

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
BUILDING
35-39 Bridge Street,
Sydney

FOR GOVERNMENT
PROPERTY NSW
March 2015

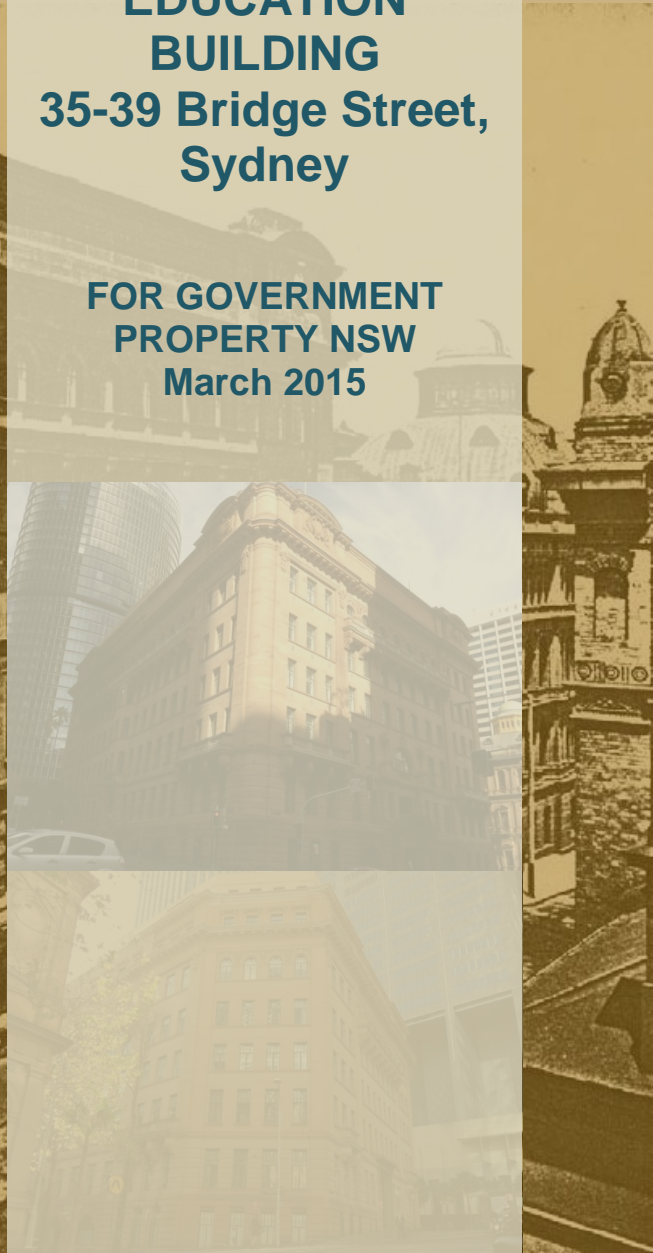


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Note: This document is preliminary unless it is approved by Director of City Plan Heritage				

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 INTRODUCTION

This amended Conservation Management Plan (CMP) has been commissioned by Government Property NSW (GPNSW). City Plan Heritage was previously commissioned by GPNSW to update the Conservation Management Plan prepared in 2007 by the Government Architect's Office to guide the conservation and use of the building for the NSW Government. This update was finalised in July 2013.

The building is the Department of Education Building, located at 35-39 Bridge Street, Sydney. It is listed as a heritage item under the *Heritage Act, 1977* (Listing Number 00726) and on the Sydney Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2012 as Item of *State Significance* (Item # I684). The Department of Education building was built in two parts on a prominent city block on Bridge Street: the first part (for Department of Education) was constructed between 1912 and 1914 to the design of the Government Architect of the day, George McRae.. The building demonstrates the restrained form of Federation Free Classical architectural style, external materiality and scale of the building in its original design by McRae, with Stage 2 (for the Department of Agriculture) being completed by a private firm, John Reid & Son.

Throughout this report, 35-39 Bridge Street will be referred to as the Department of Education building, although the Department's current naming is Department of Education and Communities.

A detailed Archaeological Assessment including Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and European Archaeology, and community consultation were not part of the scope of this study. Notwithstanding, brief baseline assessments for archaeological resource have been included for the significance assessment and for the provision of applicable Conservation Policy guidelines.

Since the previous CMP was issued, the government has determined that the Education Building will be leased to facilitate the adaptive reuse of the building for use in the tourism sector. This CMP updates the previous July 2013 version and specifically seeks to guide the future adaptive reuse of the building by private sector. City Plan Heritage understands that the building will remain in Government ownership.

1.2 METHODOLOGY AND STRUCTURE OF THE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

This CMP has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines of the *Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance* known as the *Burra Charter, 2013*; the *NSW Heritage Manual 'Conservation Management Documents'* and the *Conservation Plan* (7th edition, 2013) by James Semple Kerr and published online by Australia ICOMOS.

As this CMP is an update of the previous 2007 CMP, which has a comprehensive background research and analysis of the existing fabric, it derives the majority of its information from that document in particular documentary evidence, description of various periods of changes to the building's development and fabric, archaeological potential assessment, and conservation policies. Where required, changes and additions have been made to reflect the current condition of the building as well as providing a comparative analysis to inform the significance assessment.

Section 2 of the CMP provides an introduction to the project and the CMP while Sections 3.0 – 8.0 provide background information for understanding of the building within its urban and historical context; constraints and opportunities and management issues; and a framework for the formulation of the conservation policies and implementation guidelines. These sections include a historical summary of the site and its context based on documentary evidence (Section 3.0), a site description including a combined analysis of historical and physical evidence to develop an understanding of the building's history and modifications through time (Section 4.0), a brief assessment of the archaeological potential (Section 5.0) a comparative analysis (Section 6.0). The analysis in these sections provides the background to assess the building's cultural significance (Section 7.0), understand its constraints and opportunities (Section 8.0) and develop appropriate conservation policies (Section 9.0).

1.3 STATEMENT OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Department of Education building has been synonymous with the provision of universal public education in New South Wales since its construction in 1915 and is still used for its original purpose. The Department's association with the site dates from its establishment under the *Public Instruction Act 1880*. The southern half of the building, the former Department of Agriculture offices, demonstrates that Department's importance in the development of scientific agriculture and support for primary production when this was a major industry in the state in the first half of the 20th century.

The architectural style of the building, a restrained form of Federation Free Classical with plain facades highlighted by ornamentation at the entrances and upper floor entablature, is representative of contemporary tastes demonstrating external materiality and scale of the building in its original design by George McRae with Stage 2 (for the Department of Agriculture) being completed by a private firm, John Reid & Son.

The Department of Education building is a fine example of early 20th century government offices combining elements of their historic 19th century predecessors, with a concern for contemporary office design. Built in two stages 1912-15 and 1929-30, the building demonstrates rapidly changing methods in building construction of the early 20th century. The 1994-95 refurbishment by noted architect Ken Woolley provided a rational and elegant

solution to the historic problems posed by key planning differences between the two stages of construction and resulted in efficient circulation and improved accommodation to contemporary standards.

Although the second stage of the building (1915 and 1930) was designed by a different architect using a different, more technologically advanced form of construction, the external architectural presentation of the two stages is remarkably unified or consistent. Occupying the of the city block bounded by Bridge Street, Loftus Street, Young Street and Farrer Place, the building is a key element in the built landscape of Bridge Street, in the surrounds of Macquarie Place and in Farrer Place to all of which it makes a notable contribution. It is part of an important group of late 19th and early 20th century government offices that represent the continuing association of this area with government and administrative activities since 1788. The site is part of a street plan that reflects the earliest development of the city of Sydney.

The Department's Art Gallery is unique in government offices and its student art collection, William Wilkins Memorial Art Collection, is the oldest in Australia.

The building is associated with key personalities in the history of education in New South Wales including Peter Board and Sir Harold Wyndham. It is also associated with Government Architect George McRae, who is considered as a key practitioner of the Federation Romanesque, Anglo-Dutch and Free Style in Sydney and whose work played a dominant role in the evolution and spread of Federation architecture throughout Australia.

The building has been the symbolic headquarters for generations of teachers and administration staff who have worked in the NSW education system since 1915.

The heritage significance of the Education Building is enhanced by the collection of movable heritage including furniture and war memorials. The movable heritage of the building has an ongoing and continuous association with the government function and demonstrates the building's association with public service. The collections of furniture and fixtures associated with public service and government administration demonstrate superior quality in local design, manufacturing and materials. The war memorials are of particular social significance for its commemoration of the role of Department of Education employees in war.

The site also has high potential for surviving archaeological remains of State significance including the site of the Judge-Advocate's residence, and gardens, boundaries and setting for the residences of the Judge-Advocate and the Colonial Secretary. These remains may survive below the Loftus Street vehicular entry and the northwest corner of the site.

1.4 CONCLUSION

The conservation policies are intended to assist and guide the building owner, Holder of the Ground Lease and sub-lessees, building managers, consultants, contractors and occupants through the processes of conserving, repairing, maintaining and using the site. The conservation policies provide a set of guidelines to inform future decisions. Decisions about future work including repair, conservation, adaptation to tourism related uses, maintenance works or future additions and development should take into consideration the significance of the place as a whole as well as of the affected separate parts and their interrelationship. The conservation policies are not intended to prohibit change at the site. Use of the policies will ensure that future decisions are made on an informed basis enabling the significance of the place to be retained and enhanced. The policies target the issues that are relevant to the site but also are intended to be flexible in recognising the site and owner's/lessee's constraints and requirements. The policies in this report commence with the **general policies** to provide guidance to deal with the key implications for retaining the significance of the site, including:

- Recognise and retain heritage values;
- Conserve the place as a whole;
- Recognise all periods of the building's history;
- Facilitate the adaptation to and long term operation of the building by private sector;
- Conserve and maintain significant building features and their functional and spatial relationships; and
- Conserve in accordance with significance;

Policies are then provided to address **physical conservation issues** such as identifying, managing and undertaking conservation and maintenance works as well as employing consultants and contractors with appropriate expertise, including:

- Adopt best-practice guidelines and procedures;
- Provide effective management; and
- Manage operational and security issues;

Policies are also provided to identify and **manage future change**, accepting that change is inevitable with most occupied and functioning heritage sites including:

- Manage change as an overall strategy implementing these policies;
- Guide change and new development within the site; and
- Identify and assess potential impacts.

Policies are then recommended for:

- Managing the site's potential archaeological resources;
- Involving associated people and communities;
- Keeping proper records and managing archive collections and records;
- Regular review and update of these policies;
- Presenting and interpreting the site and its story; and
- Further research.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 AIMS OF A CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

The aim of a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) is to set out the significance of the item and develop appropriate policies to enable the significance of the item to be retained in its future use and development. The level of cultural significance determines the type and degree of acceptable change, the levels of maintenance required and the type of adaptive re-use that the place can undergo. This information is then used to guide and manage opportunities for making the place useable in order to keep it viable and ensure its future.

2.2 BACKGROUND

This Conservation Management Plan (CMP) is an update of the 2013 CMP prepared by City Plan Heritage (itself an update of the 2007 CMP by the Government Architect's Office). It has been commissioned by the Government Property NSW (GPNSW). Since the completion of the 2013 CMP, tourism has been identified as a potential future use for the building and the building to be leased. In light of this fact, GPNSW has sought an update to the 2013 CMP to reflect any management implications that may occur as the result of the change of use and termination of administrative functions within the building.

The building is known as the Department of Education and Training Building, located at 35-39 Bridge Street, Sydney. It is listed as a heritage item under the *Heritage Act, 1977* (Listing Number 00726) and on the Sydney Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2012 as Item of *State Significance* (Item # I684). The Department of Education and Training building was constructed between 1912 and 1914 to the design of the Government Architect of the day, George McRae, on a prominent city block on Bridge Street.

Throughout this report, 35-39 Bridge Street will be referred to as "the Department of Education building", although the Department currently occupying the building is known as the Department of Education and Communities. It is noted that the building has been identified for sale to private owners in the near future. At the time of writing, no sale had occurred.

2.3 SITE LOCATION

The Department of Education Building's primary address is 35-39 Bridge Street, Sydney. It occupies the entire city block in the heart of the Sydney CBD bounded by Bridge Street to the north, Loftus Street to the west, Young Street to the east and Farrer Place to the south. Its primary frontages are on Bridge Street to the north and Farrer Place to the south. The building is also accessed from Loftus Street and Farrer Place.

The building is occupied by the NSW Department of Education & Community but is owned by the NSW Government, being previously managed and administered by the NSW Crown Property Portfolio. It is currently managed by Government Property NSW, established in 2006 as a corporation designed to specialise in the acquisition, management and disposal of Government owned property.

It is used principally as administrative offices for the Department of Education and Communities. The building includes the former Department of Agriculture offices. The site is identified by Lands and Property Information as Lot 56 of the Deposited Plan 729620.

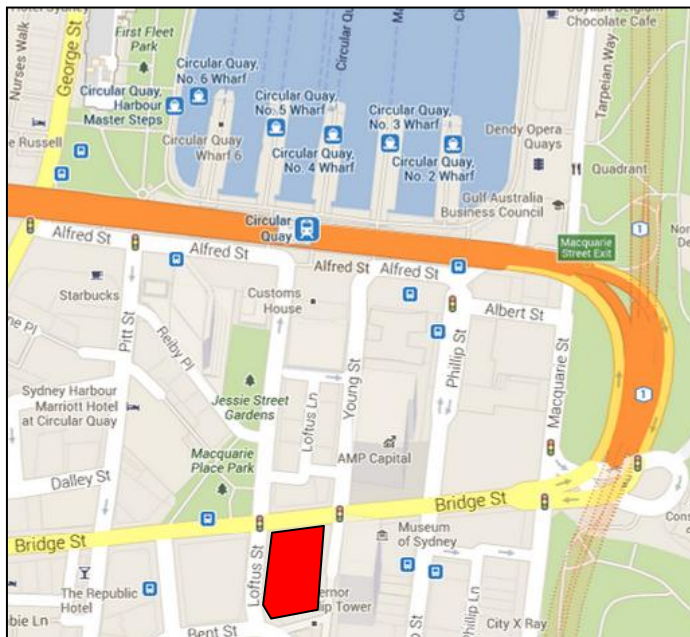


Figure 2.1: Location map of 35-39 Bridge Street. Highlighted in red is the building footprint.
(Source: Google maps 2013)



Figure 2.2: Aerial view of 364 Kent Street
(Source: SIX Viewer)

2.4 EXISTING HERITAGE STATUS

The site is listed as *Department of Education Building* under the *Heritage Act, 1977* (Listing Number 00726) and as a heritage item on Sydney Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2012 as an item of State Significance (Item # 1684).

The *Education Department Building* is also listed on other non-statutory heritage registers. These include the Register of the National Estate (Listing ID 1793), the National Trust of Australia Register (Listing ID C6097) and the AIA Register of Significant Architecture in NSW (Number 4700597).

The Education Building also forms part of a nomination for inclusion on the National Heritage List, currently under consideration by the Australian Heritage Council for an area of Sydney currently called "Colonial Sydney". The area includes many sites fronting Macquarie and Bridge Streets and beyond, including the Education Building. The National Heritage List falls under the Commonwealth Government *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999* (EPBC Act 1999).

2.5 METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS

This CMP has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines of the *Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter, 2013*; the *NSW Heritage Manual* 'Conservation Management Documents' and the *Conservation Plan* (7th edition, 2000) by James Semple Kerr and published by the National Trust of Australia (NSW).

A main objective of a CMP, as outlined in the J. S. Kerr's *Conservation Plan*, is to set out the significance of the item and develop appropriate policies to enable the significance of the item to be retained in its future use and development. The *NSW Heritage Manual* indicates that a CMP should be a concise document that makes reference to the other documentation where necessary rather than repeating the information included in previous reports unless of particular relevance.

Section 2.0 of the CMP provides an introduction to the project and the CMP while sections 3.0 to 8 provide background information for understanding of the building within its urban and historical context, constraints and opportunities and management issues and a framework for the formulation of the conservation policies and implementation guidelines. They include a historical summary of the site and its context based on documentary evidence (Section 3.0), a site description including a combined analysis of historical and physical evidence to develop an understanding of the building's history and modifications through time (Section 4.0), a brief assessment of the archaeological potential (Section 5.0) a comparative analysis (Section 6.0). The analysis in these section provides the background to assess the building's cultural

significance (Section 7.0), understand its constraints and opportunities (Section 8.0) and develop appropriate conservation policies (Section 9.0).

The historical context in this CMP is based on the previous CMP prepared by the Government Architects Office in 2007 for the NSW Crown Property Portfolio. Primary sources, reports and previous plans have also been consulted when required. A number of sources have been accessed and consulted as noted in Section 2.6 below.

During the preparation of the 2007 CMP, a professional historian using primary and secondary sources prepared the history section.

The oral history and social significance assessment is based on secondary sources as such a need for undertaking an oral history as part of a future interpretation strategy and update of the social significance assessment in the CMP is required. Any comments made by current and former staff were provided informally during the site visits and do not represent the full range of attitudes to the site. Any references to these comments reported in the document plan should be read with this limitation in mind.

Note: The term Department of Education Building is taken to mean the whole of the building bounded by Bridge Street, Young Street, Farrer Place and Loftus Street unless specifically indicated.

2.6 SOURCES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The historical context in this CMP is based on primary sources where possible. The following organisations and collections were visited or approached for images and documents concerning the Department of Education Building site for the preparation for the 2007 and updated 2013 CMP:

- NSW Department of Commerce Records
- NSW Heritage Division Library
- NSW Department of Education and Training
- Mitchell Library (State Library of NSW) Collections
- National Library of Australia
- Ancher Mortlock and Woolley
- National Trust of Australia (NSW)
- Sydney City Council Archives
- RAIA (NSW Chapter)

- Royal Art Society of NSW
- Online databases of the above archives.

2.7 AUTHOR IDENTIFICATION

This report, incorporating the findings of the Conservation Management Plan prepared in 2013 by City Plan Heritage, has been prepared by Kerime Danis (Director) of City Plan Heritage with assistance from Susan Kennedy (Senior Heritage Consultant). The 2013 CMP was based on the 2007 CMP by the Government Architect Office and was prepared by the City Plan Heritage team including Flavia Scardamaglia (Heritage Consultant), Susan Kennedy (Senior Heritage Consultant) and Kerime Danis (Director) who has also reviewed and endorsed contents of that report. Jane McMahon (Graduate Heritage Consultant) was also involved in the initial stages of 2013 CMP though is now no longer with City Plan Heritage.

All photographs have been taken by City Plan Heritage unless otherwise stated.

2.8 COPYRIGHTS

City Plan Heritage agrees that this Conservation Management Plan may be used by the Government Property NSW and future owners of the Education Building for updating purposes. They are granted a perpetual non-exclusive licence to make use of the Conservation Management Plan, including the right to review the document with appropriate acknowledgement of the City Plan Heritage's authorship.

2.9 DEFINITIONS

The following definitions are derived from the *Burra Charter* 2013 and will be used for the development of the conservation policies in Part 2 of this Plan.

Cultural significance	<i>Aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations. It is synonymous with heritage significance and cultural heritage value.</i>
Fabric	<i>All the physical material of the place including components, fixtures, contents, and objects.</i>
Conservation	<i>All process of looking after a place so it retains its cultural significance.</i>
Maintenance	<i>The continuous protective care of the fabric and setting of a place, and its setting. Maintenance is to be distinguished from repair which involves restoration or reconstruction.</i>
Preservation	<i>Maintaining the fabric of a place in its existing state and retarding deterioration.</i>

Restoration	<i>Returning the existing fabric of a place to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material.</i>
Reconstruction	<i>Returning a place to a known earlier state and is distinguished from restoration by the introduction of new material into the fabric.</i>
Adaptation	<i>The Burra Charter defines adaptation as modifying a place to suit the existing use or proposed use. For the purpose of this conservation plan the definition of adaptation will be used as defined in the draft Sydney Opera House Conservation Plan, 2002, prepared by J. S. Kerr “modifying a place to suit proposed compatible uses”.</i>
Interpretation	<i>All the ways of presenting the cultural significance of a place.</i>

OTHER TERMS

Lessor / Building Owner	The freehold Building Owner is Government Property NSW. Owner will seek best heritage advice when making decisions about the future of the Education Building that could impact on heritage significance.
Lessee	This CMP recommends that any lease of the Education Building should only be to a single entity - the Holder of the Ground Lease. The lease should clearly spell out the responsibilities of the Building Owner and the Holder of the Ground Lease, particularly with regard to the policies and guidelines in this CMP. The approval of the Building Owner will be required for works proposed by the Holder of the Ground Lease (including change of use) which could impact on heritage significance. Any approved sub-lessees and sub-leasing agreements would need to have approval of both the Holder of the Ground Lease and the Building Owner before considering changes that impact on heritage values. Sub-Lessees may include commercial and tourism operators.
Property Manager	The Property Manager will be responsible for managing both major and minor change to the Education Building. The Property Manager, therefore, should have a thorough understanding of best practice heritage issues and should follow the policies and guidelines in this CMP.
Major Works	The NSW Heritage Division (formerly Heritage Office) defines <i>major works</i> as those that will “materially affect” the heritage significance of the heritage item. “Materially affect” means the changes being proposed will have an effect on its heritage significance. Such changes include more than just change made to the built or physical

	fabric.
Minor Works	Minor works to heritage items are usually defined as those works which will have no, or minimal, impact on heritage values and often include appropriate maintenance and repair or temporary and reversible interior fitout.

3.0 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE – UNDERSTANDING THE PLACE

3.1 ABORIGINAL HISTORY

The Sydney CBD is part of the traditional lands of the Cadigal (or Gadigal) peoples. Their territory encompassed the lands to the south of Sydney Harbour from South Head to Darling Harbour.¹ Whilst some word lists and accounts of cultural practices of the local indigenous groups were compiled at the time of European settlement, detailed information regarding the pre-1788 culture was lost.²

Historical and archaeological sources indicate that the bays and waterways of Sydney Harbour were a source of fresh water and food for the indigenous population, with hunting, gathering and fishing taking place.

After the arrival of European settlers in 1788, the process of displacement began. The settlement and associated farming and building forced many Aboriginal people from their traditional lands and away from food sources. Soon after the arrival of the First Fleet, the Cadigal people and other local clans were decimated by a smallpox epidemic, to which they had no immunity. Despite these factors, some people survived and continued to occupy the area and interacted with the Europeans. The Indigenous people continued to use the land around East Darling Harbour at least until the 1830s, four decades after the arrival of the First Fleet and despite the smallpox epidemic.

3.2 FIRST GOVERNMENT HOUSE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BRIDGE STREET

The development of an enclave of government offices in and around Bridge Street in the 19th century had its origins in one of the earliest planning decisions in New South Wales: the choice, on 29 January 1788, of a site on which to erect the portable canvas house brought out from England for the Governor, Captain Arthur Phillip. The appropriateness of the site, on the east side of the Tank Stream overlooking the settlement at Sydney Cove, was confirmed in May of the same year when Governor Phillip laid the first stone for a brick house, immediately to the east of his prefabricated home. The new Government House, completed by the middle of 1789 was the first permanent building in the Colony and was to remain the home of successive governors until 1845.³

The construction of permanent accommodation for the Colony's civil officers followed soon after and by 1792 a neat row of residences and gardens, for the Commissary, the Judge-

¹ Val Attenbrow: *Sydney's Aboriginal Past: Investigating the archaeological and historical records*, UNSW Press, Sydney, 2010, p22.

² Val Attenbrow: *Sydney's Aboriginal Past*, 2010, p.31.

³ Helen Proudfoot, Anne Bickford, Brian Egloff & Robyn Stocks: *Australia's First Government House*, Allen & Unwin in conjunction with the Department of Planning, Sydney, 1991, pp. 31, 41-48.

Advocate, the Surveyor General and the Chaplain, lined the western approach to Government House from the bridge over the Tank Stream that later gave the street its name.⁴ For more than forty years after European settlement, the Colony of New South Wales was administered from these buildings, which served as both private residences and public offices.

