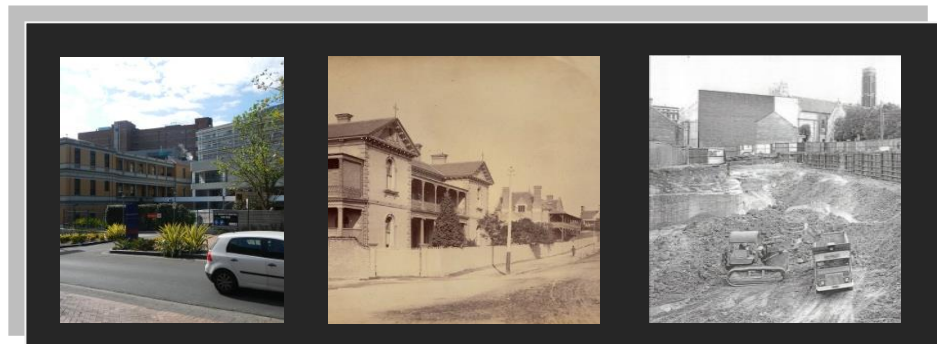


St Vincent's Private Hospital Redevelopment

Assessment of Aboriginal and Historical Archaeological Potential

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Executive summary

Artefact Heritage was commissioned by Urbis, on behalf of St Vincent's and Mater Health Sydney, to undertake an assessment of Aboriginal and historical archaeological potential for the St. Vincent's Private Hospital Redevelopment in Darlinghurst, Sydney. The information included in this report will form part of a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) being prepared by Urbis to guide the development of the site's Master Plan.

This assessment has found that the majority of the site has been subject to major sub-surface disturbance through the construction of hospital buildings during the 20th and 21st centuries, and that most of the site is either of low or no archaeological potential.

One small area of moderate historical archaeological potential has been identified in the Sacred Heart Hospice Garden. This area has undergone less disturbance than the other parts of the site and is known to have contained former structures during the 19th century. It is possible that some archaeological evidence for these former structures survives in this area. If so, the remains would be of historical significance for their ability to provide information related to the area's history and for their association with the Sisters of Charity. The material may be of moderate research potential.

The extensive construction activity that has occurred across the site suggests that the majority of the site has no potential for Aboriginal archaeology. However, the potential for Aboriginal archaeological deposit is closely linked to the historical archaeological potential of the site and it is possible that Aboriginal archaeological material survives in those areas of the site that have undergone less disturbance.

A number of recommended conservation policies have been put forward in this report, for incorporation into the CMP for the site.

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1.0 Introduction and background

1.1 Background

Artefact Heritage was commissioned by Urbis, on behalf of St. Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney (SVPHS) to undertake an assessment of Aboriginal and historical archaeological potential for the St. Vincent's Private Hospital Redevelopment in Darlinghurst, Sydney. The information included in this report will form part of a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) which will accompany a State Significant Development Application (SSDA).

1.2 The subject site

St. Vincent's Private Hospital is located off Victoria Street, Darlinghurst in the local government area of Sydney. For the purposes of this assessment, the subject site (Figure 1) includes only part of the campus, which is bounded by Boundary Street to the east and south, Burton Street to the north, Darlinghurst Road to the west, and Oxford Street to the south. This area is bisected by Victoria Street and Barcom Avenue.

1.3 Report authorship

Archaeologists Josh Symons and Adele Anderson prepared this report, with management input from Dr Sandra Wallace. The assistance of Deborah Lindsay of Urbis is acknowledged in supplying relevant plans and other information, while Anne Cooke of the St Vincent's Hospital Archives was very helpful in providing historical photographs, plans and other information.

...

Figure 1: The subject site (outlined in red)



2.0 Statutory context

2.1 Aboriginal heritage legislation

This study has been undertaken in the context of several items of legislation that relate to Aboriginal heritage and its protection in New South Wales.

2.1.1 National Parks and Wildlife Act (1974)

The *National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974* (NP&W Act), administered by the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) provides statutory protection for all Aboriginal 'objects' (consisting of any material evidence of the Aboriginal occupation of NSW) under Section 90 of the Act, and for 'Aboriginal Places' (areas of cultural significance to the Aboriginal community) under Section 84. Under SSD developments, the requirement for Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permits (AHIPs) under Section 90 of the Act has been waived under provisions of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

The protection provided to Aboriginal objects applies irrespective of the level of their significance or issues of land tenure. However, areas are only gazetted as Aboriginal Places if the Minister is satisfied that sufficient evidence exists to demonstrate that the location was and/or is, of special significance to Aboriginal culture.

As part of the administration of Part 6 of the Act OEH has developed regulatory guidelines on Aboriginal consultation, which are outlined in *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (2010). Guidelines have also been developed for the processes of due diligence - *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (2010) and for investigation of Aboriginal objects - *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (2010) in accordance with the 2010 amendment to the NP&W Act.

2.1.2 Aboriginal Land Rights Act (1983)

The *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (ALR Act) is administered by the NSW Department of Education and Communities - Aboriginal Affairs. The ALR Act established Aboriginal Land Councils (at State and Local levels). These bodies have a statutory obligation under the ALR Act to; (a) take action to protect the culture and heritage of Aboriginal persons in the council's



area, subject to any other law, and (b) promote awareness in the community of the culture and heritage of Aboriginal persons in the council's area.

2.1.3 Native Title Act (1994)

The *Native Title Act 1994* was introduced to work in conjunction with the Commonwealth Native Title Act. Native Title claims, registers and Indigenous Land Use Agreements are administered under the Act.

2.2 Historical cultural heritage legislation

There are several items of State legislation that form the basis for managing historical heritage in NSW. This section provides a summary of these items of legislation and associated statutory registers.

2.2.1 The Heritage Act 1977

The *NSW Heritage Act 1977* (the Heritage Act) is the primary item of State legislation affording protection to items of environmental heritage (natural and cultural) in NSW. Under the Heritage Act, 'items of environmental heritage' include places, buildings, works, relics, moveable objects and precincts identified as significant based on historical, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural or aesthetic values. State significant items are listed on the NSW State Heritage Register (SHR) and are given automatic protection under the Heritage Act against any activities that may damage an item or affect its heritage significance.

The Heritage Act also protects 'relics', which can include archaeological material, features and deposits. Section 4(1) of the Heritage Act (as amended 2009) defines 'relic' as follows:

"relic means any deposit, artefact, object or material evidence that:

(a) relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement, and

(b) is of State or local heritage significance."

Sections 139-145 of the Heritage Act prevent the excavation or disturbance of land known or likely to contain relics, unless in accordance with an excavation permit. Under the provisions of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act), excavation permits to disturb relics under Section 60 (for SHR sites) or Section 140 (for non-SHR sites) of the Heritage Act are not required for SSD projects.



The State Heritage Register

The SHR was established under Section 22 of the Heritage Act and is a list of places and objects of particular importance to the people of NSW, including archaeological sites. The SHR is administered by the Heritage Branch of the OEH and includes a diverse range of over 1500 items, in both private and public ownership. To be listed, an item must be deemed to be of heritage significance for the whole of NSW.

No archaeological sites within the subject site are listed on the SHR.

Section 170 Registers

The Heritage Act requires all government agencies to identify and manage heritage assets in their ownership and control. Under Section 170 of the Heritage Act, government instrumentalities must establish and keep a register which includes all items of environmental heritage of State or local significance that are owned, occupied or managed by that government body. All government agencies must also ensure that all items entered on its register are maintained with due diligence in accordance with State Owned Heritage Management Principles approved by the Minister on advice of the NSW Heritage Council. These principles serve to protect and conserve the heritage significance of identified sites, items and objects and are based on relevant NSW heritage legislation and statutory guidelines.

No archaeological sites within the subject site are listed on any s.170 Registers.

2.2.2 The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The EP&A Act establishes a framework for cultural heritage values to be formally assessed in the land use planning and development consent process. The EP&A Act requires that environmental impacts are considered prior to land development; this includes impacts on cultural heritage items and places as well as archaeological sites and deposits. The EP&A Act also requires that Local Governments prepare planning instruments (such as Local Environmental Plans [LEPs] and Development Control Plans [DCPs]) in accordance with the Act to provide guidance on the level of environmental assessment required. The current site falls within the boundaries of the Sydney LGA and is covered by the South Sydney LEP 1998 and the Sydney Heritage DCP 2006.

No archaeological sites within the subject site are listed on the South Sydney LEP 1998.



2.2.3 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (the EPBC Act) provides a legal framework to protect and manage nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places. These are defined in the EPBC Act 1999 as matters of national environmental significance. Under the EPBC Act 1999, nationally significant heritage items are protected through listing on the Commonwealth Heritage List or the National Heritage List.

No items located within or near the subject site are listed on the Commonwealth Heritage List or National Heritage List.

2.2.4 Non-statutory listings

Listing on non-statutory registers does not provide any legal protection to heritage items or sites, but does demonstrate the recognised heritage value of items.

Register of the National Trust

The Register of the National Trust was established in 1949 and is maintained by the National Trust of Australia.

No archaeological sites within the subject site are listed on the Register of the National Trust.

Register of the National Estate

The Register of the National Estate is a list of natural, Indigenous and historic heritage places throughout Australia. It was originally established under the Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975. Under that Act, the Australian Heritage Commission entered more than 13,000 places in the register. Following amendments to the Australian Heritage Council Act 2003, the Register of the National Estate (RNE) was frozen on 19 February 2007 and ceased to be a statutory register in February 2012. The RNE is now maintained on a non-statutory basis as a publicly available archive and educational resource.

No archaeological sites within the subject site are listed on the Register of the National Estate.

3.0 Historical overview

3.1 Aboriginal history

3.1.1 Environmental context

Geology and Soils

The subject site was located within the Sydney Basin, a large depositional geological feature that spanned from Batemans Bay to the south, Newcastle to the north and Lithgow to the west. The underlying geology of the site consisted predominantly of Hawkesbury Sandstone, which was comprised of medium to coarse-grained quartz sandstone, very minor shale and laminate lenses (Herbert 1983a). Hawkesbury sandstone was one of the most ubiquitous geological layers of the Sydney Basin and was used extensively by both Aboriginal and European people for a variety of shelter and subsistence requirements.

Evidence of Aboriginal use of Hawkesbury Sandstone in the Sydney area includes occupation deposits in natural shelter formations created by weathering processes in exposed sandstone, grinding grooves where edge-ground stone axes were manufactured or maintained, and rock engravings or pigment motifs that were applied to exposed sandstone. European colonisers primarily utilised Hawkesbury Sandstone for building material, and many buildings and bridges were constructed with sandstone before clay bricks became the predominant construction material.

The underlying geology of the slightly higher, southern portion of the site consisted of Ashfield Shale, which was composed of black to dark-grey shale and laminate (Herbert 1983a). Ashfield Shale frequently capped the broad ridges of Hawkesbury Sandstone west of the site and across northern Sydney (Herbert 1983b: 22). Soils associated with the typically gentler slopes of the Ashfield Shale formation tended to be residual soils developed *in situ*. The Blacktown soil landscape was located across the underlying Ashfield Shale in the southern portion of the site, a soil landscape that consisted of deep to moderately deep soils and generally low soil fertility (Chapman and Murphy 1989; Chapman *et al* 2009).

The moderately steeper terrain across the Hawkesbury Sandstone geology over the remainder of the site consisted of the Gynea soil landscape (Chapman *et al* 2009). The Gynea soil landscape tended to consist of sandy soils with high erosion hazard in cleared areas (Chapman



and Murphy 1989). The upper lens of Hawkesbury sandstone beneath the GyMEA soil landscape was likely to be weathered and fractured (Lawrie 1999: 70), resulting in 'floating' bedrock at the soil/bedrock transition.

Landform and Hydrology

The subject site was located across gentle to moderately steep slopes extending westward from Rushcutters Creek. The alignment of Oxford Street, which passed across the southern boundary of the site, approximately followed the east-west route of a large sandstone ridgeline that formed the watershed between drainage north into Port Jackson and drainage south into Botany Bay. The western portion of the site was located on the upper slope of a northern extension of that main ridgeline which is generally indicated by the northern alignment of Darlinghurst Road.

Rushcutters Creek extended from the headwaters across northern Surry Hills and Taylor Square, beneath Oxford Street and then generally followed the alignment of Boundary Street to the east of the site, running north into the harbour at Rushcutters Bay. A tributary that flowed north from the Paddington area joined Rushcutters Creek at a point to the east of the site. As the area became more urbanised, the waters of Rushcutters Creek became more polluted and its course was modified and confined to a drain (Marriott 1982: 218). The drain was then buried beneath Boundary Street and the residential subdivision on to the east of the site.

Prior to the modification of Rushcutters Creek, historical records indicate that it was a very reliable source of fresh water and featured waterholes and waterfalls. Descriptions of the drainage line suggested that it resembled a 'chain of ponds' in parts, with water flowing over sequences of small waterfalls into deep waterholes (Marriott 1982: 194). The flow of water through Rushcutters Creek formed an important water source for the early settlement at Sydney, with a dam constructed across the creek downstream of the subject site forming one of the colony's main water supplies until it became too polluted because of increasing residential subdivisions in the area (*Sydney Morning Herald* 6 February 1912:12).

An 1865 trigonometrical survey of the City of Sydney shows a large water feature located in the vicinity of the present-day Aikenhead and Xavier buildings on the St Vincent's Hospital campus. The nature of the water feature is not indicated, so it is not clear whether it was a natural feature or a dam (Figure 9).



Flora and Fauna

The environment of the Rushcutters Creek valley prior to European colonisation and the residential subdivision of the area in the second half of the 1800s, consisted of woodland flora species and a wide variety of fauna. A written record of the observations of Obed West, the son of the first land grantee on Rushcutters Creek, of the flora and fauna within the valley was documented by Marriott (1982: 193-194). Obed noted that the flora within the valley consisted of swamp mahogany (*Eucalyptus Robusta*), blackbutt (*E. Pilularis*), bloodwood (*E. gummifera*), red gum (*Angophora costata*), and cabbage-tree palm (*Livistona australis*) (Marriott 1982: 193-194).

Flora within the Rushcutters Creek valley was varied, due to the presence of a reliable watercourse flowing into the estuarine environment at the mouth of the creek at Rushcutters Bay before reaching the marine environment of Port Jackson. Obed noted that fauna within the valley included wallabies, bandicoots, possums, the occasional dingo, and plenty of large fish in Rushcutters Creek (Marriott 1982: 194). A rich variety of marine species, including shellfish, were located in Port Jackson.

3.1.2 Archaeological context

AHIMS search

No recorded Aboriginal sites listed on the OEH Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) sites register were located within the subject site.

The closest two recorded Aboriginal sites to the subject site were AHIMS site # 45-6-2651 and 45-6-2687. Both sites were located 800 m north/northwest of the subject site and consisted of recorded PADs. AHIMS site # 45-6-2651, located at 70 William Street, East Sydney, was the focus of an archaeological salvage excavation (Baker 2004).

A broad variety of site types is reflected in the results of the AHIMS sites register search (Table 1, Figure 2), which in turn demonstrates some of the varied Aboriginal subsistence and natural resource utilisation in the area. The majority of the AHIMS sites search area has been heavily developed since European colonisation in 1788. The data reflects both the nature of the surviving archaeological resource and the nature of differing archaeological investigations that have been conducted in the area.

Across the northern shore of Port Jackson, approximately 3.5 km north of the subject site, were a large variety of recorded Aboriginal sites, including shell midden sites, occupation deposit in



sandstone shelters, and engraved or pigment art. The sites have been recorded over a long period of time, including recordings by a nineteenth century surveyor (Campbell 1899), archaeological research projects, and amateur recordings.

Relatively few Aboriginal sites have been recorded across the southern shore of Port Jackson, which does not necessarily reflect a differing use of the environment by Aboriginal people, but more so the much lower rate of survival within the archaeological record due to dense residential and commercial development. The most frequently recorded site types on the southern side of Port Jackson, artefact and PAD sites, are also a reflection of the highly developed nature of that area.

The majority of the artefact and PAD sites in the vicinity of the subject site have been recorded during relatively recent archaeological investigations where Aboriginal archaeological deposit has been identified beneath existing buildings. This includes AHIMS site # 45-6-2651, which consisted of an intact Aboriginal archaeological deposit identified following the removal of a multi-storey office building. These sites demonstrate the potential for Aboriginal archaeological deposits to occur on properties that may in some instances have been subject to several phases of building construction since European settlement in Sydney.

