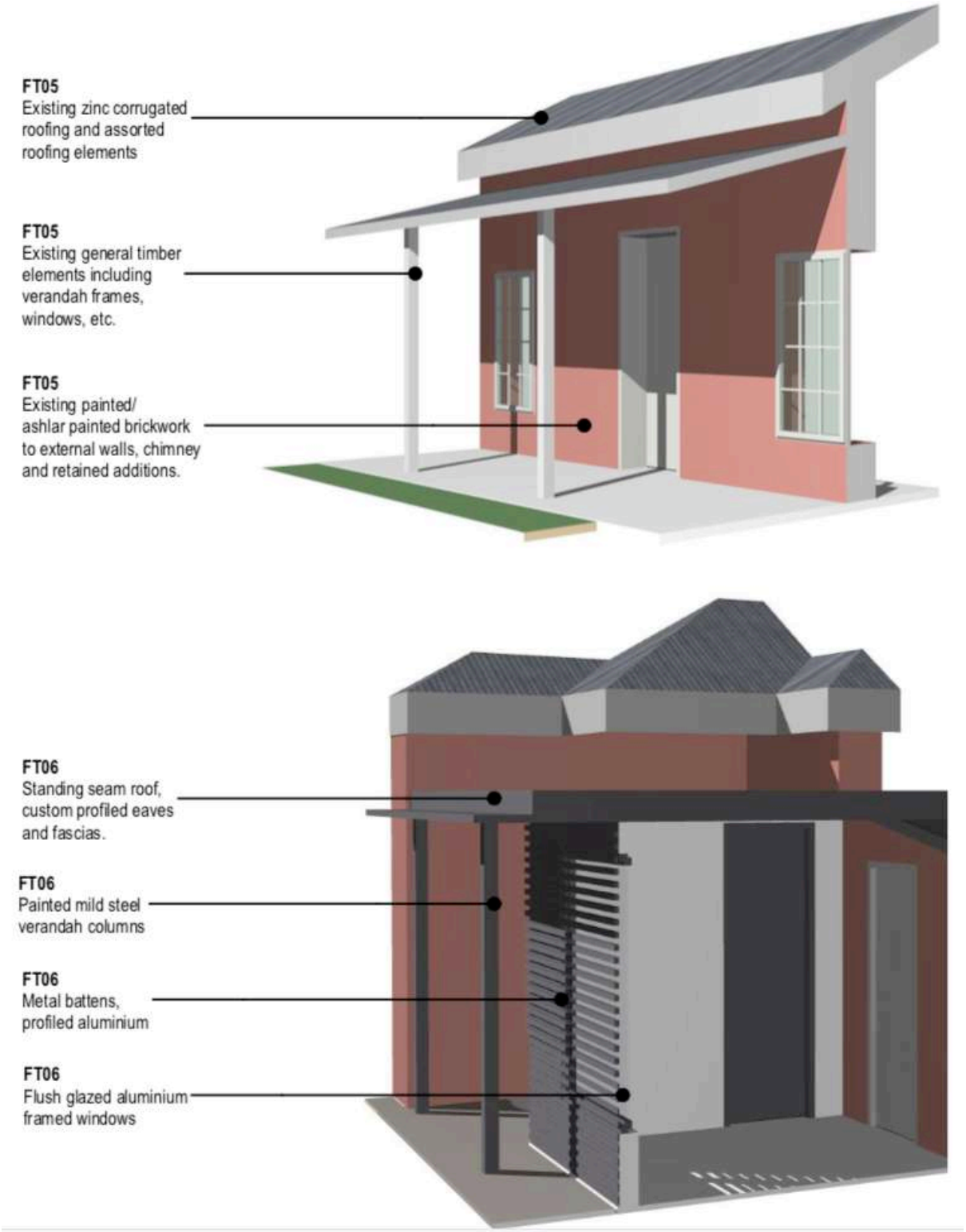

Figure 8.23: Building C Façade Type Extent – Existing Cottage Building & Messenger's Cottage Expansion (Source: FJMT 2020 SSDA Design Report: 63)

Figure 8.24: Example of the proposed metal cladding for extension (Source: FJMT 2020 SSDA Design Report: 63)

MET Building

The restoration and repair works proposed for the MET Building as part of the development works, both internally and externally, will present a major positive visual impact to the existing condition of the building, helping to restore and celebrate the historical and visual importance and significance of the building. New development has been avoided in the north of the MET Building, retaining views to and appreciation of the primary northern façade and retaining the visual connectivity between the MET Building and Messenger's Cottage along the central circulation spine of the FSPS site.

The new bridge connection from the southern façade of the MET Building to the new Building J will be transparent and lightweight, making use of glazing infills and a simple metal framed structure (Figure 8.25) to ensure the new addition is both distinct from, and recessive to, the form and architectural features of the MET Building façade (Figure 8.26). While the addition of the bridge connection will partly obscure the southern façade of the façade, the façade in this location is currently boarded over and in a severe state of disrepair (Figure 8.27).

While the addition of the bridge connection will have a minor visual impact on the visibility of the southern façade of the MET Building, the use of clear glazing and lightweight metal framed structure will help to mitigate this impact, allowing the MET Building to remain readable as a significant individual site element despite the construction of new buildings in its immediate vicinity.

On balance, regardless of the minor visual impacts of the southern bridge, the repair and restoration of the building fabric, reinstating the windows etc, along the southern façade will still present as a net positive visual impact to the overall visual presentation and form of the MET Building.

The new lift proposed for installation within the existing eastern stairwell of the MET Building is also proposed to have a new subtle 'pavilion-like structure' constructed on the rooftop to enclose the lift overrun and provide shelter to the lift accessway. The sizing of the lift addition will be refined during detailed design development, including identification of the minimum overrun height required, in order to ensure size and form is restrained as much as possible. The design currently identifies this structure as a metal cladded enclosure with a full glazed elevator foyer (Figure 8.25, FT09 in Figure 8.28).

Safety requirements also necessitate the construction of a new safety balustrade on the rooftop of the MET Building to allow access. Other existing roof features such as existing metal handrails and other roofscape elements will be retained. New pavers/floor tiles are proposed for the rooftop over the repaired/new structure as appropriate.

The lift overrun and rooftop enclosure has the potential to present a negative visual impact to the building, visible from other areas of the site and surrounds- dependent on the final design and presentation of the structure. This visual impact can be minimised through the final schematic design of the lift, which will include further investigation of the minimum overrun height required for functionality, as well as careful detailed design, including use of materials, colour, and clever mechanical design to reduce its visibility and impact. While the construction of a new balustrade is unavoidable to facilitate safe use of the roof, the safety balustrade has been set back from the parapet, and constructed as a frameless or semi-frameless clear glass balustrade with a metal handrail (Figure 8.25), which will significantly minimise its visual impact.

In summary, the proposed additions and alterations to the MET Building will have some negative visual impacts on the overall building- notably through the addition of the southern pedestrian bridge, and the lift overrun pavilion on the rooftop. However, as long as the potential visual impact of the rooftop lift pavilion is minimised through careful materiality and mechanical design through the schematic design phase, the major positive visual impacts of the overall repair and restoration works for the MET Building will result in an overall positive visual impact for the visual heritage significance of the building.

Figure 8.25: Building M Façade Type Extent – Retained brickwork and timber window facades, new elevator overrun/foyer and new Bridge Connection to MET (Source: FJMT 2020 SSDA Design Report: 65)

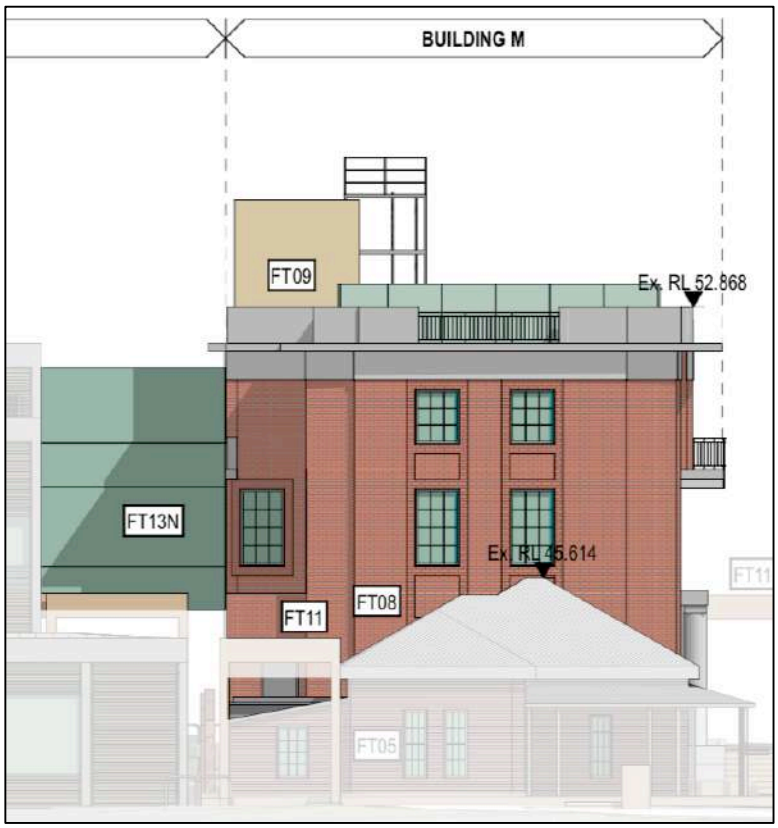

Figure 8.26: Transparent Bridge connection between MET and Building J, distinct and recessive to heritage item (Source: FJMT Studio 2020: 65)

Figure 8.27: Example of current state of southern façade (Source: JSP 2019)

Figure 8.28: Proposed North Elevations – Building M, (Source: FJMT 2020 SSDA Design Report: 65)

Boundary Wall

The design presents a strategy and methodology for the new penetrations required to be made through the heritage boundary wall. The strategy includes the careful demolition of the required sections of the wall, combined with careful but simple detailing of each opening to allow distinction between modern and heritage fabric, without detracting from the dominant visual character and presence of the wall.

The new openings will typically be supported by a simple timber profile painted black, fixed by a 12mm black steel plate into the existing bricks. The new openings will be covered by low profile new brick pavements so as to avoid any significant raise of the ground profile through the openings compared with the remaining wall sections.

While the proposed works will have a visual impact to the aesthetic (via penetrations) and readability (via proximity of new southern buildings) of the heritage boundary wall, the design has identified this impact to be unavoidable to ensure the functionality and viability of the development. The visual impact has been minimised as much as possible through sensitive and careful design of the new openings and detailing. Overall, the alignment and bulk of the heritage wall may still be partially readable as an item of heritage significance within the new development from its eastern approach, and internally from within the private southern areas of

the site (i.e. in front of Building H and J), however the bulk of the visibility of the wall as an independent element will be lost.

Opportunities to offset and mitigate the negative visual impact of the development to the heritage wall through the implementation of heritage interpretation initiatives within the site drawing attention to the location, history and significance of the wall, should be considered through the detailed design phase.

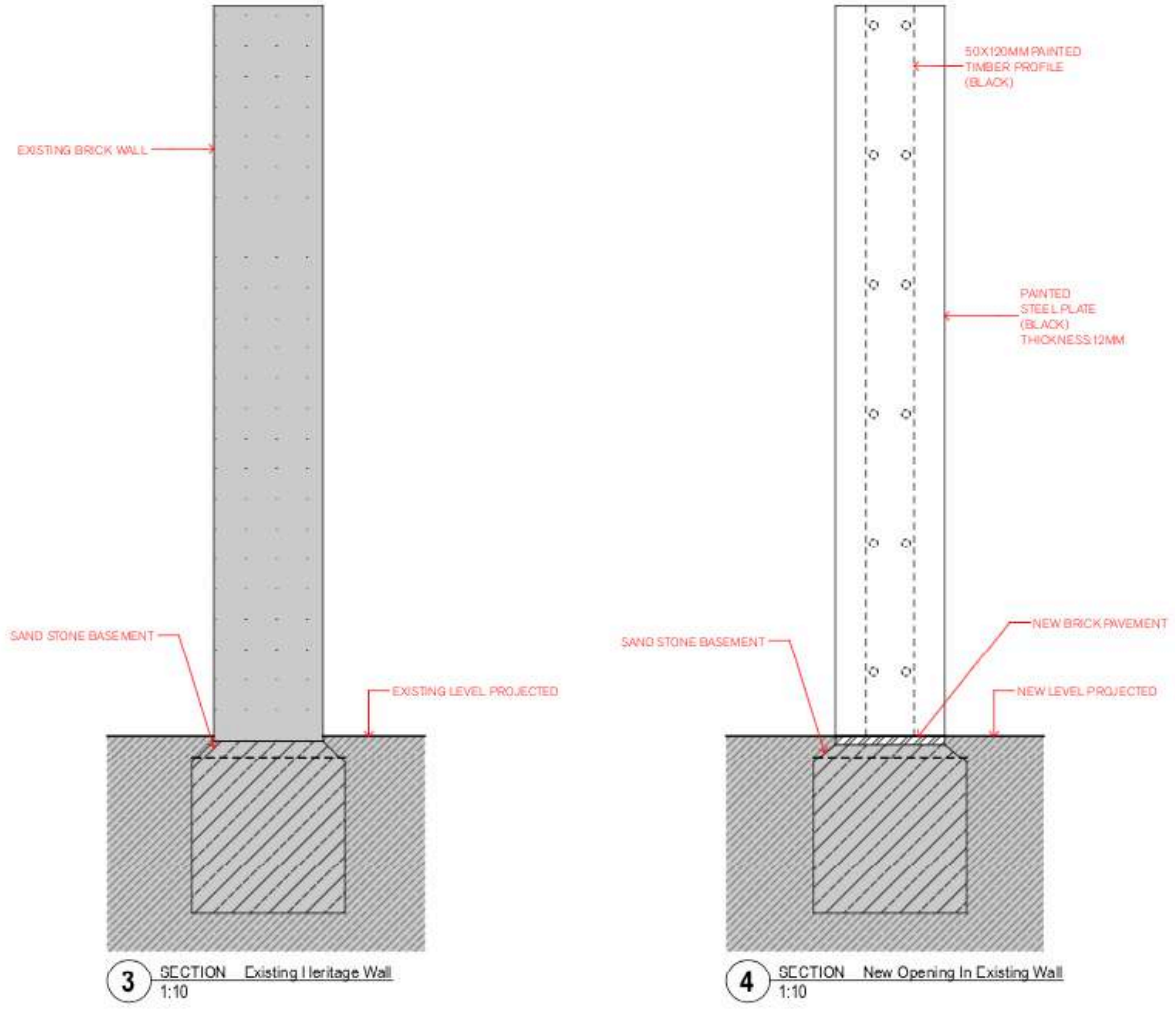

Figure 8.29: Proposed Section of existing heritage wall vs new (Source: FJMT 2019, DA-5002, SSDA01, Heritage Wall Details, 18.12.19)

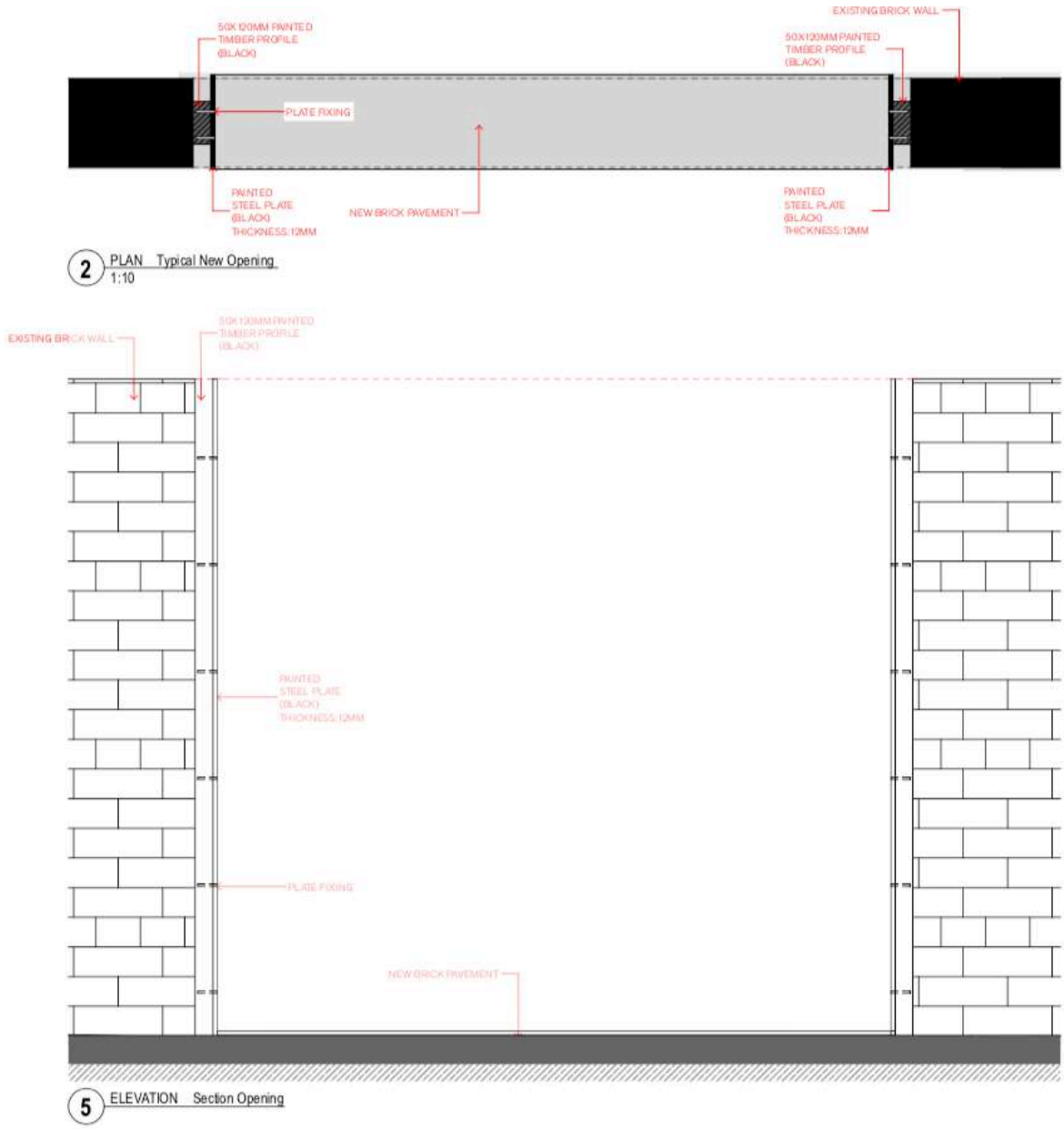

Figure 8.30: Proposed Plan and Section of new penetrations (Source: FJMT 2019, DA-5002, SSDA01, Heritage Wall Details, 18.12.19)

Figure 8.31: Indicative images of intent for wall penetration details (Source: FJMT 2019, DA-5002, SSDA01, 18.12.19)

8.2.4. New Buildings, Structures and Elements

This section presents a description of the proposed built form, scale and materiality of each of the new elements proposed for the FSPS site, and assesses the potential visual impact the construction of each new design element may have within the FSPS Site. This assessment has been divided into three sections, in relation to positioning of the new structures and elements within the FSPS Site: northern buildings; southern buildings; and other individual elements.

Northern Building

Building D | In-fill addition to Existing Public School Building

Building D has been designed as an in-fill extension to the northwest of the existing school building (Building A), responding to the massing and form of the existing school building. Building D will accommodate the new lift and staircase required for the northern part of the development- intentionally placed within the new extension as to avoid additional physical or visual impact within the existing school building.

Located to the west of the existing school building, the northern façade of Building D has been designed to act as a 'bookend' to the original form of the heritage item, wrapping around the northwestern corner to meet with the adjacent façade of the new staircase (Figure 8.32). The northern façade of Building D will consist of a full height aluminium façade with flush-glazed framing system and integrated layer of expanded metal (FT03 in Figure 8.32 and detailed in Figure 8.34). This façade will sit slightly higher the existing (but set back towards the south) in order to connect with features of the new rooftop addition at Level 2 (i.e. new storey addition and rooftop), whilst maintaining a visual relationship with the existing datums (Figure 8.33). Insertion of small vertical margins between the old and new fabric has been applied to provide important articulation and demarcation from the existing brickwork of the existing heritage item. These key design elements in the form, detail and materiality of Building D have been applied with an aim of clearly respecting and articulating it as an extension to the existing heritage building.