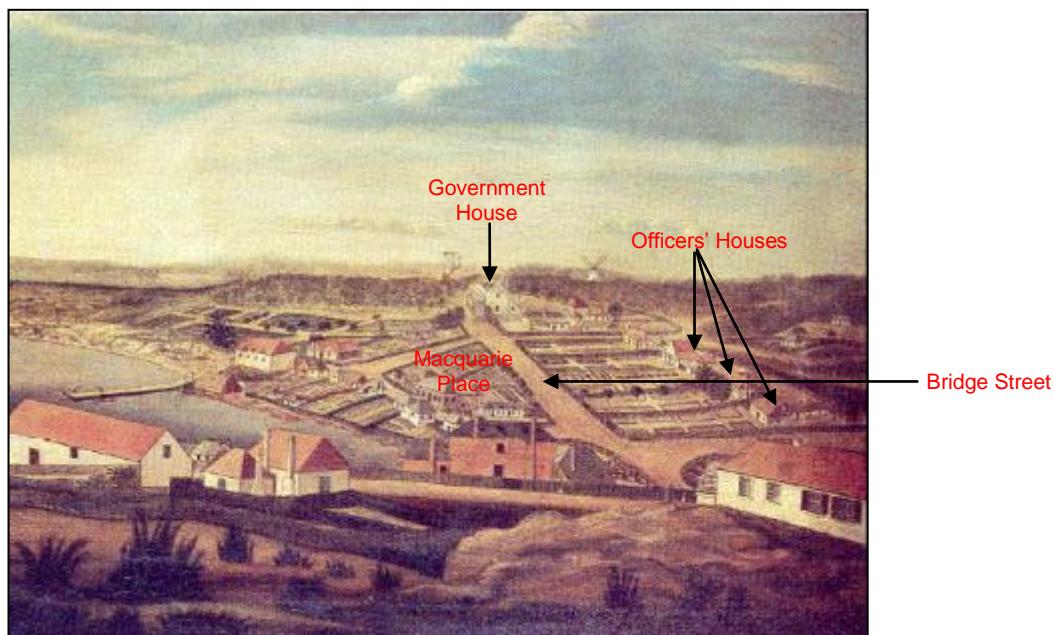


Figure 3.1: Government House and the civil officers' residences in about 1800 as depicted by Thomas Watling. The road leading to Government House, later to become Bridge Street, is already clearly defined with the officers' houses set well back, with large front gardens.

(Source: 'Sydney, Capital of New South Wales' reproduced from *Painted Panorama 1800-1870 Paintings from the Mitchell and Dixon Collections of the State Library of New South Wales*, 1985)

At the back of these houses an unusual street pattern was beginning to emerge, formed in part by the lines of prisoners' huts and workshops and also by the ditch that had established the boundary of Governor Phillip's residence. Here the emerging streets defied a grid plan and were aligned along the contour, terminating at their north-east end near a fountain at the back of the civil officers' residences and at the edge of the Government House Domain. By the time Governor Macquarie took up office in 1810 they were so well established that he included them in his naming and renaming of Sydney's streets: Bell Row became Bligh Street; South Street became O'Connell Street and the un-named street parallel to it became Spring Row [later Street]; while from Spring Row, past the fountain and on to the north end of Phillip Street became Bent Street.⁵ This configuration, evident from as early as 1792, was an unusual one and survives to the present day.

The relationship between the Governor and his civil officers' domestic arrangements was redesigned during the Macquarie period when several civic improvements served to

⁴ Thomas Watling attributed, 'Sydney Capital New South Wales' c. 1800 reproduced in *Painted Panorama 1800-1870*. 1 to 30 November 1985. Paintings from the Mitchell and Dixon collections of the State Library of New South Wales, The Blaxland Gallery, Sydney, 1985, p. 35 cat. 1.

⁵ *Sydney Gazette* 6 October 1810 p.2.

emphasise the importance of Government House, of its grounds and its approaches. In October 1810 Governor Macquarie issued a number of orders intended to 'contribute to the Ornament and Regularity of the Town of Sydney'.⁶ In addition to regularising and extending the street plan, the Governor provided a number of public spaces. In front of four of the civil officers' residences the ground was to be cleared for 'Macquarie Place'.⁷

Associated with these improvements, new houses were built for the Judge-Advocate Ellis Bent (1810-1812); the Secretary, John Campbell (1813); the Chaplain, the Reverend William Cowper (1815); and Judge Barron Field (1817) while a new guard house (1810-1812) cut off public access from the back of Government House down to the Cove.⁸ Like their predecessors, these new residences, two of which were designed from architectural pattern books probably chosen by Mrs Macquarie, lined the road from the bridge to Government House and formed an attractive backdrop to the nascent Macquarie Place.⁹ Carmichael's view 'Sydney from The Domain Near Government House' provides a close-up of these houses and their setting.¹⁰



Figure 3.2: Looking west from the front entrance to Government House in 1829. On the far left is the guard house and next to it, the Colonial Secretary's house, later to house the Department of Public Instruction.

(Source: J Carmichael, *Select Views of Sydney New South Wales*, 1829)

In 1832 the practice of providing official residences for civil officers came to an end when the British government ruled that this was no longer to be a benefit of office, other than for the Governor. Some officers had already made the move to live on their private estates, anticipating the change. As they were vacated, the old residences continued in use as government offices, usually housing the departments of which their former occupants had

⁶ *Sydney Gazette* 6 October 1810 pp. 1-2 & 27 October 1810 p. 2.

⁷ *Sydney Gazette* 6 October 1810 p 1b.

⁸ The new guard house can be seen in a panorama by Eyre published in 1812

⁹ James Broadbent: *The Australian Colonial House. Architecture and Society in New South Wales 1788-1842*, Hordern House, Sydney in association with the Historic Houses Trust, 1997, pp. 31-47 & 49-56.

¹⁰ J Broadbent: *The Australian colonial house*, 1997, p. 45, Plate 3.11.

been in charge.¹¹ The most notable group of these former official residences was that in Macquarie Place.

3.3 BUILDING THE QUAY AND EXTENDING THE STREETS

From the late 1820s the need for increased wharfage was under discussion and within a decade the first major replanning of Sydney was underway. A new artificial waterfront would be built at Sydney Cove. In order to pay for the work, the old Government House would be demolished releasing some of The Domain land for sale and allowing the existing streets to be extended down to the new 'Semi-Circular Quay'. A new Government House would be built further to the east in the Domain, on the ridge line between Farm Cove and Woolloomooloo Bay, equidistant between the Government Stables and Fort Macquarie.

In January 1845 the plan for the continuation of the main streets down to the quay was officially advertised. Macquarie Street, Elizabeth Street and Phillip Street would be continued north from Bent Street down to the Quay, and Bridge Street would be extended from Macquarie Place up the hill to Macquarie Street. The line of Phillip Street would pass through the east end of the old Government House. The extension of Elizabeth Street would obliterate the guard house. Pitt Street and Castlereagh Street would be continued north from Hunter Street to the Quay.¹² The proposed continuation of Castlereagh Street would cut straight through Macquarie Place reducing it to less than half its original size and the eastern half would be subdivided to finance the new Government House.

The continuation of Castlereagh Street was problematic. The old Colonial Secretary's residence, then being used as offices by the Treasury¹³, stood in the way of any connection between Bent Street and Bridge Street and the government did not guarantee that the building could be removed in 'under five years', or until funds were provided for a new building.¹⁴ Planning continued regardless and the extension of Castlereagh Street from Bridge Street to the Quay was called Castlereagh Street North, in anticipation of the completed street plan.

In June 1845 Governor Gipps and his wife moved to the new Government House and the materials of the old house were gradually removed.¹⁵ New boundary walls were built around the surviving government offices, including the Colonial Secretary's office¹⁶, and in 1847 Bridge Street was extended east to Macquarie Street.¹⁷ In the same year, the guard moved to a new guard house on Macquarie Street and the old one was dismantled and the materials

¹¹ The discontinuance of this practice had been recommended by Darling in 1828, Despatch No. 74 dated 14 May 1828, *Historical Records of Australia* (Ser. 1) Vol. 14 pp. 180-182.

¹² *New South Wales Government Gazette* 7 January 1845

¹³ *Golden Heritage. A joint exhibition to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the New South Wales Treasury 1824-1999*, New South Wales Treasury, Office of Financial Management, 1999, p.12.

¹⁴ *New South Wales Government Gazette* 7 January 1845

¹⁵ Helen Proudfoot et al: *Australia's First Government House*, 1991, pp.131-132.

¹⁶ NSW Blue Book for 1845, Public Works p.133 (Mitchell Library)

¹⁷ *Sydney Morning Herald* 16 June 1847 for discovery of tombstone in extending Bridge Street

sold.¹⁸ The new streets were marked out but were largely unformed. Some of the stone pines that had once stood in the grounds of the old Government House remained in the line of Bridge Street.



Figure 3.3: The extension of the existing streets to the new Semi-Circular Quay as drawn in 1842. In this new arrangement the Colonial Secretary's office, the Survey Office and the Chaplain's house survived, bounded by new streets, but Government House, its guard house and the former Judge-Advocate's residence would be demolished.

(Source: Mitchell Library Map M2 811.1722/1842?/1w)

3.4 HOUSING THE BUREAUCRACY 1830S-1850S

As the convict system wound down in the later 1830s and 1840s, many buildings were no longer required for their original purpose, or were vacated due to dwindling convict numbers. With this legacy of surplus building stock, the bureaucracy could readily be housed in existing buildings.

Responsible government effected little change. The six ministerial portfolios created in 1856 were essentially the same as the existing departments and older building stock had to suffice. The result was an ad hoc assemblage of government offices housed in buildings originally designed for other purposes, with parts of departments fragmented around the city, often at some remove from each other.

¹⁸ Colonial Secretary Copies of letters to Engineering and Public Works Officers, Letter Nos 47/8359 & 47/8628, 4/3887 pp. 98 & 109-110 (State Records NSW) & NSW Government Gazette 26 November 1847 fol. 1293.

Departments with special needs were the exception; and it was the construction of these that occupied the Colonial Architect's office from the 1840s into the early 1860s. Some departments required specific locations: the Customs House (1844) had to be close to the new Semi-Circular Quay; the Observatory (1858) needed the view; and the Registry on Elizabeth Street (1859-1861) was built next to the Supreme Court with which it shared much business. For the others, the Treasury and Audit Office on Macquarie Street (1849-1851) and the Government Printing Office at the corner of Bent Street and Phillip Street (1855-1856), the land that had been part of the original Governor's Domain provided suitable sites, without cost to the government.

3.5 BRIDGE STREET IN THE 1840S-1860S

It was some years before the area around Bridge Street developed its full potential. The City Corporation, incorporated in July 1842, had insufficient revenue to provide basic services such as roads, drains, sewers and an adequate water supply and the Colonial government remained reluctant to hand over many of the powers (and sources of revenue) which would have helped it to do so.¹⁹ From the late 1840s and into the 1850s the east end of Bridge Street was more like a park than a city street; a mixture of the old, some new and lots of empty building lots. Two of the Macquarie period residences continued to be used as government offices: the Colonial Secretary's residence, still serving the same department, and the judge's house, used by the Survey Office. Both were set well back from the line of Bridge Street, but were now at odd angles to the new streets that hemmed them in at the sides.

3.6 CHANGES ON BRIDGE STREET IN THE 1870S

From the 1870s until 1890, overseas loans funded the construction of large-scale public works and a more developed infrastructure in both city and country in New South Wales. In 1871 Sydney was a low-rise city of Georgian proportions. By the mid-1870s the scale was beginning to change, with a boom in both the public and private sectors. Based on borrowed money, Sydney sought to overtake its great rival, Melbourne and began to take on the appearance of a 19th century city. The Colony could now afford purpose-built accommodation for its growing bureaucracy. Ideally located close to Parliament House, the government owned four substantial blocks of land on the south side of Bridge Street, offering an economical solution to the question of where to build.

In the 1870s the architectural landscape of Bridge Street was transformed by the construction of the Colonial Secretary's and Public Works offices and the first stage of the Lands Department.

¹⁹ Shirley Fitzgerald: Sydney 1842-1992, Hale & Iremonger, Sydney, 1992, pp.39-46

These two landmark buildings confirmed Bridge Street as the main locus of government administration and totally transformed the scale and quality of the city's official architecture. They were the most impressive new offices in the city and a significant part of its transformation from Georgian town to Victorian metropolis.

These fine new offices confirmed the importance of the departments they housed: Lands, the source of much of the Colony's wealth; Public Works, which built the infrastructure vital for settlement; and the Colonial Secretary whose portfolio (usually held by the Premier and so giving it additional status) included a wide range of responsibilities. A notable omission from the Colony's priorities was the matter of education.

3.7 THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Education in New South Wales was initially provided by the religious denominations and by private individuals and it was not until 1848 that the government formally entered the field of public instruction with the creation of the Board of National Education. In deference to the existing church schools, there was also a Denominational Schools Board and education was administered under two Boards until the Public Schools Act of 1866 provided for a single Council of Education, with control over both systems. The Council's first President was Henry Parkes who was to play a major part in the provision of government education in the state.

In Parkes' first Ministry in 1872, education gained ministerial status in the combined portfolio of Minister of Justice and Public Instruction²⁰ and for a short period in 1878 had the prospect of splendid departmental accommodation in an imposing design for new law courts where it would be housed as part of the combined ministerial portfolio.²¹ The proposal, however, remained just that and, like many other departments, the Council of Education occupied accommodation originally built for residential purposes in Macquarie Street.²²

Much greater developments for the future of public education were, however, in train and in 1880 Henry Parkes' Public Instruction Act gave the government full responsibility for the provision of primary and some secondary education in New South Wales. With the creation of the Department of Public Instruction on 1 May 1880, under the supervision of its own Minister, there was for the first time a centralised system of control over the rapidly expanding need for education.²³ Public schooling was to be compulsory, provision was made for secondary education and government support for denominational schools ceased from 1883. The administration moved into the former Colonial Secretary's offices in Bridge Street, recently vacated by that Department on the completion of its splendid new home further up Bridge

²⁰ *The NSW Parliamentary Companion*, 56th edition, NSW Chief Secretary's Department, Sydney, 1920.

²¹ 'New Law Courts', *Town & Country Journal* 30 November 1878 p.1033

²² A collection of photographs of all of the premises occupied by the various boards of education from 1849-1915 is held in the Small Picture File at the Mitchell Library under the heading SPF- Sydney – Offices – Education Department. This collection was once owned by the Department of Education.

²³ Danuta Kozaki: *Bridge Street and Education – a pictorial history*, Community Relations Unit for NSW Department of School Education, 1989, pp. 8-9

Street. It was this building, designed in 1813 as a residence for John Campbell the Governor's Secretary, that was to be the home of the new Department for almost thirty-five years.

The first decade of the new system saw a massive expansion in the number of schools, but in the economic depression of the 1890s government expenditure was much reduced. By the beginning of the 20th century, the government schools system in New South Wales was depleted and behind the times compared with overseas schools and some other states in Australia.²⁴

The movement for reform began in 1901 and the appointment of a Royal Commission the following year culminated in three reports, on Primary Education (December 1903), Secondary Education (October 1904) and Technical and Other Education (December 1904) termed the 'New Education'. Teaching methods, the curriculum and teacher training were all in need of reform with a greater emphasis upon children learning for themselves by active practical work, rather than the old system of learning by rote. Peter Board, an Inspector of Schools who was appointed to the newly established position of Director of Education in 1905, turned these ideas into action in the development of the New Syllabus and the process of reform was under way. The co-educational Sydney Teacher's College opened the next year in the grounds of Sydney University. In 1910 following the election of a Labor government, fees for secondary education were abolished and academic, commercial, technical and domestic courses were established.

The new system, with its emphasis upon vocational training (with appropriate schools for various parts of the workforce) began in 1911. Three new examinations, the Qualifying Certificate, the Intermediate Certificate and the Leaving Certificate provided proof of competence at all levels of schools education and, together with the abolition of fees, provided the 'educational ladder' by which children of ability from poor families could now have an extended education. Reconstruction of the system was completed in 1916 with the Public Instruction (Amendment) Act which required the registration of private schools and made compulsory education effective, by requiring attendance on every half-day that the school was open, rather than the 'not less than seventy days in each half-year' required under the 1880 Act.²⁵ A massive building programme around the state accompanied these changes and lasted into the early 1930s. The system required not only more teachers but also more administration. As the 'New Education' began, the Department moved from its cramped quarters in Bridge Street into a new building.

²⁴ *Government Schools of New South Wales 1848-1998: 150 years*, Open Training and Education Network (OTEN) – Distance Education, New South Wales Department of Education and Training, 1998, pp. 6-13.

²⁵ Alan Barcan: *A history of Australian education*, Melbourne University Press, pp. 207-211 & 240.



Figure 3.4: The Colonial Secretary's offices in 1871, later to be used by the new established Department of Public Instruction.

(Source: Photographs of Public and Other Buildings, &c., taken by authority of The Government of New South Wales, at the request of the Secretary of State for the Colonies [Negs. taken by Mr Charles Pickering, under direction of James Barnet Esq., Colonial Architect (NSW Govt Printer, 1872, Mitchell Library).

3.8 PLANNING FOR NEW OFFICES

The provision of better office accommodation for the Education Department had been considered an 'urgent matter' in 1890 when the Minister, J H Carruthers, had taken 'the preliminary steps' to have premises erected on the Bridge Street site.²⁶ The department had also been included when plans for another large government office building on Bridge Street had been mooted in 1899, this time on the site of the First Government House²⁷; but education remained the Cinderella department 'in genteel poverty'.²⁸ It was not until November 1911 that proposals for new offices finally came before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, for its scrutiny and approval. By this time the numerous branches of the Department, with a total staff of 180, were housed in various premises around Sydney, as well as in the old Colonial Secretary's offices where 'a state of congestion' existed

²⁶ NSW Parliament, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, 'report together with minutes of evidence and plans relating to the proposed new offices for the department of Public Instruction, Sydney', *Joint Volumes of Papers presented to the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly*, 1911-1912, Vol. II Pt. 1, p.1

²⁷ NSW Legislative Council 1899 Session (3), Vol. 2, p.553. These plans were negated.

²⁸ 'An historic building. Ninety-five years old. Offices of the Education Department', *Daily Telegraph* 12 December 1908, Newspaper cuttings Vol. 12, pp. 82-3, Q 991/N (Mitchell Library).

'making proper organisation and cognate arrangement of work impracticable'.²⁹ Plans for the proposed new offices had been prepared by the Department of Public Works and the details were explained to the Committee by Edward Lambert Drew, in his capacity as Acting Principal Architect of the Government Architect's branch, in the interregnum between the retirement of W L Vernon in August 1911 and the appointment of George McRae as his successor in May 1912.³⁰ The new building, designed to have five floors, was to be erected on the northern half of the block bounded by Bridge Street, Loftus Street, Young Street and Raphael Street, on the open space in front of the existing departmental offices. This arrangement would enable the Department to continue to occupy its old offices until the new accommodation was completed. The new offices were to be part of a much larger building, designed to fill the whole block. At some future date the old buildings would be demolished and the second part built, to house the Department of Agriculture. A similar course of action had been followed for the Lands Department, which had been constructed in two stages in the 1870s-1880s and the old offices demolished as the first section was completed.

The siting of the building required all four street frontages to have fine, presentable elevations, which left a central light well as the only option for the provision of adequate light and ventilation. The building constructed around four sides of a central courtyard with a system of mechanical ventilation and, on most floors, an open plan internal arrangement divided into the required offices by partitions and not by solid walls. A flat roof, for recreational use, had been requested by the Minister, while the gallery that was being provided for the use of various art societies, would be top-lit by roof lanterns. The Committee's main concerns were: the provision of sufficient accommodation; adequate light, ventilation and sanitary arrangements; the use and design of the central courtyard; and the unsightly look of the southern elevation of the building before the addition of the second section, which might not be built for some years. Drew's instructions had been to prepare a design for a 'plain brick building' but, as he acknowledged to the Committee, his own preference was for plain stone street elevations.

Much of the Committee's time was taken up with evidence concerning the provision of exhibition space for the Royal Art Society, which was already receiving a government subsidy, and the Society of Artists, which was not. William Lister Lister's evidence on behalf of the Royal Art Society of New South Wales and Julian Ashton's on behalf of the Society of Artists and the Society of Women Painters, revealed much about the animosity that existed between these organisations, but little about the architectural detail of the gallery that was to be provided for them. A student of the Royal Art Society, Schuldham Marriott Woodhouse and a former student, John Bishop, added their complaints about the government's failure to

²⁹ 'Report relating to the proposed new offices for the Department of Public Instruction, Sydney', Evidence by Chief Clerk, George Kilminster, 20 November 1911, p.6

³⁰ Guide to the State Archives of New South Wales No. 19, Records Group NGA Government (Colonial) Architect 1837-c. 1970, Archives Authority of New South Wales, Sydney, 1979, Appendix I.

promote art by establishing a National Art School, but had little to contribute as far as the design and cost of the proposed building was concerned.

The Committee's decision reflected its concern to provide sufficient accommodation for the rapidly expanding Department of Public Instruction and for the new offices to be an integral part of their Bridge Street setting. The construction of the new building was approved with alterations to the proposed plan for elevations in stone, instead of brick, and with the addition of two storeys.³¹ Its Report was debated briefly in the Legislative Assembly in March 1912 and the requisite Act then passed authorising the construction of the new offices.³² Encouraged perhaps by the Public Works Committee's wish to make the new offices a suitable addition to Bridge Street, the final design for the main elevation of the building was considerably more attractive than that presented to the Committee. The new design was published in *The Salon*, the journal of the Institute of Architects in its September-October 1912 issue, under the name of the new Government Architect, George McRae, a Fellow of the Institute.³³

In May 1912 the Department of Public Works sent a site plan for the whole of the new offices (including the proposed second stage for the Department of Agriculture) to the City Council seeking approval for an alteration to the alignment of Loftus Street. In maximising the use of the awkwardly shaped site, the plan for the new building projected beyond the existing building line on the east side of Loftus Street. By October, when the Council presented its objections to the Minister, it was too late. The alignment it proposed would affect the architectural appearance of the building, the Director General of Public Works reported; the plans had already been modified once and the work had already commenced.³⁴ While no concern had been expressed during the Public Works Committee's deliberations about the ultimate demolition of the 1813 house then occupied by the Department of Public Instruction, the historical significance of the building and of its surroundings did not go un-noticed. The imminent loss of the large Moreton Bay fig in the front garden of the old offices prompted newspaper articles on the history of the locality and expressions of regret that progress would cause the loss of 'one of the oldest landmarks in Australia'.³⁵ The historically minded were, however, fighting a losing battle in the march of progress and city development.

History was not however forgotten when the Minister of Public Instruction, Mr A C Carmichael MLA, laid the foundation stone of the new building on Saturday 7 September 1912. 'This is an historic spot' was the keynote of more than one speech the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported, tracing the history of the site from the approval of the plan for J T Campbell's residence on 24

³¹ 'Report..relating to the proposed new offices for the Department of Public Instruction, Sydney' 1911, p.ix

³² *New South Wales Parliamentary Debates (Second Series)* Session 1911-12 (Third Session of the Twenty-Second Parliament) Vol. XLV, 1912, pp. 3895-7. Act No. 10 of 1912.

³³ 'New Education Building', *The Salon: Being the Journal of the Institute of Architects of New South Wales*, Vol. 1 No. 2, September-October 1912, p.121.

³⁴ Town Clerk's Correspondence files 1912/2115 & 5340/28 (Sydney City Council Archives).

³⁵ "Spare that tree." An historic spot. Landmark to be destroyed', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 21 October 1911, p.16h.

December 1813 by Governor Macquarie, to the use of the building since 1882 by the Department of Public Instruction.³⁶



Figure 3.5: Work begins on the site for the new offices of the Department of Public Instruction in the front garden of their existing offices, where the Moreton Bay fig has been cut down.