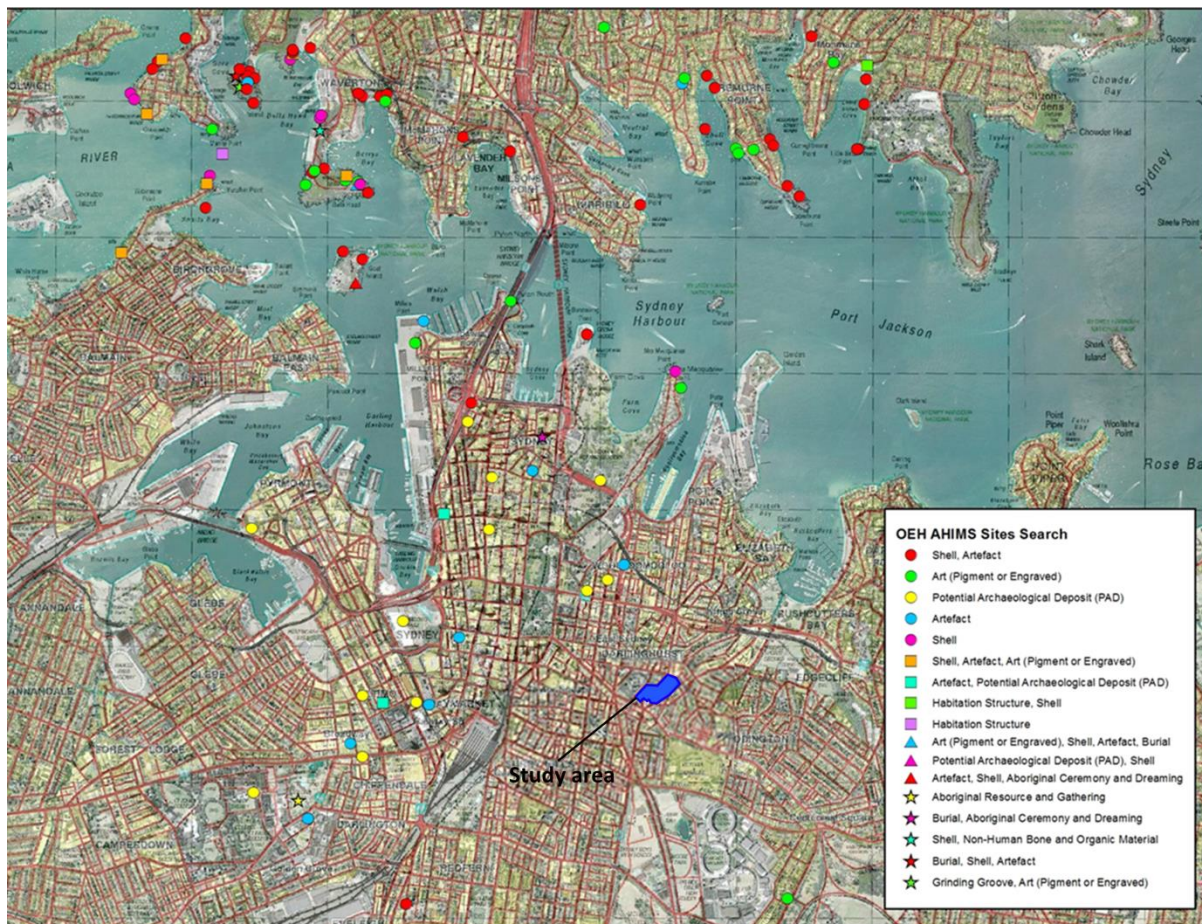
Table 1: Frequency of site types from AHIMS data.

Site Type	Frequency	Percentage
Shell, Artefact	43	40.2
Art – Pigment or Engraved	16	15
Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD)	12	11.2
Artefact	10	9.3
Shell	8	7.5
Shell, Artefact, Art – Pigment or Engraved	6	5.6
Artefact, PAD	2	1.9
Habitation Structure, Shell	1	0.9
Habitation Structure	1	0.9
Art – Pigment or Engraved, Shell, Artefact, Burial	1	0.9
PAD, Shell	1	0.9

• • •

Site Type	Frequency	Percentage
Artefact, Shell, Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming	1	0.9
Aboriginal Resource and Gathering	1	0.9
Burial, Aboriginal Resource and Dreaming	1	0.9
Shell, Non-Human Bone and Organic Material	1	0.9
Burial, Shell, Artefact	1	0.9
Grinding Groove, Art – Pigment or Engraved	1	0.9

Figure 2: AHIMS registered sites. Subject site shaded blue.



3.1.3 Aboriginal occupation and European contact

Prior to the appropriation of their land by Europeans, Aboriginal people lived in small family or clan groups that were associated with particular territories or places. It seems that territorial boundaries were fairly fluid, although details are not known. The language group spoken across



Sydney was known as Darug (Dharruk – alternate spelling). This term was used for the first time in 1900 (Matthews and Everitt 1900), as before the 1800s language groups or dialects were not discussed in the literature (Attenbrow 2010: 31). The Darug language group is thought to have extended south from Port Jackson, north from Botany Bay, and west from Parramatta (Attenbrow 2010: 34).

The name Gadigal and its alternate spellings (Cadigal, Cadi) was used in the earliest historical records of the European settlement in Sydney to describe the Aboriginal band or clan that lived on the southern shore of Port Jackson, from South Head west to the Darling Harbour area (Attenbrow 2010: 22). The term Eora is also used as a name for the Aboriginal people south of Port Jackson. Attenbrow (2010: 35-36) notes that the term Eora was likely a word used by the Gadigal to refer to an Aboriginal person, rather than a reference to a clan or band in particular. However, the term Eora became a widespread term for the Aboriginal people on the southern shore of Port Jackson and is currently used by Gadigal people to refer to the central Sydney area – referred to as 'Eora Country' (City of Sydney 2002).

The European colonisation of Australia began with the establishment of a colony at Sydney Cove by Captain Arthur Phillip in January 1788 on land inhabited by the Gadigal people. Many of the early interactions between the British and the Gadigal were amicable. Watkin Tench, Captain of the Marines with the First Fleet, documented his first meeting with the Gadigal people, when he and a landing party visited the south shore of Port Jackson. Tench noted that they were greeted by a dozen Aboriginal people, with the landing party and the Aboriginal people cautiously approaching each other before observing one another and exchanging items (Tench 1789: 54-58). Tench noted that the Aboriginal people in the surrounding area made regular visits to the settlers at Sydney Cove in the first few days after their landing, but their visits very quickly dropped in frequency (Tench 1789: 63-64).

As the colony at Sydney Cove expanded, the land inhabited by the Gadigal people was quickly divided into land grants by the Governor of NSW. The degree of vegetation clearance and development on each land grant remained largely tied to pastoral and other agricultural activities practiced on each grant, as well as growing population pressure from the colony. In the pockets of remnant vegetation or areas not yet built upon, the Gadigal people continued to gather, practice their traditional activities, and live side-by-side with the colonists. Early documentation at Woolloomooloo, located approximately 1 km north of the subject site, suggest that in the early 1800s that area remained a place frequently used by the local Aboriginal people for corroborees and other activities (Attenbrow 2010: 138).



The subject site became an important part of the story of interaction and co-existence between the local Aboriginal people and the growing settlement of Sydney. It was situated adjacent to Rushcutters Creek, the headwaters of which were located across the northern portion of Surry Hills and Taylor Square. The site covered the gentle to moderate slopes on the western side of Rushcutters Creek, with the top of the watercourse located to the east of the site and the western portion of the site no more than 150 m away from fresh water. This water source was important to the early colony of Sydney, and due to its seemingly reliable nature, was also likely to have been very important to the Gadigal people.

Despite the increase in subdivision and development in the area during the 19th century, the site continued to be inhabited by the local Aboriginal people and was renowned by the residents of the surrounding residential subdivisions for its remnant bushland. The bushland on Barcom Glen became known as 'West's Bush' (Marriott 1982: 194). Obed West maintained close contact with the local Aboriginal people of the area, having lived on the property since he was a young child. When the West family first settled at Barcom Glen, the local Aboriginal people were the only other inhabitants of the area (Marriott 1982: 140).

'The Womerah tribe of Aborigines habitually camped on the western side of the glen of Barcom Glen, which later became known to white men as West's Bush. Their customs were recognized (sic) and Obed, on his part, found that he had much to learn from them. He learned the edible fruits of the bush, the different methods of fishing, and how to climb a tree to catch a possum' (Marriott 1982: 194).

The local Gadigal people of the area have sometimes been referred to as the 'Womerah tribe' (Marriott 1982:140), however, although many early writers referred to Aboriginal groups as 'tribes', 'these groups were not tribes in the current anthropological sense of the word' (Attenbrow 2010:22). Hence, the name Womerah may have referred to the local family group of the Gadigal people, or a local descent group of the Gadigal people associated with the Darlinghurst / Rushcutters Bay area. A street named Womerah Avenue, approximately 120 m north of the subject site, was probably named in reference to the name 'Womerah' for the original Aboriginal inhabitants of the area.

An account of Aboriginal activities in the latter half of the 1800s at Point Piper, immediately north-east of Barcom Glen, was published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* in 1930 (15 February 1930:13). The article included information on Aboriginal fishing practices, which included providing fish and oysters to Woollahra House:



'The aboriginals were amazingly expert spear-men. Standing on rocks above the water, and with spear poised to strike, they seldom failed in the unerring aim.... It was about ten feet long, and had threee (sic) prongs made of umbrella wires, barbed at the points, and tightly bound to the end of the spear. Many of the rock carvings on Point Piper that have often been the subject of Press correspondence were the work of aboriginals 60 years ago'.

The use of umbrella wires is an example of the incorporation of European materials into tool manufacturing traditions, which occurred across Australia, often evidenced by the re-use of glass or ceramic as tools by Aboriginal people.

West's Bush

The term West's Bush, or variations on that name (Westbush; Granny West's Bush), appears in several personal or historical accounts of the Darlinghurst area published in various newspapers in the early 20th century. The exact extent of the area called West's Bush varies between each account, but it can generally be surmised that the remaining undeveloped portions of Barcom Glen on the western side of Rushcutters Creek, including portions of the subject site, were in the mid to late 19th century referred to as West's Bush. The presence of one of the last large land grants in the area, with its remnant vegetation and cleared spaces, must have provided quite a contrast to the surrounding dense residential subdivisions of Darlinghurst, Surry Hills and Paddington.

Aboriginal people continued to inhabit the area called West's Bush in Barcom Glen until the area became heavily developed and subdivided in the second half of the 1800s. A number of the published accounts of West's Bush detail observations of the Aboriginal people that continued to frequent or live at West's Bush. The information contained in the published accounts of West's Bush provides important insights into the continued use of the area by Aboriginal people, but as they were published at a time when some people's attitudes toward Aboriginal people were vastly different to contemporary values, some of the language used in the following quotes would today be viewed as unacceptable.

A report in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 6 February 1912 on the demolition of Barcom Glen House refers to Aboriginal people gathering at West's Bush:



'It is also interesting to recall the fact that the high, thickly-wooded ground on the western boundary of the estate, known as Westbush, was a favourite camping place of the blacks. Many and wild were the corroborees the aborigines held there'.

The article notes that the area became a distribution point for blankets to the local Aboriginal people, an annual activity across the colony of New South Wales started by Governor Macquarie in 1814 (SMH 6 February 1912:12):

'It was also a much patronised camping ground when the annual distribution of blankets took place at Christmas time. So popular was it, indeed, with the blacks that the residents were at last forced to seek police assistance to have them removed'.

Mention is also made of Aboriginal people from 'all over' gathering at West's Bush during a visit by the Duke of Edinburgh. The Duke of Edinburgh visited Australia between late 1866 and early 1867.

An article in the *Clarence and Richmond Examiner*, dated Saturday 22 February 1913 (page 7), includes a letter documenting the memories of the Darlinghurst area by the author's mother:

'Now that I am on the subject of old Sydney, you may be interested to learn that the thickly populated portion of Darlinghurst extending from Womerah Avenue to Surry-street was, little more than thirty years ago, known as Granny West's Bush. Just on the site occupied by Womerah Avenue was a well-known camping ground of blacks. There amongst the tall trees and luxuriant scrub, mum says, it was a common sight to see the aboriginals squatting by their camp fires, or at night to hear the welkin ring with their corroborees'.

An article by W. H. West in the *Sydney Morning Herald* (15 February 1930:15) makes reference to an Aboriginal camp in West's Bush, as well as another Aboriginal gathering place in Edgecliff:

'Sixty years ago the city did not extend beyond the top of William-street, and an aboriginal camp was pitched in West's Bush, which began at the intersection of Brougham-street and Victoria-road.... The aboriginals had two distinct camps in Bellevue Hill bush – one on the side overlooking Edgecliff and Double Bay tennis courts, and the other at the intersection of South Head-road and Victoria-street'.



Contemporary historical references to Aboriginal people at West's Bush include Whitaker (2007: 43), who noted that the current location of St Vincent's Hospital covered much of the area known as West's Bush where Aboriginal people would gather each Queen's Birthday for the annual blanket handout. The City of Sydney website includes historical information Barcom Avenue Reserve, the triangle of land between West Street, Boundary Street and Little Barcom Avenue immediately east of the St Vincent's Private Hospital. The information includes a reference to Barcom Avenue Reserve being part of West's Bush where Aboriginal people 'continued to gather here for decades and on Queen Victoria's birthday each year were presented with a gift of blankets'

(<http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/aboutsydney/historyandarchives/SydneyHistory/ParksHistory/BarcomAveReserve.asp>).

Aboriginal place names

The Aboriginal history of the area is reflected by some of the place names in the vicinity of Barcom Glen, including the name Woolloomooloo and Womerah. Attenbrow (2010: 138, Table 2.1) notes early European records that indicate Woolloomooloo, located approximately 1 km north of the subject site, was a local place name of the Gadigal people. Marriott (1982: 195) indicates that Obed West believed the place name was more accurately spoken by the local Aboriginal people as 'Wullah Mullah' rather than Woolloomooloo. Womerah, suggested by Obed as the name of the local Gadigal people (Marriott 1982: 194) remains a street name immediately north of the site. Other local place names, such as 'Kogarah/Kogerah/Kogerrah' – the Aboriginal place name for Rushcutters Bay (Attenbrow 2010: Table 2.1; Marriott 1982: 194), have largely been replaced by European place names.

3.2 European history

3.2.1 Early development within the subject site

Development in the Darlinghurst area began slowly because its rocky ridges and shallow soils were not suitable for agriculture and other more arable land was favoured during the early years of European settlement. The area was located at some distance from the centre of settlement, making it a suitable location for Darlinghurst Gaol, which was constructed between 1822 and 1841. The gaol and associated courthouse still stand and are located opposite the subject site, to the west of Darlinghurst Road.



From c. 1810, the site was part of the area of land that was in the possession of Thomas West, who had arrived in the colony as a convict. In 1810, West applied to Governor Macquarie for permission to build a watermill on a site about 1.5 miles from the town of Sydney, near the South Head Road. Macquarie granted permission for the construction of the mill on the site and gave West an exclusive right to the stream to be used to power the mill, with a further promise that West would receive a lease or grant of the land once the mill was completed.

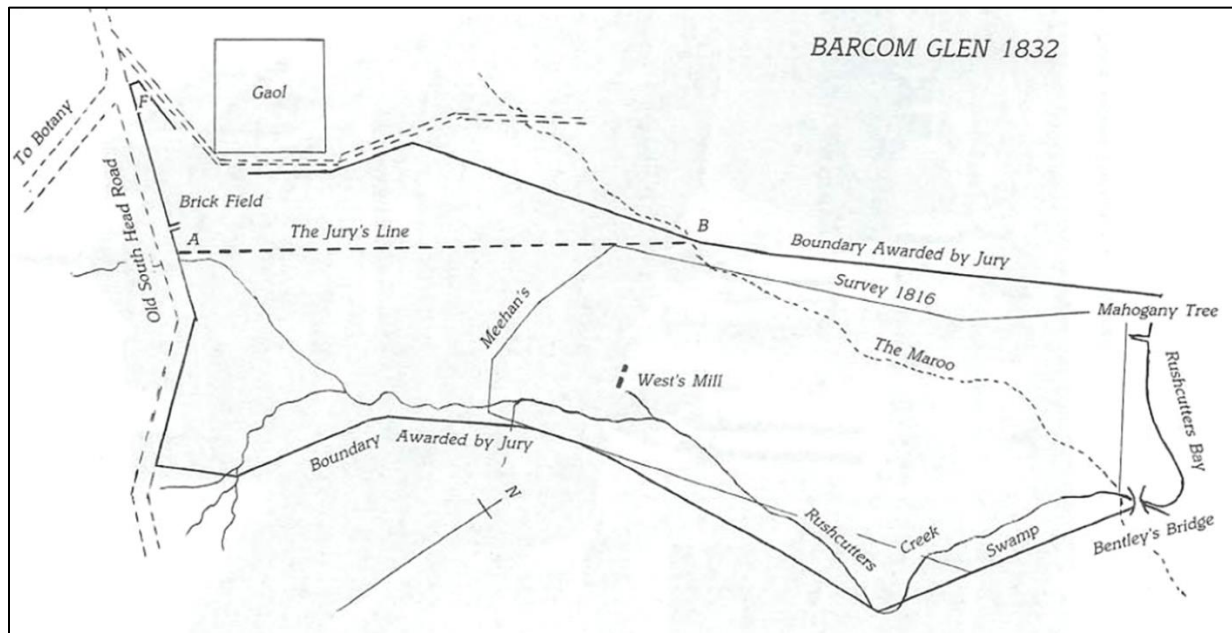
Governor Macquarie took an active interest in the construction of the mill, which was the first watermill in the colony and was completed in January 1812 (*The Sydney Gazette and NSW Advertiser* 18 Jan 1812:4; *The Sydney Morning Herald* 22 Oct 1832:2). In 1813, Macquarie granted a pardon to West as a reward for the construction of the mill, and gave him a cow from the government herd (*The Sydney Gazette and NSW Advertiser* 25 Dec 1813:1). Although no formal land grant was made, West continued to occupy the land and built a house and fences upon it, as well as a number of quarries. This property, known as Barcom Glen, covered around 71 acres and was crossed by Rushcutters Creek.