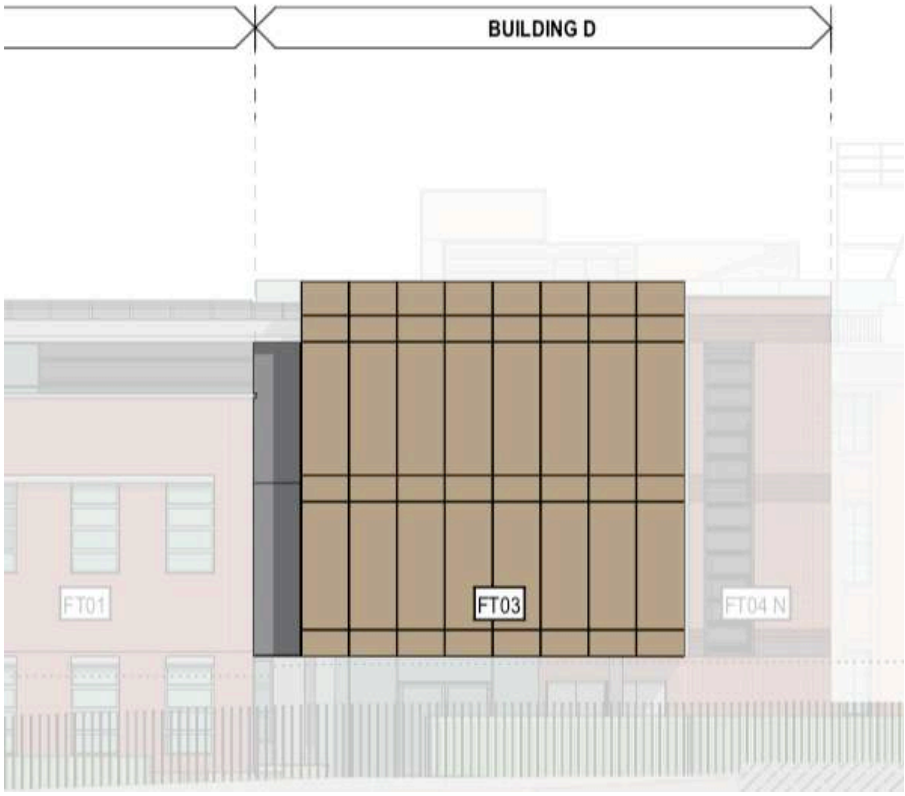

Figure 8.32: Building D façade, Northern elevation (Source: FJMT, DA-5902 Facade Diagrams FT03 Building D, 18.12.19)

Figure 8.33: Building D façade, western elevation (Source: FJMT, DA-5902 Facade Diagrams FT03 Building D, 18.12.19)

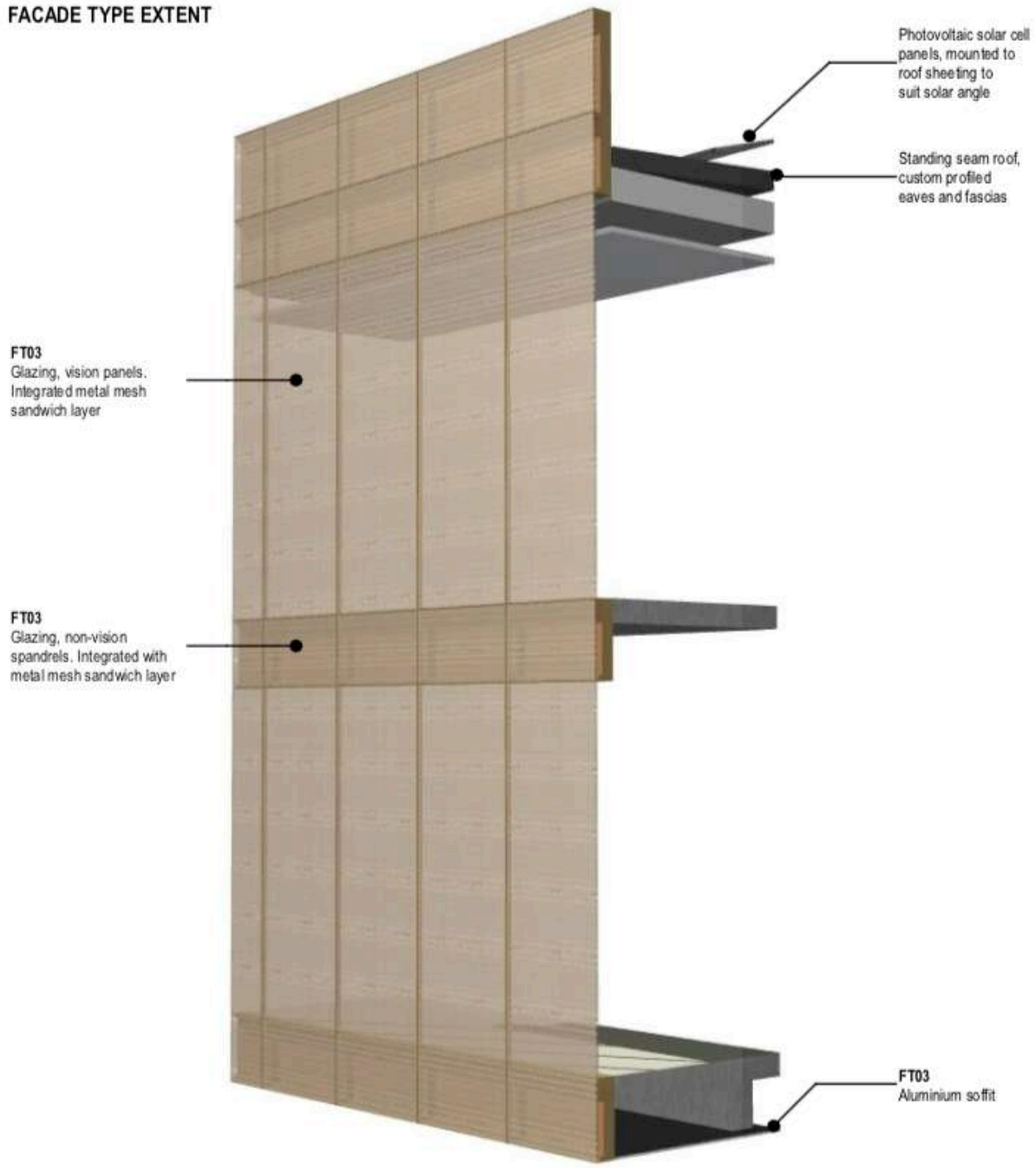

Figure 8.34: Building D proposed northern façade (Source: FJMT, DA-5902 Facade Diagrams FT03 Building D, 18.12.19)

Figure 8.35: Example of aluminium framed glazing proposed for Building D (Source: FJMT, DA-5902 Facade Diagrams FT03 Building D, 18.12.19)

The western end of Building D will be flanked by a new staircase (Figure 8.36), which will be significantly set back from the northern façade of the new consolidated mass of the school building (i.e. Buildings A & D) (Figure 8.37). The volume of the staircase will utilise materiality of exposed brickwork to complement and speak to that of the existing school heritage building. The use of horizontal metal battens and open spacers over a metal sub-frame along its northern side (FT04N in Figure 8.36) will provide both shading for the circulation space below, as well as providing a visual transition between the dominant brickwork materiality and colour of the existing school building, and the articulation of the new building.

The western presentation of the Building D staircase, both through use of the brickwork as well as the significant setback from the northern façade of Building A and D, adopts a smaller visual proportion to ensure visual dominance of the heritage item is maintained from north-western viewlines to the site, as well as views from the north (Figure 8.38).

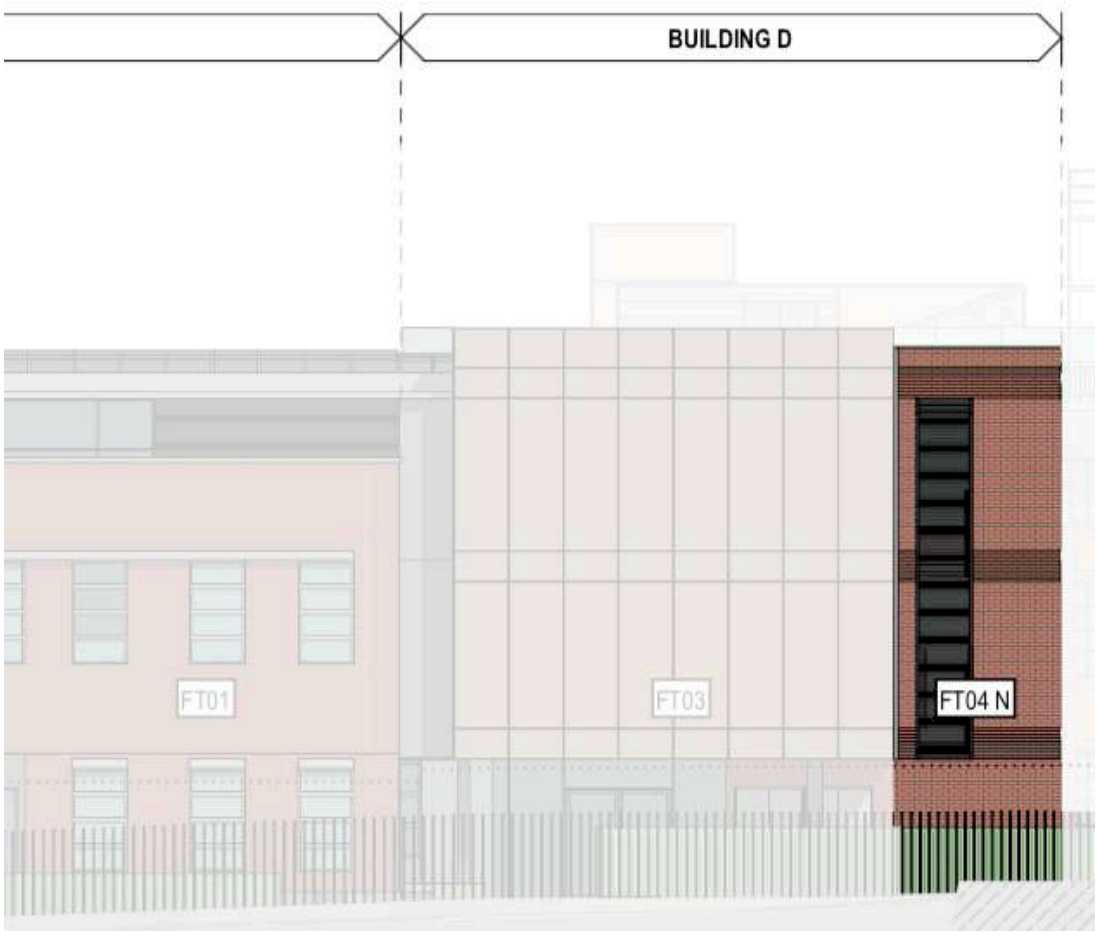

Figure 8.36: Building D Staircase, north elevation, exposed brickwork, horizontal metal battens and spacers (Source: FJMT, DA-5903 Facade Diagrams FT04 N/FT04 W Building D, 18.12.19)

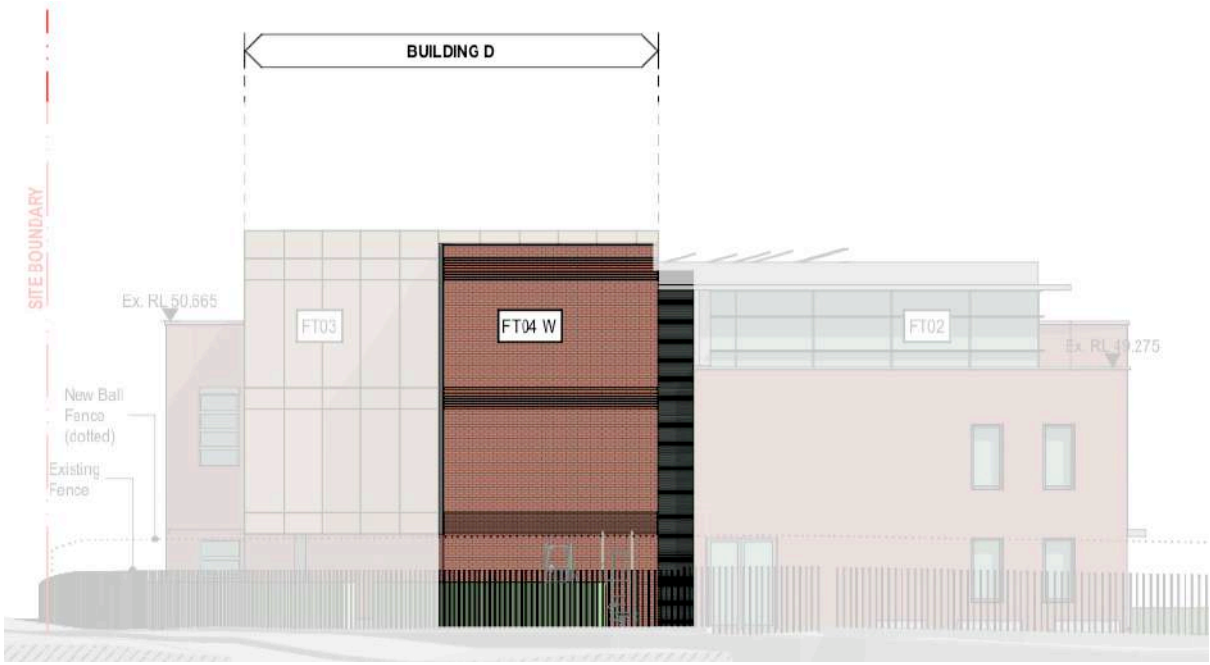

Figure 8.37: Significant setback of staircase from northern built façade. West elevation (Source: FJMT, DA-5903, 18.12.19)

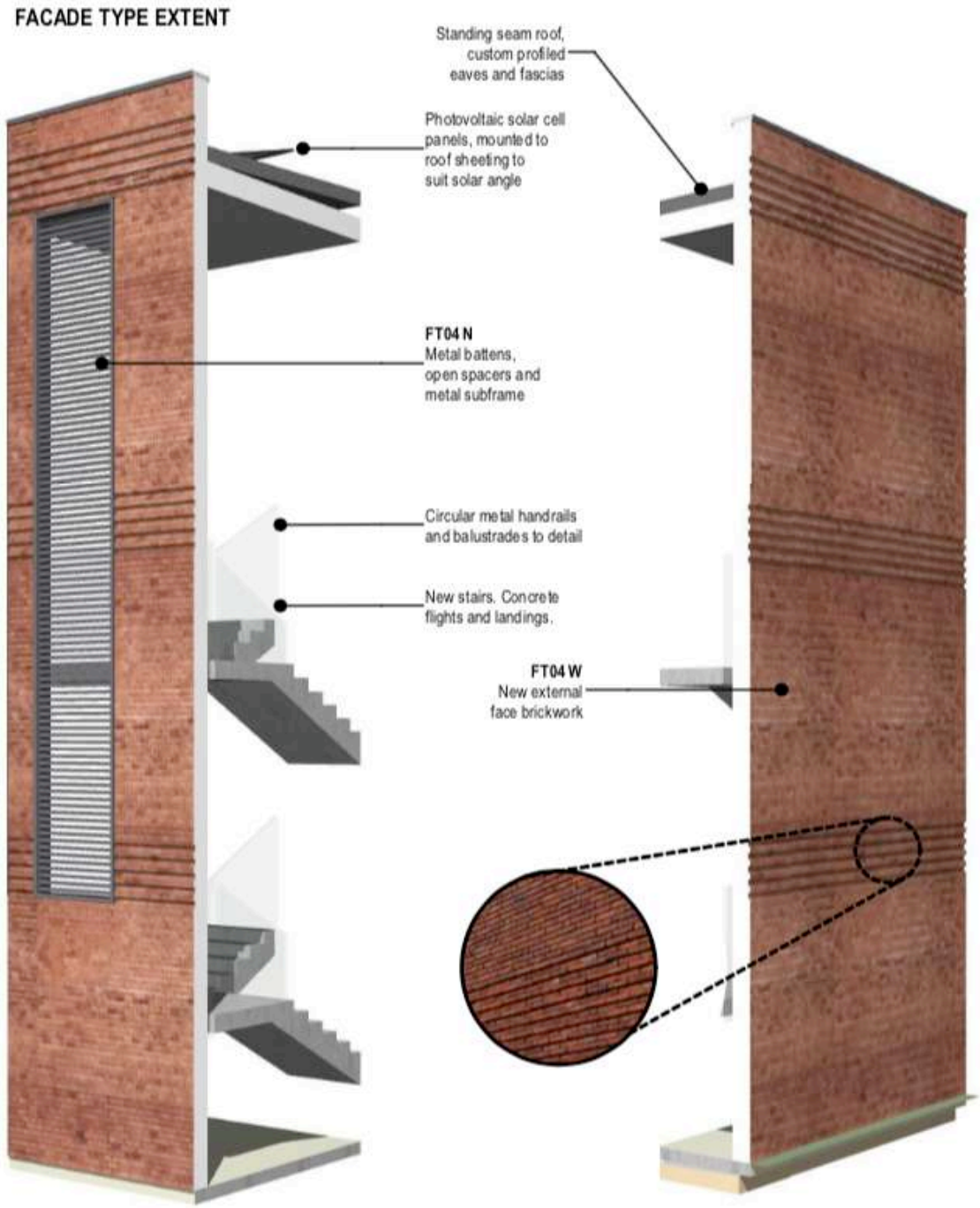

Figure 8.38: Building D Façade north and west (Source: FJMT, DA-5903, 18.12.19)

Figure 8.39: Example of exposed brickwork and metal battens proposed for staircase, (Source: FJMT, DA-5903, 18.12.19)

Northern Building Impact Summary

Overall, while the northern addition to the FSPS site of Building D will present some visual impact to the view lines from Observatory Hill due to its clear visibility from this northern aspect, the sensitive design elements applied in the development of this new built element, including use of appropriate materiality and colour and setback from the façade of the heritage item, are considered sufficient to minimise this impact. (See Section 8.2.5 for further discussion on impacts of built form on precinct-wide significant heritage views and vistas.)

The dominant form and brickwork materiality of the Fort Street School building heritage item will still be able to be recognised and appreciated from northern perspectives, while the built form of the new addition will not dominate or eclipse the proportions of the MET Building that functions as the primary heritage backdrop to the new building.

Southern Buildings

Building F | West of MET Building (Staff)

Building F will be a single storey building located to the west of the MET Building, to function as new staff and associated support facilities. The northern frontage will serve as the main entrance to the new building, orientation of which is aligned with that of the MET Building, with the entire bulk of the new building to sit within the depth of the MET Building.

The architectural language of Building F (and Building G- discussed further in the section below) follows that of Building J and H, and uses exposed concrete frames with metal batten infills and metal framed glazing, with aluminium detailing and fenestration of new doors and windows (Figure 8.40 and Figure 8.41). This materiality choice of concrete and aluminium aims to help accentuate the existing brickwork of the 20th century heritage items on the site. Carefully positioned openings have been located along the building's facade to increase visibility between the Central Plaza and the interiors of the Staff building.

As a low profile single story building, sited wholly within the north-south extent of the adjacent MET Building to its east, Building F is considered to have a neutral visual impact in its location and form, in relation to the surrounding heritage items and positioning adjacent to the central corridor/plaza.