(Source: Government Printing Office, GPO 1-12332, Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW)

3.9 THE NEW EDUCATION BUILDING

In his first annual report as Government Architect, George McRae described the new offices:

*The building now in course of construction will be seven storeys high; the facades are to be of stone and the design, although severely plain, has been treated in the Renaissance style, thus retaining architectural harmony with the adjacent government buildings. The architectural embellishments have been confined chiefly to the main entrances and the crowning balconies and entablature to the upper floors. The internal construction will be of steel and reinforced concrete, thus providing a fire-resisting structure. Due prominence has been given to the entrances – one from Bridge-street and the other from Loftus-street. It is the intention, later on, to extend the building to the full area of the site and thus provide office accommodation for the Department of Agriculture fronting Bent-street. When the extension is completed, the whole will surround an internal court-yard providing light, ventilation and space for recreation purposes.*³⁷

The stone being used was Maroubra yellow block, the quarry for which was operated as a State enterprise.³⁸ The work was 'rapidly nearing completion' in February 1915, the Minister

³⁶ 'Peeps into history. Education in New South Wales. Foundation stone laying', *Sydney Morning Herald* 9 September 1912, p 8g-h

³⁷ Government Architect's Branch. Annual Report, 1911-1912, in Department of Public Works Annual Report 1911-1912, pp. 29-30.

³⁸ George Proudman 'Stonemasonry Report' dated 9 April 1989 & Warwick Upton 'The Department of Education Building – Brief historical notes' (nd), Education Department Background Notes file, NSW Department of Commerce, Government Architect's Office.

reported, but as for the Department of Agriculture, 'years must elapse' before this part of the building would be completed. Work was being done by day labour and, according to the Sydney Morning Herald, this was 'the largest Government building in the State to be carried out on this principle'.³⁹ This practice was a feature of public works at the beginning of the 20th century but was a controversial one. Labourers could earn more than they did with private firms, but for government this inevitably led to concerns about efficiency and minimising costs.⁴⁰ Some more specialised parts of the construction were however carried out by private firms: the stone carving by J Collins of Penshurst; heating installation by George Vincent; the steel window frames and sashes were supplied by Dobson Franks Ltd of Sydney and the tallow flooring by J Brown of Darling Harbour and Reuben Wood of Sydney. The foreman was an English stonemason, Mr Rootes and one of the men employed on the building was A W Edwards, who was later to establish the well-known building firm of the same name.⁴¹ The Public Works Committee's estimate had been some £81,000 but by December 1915, with the figures 'not quite complete', the cost was £123,000. The construction time had been three and a half years.⁴²

The interior of the building was plainly finished: the reinforced concrete floors were covered with tallow-wood flooring boards⁴³ and at the Bridge-street and Loftus-street entrances and in the staircases the 'judicious introduction of coloured native marbles in wall panelling, columns, pilasters, &c., has produced a good effect'. Special attention was also given to light and ventilation, heating and vacuum cleaning 'in which regard the building ranks high in comparison with other modern office buildings in the city'. The flat roof provided 'ample yard and promenade space' while part was adapted as a miniature rifle range (presumably in response to the outbreak of war).

A fine photograph of the new offices featured in the 1914-1915 Annual Report of the Department of Public Works. On the Bridge Street frontage the building towered impressively over its immediate neighbour the Lands Department, while tucked hard behind it were the old offices.⁴⁴

The administrative staff of the Department of Public Instruction moved into their new offices in August 1915 and the Education Gazette published contrasting photographs of the

³⁹ 'State offices. New Buildings. Education Headquarters', *Sydney Morning Herald* 22 February 1915p. 8e.

⁴⁰ Peter J Tyler: *Humble and obedient servants. The administration of New South Wales Volume 2 1901-1960*, University of New South Wales Press Ltd, Sydney 2006. p/29

⁴¹ James Prior: 'Bridge Street meets education, *inside education*, Journal of the NSW Department of Education, Winter 1974, Vol LXVIII No.2, p.3

⁴² Quoted in Dianne Nichol, 'Project Brief: to ascertain the historical significance of the building which accommodates the head office of the Department of Education in Bridge Street, Sydney', 6 September 1989, in NSW Heritage Office – File – Department of Education Building, 35 Bridge Street, Sydney S90/02690/002.

⁴³ Government Architect's Branch. Annual Report, 1912-1913, in Department of Public Works Annual Report 1912-1913, p. 30.

⁴⁴ Government Architect's Branch. Annual Report, 1914-1915, in Department of Public Works Annual Report 1914-1915, p. 38 & photograph.

⁴⁵ *The Education Gazette* Vol. X No. 8, 1st August 1916.

department's old and new homes.⁴⁵ As if to show that the Department still had a garden setting, (despite having cut down the Moreton Bay fig) the photograph of the new offices was taken from Macquarie Place.

The administrative work of the Department of Public Instruction was now under one roof. As originally planned the disposition of the various branches was as follows:

- On the ground floor (called the basement on the original plans) [Level 1] the main Bridge Street entrance, stairs and lift, the accounts branch cashiers, examiners and clerks, stationery stores, strong rooms and the vacuum cleaner system;
- On the 1st floor (the ground floor on the original plans) [Level 2] the ministerial level; with offices for the Minister and for the Director of Education (the permanent head of the Department), associated support staff, appointments staff, the Deputy Chief Inspector and a library;
- On the 2nd floor [Level 3] a number of individual offices, the records branch and examination papers;
- On the 3rd floor [Level 4] the architect's branch, clerical staff, medical officers and children's relief;
- On the 4th floor [Level 5] a large meeting room, records and examiners' rooms;
- On the 5th floor [Level 6] the clerical staff and State Children's Relief Depot;
- On the 6th floor [Level 7] the art gallery, library, staff dining room and kitchen facilities.⁴⁶

⁴⁶ Copies held by the Department of Commerce plans PB18/A1952 to PB18/A1957 dated August to October 1912. The original floor plans are held at State Records NSW Plan Nos. 1774-1780. The Department of Commerce does not hold a copy of the plan of the 6th floor, the original of which is at State Records, Plan no. 1780



Figure 3.6: New Offices, Department of Education.
(Source: *Department of Public Works Annual Report 1914-1915*)

On top of the building, as was common at the time, were the caretaker's quarters and, of course, the roof space for staff recreation, access to which was provided by stairs from the 6th floor landing.⁴⁷ The delay in proceeding with the construction of the Department of Agriculture section of the building (see below) had necessitated some changes of plan. The boiler for both departments' offices was to have been sited below the basement level of the Agriculture half of the building, but when work on this did not eventuate, an above ground boiler room and associated services had to be added for the Education offices, in the courtyard, at the back of the Bridge Street stairs.

The entrances to the building were impressive and, on the Bridge Street side the quiet dignity of the main hall extended to the floor above where a high and spacious landing provided an imposing entry to the ministerial offices. The panelling and coffered ceiling of the Minister's room repeated this theme of restrained but dignified design. As in the 19th century government offices, a small stair was provided for the Minister leading to a private entry on Young Street with a domestic style, glass-panelled timber door. On the upper floors, the more flexible approach to office design, using timber and glass partitions rather than solid walls, prevailed. The art gallery and other rooms on the 6th floor [now 7th floor], which were concealed behind the parapet, were top lit by roof lanterns, as was appropriate for such use. The exception was the library, on the south side of the building, which had natural light. While the main entrance to the larger room of the art gallery on the Bridge Street frontage was

⁴⁷ Section through corridors, copy held by the Department of Commerce plan PB18/A1965, State Records NSW Plan 1786.

directly opposite the lift and stairs, the Loftus Street stairs and lift, adjacent to the smaller room, provided a useful means of access for the general public and for after hours use.

Ample facilities for women indicated a significant change in the gender balance of the work force. As the Public Works Committee had predicted, the back view of the building was far from appealing but, in the circumstances, was perhaps as neat as it could be. The department's earlier offices, nestled beside it, provided a stark contrast in architectural styles.⁴⁸ The two were not to be together for very long, for in 1916 the government authorised the construction of the Department of Agriculture section of the building. The old offices were demolished and by 1917 the alignments of the streets for the next section of the work were under discussion (see below).⁴⁹ As the old offices were about to be demolished, the Royal Australian Historical Society made attempts to have some parts of the building preserved.⁵⁰ The suggestion that the entrance and staircase might be retained in the new offices was judged impracticable, but instructions were given by the Premier and Chief Secretary for the staircase, the front doorway and the columns flanking it to be carefully taken down, removed and stored for possible future use elsewhere.⁵¹ Their ultimate fate is unknown.

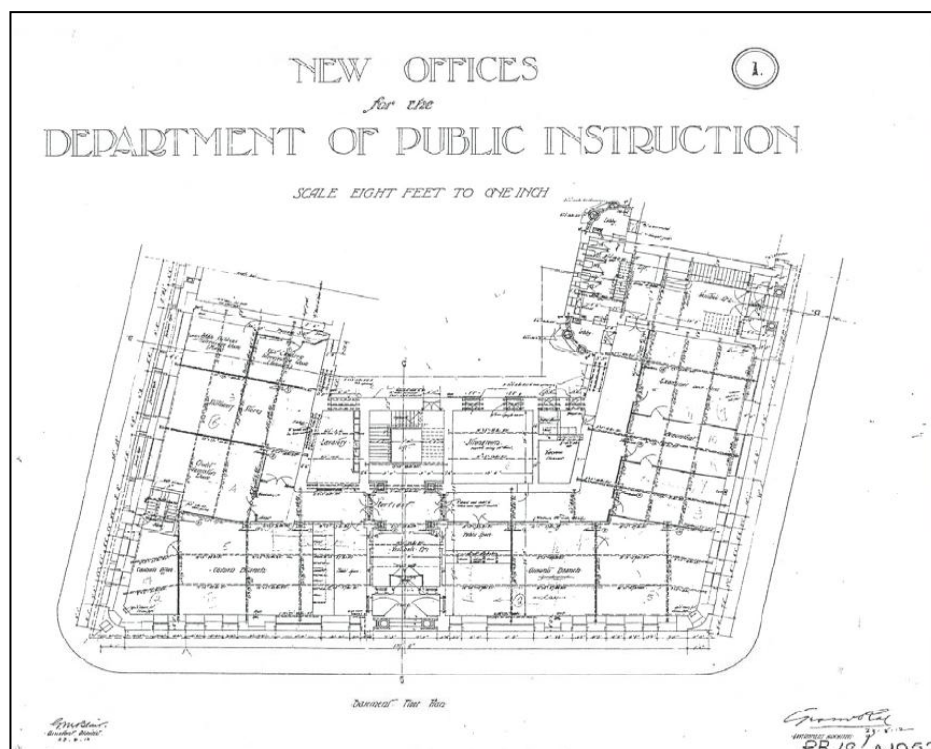


Figure 3.7: The basement (ground floor [Level 1]) plan of the new building, with the main public entrance on Bridge Street.
(NSW Department of Commerce, PB 18/A1952)

⁴⁸ Government Printing Office photograph October 1915, GPO 1-16344 (Mitchell Library).

⁵¹ Royal Australian Historical Society Correspondence Files, Series 2, 1901-1970, Box 3, File 2.9.3, Correspondence in 1916 from the Premier and Chief Secretary's offices (RAHS Archives).

⁵² *The Thirty-Fifth Annual Report of the Royal Art Society of New South Wales for the Year Ending 31st October 1915.*

⁵³ 'Report (Together with Appendices) of the Minister of Public Instruction for the year 1915', NSW Legislative Assembly 1916 Session Vol. 1 Pt 2, p.9.

3.10 TRADITION AND CHANGE

In some respects the design of the new offices owed much to their 19th century predecessors, the Lands Department and the Chief Secretary's and Public Works' offices, erected some forty years previously in the heyday of James Barnet's tenure as Colonial Architect. The plan, scale and materials of the new offices of the Department of Public Instruction had been deliberately chosen to harmonise with these lynchpins of Bridge Street architecture as well as other significant commercial buildings in the area such as CSR and Dalgety's. Similarly, the proposal to build the structure in two parts around a central light well had close parallels not only with these buildings, but also with the late 19th century extensions to the Treasury at the top of Bridge Street. What was substantially different in these early 20th century offices was the absence of the rich hierarchy of architectural ornamentation and design that typified their forebears. In later 19th century government offices every element of the building - ceiling height, door and window design, floor, ceiling and wall treatments, fireplaces and light fittings – served to define the status of its occupants. The Colonial Secretary and Public Works building was a classic example. Here both the external decoration and the internal design and finishes could be read, revealing the strict hierarchy of the 19th century bureaucracy, from Minister to message boy. Works of art, furniture and statuary added to the messages of service, purpose and status and also paid tribute to craftsmanship and the durable qualities of human skills.

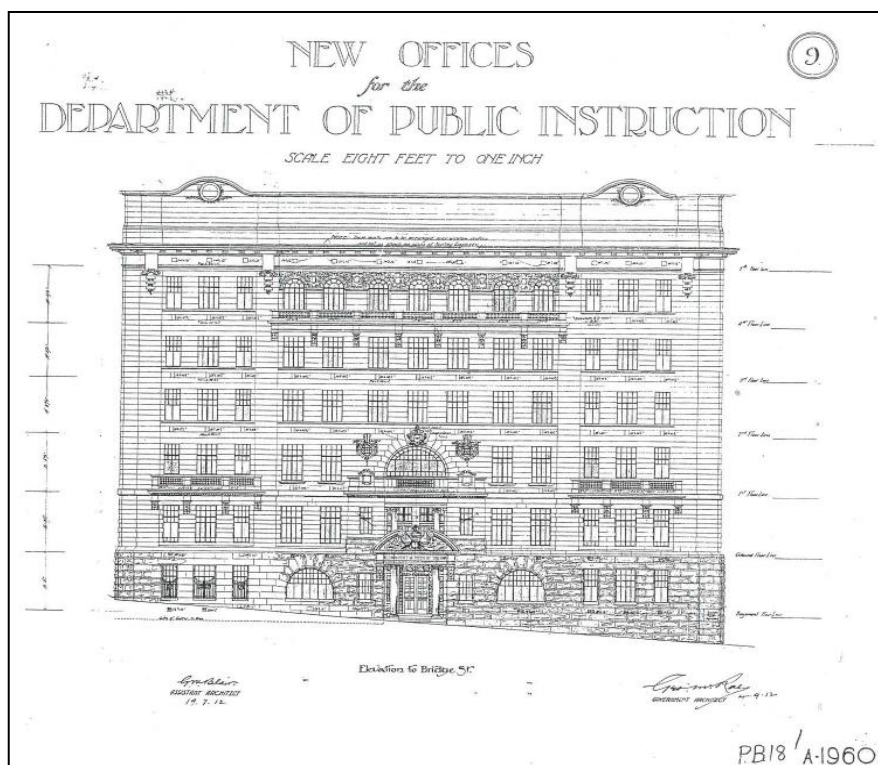


Figure 3.8: Elevation to Bridge Street; signed George McRae, Government Architect and G M Blair, Assistant Architect.
(NSW Dept of Commerce Plan Records)

Their 20th century counterpart, by contrast, preserved the appearance of dignity and durability, but without the notion of a hierarchy of design that was integral to the 19th century architect and artisan. The external decoration of the Department of Public Instruction emphasised the entrances to the building and made some passing reference to the status of its Minister with a small balcony on the first floor, but elsewhere the external decorative features of the building were in no way related to the status of the occupants of the parts of the building that they graced. Nor did the balconies serve any useful purpose for communication, ventilation and shade, as they did in the earlier offices. The hierarchy of the public service was still alive and well (although modified somewhat and necessarily altered by the presence of women in the work force) but it could not generally be discerned in the built form of its newer offices. Symbolism was absent from the fabric of the new offices. The Departments' initials, DPI, appeared on the iron gates at the Bridge Street entrance and in some of the internal glass doors with the date 1914 was carved above the Bridge Street entrance.

Quality finishes were a feature of the building's public spaces and of the ministerial level, but elsewhere efficiency was affected by the concept of flexible work space, with privacy afforded only by partitioning. Coffered concrete ceilings were plain painted and unadorned by cornices or centrepieces. The electric lighting was very basic with single light bulbs suspended on cords, with simple glass shades.



Figure 3.9: A room in the Education Department offices showing the timber and glazed panelling used to divide the large work spaces. The photograph was taken during the influenza epidemic in 1919.

(Source: Government Printing Office, GPO 1-13503, Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW)

By the time the Minister for Public Instruction presented his Annual Report for 1915, the large assembly room [Level 5] had already been used for various conferences and meetings, including groups associated with education such as the Teachers' Association, the Public Schools Athletic Association and the Inspectors' Institute. The use of the art gallery [Level 7] was also in full swing.

The Annual Spring Exhibition of the Royal Art Society of New South Wales had been held in the 'new Exhibition Galleries provided by the government' in October 1915,⁵² and an exhibition of school art work, held over the Christmas holidays of 1915, 'had attracted the attention not only of city and country teachers, but of the general public'.⁵³ Exhibitions held during the main school holidays at Christmas showcased the works of both pupils and student teachers and special arrangements were made for access to the galleries as exhibitions were being hung 'for the benefit of the country teachers who may be spending the vacation in Sydney'.⁵⁴ These, and other educational exhibitions, were the type of extra-curricular activities that teachers were expected to engage in, particularly if they sought promotion.

3.11 BUILDING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The absence of any portfolio of agriculture for much of the 19th century in a colony with a large pastoral base may seem surprising, but it was not until the 1880s, when scientific research began to be accepted as an essential part of modern agriculture, that the government took a direct role in the support and development of the rural economy. Sydney Smith, the Secretary for Mines, was appointed as the first Secretary of Agriculture on 28 February 1890 and for the next seventeen years the positions of Secretary for Mines and Secretary of Agriculture were held concurrently.

The new Department of Agriculture began work in 1890 with a Director and a permanent staff of nine, including three scientific officers; a pathologist, an entomologist and a botanist. Matters relating to livestock were attached to the other half of the portfolio, the Department of Mines, while the Lands Department dealt with the vexed question of rabbit extermination.⁵⁵

In 1907 the office of Minister of Agriculture was created under the Department of Agriculture Act and the first minister, John Perry, was appointed on 22 January 1908.⁵⁶ By now the staff

⁵⁴ *New South Wales The Educational Gazette* Vol. XII No. 11, 1 November 1918, p. 290 & Vol. XII No. 12, 2 December 1918, p. 314.

⁵⁵ E H Graham: '1901-1951 Review of Agricultural Development In 50 Years of Federation', *The Agricultural Gazette of New South Wales* Vol. LXII Pt 1, 1 January 1951, p. 1.

⁵⁶ *The NSW Parliamentary Companion*, 56th edition, NSW Chief Secretary's Department, Sydney, 1920.

⁵⁷ P J Mylrea: *In the service of agriculture: a centennial history of the New South Wales Department of Agriculture 1890-1990*, NSW Agriculture & Fisheries, Sydney, 1990, Appendix D.

⁵⁸ Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works: 'Report together with minutes of evidence and plan relating to the proposed premises for the accommodation of the Department of Agriculture', NSW Parliament, *Joint Volumes of Papers presented to the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly*, 1913 [1st Session], Vol. 1, pp. 39-54 & plan.

had increased to 101 officers.⁵⁷ With a growing range of responsibilities the new department, like many before it, was scattered in various offices around Sydney. Dispersal was inefficient and costly in rent and, for the scientific branches of the department in particular, it was difficult to function without purpose-built laboratories.



Figure 3.11: The work of British school children on display in the Art Gallery in 1943
(Source: Government Printing Office, GPO 1-29081, Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW)

The other half of the site occupied by the Department of Education had been earmarked for Agriculture from 1911 when the Under Secretary had made a convincing case about the inefficiency of his department's working arrangements. In March 1912 just four months after the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works had recommended the construction of the Department of Public Instruction offices, Parliament referred to the Committee 'the expediency of constructing new offices for the Department of Agriculture'. The evidence placed before the Committee during its deliberations in October 1913 was comparatively brief.⁵⁸ The staff of the Department were broken up into six different sections, working as much as one mile apart and the Department was growing rapidly. A new building was 'an urgent necessity'.

⁵⁹ *New South Wales Parliamentary Debates (Second Series) Session 1915-1916*, Vol. LXII, 1916, p. 4473 & Vol. LXIII, 1916, pp.5846-5851.

⁶⁰ *New South Wales Parliamentary Debates (Second Series) Session 1928-1929*, Vol. CXVII, 1929, pp.3771-3777; 3845-3861; 3881-3889; 4001-4012.

The proposed building would be of seven floors, including a basement, and would follow 'line by line' the elevations of the new Department of Public Instruction, then under construction. The Agriculture Department would occupy the basement and four other floors of the building, leaving two floors for other departments. Its laboratories were to be on the top floor where they would get maximum light and ventilation. A feature of the ground floor would be the Department's museum, an important part of its educational role. The elevation of the Raphael Street frontage (the only drawing provided to the Committee) included two large display windows, one on either side of the Raphael Street entrance, for this purpose.

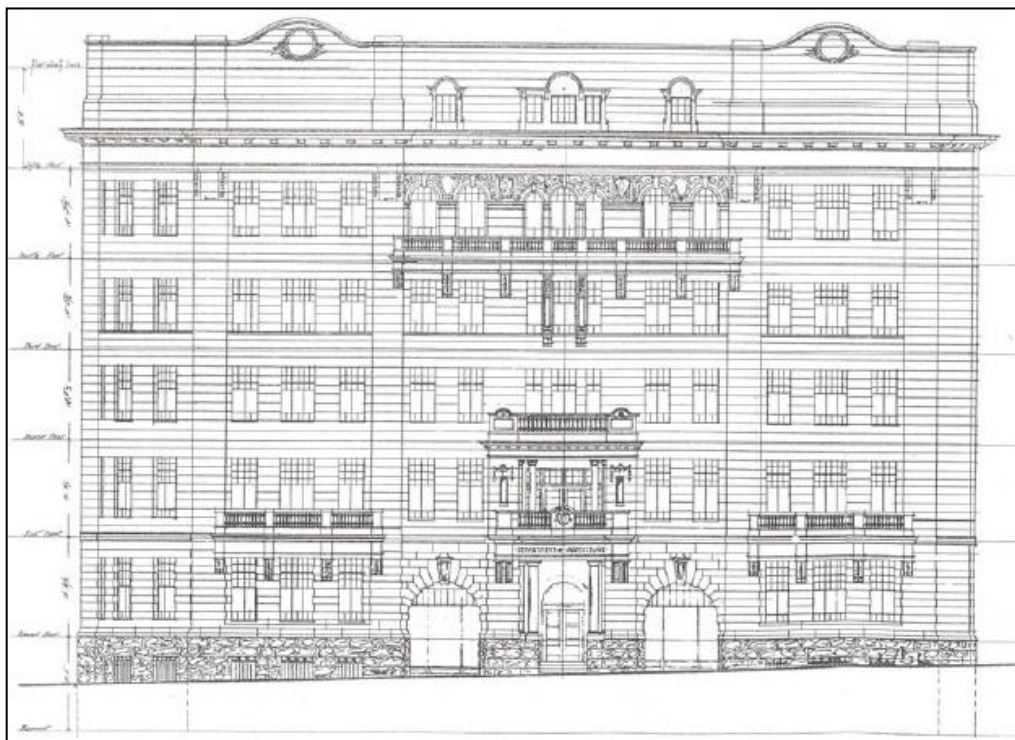


Figure 3.12: The Raphael Street elevation of the proposed offices for the Department of Agriculture presented to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works in October 1913.

(Source: Joint Volumes of Papers presented to the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly, 1913, 1st Session, Vol. 1.)

The Committee recommended that the new offices be constructed, but two years elapsed before its recommendations were presented to Parliament.⁵⁹ By now there was concern about the cost of the recently completed Education Department offices, which was more than twice the original estimate. The estimate for Agriculture stood at over £121,000 and the idea that this might double was daunting. Nevertheless the needs of the Department won the day and the Bill to approve construction of the new offices was passed in 1916. The old offices were demolished and work began on the foundations for the new building but was suspended in 1917. By this time £7000 had been expended, but the building had not risen above ground level.

⁶¹ *New South Wales Parliamentary Debates (Second Series) Session 1928-1929, Vol. CXVII, 1929, p. 3886.*

3.12 A NEW ARCHITECT

Revised estimates of costs were prepared on three occasions in the 1920s to continue work on the Department of Agriculture offices, but no funds were made available and it was not until the election of the Bavin Nationalist government in October 1927 that the needs of the Department and its abandoned site again became a priority.



Figure 3.13: A bird's eye view of Sydney taken from the Public Works Department in 1922, showing the Education Department and the foundations for the Department of Agriculture offices.

