



North Sydney Public School Upgrade

S4.55 Heritage Impact Statement

11 April 2022

Document Information

Citation

Curio Projects 2022, *North Sydney Public School Upgrade—S4.55 Heritage Impact Statement*, prepared for Taylor.

Local Government Area

North Sydney

Cover Image

Pacific Building southern facade, North Sydney Public School (Curio 2021)

Issue	Issue date	Version	Notes/Comments	Author	Review
1	09 March 22	Draft Report	For Client Review	Tatiana Barreto	Adele Zubrzycka
2	11 March 22	Final Draft Report	For submission	Tatiana Barreto	Adele Zubrzycka
3	11 April 22	Final Report	For submission	Tatiana Barreto	Adele Zubrzycka

This report has been prepared based on research by Curio Projects specialists. Historical sources and reference material used in the preparation of this report are acknowledged and referenced at the end of each section and in figure captions.

Unless otherwise specified or agreed, copyright in the intellectual property of this report vests jointly in Curio Projects Pty Ltd.

Curio Projects Pty Ltd
5 Blackfriars Street
Chippendale NSW 2008

Contents

Document Information	2
1. Introduction	5
1.1. Background	6
1.2. Project Background	6
1.3. Site Identification	7
1.4. Limitations and Constraints	7
1.5. Authorship & Acknowledgements	7
2. Statutory Context	8
2.1. Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (NSW) 1979	9
2.1.1. North Sydney Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2013	9
2.1.2. North Sydney Development Control Plan (DCP) 2013	9
2.2. NSW Heritage Act 1977	9
2.2.1. State Heritage Register	10
2.2.2. Department of Education Heritage and Conservation Register (s170)	10
2.3. Heritage Listings	11
2.3.1. Crows Nest Road Conservation Area (CA23)	11
2.3.2. Edward Road Conservation Area (CA17)	12
2.3.3. Priory Road Conservation Area (CA14)	13
2.3.4. McLaren Street Conservation Area (CA19)	13
3. Historical Summary	16
4. Physical Analysis	19
4.1. NSPS Site	20
4.1.1. Former Crows Nest House Fence and Gate	20
5. Heritage Significance	29
5.1. Methodology	30
5.2. Gates and Fence of former Crows Nest House	31

5.3. Summary of Significance – Heritage Gates and Fence	34
6. Project Description	36
6.1. Proposal Rationale	37
7. Assessment of Heritage Impact	42
8. Conclusions and Recommendations	46
9. References	48

1. Introduction

1. Introduction

1.1. Background

Curio Projects Pty Ltd (Curio) has been commissioned by Taylor to prepare a Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) to support a Section (S) 4.55 Modification Application to an approved State Significant Development (SSD) involving upgrades to the North Sydney Public School (NSPS) located on Bay Road and the Pacific Highway, Waverton (the NSPS site). The subject of the present S4.55 application relates to the following alterations to the approved architectural package:

- Windows in the southern elevation of Building I;
- Temporary removal of section of the heritage fence and gutter/curb;
- Additional cleaner's store on Level 2;
- Increased bicycle footprint.

This report focuses on the alterations proposed by the S4.55 application only. For more detailed background information including historical analysis and full project background, reference should be made to the original HIS that accompanied the SSD Application (Curio Projects 2021, *North Sydney Public School Upgrade-Heritage Impact Statement*), which should be consulted in conjunction with this report.

This report has been prepared with reference to the following architectural documentation:

Date	Document Title	Author
22/03/2022	North Sydney Public School, Temporary Heritage Fence Removal, 182 Pacific Highway, North Sydney, NSW 2060	Taylor
21/03/2022	SD-1001 Revision N: Existing & Demolition Site Plan	Fulton Trotter
21/03/2022	SD-1002 Revision O: Proposed Site Plan	Fulton Trotter
21/03/2022	SD-1109 Revision K: Site Entry	Fulton Trotter
11/03/2022	SD-2002 Revision Q: Building I - Level 1 Floor Plan	Fulton Trotter
10/03/2022	SD-2004 Revision P: Building I - Level 2 Floor Plan	Fulton Trotter
10/03/2022	SD-2005 Revision P: Building I - Level 3 Floor Plan	Fulton Trotter
10/03/2022	SD-3001 Revision M: Building I & J – Elevation 01	Fulton Trotter

1.2. Project Background

A SSD Development Application (DA) (Application no. SSD-11869481) was approved on 21 February 2022 by the NSW Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment (DPIE) for the NSPS Upgrade project, including, but not limited to, the following alterations:

- Demolition of Lady Hall (Building B), Haven Building (C) and 6 temporary buildings;
- Construction of a three-storey building;
- New entry gate and forecourt from Bay Road;
- Internal refurbishment of Building G;
- Increase of student capacity;
- Landscaping upgrades;
- Replacement of signage.

2. Statutory Context

2. Statutory Context

2.1. Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (NSW) 1979

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment administers the EPA Act, which provides the legislative context for environmental planning instruments to be made to legislate and guide 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 EPA Act also requires that potential Aboriginal and historical, archaeological resources are adequately assessed and considered as part of the development process, following the requirements of the NPW Act and the Heritage Act.

2.1.1. North Sydney Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2013

The North Sydney LEP 2013 provides local environmental planning provisions for land within the North Sydney LGA. Clause 5.10 of the LEP sets out objectives and planning controls for the conservation of heritage in the Liverpool Council area, including the conservation of built heritage and archaeological sites, as established in Schedule 5 of the LEP.

The 'Gates and fence of former Crows Nest House' are located within the NSPS site boundary and are listed as a locally significant heritage item on the North Sydney Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2013 (item #10957) (Figure 2.2). Several other locally listed heritage items and Heritage Conservation Areas are located outside of but in proximity to the NSPS site (detailed further in Section 2.3 below).

2.1.2. North Sydney Development Control Plan (DCP) 2013

The North Sydney DCP 2013 is a non-statutory development control plan that provides detailed design guidelines to support the LEP. The DCP provides simple guidance on how development may occur and includes notably main objectives to ensure that items of environmental heritage are conserved, respected and protected.

Of relevance to this HIS, the North Sydney DCP also provides character statements and descriptions of the local Conservation Areas established under the LEP (detailed further in the relevant sections of this report).

2.2. NSW Heritage Act 1977

In NSW, heritage items are afforded statutory protection under the Heritage Act. Heritage places and items of importance to the people of the state of New South Wales are listed on the NSW State Heritage Register (SHR). 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 Heritage Act also includes provisions for the protection and management of historical archaeological 'relics'- defined as an archaeological deposit, resource or feature that has heritage significance at a local or State level. (NSW Heritage Branch Department of Planning, 2009. *Assessing Significance for Sites and 'Relics'*).

Excavation permits are issued by the Heritage Council of NSW, or its Delegate, under Section (s) 140 of the Heritage Act for relics not listed on the SHR or under Section 60 for relics listed on the SHR. An application for an excavation permit must be supported by an Archaeological Research Design

and Archaeological Assessment prepared in accordance with the Heritage NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet (NSW Heritage, DPC) archaeological guidelines.

Minor works that will have a minimal impact on archaeological relics may be granted an exception under Section 139 (4) or an exemption under Section 57 (2) of the Heritage Act.

2.2.1. State Heritage Register

The SHR was established under Section 22 of the Heritage Act in 1977 and is encompassed by a list of places, objects and archaeological sites of particular importance to the people of NSW. The SHR is administered by the NSW Heritage, DPC and includes a diverse range of over 1,500 items, in both private and public ownership.

The NSPS site does not contain any heritage items registered on the SHR.

2.2.2. Department of Education Heritage and Conservation Register (s170)

Under Section 170 of the Heritage Act, government instrumentalities must keep a Heritage and Conservation Register (s170 Register) which contains items under the control or ownership of the agency which are or could be listed as heritage items (of State or local significance).

Listing of a heritage asset on a s170 heritage and conservation register does not in itself create an obligation to obtain the Heritage Council's approval for works. (The Heritage Council's approval will only be required for assets listed on the SHR, or subject to an interim heritage order under the Heritage Act). It does, however, require that not less than 14 days written notification to be provided to the Heritage Council of the intention to (a) remove any item from its register, (b) transfer ownership of any item entered in its register, or (c) cease to occupy or demolish any listed place.

The NSPS site is identified as having items of local heritage significance on the Department of Education (DoE) Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Register — “North Sydney Public School- Buildings B00A, B00D and B00F, Gates and Period Fence” (s170 #50656252). The s170 register listing includes the 1931 McHatton Building (Building B00D); the 1935 Pacific Building (Building B00A); and the 1935 River Building (Building B00F), as well as the “Former Crows Nest House Fencing and Gate” (Figure 2.1).