Figure 8.40: Building F Western Elevation. MET Building behind (Source: FJMT, DA-5906, 18.12.19)

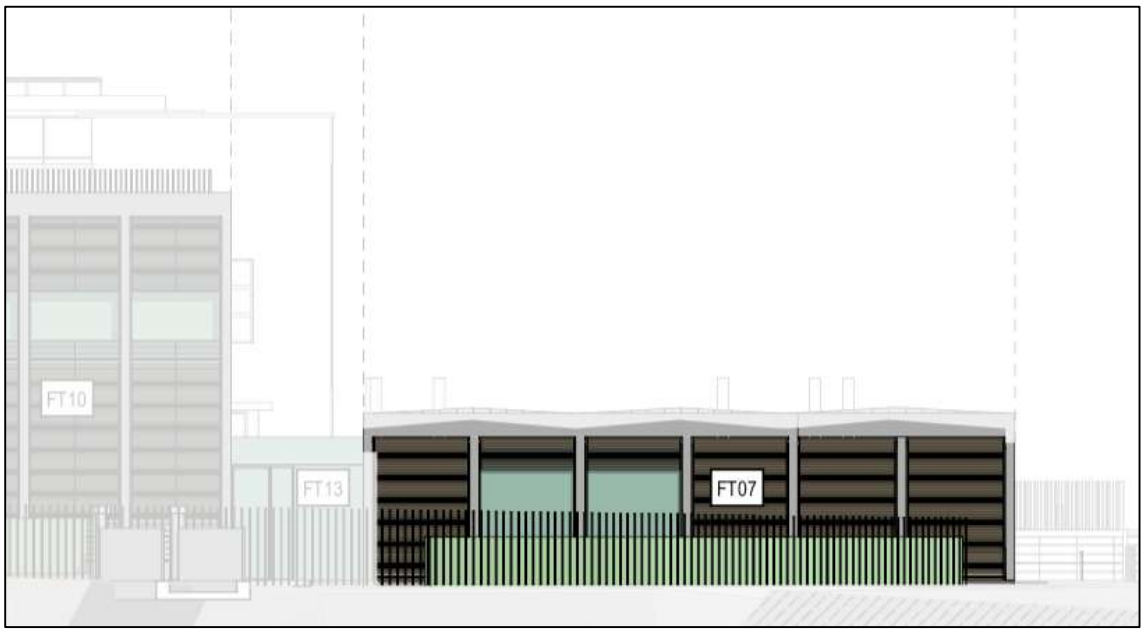

Figure 8.41: Building F Southern Elevation (Source: FJMT, DA-5906, 18.12.19)

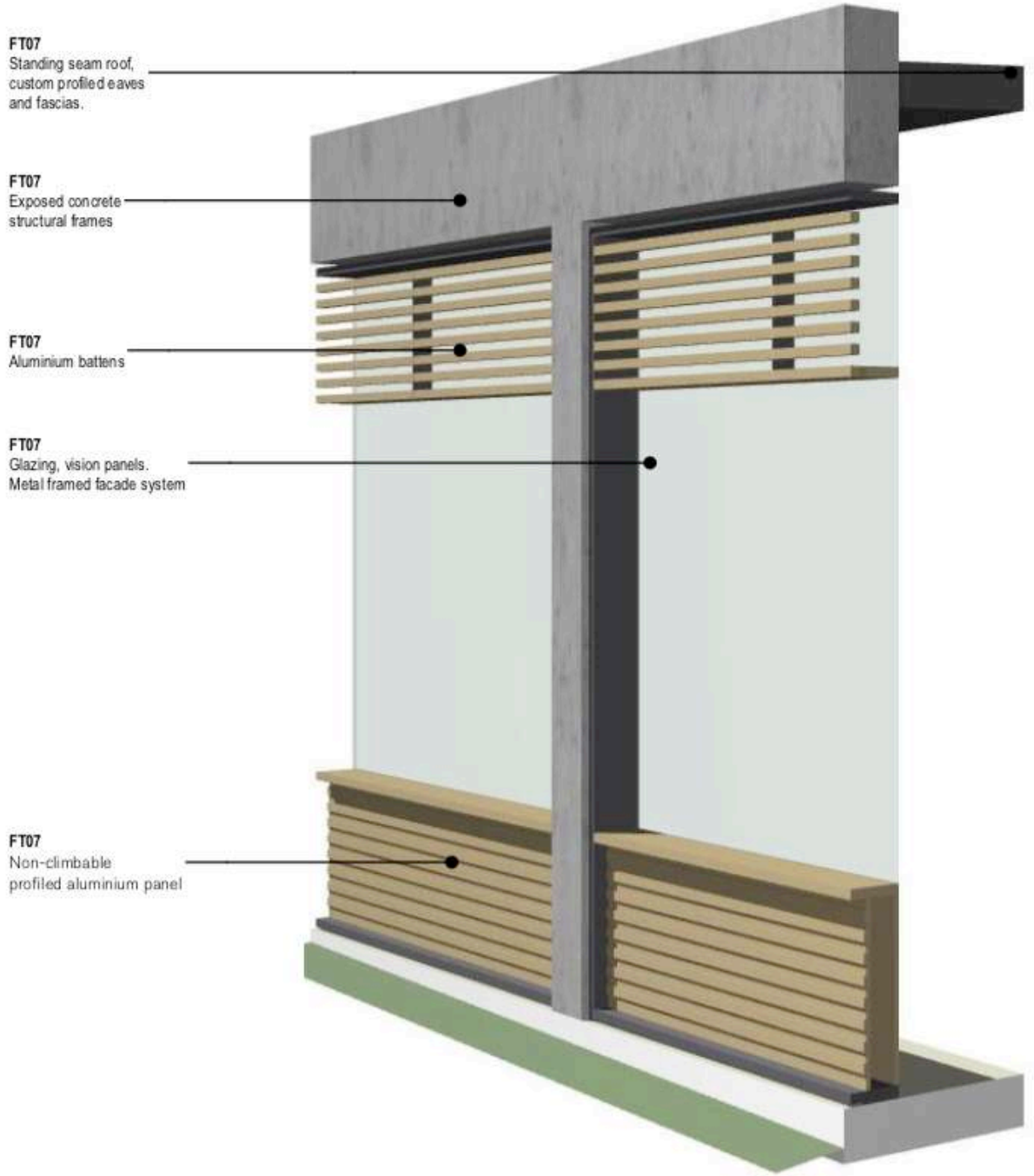

Figure 8.42: Buildings F & G. Glazed, exposed concrete frames with metal batten infill and aluminium elements (Source: FJMT, DA-5906, 18.12.19)

Building G | Communal Hall

Located in the east of the site, southeast of the Messenger's Cottage, south of the heritage boundary wall, Building G will function as a multi-purpose space for the FSPS site- including a communal hall, canteen/kitchen, and associated covered circulation areas (one to the north including canteen servery, and one to the west to connect to Building H). The of Building G has been articulated to allow a clear delineation between the built forms of Buildings G and H from the adjacent heritage wall. A lightweight pergola structure COLA is positioned to the north of the heritage wall in front of Building G, acting as a verandah to the building and connecting the

building to the Assembly Area. The pergola COLA structure has been designed to be complimentary in scale and language to the verandah of the Messenger's Cottage to the west.

The floor level of Building G will nominally align with that of the Messenger's Cottage to its northwest. Situated immediately south of the heritage boundary wall, primary access to Building G will be from the assembly area to its north, taking advantage of two of the new penetrations proposed for the wall in this location. The northern façade of Building G will be glazed to ensure the heritage wall is still easily visible with the backdrop of the new building (Figure 8.43).

The connection to the new assembly area (east of the Messenger's Cottage) is an important function of the communal hall/Building G. Therefore, the building has been designed to 'borrow' area from the east-west view connector along the heritage boundary wall in this location (Figure 8.44). This northern zone between Building G and the assembly area has been articulated with glazing and a lowered ceiling in this location in order to avoid visual impact to the massing of the heritage items- particularly the Messenger's Cottage- as well as to mitigate visual impact to the heritage wall.

While the building will functionally appear as a single-storey structure, the massing of Building G is expressed as 'three higher forms with two lower forms articulating linkages'[29]. The architectural language of Building G will match that of Building F in the west, of exposed concrete frames with metal batten infills and metal framed glazing, and aluminium detailing. The low scale of Building G has been designed as to not dominate or detract from the Messenger's Cottage.

Building G will include a lower ground/basement level to accommodate required new services and amenities for the expansion of the site such as LV battery storage, fire hydrant, storage and other functional/plant areas (Figure 8.46). The archaeological impacts of the excavation required for the construction of this new basement level are discussed in the relevant section below.

While the low scale built form of Building G will minimise the visual impact of the new building in this location, the northern extent of the building will still have a visual impact to the readability of the heritage wall. The design has worked to minimise this impact as much as possible through application of materiality (i.e. glazing) and lowered roof in this location. The critical requirement of the communal hall to connect with the assembly area to its north means that the design has identified the visual impact to the heritage wall in this location will be unavoidable in order to allow feasibility of the overall function of the site.

[29] FJMT 2020, *Design Statement*: 36

Figure 8.43: Building G view south. Pergola extending past heritage wall with glazing façade visible behind (Source: FJMT 2020 SSDA Design Report, 21.2.20: p.77)

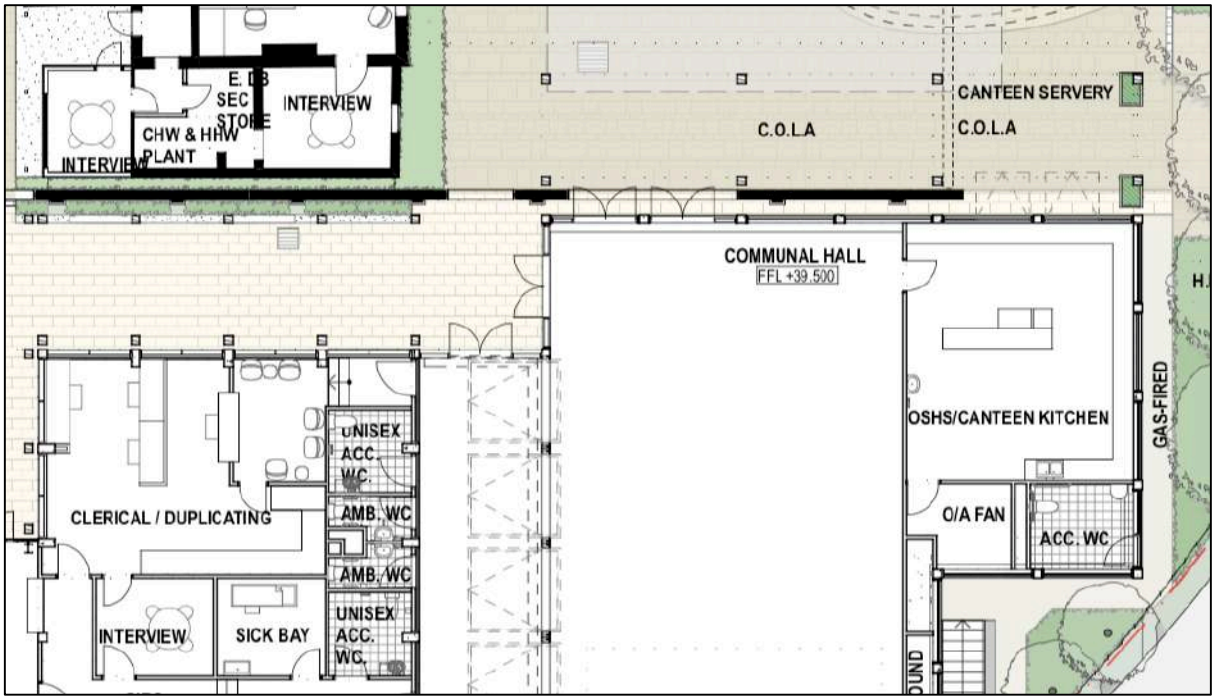

Figure 8.44: Extension of northern façade of communal hall (Building G) close to heritage wall.

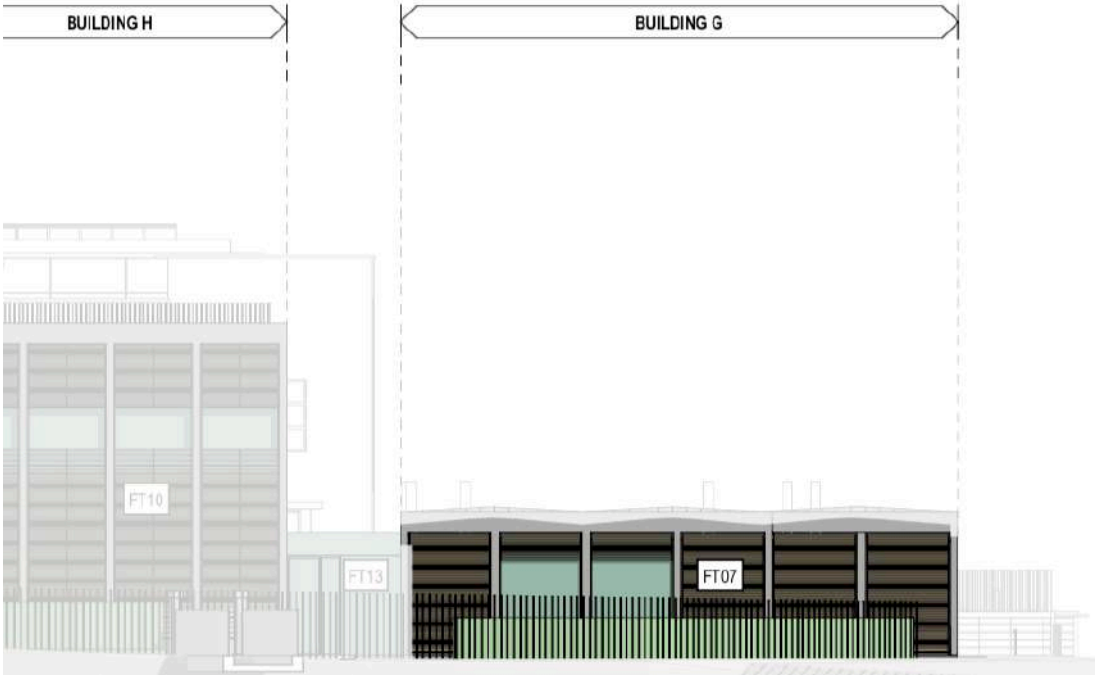

Figure 8.45: Building G southern elevation (Source: FJMT, DA-5906, 18.12.19)

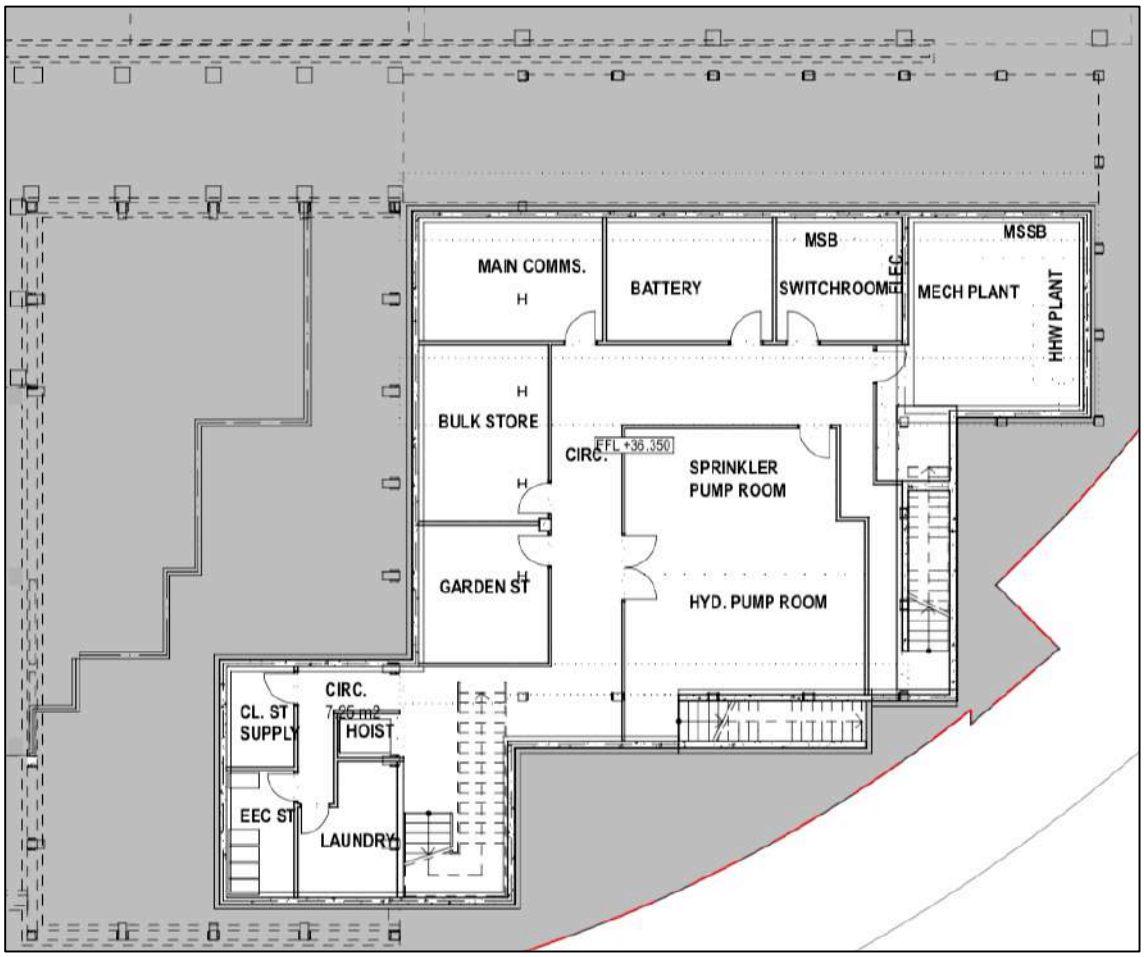

Figure 8.46: Proposed Lower Ground Layout, plant and facilities proposed for Building G basement (Source: FJMT, DA-2001, 18.12.19)

Buildings H & J | BOH and Learning Hub

Buildings H and J will dominate the majority of the southern part of the FSPS Site, to function as a new administration/back of house area (Building H), and learning hub (Building J). Both buildings will be two storeys in height, connected by a full height transparent staircase at Levels 1 and 2, and associated covered 'breezeway' interstitial zone- that also extends to provide connection between Buildings H & J and the Met Building to the north, as well as to Building G to the east (Figure 8.47 and Figure 8.48).

Although externally, Buildings J & H will mainly be readable as one connected building, their volumes have been divided into several smaller parts, with the materiality detailing of the transitionary spaces designed to be largely transparent and lightweight. The design intent behind this is to provide the required 'homebase' forms, interspersed with more transparent spaces creating 'rhythms that respond to the existing built forms and interstitial zones' to 'create view corridors down through the site and frame views to the context beyond'[30].

Feature structural frames will be made of exposed concrete and infilled with metal windows and aluminium batten panels. The robust vertical forms respond to the verticality of the larger heritage buildings on the site and create a grid-like pattern to subtly distinguish themselves from the masonry forms. The horizontal pattern of aluminium profiled louvres ensures enough shading for the homebases and circulation spaces inside.[31]

The new glazed infills between buildings J, H & G (including staircase) will serve as an open circulation and connection spaces, and are accentuated by a metal framed glazing system. The new staircase will have the form of a full height curtain wall façade system with flush glazing. The transparency of all infill spaces has been designed to allow for connecting views to the city as well as to the Central Plaza. The verticality and materiality of the staircase frames ensures it retains cohesion with the other new additions to the southern part of the campus (i.e. the style and built form of Buildings G, and F), while the simplistic appearance of all glazed infills has been designed to accentuate the concrete frame articulation of the new buildings (Figure 8.50 and Figure 8.51).