(Source: Government Printing Office, GPO 1-17070, Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW)

The design for the building had been decided years earlier. The points of contention now were; the amount of accommodation to be provided in the new offices, the costs, and the length of time it would take to erect them. Parliament had already passed a Bill authorising the construction of the offices in 1916. What it now had to do was to approve an amended Bill with a new estimate of costs.⁶⁰ The matter became particularly contentious when the Minister of Agriculture, dissatisfied with the Department of Public Works' tardiness in providing alternative plans to his specifications, its estimates of costs and of construction time, obtained Cabinet approval to approach outside architects, as long as he could 'effect a saving for the State whilst having the work carried out expeditiously and satisfactorily'. Somewhat surprisingly the Minister approached only one firm, John Reid & Son, a choice, he said, based

⁶²'A foolish proposal', *Evening News* 22 November 1928 p 12d & 'The Agriculture Building' *Evening News* 23 November 1928 p 8d.

upon Mr Reid's reputation (see Appendix 1).⁶¹ The Evening News, on the other hand, claimed that it cast a slur on the government's own Department of Public Works and its Government Architect, and actually cost more money.⁶²

The contest between the Government Architect's Branch and the private architect was hardly a fair one. The Minister had asked the Department of Public Works to provide 'a larger building, to have it erected in less time, to secure natural lighting facilities as well as other facilities required by the department, and at the same time to give us much greater space at a reduced cost'.⁶³ As the new offices were to be the continuation of a building half of which had already been built, this was a tall order. Retaining the original design, the Government Architect's Branch failed to deliver what the Minister demanded. It was not surprising that a private architect, working without these constraints, came up with a cheaper answer.

The savings in costs and construction time affected by John Reid & Son were, in part, the result of a change in building construction method. Unlike the Education Department offices, which had load-bearing walls combined with a steel frame, the new Department of Agriculture offices were to be built with a fully load-bearing steel frame while the sandstone exterior would be simply cladding, providing continuity between the street elevations of the two parts of the building. The sandstone blocks could be prepared off site and set in place when required. Unlike the older form of construction, floor by floor from the ground upwards, the newer steel-frames enabled the whole of the structure of a building to be erected quickly and the rest of the work then added.

In order to provide the accommodation required by the Agriculture Department (now a much bigger department than it had been in 1913) part of the ground plan was redesigned and the whole of the original concept for the interior arrangement of the offices altered.

In order to obtain the maximum use of the site, the ground plan of the building was changed and the street alignments were again readjusted, to the City Council's dismay. The Raphael Street elevation was skewed further into the street and the Loftus Street building line was extended beyond the alignment agreed to in 1912.⁶⁴ Even with these changes it was not possible to provide enough accommodation on seven floors and so an eighth was added as an attic storey, set back from the parapet and plainly finished. There would be no spare accommodation now for other departments.

More natural light was introduced by making the steel framed casement windows slightly larger than those in the Education Department and by also including windows at the parapet

⁶³ *New South Wales Parliamentary Debates (Second Series)* Session 1928-1929, Vol. CXVII, 1929, p. 3845.

⁶⁴ Precis of action taken in connection with new building for Department of Public Instruction corner Loftus, Raphael and Young Streets' and plan in Town Clerk's Correspondence File: Loftus Street re-grading 5430/28 (Sydney City Council Archives).

⁶⁵ Warwick Upton 'The Department of Education Building – brief historical notes' [nd], Education Department Background Notes file, NSW Department of Commerce, Government Architect's Office.

⁶⁶ *Sydney Morning Herald* 28 January 1929 p. 8c.

level.⁶⁵ The result was a somewhat lighter architectural effect (and presumably a saving in stone to help economise on costs) but a jarring and discordant note at the parapet and roof level between the two parts of the building, which had been seamlessly amalgamated on all four elevations at the lower levels.

The other substantial change, and one that was to have unforeseen long-term consequences, was the elimination of most of the corridors to provide more office space. When the Minister insisted on more floor space, the Government Architect's office had suggested outside balconies to replace internal corridors, but this idea was rejected. Instead only partial central corridors were provided in Reid's plan in the Loftus Street and Young Street wings where most of the accommodation was in the form of large open plan offices.

Eighteen firms tendered for the building's construction and the winning tenderer was Kell & Rigby. The contract was signed on 21 December 1928 and the work was to be completed in 80 weeks.⁶⁶ The Bill sanctioning the work was passed some months later.

Work began on the site in January 1929. With a change of construction technique 'practically the whole of the foundations' laid in 1916-1917 for a different method of building construction, were removed.⁶⁷ Work on the steel framework was completed on 11 September 1929 and all of the concrete encasing the frame and forming the floors had been poured by 27 September. The floors, the Herald reported were constructed on the American Pan system, 'considered by the American architects as the most satisfactory form for floor construction'. The stonework, of Bondi yellow block, was prepared at the quarry and set in record time.⁶⁸ In the seven and a half months from 10 October 1929, when the first stone was delivered on site, to 29 May 1930 when the last stone was set 37,450 square feet of stonework were placed in position, an extraordinary achievement.⁶⁹ A 'visible but unobtrusive change' in the masonry of the balconies would have been somewhat less expensive than the style of work used in the earlier section of the building. The variation could have been the result of changes in stonemasonry design, introduced in the 1920s in an attempt to combine steel and concrete building construction with solid traditional masonry. These new techniques involved the complicated notching and mechanical fixing of masonry to tie it into the steel and concrete framework of a modern building.⁷⁰ It is however equally possible that the technique of construction used was designed to keep costs down. The stonework elevations were backed up with brick and concrete curtain walls bound together with steel cramps and also bound to

⁶⁷ *Sydney Morning Herald* 30 January 1929 p. 11

⁶⁸ 'Building and construction. Agriculture Building' *Sydney Morning Herald* 18 March 1930 p. 8b.

⁶⁹ Warwick Upton 'The Department of Education Building – brief historical notes' [nd], Education Department Background Notes file, NSW Department of Commerce, Government Architect's Office.

⁷⁰ The balustrading was carried on a trabeated slab, not on a crosssetted flat arch with the skew backs springing from console brackets as in the Education Department section, see George Proudman 'Stonemasonry Report' dated 9 April 1989 & Warwick Upton 'The Department of Education Building – brief historical notes' [nd], Education Department Background Notes file, NSW Department of Commerce, Government Architect's Office.

⁷¹ 'Building Industry. Agricultural Department. The new offices', *Sydney Morning Herald* 30 January 1929 p. 11.

⁷² 'Building Industry. Agricultural Department', *Sydney Morning Herald* 30 January 1929, p. 11.

the steelwork of the building.⁷¹ Like its predecessor, the internal arrangements of the Department of Agriculture were quite restrained with major decoration only at the Raphael Street entrance which was formed of polished trachyte stonework with bronze covered doors. Coloured tiles lined the walls of all of the corridors, main staircases and landings.⁷² Considerable attention was given to the provision of natural lighting and as much wall area as possible was glass. 'In no office throughout will any artificial light be wanted during office hours', the Herald reported.⁷³ The floor finish of the rooms was "Ironite" with linoleum, while all of the halls, corridors, stair landings and stair steps, strings and risers were polished terrazzo. Unlike the Department of Education whose flat roof was for recreational purposes, for the Department of Agriculture this space was designed for experimenting with plant breeding and insect pests.⁷⁴ Symbolism was entirely lacking on the exterior of the building and in the interior and there was nothing in the fabric of the place to indicate the work of the Department. Only the state badge on the front doors indicated that this was a government department.

The major contractors for the Agriculture Department offices as reported by the Sydney Morning Herald were: engineer Charles A Reed; builders Kell & Rigby; stonework Stuart Bros; steel window frames, bronze entrance and swing doors Richard Brady Franks Ltd; electric light and power F T S O'Donnell, Griffin and Co. Ltd; marble work A G Leslie; vacuum cleaning system William Hicks & Co.; reinforced steel for floors Australian Reinforced Concrete Company; steel roller shutters and fire doors Austral Roller Shutter Works; electric elevators Standard-Waygood Ltd; elevator doors Chubbs (Australia); wrought iron window grilles M Robson; wrought iron stair railings W J Thompson; terrazzo and cement pavings Melocco Bros Ltd; glass J C Goodwin & Co. Ltd; fibrous plaster ceilings and cornices Brown and Finney.⁷⁵ At the time it moved into its new building the Department of Agriculture had twenty-eight separate branches, responsibility for eighteen colleges, experiment farms and other research stations and administered twenty Acts of Parliament.⁷⁶ The ministerial offices were on the first floor [Level 3] at the south-east corner of the building, but unlike his counterparts in other large government offices in Bridge Street, the Minister did not have a private entrance to his suite.⁷⁷ Accommodation was also provided for the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commissions. The Department's main entrance enjoyed a pleasant street setting on Raphael Street facing the small triangular reserve where a natural spring had once supplied water for nearby residents. By 1930 the palm trees in the reserve were well established.

⁷³ 'Building and construction. Agriculture Building', *Sydney Morning Herald* 18 March 1930, p. 8b.

⁷⁴ Upton & 'Building Industry Agricultural Department The New offices' *Sydney Morning Herald* 30 January 1929 p. 11.

⁷⁵ 'Building and construction. Agriculture Building', *Sydney Morning Herald* 18 March 1930, p. 8b.

⁷⁶ The Department's New Building', *Agricultural Gazette of New South Wales* Vol. XLI Part 8, August 1, 1930, pp.557-9 & photograph.

⁷⁷ Department of Commerce Contract drawings PB18/8-15, dated 1928 & ground floor as built dated September 1931, PB2/38.

⁷⁸ Department of Commerce PB2/39 dated 8 April 1936.

⁷⁹ The change occurred in 1915.

In 1931 provision was made for a ministerial suite for the Minister of Local Government on the ground floor of the Agriculture Department [Level 2] at the south-east corner of the building, directly below the Minister of Agriculture's suite [Level 3]. The Office of Local Government, which was then responsible to the Minister of Education, had been housed in the Education Department offices since 1915. The ministerial accommodation provided in 1931 was however only required for a short time as the portfolio was combined with Public Works in 1935 and so found another home further along Bridge Street. The offices along the Young Street side of the building that had been vacated in this move were then fitted out for the Hospitals Commission.⁷⁸



Figure 3.14: A laboratory in the Department of Agriculture, December 1946. Scientific work was an important part of the Department's role in the support of agriculture in the state and the education of farmers.

(Source: *Home & Away* – 11411, Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW)

3.13 BRIDGE STREET MEANS EDUCATION

As the Department of Public Instruction moved into its new offices in 1915, its name was altered to the Department of Education. The change, made by Ministerial instruction, quickly became well established and was mirrored in the title of the Department's publication, formerly the Public Instruction Gazette, which became the Education Gazette.⁷⁹ The title of

⁸⁰ *The New South Wales Parliamentary Record Vol. IV*, First edition, Government Printer 1988.

⁸¹ *Government schools of New South Wales 1848-1998: 150 years*, Open Training and Education Network (OTEN) – Distance Education, New South Wales Department of Education and Training, 1998, p. 9.

the Ministry vacillated, with a return to Minister of Public Instruction from 1920-1925 and again (briefly) from May to October 1927⁸⁰ and it was not until 1957 that all references to the Department of Public Instruction were changed by legislation to the Department of Education.⁸¹

The establishment of all of the branches of the Department in one major head office in 1915 typified the centralised education structure that had been achieved in New South Wales, as in all of the Australian states, by 1914. The State government now took a role in the regulation of all schools, both public and private and administered, in the state schools, a system that provided the ladder of educational opportunity and a humanist-realist curriculum, promoting cultural values in an Australian context.⁸² From now on, the head office on Bridge Street was synonymous with education throughout the state and was to remain so for over 70 years.

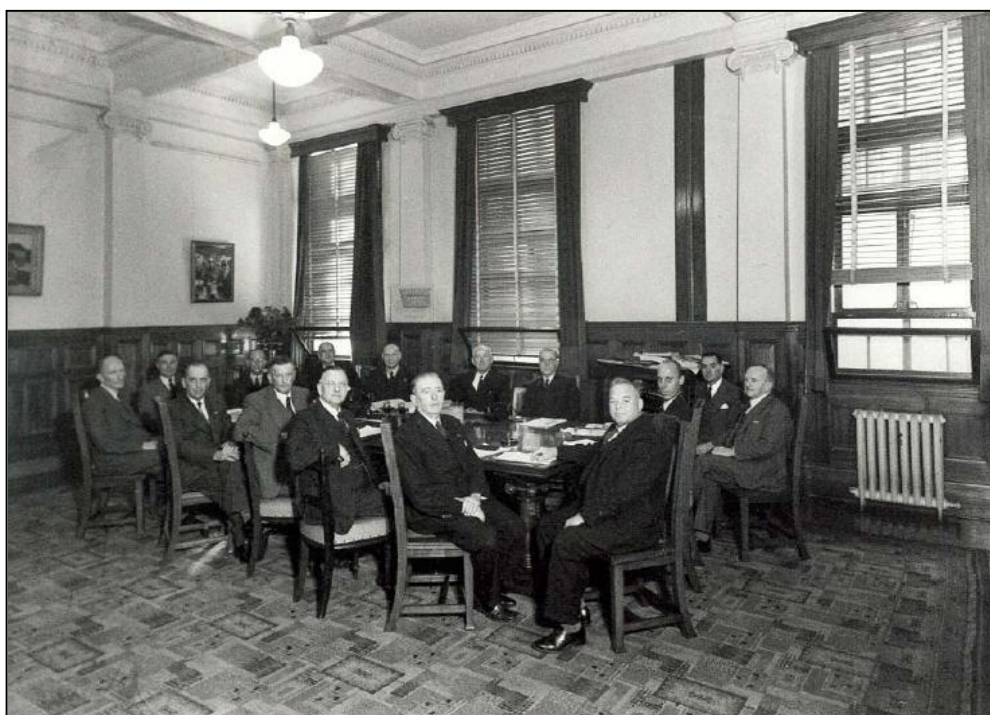


Figure 3.15: The Minister of Education, the Hon. Robert Heffron in his office in the Education Department in May 1949. Heffron was one of the longest serving ministers of education, holding the portfolio from 1944 to 1960.

(Government Printing Office, GPO 1 – 48317, Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW)

The pattern of use of the building, begun in 1915, reflected the wide range of responsibilities of the Public Instruction portfolio, which included not only education but also child welfare and the arts, and the active involvement of the Minister and his Department in numerous cultural activities and organisations. The art gallery and the assembly room were used for exhibitions and the meetings of learned societies, as well as meetings of teaching staff and schools

⁸² Alan Barcan: *A history of Australian education*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne, p. 240.

⁸³ Marjorie Jacobs: 'The Royal Australian Historical Society 1901-2001 Part I 'Students of a like hobby': the Society 1900-1954', *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society* Vol. 87, Part I, June 2001, p. 13 photograph & p. 21.

⁸⁴ Alfred James (ed.): *Much writing, many opinions. The making of the Royal Australian Historical Society 1901-2001*, *JRAHS*, Vol. 87, Part I, June 2001, Appendix II Publications of the RAHS, p. 178 Exhibition Catalogues.

related groups. The Royal Australian Historical Society rented a small room in the new building as an office and a place to house its collections. From 1916 to 1941 it also held its monthly meetings in the assembly room, until it obtained its own premises in Young Street. The presence of the Society no doubt owed much to its Honorary Secretary, Karl Reginald Cramp who, as an Inspector of History in schools, worked in the Bridge Street building. Other significant figures in the Department, including one of its ministers, Thomas Mutch, had strong historical interests. Clearly the use of a room by the RAHS was not considered to be incongruous with the functions of the department. The Society's room, located close to his own office, enabled Cramp to look after the Society's growing volume of correspondence and play a major role in the development of the Society.⁸³ In 1920 and 1922 the RAHS held major loan exhibitions of 'objects of historical interest' in the art gallery and much later in 1951 an exhibition to celebrate the Jubilee of the Commonwealth was held in the same venue.⁸⁴ In the absence of any historical museum in Sydney at this period, the Department's support for these types of exhibitions was an important contribution to cultural life and historical study.

The new offices also had other permanent occupants. The State Children's Relief Board and the Local Government Department had been accommodated when the building was first occupied, and at various times over the next fifteen years rooms were also provided for:⁸⁵ The Workers Education Association; the Kindergarten Union of NSW; the Public Monuments Advisory Board; the Public Schools Athletic Association; the Wentworth Free Kindergarten Lunch Room; the Widows Pensions Board; the Child Welfare Department; and the Federation of Parents and Citizens' Associations of NSW.⁸⁶ Many other groups associated with education and other aspects of the Minister's portfolio were provided with meeting facilities and the use of the art gallery. A sample from 1935 shows the range of interests covered:⁸⁷

- NSW Federation of Mothers Clubs for Infant Schools
- The Society of Arts and Crafts of NSW
- The New Health Society of NSW
- The Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of NSW
- Australian Forest League
- The Town Planning Association of NSW
- The Field Naturalists Society of NSW
- The Henry Lawson Literary Society

⁸⁵ Report (Together with Appendices) of the Minister of Public Instruction for the year 1915', NSW Legislative Assembly 1916 Session Vol. 1 Pt 2, p.9.

⁸⁶ Sands Directories 1917-1930 and Wise's NSW Post Office Commercial Directory 1942 & 1947.

⁸⁷ Dianne Nichol, 'Project brief: to ascertain the historical significance of the building which accommodates the Head Office of the Department of Education in Bridge Street, Sydney', 6 September 1989, in NSW Heritage Office - File - Department of Education Building, 35 Bridge Street, Sydney S90/02690/002

- State Conservatorium of Music
- Women's Industrial Arts Society
- Society of Australian Genealogists
- Painters Etchers and Graphic Art Society of Australia
- Needlework Teachers Association
- Australian Art Society
- Farmers' Relief Board
- Maitland High School Old Boys Reunion
- Citizens Association
- The Society of Artists

The scope of the minister's portfolio, and the size of the Department's workforce⁸⁸ (a teaching staff spread throughout the state), required a large central bureaucracy. For the Department's teachers, Bridge Street was their point of contact with their employer. Pay, promotions and all aspects of their professional lives were negotiated through its corridors. In 1921 two memorials to teachers who served in World War I were unveiled in the Department's offices; an Honour Roll in the Loftus Street vestibule and a bronze memorial to the fallen in the Bridge Street vestibule. Over one third of the Department's teaching staff had enlisted and were noted, at the time, as a fine example of service for their pupils. The installation of the memorials in the Bridge Street offices marked the beginning of a long and continuing association between teachers who served in the armed forces and the head office of their peacetime time employer.

For the administrative staff who worked in the Bridge Street offices, as in many large firms, social clubs, recreational activities and sports teams enlivened a fairly strict working environment and helped to provide a family atmosphere within a large workforce. 86 In the 1930s and 1940s depression and war caused stagnation in the education system, with few funds for new building or development. In the early 1940s the school leaving age was increased from 14 to 15, giving most children the opportunity for at least two to three years of secondary education. Moves towards the decentralisation of administration were first seriously considered in 1938 but war intervened and it was not until 1948 that the first area office was opened in the Riverina. Six more area offices were opened in the 1950s and four in the 1960s. With a large migrant intake and the post-war baby boom, the school age population trebled in the 1950s and a massive schools building programme was undertaken

⁸⁸ Danuta Kozaki: *Bridge Street and Education – a pictorial history*, Community Relations Unit for NSW Department of School Education, 1989.

to try to keep up with demand. The number of teachers rose from 10,643 in 1940 to almost 20,000 in 1960.

In 1957, as this new generation reached high school age, a committee reviewed the need for change in secondary education. Its report, presented by the Director-General Harold Wyndham, introduced the concept of four years of general education at the end of which students would sit for the School Certificate, with an additional two years of study leading to the Higher School Certificate for those who wished to proceed to tertiary studies. The 'Wyndham Scheme' was introduced into secondary schools in New South Wales in 1962 and the full high school course was extended from five to six years. Better facilities were required, in particular in science teaching, for the extended curriculum and there was a growing trend for larger schools: the demand for teachers continue to increase.⁸⁹

3.14 CHANGES IN THE BRIDGE STREET OFFICES

For many years after they were built, few significant changes were made to the offices of the Departments of Education and Agriculture. Both departments had been provided with ample accommodation for their foreseeable needs and, when they first moved in, had sufficient space to house other small branches of government. In 1944 the building housed almost 900 people; about 560 in the Department of Agriculture and 320 in Education.

The first of the two departments to experience a considerable growth in staff was Agriculture. Staff numbers, which had remained stable during the Depression, had eventually begun to rise in the late 1930s and by 1944 about 100 staff were in rented offices. In an attempt to again house everyone in one location, consideration was given to building on the roof of the Agriculture Department, but the proposal was dropped when it was found to be structurally impossible to add extra stress to the steel frame construction.⁹⁰

With an ever increasing role in providing advisory services to primary producers and the oversight of government regulations, the Department of Agriculture regionalised its Extension Services in the 1950s. At the same time its research potential was considerably increased by the availability of industry research funds. In 1958 a proposal to move the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission to other offices, mooted in the 1940s, became a reality and these sections vacated the offices in Farrer Place that they had occupied since 1930.⁹¹ Two years

⁸⁹ *Government schools of New South Wales 1848-1998: 150 years*, Open Training and Education Network (OTEN) – Distance Education, New South Wales Department of Education and Training, 1998, p. 12 & Appendices. By 1972 there were almost 32,000 teachers in New South Wales, rising to 45,000 in 1980.

⁹⁰ Public Works Building (B) files B45/1010, Agriculture (Education) Building proposed additional office space on roof of Agriculture building 1944-45, 12/13203 (State Records NSW).

⁹¹ Dianne Nichol, 'Project brief: to ascertain the historical significance of the building which accommodates the Head Office of the Department of Education in Bridge Street, Sydney', 6 September 1989, in NSW Heritage Office - File - Department of Education Building, 35 Bridge Street, Sydney S90/02690/002.

later the Biology and Entomology branches transferred to new buildings at Rydalmere, followed later by the chemistry branch.⁹²



Figure 3.16: An office in the Agriculture Department photographed in September 1950.
(Source: Government Printing Office, GPO 1-07755, Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW)

These moves gave the Department of Education a toehold in the southern part of the building when, in 1960, the 6th floor of the Department of Agriculture [Level 7] was converted for use by the Department of Technical Education (then administered by the Minister for Education) and its Director.⁹³ More was to come with the construction of the government's radically new offices, the State Office Block, completed in 1967. Six government departments were to occupy the new building; one of these was the Department of Agriculture.

For the Department of Education this move was opportune. The rise in the school population following the war had necessarily put an extra load upon the centralised administration and by the 1960s some Department of Education staff were in rented office space in Sydney, an expense that governments always disliked.

3.15 THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT EXPANDS

At the end of 1966 planning began for the Education Department to expand into parts of the adjacent Agriculture building when that Department moved to the State Office Block. Education was to acquire two floors [Levels 3 & 4] and part of the basement. The rest of the building would be occupied by the Department of Technical Education [Levels 2, 5 & 6] which

⁹² P J Mylrea: *In the service of agriculture: a centennial history of the New South Wales Department of Agriculture 1890-1990*, NSW Agriculture & Fisheries, Sydney, 1990.

⁹³ Department of Commerce PB2/46 dated 5 May 1960.

had occupied part of the Farrer Place offices since 1960 and by some remaining staff of the Department of Agriculture.

The move enabled the Education Department to accommodate some branches that were housed elsewhere in Sydney, and also to rationalise the organisation of its existing occupants. As it was unlikely that there would be funds for 'extensive re-modelling and alterations' to the accommodation in Agriculture, the additional space was allocated as effectively as possible within the existing arrangements. Building works consisted largely of the removal of old partitioning, the provision of new and generally making good; the sort of readjustment of space that had been intended in its original design. In the initial proposals it had been decided that the Assistant Minister for Education would not occupy the Agriculture Department's ministerial suite, but by June 1967 this decision had been reversed.⁹⁴ The room appears to have lost its status (and apparently its panelling) after 1967 and before 1989.⁹⁵

As a part of these changes the Department of Education decided to use only one cafeteria and the old cafeteria next to the Art Gallery [Level 7] was closed. Access between the two parts of the building, which had previously functioned as quite separate entities, remained a problem, other than at the basement level. In order to connect the Education Department offices on those floors on which it was to occupy both halves of the building [on Levels 3 & 4] the existing fire doors had to be utilised and corridors made through some of the existing Agriculture offices.⁹⁶

The move also raised the question of renovations and improvements that had been under discussion for some time. These were included in the overall planning and were gradually effected in succeeding phases of work in the early 1970s, providing the first 'major facelift and renovation' since the Education Department offices were constructed. Lighting was improved, floor coverings fitted, ceilings lowered, ventilation improved and better provision made for fire safety.⁹⁷ The most significant change to the fabric was created by the installation of new lifts to replace the original single, open-cage lift in the Department of Education building, the later closed car type in the Department of Agriculture having already been replaced in 1954.⁹⁸ Early plans included not just the removal of the existing lift from within the stairwell of the Bridge Street entrance but the wholesale demolition of the staircase (complete with marble panelling) and the back wall of the building.⁹⁹ An alternative scheme eventually prevailed in

⁹⁴ Secretary of Education to the Director of Public Works 13 June 1967, Public Works Department 'B' (Building) files, Education Department Head Office major repairs 12/13583 (State Records NSW).