The geology of the area meant that it was rich in raw materials that were urgently needed for the development of the fledgling colony. During 1830, Thomas West made a number of complaints about the Department of Public Works taking stone from his quarries and puddling clay to make bricks on his land (Marriott 1982:142). A plan of the area dating to 1831 (Figure 4) shows that a brick kiln and three huts had been built to the south-east of the gaol, in western portion of the subject site. In 1832, a brickmaker who had formerly lived near the intersection of South Head Road (now Oxford Street) and Darlinghurst Road explained that he had permission from Governor Macquarie to make bricks on this land and that he had occupied it for 18 or 20 months (c. 1821), without interference from Thomas West. Sometime after Macquarie left the colony in 1821, the brickmaker was turned off the land by Major Ovens, who was then responsible for the supervision of convict gangs and who wanted to use the land to make bricks for the government (*The Sydney Gazette and NSW Advertiser* 20 Oct 1832:3). It is therefore likely that the brick kiln and huts that were present on the site in 1831 were used by convicts in the manufacture of bricks for government projects.

Three quarries are also shown on the 1831 plan, to the east and north-east of the gaol. One of these appears to have been located beneath the present day Xavier and Aikenhead buildings on the St Vincent's Campus, south of the Barcom Avenue/Ice Street intersection, while another was located to the east of the subject site between Ice Street, Leichhardt Street, Barcom Avenue and Boundary Street.

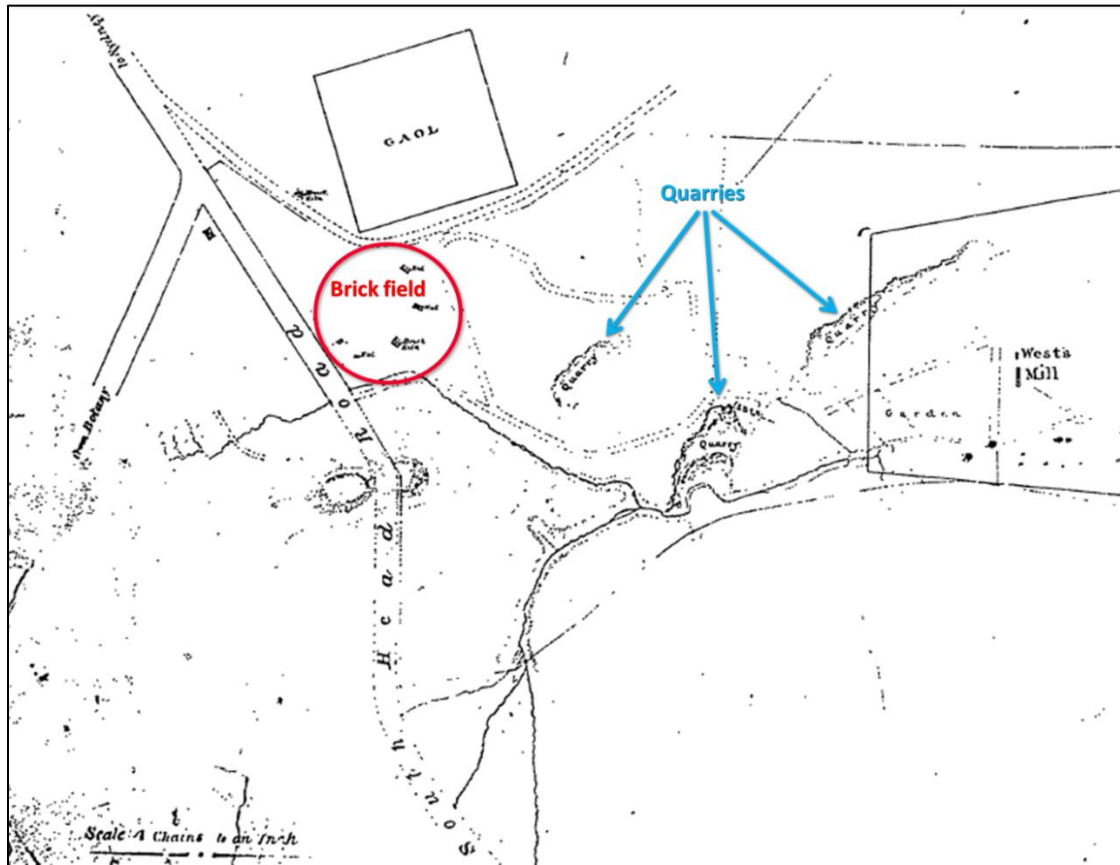
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Figure 3: Plan showing the extent of West's land (bold line), as determined by the jury in 1832 (Marriott 1982: PI 32).



In January 1831, West blocked access to one of his quarries near Darlinghurst Gaol, from which the Department of Public Works had been taking stone to build the Commissariat Stores at Circular Quay. This action led to the Crown taking West to court to recover 30-40 acres of land that it claimed he had no right of possession to. The minutes of the court case reveal a considerable degree of confusion over the extent of West's property, however, it was eventually found that the property did include the subject site on its western side, extending to beyond Rushcutters Creek on the east and to Rushcutters Bay in the north (Figure 3). Eventually, a notice of a grant of 71 acres to Thomas West was published in the NSW Government Gazette in 1844 (NSW Government 1844).

Figure 4: 1831 plan showing development on West's land (J.T. Larmer *Plan of Land to the South-East of the Town of Sydney 1831* in CRM 2002:6).



The original home occupied by West and his family seems to have been located close to the mill, along with a large garden. In 1832, a stonecutter was assigned to West for work at Barcom Glen, and in the following year two more labourers and a carter were contracted. While it is not known what these labourers were working on, it is possible that they were employed for the construction of a new house on the property (Marriott 1982:152).

In 1836, West sold more than half of the property to his son Obed. This portion of the property was roughly the area that had been surveyed by Meehan in 1816 (Figure 3) and included the site of the original mill and house (Marriott 1982:159). Obed West lived on the property in 'Barcom Glen House' (Figures 5 and 6) until his death in 1891 (*Australian Town and Country Journal* 5 Sep 1891:19). This house overlooked Rushcutters Bay and was demolished in 1912. Prior to its demolition it was described as a "square-built house...Constructed of stone quarried from the estate..." (*Sydney Morning Herald* 6 Feb 1912:12).

In the 1840s, Thomas West drew up a plan for the subdivision of his portion of Barcom Glen. He reserved for himself an area of around 2.5 acres at the south-west corner of the estate, within

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the present-day St Vincent's Campus. This area was located in the eastern portion of the site and was bounded by Great Barcom Street (now Barcom Avenue) and the former Little Barcom Street, from Oxford Street to as far as Ice Street. Here he built a stone house (Figure 7), which appears to have been located at the northern end of Little Barcom Street, accessed from Great Barcom Street (Marriott 1982:159). This house and two other structures built of brick or stone are present on a plan of the area dating to 1845 (Figure 8).

Figure 5: 'Barcom Glen House' from the rear (Marriott 1982: Pl. 31).

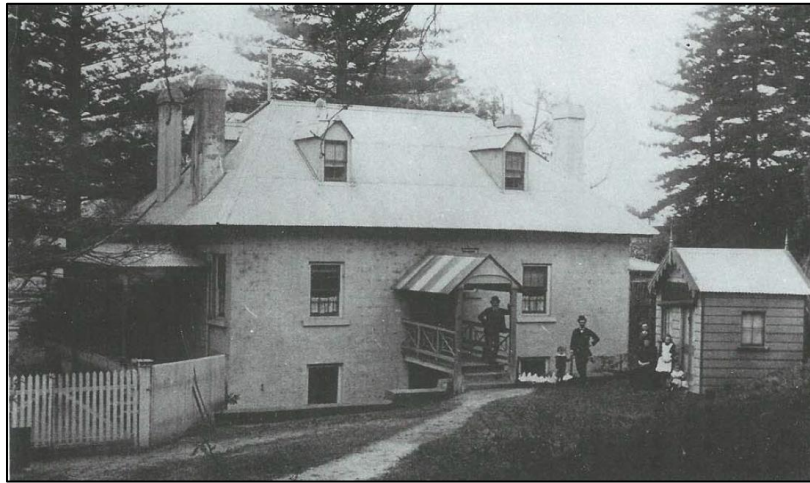
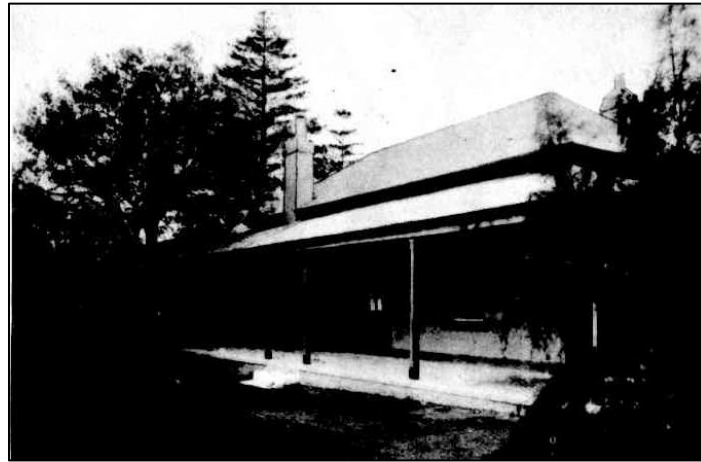


Figure 6: 'Barcom Glen House' from the front (Marriott 1982: Pl. 44).





Figure 7: House built by Thomas West in south-west corner of Barcom Glen (later Hospice for the Dying) (*Australian Town and Country Journal* 9 Oct 1897:27).



From 1850, Thomas West disposed of most of his property by giving or selling it to various members of his family, including his daughter Naomi Dobson, her children, and J. B. Holdsworth, who had married one of West's grand-daughters. Naomi Dobson lived in the house at the end of Little Barcom Street with her mother, Mary, and Thomas gave her reversionary title to the house, its contents, and the 2.5 acres of land, following the life use of it by Mary. Mary died in 1865, and Naomi continued to live in the house until her death in 1882 (Marriott 1982:178-9). In 1890, the Sisters of Charity purchased the land that had been occupied by Naomi Dobson and converted the house built by Thomas West into a Hospice for the Dying.

From the mid-19th century, the land within the eastern portion of the site (not including the area then owned by the Sisters of Charity or the property occupied by Naomi Dobson) began to be subdivided and developed. Additional buildings of wood, stone, brick and iron had also been constructed in the eastern portion of the site by this time. Four brick terraces and associated structures had been built fronting Victoria Street, as well as a larger brick building that was labelled as a 'Parsonage' on a later plan from 1887 (Figure 10). The parsonage (or presbytery) was built c. 1861 and was the residence of Archbishop Polding until his death in 1877. This building was not demolished until the 1970s (AHMS 2006:15-16).

In 1866, three quarters of an acre of land between Barcom Avenue and "a lane parallel with Victoria-street" (which was known as Little Barcom Street by 1887) was advertised for sale as a desirable building site for the construction of "genteel cottages" (*Sydney Morning Herald* 22 Oct 1866:7). By 1887, much of the area in the eastern portion of the site, to the south of St Vincent's Hospital, was built up with terrace housing (Figures 10 and 11).



By the mid-1880s, most of the land in Darlinghurst to the south of William Street had been completely developed with terrace housing. Much of this housing was occupied by workers who were employed around Woolloomooloo Bay, and their families (Dunn 2012).

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Figure 8: Detail from 1845 plan showing structures within the subject site (overlaid on current aerial photograph to right) (City of Sydney Archives – Francis W. Sheilds Plan of Sydney 1845)

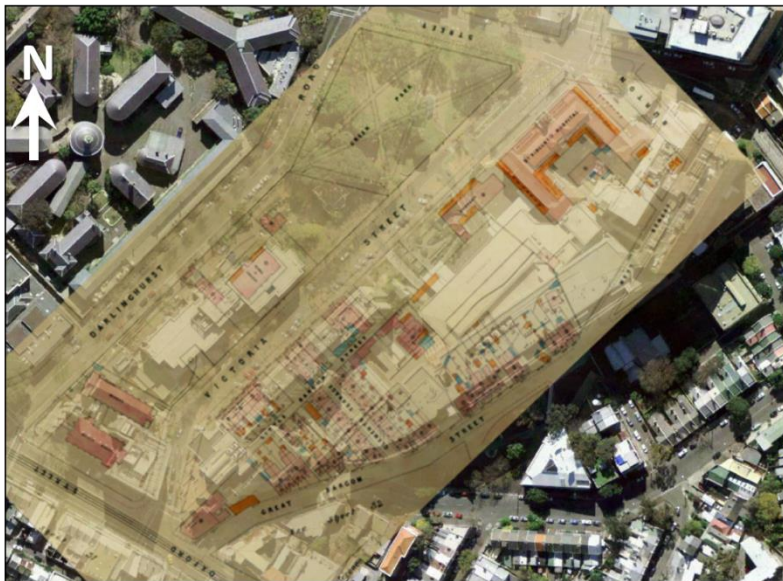
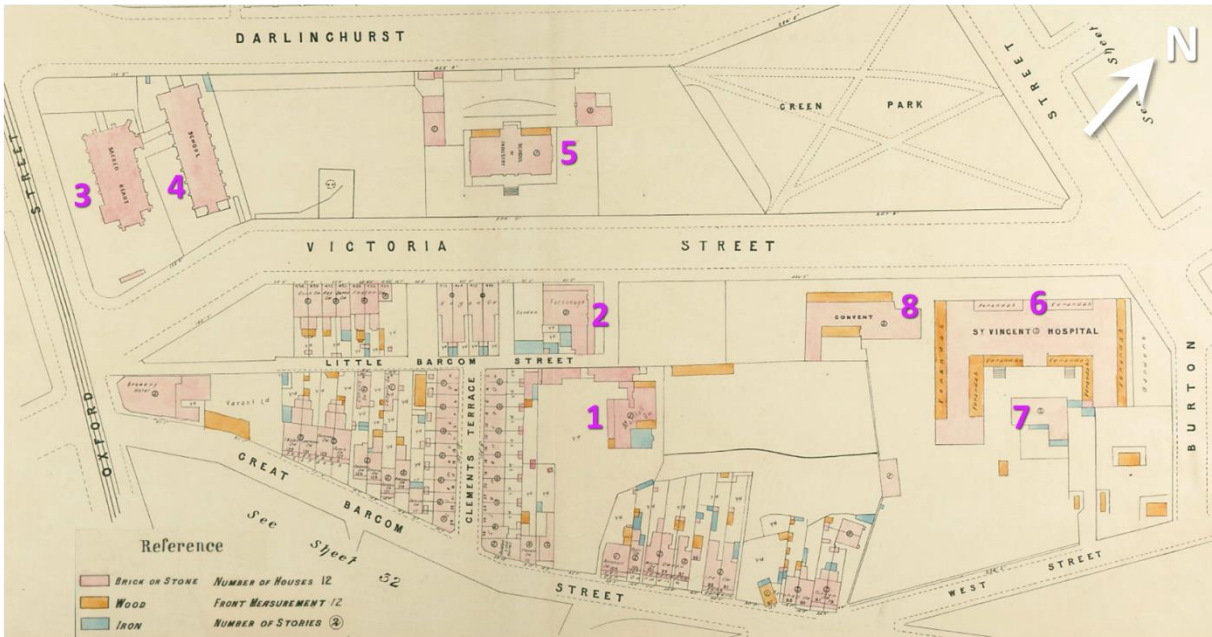


Figure 9: Detail from 1865 plan showing structures within the subject site (overlaid on current aerial photograph to right) (City of Sydney Archives – Trigonometrical Survey of Sydney 1855-1865).