[30] FJMT, DA-5908, 18.12.19
[31] FJMT, DA-5908 Facade Diagrams FT11 Building J/H, 18.12.19

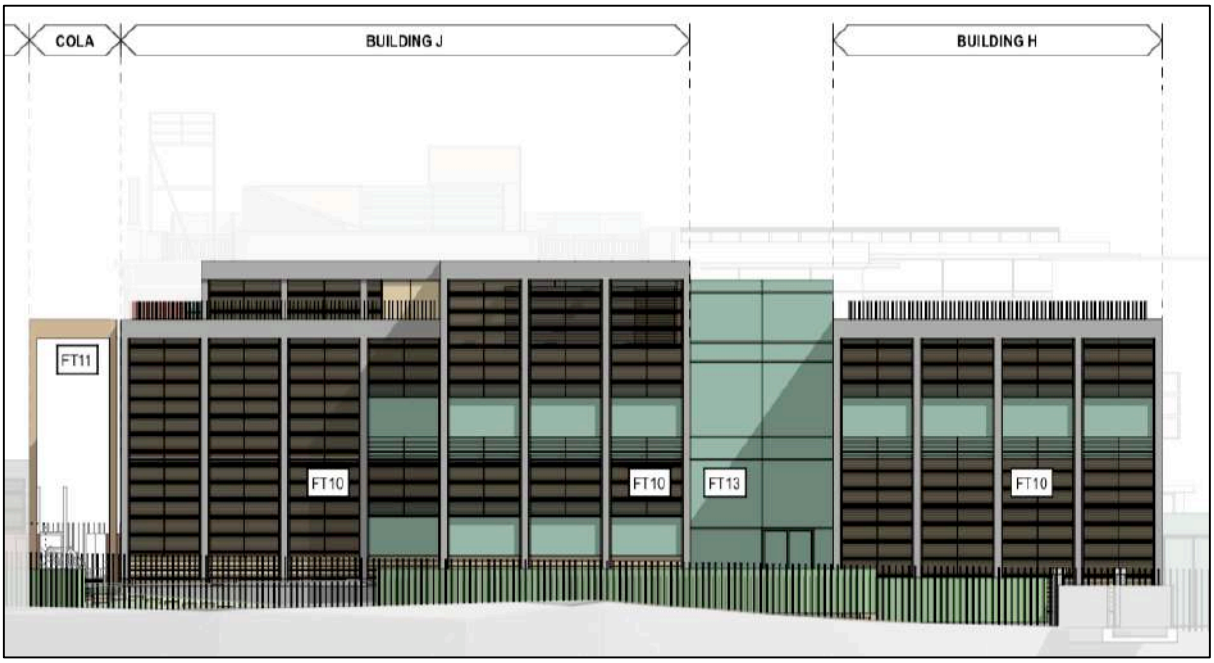

Figure 8.47: Building J & H, Southern elevation (Source: FJMT, DA-5908, 18.12.19)

Figure 8.48: Building J & H, Western elevation (Source: FJMT, DA-5908, 18.12.19)

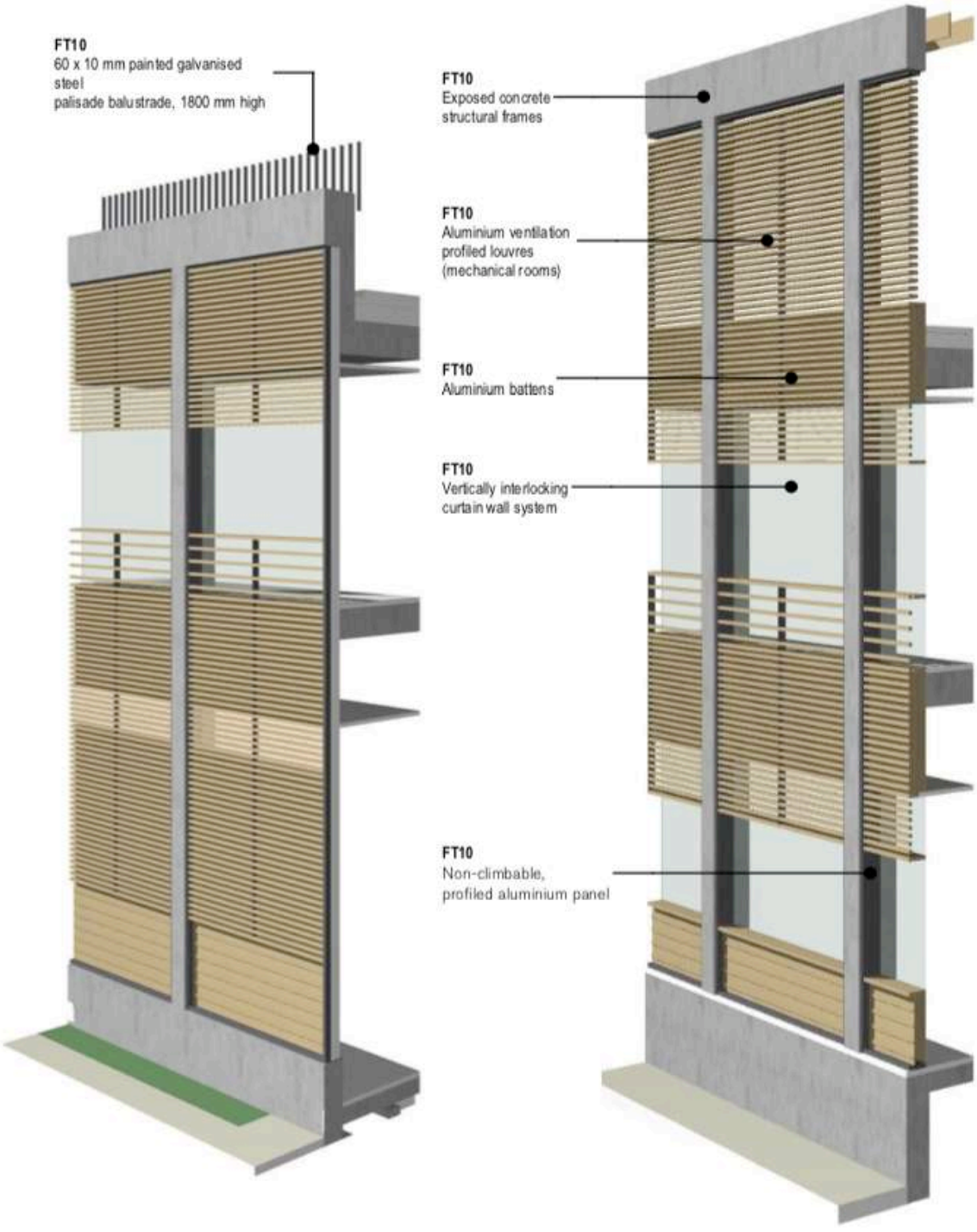

Figure 8.49: Building J/H Façade Type Extent – Exposed concrete structure with metal and aluminium detailing (Source: FJMT, DA-5908, 18.12.19)

Figure 8.50: Glass Infills Façade Type Extent- Staircase (Buildings J, H & G (Source: FJMT, DA-5910, 18.12.19)

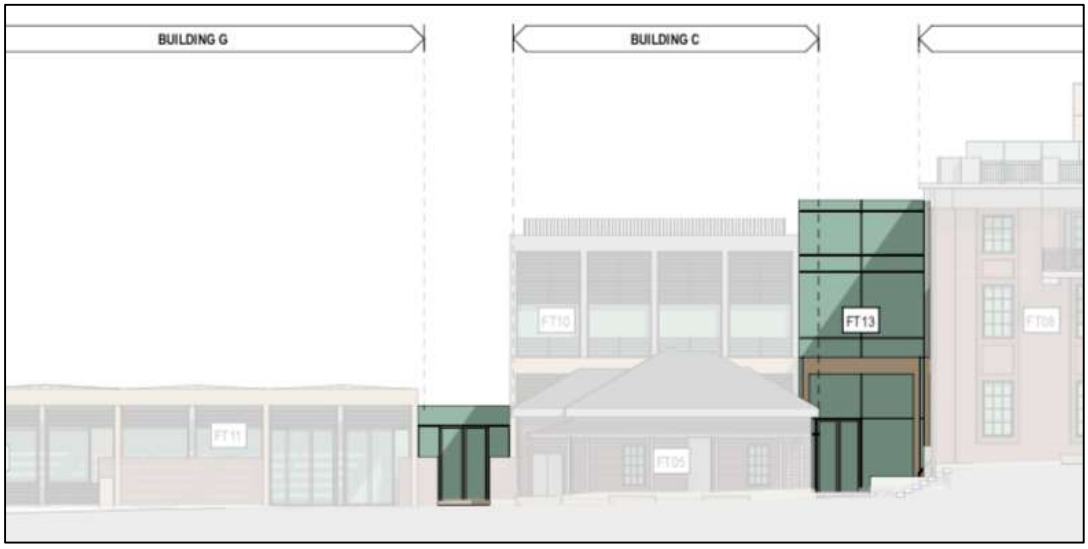

Figure 8.51: Glass Infills Northern Elevation (Buildings J, H & G (Source: FJMT, DA-5910, 18.12.19)

Southern Buildings Impact Summary

Overall, the southern buildings (i.e. Buildings G, H and J) have been designed to be respectful and recessive to the heritage buildings and character of the site in this location- maintaining the heritage items as the dominant built elements in the southern section of the site.

While the new southern buildings will clearly visible be from the National Trust building in the south (Figure 8.52), this viewline was already occupied by the EEC building (proposed for demolition), and therefore the replacement of the building in this location with the proposed- while larger in scale than the former EEC- will mainly result in a neutral visual impact from this perspective (Figure 8.65).

The new southern buildings will present an overall neutral visual impact to the curtilage and significant viewlines to and appreciation of the Messengers Cottage (i.e. views from the south- as retained by the introduction of the assembly area rather than a new structure). While the southern buildings will have a visual impact on the siting and readability of the heritage boundary wall, the design has identified this impact to be necessary to allow connectivity through the site, and efforts have been made to mitigate and minimise this impact by careful design and materiality (such as the glazed façade of the communal hall).

Figure 8.52: Visualisation of site from National Trust, new buildings G, H & J (Source: FJMT 2020: 79)

Other Site Elements

Covered Outdoor Learning Areas (COLA)

A number of Covered Outdoor Learning Areas (COLA) will be located across the site to provide varying degrees of enclosure and protection to entry points and external circulation corridors. All COLA structures have been designed with a louvre and panelised roof as a shading element to shelter outdoor learning environments and offer opportunities for covered play during inclement weather. Materiality of all COLA structures will be consistent across the site, and reflect the language of Buildings J and H through the use of exposed feature structural frames, made from cross laminated timber (Figure 8.53). The slender form and more fine detailing of the COLA structures have been designed to 'reflect their technological era', using modern assembly techniques and combustibility treatments. The timber detailing of the COLA are proposed to act

as an 'emblem for the sustainability initiative' for the School and its broader Environmentally Sustainable Design initiatives for School Infrastructure. [32]

Generally, the COLA structures will have a neutral visual heritage impact within the FSPS site due to their lightweight form and neutral colour palette. COLA structures in some locations will present greater potential for visual impact that others (e.g. the COLA fronting Building G immediately north of the heritage wall)- however these impacts have been discussed in detail in the relevant sections.

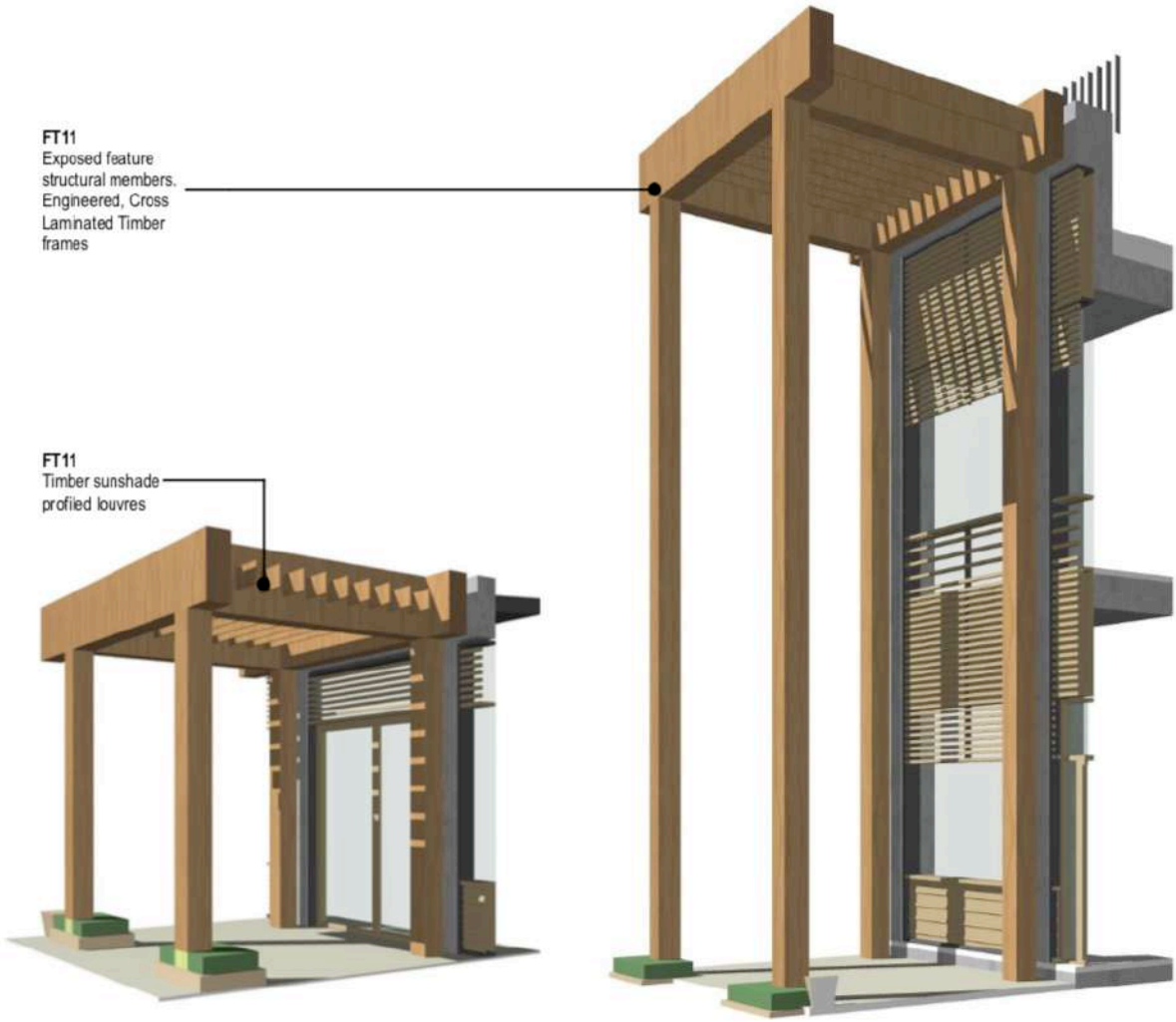

Figure 8.53: COLA Materiality (Source: FJMT 2020 SSDA Design Report: 67)

New Amphitheatre and Service Enclosure

The new amphitheatre proposed for the northeast of the FSPS site will act as a screen and barrier to the freeway, providing an elevated position to capture views, and connections to the existing eastern forecourt play area (to be retained). The structure will sit directly above a new subordinate structure/hardstand required to accommodate service area such as garbage storage and the fire booster system (Figure 8.56). Materiality of the services enclosure is

[32] FJMT 2020: 67

proposed as exposure feature structural members with timber profiled cladding (FT12 in Figure 8.55).

It is understood the placement of the services enclosure in this location is unavoidable in the design due to the logistical requirement for services to be positioned in this area of the site. However, while the amphitheatre and services enclosure will present a minor negative visual impact to the viewlines northeast to and from the FSPS Site, this will be offset by the proposed alterations to the existing Bradfield Tunnel Services Building in this same area of the site (see section below).

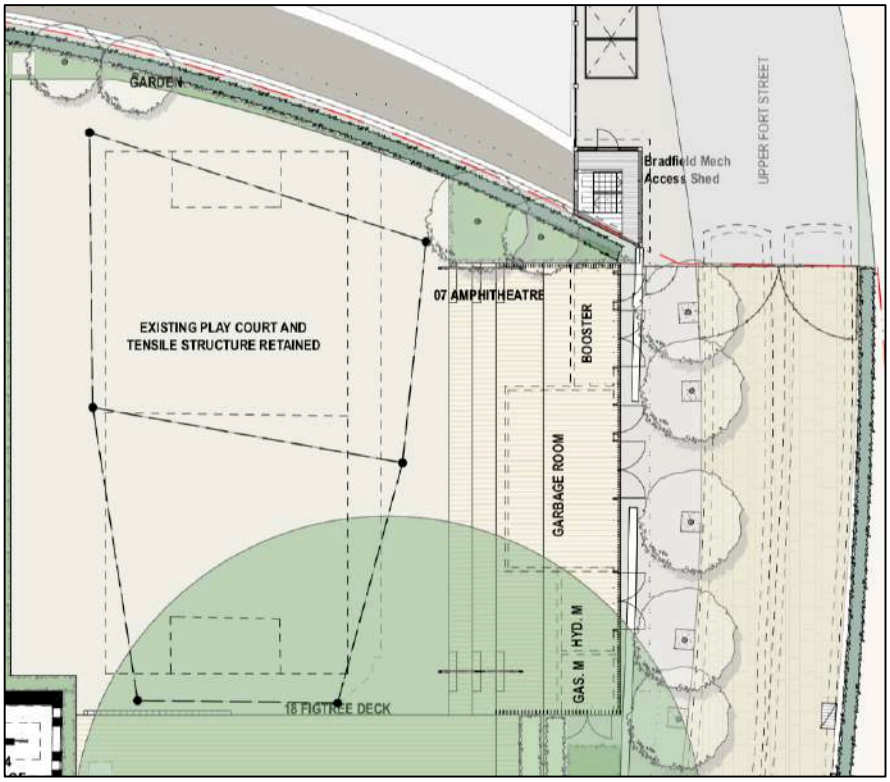

Figure 8.54: Proposed Ground Plan- Amphitheatre and services hardstand (Source: FJMT DA-2002, 18.12.2019)

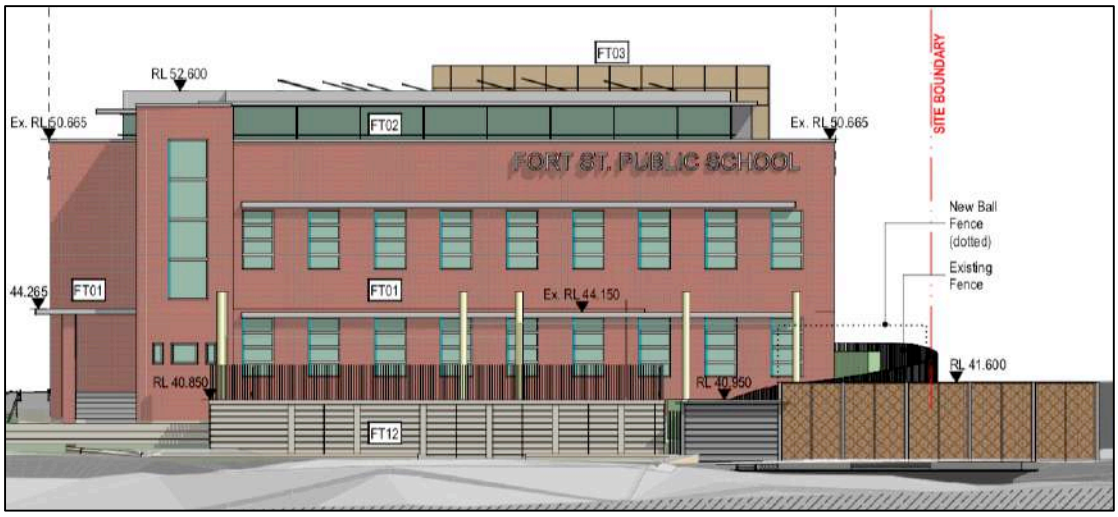

Figure 8.55: Eastern Elevation Amphitheatre and services hardstand (Source: FJMT DA-3001, 18.12.2019)

Bradfield Tunnel Services Building

Alterations are proposed to the existing Bradfield Tunnel Services Building, located in the northeast of the site, to solve the current problem of congestion in the north eastern entry to the site. The existing building functions as a protected access for tunnel personnel to the bulk of the services located beneath ground level, above the Cahill Cut (Figure 8.56). In consultation and discussion with RMS, it was agreed that modifications to the existing building could be made to allow widening of the north-east access roadway to the site to relieve this 'pinch point' in the site. This would be achieved through the demolition of the existing building, to be replaced by a smaller, lower profile, shed (adjacent to the northern end of the amphitheatre), and new mesh fencing (Figure 8.58 and Figure 8.59). Consultation with RMS is underway to determine appropriate ventilation arrangements for these proposed modifications.[33]

The proposed works would be a positive visual impact, reducing the bulk of the services building and widening Upper Fort Street in this location, improving views to the main school building from the north and northeast (Figure 8.59).