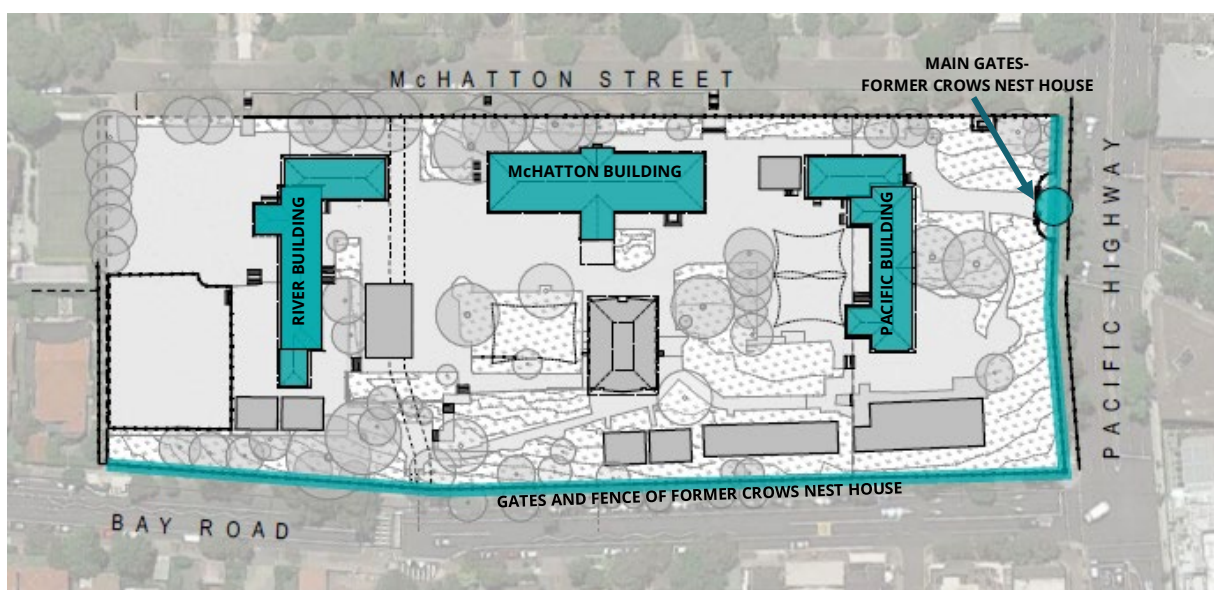


Figure 2.1: Plan indicating s170 heritage Items within NSPS Site (Source: Fulton Trotter Architects with Curio additions)

2.3. Heritage Listings

A summary of the current statutory heritage listings within the NSPS site is provided in Table 2.1 below. In addition to the heritage items located within the NSPS site, Table 2.2 lists several other heritage items and Heritage Conservation Areas (CAs) located outside of, but in close proximity and/or association with, the NSPS site. Figure 2.2 presents the location of the NSPS site with respect to the relevant heritage listings.

Table 2.1: Statutory heritage listings within NSPS.

Register	Listing Name	Item No.	Significance
DoE s170 Heritage & Conservation Register	North Sydney Public School—Buildings B00A, B00D and B00F ¹ , Gates and Period Fence	50655652	Local
North Sydney LEP 2013	Gates and fence of former Crows Nest House	I9057	Local

Table 2.2: Other heritage listings in the vicinity (outside of) the NSPS site.

Register	Listing Name	Address	Item No.	Significance
North Sydney LEP 2013	North Sydney bus shelters	Various	I0407	Local
North Sydney LEP 2013	“Kenilworth”	67 Edward Street	I0826	Local
North Sydney LEP 2013	“Torwood”	3 McLaren Street	I0876	Local
North Sydney LEP 2013	House	12 McLaren Street	I0879	Local
North Sydney LEP 2013	House	11 Oak Street	I0950	Local
North Sydney LEP 2013	“Woodstock”	172 Pacific Highway	I0956	Local
North Sydney LEP 2013	Shop	265 Pacific Highway	I0959	Local
North Sydney LEP 2013	Union Hotel	271 Pacific Highway	I0960	Local
North Sydney LEP 2013	Edward Street	Conservation Area	CA17	Local
North Sydney LEP 2013	McLaren Street	Conservation Area	CA19	Local
North Sydney LEP 2013	Crows Nest Road	Conservation Area	CA23	Local
North Sydney LEP 2013	Priory Road	Conservation Area	CA24	Local

2.3.1. Crows Nest Road Conservation Area (CA23)

As mentioned, the NSPS site is located in the vicinity of the Crows Nest Road Conservation Area. The North Sydney DCP describes the area as follows:

The Crows Nest Road Conservation Area is a residential area characterised by medium to large detached houses on garden lots and is bounded to the east by the Pacific Highway, the multi-storey units to the north and the North Sydney Demonstration School to the south.

¹ These three buildings are the Pacific Building (1935), McHatton Building (1931), and River Building (1935) (Buildings A, D & F respectively). <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=5065652>

The area is relatively level, sloping slightly from the ridge of the Pacific Highway towards the west, though the lower end of Crows Nest Road is terraced. Street layout and subdivision is determined by the Estate boundaries with a linear pattern of large, regular and rectangular lots with wide street frontages and no rear lanes.

The area is characterised by its single and two storey individual (often architect designed) houses in a range of Inter-war styles intended to be viewed from at least three sides. Facades are modulated by strong, recessed and projecting geometrical forms consistent with each building style. The house styles are unified by the regular subdivision pattern, building materials, massing and setbacks and by the high quality of construction and design. The earlier houses to the periphery tend to be smaller and less distinct.

Street verges are typically 3.5m wide grass nature strips and concrete footpaths with crossings for off street parking. Hazelbank Road is on the slope and houses to the high side of the street are set above the footpath.

Introduced and native species are planted on grass verges and within roads, most dating from the 1920/1930 subdivision, forming avenues that unify the streetscape. The large plane trees planted along Hazelbank Road are among the most significant of the area.

Front gardens contribute to the landscaped character of the area with large areas of lawn, introduced plant species, and straight stone-flagged or brick paved paths leading to the house. Gardens are often open at street level or above low retaining walls.²

2.3.2. Edward Road Conservation Area (CA17)

The NSPS site is also located in the vicinity of the Edward Road Conservation Area, which is described on the North Sydney DCP as:

The Edward Street Conservation Area runs each side of Edward Street with larger areas to the south including the Catholic University site. It is bounded to the east by high rise along the Pacific Highway, the North Sydney School to the north and by the steep slope to the west.

Edward Street runs along the top of a ridge and is flat to the east falling steeply to the west along Riley Street. Subdivision is determined by the street layout and topography with rectangular and irregular lot sizes, some developed for attached housing with no rear lanes.

The area is characterised by each phases of development and groupings of identical rows of houses. The early phase of development is represented by the Don Bank Group; small scale, attached, single storey weatherboard and brick houses in the Victorian Georgian and Italianate style. These buildings create an intimate 19th century atmosphere and context for the Victorian Filigree style developments at the southern end and the later detached dwellings at the northern end in the Federation Queen Anne and Inter War styles. There is some two storey Victorian and Federation attached dwellings houses and residential flat buildings and later infill developments. The

² North Sydney DCP 2013: Part C, Section 10: 35

Catholic University occupies the west of the conservation area and contains Rockleigh, modern buildings and car parking.

...There are views from Edward Street to the CBD and to the west to the Harbour. The axial view north along Edward Street looks directly to the stone gateway of the original Lady Hay's Estate.³

2.3.3. McLaren Street Conservation Area (CA19)

The McLaren Street Conservation Area is located east across the Pacific Highway from the NSPS Site. It is described in the North Sydney DCP as:

The McLaren Street Conservation Area is made up of two areas either side of McLaren Street and Church Street including the park to the north of the North Sydney Council Chambers.

The topography slopes down from Ridge Street towards McLaren Street with Church Street following the slope. The park is modelled with small rises and a terraced area towards Miller Street. The subdivision pattern relates only to McLaren Street and Church Street and the Victorian pattern has been lost in the Civic precinct.

The characteristic buildings in the area are typically Federation and Edwardian Queen Anne with pockets of Victorian dwelling houses along Church Street. The area contains several public buildings including St Thomas's Church and Hall and the North Sydney Council Chambers, a Federation building with modern extension. The buildings are typically:

- (a) single and two storey, freestanding buildings with materials relating to the age of construction,*
- (b) Victorian rendered dwelling houses with verandahs and slate and corrugated metal roofs, and*
- (c) Federation face brick dwelling houses with verandahs and terracotta tile roofs.*

The church is a prominent, stone building with associated vestry building and halls. There are street plantings along each of the streets and plantings in the park.⁴

2.3.4. Priory Road Conservation Area (CA24)

The third HCA located in the vicinity of the NSPS site is the Priory Road Conservation Area, described on the North Sydney DCP as:

The Priory Road Conservation Area is a small residential area bounded by Bay Road and the escarpment and reserve to the end of Toongarah Road.

The landform falls to the south with the southern end of strongly defined by the cliff. The subdivision pattern is determined by the wide, horseshoe shaped road and their being cul de sacs. Lot sizes are irregular though generally rectangular. The road system has been affected by the topography with Priory and Toongarah Roads falling down the slight hill and finishing at dead ends. Both ends are relatively wide.