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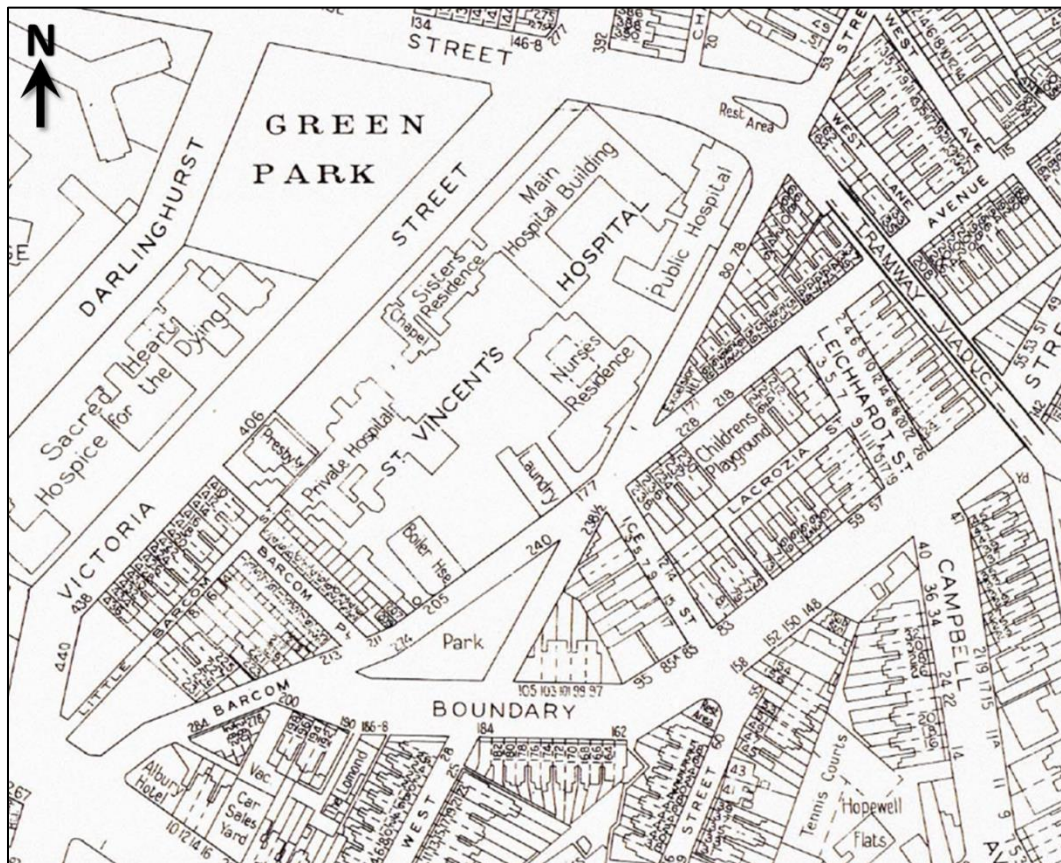
Figure 10: 1887 plan of part of the site (overlaid on current aerial photograph below) (City of Sydney Archives – Rygate and West's Plans of Sydney 1887, Sheet 24).



1. House built by Thomas West (later Hospice for the Dying)
2. Presbytery/parsonage
3. Sacred Heart Church
4. Sacred Heart School
5. Female School of Industry
6. De Lacy Building
7. Auxiliary hospital building containing kitchen, staff dining room and laundry
8. Sisters of Charity Convent



Figure 11: 1956 plan showing terrace housing throughout the central and eastern portions of the site (City of Sydney Archives - City Building Surveyors' Detail Sheets, Paddington).



3.2.2 The development of institutions

Sacred Heart Church and School

In 1850, the original Sacred Heart Church was constructed on a small parcel of land immediately south of the western portion of the site. The church was the first built in the eastern suburbs and was constructed of stone with a chancel, sacristy, bell tower and crypt. The crypt was initially used as a school by the Sisters of Charity, who founded St Vincent's Hospital. The priests who administered Sacred Heart lived in the presbytery on the other side of Victoria Road from 1861 (AHMS 2006:15-16). This was the first of several religious institutions to be established in the area.

In 1873, an additional parcel of land was obtained to the north of the church for the establishment of a school. The school opened at the end of 1880 and was a two-storey building, with girls taught on the upper level (accessed from Darlinghurst Road) and boys taught on the lower level (accessed from Victoria Street). By 1883, the Sisters of Charity and the Marist Brothers

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shared the teaching responsibilities (AHMS 2006:16). Figure 12 shows the location of the church and school in 1887.

In 1911, a larger church was built on the site to accommodate an expanded congregation. The new structure incorporated the foundations and some walls of the original church (AHMS 2006:16-17).

The second church and original school building still stand on the site.

Figure 12: 1887 plan showing Sacred Heart Church and school (City of Sydney Archives – Rygate and West's Plans of Sydney, Sheet 24).



The Female School of Industry

A plan of the subject site dating to 1887 (Figure 13) shows a three-storey brick building labelled "School of Industry" and associated structures located within the western portion of the site, north of the Sacred Heart Church and school. This building housed the Female School of Industry, which was originally established at a site on Macquarie Street in 1826 to cater for neglected girls in Sydney. The school was a private institution funded by subscribers and controlled by a voluntary committee comprised of ladies of high social rank. This committee was led by Eliza Darling, the wife of Governor Darling. The school was intended to produce a well-trained and obedient class of domestic servants to work in the homes of the elite (Ramsland 1986:20-21).



Most of the girls were admitted to the school free of charge as they were orphaned or came from impoverished backgrounds. The school was a custodial institution, with girls taken from the control of their relations and not allowed to leave the institution until they were apprenticed at age 14. The school provided education in reading, writing and basic arithmetic, with the educational focus placed on domestic training in every branch of household work (Ramsland 1986:50-51).

In 1870, the school was moved from its Macquarie Street site to a new two-storey building (Figure 14) provided by the Government on vacant Crown Land between Victoria Street and Darlinghurst Road. The ground floor included a large dining room, a kitchen, a scullery and washroom, a school-room, a laundry, a bathroom and lavatory, a committee room and the Matron's apartments. Dormitories for the girls and residential staff occupied the upper floor (Ramsland 1986:104).

Figure 13: Detail from 1887 plan with Female School of Industry circled (City of Sydney Archives – Rygate and West's Plans of Sydney, Sheet 24).

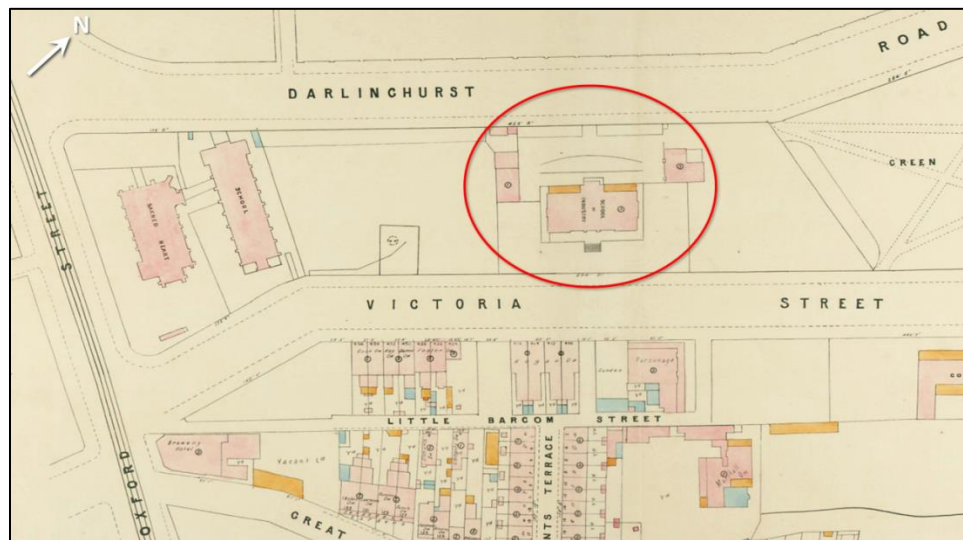




Figure 14: The Female School of Industry from Victoria Street n.d. (State Records NSW – image number 4481_a026_000245).



St Vincent's Hospital

St Vincent's Hospital was established in 1857 by the Sisters of Charity. The Sisters of Charity order was founded in Dublin in 1815, and in 1838 five sisters were sent to establish a mission in Australia. Initially, the sisters lived at St Mary's Convent in Parramatta, before a second convent was formed in a rented terrace opposite Hyde Park in 1840. By 1848, this convent had moved to the corner of William and Victoria streets, in Darlinghurst (GML 2010:9).

In 1853, three of the sisters died during an influenza epidemic, prompting plans and fundraising for a hospital. Two years later, a narrow strip of land adjoining the Barcom Glen estate was granted to the Trustees of the Sisters of Charity as the site for a free hospital and a residence for the Sisters (Whitaker 2007:191). However, instead of occupying this site immediately, the Sisters purchased the existing house 'Tarmons', at Potts Point, and renamed it 'St Vincent's'. St Vincent's was the first non-government hospital in New South Wales. The first outpatient was treated there in August 1857, with the women's ward opened in November and the men's ward in April of the following year (Whitaker 2007:2).

Mother Baptist De Lacy, who was one of the first five Sisters to travel from Ireland, was the first Rectress of the hospital. The objective of the hospital was to provide free medical attention to the poor, as described in its first annual report:

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"The sick poor are the only persons who can be admitted to this charity; during the stay of the patients they are, without any expense to themselves, fed, clothed, washed; in fact, they are entirely provided for in every respect, are under the professional care of the surgeon and are nursed by the sisters." (St Vincent's Hospital Annual Report 1857, quoted in Whitaker 2007:3)

The hospital at 'Tarmons' was in high demand and within a few years room for expansion was needed. In 1864, the Sisters purchased land adjoining the grant that had been made to them in 1855 and began planning a purpose-built, 150-bed hospital to be located on the corner of Victoria Street and Burton Street. This building is still standing and is known as the De Lacy Building (Figure 15).

The building was designed by architect Oswald H. Lewis, son of Colonial Architect Mortimer Lewis, and consisted of two storeys with large wards and good ventilation. The foundation stone was laid on 12 May 1868 by Archbishop Polding and the hospital was opened on 20 October 1870. Initially, the hospital had two main wards (one for men and one for women), with 40 beds in each (GML 2010:11). In 1875, a Naval Ward, which admitted members of the Royal Navy for a fee, was opened. Later this service was also provided to members of the French and German navies and, along with continuing donations and bequests, provided a steady income for the Sisters.

In 1884, work began on a south wing addition to the hospital. This wing had been part of the original design for the building, but was not completed until 1888. The wing provided space for an additional 175 beds. In 1892, the north wing of the building was extended, increasing the number of beds to 204 (GML 2010:12).

The kitchen, a dining room for the nurses and a laundry were accommodated in a two-storey brick structure located to the rear of the hospital building (GML 2010:32). This auxiliary building is shown on plans dating to 1884 and 1887, and in photographs from 1897. Other small outbuildings were located further to the east (Figures 15,16 and 17).

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Figure 15: 1870s photograph of the De Lacy Building, from the intersection of Victoria and Burton streets (NSW State Library a089173).



Figure 16: Detail from 1887 plan showing the De Lacy Building with auxiliary rear building circled (City of Sydney Archives – Rygate and West's Plans of Sydney, Sheet 24).

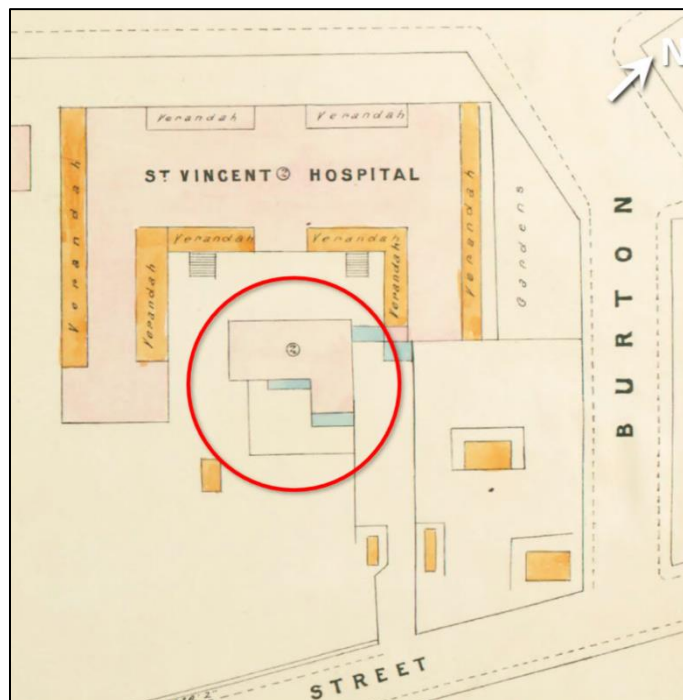
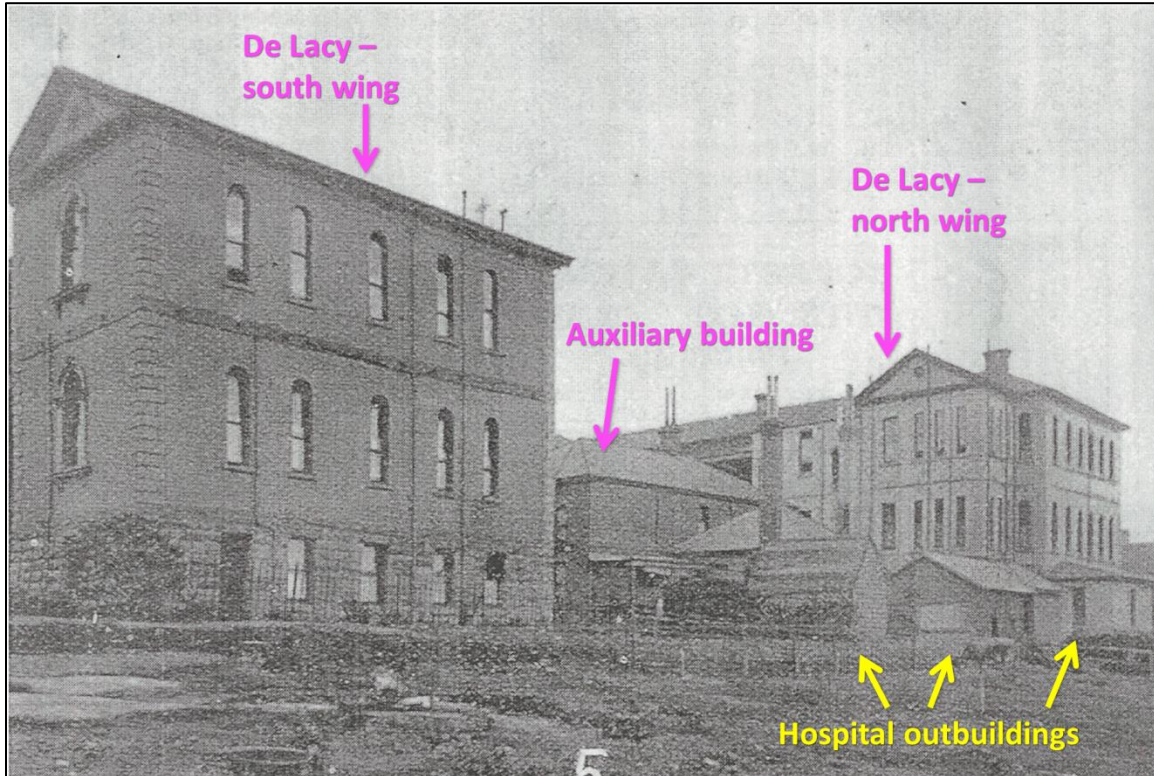


Figure 17: 1897 - the De Lacy Building and ancillary structures from the rear (St Vincent's Hospital Archives).



Convent and chapel (east of Victoria Street)

In 1882, a new convent was constructed fronting Victoria Street and the Sisters moved into it, freeing up space for 30 additional beds in the hospital (GML 2010:12). This convent was a two-storey building, constructed of brick, and was located to the south of the hospital (Figures 20 and 21). An 1884 plan (Figure 18) shows that the convent was linked to the hospital by a path, but the addition of the south wing of the De Lacy Building brought the hospital much closer to the convent (Figure 19).

In 1897, a chapel was built adjoining the convent to the south, with seating for 125 worshippers (Figure 22) (Whitaker 2007:26).

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Figure 18: Detail from 1884 Metropolitan Detail Series Plan (Sydney M1) showing the original relationship between the De Lacy Building and the convent (GML 2010:19).