Figure 8.56: Existing Tunnel Bradfield Services Building. L: View south from Upper Fort Street. R: View northeast from eastern playground within school grounds

[33] FJMT 2020: 81

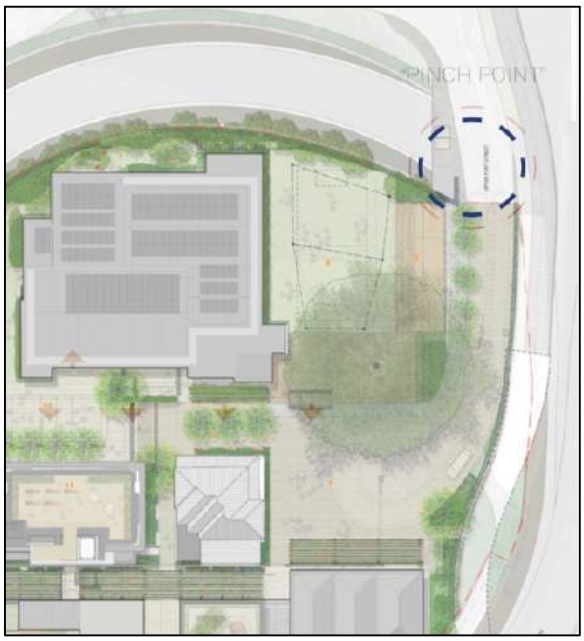

Figure 8.57: Identified 'Pinch Point' in northeast of the site, around Bradfield Tunnel Services Building and site access from Upper Fort Street (Source: FJMT 2020)

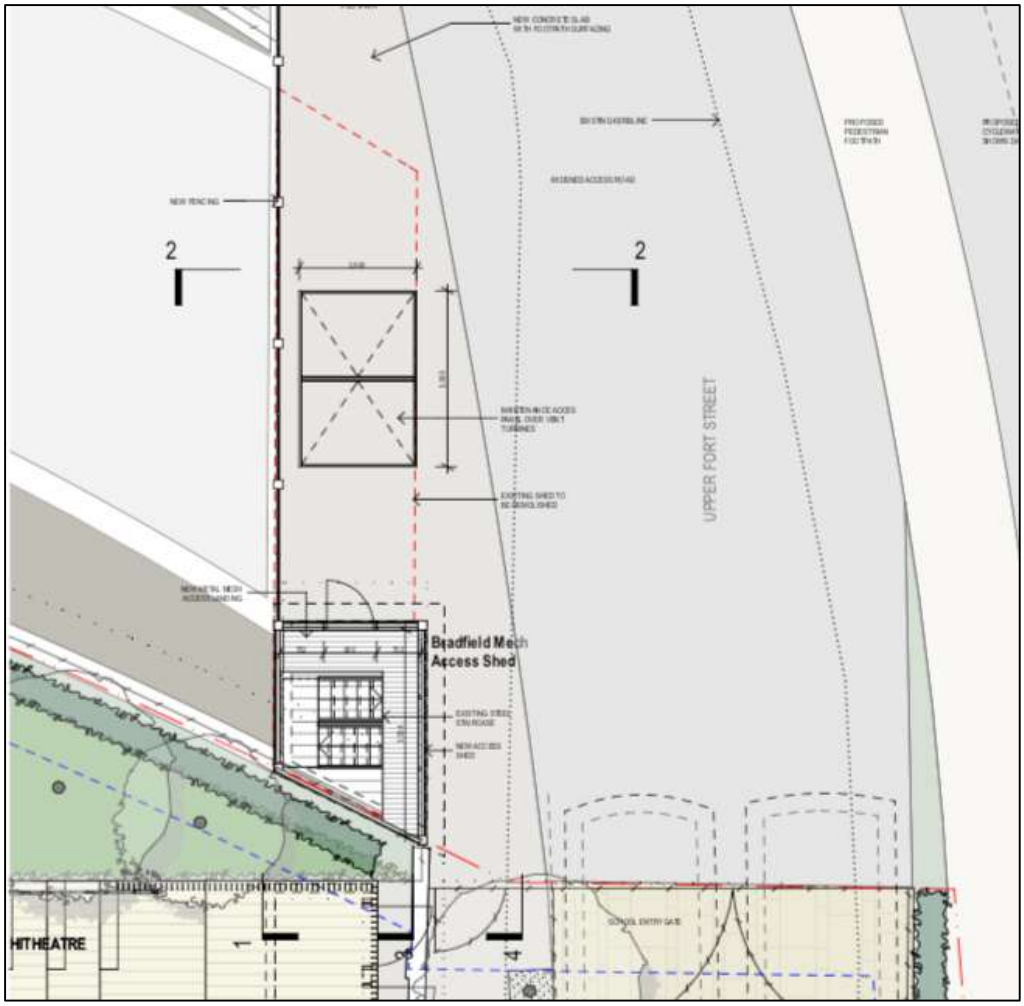

Figure 8.58: Proposed Plan of Services Building modifications. (Source: FJMT, DA-5003, 18.12.19)

Figure 8.59: Proposed view from newly widened Upper Fort Street to School with services building modifications. (Source: FJMT, DA-5003, 18.12.19)

Figure 8.60: View from north to FSPS site with Bradfield Services Building Modifications. (Source: FJMT, DA-5003, 18.12.19)

8.2.5. Setting and Views

External Views

As part of the design process, a Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) was undertaken by Ethos Urban to provide context for the potential impact of the proposed development on significant views surrounding the FSPS Site. This included the assessment of 11 different viewpoints, both in the immediate context of the FSPS Site as well as wider distance views from different vantage points along the Sydney Harbour Foreshore (Figure 8.61).

Due to its significance, potential views and vistas between the FSPS site and the Sydney Opera House were considered for this assessment of significant views, however the nature of the landforms and built environment of the area means that no clear viewlines or vistas exist between the two sites (Figure 8.62).

Other views with potential for heritage impact considered included views: north from Observatory Park (Figure 8.63); west to the site from Bradfield Highway (Figure 8.64); north to the site from the National Trust Building (Figure 8.65); east to the site from the Agar Steps (Figure 8.66); and the view north along the Bradfield Highway from the south of the site (Figure 8.67). The design presents no adverse impact to any of these key external views to the FSPS site.

Figure 8.61: Visual Impact Assessment Plan (Source: Ethos Urban 2020)

Figure 8.62: View from Sydney Opera House towards FSPS Site (indicated in red). Site not readily visible, view line already dominated by Barangaroo Development (Source: Ethos Urban, Viewpoint 10)

Figure 8.63: Viewpoint 1: Proposed- South from Observatory Hill Park (Source: Ethos Urban 2020: 29)

Figure 8.64: Viewpoint 2: Proposed- West from Bradfield Hwy along central corridor (Source: Ethos Urban 2020: 32)

Figure 8.65: Viewpoint 3: Proposed- North from National Trust Building (Source: Ethos Urban 2020: 35)

Figure 8.66: Viewpoint 4: Proposed- From Agar Steps, west of Cahill Cut (Source: Ethos Urban 2020: 38)

Figure 8.67: Viewpoint 5: Proposed- North from Bradfield Hwy (Source: Ethos Urban 2020: 41)

Internal Views

The central circulation and organising feature of the design for the FSPS site expansion is the establishment of a 'Central Courtyard' along the main east-west spine of the site- i.e. between the existing school building in the north, and the MET/Messenger's Cottage in the south. The design aims to connect all buildings to this central courtyard- either via direct access, or visually via 'view connectors'. All main 'public' buildings (i.e. the library- MET Building; Principal's office- Messenger's Cottage; and staff facilities- new Building F) will be accessible from this central courtyard.

The maintenance of this central view line is a positive visual heritage impact, consistent with the significant internal views within the FSPS site as identified in the CMP (Figure 8.68 and Figure 8.69).

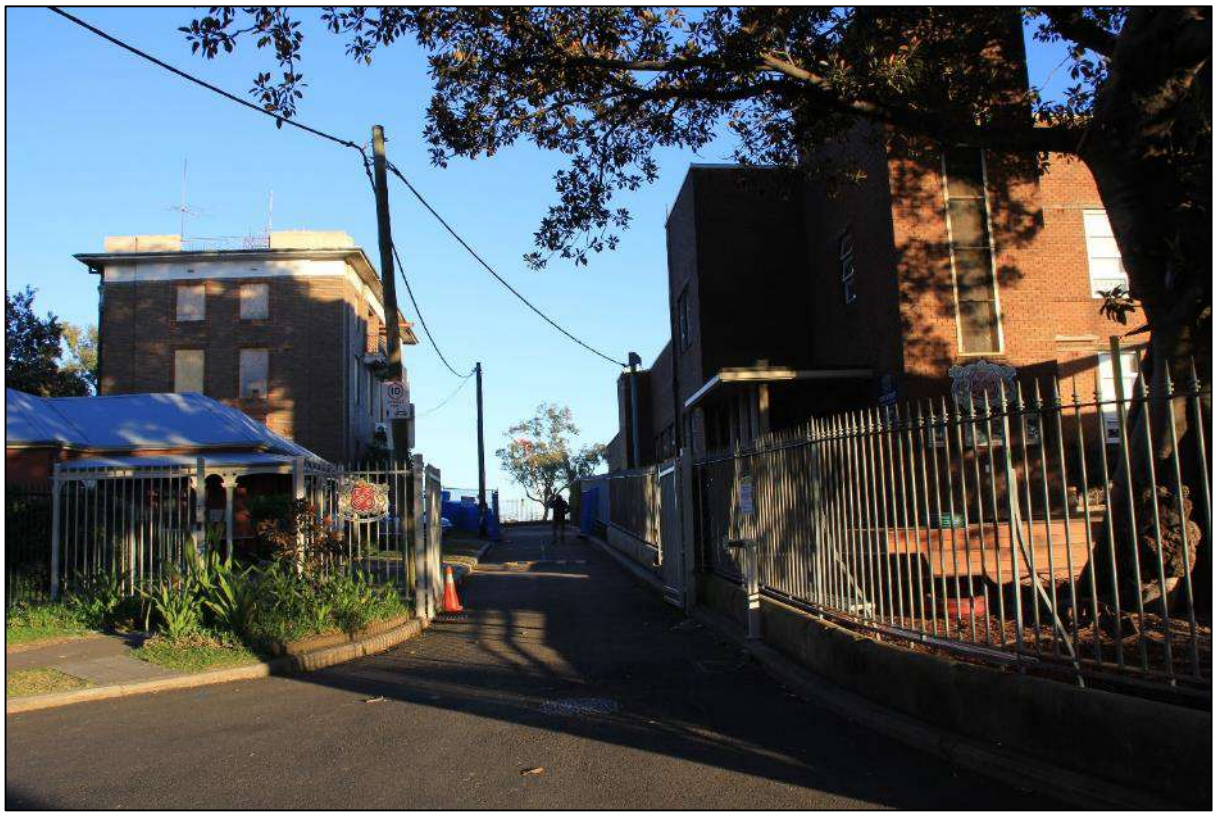

Figure 8.68: Current view west along proposed 'Central Courtyard' (Source: Curio 2019)

Figure 8.69: Proposed western elevation along Central Courtyard (Source: FJMT, DA-3001, SSDA01, 18.12.19)

8.2.6. Signage and Lighting

New signage is proposed for the main gateway entrances to the site (i.e. the main entrance in northeast, and secondary entrances in southeast and south (existing footbridge). The design also proposes additional waypoint signage within the school grounds (Figure 8.70). The existing white facade sign on the eastern elevation of the existing Fort Street School Building (Building A) will be retained.

The proposed signage is assessed to be consistent and appropriate for the use and heritage context of the site, and will have a neutral heritage impact.

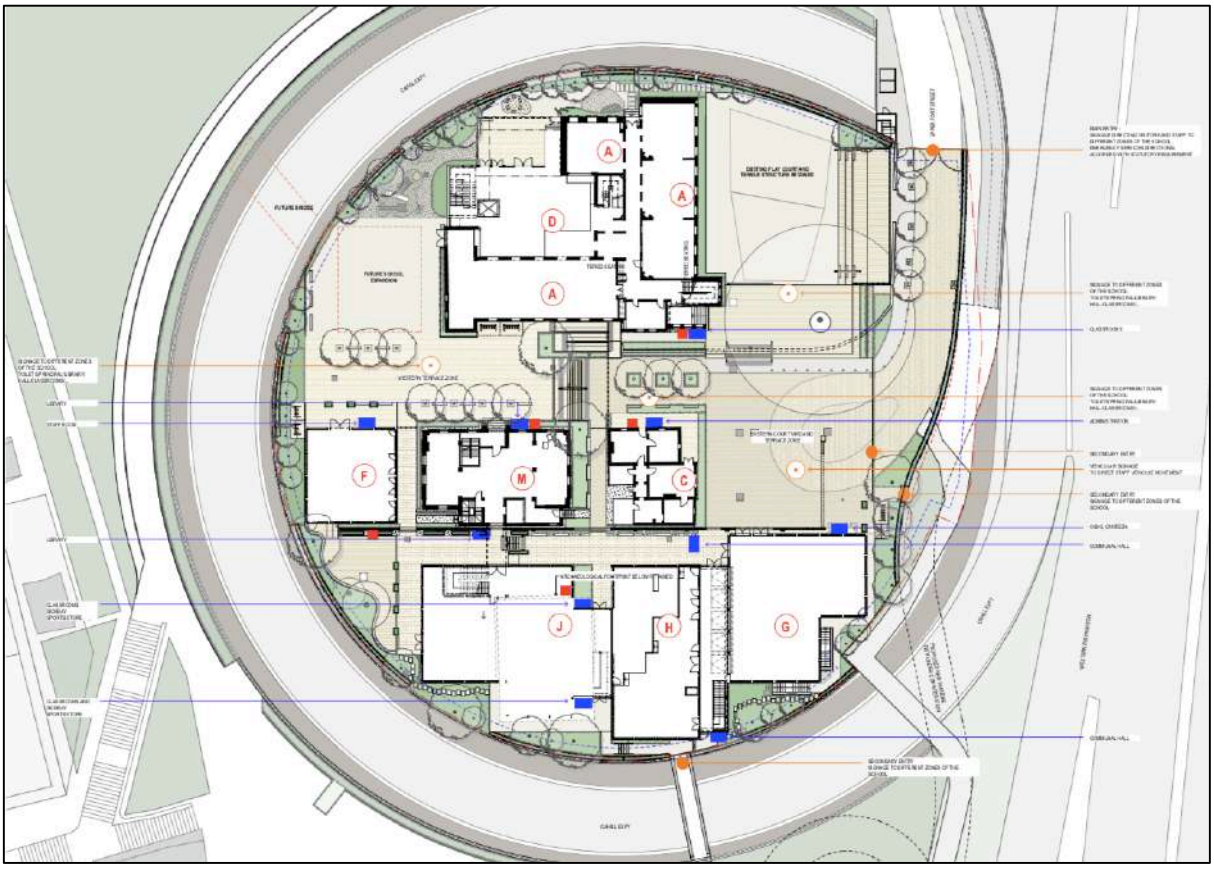

Figure 8.70: Proposed Signage Strategy (Source: FJMT Design Statement, 21.2.20: 50)

The development also proposes an external artificial lighting strategy for the FSPS Site, consisting of a range of 'sensitively placed fittings around the site that provide a blend of soft architectural accent lighting and required levels of low-level spatial lighting'.[34] With respect to heritage, the external lighting will include soft accent lighting on heritage items, which will serve to subtly light and allow night-time appreciation of primary façade elements.

Lighting engineering will be further developed through the schematic design phase, especially to consider appropriate sensitivity levels for adjacent sites, notably the Sydney Observatory (the design team has been in communication with Sydney Observatory to ensure primacy of Observatory is maintained), National Trust, and residential buildings. However, the lighting will be predominantly shielded from locations exterior to the site.

Overall, the lighting strategy will present a minor positive impact to the heritage values of the site, allowing further visual appreciation of the features and architecture of the existing heritage items through the application of soft accent lighting.

[34] FJMT 2020: 51

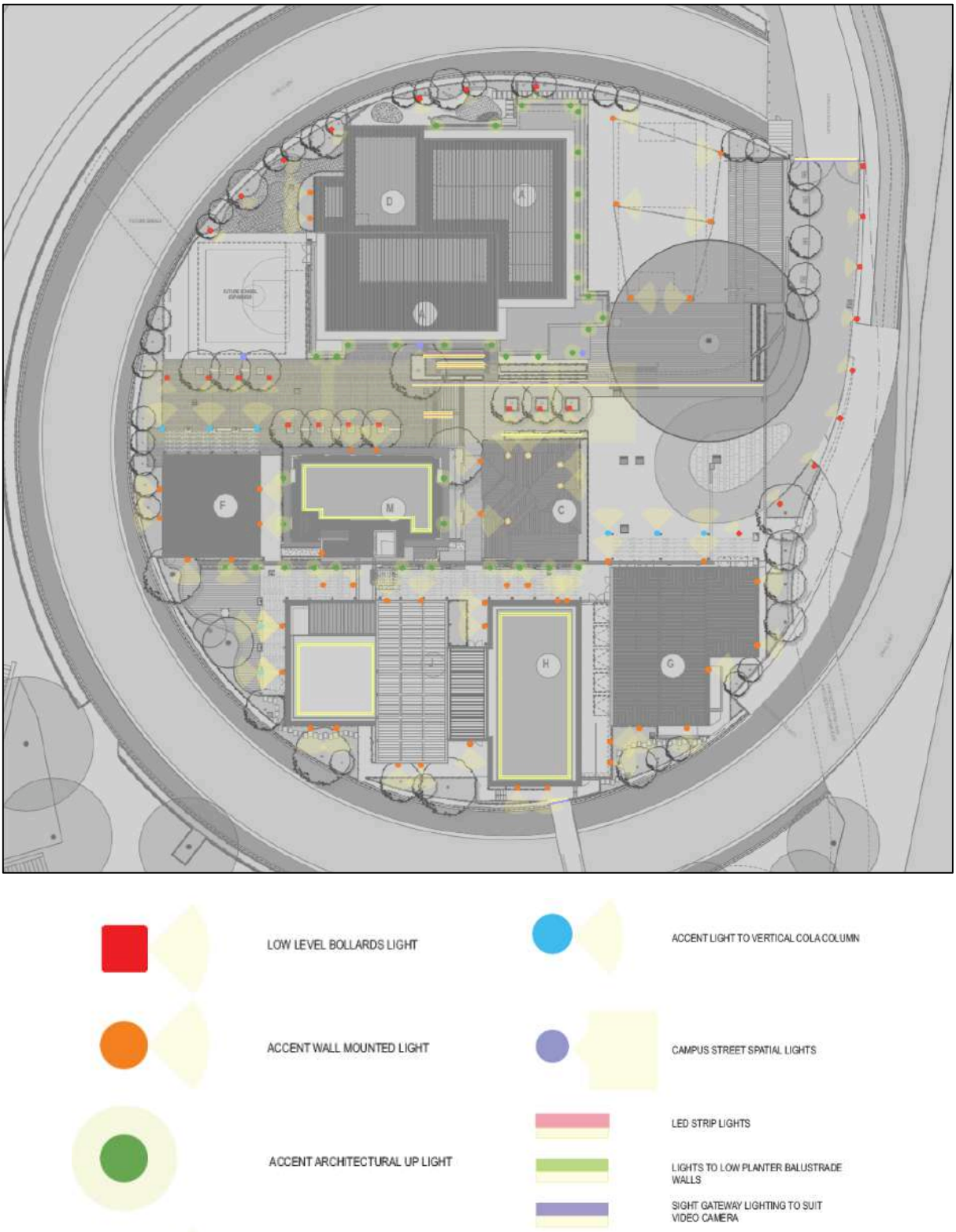

Figure 8.71: External Lighting Strategy (Source: FJMT 2020, Design Statement: 52)

8.3. Archaeological Impacts

Development elements and works with potential to impact archaeological deposits (should they be present within the study area), are only activities that will disturb the ground surface. Therefore, this archaeological impact assessment has been prepared with specific reference to the following development activities:

- Bulk excavation works;
- Installation of new hydraulic, civil and electrical services- including a new stormwater detention tank;
- Localised excavation for new school fences and gate; and
- Landscaping works (unlikely to impact under SSDA Plan- dependent on nature, depth and location of any excavation works required for landscaping).

The development works with potential to impact archaeology are discussed below, and then summarised with respect to potential impact to Aboriginal and historical archaeological resources.