The area is characterised by detached dwelling houses on medium sized lots and a few residential flat buildings on larger lots. The majority of buildings are single storey and were built between 1915 and 1928 soon after subdivision in the Inter-war Californian Bungalow style. There are a few Federation era buildings, 1930s flats and

³ibid: 38

⁴ North Sydney DCP 2013: Part C, Section 2: 24-25

several buildings from the 1940s built after the subdivision of the site of “Toongarah”. There are modern infill residential flat buildings.

Streets verges are typically 3.5 m wide and include grass with concrete footpaths and kerbs. Street trees and plantings in the private gardens are important to the character of the area.

The area is heavily planted with trees. There are views to trees and rooftops of the Bank Street valley, and to the Sydney CBD and long views from the lookout at the end of Toongarah Road.⁵

⁵ North Sydney DCP 2013: Part C, Section 10: 41-42



Figure 2.2: Heritage Listings in proximity to the NSPS site. Source: Curio 2021

3. Historical Summary

3. Historical Summary

This chapter provides a brief timeline summary of the historical development at the NSPS site at Bay Road, Waverton, to provide context for the assessment of heritage impact in this report.

For a full historical overview, reference should be made to the original HIS for the site (*North Sydney Public School Upgrade—Heritage Impact Statement*) prepared by Curio in 2021.

Table 3.1: NSPS Historical Timeline

Year	Description
1839-1850	Construction of Crows Nest House by Alexander Berry.
1890s	Crows Nest House was converted into a Victorian Mansion by Sir John Hay. Construction of the gates and fence of Crows Nest House (Figure 3.1).
1930	Demolition of Crows Nest House and land subdivision. Partial demolition and reconstruction of the eastern fence to accommodate a minor widening of Lane Cove Road.
1930-31	NSW DoE acquired the land and began construction of the Infants School Building (currently known as McHatton Building).
1931	North Sydney Infants School opens.
1934-35	Construction of Boys and Girls Buildings (currently known as River and Pacific Buildings, respectively). North Sydney Infants School renamed North Sydney Public School.
1936	Drain along the base of the bank fronting McHatton Street installed to assist problematic site drainage.
c1938	Construction of the concrete drain behind stone coping of Crow's Nest Estate heritage fence to mitigate ongoing site drainage problems.
1930s-1950s	Minor modifications to the three main school buildings.
1951-1961	Construction of the Haven building.
1952	Construction of two aluminium portable buildings. One was demolished to accommodate the 1964 Lady Hay Hall while the other between River and McHatton buildings remains on site.
1952	NSPS is officially recognised as a 'Demonstration School'.
1955	Construction of the Memorial Dorothy W Bull Gates (Mc Hatton Street)
1964	Construction of Lady Hay Hall.
2010-11	Construction of the school library (Building G).
2021	SSD Approval for upgrades to the NSPS. These include: ▪ Demolition of Lady Hall (Building B), Haven Building (C) and 6 temporary buildings; ▪ Construction of a three-storey building; ▪ New entry gate and forecourt from Bay Road; ▪ Internal refurbishment of Building G; ▪ Increase of student capacity; ▪ Landscaping upgrades; ▪ Replacement of signage.



Figure 3.1: Main entrance gates to Crows Nest House from Pacific Highway, 1930. Showcasing the fence and gates and the former lush and prominent front garden of Crows Nest House, which was mostly destroyed with the construction of the NSPS buildings started in 1930-1931. Source: SLNSW 'Crows Nest House', Lane Cove, North Sydney, 1930 / photographer E.G. Shaw, FL495909.

4. Physical Analysis

4. Physical Analysis

A site visit was undertaken by Sam Cooling, Cultural Heritage Manager, of Curio Projects on 15 July 2021 to inspect the existing site context, building form, and features to provide information, context and support for the original HIS report. Due to the present S4.55 Modification Application, this section has been tailored to suit the subject of this application and, therefore, focuses on the areas that could potentially be impacted by the proposed alterations.

4.1. NSPS Site

The NSPS site is bounded by McHatton Street to the north, Pacific Highway to the east, and Bay Road to the south. The overall site arrangement is dominated by the three 1930s brick heritage buildings positioned in the west, north and east of the site, with later 20th-century buildings, outdoor playground areas and demountable classroom structures positioned between (Figure 4.1). The locations of later built additions and structures within the NSPS site has generally retained open spaces in the centre of the school site, framed in the north, east and west by the key heritage buildings (Figure 4.2 to Figure 4.4).

The NSPS site currently has five pedestrian access gates: three on McHatton Street (north), one on the Pacific Highway (east), and one on Bay Road (south).

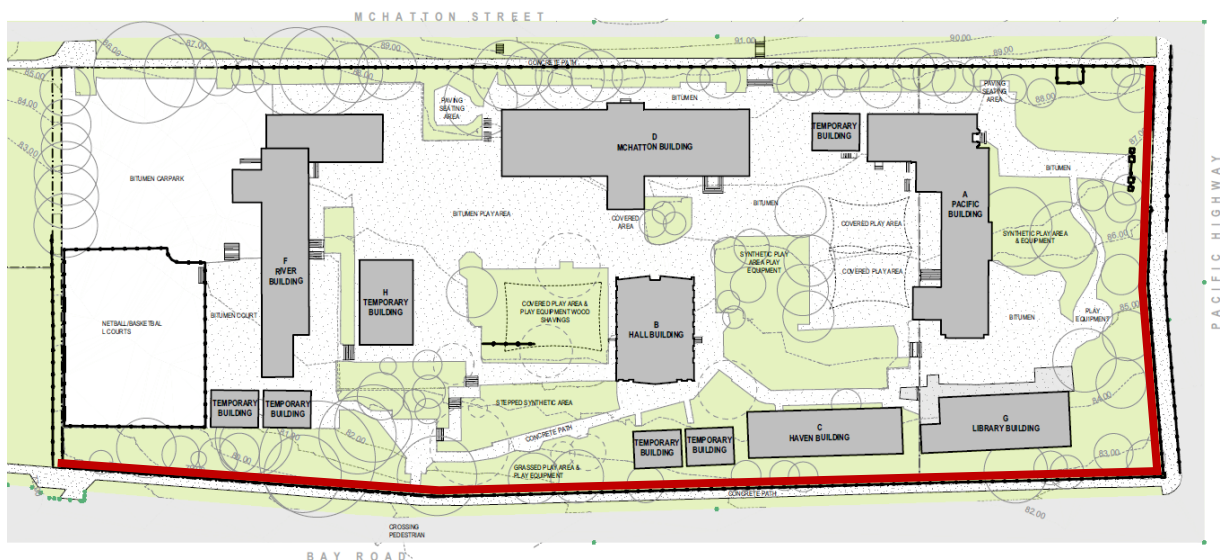


Figure 4.1: NSPS Site Plan. The subject of this report, the Crows Nest House Fence and Gates, is highlighted in red. Source: Fulton Trotter Architects with Curio additions, 2022.

4.1.1. Former Crows Nest House Fence and Gate

The former Crows Nest House Fence and Gates are located along the eastern boundary of the NSPS site along the Pacific Highway and along the southern boundary of the site along Bay Road. The former Crows Nest House Fence and Gates generally consist of sandstone perimeter walls with wrought iron fencing (Figure 4.2 to Figure 4.12), with the main entrance from Pacific Highway (Figure 4.2 to Figure 4.4) and a secondary entrance from Bay Road (Figure 4.10 and Figure 4.11).

The perimeter wall is constructed of stepped sandstone courses, with lower blocks finished in sparrow-picking and the top courses with carved concave capping with a honed finish. The fencing consists of painted pike-and-rail iron fencing, generally embedded directly into the top of the curved sandstone capping, with reinforcing curved iron stays set into the ground along the length of the fence. In a previous effort to manage ongoing drainage issues experienced at the NSPS site, a later

concrete drainage channel has been constructed against the rear (north) of the sandstone heritage wall along Bay Road (Figure 4.8 and Figure 4.9).

The main entrance of the former Crows Nest House through the House Fence and Gates is located northeast of the NSPS site from the Pacific Highway, consisting of four sandstone pillars with decorative capitals and bases, supporting two single-panel pedestrian gates and one central double-panel gate. The central filigree gate panels are decorated by the Crows Nest Estate escutcheon (Figure 4.3). An interpretative plaque has been fixed to one of the sandstone pillars indicating the feature as the original gateway of Crows Nest House (Figure 4.4).

The secondary gate of the former Crows Nest Estate is located southwest of the NSPS site along Bay Road, and consists of two sandstone columns with decorative bases and capitols, and a single iron filigree gate panel. Brick steps, shouldered by sandstone blocks lead from this secondary entrance north into the school site (Figure 4.10 and Figure 4.11).

With the exception of the 1930 relocation works as part of the widening of Lane Cove Road (now Pacific Highway) (described in Section 3.2), no substantive works or modifications have been undertaken to the overall alignment, fabric, and presentation of the former Crows Nest House fence and gates. The fence retains evidence of numerous minor repairs (varying in quality) that have been undertaken over time. Repairs evident include replaced sections of the sandstone capping, some of which have been replaced with cement-based patches—such as at the corner of McHatton Street and the Pacific Highway.