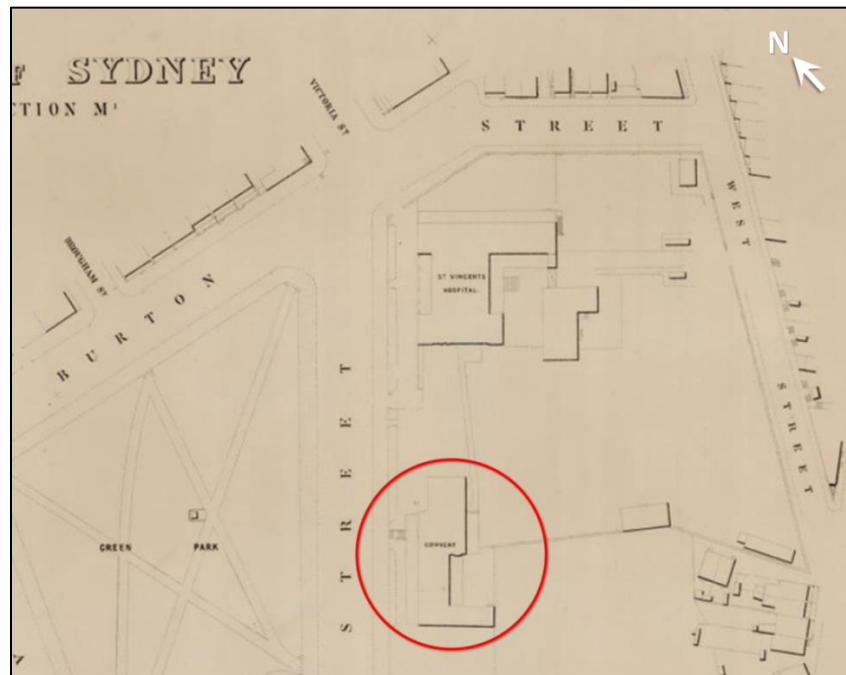
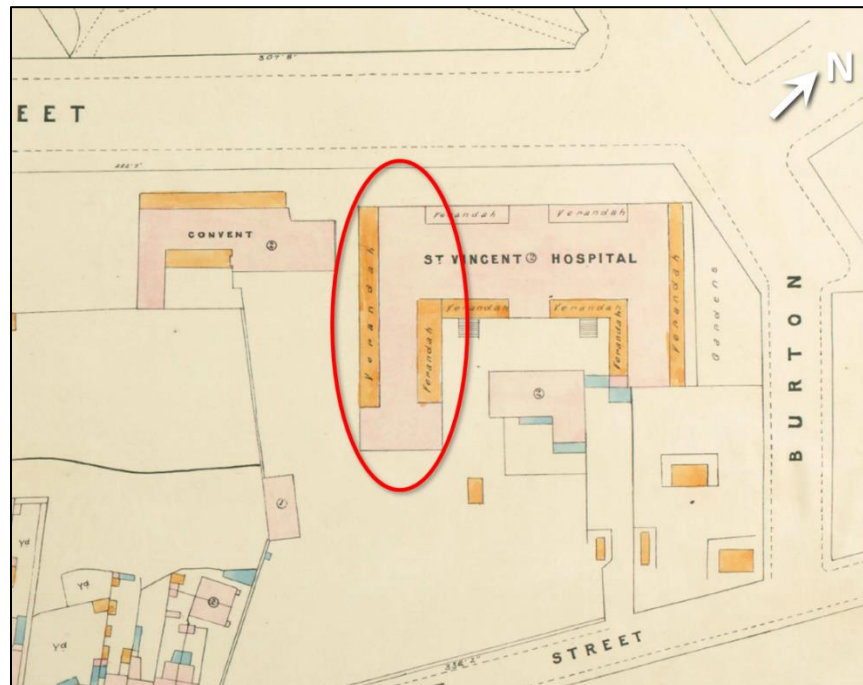


Figure 19: Detail from 1887 plan showing south wing addition to hospital in relation to convent (City of Sydney Archives – Rygate and West's Plans of Sydney, Sheet 24).



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Figure 20: 1887 photograph looking south along Victoria Street (GML 2010:19).



Figure 21: 1905 photograph showing the south wing addition to the hospital (Whitaker 2007:38).





Figure 22: c. 1976 photograph showing the chapel and convent from the rear, during the construction of the new private hospital (GML 2010:29).



Sacred Heart Hospice for the Dying

In 1890, the Sisters of Charity purchased the land that had been occupied by Naomi Dobson and converted the house built by Thomas West into a Hospice for the Dying (Figure 23). The following year, the hospice was described as being built of brick and stone, with a shingled roof and six rooms on a single storey (1891 Assessment Book No. 3273, Fitzroy ward). A kitchen and laundry were located to the rear, with a garden for the patients (*Australian Town and Country Journal* 1896:34).

In 1901, the original hospice was demolished and a new two-storey hospice with a capacity of 40 beds was built on the land between Barcom Avenue and Victoria Street. In 1908, the Hospice moved across Victoria Street into the former Female School of Industry building and the 1901 hospice building was converted into the first St Vincent's Private Hospital (Figure 24). Verandahs and balconies were added to the external facades of the former School of Industry building, and in 1908 a new convent was built to the north of the hospice (Figure 25).

A third floor and elaborate façade were added to the hospice building before 1918, and a chapel was built in the garden to the north of the hospice and convent in 1927 (Anne Cooke pers. com.) (Figure 26-30). By 1965, the convent had been extended to the east and occupied the area that is now the Sacred Heart Hospice garden (Figure 31).

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Figure 23: The original Hospice for the Dying within the central portion of the site (Whitaker 2007:27).



Figure 24: The second hospice building n.d (post-1927). By this time the building was used as St Vincent's Private Hospital and the third hospice building on the other side of Victoria Street is visible in the right background (Whitaker 2007:53).



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Figure 25: 1908 Sacred Heart Hospice (left) in the former Female School of Industry Building, with new convent on right (St Vincent's Hospital Archives).

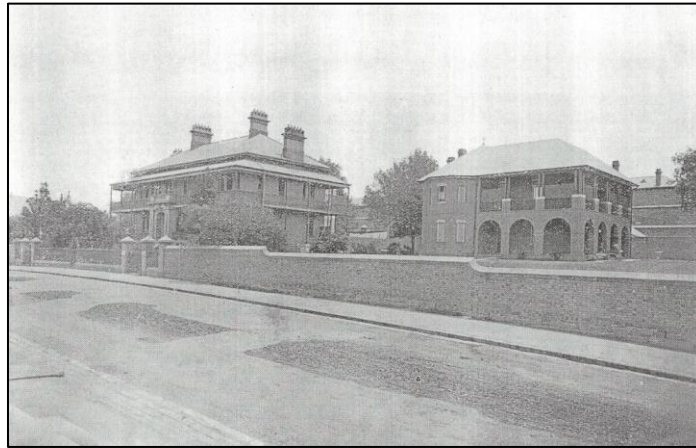


Figure 26: Sacred Heart Hospice for the Dying in the remodelled Female School of Industry building, 1918 (Whitaker 2007:54).

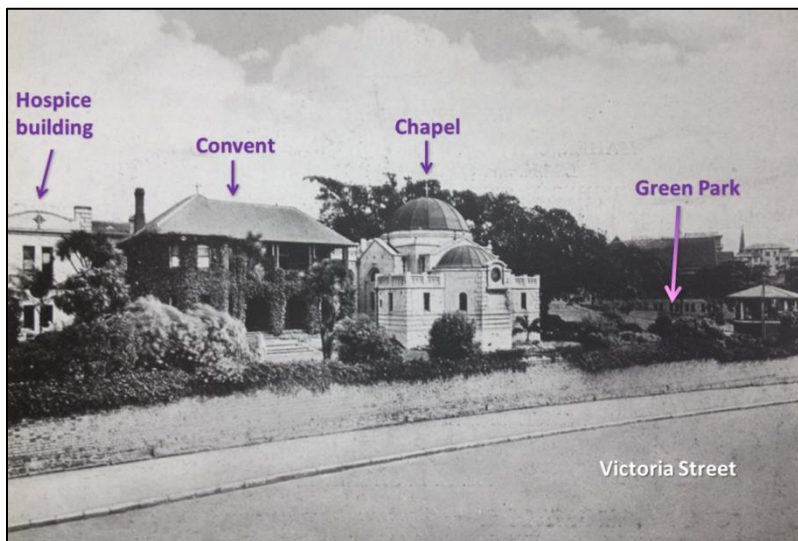


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Figure 27: Outdoor mass in the grounds of the Sacred Heart Hospice for the Dying during the 1919 influenza epidemic (Whitaker 2007:55).



Figure 28: 1928 photograph of the Sacred Heart Hospice for the Dying (Whitaker 2007).



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Figure 29: Detail from 1950 Civic Survey plan showing the Hospice for the Dying (City of Sydney Archives - Civic Survey, 1938-1950 - Paddington West).

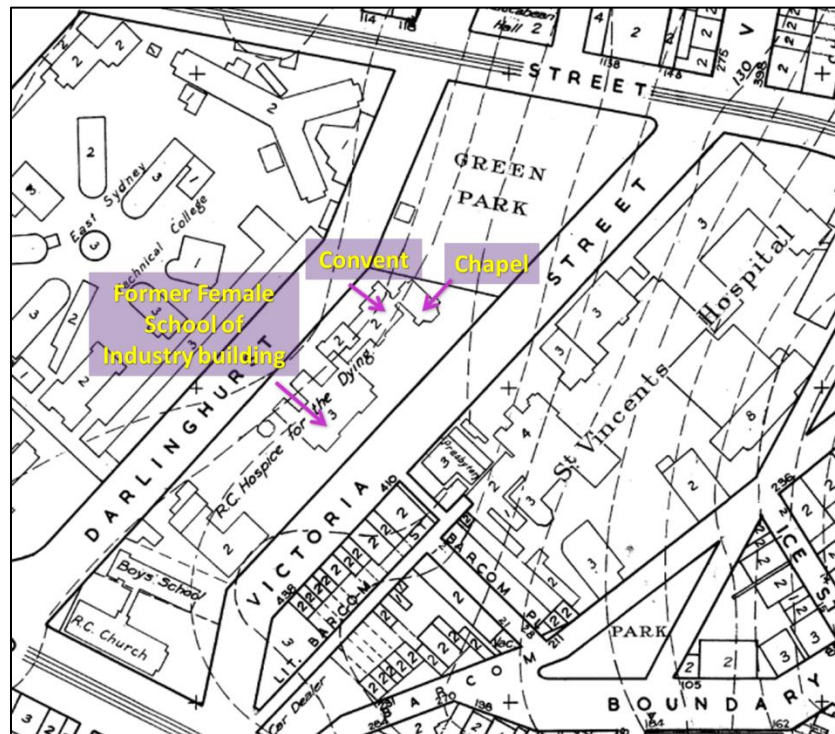


Figure 30: 1943 aerial photograph of the Sacred Heart Hospice (NSW Department of Lands).

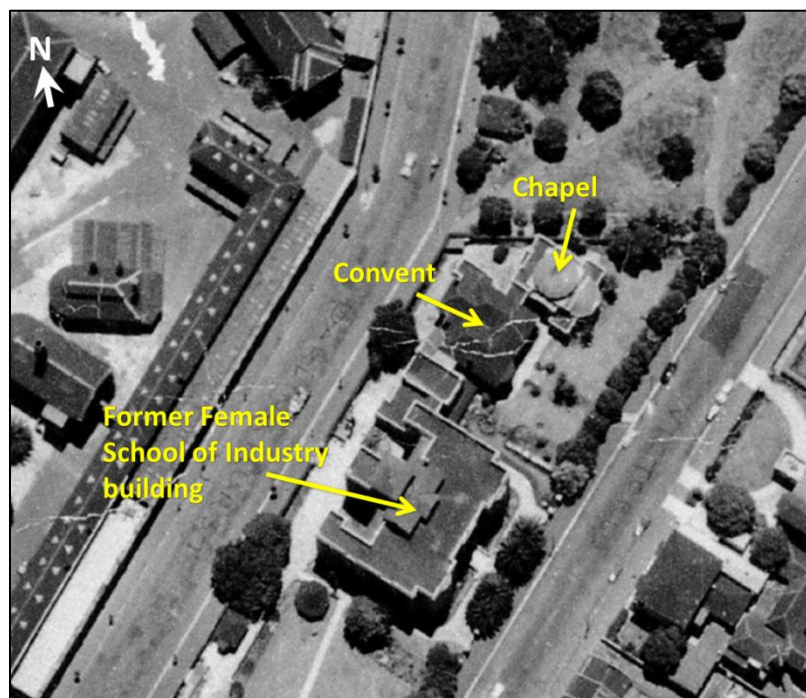
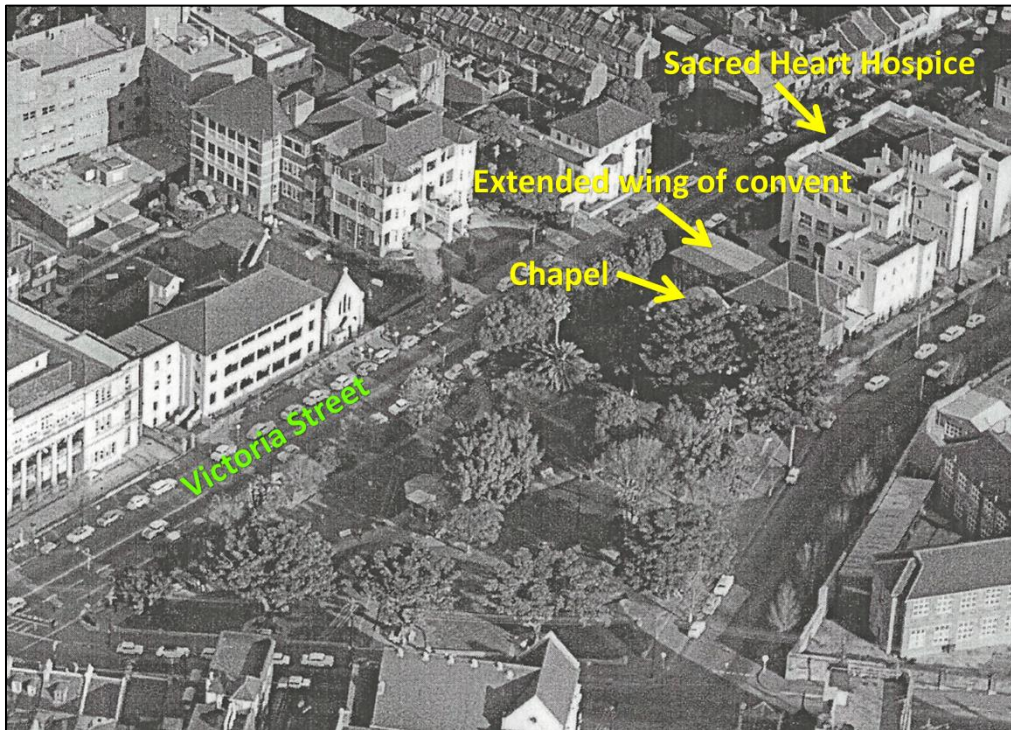


Figure 31: 1965 aerial photograph showing the extent of the Sacred Heart Hospice and convent (St Vincent's Hospital Archives).



3.2.3 Demolition and construction within the subject site (1913 –)

Throughout the 20th and 21st centuries, development of the hospital continued within the site, with the demolition and construction of numerous buildings (Figures 32-35). The changes that occurred on the site during this period are summarised in the timeline below (Table 2) and caused major sub-surface disturbance across much of the site (Figures 36-40).