8.3.1. Excavation (Bulk Earthworks and Services)

Bulk excavation works will be required for the construction of a new basement level beneath the new Buildings G and H on the eastern side of the site, as well as further excavation works for the installation of a Rainwater, OSD Tank and Stormwater Chamber (water tank system) (in the Assembly Area east of the Messenger's Cottage), and two lift overrun pits (one in the north in new Building D, and one within the MET Building in the south) (Figure 8.72).

While the design has aimed to minimise the need for bulk excavation at the FSPS site, the new basement level in the east is required to house the required plant and services for the new development (comms, sprinkler pump room, mechanical plant and electrical etc). Due to space constraints within the site, project civil engineers have proposed the installation of one consolidated underground Water Tank System (OSD, Rainwater and Stormwater chamber). A bulk earthwork plan prepared for the site indicates that the water tank may require excavation to a finished bulk excavation level of RL37.35 (i.e. approximately 2.5m below the existing ground surface). It is understood that the proportions of the water tanks may have the ability to be modified, dependent on the presence and/or nature of archaeology- should it be encountered in this area during development works.

Deeper excavation into high-strength rock is proposed in the south-eastern part of the site to accommodate the required facilities basement below Building G & H. Works may also potentially require a shoring wall to the south, adjacent to the Cahill Cut (Figure 8.74 and Figure 8.75). Detailed excavation requirements will be confirmed during the design development stage of the project. The majority of the basement concrete slab beneath Buildings G and H will either require excavation into, or be laid directly over the sandstone bedrock – that is, it is assumed that all fill and any remnant natural soil profiles within the footprint of the new basement will require full excavation.

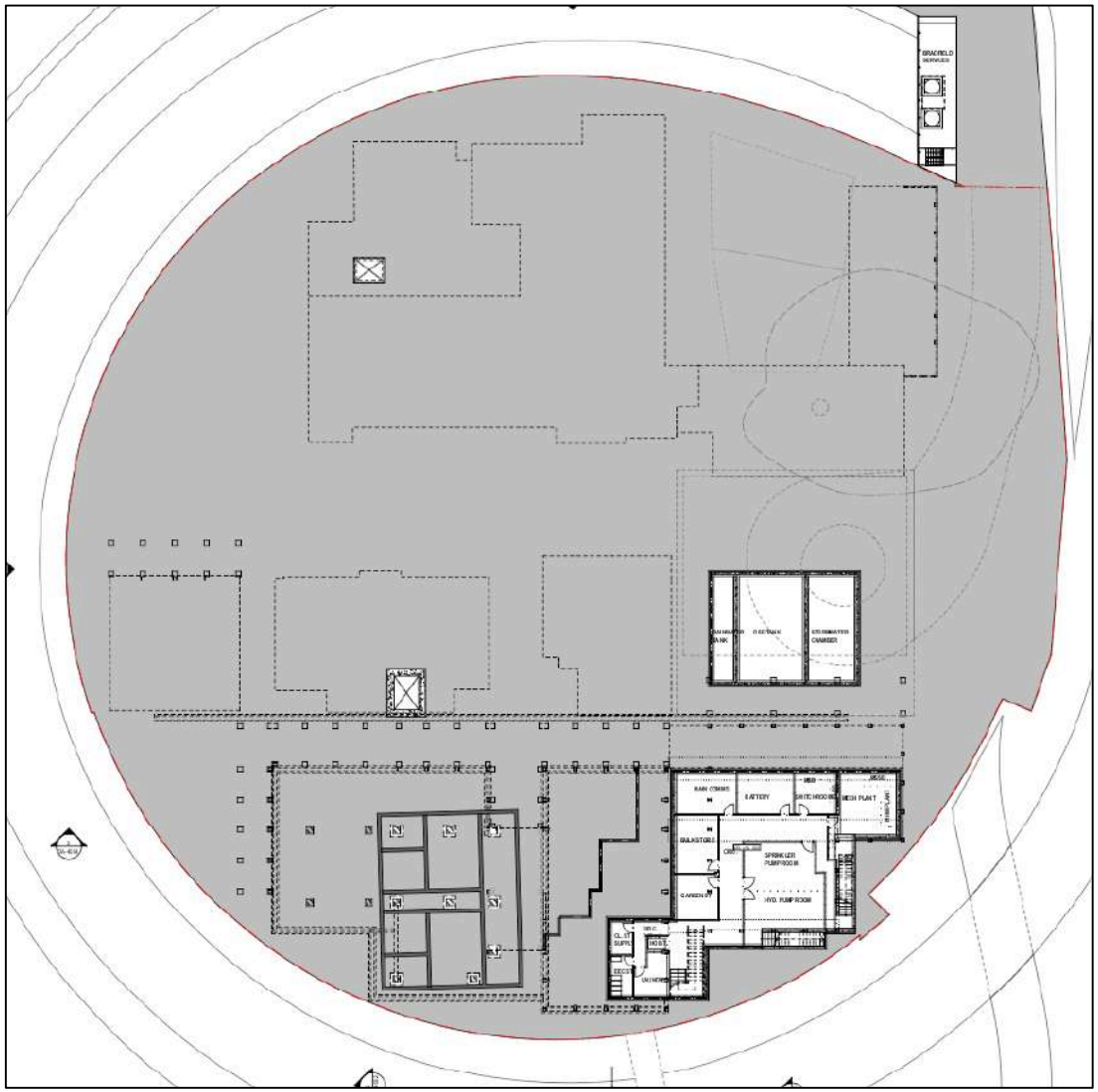

Figure 8.72: Locations of Bulk Excavation - Proposed Lower Ground Plan (Source FJMT, 18.12.19)

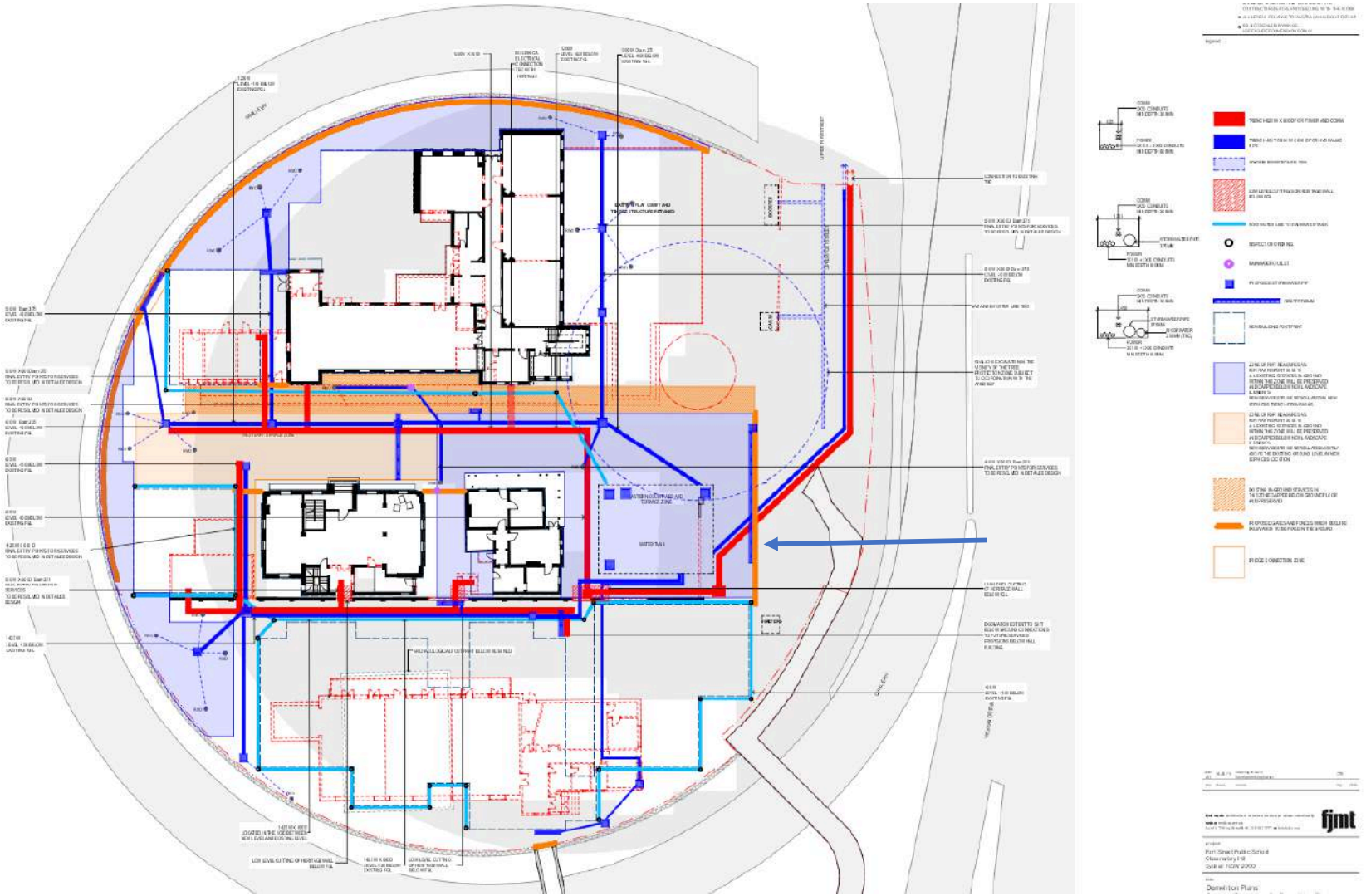

Figure 8.73: Proposed Services Plan over Demolition Plan. Water Tanks shown as white rectangle (indicated) (Source: FJMT DWG DA-2105, 18.12.19)

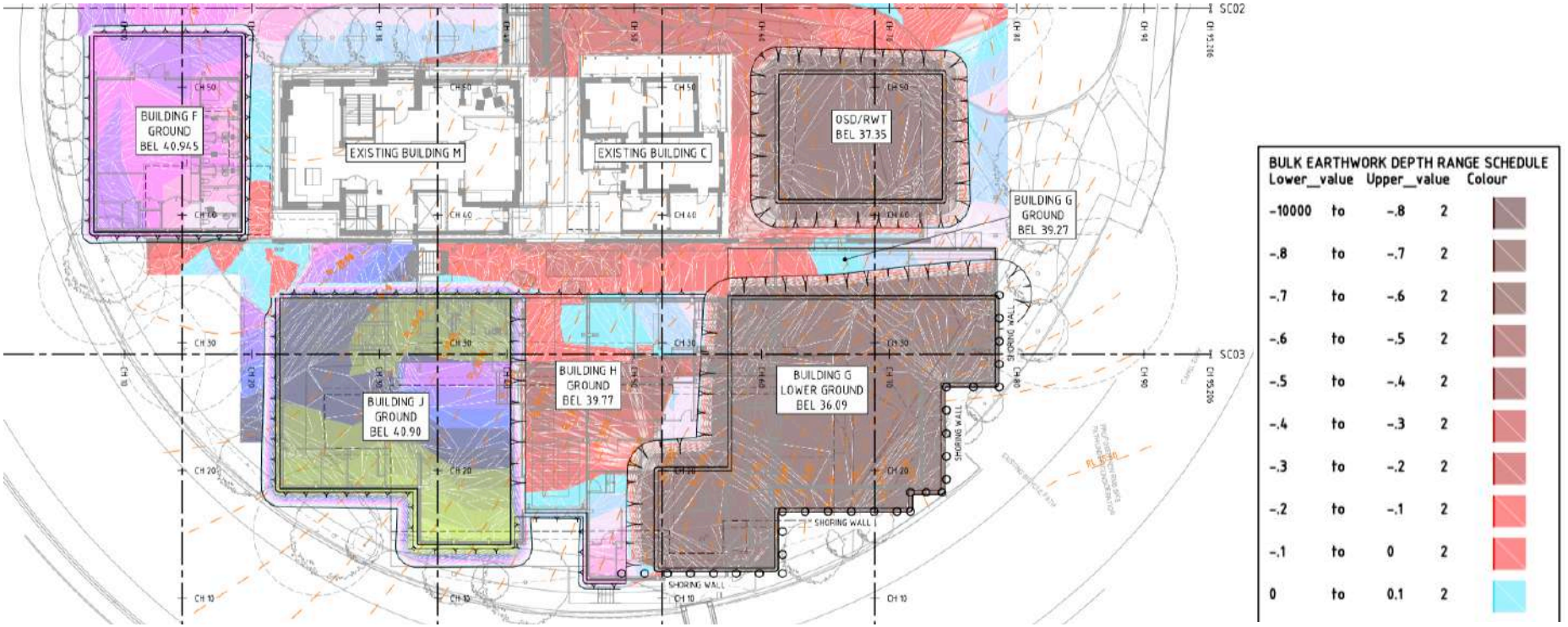

Figure 8.74: Bulk Excavation Works- Cut and Fill Plan Excerpt. Water Tank excavation area indicated as 'OSD/RTW', Building G excavation area visible in southeast (Source: Bonacci Group, DWGC010, 19.12.19)

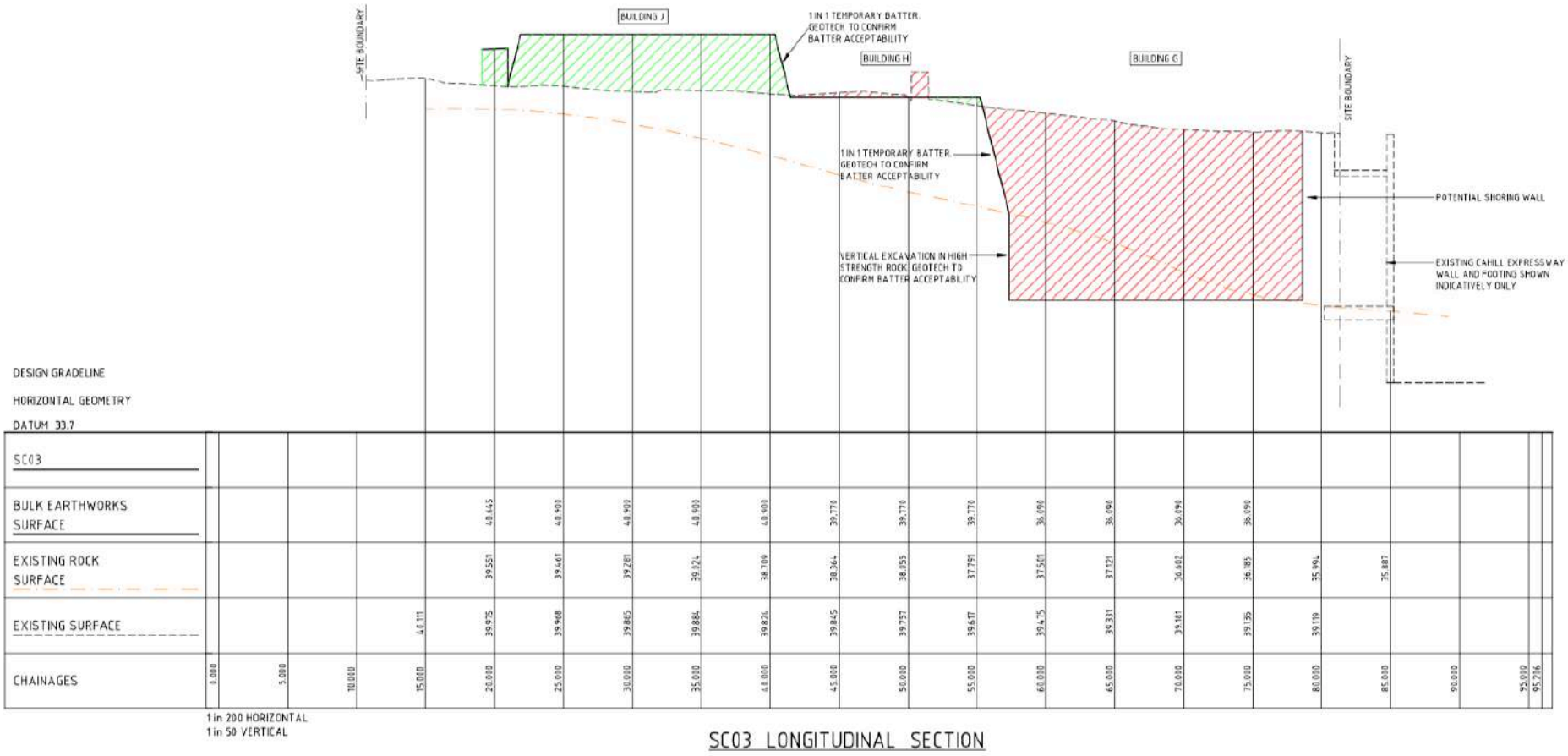

Figure 8.75: Bulk Excavation Works- SC03 Longitudinal Section (Sheet 2). Excavation depth for Building G visible in right, extending in some areas into bedrock (Source: Bonacci Group, DWGC016, 19.12.19)

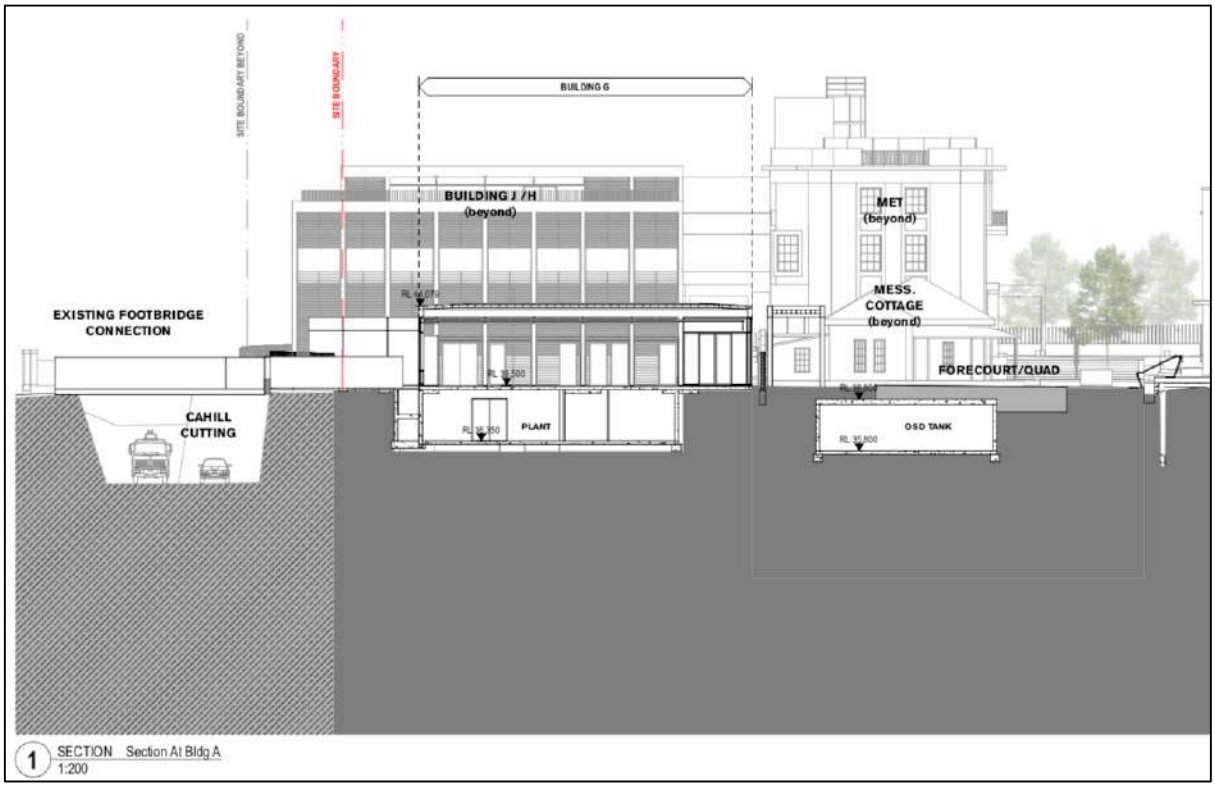

Figure 8.76: Section 1, c. North-South- New Basement and OSD Tank visible (Source: FJMT DWG DA-4001, 18.12.19