⁹⁵ It was not identified as a (former) ministerial suite in the 1989 report on heritage significance prepared for the Department of Education by Howard Tanner & Associates.

⁹⁶ 'Department of Education – Use of accommodation in the Department of Agriculture Building' dated 23.12.66 in Public Works Department 'B' (Building) files, Education Department Head Office major repairs 12/13583 (State Records NSW).

⁹⁷ James Prior: 'Bridge St means education', *Inside Education*, Journal of the NSW Department of Education, Winter 1974, Vol LXVIII No. 2, p. 2.

⁹⁸ The original lifts in Agriculture had been the cause of continual complaint see File B49.12719 Dept of Agriculture operation & maintenance of lifts 1930-1949, Public Works Department 'B' (Building) files, 12/13204 (State Records NSW). For the new lift installation in 1954 see Department of Commerce PB2/44.

⁹⁹ Department of Commerce PB18/31 dated 1971.

which the original lift was removed and two new lifts were built behind the stairs, external to the main building. In the process the original boiler room had to be moved to another location within the courtyard. The lift lobby was accessed on the ground floor by a passageway next to the original staircase. Associated changes were also made to the enquiry desk area. The new design prevented the destruction of the original stairs but resulted in an obtrusive lift room on the roof, clearly visible above the level of the parapet. External fire stairs were also built within the light well at the back of the Bridge Street side. In the meantime the Education Department continued to extend into other floors of the Agriculture Department that were then gutted of all old partitioning, painted and carpeted.¹⁰⁰

As these changes took place, the name Education Department Building was gradually applied to what had previously been two government offices. Despite these improvements and the gradual occupation of most of the building by the Department, the ministerial suite [Level 2] did not retain its original function for much longer. The last occupant of the ministerial offices before the building was vacated as a result of the major educational changes of the late 1980s and early 1990s was Paul Landa in 1980-1981.¹⁰¹

A significant casualty of the Education Department's lack of space, before the departure of Agriculture in 1967, was its fine purpose-built Art Gallery [Level 7]. Some years previously, the west wing of the gallery had been partitioned off to provide an assembly room, but with an undertaking by the then Minister for Education that it would revert to its original use when an alternative assembly room could be provided.¹⁰² In 1966, as the physical reorganisation of the department was under consideration in anticipation of Agriculture's move, the Director-General expressed the wish that the first stage of the reorganisation of the sixth floor [Level 7] might be the conversion of the west wing of the Art Gallery back to its original function. The conference room in the basement of Agriculture might provide an alternative assembly room and the whole of the gallery could then be upgraded and perhaps even extended to the Young Street frontage.¹⁰³ It seems that this item, which was included only in the final stage of proposed works on the building, probably dropped off the agenda due to insufficient funds. By the late 1980s the west wing of the gallery was still being used as a meeting room.

The Department had been gradually acquiring a collection of student artwork since the 1950s, augmented from the late 1960s by selected works from the Higher School Certificate art entries. In 1984 the Director-General, Douglas Swan, gave his approval to a proposal to name this collection the William Wilkins Memorial Art Collection, in honour of the first

¹⁰⁰ A request was approved in July 1970 to use the third floor of Farrer Place [Level 4] excluding the area occupied by the Department of Agriculture Seed Testing Laboratory, Public Works Department 'B' (Building) files, Education Department Head Office major repairs 12/13583 (State Records NSW).

¹⁰¹ Information from Jacqui Treloar.

¹⁰² Department of Education – Use of accommodation in the Department of Agriculture Building' dated 23.12.66 in Public Works Department 'B' (Building) files, Education Department Head Office major repairs 12/13583 (State Records NSW).

¹⁰³ 'Department of Education – Use of accommodation in the Department of Agriculture Building' dated 23.12.66 in Public Works Department 'B' (Building) files, Education Department Head Office major repairs 12/13583 (State Records NSW).

permanent head of the Department. The collection, which was dispersed in various offices throughout the Department, was displayed for the first time during Education Week in 1984 in the Art Gallery.¹⁰⁴

The external fabric of the building had also not been forgotten and in 1984 the Education Department was one of three major buildings considered for urgent stonework repairs in the Department of Public Works Bicentennial Stonework Programme. This priority listing had however to be altered due to a shortage of matching stone and work in the early 1980s was confined to the removal of potentially dangerous stone. According to George Proudman, this gave the cornices, strings and balconies an 'ill kempt appearance' while the use of Wondabyne Grey for replacement stones to the cornice and balconies on the Loftus Street side appeared as 'an unfortunate intrusion'.¹⁰⁵ The other facades were cleaned and made safe and the work, together with external painting was completed in 1987.

The inclusion of the Education Building as part of the Stonework Programme confirmed its status as a notable part of Sydney's heritage in one of its finest sandstone streetscapes, Bridge Street. The National Trust listed the building in 1974 and in 1979 defined and listed the Macquarie Place Urban Conservation Area, 'an area of vital importance to the City of Sydney' which included the Education Department building and its surrounds.¹⁰⁶ By 1981 the building was listed on the Register of the National Estate and featured in *The Heritage of Australia*, the first comprehensive publication of the Register.¹⁰⁷

Government policy in the 1980s favoured the relocation of its bureaucracy to the western suburbs, now the geographical centre of Greater Sydney. The move was facilitated by rapidly developing computer technology and new systems of communication such as e-mail (the 'Minerva Electronic Mail System') that had first been used in the Education Department on a trial basis in 1985. As part of the suburban relocation policy Education relocated a number of head office and regional directorates in 1986. The Department was now widely dispersed with its regional offices and several city office locations but Bridge Street remained its Head Office, at the heart of its operations. Here major renovations were undertaken in 1986 to construct a computer complex that would enable networking throughout the Department including its regional offices. The following year the 75th anniversary of the Head Office building was celebrated. At the same time the old order changed for teachers, when the Education Commission (Amendment) Act 1987 introduced a system of promotion in which the selection of school principals would not just be based on seniority, but would also include a comparative assessment of candidates.

¹⁰⁴ Memorandum from Director-General dated 24 July 1984. (Copy supplied by Hannele Hentula, Senior Librarian, ETIS, Department of Education and Training).

¹⁰⁵ George Proudman 'Stonemasonry Report' dated 9 April 1989, Education Department Background Notes file, NSW Department of Commerce, Government Architect's Office.

¹⁰⁶ National Trust of Australia (NSW) listings.

¹⁰⁷ *The Heritage of Australia. The Illustrated Register of the National Estate*, Macmillan Company of Australia in association with the Australian Heritage Commission, 1981, 2/94.

3.16 EDUCATION REFORM, ECONOMIC RATIONALISM AND THE SCOTT REPORT

In March 1988, after twelve years of Labor rule, a Liberal government was elected in New South Wales under the premiership of Nick Greiner. The spirit of the age was economic rationalism. For the new government, this meant a business-like culture in which the State, with the Premier as its managing director, would be responsive to its 'clients'. The public service was 'downsized' and government agencies were "corporatised" into business units, meant not only to pay their own-way but also to make a profit.¹⁰⁸

The period was one of considerable change in the administration and organisation of education throughout the Western world, with an emphasis on the quality and 'outcomes' of educational systems. With growing enrolments in non-state schools in Australia, and an apparent decline in state education, there was pressure for improvement in the 'education industry'. In New South Wales, where the education system was highly centralised, this meant that the Minister would have a much greater role where once the Director-General, the chief executive, had held sway. Some changes had been instituted by Rodney Cavalier when he was appointed Minister of Education in 1984 in the Labor government, but it was to be the new Liberal government that would highlight educational reform as a part of its election platform. Education would be rescued and improved by greater competition within the public sector and between the public and private sectors. Market principles and choice would determine the structure of a quality educational system.¹⁰⁹

Under the new government, the Education portfolio was abolished and was merged with Youth Affairs. On 25 April 1988 the new Minister for Education and Youth Affairs, Dr Terry Metherell announced 'a far-ranging review of management practices' in his portfolio under the chairmanship of Dr Brian Scott.¹¹⁰ With a combined estimated expenditure of \$4 billion in 1989-1990, the Department of Education, the Department of Technical and Further Education (TAFE) and the Ministry of Education and Youth Affairs, were an irresistible target for the rational economist. At the same time as the management review was being conducted, the government tightened expenditure on education and redirected available funding, leading to a major reduction in teaching and support staff. The recently appointed Director-General of Education, Gregor Ramsay, was dismissed, as was the Director-General of TAFE, Allan

¹⁰⁸ Beverley Kingston: *A history of New South Wales*, Cambridge University Press, 2006, pp. 231-234.

¹⁰⁹ Geoffrey Sherington: 'Education Policy' in Martin Laffin & Martin Painter (eds): *Reform and reversal. Lessons from the Coalition Government in New South Wales 1988-1995*, Macmillan Education Australia, South Melbourne, 1995, pp. 171-187.

¹¹⁰ *School renewal. A strategy to revitalise schools within the New South Wales state education system*, June 1989 & Management Review: New South Wales Education Portfolio, Director Dr Brian W Scott: *School-centred education. Building a more responsive state school system*, March 1990.

Pattinson. A 'climate of confrontation' rapidly developed, fuelled by the Minister's 'firm and unrelenting' political style.¹¹¹

Following closely on changes to funding was the review and restructuring phase of the Liberal government's education reform agenda, of which the review of the portfolio's management structure was a part. A major finding of the Scott Report, as it became known, was that the 'efficiency and effectiveness of public education is today seriously undermined by existing structures, and burdensome operational and administrative procedures'. A growing number of parents, teachers and students had become increasingly dissatisfied with the way education was delivered and its outcomes, the Report commented. To win back public confidence, the education system 'needs to manage itself in a way that gives a clear indication of effective performance at all levels.'¹¹²

The key premises of the new system would see the school as the basic organisational unit and teachers and the community as the best judges of the needs of their schools. The education system would effectively be turned upside down. School principals would choose their own staff and manage their own schools, while the administration would be completely reworked, reduced and decentralised to support a 'school centred' system. The staff of the old head office, to be known in future as the Central Executive, would be cut to less than half its existing complement and would move out of the Bridge Street head office which would be converted for other uses, or sold. The funds derived from the property would be returned to the Department to pay the costs of implementing the Schools Renewal Strategy.¹¹³ In line with this new approach the department responsible for delivering school-level education would be re-named the Department of School Education (DSE).

3.17 RECOGNISING HERITAGE

The proposal to sell the Bridge Street Head Office, included as part of an 'advance briefing' of the Scott Management Review's recommendations and proposed strategy in June 1989, rapidly became a reality. Within weeks, the government offered the Education Department building for sale and began to find alternative office accommodation for its staff at Parramatta and in the City Centre development in Market Street, Sydney.¹¹⁴

The disposal of government assets that had once been so jealously guarded, was now accepted government policy. The sale of the former Treasury buildings and their incorporation into a new development, the Intercontinental Hotel, appeared to provide a successful model

¹¹¹ Geoffrey Sherington: 'Education Policy' in Martin Laffin & Martin Painter (eds): *Reform and reversal. Lessons from the Coalition Government in New South Wales 1988-1995*, Macmillan Education Australia, South Melbourne, 1995, pp. 176-178.

¹¹² *School renewal. A strategy to revitalise schools within the New South Wales state education system*, June 1989, p. 5.

¹¹³ Management Review: New South Wales Education Portfolio, Director Dr Brian W Scott: *Schoolcentred education. Building a more responsive state school system*, March 1990, p. 208.

¹¹⁴ 'Lease incentive for Dept of Education', *Sydney Morning Herald* 26 September 1989, p. 20 and 'Court reserves ruling on Aboriginal claim', *Sydney Morning Herald* 12 June 1992, p. 6.

for the disposal of orphaned government offices. With the proposed decentralisation of the Lands Department, there were suggestions that these two important buildings, Lands and Education, might be redeveloped in conjunction as a casino and associated hotel. Large additions to the Education Department would, inevitably, be necessary, like the Treasury redevelopment.¹¹⁵

What was lacking, in the rush to sell, was a Conservation Management Plan that would identify the significance of the building and its individual components and provide guidelines for its future use. In July-September 1989 'A Report on heritage significance.' was prepared by Howard Tanner & Associates for the NSW Property Management Unit [later the Property Management Group], then in charge of the management of the building and its future. Tanner & Associates' brief was 'to examine the architectural and heritage implications' of the decision to realise funds by making the building available for other uses and 'to provide a strategy for a responsible pattern of use, given the likely requirements of a new owner or tenant'. The firm's report was not a Conservation Management Plan but outlined, in brief, the significance of the building and identified conservation controls and re-use options.¹¹⁶

Elements identified as of major heritage significance were:

- All of the sandstone elevations (excluding Level 8 rendered facades at the south end of the building) and in particular the existing fenestration and detailing
- The Bridge Street entry porch, bronze grilles and timber doors, columned lobby including corridor access doors and hardware, stair hall excluding information booth, upper stair hall including columns and memorial and corridor access doors
- Loftus Street entry porch, stair lobby, and staircase serving levels 1-7, including access doors from a sub-lobby into the northern offices at each level
- Farrer Place entry porch, bronze doors, foyer including brass edged directory board, but excluding contemporary lift doors and surrounds
- Minister's private entry stair linking Young Street with Level 2
- Department of Education Ministerial Board Room, including panelling, and panelled doors and related architraves, skirting and carved over-doors, plasterwork and purpose-built bookcase
- Department of Education Art Gallery and adjoining meeting room and related skylights, and including access stair to the roof.

A number of other areas were identified as being 'worthy of careful reconsideration', as sympathetic treatment would enable them to regain heritage status. These were:

¹¹⁵ A tower addition had been proposed by July 1989 as referred to in the Department of Planning's Minute Paper 5 July 1989, NSW Heritage Office - File - Department of Education Building, 35 Bridge Street, Sydney S90/02690/001 (NSW Heritage Office).

¹¹⁶ Howard Tanner & Associates, Department of Education Building 35 Bridge Street Sydney. A report on heritage significance, appropriate conservation controls, and re-use options undertaken for the NSW Property Management Unit on behalf of the Department of Education July-September 1989. (A copy is held in the NSW Heritage Division Library).

- Surround and doors to lifts to Farrer Place lobby
- Access corridor featuring original doors and detailing (Level 1 north-west corner of the building)
- Rooms of the Director-General of Education (adjoining the Ministerial Board Room) and related ante-rooms
- Top-lit recreation area adjoining the Art Gallery.

The Report proposed that the light-well in the building could be enclosed and additional floors added to a total height of 62 metres, or approximately eighteen storeys, in any future development.

The Department of Education also undertook its own research to ascertain the historical importance of its Head Office. The report provided an adequate outline of the development of the building and the identity of its occupants, but did not really address the question of its significance. Clearly its contents did little to excite the imagination of senior administrative staff, one of whom concluded 'After perusing this document there does not appear to be any substantial point or incident of history since the building was constructed in 1915 & 1929'.¹¹⁷ Nothing, it seemed, had ever happened there.

Other groups, including the Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of NSW, had quite different views and pointed out the 'high heritage value' of the building on social and historical grounds, for the role it had played in the development of a universal public education system in the state. At its Annual Conference in July 1989 the Association resolved to ask the Heritage Council to place a Permanent Conservation Order on the building.¹¹⁸

Parents, teachers and heritage groups and others remained sceptical about the future of the building, despite government assurances that it would have 'full heritage protection'.¹¹⁹ The staff of the Head Office expressed their views about leaving their old offices by holding a peaceful protest in which they surrounded the building holding lighted candles.¹²⁰ The Department's contribution to its long historical association with Bridge Street came in the form of a pictorial history Bridge Street and Education 'as a thank you to all dedicated staff, teachers and individuals associated with Bridge Street'.¹²¹

At its meeting on 7 December 1989 the Heritage Council endorsed those parts of the Tanner report that dealt with the significance of the building and conservation policies but did not

¹¹⁷ Dianne Nichol, 'Project brief: to ascertain the historical significance of the building which accommodates the Head Office of the Department of Education in Bridge Street, Sydney', 6 September 1989, in NSW Heritage Office - File - Department of Education Building, 35 Bridge Street, Sydney S90/02690/002. The comment was signed by Garry W Mortimer.

¹¹⁸ Correspondence dated 19 September in NSW Heritage Office File Dept of Education 35-39 Bridge Street, S90/02690/001 (NSW Heritage Office).

¹¹⁹ 'Assessing the value of education property', *National Trust Magazine*, No. 55, June 1990, pp. 14-15.

¹²⁰ Information from Jacqui Treloar.

¹²¹ Danuta Kozaki: *Bridge Street and Education: a pictorial history*, Community Relations Unit for the NSW Department of School Education, 1989, Foreword by the Director General by Fenton Sharpe.

endorse the proposal that in any future use the building height might be extended to 62 metres and the light-well enclosed which, the Council noted, had not been justified in the report. A Permanent Conservation Order was recommended, with appropriate exemptions to allow for some alterations, with the exception of those areas that had been identified as of heritage significance.¹²²

In notifying the Minister of these resolutions, the Heritage Council also expressed its concern about the proposed removal of government administration from within the city centre and in particular Bridge Street, which had been continuously occupied since First Settlement.¹²³ Later in the year Professor Peter Webber stressed the same theme in his advice to the Sydney City Council on the future of the site. The tradition of government use 'seems to have been overlooked in the current haste to capitalise on existing buildings and sites as commercial assets' he noted. Bridge Street 'should continue to be seen as part of a precinct for such functions and fine 19th and 20th century government sandstone buildings should continue in use as government offices'.¹²⁴ As the building was vacated a Permanent Conservation Order was finally gazetted in June 1990 and arrangements were made to relocate the Department's war memorials and the William Wilkins Memorial Art Collection to another Department property, the Fanny Cohen Hall on Observatory Hill.¹²⁵

3.18 EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST: LAND CLAIM AND LEASE

Early plans to sell the Education Department building were soon changed to proposals for the sale of a 99-year lease with Jones Lang Wootton as agents. The company's advertising leaflet for expressions of interest in the building urged prospective occupants to 'Renew an old acquaintance', offering 'An historic opportunity to transform a significant landmark'. Expressions of interest closed on 22 February 1991, the day on which the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council's appeal in its land claim for the Education Department building was listed in the Land and Environment Court.

The claim had been made in 1989 when the government announced its decision to sell the building but had been refused by the Minister in November of that year. This decision was then appealed. Section 36 of the Aboriginal Lands Rights Act, 1983 provided for a claim to be made for vacant Crown land that was not in useful use or occupation and not likely to be needed for 'essential public purposes'. With its policy of vacating Crown assets and offering them for sale, the government had laid itself open to such a challenge, a risk which the

¹²² Heritage Council to Property Services Group [nd], in NSW Heritage Office File Dept of Education 35-39 Bridge Street, S90/02690/001 (NSW Heritage Office).

¹²³ Minute to the Minister 89/1804 dated 20 March 1990, in NSW Heritage Office File Dept of Education 35-39 Bridge Street, S90/02690/001 (NSW Heritage Office).

¹²⁴ Advice from Professor G P Webber dated 16 July 1990, File Conservation 35 Bridge Street, Sydney, Department of Education Building D02-00846 (Sydney City Council Archives).

¹²⁵ The PCO was gazetted on 22 June 1990. Correspondence concerning the war memorials is in NSW Heritage Office File Dept of Education 35-39 Bridge Street, S90/02690/001 (NSW Heritage Office).

Property Services Group had ignored.¹²⁶ A claim was lodged, on the same grounds, in 1990 for the Prince Henry Hospital at Little Bay when the Greiner government announced its intention to sell the site to private enterprise, but failed because the hospital was vested in the Department of Health and was no longer Crown land.¹²⁷

The appeal disrupted the tender process and prevented further action towards disposal of the property, leaving the Property Services Group with a \$1.2 million bill from trying to sell it.¹²⁸ The land claim was one of the most controversial made by the Land Council and the first affecting a major CBD building.¹²⁹ It was dismissed on appeal to the Land and Environment Court on 24 July 1992. Only six occupants remained on the site, but the Property Services Group continued to maintain and clean the building, provide security services and pay for some utilities and services. On this basis, Justice Stein ruled, the building although not occupied, was being used.¹³⁰

3.19 CHANGING IDEAS

The model of the state as a business, proposed by the philosophy of economic rationalism was considerably more difficult to apply to some areas of public expenditure, such as welfare, health and education, than to others. Under the new arrangements principals found that a school-centred system required them to undertake a wide range of tasks that had previously been managed by Head Office in Bridge Street. As teachers not only had to teach, but also had to administer, manage, budget and meet an increasing number of community expectations, it became hard to attract candidates to difficult postings in the less attractive locations. Some schools prospered but others did not. The Metherell reforms were enormously unpopular with more than just the teachers and although they did encourage some community participation in form of school councils, there was 'an almost gleeful public response' when the Minister was charged with an offence under the federal tax law and was forced to resign in July 1990. When he was rather too conveniently provided with another job in the public service, the Premier Nick Greiner was also forced to resign in June 1992 after an investigation by the Independent Commission against corruption.¹³¹ Dr Metherell's successor as minister, Virginia Chadwick, continued the reform agenda but with a somewhat more open approach to communication. Reshaping the administration continued and in June 1991 the government offered voluntary redundancy to 2,300 administrative staff of the Education Department including many senior executive positions created under the Metherell reforms.

¹²⁶ 'Govt ignored warning on land claim', *Sydney Morning Herald* 15 June 1992 p. 7.

¹²⁷ *Woomera. The newsletter of the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council*, March 1990, Issue 3.

¹²⁸ 'Govt ignored warning on land claim', *Sydney Morning Herald* 15 June 1992 p. 7.

¹²⁹ 'Court reserves ruling on Aboriginal claim', *Sydney Morning Herald* 12 June 1992 p. 6.

¹³⁰ 'Claim for \$70m building rejected', *Sydney Morning Herald* 25 July 1992 p. 7.

¹³¹ Beverley Kingston: *A history of New South Wales*, Cambridge University Press, 2006, p. 234.

Only teachers were exempt from this major cutback.¹³² In the meantime there was still the question of what to do with the Education Department building.

3.20 NEW DEVELOPMENTS

While the fate of both the Lands Department and the Education Department appeared to hang in the balance, the site of the First Government House was rediscovered, excavated by archaeologists and redeveloped jointly by government and commercial interests to provide a 'commemorative facility' and two new office towers with space reserved for government use. A design competition was held for the project and the 'strong historic identity' created by the fine Victorian and Edwardian buildings in the area surrounding the First Government House site was acknowledged in the competition documents. The significant visual interest of the Farrer Place 'palm oasis' and the sandstone textures of the Department of Education building were also noted.

Among the site planning principles was the requirement that: 'The total unified development on the site must acknowledge the contextual importance of adjacent and surrounding historic buildings and of new significant developments.'¹³³

In the course of construction for the new office towers, an archaeological excavation was carried out in part of Young Street, next to the Education Department and in the area to the south of the Young Street terraces. Within Young Street the foundations of the First Government House guard house that had been built in 1810-1812 were uncovered. Their immediate neighbour had been the Colonial Secretary's house (built in 1813) that had once occupied the Education Department site. The remains could not be retained because of the impending development, but were excavated, recorded and photographed before being removed.