Some sections of the fence and supporting wall are in poor condition, including evident damage such as bending and dislodgement of the iron fence (e.g. at the southern end of the fence fronting the Pacific Highway), as well as chipping to sandstone. The Bay Road gate pillars demonstrate overall exfoliation of the sandstone, as well as sections where the sandstone has cracked, degraded, is spalling or absent (Figure 4.12).



Figure 4.2: Former Crows Nest Gates from Pacific Highway. Source: Curio, 2021.



Figure 4.3: Crows Nest House escutcheon on main gates.
Source: Curio, 2021.



Figure 4.4: Interpretative panel on sandstone pillar. Source: Curio, 2021.



Figure 4.5: Former Crows Nest fence/wall from Pacific Highway. Source: Curio, 2021.



Figure 4.6: Heritage boundary wall/fence on the corner of Pacific Highway and McHatton Street (view north). Source: Curio, 2021.



Figure 4.7: Heritage boundary fence along Bay Road, view west behind the Haven Building. Source: Curio, 2021.

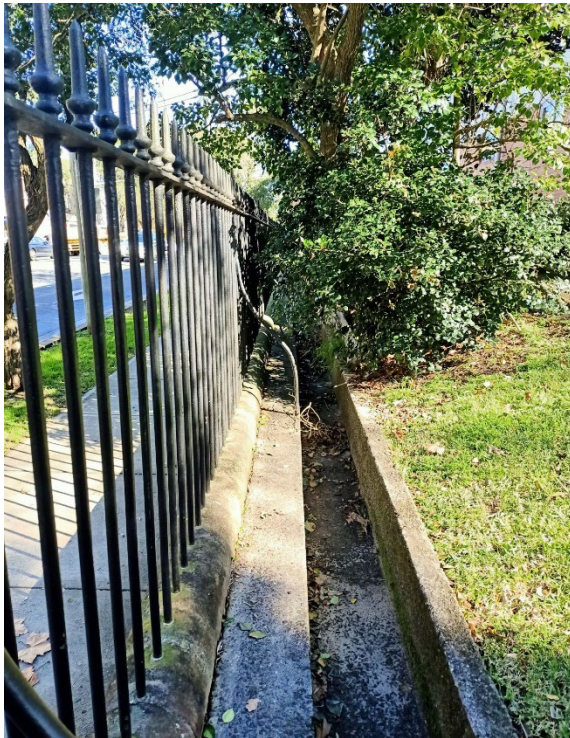


Figure 4.8: Concrete drainage channel constructed against the rear of the sandstone heritage wall along Bay Road, Source: Curio, 2021.



Figure 4.9: Concrete drainage channel constructed against the rear of the sandstone heritage wall along Bay Road. Source: Curio, 2021.



Figure 4.10: Former Crows Nest House, secondary entrance gates from Bay Road. Source: Curio, 2021.



Figure 4.11: Former Crows Nest House, secondary entrance gates from Bay Road. Source: Curio, 2021.



Figure 4.12: Condition of Former Crows Nest House, secondary entrance gates from Bay Road. Source: Curio, 2021.

4.2. Surrounding Context and Views

The NSPS site is surrounded by large trees that provide shade both to the interiors of the school and to pedestrians along Bay Road, Pacific Highway, and McHatton Street. In addition, the tree line around the edge of the site softens the visual presence of the built forms within the site, retaining the residential character of the surrounding suburban streets (Figure 4.13 to Figure 4.15). Views to and around the school are largely screened by these plantings and there are few clear lines of sight to the school buildings (particularly the three heritage items) from surrounding streets.

The remnant sections of the former Crow's Nest House gates and fence form part of the streetscape presentation and setting along both the Pacific Highway and Bay Road (Figure 4.16 and Figure 4.17).

The primary significant view from the NSPS site is from the western end of the site, south towards the Parramatta River, a view that is particularly evident from the second storey of the River Building (western elevation), as well as partially visible from the northwestern boundary of the site along McHatton Street (Figure 4.18).



Figure 4.13: View east along Bay Road from southwest corner of NSPS site. Treed landscape character with North Sydney CBD buildings visible in background. Source: Curio 2021



Figure 4.14: View west along Bay Road from southwest corner of NSPS site. Former Crow's Nest House fence in right, general streetscape character of southwest area of Crow's Nest Road Conservation Area (CA23). Source: Curio 2021



Figure 4.15: Example of existing streetscape along McHatton Street, view east from western carpark of NSPS site (Curio 2021)



Figure 4.16: View south along Pacific Highway from McHatton St intersection, Crow's Nest gates and fence form part of the streetscape, along with overarching character of mature trees and plantings within the NSPS Site (Curio 2021)



Figure 4.17: View west along McLaren Street to Pacific Highway, Gates and Fence of former Crow's Nest House at intersection, context of leafy character of NSPS site presentation to Pacific Highway (Source: GoogleMaps 2020)



Figure 4.18: View from northwest school boundary on McHatton Street towards Parramatta River, Sydney CBD visible in the background (Sydney Tower central, Barangaroo Crown Casino tower visible in right) (Curio 2021)

5. Heritage Significance

5. Heritage Significance Assessment

The following Heritage Significance Assessment has been fully extracted from the original 2021 HIS report prepared by Curio for the SSD Development Application for the North Sydney Public School Upgrade. For a full significance assessment, reference should be made to the original report.

5.1. Methodology

The assessment of significance is based on the principles of the *Burra Charter* (Australia ICOMOS Incorporated, 2013); the *Interpretation and Intangible Cultural Heritage and Place Practice Notes* (Australia ICOMOS Incorporated, 2017); guidelines contained within the NSW Heritage Manual (Heritage Office and DUAP 1996); and the 2001 *Assessing Heritage Significance: A NSW Heritage Manual Update* – prepared by the former Heritage Branch, NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (government department now known as Heritage NSW).

The *Assessing Heritage Significance: a NSW Heritage Manual Update* is used to compare the significance of a place with the NSW Heritage assessment criteria, in which a place can meet more than one criterion. Such processes determine the level of significance of a place – either for the local government area, for the State of NSW or the broader Australian community. It results in a succinct statement of heritage significance.

For an item to meet the threshold for local or State significance under the NSW Heritage Guidelines it must meet one or more of the following criteria:

Criterion	Significance	Status
Criterion (a)	Historical	An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW cultural or natural history (or in the cultural or natural history of the local area).
Criterion (b)	Associative	An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).
Criterion (c)	Aesthetic	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)	Social	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)	Scientific	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)	Rarity	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)	Representative	An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's: ▪ Cultural or natural places; or ▪ Cultural or natural environments. (or a class of the local area's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments).

5.2. Heritage Significance—Identified Heritage Items

For each statutory heritage item of relevance for this HIS, the existing Statement of Significance has been extracted from the relevant heritage listing and reproduced below, accompanied by additional Curio assessment, commentary and/or discussion where considered appropriate.

5.2.1. Gates and Fence of former Crow's Nest House

The local heritage listing for the "Gates and Fence of former Crows Nest House" (LEP 2013, I0957) provides the following Statement of Significance:

Only remains of Crows Nest House and significant reminder of this important property. Picturesque roadside feature and evocative of importance the property originally contained. Fine example of nineteenth century design and craftsmanship.⁶

The DoE s170 Heritage and Conservation Register listing for the 'North Sydney Public School - Buildings B00A, B00D and B00F, Gates and Period Fence' includes the gates and fence of the former Crows Nest House in its Statement of Significance for the item (the relevant description of the gates and fence is indicated in bold):

*North Sydney Public School has a collection of prominent elements from the 1890s through to the 1930s. The current school grounds are historically significant as a diverse, layered assemblage of landscape features from the Colonial and Interwar periods. The design and proportion of public-school buildings reflects the aspirations of the Education Department to provide high quality educational facilities for communities on the North Shore. **The sandstone and wrought iron gate and fence are rare elements of estate housing in Sydney in the late nineteenth century.** The aesthetic considerations of the school are held in appreciation by the school staff and NSW Education Department.⁷*

The heritage listings (LEP and s170) do not specifically provide a detailed assessment of the significance of the 'Gates and Fence of former Crows Nest House' against each of the NSW Heritage Council criteria. Therefore, Curio have extrapolated and summarised the key heritage values of the 'former Crows Nest Estate gates and fence' against the applicable significance criteria in Table 5.1.

Table 5.1: 'Gates and Fence of former Crows Nest House'—Assessment of Heritage Significance

Criterion	Assessment
Criterion A—Historical Evaluation <i>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)</i>	The existing gates and fence along Bay Road relate to the former Crows Nest House, which was constructed by Alexander Berry between 1839-1850. The gates and fence were constructed at a later date by Sir John Hay (late 1890s). Crows Nest Estate was located on one of the earliest land grants in the area, given to Edward Wollstonecraft and Alexander Berry in 1820. With the construction of the NSPS in the 1930s, the northern and western portions of the original Crows Nest Estate boundary fence were demolished, leaving the eastern and southern portions of the fence (and two gates) as the only remaining physical evidence of the former Crows Nest Estate.