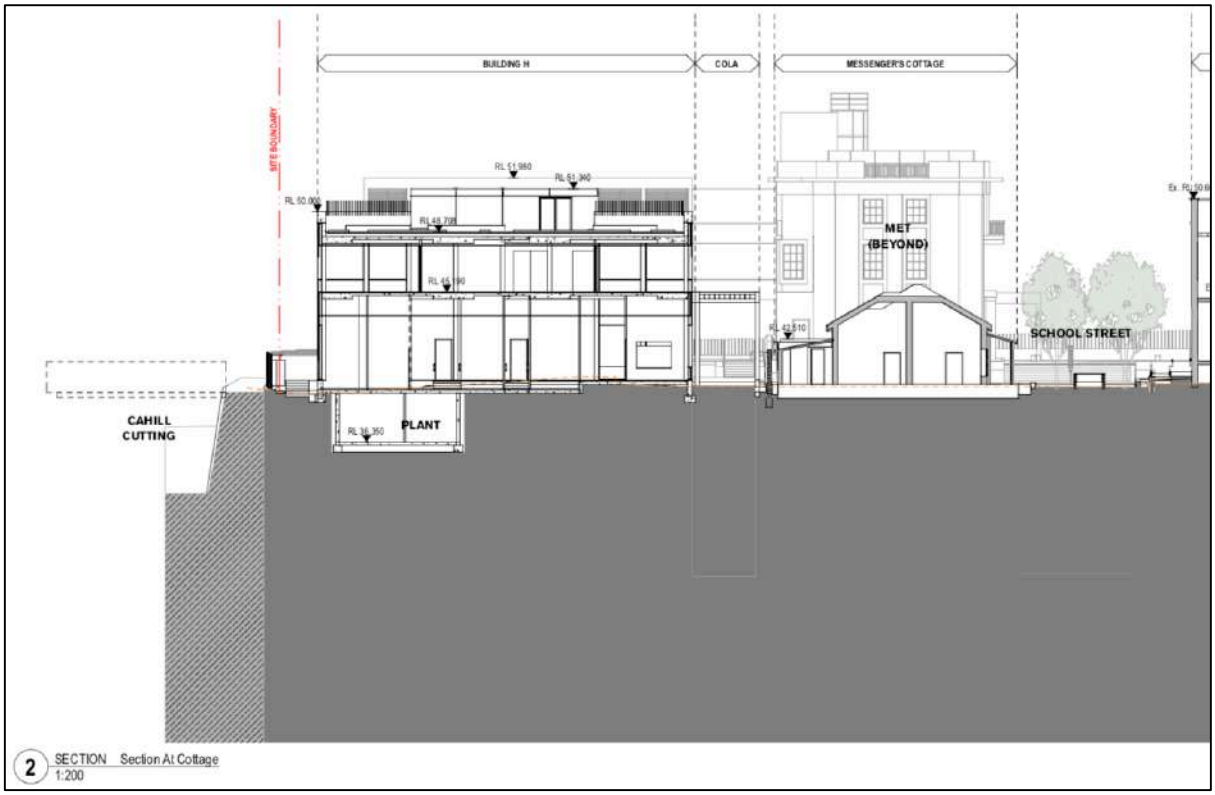

Figure 8.77: Section 2, c. North-South- New Basement visible (Source: FJMT DWG DA-4001, 18.12.19)

8.3.2. Landscaping

The final draft SSDA landscaping plan indicates that proposed landscaping works will generally entail soft landscaping and planting which will generally be limited in below-ground impact. At present, the majority of the proposed landscaping plan in fact proposes filling in order to slightly elevate the ground surface from existing (Figure 8.78). Therefore, the landscaping works as per the current design will have no impact to any potential archaeology within the site.

The SSDA Plan also proposes the installation of a new school fence and gate fronting Upper Fort Street in the east of the site (indicated as an orange 'L' line in Figure 8.73 above- on the right of image, and around the northwestern section of the Cahill Cut perimeter). This will require localised excavation for installation- with the exact excavation requirements to be confirmed through the schematic design.

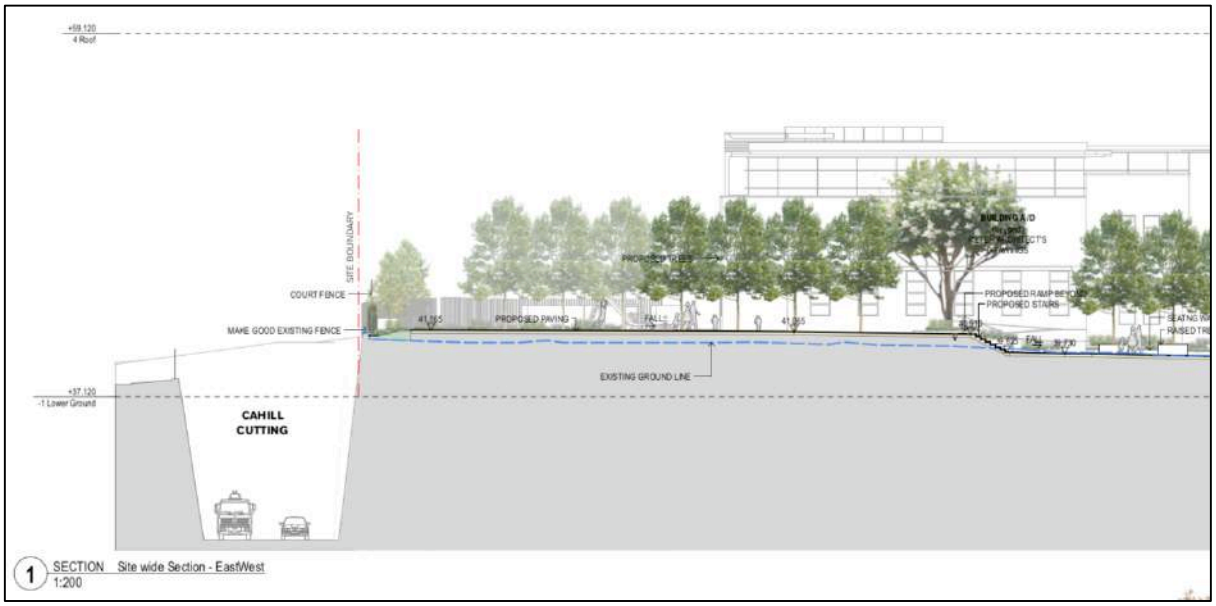

Figure 8.78: Landscaping Section (1)- EastWest (Source: FJMT DWG DA-8101, 18.12.19)

8.3.3. Historical Archaeology

Historical archaeological test excavation at the FSPS Site in July 2019 confirmed the presence of substantial archaeological evidence of the former Surgeon's House (c.1820s) in the south of the site (i.e. adjacent to/underlying the existing EEC building). The location of these remnant footings and archaeological resource coincide with the location of new Building J (Figure 8.79 and Figure 8.80).

In response to these findings, the design has been adapted to avoid the archaeological footings as much as possible, through the use of discrete piling and bridging techniques developed by project structural engineers, applied to allow retention of the archaeology *in situ* beneath the new development. This is a very positive heritage outcome and positive archaeological impact.

While the design has successfully minimised and mitigated potential impacts to the known location of the Surgeon's Cottage footings, development works still retain potential for impact to the historical archaeological resource that may be present within the site- in areas where below

ground development works are proposed. Historical archaeological test excavation has demonstrated that the southeast of the site retains the highest level of archaeological potential.

Therefore, further historical archaeological investigation and intervention will be required to be undertaken at the FSPS site, specific to the location of below ground development impacts (to be coordinated with development works) to ensure potential impact to the historical archaeological resource (both known and unknown) will be appropriately managed and/or avoided.

A Historical Archaeological Research Design and Excavation Methodology (ARD + EM) should be prepared as part of the conditions of consent for the development to guide the development works. Due to the presence of State significant archaeology at the FSPS site, all historical archaeological works must be supervised by an archaeologist who meets the NSW Heritage Council criteria for Excavation Director for relics and deposits of State significance.

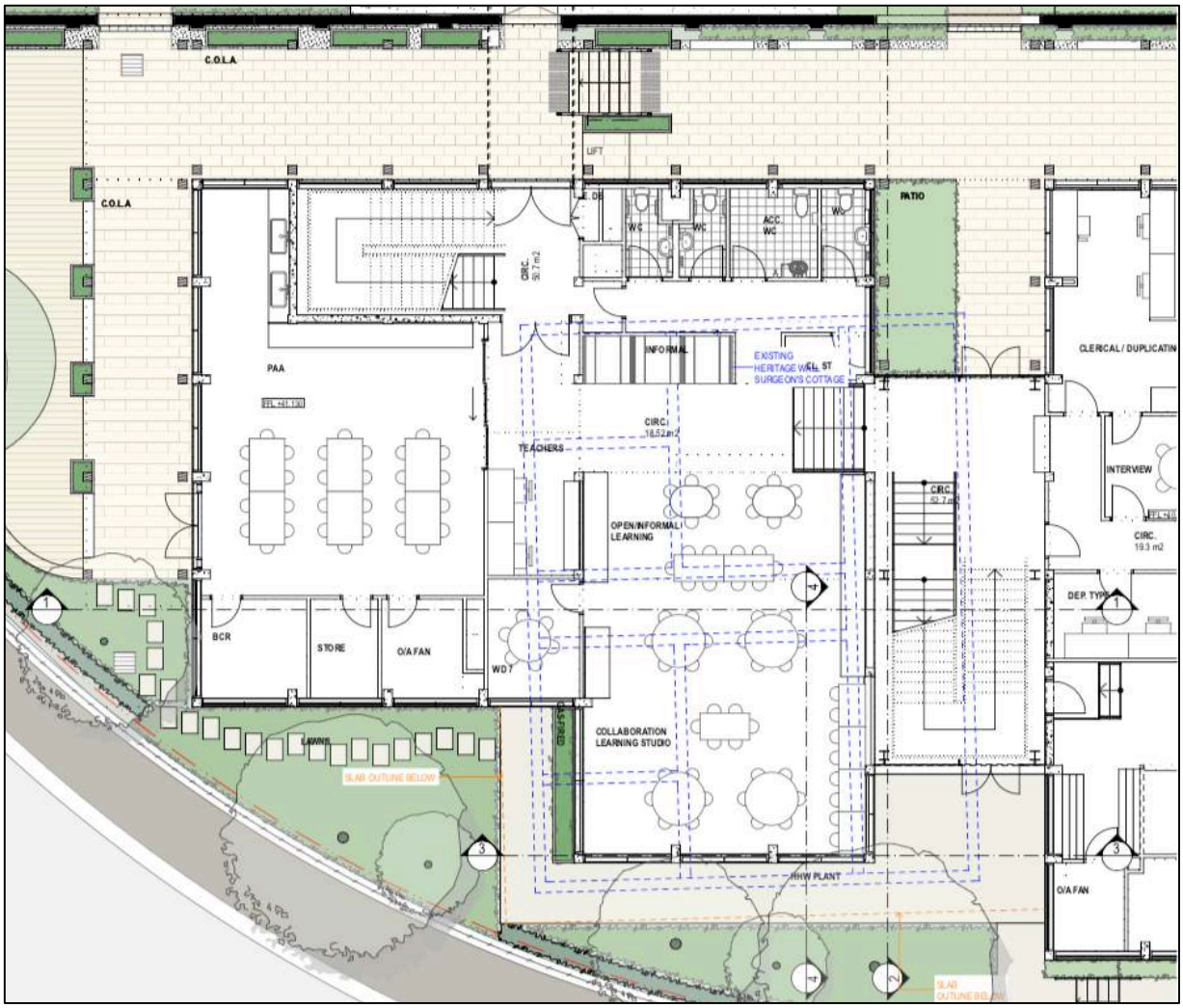

Figure 8.79: Approximate location of Surgeon's Cottage archaeological footings over plan of future Building J (Source: FJMT 2019 DA-5004, 18.12.19)

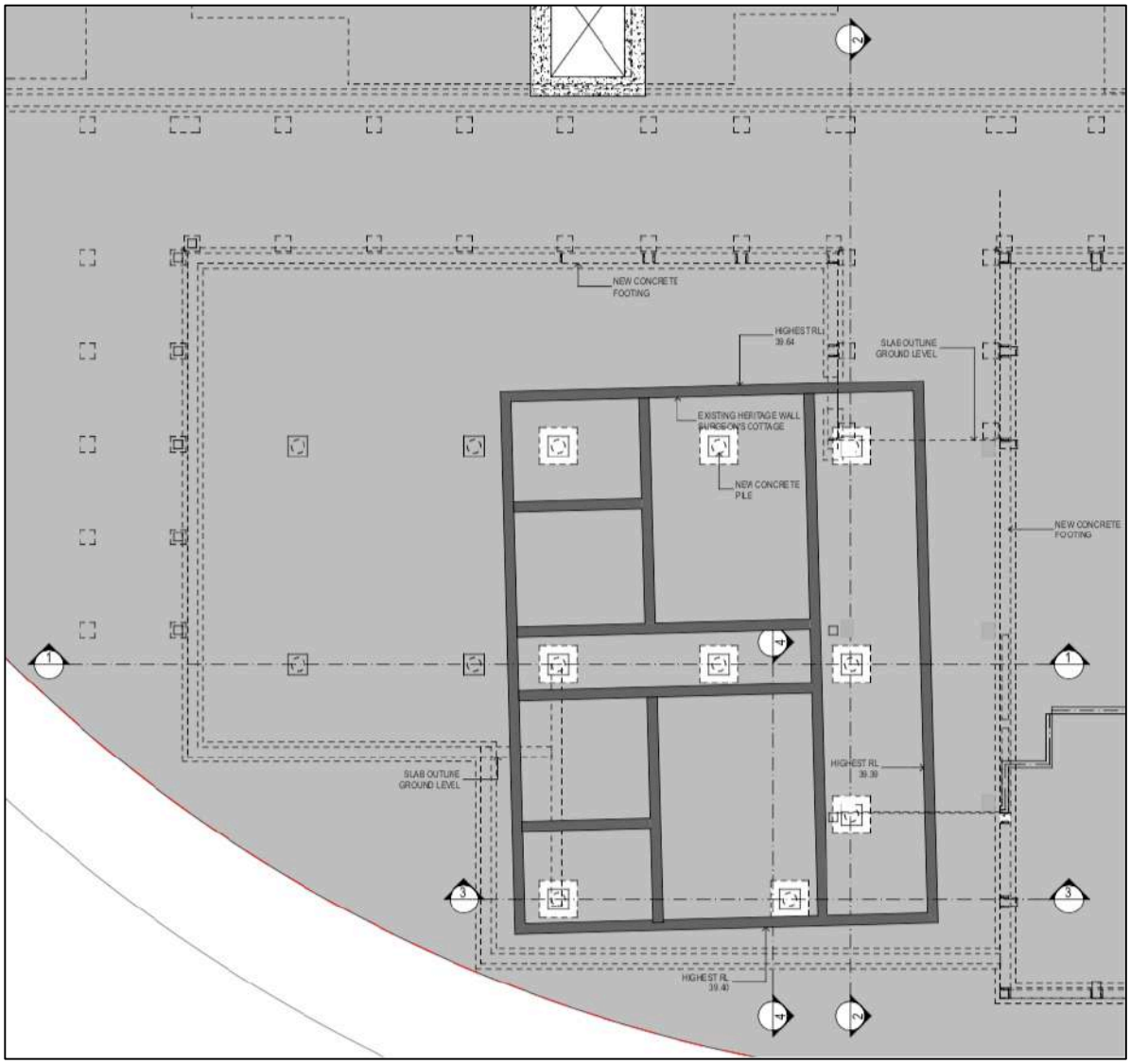

Figure 8.80: Approximate location of Surgeon's Cottage archaeological footings over lower ground plan of future Building J. Proposed locations of concrete piles and placement in an effort to avoid footings (Source: FJMT 2019 DA-5004, 18.12.19)

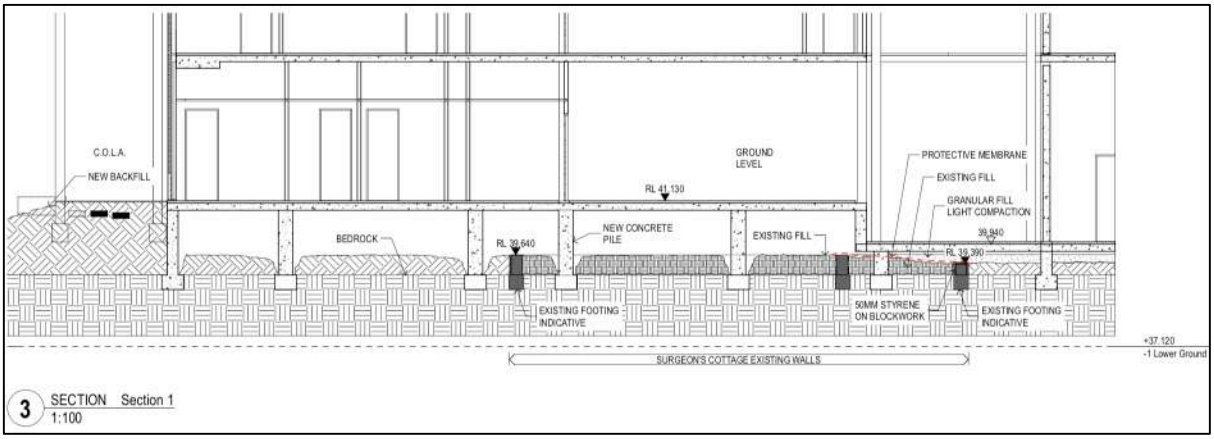

Figure 8.81: Section demonstrating methodology for bridging and retaining footings of Surgeon's Cottage (Source: FJMT 2019 DA-5004, 18.12.19)

8.3.4. Aboriginal Archaeology

The ACHAR undertook a comparison of the location and extent of below ground development impacts with areas in the site that have been demonstrated to retain a natural soil profile- or with potential to retain a natural soil profile- in order to identify areas where the development has potential to encounter/impact natural soil profiles.

Firstly, it should be noted that any natural soil profiles beneath the FSPS study area are likely to have already been subject to high levels of disturbance, due to extensive historical use and development of the site since 1788- as well as the propensity for the soil types in this area to suffer from extensive sheet erosion following vegetation clearing. While this severely limits the intactness of any potential Aboriginal archaeological resource, until the nature of the potential natural soils (as identified through the historical archaeological testing, and associated geotechnical/environmental testing) can be investigated, the potential for the presence of Aboriginal archaeological deposits within the study area, albeit low, must still be acknowledged.

The highest levels of Aboriginal archaeological potential within the site have been assessed to be in the northeast and north of the study area. Aboriginal archaeology was considered during the Master Planning process for the site, and this level of potential was one of the contributing factors that lead the development of the Concept Plan to avoid new development below ground in the north and east of the study area. Therefore, any impact to potential Aboriginal archaeological deposits that may be present in the north/northeast of the study area, will be avoided through this development.

In summary:

- There are no registered Aboriginal sites are located within the study area.
- While there is a low potential for intact Aboriginal archaeological deposits to remain within the FSPS study area, should such deposits be found to be present within remnant natural soil profiles, these may have potential for moderate to high social, historical and scientific significance.
- Therefore, it is appropriate to develop strategies to mitigate this potential impact.
- Potential below ground impacts (as per the SSDA Design) appear to be focused in the southeast of the study area.

Therefore, it is appropriate to develop appropriate management and mitigation strategies for the FSPS site to further clarify the actual potential for impact to potential Aboriginal archaeological deposits (if present within the study area).

Section 6.1 of the ACHAR presents a strategy and methodology for Aboriginal archaeological monitoring and potential targeted test excavation- tailored to specific below ground impacts of the development works.

The ACHAR proposes three main methods of Aboriginal archaeological investigation in relation to the below ground works proposed by the SSDA Plan for the expansion of the FSPS as:

- Targeted archaeological monitoring of excavation works in areas that have demonstrated potential to encounter natural soil profiles (with potential to trigger test excavation if natural soils are encountered);
- Targeted test excavation in any areas where monitoring encounters substantial intact natural soil profiles requiring impact; and
- Salvage excavation of any identified Aboriginal archaeological deposit (if encountered), in order to understand the full extent, and nature of the identified resource, to the extent of development impacts.

8.4. Summary of Heritage Impacts

The Burra Charter (2013) describes *change* as:

> *Change may be necessary to retain cultural significance, but is undesirable where it reduces cultural significance. The amount of change to a place and its use should be guided by the cultural significance of the place and its appropriate interpretation*

The cultural significance of the existing Fort Street School building relates primarily to its ongoing use and function as a purpose-built public primary school building. This will be retained and enhanced through the proposed development works, ensuring the feasibility of future function of this building (and the wider FSPS site) as a public school.