The two office towers, designed by Denton Corker Marshall, were completed in 1993-1994. Here in the Governor Phillip and Governor Macquarie towers, government offices would command harbour views, the ultimate late 20th century status symbol. As a part of the redevelopment, the south end of Young Street was closed to traffic and became a unified pedestrian precinct with the existing Farrer Place, linking the new development with its historic surroundings at pavement level and with palm trees. A further link between old and new was provided in the design of the Farrer Place entrance to the Governor Macquarie Tower, which enjoyed a fine view of the former Agriculture Department offices.

¹³² 'Department told: you can all go', *Sydney Morning Herald* 22 June 1991 p. 1.

¹³³ First Government House Design Competition [Design Competition documents], Volume 2, pp. 16-18.

3.21 DECIDING THE FATE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT BUILDING

In the hiatus created by the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council's claim to the Education Department, work continued to find an acceptable scheme for the re-use of the building. Draft guidelines were prepared in consultation with the Department of Planning, while Tanner & Associates worked on a hotel option for Lend Lease that included a mansard treatment above the parapet level to achieve three extra floors.¹³⁴

The building's fate was, it seems, still undecided in August 1994 when a plan by Tanner & Associates for the re-use of the building was presented to the Heritage Council. Its main elements were the infill of the whole of the light-well and the associated demolition of the toilet block at the back of the Loftus Street entrance. The importance of the light-well, which had not been identified as of heritage significance in the Tanner & Associates 1989 report, remained of concern to the Council, as it had been in its earlier discussions. The Council agreed to the plans subject to the preparation of a maintenance plan for the exterior and interior of the building, the investigation of the creation of atrium space on at least the fifth and sixth levels and the investigation of the removal or remodelling of the existing unsympathetic additions to the roof.¹³⁵

Political developments however were taking the use of the building in another direction. In 1994, as the Liberal's government education reform agenda moved into a period of accommodation and modification, the Property Services Group took another look at the vacant Education Department offices on Bridge Street. Government use was a possibility: and the new tenant was to be the Department of Education.¹³⁶ After standing vacant for four years the building was once more to be used for its original purpose.

In August 1994 the firm of Ancher Mortlock & Woolley was commissioned by the Property Services Group to come up with a new design solution.¹³⁷ Their brief was for the interior refurbishment and fit out of the building to accommodate about 500 personnel of the Department of Education; the refurbishment of accommodation to meet government office standards generally; and a building upgrade to meet all appropriate statutory and Building Code of Australia requirements. The budget was an estimated \$8.9m for the refurbishment and \$10.5m for the fit out.

One of the major problems was an historic one, created by John Reid's design of the Agriculture Department offices in 1928: how to provide a unified system of circulation throughout a building, built in two stages, in which the main corridor systems did not coincide. Ancher Mortlock & Woolley's solution was to suspend new glazed walkways along the internal

¹³⁴ Information kindly supplied by Howard Tanner, January 2007.

¹³⁵ Extract from minutes of Heritage Council meeting held on 4 August 1994, in NSW Heritage Office File Dept of Education 35-39 Bridge Street, S90/02690/002 (NSW Heritage Office).

¹³⁶ NSW Heritage Office File Dept of Education 35-39 Bridge Street, S90/02690/002 (NSW Heritage Office).

¹³⁷ The firm was commissioned on 1 August 1994, Ancher Mortlock & Woolley Project Files, Project No. 9407.

walls of the light-well on Levels 3-7 and to provide a glazed lobby, or atrium, on part of Level 2, leaving most of the light-well space open. Most of the original window openings and their frames would be retained: but some would need to be removed to provide access to the new walkways. The Loftus Street toilet block would remain, adapted for other uses, but the 'excessively steep' Young Street stairs (which had never been a public entrance and did not comply with contemporary standards of fire safety) would be demolished. The 1970s fire stair built in the north-east corner of the light-well would be demolished and reinstated within the building. All of the areas previously identified as of heritage significance would be retained. Elsewhere the essentially open plan design of the original building could be adapted for office use and the space requirements of the Education Department could be achieved.¹³⁸ A discussion of the proposal by Schwager Brooks and Partners, acting as heritage consultants to support the application for the works under Section 60 of the Heritage Act reported that: 'It can be stated with confidence that the design approach encapsulated in this Application takes a responsible and creative approach to the protection of the heritage values and cultural significance of the Education Department Building.'¹³⁹

The Heritage Council approved the Application and the associated infill of part of the light-well 'only on the basis that it had been informed that the additional space was absolutely crucial to make the building viable for occupation by the Department of Education'.¹⁴⁰ As far as the Heritage Council was concerned, the light-well was of heritage significance. Following demolition work, construction began on site in March 1995 with the objective of occupation by December 1995.

3.22 THE RETURN OF EDUCATION TO BRIDGE STREET

Soon after construction began the precise occupancy of the Education Department offices hung in the balance as the incoming Labor government, elected in April 1995, reconfigured the education portfolio. The short lived portfolio of Education, Training and Youth Affairs became Education and Training and a new Department of Training and Education Co-ordination was established which was to take over the ministry space on Levels 2 and 3. It was initially unclear whether the Department of School Education would occupy the building but it eventually did so (and kept its name), as originally planned in 1994.¹⁴¹

In August 1995 the Minister for Education and Training announced the restructuring of the Department with two objectives; to form an administration 'driven essentially by educational

¹³⁸ 'Report in support of proposal to refurbish and fit out the Education buildings, 35-39 Bridge Street, Sydney, including addition of light well walkways', prepared by Ancher Mortlock & Woolley Pty Ltd, Architects dated 12 September 1994 and plans in NSW Heritage Office File Dept of Education 35-39 Bridge Street, S90/02690/002 (NSW Heritage Office).

¹³⁹ Schwager Brooks and Partners Pty Ltd: 'Refurbishment of the Education Dept Building. Application under Section 60 of the Heritage Act Discussion of current proposal', dated 29 August 1994, in NSW Heritage Office File Dept of Education 35-39 Bridge Street, S90/02690/002 (NSW Heritage Office).

¹⁴⁰ Extract from minutes of Heritage Council meeting 3 November 1994, in NSW Heritage Office File Dept of Education 35-39 Bridge Street, S90/02690/002 (NSW Heritage Office).

¹⁴¹ Project Files Archives Project No. 9407 (Ancher Mortlock & Woolley).

rather than financial imperatives' while also contributing to the elimination of the government's deficit of over \$700m and achieving a balanced budget. Clusters and regions would be replaced by districts to give a simple two-tier structure; regions and the state office. The head office staff which had been reduced from 1698 in 1989 to 693 in 1994¹⁴² would retain substantially the same structure, but would increase by about 400 positions to undertake the 'administrative and resource functions' that had been carried out by the regions.¹⁴³ Centralisation was coming back into the system but with less high level bureaucratic positions as the Department effected a 41% decrease in the number of its Senior Executive Service members in 1995-1996 to help cut costs.¹⁴⁴ The Minister, John Acquilina, occupied the ministerial suite once more in 1995 but soon moved to the new government offices in the Governor Macquarie Tower.

By early in 1996 the Department of School Education had moved back into the refurbished home that was, it was told, no longer its own. According to the terms of the Scott Review, any profits from the sale of the building were to be earmarked for the implementation of the Schools Renewal Program. As there had been no sale, the Department had assumed that it still owned the building and had included it in its statement of assets for the financial year 1991-1992. A correction made in its Annual Report for 1994 noted that the Department's assets had been overstated by \$14,522,060 largely due to the 'incorrect recording' of the Department's former headquarters building in Bridge Street. This, the Treasury had advised, was not vested in the Department.¹⁴⁵

On 3 December 1997 the Department of School Education was abolished and its branches amalgamated with those of the former Department of Education and Training Coordination to form the new Department of Education and Training.

3.23 EXTERNAL CONSERVATION

The refurbishment carried out by Ancher Mortlock & Woolley in 1994-1995 brought the Education Department building back to life as an effective workplace.¹⁴⁶ However major items such as stonework and roof repairs were not included in the project and required attention even as the building was being refurbished. When the government vacated the building it was taken off the list of priorities for the Bicentennial Stonework Programme as it was assumed that the new owners, or lessees, would be responsible for the upkeep and restoration of the fabric, including the facades.

¹⁴² Geoffrey Sherington: 'Education Policy' in Martin Laffin & Martin Painter (eds): *Reform and reversal. Lessons from the Coalition Government in New South Wales 1988-1995*, Macmillan Education Australia, South Melbourne, 1995, p. 180.

¹⁴³ *NSW Department of School Education Annual Report 1995 Overview*, pp. 24-25.

¹⁴⁴ *NSW Department of School Education Annual Report 1996 Volume 1 Overview* p. 15.

¹⁴⁵ *NSW Department of School Education Annual Report 1994 Financial Statements & Appendices*, p. 61.

¹⁴⁶ *Sydney Cityscope*, Cityscape Publications Pty Ltd, 31 August 2006, Map 6 Page 1, Education Department building.

As the building stood empty for five years (from 1990-1994), lack of adequate maintenance resulted in considerable damage, especially to the stonework when blocked downpipes and drains resulted in severe salt activity on the façades caused by water penetration. In 1994 the more dangerous stone and severely decayed balusters were removed and the balcony balustrading on the Bridge Street side was temporarily stabilised. Extensive work was required on all of the facades, except Loftus Street, which had been repaired in the 1980s. The bituminous roof covering also needed renewal and the roof drainage had become choked. A three-year program of stonework repair and replacement with associated repairs to the roof and roof membrane began in 1996, designed not just to ensure the conservation of one of Sydney's prominent sandstone buildings but also to make the city as attractive as possibly for the anticipated influx of overseas tourists for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.¹⁴⁷ Other recent works included the installation of a satellite dish in 1995, a mobile phone antenna in 2004 on the outside of the building and the construction of a roof over the existing plant room in 2000. On Level 7 new facilities including blackout blinds, acoustic panels, lighting and audiovisual equipment were installed in 2000 in the west wing of the Art Gallery which continues in use as a meeting room.¹⁴⁸

3.24 REVISITING THE PAST

When the Department of School Education returned to Bridge Street, the Director-General, Dr Ken Boston, consulted the Teachers Sub-Branch of the RSL about the relocation of the Department's war memorials and honour boards that had been removed to Observatory Hill when the building was vacated. The two bronze memorials to those who died in WWI and WWII were replaced in their original locations in the Bridge Street vestibule and the honour boards were relocated around the new atrium on Level 2. Two new honour boards have subsequently been added and also placed in the atrium: the first, dedicated to Department of Education officers who served abroad in the period from 1946-1976, which was unveiled on 24 September 1997 and the second, listing all teachers and trainees who served during World War II. This was unveiled on 25 April 2001 and contains 2532 names. A book by Tom Spencer published by the Department of Education and Training in 2001 provides a history of the memorials together with the names of all of those included on them. After so many tumultuous years, during which the Department lost and then reclaimed its original home, it seems appropriate that it has once more found its past.

¹⁴⁷ Education Department Building Stonework Conservation Economic Appraisal, in Education Department Building Economic Appraisal & Stonework conservation file, 1995, NSW Department of Commerce, Government Architect's Office.

¹⁴⁸ Heritage Group, State Projects, Department of Public Works & Services: 'Education Department Building Proposed stonework conservation. Statement of Heritage Impact to accompany Development Application to Sydney City Council', November 1995, Report No. HG 95/53 (NSW Department of Commerce).

3.25 RECENT REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE WORKS PROGRAMME

Since the preparation of the 2007 CMP a number of refurbishment works carried out progressively including a full refurbishment of Level 4 in 2009 and a full refurbishment of Level 6 in 2011-2012 to a design by Kann-Finch Group. In 2012, the Government Property NSW (formerly State Property Authority) has commenced a series of investigations and maintenance works programme to ensure a continuing traditional preventive maintenance to keep the building in a good condition as well as identify the compliance or non-compliances with the Building Code of Australia (BCA) and the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA).

The works have been detailed in the following Section 4.9 to prevent repetition.

3.26 ADDITIONAL HISTORICAL INFORMATION

John Reid & Son

John Reid was born in Rothiemay, Banffshire, Scotland and had some experience as a farmer before training as a builder and undertaking technical education in Aberdeen. On arriving in Australia he worked for a number of prominent architects before establishing his own firm. In Sydney he worked for George Allan Mansfield and was involved with the construction of the Hotel Australia (built in 1889-1891). He was later clerk of works for W W Wardell working on the Citizens' Life Building and also for additions to St Mary's Cathedral where he supervised the ironwork and woodwork in the turret, built by Loveridge & Hudson.¹⁴⁹

John Reid's most notable association was with the American architect Edward Raht, for whom he was supervising architect for the Bank of Australasia (1901-1904) and the Equitable Building, both of which incorporated many new methods of construction and fireproofing.

John Reid's work included commercial buildings (mainly in Sydney) for well-known firms such as Pitt Son and Badgery, John Bardsley & Co., Lever Bros., A & A Hordern, Dixon's, the American Tobacco Company and the Bank of New South Wales.¹⁵⁰ His ecclesiastical work included the completion of St Andrew's [Anglican] Church, Summer Hill and St Stephen's Church in Macquarie Street for the Presbyterian Church, of which he was an Elder.¹⁵¹ He was elected a fellow of the Institute of Architects in March 1921. In 1916 Reid was joined in his practice by his son, Frederick Bruce Reid.

John Reid died on 22 October 1936 at his home in Mosman.¹⁵² His firm continued as Reid and Son until 1941.

¹⁴⁹ 'Obituary The late John Reid', *Building*, 12 November 1936, p. 69.

¹⁵⁰ 'What does the future hold for Australian architecture? Technical education as a Factor for Success – and an Example' [the work of John Reid], *Building*, 12 February 1910, pp. 41-48.

¹⁵¹ Plans for St Andrew's Church held in the Mitchell Library. Information about St Stephen's Church on church leaflet, 2006.

¹⁵² Death notice, *Sydney Morning Herald* 24 October 1936, p. 16b.

Buildings by John Reid on the RAI A NSW Register of Twentieth Century Buildings of Significance Pitt Son and Badgery wool store, 320-340 Harris Street, Ultimo (1906-1921) John Bardsley & Co. warehouse, 223 Liverpool Street, Sydney (1910)

Monument to those who died 1914-1919, Queanbeyan (1923) Agricultural Department offices, Farrer Place, Sydney (1928-1930) Asbestos House, 65-69 York Street, Sydney (1930-1935) Robertson & Marks in association with John Reid and Son St Stephen's Uniting [former Presbyterian] Church, Macquarie Street, Sydney (1934-1935).¹⁵³

The William Wilkins Memorial Art Collection

The Department of School Education owns a substantial art collection, which dates from the 1950s, when the Supervisor of Art, Bob Winder, introduced the first student exhibition. The Department's programme of displaying and collecting student artwork is the oldest such programme in Australia. The collection has been augmented since the late 1960s by the purchase of selected works from the Higher School Certificate examination entries. These have been on public display annually since 1967 in a variety of venues including the Art Gallery of New South Wales, commercial premises and educational institutions in Sydney, as well as in regional galleries around the state. The name ARTEXPRESS was used for the first time in 1983.

In 1984 the Director-General of Education, Douglas Swan, approved of a proposal to name the Department's art collection the William Wilkins Memorial Art Collection, in honour of the first permanent head of the Department and the collection was displayed for the first time during Education Week 1984 in the Department's own Art Gallery. In 1986 a full time art teacher was appointed to manage ARTEXPRESS and the development of the William Wilkins Memorial Art Collection. In 1989 the Art Gallery of New South Wales became the main venue for ARTEXPRESS and in 1990 the exhibition toured overseas for the first time to New York where it was shown at the Children's Museum of Manhattan. It has since travelled again to the United States and to Japan. ARTEXPRESS now exhibits in ten venues throughout metropolitan Sydney and regional New South Wales.

The Department continues to add to the collection on an annual basis, purchasing works exhibited in ARTEXPRESS: and 660 individual artists are currently represented in the collection. The collection is a permanent one, belonging to the Department in the person of the Director-General.

The works are available for loan within the Department and other government offices. The majority of the items are displayed in the Bridge Street office while other works are currently on display in Parliament House and in ministerial offices in the Governor Macquarie Tower. A selection of works is exhibited regularly in the Department's Art Gallery.

¹⁵³ Information kindly supplied by the Anne Higham from the RAI A (NSW) Bibliographical database

The collection is managed by the ARTEXPRESS Co-ordinator, Lesley V Brown, who maintains a database of the collection and a record of loans. All of the collection is catalogued. Another small collection, the Matti Collection, a series of historic facades, is also displayed in the Department. This was purchased from the artist by a former manager of the Department.¹⁵⁴

War Memorials and Honour Rolls

The commemoration of members of staff of the Department of Education who served Australia in war has been a consistent part of the history of the Education Department building, which was under construction when war was declared in 1914.

For many years returned servicemen who were teachers met on Anzac Day at the Education Department offices where a commemoration was held. In the first part of these proceedings those present viewed the memorials (which were in various locations around the building) and observed a minute's silence at each. The service that followed was held in the Bridge Street vestibule.¹⁵⁵ It is possible that this custom began after the first memorials were unveiled in 1921. After 1945 teachers who had served in World War II joined those who had served in World War I in this commemoration. The Anzac Day commemoration in the Education Department offices was strongly supported by successive Directors (later Directors-General) of Education. The Teachers Sub-Branch of the RSL which was founded in about 1949 has strong ties with the building as the focus of its Anzac Day commemorations.¹⁵⁶ From the 1980s the Public Relations branch of the Education Department began to take a formal role in the organisation of the Anzac day commemoration and in the late 1990s, with the return to Bridge Street, the Corporate Affairs section of the Department took over all arrangements, with the support and help of the Teachers Sub-Branch of the RSL. The Anzac Day service is now the Department's service while the Teachers Sub-Branch continues to play a strong role in its planning and organisation.

When the building was vacated in 1990 the memorials were moved to the Fanny Cohen Hall on Observatory Hill. These included the Honour Board to those who served in WWI, the two memorials to those who fell in WWI and WWII, the Hereford House Honour Board and an unnamed Honour Board that later proved to belong to the Department of Agriculture. The Anzac Day ceremony also moved to Observatory Hill where it was held from 1991 until 1995. Following the return of the Department of School Education to the Bridge Street offices, the Director-General, Dr Ken Boston, consulted the Teachers Sub-Branch of the RSL about the relocation of the memorials. The two bronze memorials were replaced in their original

¹⁵⁴ Information kindly supplied by Lesley V Brown, the ARTEXPRESS Co-ordinator, December 2006 & February 2007.

¹⁵⁵ Letter from the Director-General of School Education Dr Fenton Sharpe to the heritage Council 31 August 1990, in NSW Heritage Office File Dept of Education 35-39 Bridge Street, S90/02690/001 (NSW Heritage Office).

¹⁵⁶ The exact date that the Teachers Sub-Branch was formed has not been determined, despite enquiries to both the Sub-Branch and the RSL. Staff of the NSW Teachers Federation Library have confirmed that the first mention they can find of the Sub-Branch is in 1949.

locations in the Bridge Street vestibule and the honour boards were relocated around the new atrium on Level 2. Two new honour boards have subsequently been added and placed in the atrium on Level 2. A book by Tom Spencer entitled *Soldier-Teacher Memorials World War I – World War II- Post World War II* and published by the New South Wales Department of Education and Training in 2001 provides a history of the memorials together with the names of those listed on them.

The memorials specifically designed for the Education Department building are:

- The Honour Board to teachers who served in World War I – paid for by the Department, made by the staff of the Drummoyne workshops and originally located in the Loftus Street vestibule. Erected late in 1920 and unveiled on 24 September 1921 by the Governor of New South Wales Sir Walter Davidson. The board has over 700 names. The board was relocated at an unknown date to the Bridge Street vestibule. [Located in the atrium on Level 2]
- The bronze memorial to those teachers who fell in World War I – funded by subscription organised by a committee set up by the Teachers Association, made by Castle and Sons of Newtown and located in the Bridge Street vestibule. Unveiled on 24 September 1921 by the Governor of New South Wales Sir Walter Davidson. The memorial contains the names of 158 teachers. [Located in its original position in the Bridge Street vestibule]
- The Hereford House Reunion Club Roll of Honour 1914-1918, to those who joined the armed services direct from Hereford House (an annexe of the Sydney Teachers College, for mature age students). The date this was installed in the Bridge Street offices is not known. [Located on Level 1 in the Bridge Street vestibule].
- The bronze memorial to those NSW public school teachers who fell in World War II – funded by subscription organised by the Soldier-Teachers Memorial Committee, designed by John Gould, an art teacher at Sydney Technical College,¹⁵⁷ made by Powell & Hohnen and located in the Bridge Street vestibule. Unveiled on 11 November 1955 by the Governor of New South Wales Lieutenant-General Sir John Northcott. [Located in its original position in the Bridge Street vestibule]
- The Honour Board dedicated to Department of Education officers who served abroad: in Vietnam (1962-1973) and in New Guinea, Malaya, Korea, Japan and Cyprus (1946-1971). Unveiled on 24 September 1997 [Located in the atrium on Level 2].
- The Honour Board listing all teachers and trainees who served during World War II – unveiled on 25 April 2001. The board contains 2532 names. [Located in the atrium on Level 2]. Two other memorials record members of the Department's non-teaching staff. No details of when these were installed were found by Tom Spencer in his research.

¹⁵⁷ 'Governor unveils tablet' *Sydney Morning Herald* 12 November 1955 p 3f-g.

- The Honour Board to 'our brother officers' who 'have gone forward to fight for Empire'. The board includes the names of staff from the Department's workshops, public libraries, medical branch and the art gallery, in order of enlistment. [The art gallery and public libraries were then within the portfolio of the Minister of Education]. The board contains 85 names including three women who served as nurses. [Located on the main landing on Level 2 outside the ministerial offices]
- A bronze memorial to members of Head Office and painting and repair staff of the Department who served in World War II 'and to perpetuate the memory of the following officers who gave their lives'. Nine names follow. [Located on Level 2] Memorials relocated to the Education Department offices:
- The Book of Remembrance containing the names of all NSW public school teachers who served in both World Wars, and its associated cabinet. This was placed in the NSW Teachers Federation Library in May 1963 but was later relocated to Bridge Street when the NSW Teachers Federation moved its offices from Phillip Street to Sussex Street.

Department of Agriculture Memorials

A bronze Roll of Honour to members of staff of the Department of Agriculture who served in World War I was installed in the Farrer Place lobby of the Department and was, apparently, removed when the Department vacated the offices in 1967. Another memorial, which did not bear the Department's name, remained in the Farrer Place offices and was removed in 1990 and stored at Observatory Hill with the Department of Education memorials. It was subsequently returned to the Department of Agriculture in 1996 when a check of the names confirmed that this was not a Department of Education memorial.¹⁵⁸

Bridge Street and government offices

From the 1870s until the late 1950s Bridge Street was the main focus of government administration, and additions and alterations to its existing building stock, or proposals for the same, were in train throughout almost the whole of this period. From 1888 to 1893 the second phase of the Lands Department was built, completing the plan around four sides of a central light well. In the 1890s an extra wing was built adjoining the Colonial Secretary and Public Works offices and an additional floor, mansard roof and dome added to the original building by the Government Architect, W L Vernon. At the same period Vernon's office also designed a large extension to the Treasury along Macquarie Street. The intention was to demolish the original Treasury, built in the late 1840s-early 1850s, and to continue this new design around four sides of a central courtyard.

¹⁵⁸ Tom Spencer: *Soldier-Teacher Memorials World War I – World War II- Post World War II*, New South Wales Department of Education and Training, 2001, p. 57 and discussion with Mr Spencer 1 February 2007.

But the full plan was never realised.¹⁵⁹ Instead in 1915-1916 Vernon's successor, George McRae copied the original Treasury and Audit office in another extension along Bridge Street. The construction of new offices for the Department of Public Instruction in 1912-1915 and the Department of Agriculture in 1928-1930 reflected their importance as major priorities of government in the 20th century, just as Lands, Public Works and the Colonial Secretary's department had been in the 19th century. In 1931 the Government Architect's Branch prepared sketches for additional storeys for the Lands Department and the Treasury¹⁶⁰ and by the mid- 1930s the Branch was working on plans for a fourth government office building on the old Government House site. Indecision as to which departments might be its occupants led to delays and by 1936 the project had stalled. Large-scale proposals for the re-planning of Macquarie Street were under consideration, with an emphasis on new buildings for the Supreme Court and for the Parliament, rather than for the bureaucracy but war brought an end to city planning.¹⁶¹

By 1943 some government departments were yet again scattered around the city, occupying private buildings and costing rent and Premier McKell announced that new buildings would be constructed after the war; but it was not until the later 1950s that he was able to fulfil his promise.¹⁶² By now many ministers were totally dissatisfied with their government offices and were demanding radical change. Buildings had not been well maintained for at least twenty years and few now admired Victorian architecture.