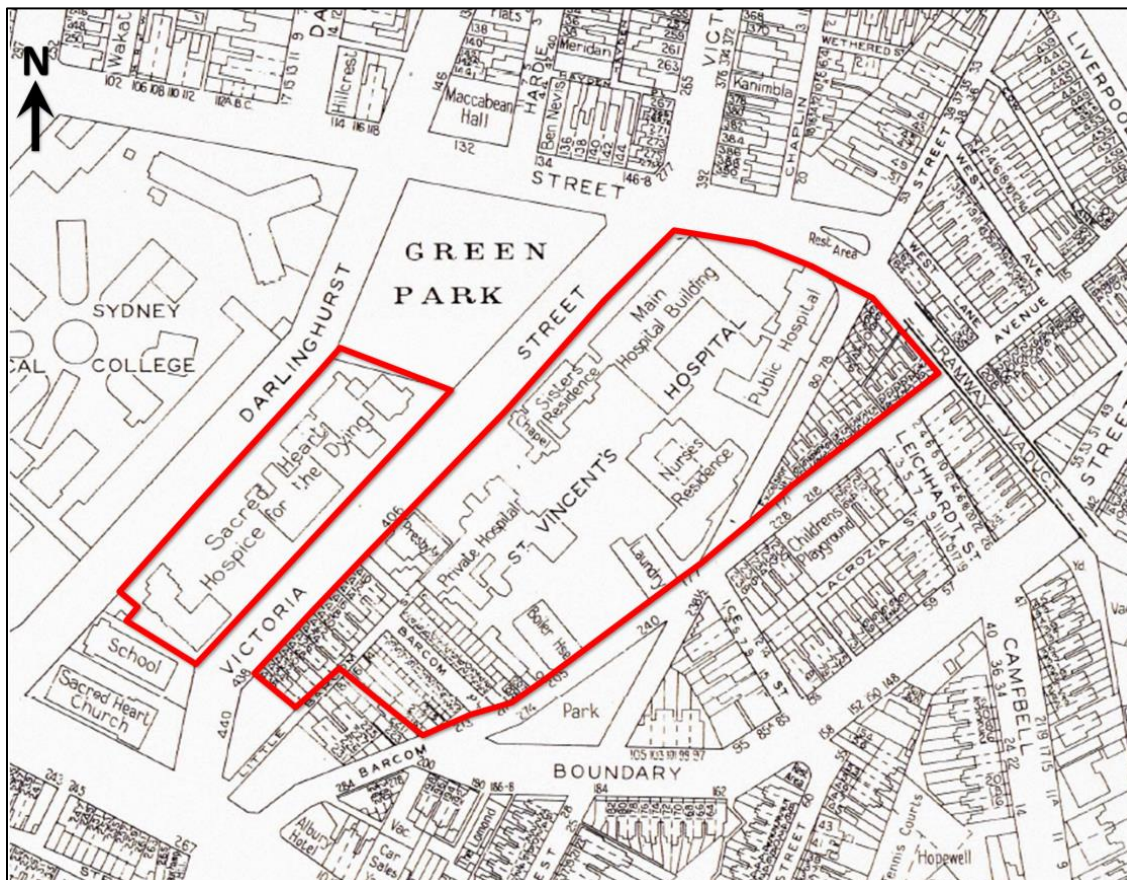
Table 2: Changes to the hospital campus from 1913 to the present (based on Whitaker 2007)

1913	The Xavier Nurses' Home was constructed to the south-east of the De Lacy Building.
1936	An eight-storey addition was constructed to the rear of the Xavier Nurses' Home. A new boiler house was built to the east of the private hospital building.
1940	A seven-storey services block (later named the O'Brien Building) was opened to the rear of the De Lacy Building.
1953	A six-storey addition to the O'Brien Building was built within the courtyard of the De Lacy Building.
1960	The Cameron Wing Thoracic Unit opened to the east of the private hospital.
1964	The Clinical School (later named the Cator Building) opened on the corner of Barcom Avenue and Burton Street.
1970	The Ward Block (later named the Cahill Building) opened in the north-east corner of the campus.
1976	A new 148-bed private hospital replaced the original private hospital, in an area that had been occupied by terrace housing.

...

c. 1983	Excavation of a radiation bunker in the rear courtyard of the De Lacy Building. Demolition of 1913 Xavier Nurses' Home.
1985	The convent (1882) and chapel (1897) were demolished.
1988	The Aikenhead Building was opened immediately to the east of the former convent and chapel site. The Sacred Heart Hospice on the western side of Victoria Street was rebuilt.
1989	The Centre for Immunology opened on Boundary Street.
1990	St Vincent's Clinic opened in the area between the private hospital and Oxford Street.
2002	The Xavier Building (a 360-bed public hospital facility) was built along Barcom Avenue, linking the public and private hospitals.
2007	The O'Brien Building was demolished.
2008	A new building opened to the east of Sacred Heart Church for use by the University of Notre Dame.
2010	The new O'Brien Building was completed.

Figure 32: 1956 plan of the site (City of Sydney Archives – City Building Surveyor's Detail Sheets – Paddington).

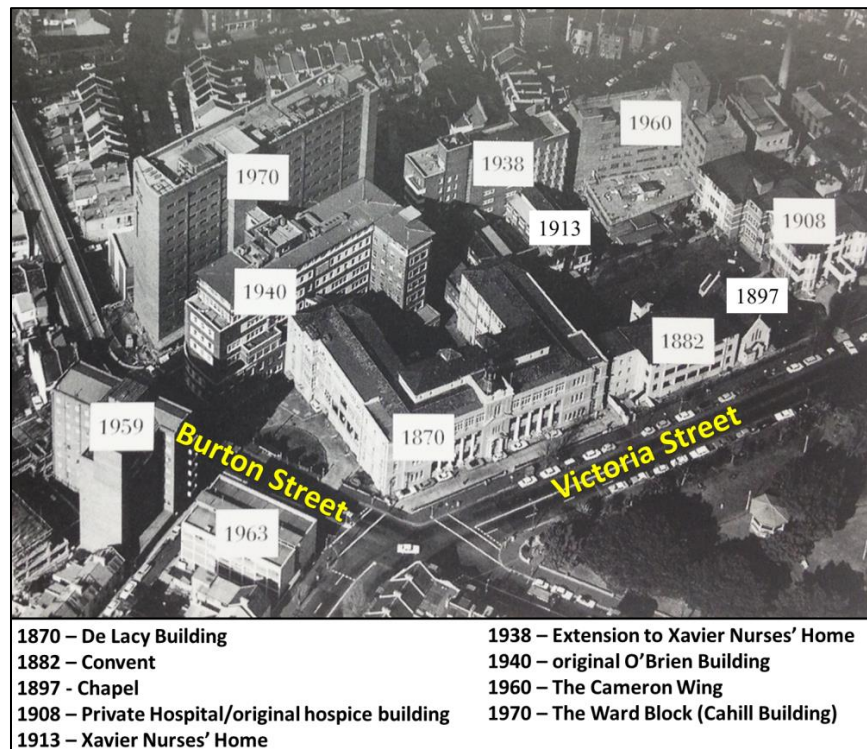


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Figure 33: 1949 aerial photograph of the site (City of Sydney Archives – 1949 Aerial Survey of the City of Sydney AO054).



Figure 34: 1970 photograph showing the construction dates of structures within the subject site (after Whitaker 2007:107).



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Figure 35: Current aerial photograph showing the construction dates of structures within the subject site.

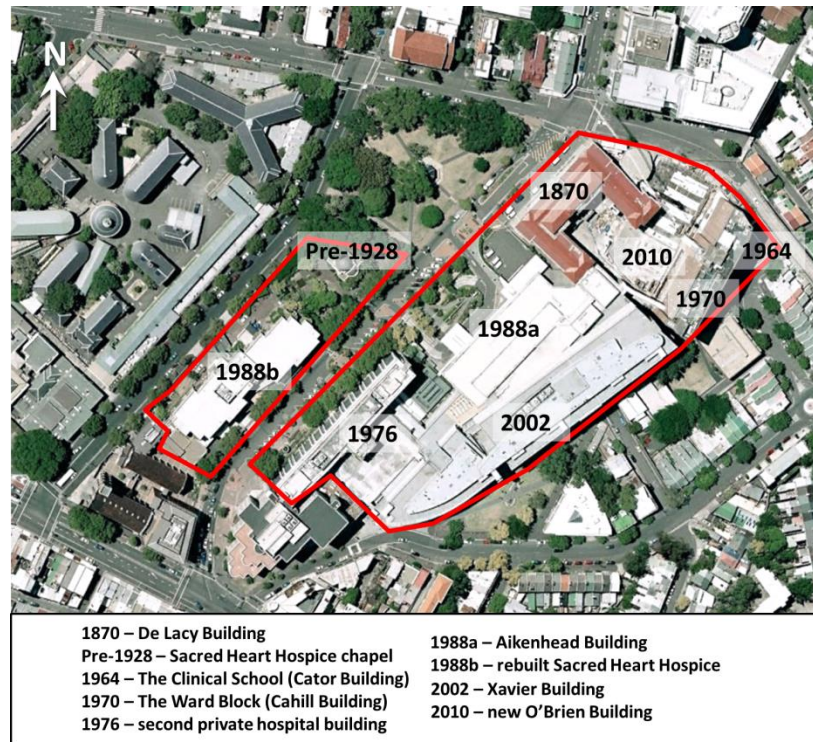
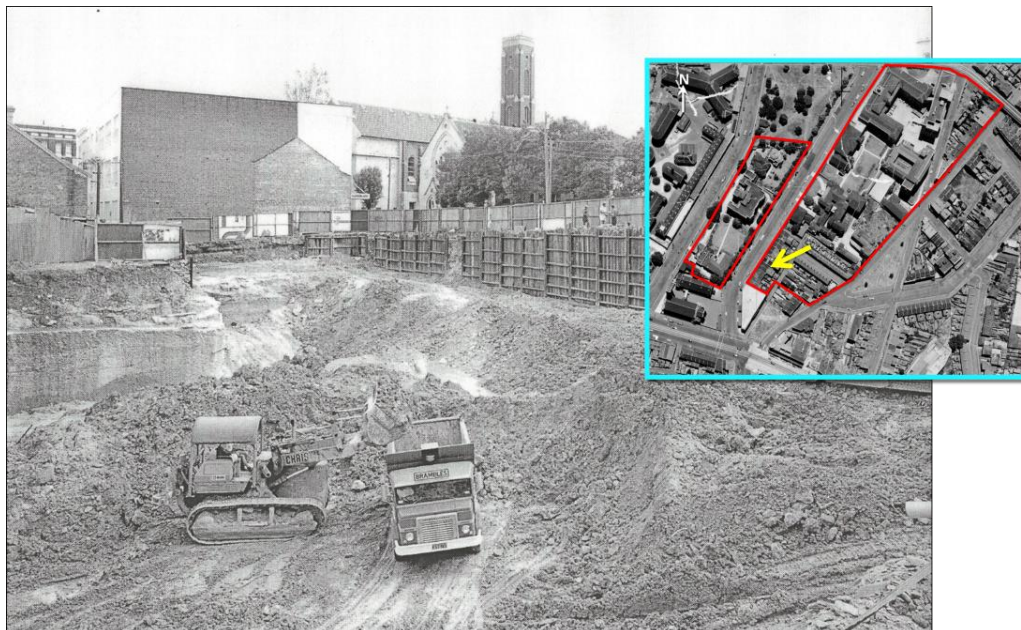


Figure 36: 1975 - deep excavation for the new Private Hospital building (inset shows location of photograph) (St Vincent's Hospital Archives).



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Figure 37: c. 1975 - excavation for the construction of the new Private Hospital building (inset shows location of photograph) (St Vincent's Hospital Archives).

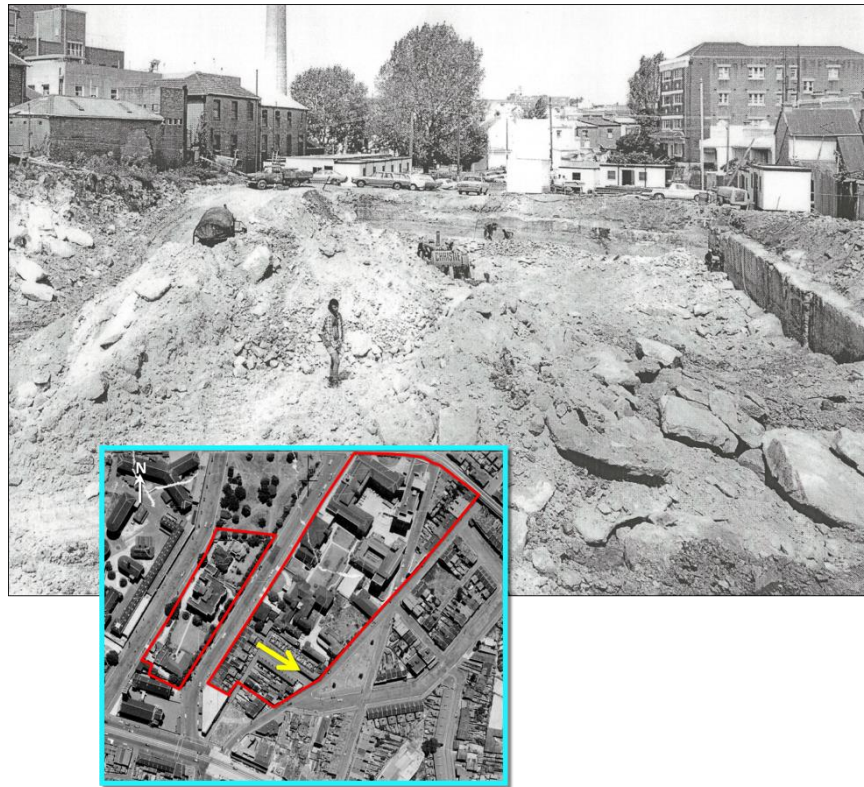


Figure 38: 1983 - demolition of 1913 Xavier Nurses' Home building (inset shows location of photograph) (St Vincent's Hospital Archives).



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Figure 39: c. 1983 - construction of radiation bunker in courtyard of De Lacy Building (inset shows location of photograph) (St Vincent's Hospital Archives).

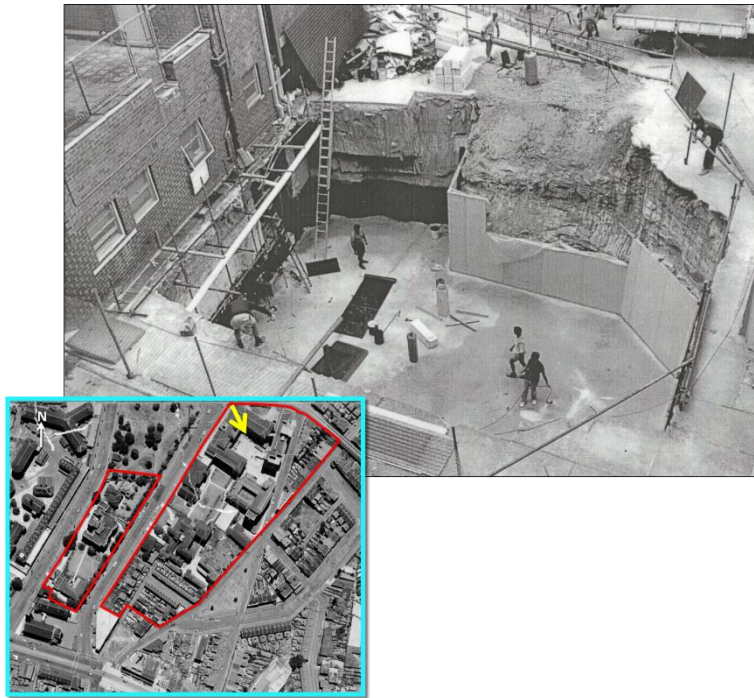
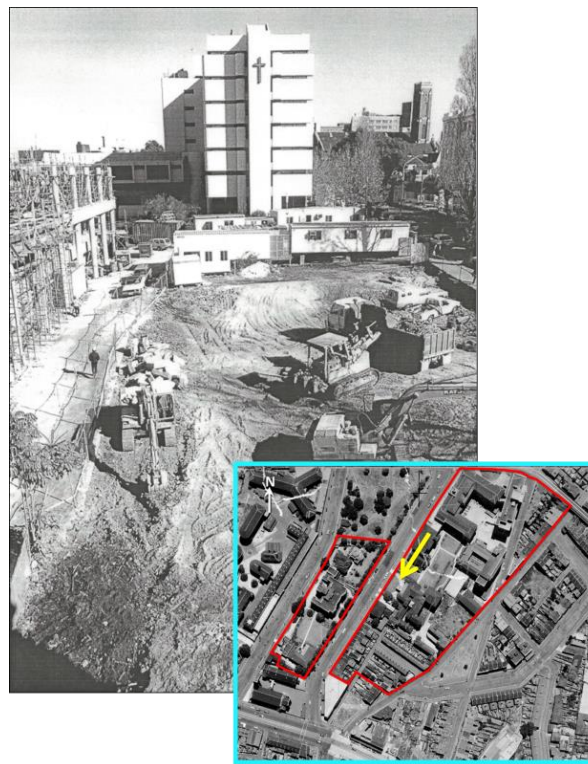


Figure 40: 1988 - construction of the Aikenhead Building (left) and car park (inset shows location of photograph) (St Vincent's Hospital Archives).





3.2.4 Historical themes

The 'Assessing Heritage Significance' guidelines included in the *NSW Heritage Manual* (NSW Heritage Office 2001) highlight the importance of the relationship between a site and its historical context in the assessment process. The NSW Historical Themes were developed by the Heritage Council of NSW to connect local issues to the broader history of NSW and provide a context in which the heritage assessment criteria can be applied.