Further, the preferred design for the FSPS Expansion has been reached via an exhaustive process of analysis of all possible options for the site- from which the current design has been identified as the option for the site that will present the smallest impacts to the heritage fabric, views and wider significance of the site.

The following key points are made about the heritage impact assessment prepared for the FSPS Expansion project:

- In order to meet the SI brief and EFSG requirements for the development, sensitive modifications and additions to the Fort Street Public School building (constructed as a purpose-built public school building) are considered to be appropriate and preferential from a heritage perspective - rather than incur additional heritage impact to other heritage items not originally constructed as school buildings, or potential sub-surface archaeological resources present within the site. The proposed additions and alterations to the FSPS main building will facilitate the continuing use of the building for the school, of which adaptation is necessary to meet current educational requirements, guidelines and needs.
- The demolition of the EEC, MET garage, and the western toilet block of the school building will have no physical impact to heritage fabric, nor will they present any adverse impacts on the heritage significance of the FSPS Site in its immediate and surrounding heritage context.
- The proposed modifications and additions to the FSPS Building will retain the readability of its 1940s architecture, which, while exemplary at the time of its construction, is

suitable for the application of evolving modifications as required by the needs of school. The sensitive adaptation of the school building will in this way serve as a heritage best practice example for ways in which the ongoing improvement and evolution of purpose-specific school buildings from this era can be applied to meet with modern educational standards, ensuring continuity of use as a public school, with facilities capable of delivery high quality education.

- While minor physical impacts to the Messenger's Cottage are proposed, the adaptation of the heritage item is considered to be an overall positive heritage impact, ensuring the continued use of the building as part of the school.
- The restoration and adaptive re-use of the Bureau of Meteorology Building (currently in a serious state of disrepair and neglect) will be a major positive heritage impact, restoring function and access to the heritage item. Further, use of the MET Building as a library and meeting space for the school is appropriate as it will facilitate some public access (after hours, meeting spaces etc).
- The scale, bulk and height of the new buildings and additions will be visually recessive to the existing heritage items, as well as within the context of the wider heritage setting of the site, and is therefore considered to have a neutral visual impact in the locational heritage context of the FSPS Site.
- The proposed modifications to the Bradfield Tunnel Services Building will present an overall positive visual impact to the site, reducing the bulk of the existing services building and widening Upper Fort Street in this location, improving views to the main school building from the north and northeast.

The constraints of the project brief, SI Strategic Business Case and EFSG have meant that the proposed development will unavoidably present some negative heritage impacts - both physically to heritage fabric and archaeology, as well as visually within the heritage context of the site. However, the design process has worked to minimise these impacts as much as possible using clever and pragmatic design options and solutions, developed in close consultation with relevant specialists (heritage, archaeology, stormwater, traffic etc). The remaining heritage impacts as proposed by the preferred design have been identified as necessary in order to keep the function and expansion of the Fort Street Public School possible, as per the required parameters of the development as stipulated by SI. The design process included rigorous analysis of all site development options, design, and locations for new buildings etc.

Therefore, the final iteration of this design process (as discussed in this HIS) is considered to be the best possible design option to reduce and/or balance heritage impacts, while meeting all of SI requirements to guarantee viability of the development. The identified heritage impacts will be offset and mitigated through careful detailed design (i.e. materiality and colour), heritage interpretation and archaeological investigation.

Therefore, while the development presents some heritage impact (both physically and visually), this impact has been guided by the cultural significance of the individual heritage elements and

wider site function and significance), and therefore are considered to be acceptable heritage impacts in accordance with Burra Charter principles.

8.5. Heritage Interpretation

The development proposes the installation of interpretive heritage signage in key locations around the site that will display information pertaining to the history and significance of the element in question. The intact heritage buildings (Messenger's Cottage, MET, and FSPS Building A) shall each have keynote signage installed. Likewise the remnant components of the Surgeon's Cottage footings, east-west masonry site wall, and other graded items of significance will have specific signage designed to signify the layers of history on the site.

Appropriate and meaningful heritage interpretation initiatives should be implemented within the FSPS site in order to communicate the heritage significance and history of the site as a way of mitigating the impact to heritage values as posed by the development works.

A Heritage Interpretation Strategy is currently in preparation for the FSPS Site, to be developed in conjunction with the detailed design of the development, and implemented during and/or at the completion of construction works.

8.6. Assessment against Draft CMP Policies

The following table provides a summary of the current design assessed briefly against the relevant policies of the SSDA Issue CMP (Curio & TKD 2020).

Table 8.1: Summary of Draft CMP Policies

POLICY	POLICY DESCRIPTION	DESIGN COMMENT
1	*This Conservation Management Plan should provide the basis for the future conservation and adaptive reuse of the Fort Street Public School Messenger's Cottage and Bureau of Meteorology Building.*	Compliant. Noted that the CMP will require updating once development works have been completed at the site.
2	*Management of the heritage values of the Fort Street Public School site including key structural elements of Fort Street Public School, the Messenger's Cottage and the Bureau of Meteorology Building should be in accordance with the principles, polices and guidelines in this Conservation Management Plan and in other best-practice heritage principles and guidelines.*	Compliant. Heritage advice provided during design planning has been guided by principles of the Burra Charter and Heritage Council guidelines. Design solutions have been sought to avoid and/or reduce physical intervention to heritage fabric wherever possible. Gradings of significance used in this HIS have been drawn from those specified in the draft CMP.
3	*The Fort Street Public School site has historical and cultural significance as part of a wider significant heritage precinct in Sydney's centre, and should be recognised and managed within its wider context, not just as a site in isolation.*	Compliant. Section 4.2 of this HIS considers wider setting and context of the FSPS Site in its wider heritage precinct.
4	*Appropriate conservation skills and experience should be employed to undertake any conservation or new works at the site.*	Compliant. This HIS recommends that all conservation and maintenance works require to be undertaken by, or in consultation with, appropriately qualified and experienced heritage professionals.
5	*Additional research and assessment of the component spaces and fabric of the Bureau of Meteorology Building should be undertaken to inform decision-making in relation to the detailed design of conservation works and alterations and additions to the site and its significant components.*	Compliant. The proposed design includes provision for emergency repairs and restoration works for the MET Building.

POLICY	POLICY DESCRIPTION	DESIGN COMMENT
6	*Building and site works proposed within the Fort Street Public School site should be assessed for their potential to impact (both positively and adversely) on the heritage significance of the site and the heritage significance of other heritage items and /or heritage conservation areas in the vicinity.*	Compliant. See impact assessment in Section 8 of this HIS.
7	*A recording of the condition of significant fabric and key features of Fort Street Public School, the Messenger's Cottage and the Bureau of Meteorology Building should be undertaken before, during and after repair works or as part of any new works.*	N/A
8	*Fort Street Public School, the Messenger's Cottage, the Bureau of Meteorology and the overall Fort Street Public School site will be managed in ways that are consistent with applicable heritage legislative requirements. Works required to comply with building code and other legislative requirements should aim to avoid or minimise impacts on the site's heritage significance.*	Compliant. This HIS has been prepared with reference to and consideration of all relevant heritage legislation and guidelines (as described in Sections 1 and 2)
9	*Heritage conservation should:* *• Adopt a holistic approach and extend to all significant aspects of the place* *• Retain significant components, spaces, elements and fabric of the place consistent with their* *assessed level of significance and in accordance with specific actions identified within this CMP;* *• Make use of all expertise and knowledge, and adopt an evidence-based approach to materials* *conservation; and* *• Ensure that the authenticity of original elements and fabric is maintained.*	Compliant.
10	*The conservation of the significant buildings and fabric is to be undertaken in a manner that is consistent with their assessed levels of heritage significance and in accordance with the guidelines included in this CMP.*	Compliant. See Section 6 and 8 of this HIS.

POLICY	POLICY DESCRIPTION	DESIGN COMMENT
11	*Management of the cultural landscape of the Fort Street Public School site should be consistent with the assessed levels of heritage significance of its key elements and in accordance with the principles, policies and guidelines in this CMP.*	Compliant. See Section 6 and 8 of this HIS.
12	*Items of movable heritage should be managed in a manner that is consistent with the following documents and guidelines:* *• Movable Heritage Principles, NSW Heritage Office (Now Heritage Division, Office of Environment and Heritage) and the Ministry for the Arts, 2000; and* *• Objects in Their Place: an Introduction to Movable Heritage, NSW Heritage Office, 1999*	N/A The design in its current form does not propose impact to movable heritage, to be further detailed as required through schematic design.
13	*Aboriginal archaeological potential had been assessed as low to moderate, with potential for Aboriginal archaeological deposits to be present within remnant natural soil profiles, where they remain within the site. Proposed future works that will disturb the ground surface will require further Aboriginal archaeological assessment.*	Compliant. See ACHAR recommendations. (Appendix B to this HIS)
14	*The Fort Street Public School site has both demonstrated presence of, as well as further potential to retain a historical archaeological resource of State significance, which require management in accordance with the provisions of the NSW Heritage Act 1977, and all relevant best practice guidelines for archaeology.*	Compliant. See Sections 5.1 and 8.3 of this HIS and Historical ARD recommendations (Appendix C to this HIS)
15	*A Heritage Interpretation Plan should be prepared for the Fort Street Public School site to assist with enhancing user and visitor appreciation and understanding of the history and heritage significance of the site.*	Compliant. A Heritage Interpretation Strategy is currently in preparation for the FSPS Site, to be developed in conjunction with the detailed schematic design of the development, and implemented during and/or at the completion of construction works.
16	*Ongoing maintenance and repair of site heritage items and elements is required to ensure functionality and safety of the site, including minor day-to-day activities as well as larger scale repairs, restoration or alteration works. Policies have been*	N/A Relevant to schematic design and future development works only (i.e. not relevant to this HIS).

POLICY	POLICY DESCRIPTION	DESIGN COMMENT
	developed to guide all maintenance and repair activities, in order to avoid adverse impact to heritage values and significance through such activities.	
17	*Buildings contained within the Fort Street Public School site may contain a range of hazardous materials. Management of hazardous materials is essential to ensure that all associated health risks are appropriately considered but will need to be undertaken to avoid, minimise or mitigate impacts on significant fabric and features.*	Compliant. Design includes Remediation Action Plan and associated hazardous materials investigation results etc (see EIS)
18	*The existing services and services infrastructure at the site are of varying age and condition. Services are also subject to improvements in technology. Replacement and upgrading of existing services, as well as installation of new services, will need to occur from time to time.*	Compliant. Proposed services plan for development reduces heritage impact wherever possible, and has been developed in consideration of heritage advice provided through project to client by Curio Proejcts.
19	*Any required or proposed ground disturbance and/or excavation in the future at the site have potential to adversely impact significant aspects of the site including known/potential archaeology, significant buildings, trees and other landscape elements.*	Compliant. Archaeological mitigation measures and recommendations for design summarised in Section 8.3, ACHAR (Appendix B) and Historical ARD (Appendix C).
20	*There is potential for the site to contain contaminated soil as a result of previous actions such as the use of hazardous building materials in existing and now demolished structures, the use of pest control chemicals and the importation of contaminated fill.*	Compliant. See Remediation Action Plan included as part of EIS package for development.
21	*The most appropriate uses and activities for the site are those that would avoid adverse impacts and that would continue to allow the site's history and heritage values to be easily understood. The preferred uses for the significant buildings within the site are those that would enhance an appreciation of the place, its evolving role and ensure the conservation of the significant buildings and landscape features.*	Compliant. Design proposes ongoing use of site as a public school, including conservation of all heritage items, and conservation of archaeology where possible.

POLICY	POLICY DESCRIPTION	DESIGN COMMENT
22	*Alterations and additions within the Fort Street Public School site are permissible, provided they respond to the heritage significance of the site and significant building fabric.*	Compliant. All additions and alterations proposed by design have been properly described, assessed, and where necessary, appropriately justified, within Section 8 of this HIS.
23	*Equitable access will be required across the Fort Street Public School site, however, modifications needed to comply with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 will need to be carefully designed to avoid or minimise adverse heritage impacts as much as possible.*	Compliant. Further details about accessibility design etc to be refined through schematic design.
24	*Determining whether demolition of buildings or parts of buildings within the Fort Street Public School site is appropriate is dependent on their heritage significance and the contribution that they make to the heritage values of the site.*	Compliant. All demolition works proposed through the current design have been discussed and appropriately justified within Section 8 of this HIS, in consideration of the heritage significance and/or values of the component element proposed for demolition.
25	*The NSW Department of Education is investigating ways that Fort Street Public School can be enlarged to accommodate additional pupils. New development has potential to alleviate future accommodation pressures on this significant building, enhance the viable and sympathetic adaptive reuse of the place and provide opportunities to achieve successful conservation outcomes.*	Compliant. The current design constitutes a proposal to enlarge the school to accommodate additional pupils, and has considered the policies of the CMP and best practice principles for adaptive re-use etc throughout its development.
26	*The fig tree on the eastern side of the school is an important part of its setting. In addition to this, landscaping in the immediate environs of the school provides an additional attractive setting for the place and assists in overcoming the impacts of the road cutting that surrounds the site.*	Compliant. Mature fig tree will be retained through the proposed development.
27	*Visitors, student drop-off and student collection are considerations at Fort Street Public School but vehicular access and parking is extremely restricted. Whilst these needs should be addressed in future development, they should be met in a way that does not adversely impact the heritage significance of the place.*	Compliant. See Section 8.2.4 of this HIS, as well as accompanying Traffic reports etc, included within SSDA EIS package.

POLICY	POLICY DESCRIPTION	DESIGN COMMENT
28	*The Fort Street Public School site is an active facility and will continue to need signs to assist with wayfinding within the site and other guidance. The location, size and character of the signs should acknowledge and consider the heritage significance of the site, including location, form and significance of individual elements, landscape components, and key heritage views to and from the site- as well as internal views within the site.*	Compliant. See Section 8.2.6 of this HIS.

9. Conclusions and Recommendations

9.1. Conclusions

Generally, the design process for the expansion of the Fort Street Public School has included detailed and holistic consideration of the heritage values, built elements and archaeological potential of the site, on balance with the project brief and requirements of the EFSG and SI Business Case, in order to develop the best possible option for the development, given the highly constrained nature of the site.

While the design will still have some impact to heritage fabric, views and values, impacts have been minimised as much as possible through the application of creative design solutions, while still achieving the SI requirements necessary to facilitate the viability of the development.

The following conclusions are made regarding heritage for the Fort Street Public School project:

- The FSPS site is located within the State Heritage Register (SHR) listed 'Millers Point and Dawes Point Village Precinct Conservation Area', as well as within the locally listed 'Millers Point and Dawes Point Village Precinct' Heritage Conservation Area (HCA) (Sydney LEP 2012).
- Three locally listed heritage items (Sydney LEP 2012) are located within the FSPS site (Fort Street Public School, Messenger's Cottage, and the Bureau of Meteorology Building), with other heritage items of both local and State significance are located in the general vicinity of (but outside of) the site.
- The proposed design includes: retention of all three heritage-listed items located within the FSPS site; construction of an additional four new buildings; additions and alterations to the heritage items; and other works including landscaping, signage, services, entrance road modifications, and modifications to the existing Bradfield Tunnel Services Building. The design will also retain the mature Fig tree in the northeast of the site, as well as the east-west boundary wall of heritage significance.
- The design has focused on the accommodation of additional learning spaces (as required by the SI project brief, Strategic Business Case Study, and EFSG) within the new buildings and additions to the existing Fort Street Public School building, in order to minimise required impacts on other heritage items and values.
- The MET Building is currently in a state of significant disrepair, the restoration and adaptive re-use of which (as proposed through the design) will be a major positive heritage impact to the values and significance of this heritage item- assuming that detailed design of elements such as the proposed lift is undertaken sensitively to reduce visual and physical impacts as much as possible.
- Curtilages of the heritage items, particularly the Messenger's Cottage and MET Building, as well as significant heritage views within and external to the site, have been considered in the location of new development, with new buildings confined to the south and west of the site.

- An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (Curio Projects 2019a) has been prepared for the expansion of the FSPS Site, which includes an assessment of Aboriginal archaeological potential, the results of Aboriginal community consultation undertaken for the project, and provides recommendations for management of Aboriginal archaeology and cultural heritage with respect to the proposed development. The ACHAR concludes that:
    - The FSPS study area has been subject to very high levels of historical ground disturbance and use since 1788 relating to the use of the site as a Military Hospital, Sydney Observatory activities/Bureau of Meteorology, and Fort Street Public School, that would likely have impacted and/or removed the majority of natural soil profiles.
    - In general, the study area has low potential for Aboriginal archaeological deposits to be present, due to the high levels of historical disturbance at the site, as well as the propensity for Gymea soils for erosion following vegetation clearance.
    - Due to the high level of fill and confirmed presence of State significant historical archaeology present within the FSPS site, Aboriginal archaeological test excavation under the OEH *Code of Practice* has not been possible for the study area.
    - While the Aboriginal archaeological potential within the FSPS study area is considered low, should an Aboriginal archaeological deposit be found to be present within the FSPS study area, this may have moderate scientific significance for its ability to provide evidence for and insight into Aboriginal occupation and use of the Millers Point/Observatory Hill locality prior to 1788, representative of the FSPS study area as part of the wider Aboriginal cultural landscape of the Sydney Harbour Foreshore.
- Historical archaeological test excavation at the FSPS Site in July 2019 confirmed the presence of substantial archaeological evidence of the former Surgeon's House (c.1820s) in the south of the site (i.e. adjacent to/underlying the existing EEC building).
    - The design has been adapted to avoid these footings as much as possible, with use of discrete piling and bridging techniques applied to allow retention of the archaeology *in situ* beneath the new development.
    - Further historical archaeological investigation and intervention will be required at the site to ensure potential impact to the historical archaeological resource (both known and unknown) will be appropriately managed and/or avoided.

9.2. Recommendations

Should the SSDA for the Fort Street Public School expansion be approved as per the design and development works presented within this HIS, the development will require heritage and archaeological mitigation and management prior to development impacts. Heritage management strategies and requirements for the FSPS site include: refinement of materiality

and colour palette through final design; archaeological mitigation (both Aboriginal and Historical archaeology); and implementation of heritage interpretation initiatives within the site. Summary of heritage recommendations for the development are as follows:

1. Careful and sensitive application of **Materiality and Colour Palette**, to be refined in the final design.
2. **Conservation works** to heritage items proposed to be undertaken as part of the development works (particularly urgent maintenance and repair works for the MET Building) should be overseen or undertaken in consultation with qualified and experience conservation professionals (i.e. heritage architect etc).
3. **Aboriginal archaeological monitoring/investigation**

- While archaeological potential is low, should an Aboriginal archaeological deposit be present within the FSPS study area, this may have moderate to high significance, and therefore management strategies have been developed to mitigate any potential impacts.
- As SSDA the development (once approved) will be exempt from the provisions of the NSW NPW Act and the requirement for an AHIP. However, appropriate best practice archaeological investigation and mitigation will be required to be undertaken in accordance with the methodology presented in Section 6 of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) for the FSPS Site, as a condition of consent of the SSDA approval.
- Aboriginal archaeological mitigation is proposed to include three main methods of archaeological investigation: Targeted archaeological monitoring of development excavation works in identified areas; Targeted archaeological test excavation (if identified as being required following the results of monitoring); and Aboriginal archaeological salvage excavation (if required) of any identified Aboriginal archaeological deposit (if encountered).

4. **Historical archaeological monitoring/investigation**

- As SSDA the development (once approved) will be exempt from the provisions of the NSW Heritage Act and the requirement for a Section 60 Excavation permit
- However, historical archaeological mitigation prior to development impacts/in conjunction with development impacts will still be required (likely as a condition of SSDA consent)
- Historical archaeological investigation should be guided by a Historical Archaeological Research Design and Excavation Methodology (ARD + EM) to be prepared as part of the conditions of consent for the development

5. **Heritage Interpretation**

- Appropriate and meaningful heritage interpretation initiatives should be implemented within the FSPS site in order to communicate the heritage significance and history of the site as a way of mitigating the impact to heritage values as posed by the development works.

10. References

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APPENDIX A –Test Excavation Archaeological Report (Curio Projects 2019b)

APPENDIX B – Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (Curio Projects 2019c)

APPENDIX C – Historical Archaeological Research Design (Curio Projects April 2019)