⁶ 'Gates and fence of former Crows Nest House', SHI Listing, available at: <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=2180783>

⁷ 'North Sydney Public School - Buildings B00A, B00D and B00F, Gates and Period Fence', SHI Listing, available at: <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=5065652>

Criterion	Assessment
	Therefore, due to their associations with the estate and early settlement in the area, the gates and fence have historical significance at a local level.
Criterion C—Aesthetic Value <i>An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area)</i>	The iron pike-and-rail fence with sandstone posts and base, including the decorative motif on the eastern gate, demonstrates the Victorian style aesthetic and materiality. While some sections of the fence and sandstone wall are in poor physical condition, the fence retains aesthetic significance at a local level.
Criterion F—Rarity <i>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)</i>	The gates and fence are the only remaining fabric of the Crows Nest House and are aesthetically rare locally.
Criterion G—Representativeness <i>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</i>	The 1890s gates and fence constitute a fine local representation of the site's historical, social, and aesthetic significance. The iron fence and sandstone base structure are typical of the Victorian period and it is the only remaining fabric associated with Crows Nest House.

5.2.2. North Sydney Public School- Buildings B00A, B00D and B00F, Gates and Period Fence

The following Statement of Significance has been extracted from the DoE Heritage and Conservation Register listing sheet. It should be noted that this s170 heritage listing does not specifically apply to the NSPS site as a whole, but only to Buildings A (Pacific Building), D (McHatton Building), and F (River Building), and former Crow's Nest House gates and period fence (s170 # 5065652).

North Sydney Public School has a collection of prominent elements from the 1890s through to the 1930s. The current school grounds are historically significant as a diverse, layered assemblage of landscape features from the Colonial and Interwar periods. The design and proportion of public-school buildings reflects the aspirations of the Education Department to provide high quality educational facilities for communities on the North Shore. The sandstone and wrought iron gate and fence are rare elements of estate housing in Sydney in the late nineteenth century. The aesthetic considerations of the school are held in appreciation by the school staff and NSW Education Department.⁸

The DoE Heritage and Conservation Register does not specifically provide a detailed assessment of the significance of the Buildings B00A, B00D and B00F against each of the NSW Heritage Council criteria. Therefore, Curio have extrapolated the key heritage values of each item included within the s170 listing, summarised in Table 5.2 against the applicable significance criteria.

⁸ North Sydney Public School - Buildings B00A, B00D and B00F, Gates and Period Fence', SHI Listing, available at: <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=5065652>

Table 5.2: NSPS Buildings B00A, B00D and B00F, NSPS—Assessment of Heritage Significance

Criterion	Assessment
Criterion A—Historical Evaluation <i>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)</i>	The interwar school buildings and period fence and gates located within the NSPS school grounds have historical significance at a local level as a diverse, layered assemblage of features from the Colonial and Interwar periods. The three buildings were the first constructions within the NSPS site in the 1930s and are architectural landmarks of the school's historical development.
Criterion C—Aesthetic Value <i>An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area)</i>	The design and proportion of public-school buildings reflect the aspirations of the Education Department to provide high-quality educational facilities for communities on the North Shore. The three buildings are fine demonstrations of the typical aesthetic features of purpose-built structures of the 1930s. In addition, as the multiple alterations to the buildings, since the 1950s have usually been sympathetic and a reflection of the school's evolving needs, the structures remain largely intact, retaining most of their original features.
Criterion D—Social Value <i>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</i>	The three buildings have been used as public-school facilities since the 1930s, housing the main daily educational activities of the NSPS. Therefore, the buildings play an important part for the students and the local community as well as for the pedagogic development of the school and have social significance at a local level.
Criterion G—Representativeness <i>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</i>	The three buildings are considered fine and mostly intact representative examples of the NSPS development history and typical aesthetic features, including their social contribution to the local community.

5.3. Surrounding Heritage Conservation Areas

The Statements of Significance of the Heritage Conservation Areas adjacent to the NSPS site are presented in the following table, extracted from the North Sydney DCP 2013.

Heritage Conservation Area (HCA)	Statement of Significance (DCP)
Edward Street (CA17)	<i>The Edward Street Conservation Area is significant:</i> a) <i>As an intact example of early township development in North Sydney.</i> b) <i>As a subdivision of the Priory and Rockleigh Grange Estates.</i> c) <i>For its grouping of intact and commonly detailed mid Victorian and Federation houses.</i>
McLaren Street (CA19)	<i>The McLaren Street Conservation Area is significant:</i> a) <i>As an area that is close to the centre of North Sydney that retains representative details from its development from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, including street formation, buildings, gardens and fencing.</i> <i>For its landmark qualities and associations with St Thomas' Church, North Sydney Council buildings, park and public court</i>

Heritage Conservation Area (HCA)	Statement of Significance (DCP)
Crow's Nest Road (CA23)	<i>The Crow's Nest Road Conservation Area is significant:</i> a) <i>As an excellent example of Inter-war garden suburb planning and subdivision for non-speculative residential development.</i> b) <i>For its rarity in the locality as a largely intact and consistent residential area from the 1920 – 1930 eras that retains a fine range of Inter-war houses of one and two storeys, built on large lots with intact gardens and single garages.</i> c) <i>For its strong landscape qualities that combine from the established trees, grassed verges and large open front gardens that provide unity to the streetscape.</i> d) <i>For its association with Crow's Nest House, and potential for evidence of the site of the historic house</i>
Priory Road (CA24)	<i>The Priory Road Conservation Area is significant:</i> a) <i>As a subdivision of the 1840s curtilage of the early mansions, "The Priory" and "Toongarah".</i> b) <i>As a largely intact and consistent early 20th century residential area that has a mix of Inter-war buildings, including bungalows and residential flat buildings in original condition.</i> c) <i>For its quiet landscape setting derived from the mature street plantings, grassed verges, small open front gardens, low front fences and backdrop of trees in the valley below.</i> d) <i>For its contained character derived from the cul-de-sac street</i>

5.4. Summary of Significance – North Sydney Public School

The following summary of heritage significance has been prepared in relation to the overarching NSPS site, including consideration of the heritage elements contained within, as well as within the context of the surrounding heritage conservations areas.

The NSPS was first opened in 1931 at the site of the former Crow's Nest House gardens, with the former Infants School building (now known as McHatton Building) as the first school building constructed. The McHatton Building is a rectangular two-storey building with a central gabled wing that still retains the external unpainted brick fascia, most of the double-hung timber windows, and decorative string courses along its first floor.

The River and Pacific buildings (formerly known as Boys and Girls buildings respectively) were constructed on site in 1934-35 to house additional students transferred from the school's former site. The two to three-storey high, L-shaped brick buildings were constructed on each side of the McHatton building, opposite one another, showcasing similar architectural style and materiality.

The three early school buildings (the McHatton, River and Pacific Buildings) are listed on the DoE S170 Heritage and Conservation Register, as locally representative examples of the school development history and typical aesthetic features. The three buildings are fine demonstrations of largely intact purpose-built school buildings that have undergone minor sympathetic alterations and modifications over time to suit the evolving needs of the NSPS over time.

The existing gates and fence (former Crow's Nest Estate fence) that form the southern and eastern boundaries of the NSPS site constitute a fine local representation of the site's historical, social, and aesthetic significance. The iron fence and sandstone base structure were originally constructed around 1890 as part of the renovation works conducted by Sir John Hay to convert Crow's Nest

House from its original earlier form into a Victorian mansion. Despite the partial demolition and reconstruction of the eastern portion of the fence and gate in 1930 for the widening of Lane Cove Road (now Pacific Highway), both the eastern and southern remaining fence lines and gates constitute the only remaining fabric associated with former Crow's Nest House. In addition, with the establishment of the NSPS on site in 1931, the former Crow's Nest Estate gates and fence were retained and incorporated as part of the school site as the eastern and southern boundaries.

Overall, the fabric and setting of the three school buildings, as well as the remnant fabric of the former Crow's Nest Estate gates and fence have representative significance at a local level regarding the historical, social, and aesthetic values of these features.

Furthermore, the proximity of the NSPS site to four locally significant Heritage Conservation Areas is noted (Edward Street, Crow's Nest Road, Priory Road, and McLaren Street), each of which has significance for their respective suburban character and individual architectural period styles, which contribute to the streetscapes and settings within which the NSPS site is located, particularly along McHatton Street, Bay Road, and the Pacific Highway.

6. Project Description

6. Project Description

The present S4.55 Modification Application proposes the following alterations to the SSD NSPS Upgrade project:

- Windows in the southern elevation of Building I;
- Temporary removal of section of the heritage fence and gutter/curb;
- Additional cleaner's store on Level 2;
- Increased bicycle footprint.

For the purposes of this HIS, the following elements of the development will be considered in terms of their potential to impact the heritage-listed items within the NSPS site or the HCAs in the vicinity:

- Windows in the southern elevation of Building I;
- Temporary removal of section of the heritage fence and gutter/curb.

The following elements of the proposed will have no visual or physical impact on the significance of the heritage-listed items within the site or the adjacent HCAs, as they consist of internal works within modern buildings only. They are identified as:

- Additional cleaner's store on Level 2;
- Increased bicycle footprint.