A consideration of these themes can aid in assessing the potential research significance of an archaeological site. The following themes have been found to be relevant to the subject site:

Table 3: Historical themes for the subject site

Australian Theme	NSW Theme
Peopling Australia	Convicts
Developing local, regional and national economies	Industry
Developing local, regional and national economies	Health
Working	Labour
Educating	Education
Governing	Welfare
Developing Australia's cultural life	Religion
Developing Australia's cultural life	Domestic life
Marking the phases of life	Birth and death

4.0 Assessment of archaeological potential

4.1 Aboriginal cultural heritage and archaeology

4.1.1 Previous archaeological investigations

A number of Aboriginal archaeological excavations have been conducted within the Sydney CBD/south Sydney region. These have included archaeological excavations conducted at sites identified following the removal of existing buildings and during the course of non-Indigenous archaeological excavation. Examples of these sites include AHIMS site # 45-6-2629, identified beneath several phases of building construction at Broadway (Steele and Czastka 2003), AHIMS site # 45-6-2651, identified following the removal of a multi-storey office tower on William Street on the northern boundary of Darlinghurst (Baker 2004), and excavated Aboriginal archaeological deposit at Angel Place, inner Sydney (Steele and Barton 1998).

At Broadway, Aboriginal objects were retrieved from archaeological deposit revealed during extensive non-Indigenous archaeological investigations across the site (Steel and Czastka 2003). The area had formerly been located bordering the estuarine environment of Blackwattle Bay. At Angel Place in the Sydney CBD, intact Aboriginal archaeological deposit was also identified during the course of non-Indigenous archaeological investigations (Steel and Barton 1998).

At the William Street site, archaeological excavation at AHIMS site # 45-6-2629 included salvage of an intact sandy deposit bordering a watercourse that flowed north to Woolloomooloo Bay (Baker 2004) which was identified during the course of non-Indigenous archaeological investigation of the site.

Predominant raw materials types amongst the stone artefact assemblage retrieved from the William Street site included quartz, grey tuff, silcrete and mudstone. Bipolar flaking techniques were frequent amongst the quartz assemblage, with Baker (2004: 31) suggesting that utilised quartz pebbles were likely sourced from exposed portions of Hawkesbury Sandstone in the area. Baker (2004: 31) also suggests that the prevalence of bipolar quartz flakes with sharp cutting edges in the assemblage showed a preference for quartz over the sharp edges of shellfish, which were abundantly available in nearby estuarine environments.

A definite date for the archaeological deposit excavated at the William Street site was not determined. Based on the artefact assemblage and geomorphology of the site, it was assessed that the archaeological deposit represented cumulative occupation of the site over the last



6,500 years (Baker 2004: 37). Baker (2004: 38-39) noted that the implications of Aboriginal archaeological deposit being identified beneath several phases of building construction was that the survivability of Aboriginal heritage should be considered on inner Sydney building sites, especially in areas adjacent to former watercourses.

The survivability of Aboriginal archaeology on sites in inner Sydney therefore depends largely on the extent and nature of subsequent phases of European construction activities, with the excavation of basements or car parks substantially lowering the survivability potential for intact archaeological deposit.

At William Street, on the northern boundary of Darlinghurst, it was demonstrated that the sandstone footings from the first phase of building construction had actually acted to protect the underlying Aboriginal archaeological deposit during subsequent demolition and deposition of fill across the site (Baker 2004: 38). At other non-Indigenous archaeological excavations within Darlinghurst, including archaeological excavation on the Australian Museum site (CRM 2007) and the St Margaret's Hospital site (CRM 2002), no Aboriginal objects were identified. At the Australian Museum site, archaeological excavation identified that most of the remnant soil profile had either been removed or had eroded away (CRM 2007: 15), whilst at the St Margaret's hospital site, no evidence of Aboriginal archaeological material was identified (CRM 2002: 5).

4.1.2 Archaeological Potential

Historical records and previous archaeological investigations demonstrate some of the Aboriginal activities that occurred within the subject site and surrounding locality. This includes references to camping, ceremonial activities and gathering of subsistence resources. Whilst the historical records make reference to a variety of wooden, stone and metal implements utilised by Aboriginal people, wooden implements are less likely to survive in the archaeological record. Previous archaeological investigations of the locality have retrieved stone artefacts from intact top soil deposits identified interspersed amongst areas disturbed by subsequent phases of building construction.

The landform context of the site, bordering a watercourse, is significant in assessing the likely archaeological potential of any surviving Aboriginal archaeological deposit. Areas bordering watercourses have been demonstrated by previous archaeological investigations to have been locations of more frequent and overlapping activities. The relative rarity of Aboriginal archaeological sites surviving multiple phases of building construction, and the historical



references to Aboriginal activity in the vicinity of the subject site, would increase the significance of any surviving Aboriginal archaeological deposit.

The extensive construction activity that has occurred across the subject site, as discussed below, suggests that the majority of the site has no archaeological potential. The potential for Aboriginal archaeological deposit is closely linked to the historical archaeological potential of the site, as demonstrated by the identification of Aboriginal objects at Angel Place (Steele and Barton 1998), Broadway (Steele and Czastka 2003), and William Street (Baker 2004) during the course of historical archaeological investigations.

4.2 Historical archaeological potential

4.2.1 Previous archaeological investigations

Previous archaeological investigations at hospital sites

A number of previous archaeological investigations have been conducted at 19th century hospital sites in NSW, revealing varying levels of information related to the history of the health system.

St Margaret's Hospital, Surry Hills

In 2002 excavations were conducted at the former site of St Margaret's Hospital in Surry Hills prior to its redevelopment (CRM 2002). St Margaret's Hospital was founded in 1914 and until c. 1940 occupied existing 19th century structures that were located on the site. Purpose-built hospital buildings were added from 1940 and the earlier structures were demolished.

The 2002 excavations exposed evidence related to some of the former 19th century structures on the site, but did not provide any information related to the history or functioning of the hospital itself.

Sydney Hospital, Macquarie Street

Three archaeological investigations were conducted within the Sydney Hospital campus on Macquarie Street during the 1980s.

In 1980, Thorp conducted a non-invasive archaeological assessment of a 19th century wall that runs along the northern boundary of the campus. She identified a considerable build-up of soil along sections of the wall, which contained artefacts including glass and ceramic fragments and small finds such as buttons and pieces of metal.



In 1986, a 19th century sandstone box drain was revealed during excavations for new services at the site and archaeological monitoring and analysis of the feature were conducted (Thorp 1986). The drain could not be conclusively dated but was conserved *in situ*. In 1987, archaeological monitoring was undertaken during the demolition of a number of structures and subsequent bulk excavation in the south-east portion of the campus (Thorp 1987). The archaeological evidence revealed was mostly associated with the 20th century buildings that were demolished as part of the works, but also included an 1897 sub-surface brick service tunnel. Very few artefacts were recovered from the site and few stratified deposits were observed. It was posited that the site has once been stripped, probably as part of one of the earlier building programmes.

These three investigations were all undertaken in response to immediate development concerns and provided little information about the development of the hospital, or the history of health practice in NSW.

Former Parramatta Hospital, Marsden Street Parramatta

In 2005, Casey and Lowe undertook an archaeological program at the site of the former Parramatta Hospital, within the Parramatta Justice Precinct. The excavation was carried out in an area that had previously been occupied by a 20th century above-ground car park and 20th century structures of 1 to 3 storeys in height.

The excavation revealed substantial and extensive remains of the 2nd hospital (1792-1818) and the courtyard and outbuildings associated with the convict phase of the 3rd hospital (1818-1844), as well as later 19th century additions. This investigation provided significant information related to the history of what was the longest continually-used hospital site in Australia; from its establishment as a convict hospital, through its transition to use as a public hospital in 1848 and into the 20th century.

Newcastle Hospital

In 2001, test excavation was conducted on land adjacent to the former North Wing of Newcastle Hospital, fronting Ocean Street, which had been assessed as having the potential to contain evidence related to the earliest phase of hospital development c. 1818, as well as subsequent development (CRM 2001). However, no evidence was found for 19th century buildings at the site. The foundations of a 1906 laundry, 1950s boiler house, 1920s retaining walls and possible 1920s isolation ward were revealed, as well as extensive levels of fill that had been used to level a slope on the eastern and northern sides of the site during the 1920s. This fill



included domestic refuse and demolition rubble from former hospital buildings. There was evidence for one or two extensive programmes of site clearance, in which the ground surface was probably cut back to underlying sand levels.

Summary

Aside from the comprehensive archaeological program at the site of the former Parramatta Hospital, most archaeological work in relation to NSW hospitals has been undertaken on a piece-meal basis and has generally focused on only small areas of hospital sites.

In general, this work has indicated that the nature of hospitals means that they are frequently subject to expansion and redevelopment, which often removes evidence of earlier structure. However, the work at Parramatta has shown that intact archaeological evidence can survive beneath modern buildings, provided that only limited sub-surface disturbance occurred during building construction.

Previous archaeological investigations near the site

Relatively few archaeological investigations have been conducted in the Darlinghurst / Surry Hills area. Most work has consisted of small-scale archaeological monitoring, rather than large-scale excavations that would provide important representative information. However, those investigations that have been completed give an indication of the kinds of archaeological resources that exist within the area. Excavations near Reservoir Street, Surry Hills (around 800 m from the current site) have revealed evidence for a 19th century brickfield, including a brick clamp kiln and clay working areas (Casey & Lowe 2012). On the other hand, excavations at the former site of St Margaret's Hospital in Surry Hills (around 300 m from the current site) have shown that at this site there was very little evidence for the early settlement period, aside from the removal of vegetation and the introduction of charcoal to the soil profile, and no evidence for early industry such as brick making (CRM 2002).

The St Margaret's Hospital site did, however, demonstrate that evidence for 19th residential development can survive beneath 20th century buildings, although such remains are often highly fragmentary due to disturbance through demolition and construction (CRM 2002).

Research into the site of the St Vincent's Research and Biotechnology Precinct, located adjacent to the current subject site, has indicated that areas that have undergone relatively little subsurface disturbance provide an opportunity to examine neighbourhood profiles in East



Sydney, to allow comparison with work already undertaken for the comparable neighbourhoods of Central Sydney and Pyrmont, Ultimo (CRM 2005).

An assessment of archaeological potential was carried out for the site of the Sacred Heart Church and school in 2006 (AHMS 2006). It was found that there was little evidence of extensive ground alteration or excavation around the church and school since the construction of the first church in 1850, aside from local service installation. AHMS concluded that there was some potential for subsurface remains of former structures including possible outbuildings and ablution blocks, drainage features, and an "old well" that was marked in the eastern playground area on a plan from 1883. However, a five-storey structure has since been built to the east of the church (including the site of the well), reducing the likelihood of surviving archaeological remains on the property.

The previous archaeological work that has been carried out in the area has indicated that the physical integrity of archaeological resources is highly variable and the archaeological potential of any site depends on the amount of sub-surface disturbance that has occurred. While it is possible for intact archaeological deposits to survive beneath modern buildings, this is highly unlikely to occur where a building has a basement or deep footings.

Previous archaeological investigations within the subject site

St Vincent's Hospital Archives artefact collection

In May 1993, an old wall at the hospital was demolished and a deposit of artefacts was found in the built-up dirt behind the wall. No legal archaeological investigation or recording was conducted, but some of these artefacts were recovered by hospital staff and are now stored in the St Vincent Hospital Archives (Figure 41). They include glass and stone ware bottles, chemical bottles, fragments of 19th and 20th century ceramic tableware, fragments of stained window glass, a bar of 'Lifebuoy' soap, a "Throaties" lozenges tin (c. 1930s-1960s), an early "Cadbury's Selected Chocolates" tin and a "Brilliantshine" metal polishing paste tin (c. 1890s-1930s).

The artefacts are kept in a plastic crate within the archives office, with each artefact individually wrapped in either cling wrap or bubble wrap. Also included in the box are three cardboard information cards, one of which briefly describes the discovery of the artefacts, and two of which feature illustrations of makers' marks that were present on two of the artefacts and the dates of registration for these makers' marks. It is understood that all of the artefacts are held in the archives office and none are on display in any of the hospital buildings.

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The location of the old wall and artefact deposit are not known and it is likely that the area has since been further disturbed through the construction of new buildings. However, this artefact collection is worth noting here as an example of the kind of material that could potentially exist in any areas of the hospital campus that have not been subject to significant disturbance. Building plans showing the extent of basements and underground car parking would enable the identification of any small pockets of less disturbed ground that may contain similar deposits.

Such deposits could provide evidence related to the NSW historical themes of Health, Welfare, Religion, Domestic Life, or Birth and Death.

Figure 41: Selection of artefacts from the St Vincent's Hospital Archives collection (with thanks to Anne Cooke, Archivist).



4.2.2 Assessment of historical archaeological potential

Methodology

Initially, documentary research was undertaken to identify former structures that were located within the subject site and to gain some idea of the location and degree of subsequent disturbance. This was followed by a site survey to ground-truth the desktop assessment, evaluate the levels of disturbance across the site and identify any areas where archaeological deposits could potentially survive beneath the ground surface.



A photographic record was kept, with photographs taken of significant features of the built and natural landscape. Underground car parking or basement areas within the St Vincent's Hospital campus were not accessed during the survey.

This assessment has been constrained by an absence of building plans showing the exact locations and extent of underground car parking areas and basements. It is understood that underground car parking is present underneath St Vincent's Clinic, St Vincent's Private Hospital, the O'Brien Building and under and in front of part of the Aikenhead Building; however, the exact extent of these car parks is not known. For the purposes of this draft report it has been assumed that the car parks are located directly beneath the footprints of the abovementioned buildings, as well as in the area in front of the Aikenhead Building. If access to building plans is gained prior to the preparation of the second draft, it may be possible to make more accurate predictions regarding the potential survival of sub-surface archaeological material.

Survey observations

The majority of the site is occupied by multi-storey 20th and 21st century buildings associated with St Vincent's Hospital and the Sacred Heart Hospice. Two 19th and early 20th century structures remain standing:

- The De Lacy Building
- The Sacred Heart garden chapel

There are some small parts of the site that are not currently occupied by buildings. These include:

- A garden between the Sacred Heart Hospice and garden chapel (Figure 42).
- A garden, driveway, and ambulance parking area in front of the Aikenhead Building (Figure 43).
- Part of the rear courtyard of the De Lacy Building.

Underground car parking is present underneath St Vincent's Clinic, St Vincent's Private Hospital, the O'Brien Building, and under and in front of part of the Aikenhead Building.



Figure 42: Sacred Heart Hospice garden.



Figure 43: Ambulance parking area in front of the Aikenhead Building.



Archaeological potential vs. research potential

Archaeological potential is defined as the potential of a site to contain archaeological relics, as classified under the Heritage Act. Archaeological potential is assessed by identifying former land uses and associated features through historical research and evaluating whether subsequent activity may have impacted on evidence for these former land uses.

The research potential of a site is its potential ability to contribute to knowledge of one or more aspects of local or NSW history.

Archaeological potential should essentially be understood as 'what is the potential for remains to be present', whereas research potential should be understood as 'how important or significant might those remains be?' It is possible for an area to be of high archaeological potential but low research potential. See Section 4.2.3 for a discussion of the research potential of potential archaeological material within the site.

Archaeological potential

The history of the site would have produced a variety of archaeological evidence related to former activities and phases of occupation; however, the likelihood of such evidence surviving to the present is influenced by a range of factors. These factors include the durability of the material evidence and subsequent impacts such as demolition and construction.

The majority of the site has been subject to major subsurface disturbance through demolition and construction during the 20th and 21st centuries, including excavation for the creation of basements and underground car parking beneath many of the current hospital buildings (Figures 36-40). A few small areas appear to have been subject to less significant disturbance and may have some potential for archaeological deposits.



Based on this assessment, the site has been divided into areas of either no, low or moderate archaeological potential (Figure 44).

Areas that are assessed to be of moderate archaeological potential have some potential to include archaeological material, while areas of low potential are unlikely to include archaeological material (either because no features are known to have been historically present in the area, or because of high levels of subsequent disturbance). Areas of no potential are known to have been subject to such major sub-surface disturbance that no archaeological material could have survived intact.

The majority of the site is assessed to have no archaeological potential and most of the remainder of the site is of low archaeological potential. One area of moderate archaeological potential has been identified.

Table 4, below, lists the former structures and features that are known to have existed within the site and identifies processes that may have affected the survival of archaeological material associated with those features. It assesses the potential for the survival of such material as either none, low, or moderate.

Figure 44: Levels of historical archaeological potential within the subject site.