In 1959 the Premier announced that new government offices would be built on the site formerly occupied by the Government Printing Office and the library at the corner of Bent Street and Macquarie Street. New building technologies and the abolition of the 150-foot height restriction meant that comparatively small sites could now provide large amounts of office space. Building height was now the criterion of modernity, efficiency and distinction, while the main indicator of status was a view; so ministers' offices were on the top levels. The State Office Block, or Black Stump, as it was popularly known, was completed in 1967.

In the late 1980s government offices returned to the Bridge Street domain in a joint venture with a commercial developer on the site of the First Government House. This resulted in the preservation of parts of the archaeological remains in and around a new museum, the Museum of Sydney and the construction of the Governor Macquarie and Governor Phillip towers, parts of which are devoted to government offices. These were completed in 1993 and 1995.

¹⁵⁹ Research on the Treasury building by Rosemary Annable for Clive Lucas Pty Ltd in 1982

¹⁶⁰ Report of the Department of Public Works for the year ended 30 June 1931

¹⁶¹ Report of the Department of Works & Local Government for the year ended 30 June 1936

¹⁶² *Sydney Morning Herald* 3 November 1943 p 6d

Farrer Place

The evolution of the small triangular area of land that is now known as Farrer Place, had its origins in the earliest days of European settlement in Sydney and was probably due to a natural spring.

The beginnings of the present street plan are evident as early as 1792 and become clearer over the next decade.¹⁶³ The spring, or 'fountain' was mentioned when Governor Macquarie named and defined the line of Bent Street in 1810¹⁶⁴ and in 1812 the water source was channelled into an elegant stone fountain built by Isaac Peyton.¹⁶⁵ A plan of Sydney dated August 1822 shows the location of 'fountains' at the back of the Colonial Secretary's residence.¹⁶⁶

Following the demolition of the First Government House and the division of its grounds into city blocks, a change of street name occurred and open area around the fountain became known as Fountain Street rather than being included within Bent Street.¹⁶⁷ Other than the fountain, the street's only other structure was the back of the Colonial Secretary's offices (later the Education Department).

In 1866 the triangle of land at the junction of Bent Street, O'Connell Street and Elizabeth Street North [later Young Street] containing the fountain was dedicated as a reserve for public recreation¹⁶⁸ and trustees were appointed by the City Council in 1871. In about 1880 the name Raphael Street replaced Fountain Street and the reserve was known locally as Raphael's Triangle.¹⁶⁹ The area is clearly shown on the Metropolitan Detail survey dated 1884.¹⁷⁰ Joseph George Raphael, a businessman, alderman of the City of Sydney, politician and philanthropist, had, according to his daughter, been one of the first to build in the locality and his buildings were still standing in 1935.¹⁷¹ These were presumably the two houses on the east side of Young Street built in 1866 and 1877, which faced the reserve.¹⁷²

¹⁶³ Max Kelly & Ruth Croker; *Sydney takes shape*. A collection of contemporary maps from foundation to Federation, Doak Press, 1978, pp. 8-12 for maps dated 1792, 1802 & 1807.

¹⁶⁴ *Sydney Gazette* 6 October 1810 p.2. Bent Street ran from Spring Row [later Spring Street] 'past the fountain' and on to the north end of Phillip Street.

¹⁶⁵ Frank Clune: *Serenade to Sydney. Some historical landmarks*, Angus and Robertson, Sydney 1967, pp. 108-109.

¹⁶⁶ Max Kelly & Ruth Croker; *Sydney takes shape*. A collection of contemporary maps from foundation to Federation, Doak Press, 1978, p. 14.

¹⁶⁷ The street was known as this when the reserve was dedicated in 1871, Sydney City Council, Information on street names.

¹⁶⁸ Notation on parish map, Parish of St James, Co Cumberland

¹⁶⁹ Town Clerk's Correspondence File: Raphael Place suggested renaming as Farrer Place, 3186/35 (Sydney City Council Archives).

¹⁷⁰ Department of Lands, Metropolitan Detail Survey, Sydney Sec. 49, dated 1884, Map Z M Ser 4 811.17/1 (Mitchell Library).

¹⁷¹ Letter from E M R Rosenthal 19 August 1935 in Town Clerk's Correspondence File: Raphael Place suggested renaming as Farrer Place, 3186/35 (Sydney City Council Archives).

¹⁷² E S Marks: 'Joseph G Raphael', *Journal of the Australian Jewish Historical Society* Vol. 1 Pt X, 1943, p. 366 and Additional research concerning the occupation of the south part of the First Government House site and Young Street, south of the terraces, compiled by Rosemary Annable for Anne Bickford [c. 1990].

In 1892 the reserve became part of the road but by about 1910-1911, by which time the stone fountain had been dismantled to make room for the electric tramway along Bent Street¹⁷³. The reserve was again 'constructed in the form of a plantation' and was amply planted with palm trees.¹⁷⁴ The neat plantation can be clearly seen in a photograph of the new Education Department offices published in the Department of Public Works Annual Report for 1914-1915.

The suggestion that the name Raphael Street should be discarded and replaced by Farrer Place came from the Minister of Agriculture in June 1935. The Department was the only building on the street and William James Farrer was perhaps the most famous name in Australian agriculture. Farrer's study of wheat breeding had begun on his property Lambrigg near Canberra before he joined the Department of Agriculture in 1898 as wheat experimentalist and his research came to fruition with a wheat variety called Federation which was resistant to rust, a blight that had devastated crops since first settlement. From 1910 to 1925 it was the leading variety of wheat in Australia and provided ample proof of the value of scientific research to agriculture.¹⁷⁵ The suggestion that Raphael Street be renamed Farrer Place was approved by the City Council at its meeting on 29 July 1935. The decision provoked a rather hurt response from the late J G Raphael's daughter, Mrs E M R Rosenthal, then living in Stanmore. The Council pointed out that it was only the street that had been renamed and that the Raphael name survived in Raphael Place (a laneway at the back of Mr Raphael's Young Street houses). As the Agriculture Department offices were the only occupants of the street called Farrer Place, the name has, by extension, eventually been applied to the whole reserve.¹⁷⁶

In 1967 a bronze plaque with biographical details of William Farrer was placed on the plantation wall.¹⁷⁷ After a temporary closure for the celebrations associated with the opening of the Opera House in 1973 Farrer Place became a permanent pedestrian precinct in 1976 and the group of mature palm that had once been in a single garden bed, were encircled by separate circular beds.¹⁷⁸

Further changes took place in the late 1980s and early 1990s when the First Government House site was redeveloped. Archaeological excavations were carried out in Young Street (adjacent to the Education Department building) from the south building line of the Young Street terraces to the junction of Young Street and Bent Street, the site of the guard house

¹⁷³ Frank Clune: *Serenade to Sydney. Some historical landmarks*, Angus and Robertson, Sydney 1967, pp. 108-109. The fountain was dismantled in 1905.

¹⁷⁴ Town Clerk's Correspondence File: Raphael Place suggested renaming as Farrer Place, 3186/35 (Sydney City Council Archives).

¹⁷⁵ *Australian Dictionary of Biography Volume 8: 1891-1939 Cl-Gib*, Melbourne University Press, 1981, Entry for W E Farrer.

¹⁷⁶ Town Clerk's Correspondence File: Raphael Place suggested renaming as Farrer Place, 3186/35 (Sydney City Council Archives).

¹⁷⁷ Town Clerk's Correspondence File Question of provision of name plate for Farrer Place 4746/66 (Sydney City Council Archives).

¹⁷⁸ Town Clerk's Correspondence File Farrer Place proposed remodelling 1225/75 (Sydney City Council Archives).

built in 1810-1812 for the First Government House. These were carried out in advance of the construction of the Governor Phillip and Governor Macquarie Towers. As a part of this redevelopment the southern end of Young Street adjoining Farrer Place became a pedestrian precinct.

Ancher Mortlock & Woolley architects

The firm now known as Ancher Mortlock & Woolley was founded in 1945 by Sydney Archer who later went into partnership with Bryce Mortlock and Stuart Murray. Ken Woolley joined the firm as a partner in 1964 after practising for nine years as a design architect in the NSW Government Architect's Branch where his most significant mentor was Harry Rembert, the Assistant Government Architect. During this time, Ken Woolley had been responsible for the design of the award winning Fisher Library in the University of Sydney and the State Office Block. In 1983 following the retirement of the other partners, Ken Woolley became the principal of the firm Ancher Mortlock & Woolley.¹⁷⁹

3.27 CHRONOLOGY

Date	Events
29 January 1788	Portable canvas house for Governor Phillip erected on the east side of the Tank Stream.
15 May 1788	First stone laid for a permanent residence for the Governor close to the canvas house.
1789	Completion of the first Government House.
1789-1791	Construction of official residences for civil officers (Commissary, Judge-Advocate, Surveyor General and Chaplain) to the west of Government House.
By 1792	Development of distinctive street pattern at back of Government House and civil officers' residences.
1810	Macquarie Place defined as public space, named and cleared.
1810-1817	New residences built for civil officers on sites of earlier ones.
1832	Provision of official residences for civil officers discontinued. Former residences continue in use as government offices.
Late 1820s-early 1830s	Replanning Sydney Cove to provide additional wharfage and choice of site for a new government house under discussion.
1845	Plan of continuation of streets down to Semi-Circular Quay advertised.
June 1845	Governor Gipps vacates the first Government House.
1845-1847	Materials of the old Government House removed. New boundary walls built around remaining government offices (former residences) on Bridge Street. Streets extended down to the Quay. Bridge Street extended east to Macquarie Street.
1848	Government formally enters the field of public instruction with the creation of

¹⁷⁹ Ken Woolley and Ancher Mortlock & Woolley. *Selected and current works*, The Master Architect Series IV, The Images Publishing Group, Mulgrave, Vic., 1999.

Date	Events
	the Board of National Education
1866	Triangular piece of land at the back of the Colonial Secretary's offices dedicated for public recreation [later called Farrer Place].
1880	Public Instruction Act gives government full responsibility for the provision of primary and some secondary education in New South Wales. Creation of Department of Public Instruction with its own Minister.
1881 – 1882 [?]	Department of Public Instruction moves into the former Colonial Secretary's offices on Bridge Street.
1890	Appointment of first Secretary of Agriculture. Department of Agriculture established.
1907	Office of Minister of Agriculture created
1908	First Minister of Agriculture appointed
1910-1911	Triangular reserve at the back of the offices of the Department of Public Instruction [later Farrer Place] constructed in the form of a plantation and planted with palm trees.
1911	Beginning of the 'New Education'.
November-December 1911	Proposals for new offices for the Department of Public Instruction considered by Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works. Committee recommends construction of new offices in stone with two additional storeys.
March 1912	Parliament debates Public Works Committee report concerning the construction of new offices for Department of Public Instruction. Act No. 10 of 1912 provides for construction of the building.
September-October 1912	Final design for Bridge Street elevation of new offices for Department of Public Instruction published in The Salon.
7 September 1912	Foundation stone of new offices laid by Minister of Public Instruction, Mr A C Carmichael.
1912-1915	Construction of new offices for the Department of Public Instruction with main frontage to Bridge Street: the first part of a building to be built in two sections; the second to be occupied by the Department of Agriculture.
October 1913	Proposals for new offices for the Department of Agriculture considered by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works. Committee recommends proceeding with construction.
c.1913-1914	Changes of plan for offices of Department of Public Instruction to provide above ground boiler house and associated works due to delay in beginning construction of Department of Agriculture offices.
August 1915	Staff of the Department of Public Instruction move into new offices.
c. September 1915	Name of Department of Public Instruction changed to Department of Education.
December 1915-March 1916	Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on construction of new offices for the Department of Agriculture dated October 1913 presented to Parliament. Bill to authorise construction of new offices passed.
1916-1917	Demolition of old Department of Public Instruction offices [former Colonial Secretary's residence and offices] and construction of foundations for Department of Agriculture offices. Work suspended.

Date	Events
<i>September 1921</i>	Unveiling of war memorials to teachers who served and died in WWI in the Bridge Street and Loftus Street vestibules of the Education Department.
<i>1928</i>	Discussion in Parliament about amended Bill for construction of new offices for the Department of Agriculture. Minister consults private architect John Reid & Son about amended designs and firm commissioned to proceed with construction.
<i>28 December 1928</i>	Contract signed for construction of new offices for Department of Agriculture.
<i>1929</i>	Amended Bill authorising construction of new offices for Department of Agriculture passed.
<i>1929-1930</i>	Construction of offices for Department of Agriculture with main frontage to Raphael Street, completing the building bounded by Bridge Street, Young Street, Raphael Street and Loftus Street.
<i>1930</i>	Department of Agriculture moves into new offices.
<i>1931</i>	Provision made for offices for Minister of Local Government within the Department of Agriculture.
<i>1935</i>	Raphael Street renamed Farrer Place at request of the Minister of Agriculture.
<i>1935</i>	Minister for Local Government vacates Agriculture Department offices.
<i>1948</i>	First area office of Department of Education opened in the Riverina.
<i>1949</i>	Department of Technical Education established administered by a Director under the control of the Minister for Education
<i>1950s</i>	Six more area offices of Department of Education opened. School age population trebled.
<i>1950s</i>	Department of Agriculture regionalises its Extension Services.
<i>1950s</i>	Department of Education begins to exhibit and collect student art works.
<i>1954</i>	Lifts in the Department of Agriculture replaced.
<i>1955</i>	Bronze memorial to NSW public school teachers who fell in World War II designed by John Gould unveiled in the Bridge Street vestibule on 11 November 1955.
<i>1957</i>	Public Instruction (Amendment) Act alters all existing legislative references to the Department of Public Instruction to the Department of Education.
<i>1958</i>	Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission vacate Department of Agriculture offices.
<i>c. Late 1950s?</i>	Loftus Street wing of the Department of Education Art Gallery used as an assembly room.
<i>1960</i>	Biology and Entomology branches vacate Department of Agriculture offices.
<i>1960</i>	Department of Technical Education moves into 6 th floor of Department of Agriculture. Later extends onto other floors of the building.
<i>1960s</i>	Four more regional offices opened by the Department of Education.
<i>1967</i>	Department of Agriculture moves to the new State Office Block. Some staff remain in Farrer Place. Department of Education and Department of Technical Education occupy former Department of Agriculture offices. Rearrangement of office space generally within the original Department of Education offices. Whole building becomes known as the Education

Date	Events
	Department.
1971	Original lift removed from Bridge Street entrance of Department of Education. Two new lifts built external to the back of original building within light well / courtyard. Boiler house moved to new location. External fire stairs constructed to serve Levels 1-3.
Early 1970s	First refurbishment of Department of Education offices since original construction: improved ventilation, floor coverings installed, new lighting.
1974	Education Department building listed by the National Trust (NSW)
1979	Macquarie Place Urban Conservation listed by the National Trust (NSW)
1980	Fully ducted air conditioning installed with four plant rooms on each level.
1981	Education Department building listed on the Register of the National Estate.
Early 1980s	Removal of potentially dangerous stone from facades of building.
1981	Minister moves out of ministerial suite in Department to other offices.
1984	Department of Education art collection named the William Wilkins Memorial Art Collection and displayed in the Department's Art Gallery.
1984-1987	Loftus Street façade stonework conserved; other facades cleaned and made safe.
1986	Department of Education relocates a number of head office and regional directorates.
1987	Department of Education celebrates 75 th anniversary of laying the foundation stone of the building.
March-April 1989	Education portfolio abolished and replaced by Department of Education and Youth Affairs. Minister, Dr Terry Metherell, announces a Management Review of his portfolio and extensive education reforms.
June 1989	Advance briefing of the Scott Management Review published. Recommends sale of the Bridge Street head office to provide funds for schools renewal.
July 1989	Education Department building for sale
1989	Aboriginal land claim lodged for Department of Education building.
July 1989	Federation of Parents & Citizens Association of NSW resolves to ask Heritage Council to place a Permanent Conservation Order on the building.
July-September 1989	Report on conservation controls and re-use options for the Education Department building, prepared by Tanner & Associates for the NSW Property Management Unit on behalf of Department of Education.
15 December 1989	Name of Department of Education changed to Department of School Education. Heritage Council endorses parts of the Tanner report that deal with significance of the building and its individual elements and conservation policies but does not endorse proposal for an extended height limit of 62 metres or enclosure of the light well. Permanent Conservation Order recommended,
1989	Aboriginal land claim refused 30 November 1989. Appeal lodged with Land & Environment Court.
1989	Design competition for the redevelopment of the site of the First Government House.

Date	Events
1990	Building vacated. Staff hold peaceful protest objecting to the closure of the office.
1990-1994	Education Department building vacant. Little maintenance. War memorials and Honour Rolls moved to the Fanny Cohen Hall on Observatory Hill and Anzac Day commemoration continues at this new venue.
April-August 1990	Archaeological excavation in Young Street (adjacent to the Education Department building) from the south building line of the Young Street terraces to the junction of Young Street and Bent Street, on the site of the Government House guard house (1810-1812).
22 June 1990	Permanent Conservation Order No. 726 gazetted for the Education Department building.
22 February 1991	Expressions of interest for the building close. Not assessed.
1991-1994	Interested parties continue to develop schemes for commercial re-use of the building.
June 1991	Government offers voluntary redundancy to 2,300 administrative staff of the Education Department including many senior executive positions created under the Metherell reforms.
July – August 1991	Archaeological excavation along kerb line on west side of Young Street (adjacent to the Education Department building).
24 July 1992	NSW Aboriginal Land Council's claim for the Education Department building dismissed on appeal to the Land and Environment Court
1993-1995	South end of Young Street closed and included as part of Farrer Place pedestrian precinct during redevelopment of the First Government House site and construction of Governor Phillip and Government Macquarie Towers.
1994	Dangerous stone and severely decayed balusters removed and balcony balustrade on the Bridge Street I temporarily stabilised.
August 1994	Ancher Mortlock & Woolley commissioned by Property Services Group to undertake interior refurbishment and building upgrade of the Education Department building to accommodate 500 staff of the Department of Education.
1994-1995	Refurbishment of the building. New glazed walkways constructed along internal walls of the lightwell on Levels 3-7 to provide internal circulation with new glazed lobby on part of Level 2; Young Street stairs demolished; 1970s fire stairs demolished and reinstated within building. Areas previously identified as of heritage significance retained.
April 1995	Ministry of Education, Training and Youth Affairs becomes the Ministry of Education and Training. Department of Training and Education Co-ordination established.
August 1995	Minister announces restructuring of Department. Clusters and regions to be replaced by districts to give the Department of School Education a two-tier structure; regions and the state office. Head office staff to increase by about 400 to undertake the functions previously carried out by the regions.
1995	Installation of a satellite dish on roof of Department building
1995-1996	Department effects a 41% decrease in the number of its Senior Executive Service members to cut costs
1996	Department of Training and Education Co-ordination and Department of School Education move into Education Department offices. Minister occupies

Date	Events
	ministerial suite for short time and then moves to Governor Macquarie Tower.
25 April 1996	The Anzac Day service returns to the Education Department offices.
1996	Three-year program of stonework repair and replacement begins with associated repairs to roof and roof membrane.
1997	Honour Board dedicated to Department of Education officers who served abroad in the period 1946-1971 unveiled on 24 September 1997.
3 December 1997	Department of School Education abolished and its branches amalgamated with those of the former Department of Education and Training Coordination to form the new Department of Education and Training.
1998	Heritage Amendment Act 1998. Any item the subject of a Permanent Conservation Order to be listed on the State Heritage Register.
1999	Education Department building listed on the State Heritage Register.
2000	Construction of roof over the existing plant room. New facilities including blackout blinds, acoustic panels, lighting and audio-visual equipment installed in west wing of the Art Gallery [Level 7] for continuing use as a meeting room.
2001	Honour Board listing all teachers and trainees who served during World War II unveiled on 25 April 2001. Book by Tom Spencer Soldier-Teacher Memorials World War I – World War II- Post World War II published by New South Wales Department of Education and Training.
2004	Installation of mobile phone antenna.
2006-2007	Preparation of a Conservation Management Plan by the NSW Department of Commerce.
2009	Full refurbishment of Level 4 by Kann Finch Group
2011	Full refurbishment of Level 6 by Kann Finch Group
2011-2013	Installation of internal secondary metal window frames to most of the office Levels
2012-2013	Refurbishment and repairs to the sky lanterns
2013	Update of the 2007 Conservation Management Plan by City Plan Heritage and preparation of a Heritage Asset Management Plan by City Plan Heritage team in association with PVH architects, Medland Metropolis, MBMpl, TTW, Thomson Elevator Consultancy Services, and City Plan Services – Building.
2014	Update of the 2013 Conservation Management Plan by City Plan Heritage as part of the proposed long term lease of the Education Building.

3.28 NSW HISTORICAL THEMES

The NSW Heritage Branch (now known as Heritage Division, Office of Environment and Heritage) developed a thematic framework for use in heritage assessment and management. It was thought that thinking about a place in terms of themes can help understand its

significance. The organising principle for the thematic framework is the dynamism of human activity. This Framework identifies thirty-eight principal themes.¹⁸⁰

The historical development of an area or item can be understood as occurring in a thematic way, with different layers representing progressively earlier themes.¹⁸¹ In the case of The Department of Education, there are numerous State themes reflected at the local level which relate to its foundation and development. These are: Education, Government and Administration, Creative endeavour, Town, suburbs and villages & Labour. These themes are referred to within this CMP to guide future research questions, to interpret the history, and structure the narrative of the development within the context of the local area. The table below describes these themes.

Australian Theme	NSW Theme	Comment
<i>Educating</i>	<i>Education</i>	<p>The Department of Education building has been associated with activities related to the administration of teaching and learning throughout NSW since its opening in 1914.</p> <p>The building is the symbolic headquarters for generations of teachers and administration staff who have worked in the NSW education system since 1915.</p>
<i>Governing</i>	<i>Government and administration</i>	<p>The Department of Education building is a government administered building that has hosted the Department of Education and the Department of Agriculture.</p> <p>The Department of Education building, along with other government owned landmark buildings confirmed Bridge Street as the main locus of government administration.</p>
<i>Developing Australia's cultural life</i>	<i>Creative endeavour</i>	<p>The Department of Education building was designed by George McRae (Government Architect) who designed the building using a Federation Free Classical design. The second stage of the building designed by the private architectural company John Reid & Son as a continuation of the Education Department building using the technological advancement at the time. Unlike the Education Department offices, which had load-bearing walls combined with a steel frame, the new Department of Agriculture offices were built with a fully load-bearing steel frame while the sandstone exterior would be simply cladding, providing continuity between the street elevations of the two parts of the building.</p> <p>The building's classical proportions and sandstone facade show the influence of the Victorian Free Style and the work of the previous Government Architect Walter Liberty Vernon for government buildings including the Lands Department Building in Bridge Street, the Land Titles Office in Prince Alfred Road and the</p>

¹⁸⁰ NSW Heritage Office File Dept of Education 35-39 Bridge Street, S90/02690/003 (NSW Heritage Office).

¹⁸¹ David Collins: An account of the English Colony in New South Wales, Volume 1, originally published in 1798. Australian edition edited by Brian H Fletcher, published by A H & A W Reed in association with the Royal Australia Historical Society, 1975, p. 123.

Australian Theme	NSW Theme	Comment
		Treasury Building in Macquarie Street. Historic features reveal Federation and Edwardian tastes and customs.
<i>Building settlements, towns and cities</i>	<i>Towns, suburbs and villages</i>	The Department of Education building can be associated with the development of the city centre, and in particular Bridge Street. The Department of Education building, along with other government owned landmark buildings confirmed Bridge Street as the main locus of government administration and totally transformed the scale and quality of the city's official architecture.
<i>Working</i>	<i>Labour</i>	This building has been occupied by a large workplace of public officers, employees and other administration staff since its construction. As mentioned above, it has also been the symbolic headquarters for generations of teachers since 1915. Labour also included office employees of the Department of Agriculture.