6.1. Proposal Rationale

6.1.1. Windows in the southern elevation of Building I

To comply with current BCA standards, the windows to Level 1 Home Bases of Building I have been increased in size to achieve minimum natural light and ventilation (F4.2 Natural Light and F4.6 Natural Ventilation). As a result, the window sills have been lowered from 800 to 350mm above floor level.

The window configuration on Levels 2 and 3 has also been amended to introduce a fixed glazed panel to the lower section of the window, thus increasing the sill of the openable section of the windows to a minimum of 1200mm to comply with the EFSG requirements.

Further, the windows to all three levels have been amended to include a larger openable section (awning) to the windows. This has been due to the addition of lower fixed glazed panels as mentioned above and to ensure compliance with minimum natural ventilation requirements as per the BCA.

The following images present the southern elevation of Building I as the SSD approval (Figure 6.1) and the proposed new windows on the same elevation (Figure 6.2).



Figure 6.1: SSD approved southern elevation of Building I. Source: Furton Trotter, 2021.



Figure 6.2: Proposed southern elevation of Building I. Source: Fulton Trotter, 2022.

6.1.2. Temporary removal of section of the heritage fence and gutter/curb;

The SSD approval allowed for the creation of an additional entrance on the southern portion of the site. Part of the 1890s heritage fence will be demolished to accommodate these works. The present Modification Application intends to temporarily enlarge this opening to allow construction vehicles access to the site during the works.

The approved works for the redevelopment of the NSPS site mostly involve the southern portion of the property in order to avoid impacts to three heritage-listed buildings (west, north, and east) associated with Crows Nest Estate. These will be retained as part of the works. During the construction program, these buildings will house school activities and allow it to remain an active and live environment for the children, staff, and community. As a result, children's access to the school will be provided via the northern (McHatton Street) and eastern (Pacific Highway) frontages to prevent them from having any interaction with the site works (Figure 6.3).

As the creation of construction access at the northern or eastern boundaries of the site would not be a safe location for the school children nor a functional gateway due to the presence of the three heritage buildings, the proposed access would have to be located on the southern boundary along Bay Road, requiring the temporary removal of a section of the former Crows Nest House fence.

To minimise physical impacts to the existing fence, the proposal intends to enlarge the new southern entrance to the school (approved as part of the SSD works). The approved 3.5-metre wide gate

(Figure 6.4) would be temporarily enlarged to 6.6 metres complying with the 6-metre minimum width required for access and egress routes for trucks (Figure 6.5 to Figure 6.7). As a result, the existing curb/gutter in front of the fence (outside the site boundary) would also be temporarily removed to accommodate the required construction opening.

After the completion of the works, the removed sandstone blocks and fence would be reinstated and the southern access will be left with 3.5 metres as approved by the original SSD application. The removal and reinstatement of the sandstone blocks and metalwork will be conducted according to the methodology described in the dilapidation report prepared by RJC Group.

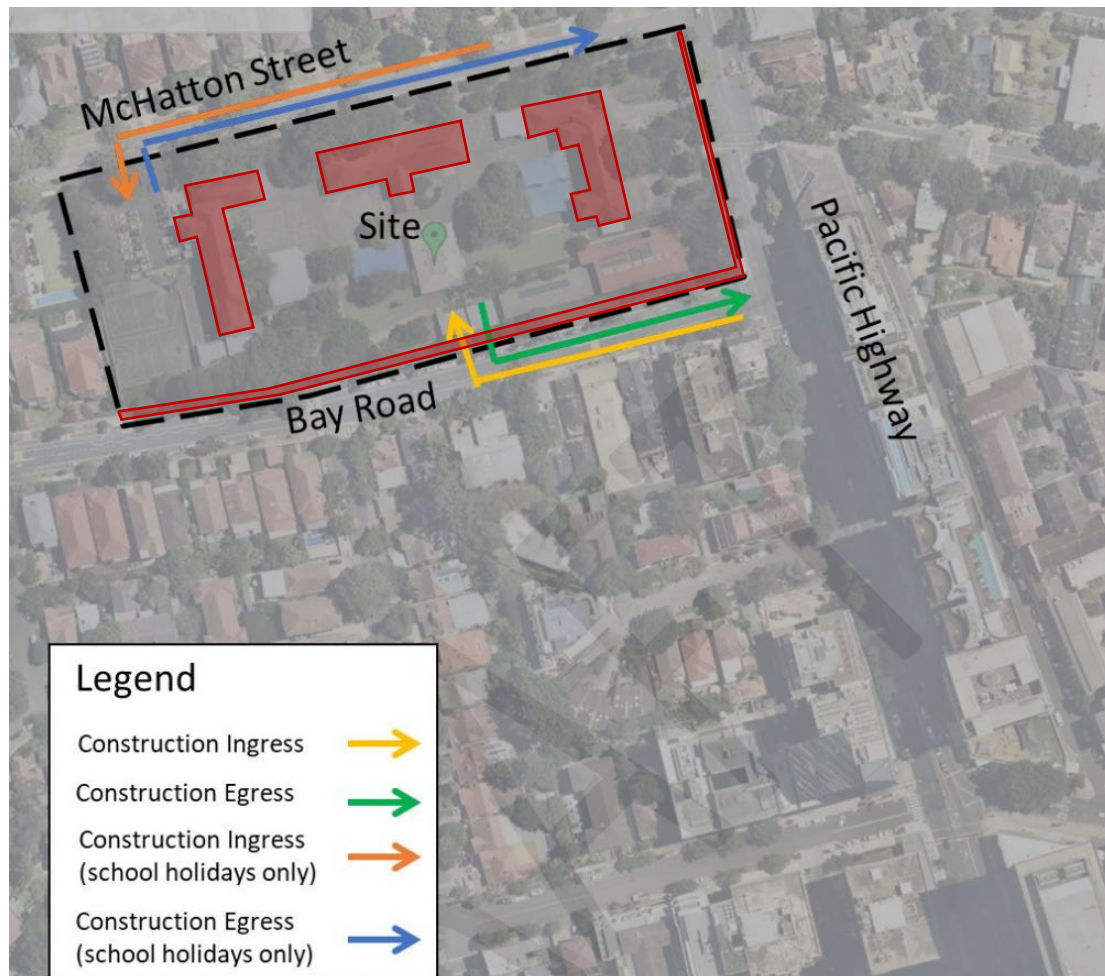


Figure 6.3: Proposed construction access. Source: Taylor, 2022.

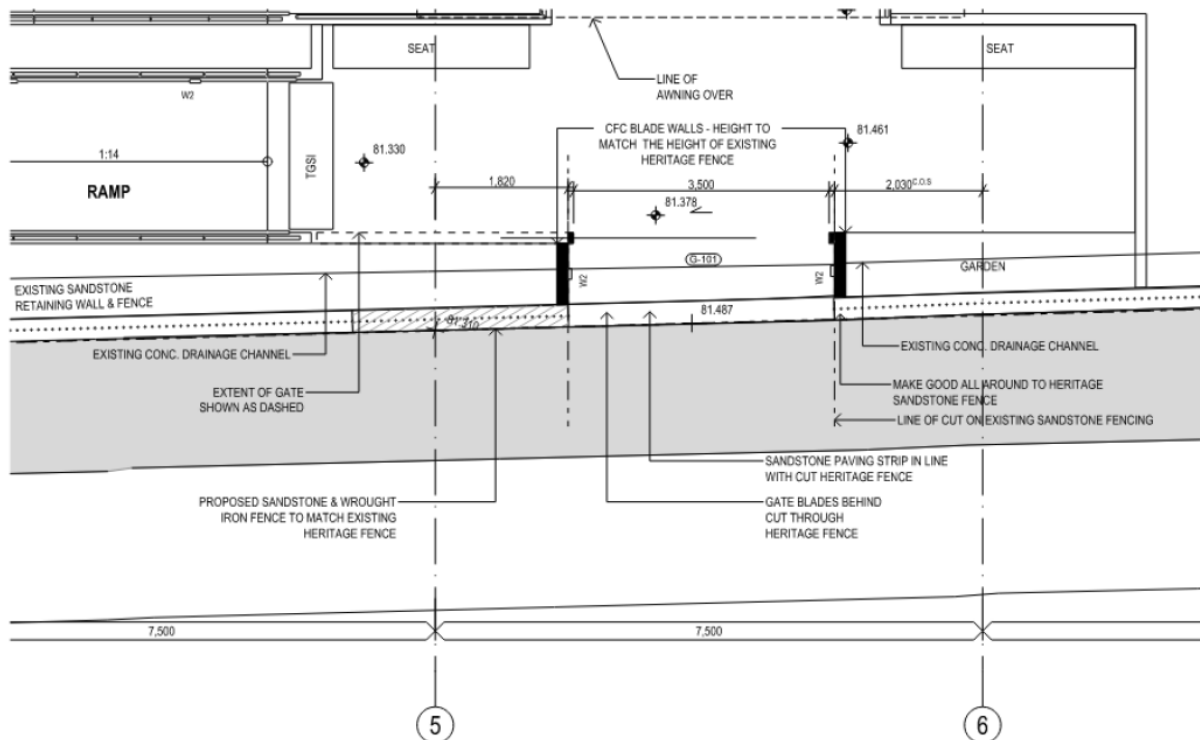


Figure 6.4: SSD approved southern entrance, which will require a 3.5m penetration on the heritage fence. Source: Taylor, 2022.

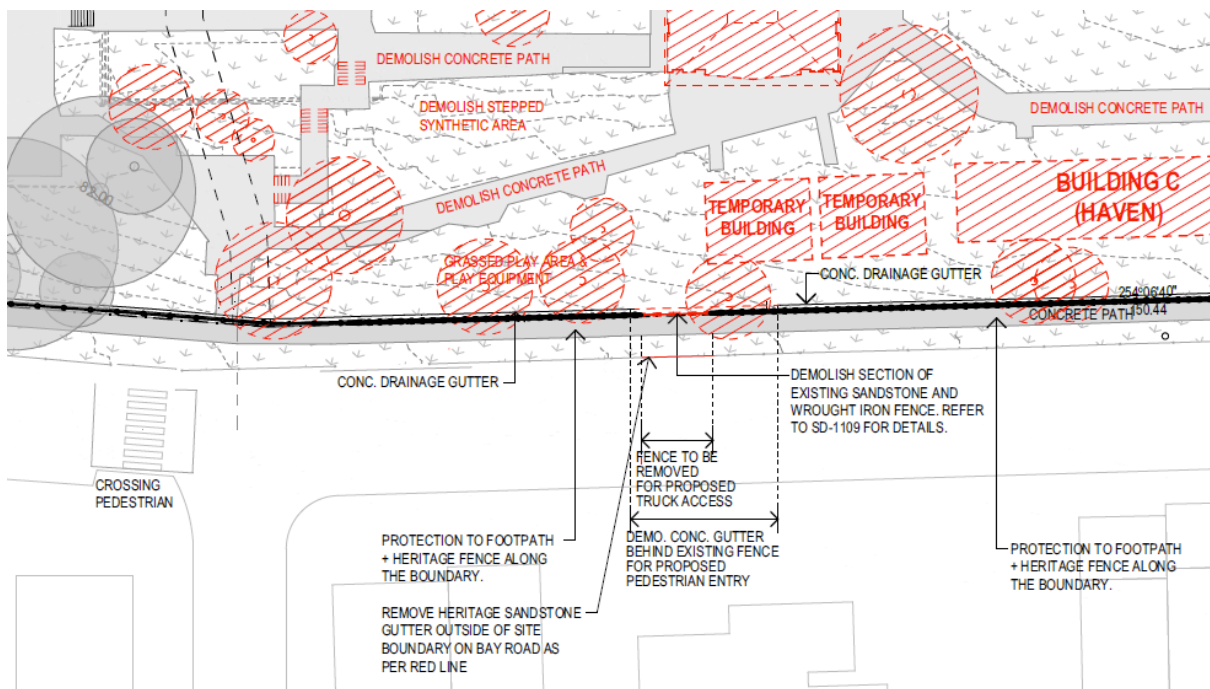


Figure 6.5: Extract of the proposed Site Plan showing the temporary widening of the SSD approved southern entrance to accommodate the construction access to the NSPS site. Source: Fulton Trotter, 2022.

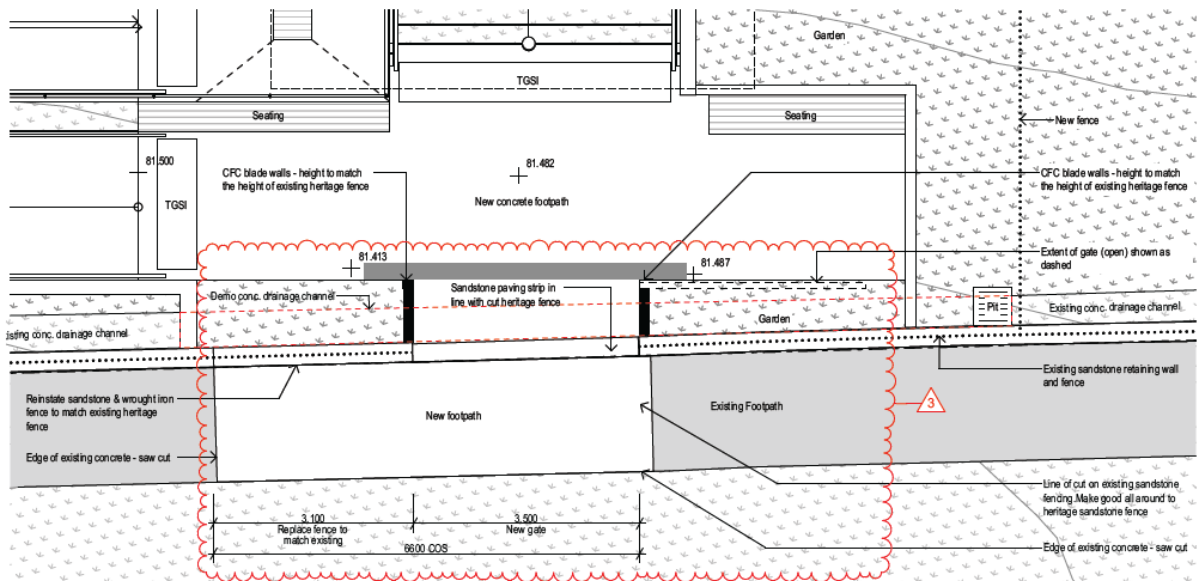


Figure 6.6: Plan of the proposed temporary widening of the SSD approved southern entrance to accommodate the construction access to the NSPS site. Source: Fulton Trotter, 2022.

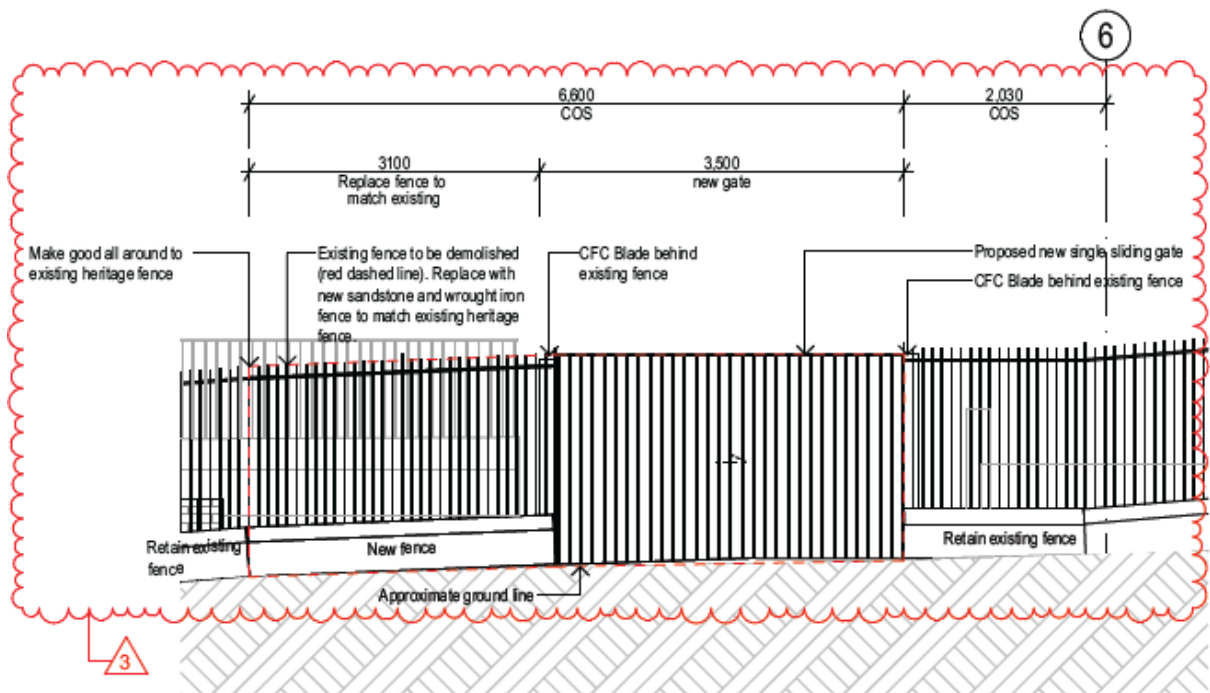


Figure 6.7: Elevation of the proposed temporary widening of the SSD approved southern entrance to accommodate the construction access to the NSPS site. Source: Fulton Trotter, 2022

7. Assessment of Heritage Impact

7. Assessment of Heritage Impact

7.1. Windows in the Southern Elevation of Building I

The proposed alterations to the windows in the southern elevation of Building I are required to meet current BCA standards and will not have any physical impact on the heritage fabric of any significant element within the site as the windows are located on the new building approved under the SSD DA (Application no. SSD-11869481).

Being at the southern fascia of the new building, the subject windows will not visually interact with any of the three heritage-listed buildings (Pacific, McHatton or River buildings), not having any visual impact on significant view lines including these elements.