4.0 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE – UNDERSTANDING THE PLACE

4.1 CONTEXT

The Department of Education Building occupies an entire city block in the historic centre of Sydney's CBD. Its two main public entrances are at 35-39 Bridge Street and 2-4 Farrer Place, reflecting the original concept of a dual occupancy building. A third entrance from Loftus Street was intended as a dedicated entrance to the art galleries as well as a fire exit. A single lift was installed at the rear of the staircase and the generous open well area was used for hoisting artworks from a hook in the ceiling at Level 7. A fourth entrance, proposed for the centre of the Young Street façade and intended for completion in the second stage of the work, was never built.

On its main façade to Bridge Street, the building forms an integral link in a row of important government buildings beginning with the Chief Secretary's Building at the top of the street to the east, and the adjacent Lands Department Building to the west. Along with the original Treasury Building (now the Intercontinental Hotel) at the top of Bridge Street on the northern side, this grouping represents an important collection of fine sandstone edifices dating from the mid nineteenth century to the early 20th century. The uniformity of scale, materials and architectural style combine to create a very strong sense of place.

The Department of Education building together with the Lands department building is part of the streetscape of Macquarie Place Park, which is a state heritage item on its own right. The Park includes road reserve, park reserve, Macquarie Obelisk, Sirius anchor and canon, T S Mort statue, public conveniences, John Christie Wright memorial fountain by Lewers, memorial gate pillars, sandstone fence, and archaeology.

4.2 THE SITE

The site is bounded by Bridge Street to the north, Loftus Street to the west, Young Street to the east and Farrer place to the south. The rhomboid-shaped block slopes diagonally from a high point at the corner of Young Street and Farrer place to a low point at the corner of Bridge and Loftus Streets on the eastern slope of what was once the valley of the Tank Stream.

To the west of the site, in Loftus Street, is the Lands Department Building (c.1876-1891), and to the east a terrace of four houses (1874-75) and the 1993-95 twin office building known as Governor Phillip and Governor Macquarie Towers, where the state government is the largest single tenant.

To the south of the site is Farrer Place, a small triangular granite paved pedestrian reserve, with three raised planter beds filled with groups of palm trees of various types. The southern

end of Young Street has been closed off and incorporated into the Farrer Place reserve, creating a forecourt to the entrance to Governor Macquarie Tower.

4.3 THE BUILDING

The Department of Education Building is a building of two distinct parts, built some sixteen years apart. Despite this, the impression of a single imposing structure with street frontages to all four sides is achieved by a remarkable consistency in the materials and detailing of the exterior sandstone facades. Apart from the addition of an extra floor and the incorporation of fenestrations to the attic floor of the later extension, only subtle changes in detail give a clue to the shift in architectural fashion and construction techniques in the two parts of the building. The two halves of the Loftus Street and Young Street elevations knit seamlessly together through a faceted window bay as a transitional element between the lower and top floor levels.

4.4 STAGE 1: 1914-1915

The original building, constructed in 1912-15 for the Department of Public Instruction, comprised seven storeys in height with a two-storey caretaker's flat on the roof. From the outset the building was designed "in the round" and the architectural treatment of each façade was carefully considered. While the chosen Italian Renaissance style was certainly appropriate for such an important civic building in the context of other neo-classical style buildings, the economic effect of a high façade area to floor space ratio may have been instrumental in the generally plain façade treatment, relieved only by bracketed projecting balconies at Levels 3 and 6, a simply decorated cornice above Level 7 and a heavily rusticated base with wrought iron window grilles.

The main architectural feature of each façade was unmistakably the centrally placed entrance. The principal entrance from Bridge Street was detailed with an elaborate portico with twin trachytes columns of the Doric order supporting an imposing overmantel of carved sandstone comprising a deep entablature with the inscription "DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION", and a broken arched pediment with scrolled architraves, bracketed off the wall with massive consoles. The tympanum, surmounted by a crown, was embellished with carvings of floral swags supported by two pairs of mythical birds.

Above the portico was a two-storey high arched recess, intercepted horizontally at level 3 by a balcony above a form of Venetian window with twin sandstone columns of the Ionic order placed directly above the trachyte columns below. The arch opening has a keystone embellished with an oval cartouche bearing the year 1914 and is flanked by two small "bulls-eye" windows decorated with elaborately carved architraves, keystones and swags.

The Loftus Street entrance while clearly secondary in importance to the Bridge Street entrance was also detailed with a portico comprising a pair of trachyte columns of the Ionic order supporting a broken pediment into which was carved the Royal Coat of Arms, the whole composition topped with an arched window above.

The building was planned as a quadrangle form around a central courtyard with the Education Department offices occupying the northern half of the site and the Department of Agriculture to occupy the southern part of the site. It was intended that each of the four wings of the building be served by an entrance and staircase that would also serve as a fire escape.

The Young Street entrance proposed in the 1912 design and shown in the elevation but was not realised in the later additions; a pair of solid panel timber doors with an arched window above was built in its place.

The structural concept for the building was a concrete encased, rigid steel frame structure with load bearing external masonry walls and core, located at the northern end of the courtyard and encompassing the main staircase and lift off the Bridge Street entrance, the lavatories, retiring rooms, strongrooms and typists' rooms on the typical floors and the library on the top floor. A second load bearing core enclosed the Loftus Street staircase and lift shaft and a multi-storey bank of toilets located on the inner face of the western courtyard wall behind the Loftus Street stairwell.

The exterior walls were built of brickwork with sandstone ashlar facing. The sandstone was from the Maroubra quarry. The massive masonry walls were supported on conventional concrete strip footings. The floors were constructed as reinforced concrete slabs supported on concrete encased primary and secondary steel beams resulting in a coffered soffit which was left undecorated by plaster cornices or centrepieces.

Lighting and ventilation were important considerations in the design. Good natural lighting and ventilation were achieved by virtue of the high ceilings and large window openings to both the exterior and courtyard elevations, combined with the relatively narrow floor plan depth. The design principle adopted was that the maximum distance from a window for good natural lighting was 25 feet (7.62 m).

Permanent ventilation was provided by vents set into the external stonework beneath each window sill. These vents were not replicated in the 1930 building although the windows were to be provided with "specially fitted ventilators therein" [SMH 30/1/29 p.11]. Mechanical ventilation was also apparently installed, though no drawings have been found that could shed light on how this system operated.

The evidence of the Acting Principal Architect of the Government Architect's Branch, Edward Drew to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works in November 1911 refers to

the proposed installation of “a mechanical device for ventilating, which is usually adopted in all big buildings in the Old Country and America. It consists of a Sirocco fan It has also a dynamo and there is a furnace for heating the air.”

There is some evidence that the proposed system was in fact installed in a photograph taken from the rear of the site c.1915. This shows what appears to be air duct risers and branches fixed to the north wall of the courtyard.



Figure 4.1: Bird's eye view of the rear of the newly completed Education Building taken from Bent Street in 1915.

(Source: Mitchell Library GPO 1-16344)

In a Government Architect's drawing dated 23rd October 1912 entitled Basement Plan: Department of Public Instruction, Installation of Steam Heating Apparatus, a “steam engine room” was planned to be installed in an excavated pit below the basement level in the adjoining Department of Agriculture site. Ultimately a boiler house was built as a freestanding brick building with gable roof in the courtyard behind the Bridge Street staircase.

Two undated sketches [PB 18-2/2-3] by George Vincent, heating and ventilation engineer, show the details of the boiler house and stack for the “Reck” heating installation. The same building is shown “as existing” in a 1927 drawing of the buildings heating system [PB 18-2/4].

In the early 1970s the boiler room was demolished to make way for the present lift shaft in that location, and a new boiler room constructed in the north-west corner of the courtyard served by an underground oil tank located towards the centre of the courtyard. The existing

wall mounted flue and the hot water pipes that served the cast iron radiators located throughout the building were retained and connected to the new boilers.

The windows were steel framed with casement and pivoting sashes so that the external glass surfaces could be cleaned from inside the building.

The topmost floor of the building proper (now Level 7) was designed with two large interlinking art galleries to the north (the Gallery room) and west wings (Annex room), and a dining room and kitchen to the east wing.

The horizontal circulation system at each floor level was based on an 8 ft (2.44 m) wide corridor on the inside of the floor plan and to the northern side of the Bridge Street core. When the building was completed, this corridor was intended to connect the occupants of each floor to all four staircases and lift shafts of the building as well as to the toilets and lavatories. Although very generous in its width, the corridor was quite efficient in minimizing the floor area lost to circulation and leaving the remainder of the floor free to be divided up in various ways using lightweight partitions of timber and glass – an early example of the open plan office.

4.5 STAGE 2: 1929-1930

Although generally faithful to the design concepts established by its predecessor, the second stage of the building designed for the Department of Agriculture, contained several key points of departure from the original design.

The design of the exterior façades is essentially the same as that of the 1915 building, completing the symmetrical compositions of the Loftus and Young Street elevations according to the earlier design. A minor variation is the treatment of the parapet capping to the corner breakfronts at the Farrer Place ends, where the detail is of a more contemporary design. The Farrer Place entrance however adopts a quite different architectural style to that of the other entrances. The bold trachyte framed portal can best be described as “clipped classical” in style with a simplified neoclassical cornice and entablature, the concave architraves of the opening the only stylistic reference to the earlier entrances. The bronze framed entrance doors and lights are comparable to other Beaux-Arts style buildings of the time such as the 1928 Government Savings Bank in Martin Place.

The exterior facades and the completion of the quadrangle plan is the extent of the similarity between the two stages of the building. The new brief required more useable floor area than had originally been planned for. In response to this the architects were obliged to add an extra floor level, set back from the parapet line so as not to totally compromise the appearance of the elevations, and introduce window openings to the attic floor where in the first part of the building there were none, skylights sufficing to light and ventilate the art galleries at that level.

The new additions also dispensed with the interior corridor system that had been established in the 1915 building, in favour of a narrow corridor “spine” that divided the floor into small partitioned offices or led into open plan office areas. Passage to fire stairs was now often via open plan office spaces which became problematic after single occupancy by the Department of Education by 1967 and particularly so after the introduction of Ordinance 70 in 1971 which required, amongst other things, fire isolated means of egress for multi-storey office buildings.

Another key difference between the two building phases was structural. The 1930 building is based on a totally different structural principle to that of its predecessor; a fully steel framed structure where all walls, including the exterior stonework, are supported on the concrete encased steel framework. Masonry shear walls at each level provide the lateral bracing to the frame. The absence of thick masonry walls resulted in considerably greater net floor areas as well as the obvious savings in materials and construction time. The only limitation by comparison with the 1915 plan was that the need for permanent shear walls resulted in somewhat less flexibility in the interior planning of each floor.

There is no documentary evidence as to how the building was mechanically ventilated. There is no reference in the floor plans to mechanical plant or fan rooms and it must be assumed therefore that the system used in the older building was simply extended to service the new additions.

The two new lifts, located in the Farrer Place entrance vestibule, were electric powered. The entrance vestibule and staircase proposed in the original plan for the Young Street wing was reduced to a fire stair and exit only. The staircase was made redundant by the 1990s refurbishment and demolished. Like its counterpart on Bridge Street, the Farrer Place entrance vestibule showcased several New South Wales marbles including Borenore (“King Edward”) Red, Grey Silk Cudgegong in the wall panelling and Yass Black in the skirtings. The floor and broad stair flight was done in Italian Carrara marble.





Figure 4.3: Circulation Patterns, Typical Floor Plan 1963
(Source: Dept. of Commerce Plan Records PB 18/29)

4.6 1970s: SERVICES UPGRADE

The first major alteration to the building after 1930 was the introduction of a new fire isolated lift shaft and fire stair adjacent to the Bridge Street entrance vestibule in the early 1970s. The initial proposal involved the complete demolition of the Bridge Street staircase, together with the open cage lift, and the construction of a new fire isolated concrete staircase in its place with a new two-car lift shaft and lobbies at the rear. The scheme was later amended to retain the original staircase at levels 1 and 2 only, with the new fire stair connected at level 2 to an external stair discharging to the courtyard at ground level.

The new lift shaft required the demolition of the original boiler house that piped steam to convection heaters throughout the building in what was known as the “Reck” system. A new boiler room was constructed in the north-west corner of the courtyard, along with an underground oil tank located towards the centre of the courtyard. This structure was in turn demolished as part of the 1994-96 refurbishment works.

In 1980 a fully ducted air conditioning system was introduced to the building for the first time. This relied on four plant rooms located around the perimeter of the light well on each floor

level. These plant rooms housed the air handling units that supplied conditioned air through a network of metal ductwork located above suspended tile ceilings.

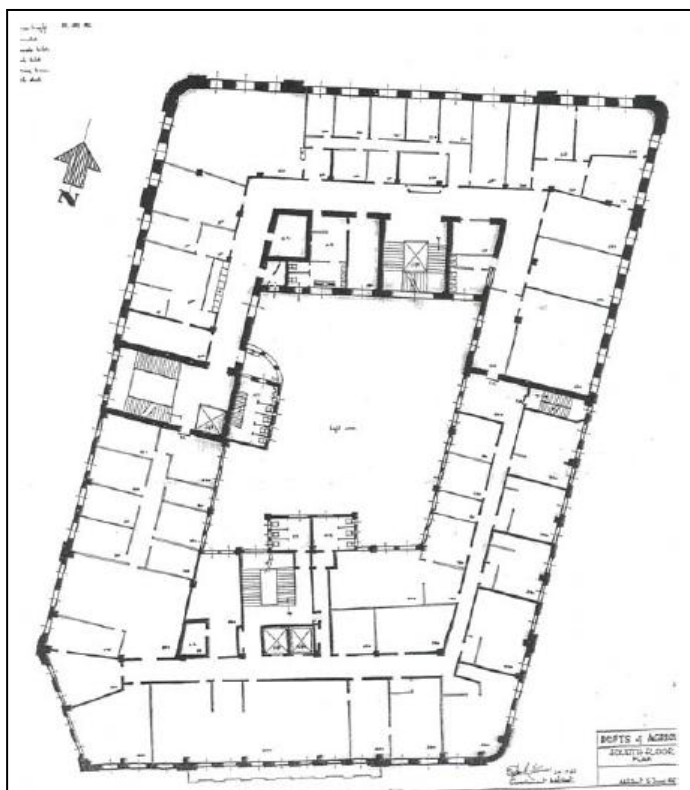


Figure 4.4: “Fourth and Fifth Floor Plan, Departments of Agriculture and Education” 1963. This plan graphically illustrates the differences between the two phases of construction. Note the thicker external walls and the two structural masonry cores in the 1915 building at the top.
(Source: Dept. of Commerce Records Branch PB 18/29)

4.7 1996 REFURBISHMENT

In the mid-1990s the building underwent a major refurbishment in preparation for relocating the Department of Education after an absence of six years. The design brief was to bring the building into line with current building standards, principally the Building Code of Australia and to generally upgrade the standard of office accommodation. A further aim was to substantially increase the useable floor area of the building without compromising the integrity of the internal light well and courtyard. The key planning issue to be addressed was the long-standing problem of circulation caused by the mismatch of the two building phases discussed earlier.

The solution by architects Ancher Mortlock and Woolley was to create a series of external galleries at all upper floor levels on the north and east sides of the light well. Each gallery links the three fire stairs, two lift lobbies and two toilet blocks at each floor level, freeing up the remaining floor areas for open planned offices, in keeping with the original design concept. The galleries are lightweight steel and glass structures, suspended from steel beams spanning the width of the light well at roof level. The red painted steel suspension rod framing splays out at the base to form a glass roofed atrium space, curved in plan, at level 2.

The original courtyard walls and windows were largely unaffected by the new work except that the steel framed casement windows were sealed shut for better environmental and acoustic control. The courtyard walls opposite the new galleries were also tidied up, by the removal of redundant services, and re-painted. Other changes made at this time include the internal refurbishment of the original 1930 toilets located at the rear of the Farrer Place entrance vestibule, with the addition of a services riser in the form of a segmented drum. The shell of the original 1915 toilet structure behind the Loftus Street stairs was retained and used as store rooms but the sanitary fittings and all but one of the original steel mezzanine stairs were removed.

4.8 STONEMWORK REPAIRS 1984 AND 1996-7

The buildings' sandstone facades have been the subject of two programmes of conservation works in recent years under the Department of Public Works Stonework Programme.

The first of these began in 1984 after the programme initiated by the state government identified the Education Department Building as one of three buildings for immediate consideration.

It consisted of some selective replacement of cornice and balcony stonework along the Loftus Street façade and part of the Young Street and Farrar Place façades.

More extensive conservation works were carried out in 1996-7 when the scope of work included the replacement of stone to the level 3 and level 6 balconies including copings, balusters, dies, and plinth stones to the Bridge Street and Young Street façades and later to the Farrar Place façade. It also involved minor stone indents, epoxy repairs, desalination, repointing of open joints and the covering of strings and cornices with lead protection. The sandstone used in stonework replacement was Bondi stone for the balusters and Kent Street stone for all other elements.

4.9 RECENT REFURBISHMENT WORKS & ROOFTOP LANTERNS REPAIRS 2007-2014

As noted in the historical evidence of this CMP, since the preparation of the 2007 CMP a number of refurbishment works have been carried out progressively. These include a full refurbishment of Level 4 in 2009 and a full refurbishment of Level 6 in 2011-2012 to a design by Kann-Finch Group. In 2012, the GPNSW has commenced a series of investigations and maintenance works programme to ensure the building is kept in a good condition as well as to identify the compliance or non-compliances with the Building Code of Australia (BCA) and the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA).

The majority of the windows have been refurbished with second glazing by installation of internal frames matching the glazing panes of the original external steel and wrought iron

window frames to minimise impact on the external presentation of the building. A number of mitigation measures would need to be undertaken to ensure minimal loss of fabric to the surviving hardware of the pivoting sashes (fanlights) where they would need to be shortened to allow for the internal glazing frame be installed within the reveals of the windows.

City Plan Heritage (in conjunction with Public Works NSW) has recently completed work on the conservation and repair of the roof sky lanterns. The project aimed to:

- *Identify the most appropriate methodology for carrying out of the required repair works.*
- *Ensure the significant and intact fabric of the Sky Lanterns is protected and their life expectancy is extended to a maximum as much as possible.*
- *Undertake necessary repair works to the windows with minimum fabric removal and replacement.*
- *Remove harmful substances and correct previous detailing to match original detailing using traditional methods, in particular copper roofing details.*
- *Remove existing inappropriate external curtains and Provide ecologically sustainable glazing to the windows by replacing the existing glazing to ensure the most effective sun protection and utmost possible daylight to the Annex Room below.*
- *Repair and repaint the interiors of the Annex room below sky lantern 10, and the associated areas of the other sky lanterns in the Gallery and storage rooms.*

Works to sky lantern 1 was already completed by the Public Works in association with the Government Architect's Office. The recent capital expenditure works allowed for the completion of repair and restoration works to the remainder of the existing eleven (11) sky lanterns. Currently, works are being commenced on copper cladding of sky lantern sills to ensure long-term protection. The works to the sky lanterns were of minimal intervention with like-by-like materials but also allowed for the replacement of the existing mixture of glazing with safety and ECO glass (Viridian 6mm Soltech Grey) to increase the ecological sustainability of the building and enabled the removal of intrusive metal balustrades fixed to the sky lanterns.

4.10 PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY

4.10.1 EXTERNAL VIEWS



Figure 4.5: External views of the Department of Education Building. Clockwise from top left: Farrer Place facade, corner Bridge & Young Streets, detail of northernmost bay of Young Street facade, view from the corner Bridge & Loftus Streets, an example of exfoliation on the base rusticated stonework on Farrer Place facade, and Bridge Street entrance portico



Figure 4.6: External views of the Department of Education Building showing some detailing including clockwise from the top left: view of Loftus Street & Farrer Place facade, Loftus Street facade from Bridge Street, Farrer Place entrance with 'Department of Agriculture' inscription at the top, ground level arched fenestration, commemorative stone at corner Bridge & Loftus Streets, and the main entrance on Loftus Street. The commemorative stone depicts: "This commemoration stone was set by the Honourable Campbell Carmichael, Minister for Public Instruction – 7th September 1912 – The Hon Arthur Griffith, Minister for Public Works – Peter Board Esq. Director of Education"

4.10.2 INTERIORS - LEVEL 1

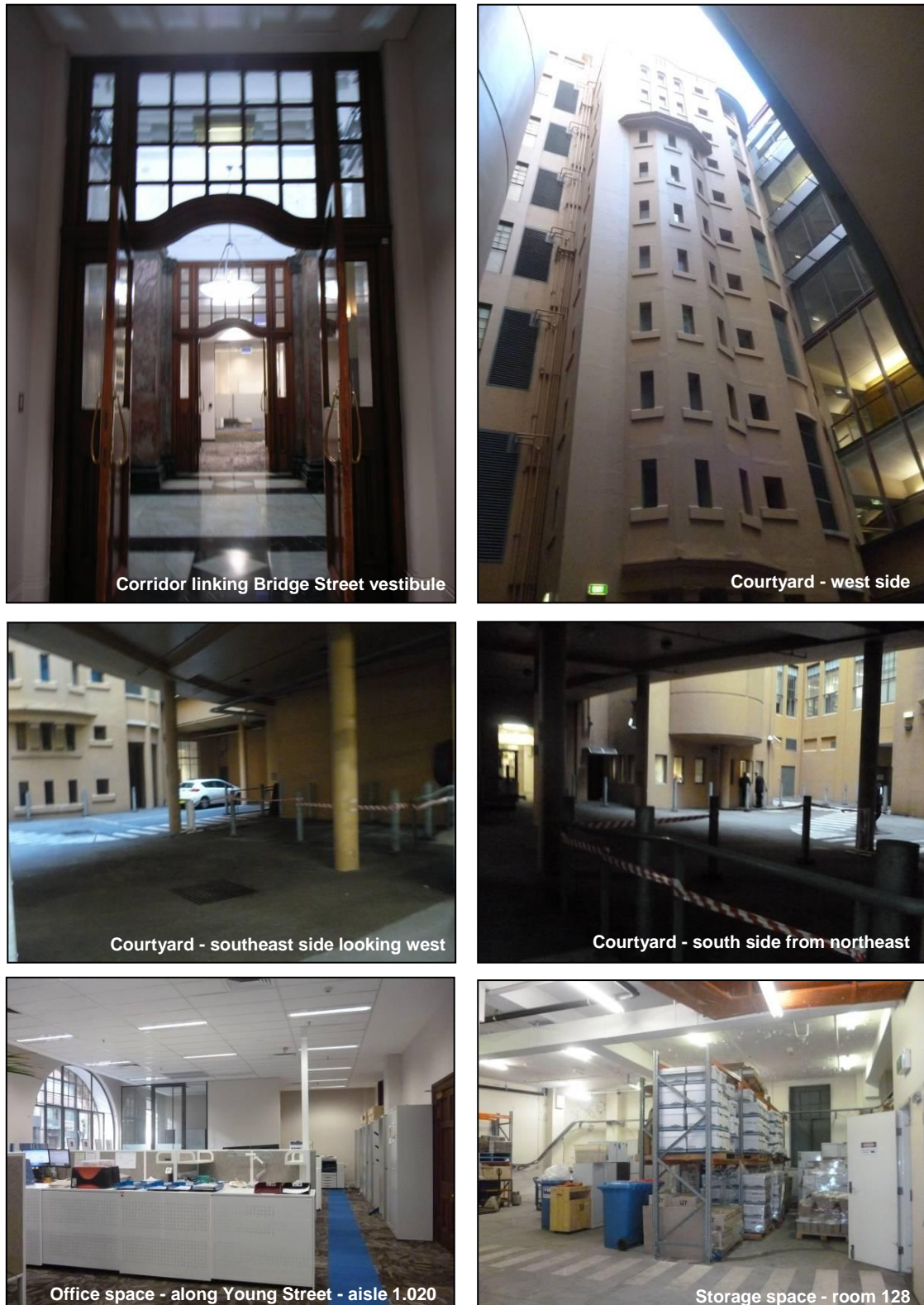


Figure 4.7: Internal views of the ground floor level showing internal corridor linking to Bridge Street vestibule, internal courtyard and light well showing western side, office space and storage space.