Further, the alterations will only be visible from the southern frontage of the site where the existing heritage fence is located and from the Priority Road HCA in the vicinity of the site. Due to the minor nature of the amendment to the windows, the reading and perception of the new built element (Building I) will remain consistent with the SSD approval. The location, rhythm, composition, and materiality of the windows will be fully maintained while the minor increase in size and introduction of fixed glazed panels will slightly enhance the visual interaction between the interiors of the new building and the HCA and fence, having an overall neutral visual impact on any significant views or vistas.

7.2. Temporary removal of section of the heritage fence and gutter/curb

The creation of temporary access to the site on the southern frontage is required to facilitate vehicle access during the construction program. Vehicles are expected to travel in a forward-in and forward-out direction to/from the work zone on Bay Road.

Curio has been providing ongoing heritage advice to the NSPS design team to minimise any potential physical impact to the heritage fabric of the site and prioritise the safety of the children that will continue to use the school facilities during the construction process, ensuring the temporary construction access sits in a sensible location and its design and scale are consistent with the heritage context.

The location of the temporary access on Bay Road (subject of this S4.55 report) has been chosen to avoid any new penetrations to the heritage fence. As the SSD approval included the demolition of a section of the heritage fence to create a new southern entrance to the school, the proposed enlargement of the approved opening to accommodate the temporary access limits the demolition works to the same area, minimising any additional heritage impact to the fence.

The proposed 6.6-metre width of the temporary access has also been designed to reduce the potential physical impact on the fence and preserve the integrity of the sandstone blocks. The additional 600mm to the required 6-metre access will allow the blocks to be removed as a whole without being sectioned and permanently damaged.

Further, RJC Group has been commissioned to prepare a dilapidation report of the metalwork and wall components of the heritage fence, identifying the sections of the fence which are at high risk for possible damage and developing a methodology to safely remove the sandstone blocks and metal fence to accommodate the temporary opening. The methodology aims to minimise the physical impact to the heritage fabric, preserving its integrity and reinstating the removed elements after the construction works are completed. The methodology consists of the following:

1. The metal fencing and base wall stone components will be tagged and fitted with aluminium stamped tags or chisel marking on non-visible faces to document the area

- and number, including stage, then zip-tied onto the fencing panels prior to removal or struck by chisel onto the individual stone.
2. The fencing panels will be slung and braced then cut close to the base as possible. The panels will then be lifted onto the Hiab truck with carpet placed in-between each row of panels to prevent damage when in transport and then moved to an area nominated by Taylor both on and offsite.
3. After the removal of the panels, the base bullnose units and ashlar will be levered from their beds slung and removed onto prepared pallets on the HIAB truck. Bed joints and perps will be cleaned and stones prepared for storage to an area nominated by Taylor both on and offsite. The now visible face of the remaining bullnose units will be cleaned, dressed, and tooled TME to form the return for the new entry.
4. Curb units will be loosened from any abutting soil or concrete and lifted vertically via Hiab crane with mechanical specialised hardware. Curb/block grabs, bed joints, and perps will be cleaned and stones prepared onto pallets for storage to an area nominated by Taylors on or offsite.
5. In the unlikely case that a brick is damaged during the removal or storage process, a brick in better condition that was previously tagged to be permanently removed can be repurposed to replace the damaged brick.
6. After the painting of the fence is undertaken, the new tags will be removed and the original ones will be reinstalled.
7. On completion of CBC nib wall by others, fencing will be cut to suit new configuration and CFC wall cored to install the panelling with molten lead using traditional methods.
8. After installation, 2 coats of Dulux Bridge paint TME colour will be applied and allowed to cure for 3 days o/a weather dependent.⁹

Overall, the proposed methodology demonstrates a respectful and careful approach to the temporary removal of the heritage fabric of the fence. Therefore, it is anticipated that this methodology will minimise the physical impact to the sandstone blocks and metal fence while ensuring that the fence will be reinstated after the works are completed. In addition, the material removed as part of the SSD approved new entrance can be repurposed and substitute any of the blocks that are damaged during the process.

As a result of the temporary enlargement of the heritage fence opening, the existing gutter/curb in front of the heritage fence (outside the site boundary) will also have to be temporarily removed. The proposed works will reinstate it after the completion of the construction works, however, the gutter/curb has little to no contribution to the significance of the fence or other heritage buildings nearby. Therefore, the proposed temporary removal of a section of its length will not have any adverse physical or visual impact to the heritage values of the heritage items within the NSPS site or in its vicinity.

In conclusion, the enlargement of the approved new entrance to accommodate the construction access will have a temporary and limited visual impact on the overall character of the fence, which will be fully reinstated after the construction stage is completed. While the extension of the penetration in the heritage fence will have a negative physical impact on the original fabric by removing sandstone blocks and metal fence, the proposed methodology for the works has been developed to minimise any potential damage to the heritage fabric and to ensure it is carefully reinstated after a short period. Additionally, the proposed location of the opening is consistent with

⁹ Taylor, 2022. *North Sydney Public School, Temporary Heritage Fence Removal, 182 Pacific Highway, North Sydney, NSW 2060.*

the SSD approval, the logistics of the construction site, and the safety of the children on school grounds.

It is recommended that a heritage specialist is nominated to oversee the works to minimise impacts to the heritage values of the original fence, especially during the removal and reinstatement stages. A simple photographic record to be developed in accordance with the NSW Heritage Office document 'Photographic Recording of using Film or Digital Capture' should also be provided prior to the commencement of the works to document the original physical condition of the fence. After completion, the record should be submitted to the North Sydney Council and NSW Heritage Library.

8. Conclusions and Recommendations

8. Conclusions and Recommendations

This HIS has assessed potential heritage impacts associated with the S4.55 Modification Application for the amendments to the windows in the southern elevation of Building I and the temporary removal of a section of the heritage-listed 'Gates and fence of former Crows Nest House' (North Sydney LEP 2013 – item no. I0957) on Bay Road to facilitate vehicle access to the NSPS during the project's construction program.

Curio Projects has provided heritage input and advice throughout the development of the project design, particularly regarding the location, dimension, and construction methodology of the temporary vehicle access to minimise the physical impact on the sandstone blocks and metalwork of the heritage gates and fence and to ensure the safety of the children on school grounds.

The proposed amendments to the southern windows of Building I will interact only with modern fabric approved under the original SSD application, not having any physical impact on heritage fabric. Due to their minor nature, the alterations will not substantially impact the reading or perception of the new built form (Building I) and, therefore, will have an overall neutral visual impact on the Priority Road HCA in the vicinity and on the southern portion of the heritage-listed fence, not impacting on any significant views or vistas. The alterations will not be visible from the three heritage-listed buildings (Pacific, McHatton, and River buildings) within the NSPS site and, therefore, will not have any visual impact on their heritage values.

Further, the proposed works associated with the temporary opening to the heritage fence are consistent with the SSD application and, despite having a minor negative heritage impact on the original fabric of the fence, the chosen location, size, and methodology for the temporary access will preserve the integrity of the original elements and facilitate the reinstatement of the fabric after the completion of the works.

It is recommended that a heritage specialist is nominated to oversee the works to minimise impacts to the heritage values of the original fence, especially during the removal and reinstatement stages. A simple photographic record to be developed in accordance with the NSW Heritage Office document 'Photographic Recording of using Film or Digital Capture' should also be provided prior to the commencement of the works to document the original physical condition of the fence. After completion, the record should be submitted to the North Sydney Council and NSW Heritage Library.

9. References

9. References

Architectus 2020. *North Sydney Public School Upgrade – 182 Pacific Highway, North Sydney. Request for Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements.*

Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, *The Burra Charter*, 2013 (Burra Charter).

Department of Education 2017. NSW Section 170 Heritage Register's listing sheet for 'North Sydney Public School – Buildings B00A, B00D and B00F, Gates and Period Fence'.

Curio Projects, 2021. *North Sydney Public School Upgrade—Heritage Impact Statement.*

Extent Heritage 2020. *North Sydney Public School, Concept Design Report—Heritage*, prepared for School Infrastructure NSW.

Godden Mackay 1993. *North Sydney Heritage Study Review Part 1 Volume 1 Main Report*, prepared for North Sydney Council.

Hericon Consulting 2013. *The Modern Movement in NSW: A Thematic Study and Survey of Places*, commissioned by Heritage Council of NSW.

Jack, R. C., 1980. *The Work of the NSW Government Architect's Branch- 1958-1973*, Unpublished Master Thesis, UNSW.

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 2001, *Assessing Heritage Significance.*

NSW Heritage Office/RAIA, 2005, *Design in Context – guidelines for infill development in the Historic Environment.*

NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, State Heritage Inventory Register listing sheet for 'Gates and fence of former Crows Nest House'.

Robertson & Hindmarsh Pty Ltd 1994. *Heritage Study North Sydney Demonstration School—Chapter 3.*

Urbis 2017. *Ultimo Pyrmont Public School, Heritage & Archaeology Assessment*, prepared for Lacoste & Stevenson



5 Blackfriars Street, Chippendale NSW 2008 | 02 8014 9800 | curioprojects.com.au