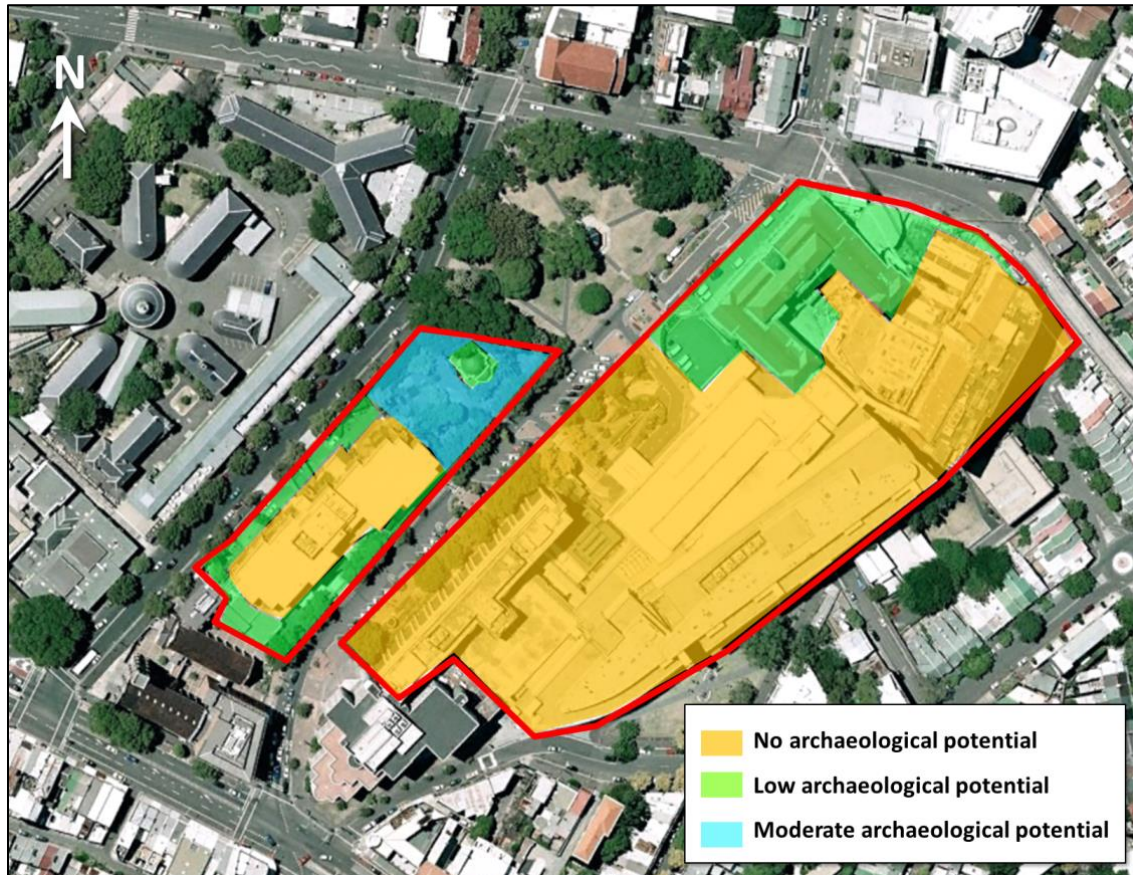


Table 4: Potential historical archaeological material and likelihood of survival

Potential Historical Archaeological Material	Date range	Processes affecting likelihood of survival	Likelihood of survival
Brick kilns and huts east of Darlinghurst Gaol	c. 1820s-30s	Construction and demolition in the western portion of the site from the 1850s to the 1980s has caused widespread disturbance across the area where the kilns and huts were shown on a plan dating to 1831. This included the construction of Sacred Heart Church (which had a crypt below ground level) and school, the Female School of Industry and associated buildings, and buildings associated with the Sacred Heart Hospice. Further subsurface disturbance was caused in the 1980s by the demolition of the Sacred Heart Hospice and the construction of a new hospice over most of the area between Sacred Heart school and Green Park. The kilns and huts are not likely to have had deep foundations and the huts were probably built of ephemeral materials such as timber, reducing the likelihood of survival.	Low

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Potential Historical Archaeological Material	Date range	Processes affecting likelihood of survival	Likelihood of survival
Quarry on Barcom Glen estate (beneath Xavier Building)	c. 1813-1840s	An 1831 plan shows that a quarry was once located in the area now occupied by the Xavier and Aikenhead Buildings. Any remains of the quarry are likely to have been destroyed through the excavation of underground car parking beneath the present buildings.	Low
House built by Thomas West (later Hospice for the Dying)	c. 1840s	The site of the former house has since been subject to major subsurface disturbance through the construction of St Vincent's Private Hospital in 1975-6, which involved deep excavation and the creation of underground car parking. The property on which the house was located, and which was purchased by the Sisters of Charity in 1890, has also been subject to major excavation for the construction of the Aikenhead Building and the Xavier Building.	None
The parsonage or presbytery on Victoria Street	c. 1861-1970s	The parsonage was demolished to make way for St Vincent's Private Hospital and the site was subject to deep excavation for underground car parking.	None
Auxiliary kitchen/laundry building in rear courtyard of De Lacy Building	c. 1870 – 1897+	The two storey brick building appears to have been located beneath the present-day O'Brien Building. Most of the area in which the structure was located was subject to deep excavation in c. 1983 for the construction of a radiation bunker; while the construction of the new O'Brien Building in 2010 would have caused significant disturbance to any surviving remains.	None
Hospital outbuildings to east of De Lacy Building	c. 1870-1897+	The small outbuildings to the east of the De Lacy Building were built of timber and were all single-storey buildings. This means that they are unlikely to have had deep foundations. This area has been subject to major subsurface disturbance through the construction of the first and second O'Brien Buildings (including underground car parking), the Cahill Building and the Cator Building.	None
Sisters of Charity Convent (1882) and Chapel (1897)(south of De Lacy Building)	1882-1988	The convent and chapel were demolished in 1988 to make way for the Aikenhead Building and associated underground parking. The underground parking area currently extends along the Victoria Street frontage from the southern end of the Aikenhead Building to (approximately) the southern side of the ambulance parking area to the south of the De Lacy Building. Therefore, the site of the chapel and most of the convent would certainly have been completely destroyed during the	None – Low* * Chapel = None Large southern portion of convent = None Small northern portion of

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Potential Historical Archaeological Material	Date range	Processes affecting likelihood of survival	Likelihood of survival
		excavation for this car parking. A small portion of the convent building was located in the area now occupied by the above-ground ambulance parking area and therefore appears to have fallen outside the area of deep excavation. However, this area would still have been subject to significant disturbance through the demolition of the building and the construction of the driveway and parking area.	convent = Low
1901 Hospice for the Dying building (later the first St Vincent's Private Hospital)	1901-1975	The Hospice for the Dying/St Vincent's Private Hospital building was demolished to make way for the new Private Hospital. The construction of the new building involved major excavation for the creation of underground parking and this would have removed any evidence for the former structure.	None
Xavier Nurses' Home	1913-c.1980s	The original Xavier Nurses' Home building was located in the area now occupied by the Aikenhead Building and underground car parking. The major excavation required to create the car park would have removed any trace of the former building.	None
Female School of Industry (later Sacred Heart Hospice)	1870-1980s	The Female School of Industry building, which later housed the Sacred Heart Hospice and was extended during the early 20 th century, was demolished in the 1980s to make way for a new hospice building. It is likely that the construction of the current hospice would have significantly disturbed or destroyed any remains of the former buildings.	Low
Convent to north of Sacred Heart Hospice	c. 1908 - 1988	The site of the former convent building is now occupied by the Sacred Heart Hospice garden. The garden slopes down gradually from Darlinghurst Road to Victoria Street. Most of it is paved, with some small areas of lawn, planted garden beds and a fish pond. No evidence for the former structure was noted during the site survey; however, it is possible that archaeological material associated with the convent survives beneath the ground surface. This could include building footings, structural material, or artefact deposits. Archaeological material associated with the convent or hospice may also survive in the area surrounding the 1927 chapel. This area has been landscaped, with some paved areas and built up garden beds along the old walls surrounding the site. Given the age of these walls, and the	Moderate



Potential Historical Archaeological Material	Date range	Processes affecting likelihood of survival	Likelihood of survival
		precedent set by the artefact deposit discovered in built up soil against a wall in the St Vincent's Campus, there is a moderate potential that artefact deposits could be present beneath these garden beds.	
Former terrace housing and other non-hospital structures between Barcom Avenue and Victoria Street	c. 1860 - 1976	The sites of former structures that were located within the present-day St Vincent's Campus have been subject to significance sub-surface disturbance through the construction of hospital structures, often including underground parking. It is highly unlikely that any archaeological material associated with these structures survives.	None - Low

4.2.3 Assessment of research potential

Assessing research potential

In 1984, Bickford and Sullivan examined the concept and assessment of archaeological research potential; that is, the extent to which archaeological resources can address research questions. They developed three questions which can be used to assess the research potential of an archaeological site:

- Can the site contribute knowledge that no other resource can?
- Can the site contribute knowledge that no other site can?
- Is this knowledge relevant to:
 - General questions about human history?
 - Other substantive questions relating to Australian history?
 - Other major research questions?

In its guidelines for *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and 'Relics'*, the NSW Heritage Branch (2009) has since provided a broader approach to assessing the archaeological significance of sites, which includes consideration of a site's intactness, rarity, representativeness and whether many similar sites have already been recorded, as well as other factors. This document also acknowledges the difficulty of assessing the significance of potential subsurface remains, because the assessment must rely on predicted rather than known attributes (NSW Heritage Branch 2009).



A site can be of high archaeological potential (meaning that remains are likely to be present) and yet still be of low research potential if those remains are unlikely to provide valuable or useful information.

Research potential of the subject site

The following assessment of research potential (Table 5) includes only that part of the site that has been assessed to be of moderate archaeological potential.

Table 5: Research potential of former features in area of moderate archaeological potential

Potential feature	Assessed research potential	Reasons for assessed research potential level	Relationship to NSW historical themes
Convent to north of Sacred Heart Hospice	Moderate	Any surviving remains associated with the convent have the potential to provide insights into life in a religious institution attached to a hospice during the 19 th and 20 th centuries. Such insights could supplement information available through documentary sources such as the St Vincent's annual reports, and would allow comparison with similar sites.	<i>Religion, Domestic life</i> – Evidence associated with the convent could potentially provide information related to life in a religious institution, including insights into religious practices, and the lifeways and consumer behaviour of members of a religious community living together in an institutional context.

4.3 Heritage significance of the potential archaeological resource

The following assessment of the heritage significance of potential Aboriginal and historical archaeological material within the site has been prepared in accordance with the 'Assessing Heritage Significance' (2001) guidelines from the NSW Heritage Manual, based on the seven assessment criteria.

The following statements and rankings of significance in relation to each of the assessment criteria are based on the potential values of the site and are therefore preliminary only.

Fulfilment of the NSW heritage assessment criteria

Criterion A (Historic significance – Evolution)

Statement	Local significance	State significance
Archaeological material within the site would be of historical significance for its association with early European settlement and the development of welfare, religious, and medical institutions in the area during the mid-late 19 th century.	☑	☒

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Statement	Local significance	State significance
Any Aboriginal archaeological material may be of significance for its association with the area's pre and post-contact phases of Aboriginal history.		

Criterion B (Historic significance – Association)

Statement	Local significance	State significance
Archaeological material at the site may be of historical significance for its association with Thomas West, who originally developed the land and built a house within the site, or the Sisters of Charity, who established St Vincent's Hospital and Sacred Heart Hospice and who occupied various parts of the site for many years.	☒	☒
Aboriginal archaeological material may be of significance for its association with the Gadigal people and the Aboriginal people who coexisted with encroaching European urbanisation.		

Criterion C (Aesthetic significance)

Statement	Local significance	State significance
It is acknowledged that archaeological features can sometimes be of aesthetic significance once exposed (e.g. intact building footings). However, it is unlikely that any remains within the site would be highly intact or extensive and therefore it is not anticipated that they would be of aesthetic significance.	☒	☒

Criterion D (Social significance)

Statement	Local significance	State significance
St Vincent's Hospital and Sacred Heart Hospice have played a major role in the lives of generations of people, including local residents and those who have come to be treated from throughout NSW. Archaeological material related to the history of these facilities may therefore be of social significance.	☒	☒
The area is illustrative of the pre- and post-contact Aboriginal history of Sydney, and archaeological material relating to the Aboriginal history of the area may be of social significance.		

Criterion E (Research potential)

Statement	Local significance	State significance
Any archaeological features or deposits within the subject site would be of research potential for their ability to provide information regarding the history of the site. Such information could relate to Aboriginal activities on the site, the early occupation and development of industry in Darlinghurst, the evolution of the hospital, and domestic life within urban Darlinghurst during the 19 th and 20 th centuries (see Section 4.2.3, above for a more detailed assessment of the historical research potential of the site).	☒	☒

*Criterion F (Rarity)*

Statement	Local significance	State significance
Potential archaeological material at the site may include rare evidence for the early development and occupation of the Darlinghurst area, including Aboriginal and European occupation. Intact Aboriginal archaeological deposits within the inner Sydney area are rare, and any potential intact archaeology may therefore include rare evidence of Aboriginal activities.	☒	☒

Criterion G (Representativeness)

Statement	Local significance	State significance
It is unlikely that any surviving archaeological material within the site would be highly intact or extensive and it is therefore not likely to significant for representative qualities.	☒	☒

Summary statement of significance

Potential archaeological material within the site would be of local historical significance for its association with various phases of the area's history, as well as for its association with Thomas West or the Sisters of Charity. Any archaeological features or deposits within the subject site would be of research potential for their ability to provide information regarding the history of the site. Such information could relate to Aboriginal activities on the site, early settlement in Darlinghurst, and the evolution of the hospital. Archaeological material associated with the history of St Vincent's Hospital and Sacred Heart Hospice may be of social significance to people throughout NSW, due to the important role the site has played in many people's lives. Any archaeological evidence for Aboriginal occupation may be of social significance to Aboriginal people that still live in the area.

Comparative analysis

Intact Aboriginal archaeological deposits have been identified during the course of several non-Indigenous archaeological excavations in the Inner Sydney area, including excavation at William Street on the northern boundary of Darlinghurst, at Angel Place in central Sydney, and at Broadway in Ultimo. If Aboriginal archaeological deposit is encountered within the subject site, it has the potential to allow comparative analysis of raw material use, artefact manufacture and period/s of occupation.

Because relatively little historical archaeological work has been conducted in relation to the Darlinghurst area, or hospitals in NSW (see Section 4.2.1), any archaeological material at the site has the potential to provide useful information to augment the existing archaeological record.



However, due to the high levels of disturbance across the majority of the site, it is highly unlikely that evidence related to the early settlement of the area would have survived to the present and any evidence dating from the mid-19th century onwards is not expected to be extensive or substantive. While potential archaeological material at the site could provide evidence to enhance existing knowledge of the history of Darlinghurst or the development of hospitals in NSW, it is unlikely to offer significant new insights into the history of the State.

5.0 Draft conservation policies

5.1 Guidelines

5.1.1 Aboriginal Archaeology

If future development is proposed within areas that have been assessed to be of moderate archaeological potential, it is recommended that an Aboriginal Archaeological Impact Assessment be prepared for the affected area(s). These would provide recommendations to investigate and manage the potential archaeological resource, including whether test excavation would be appropriate.

Archaeological test excavation should be conducted in accordance with the OEH Code of Practice where it is necessary to clarify the extent, intactness and archaeological significance of an Aboriginal site or an area of potential archaeological deposit (PAD). Further archaeological excavation of Aboriginal objects would be undertaken in the context of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) and include a process of Aboriginal stakeholder consultation and assessment of cultural heritage values outlined in the OEH *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents* and the *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW*.

No further Aboriginal archaeological work would be required within areas assessed as having low or no Aboriginal archaeological potential.

5.1.2 Historical Archaeology

If future development is proposed within the area that has been assessed to be of moderate archaeological potential, it is recommended that a Historical Archaeological Impact Assessment and Research Design be prepared for the affected area. These would provide recommendations to investigate and manage the potential archaeological resource, including whether archaeological monitoring or test excavation would be appropriate.

The authority approvals process for the St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney redevelopment is via a SSD. Approvals or excavation permits are not required to disturb known or potential archaeological material. However, the project must adhere to the SEARs for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project. This EIS must include a consideration of the archaeological potential of the area and the potential impact of the proposal on the



archaeological significance of the site in accordance with the guidelines of the Heritage Council of NSW.

If future development is proposed within areas that have been assessed to be of low or no archaeological potential, it would not be necessary to prepare a Historical Archaeological Impact Assessment or Research Design prior to works beginning, and no heritage approvals or permits would be required. However, if unexpected archaeological material was encountered during works, it would be necessary to stop all work in the immediate vicinity of the identified deposits and a qualified archaeologist would need to be contacted to assess the significance of the material and recommend whether further action is required.

It is recommended that consideration is given to the use of the collection of artefacts held by the St Vincent's Hospital Archives in any heritage interpretation programme that is developed for the site.

5.1.3 Human Remains

If suspected human skeletal remains are uncovered at any time throughout earthworks on the site, the following actions must be followed:

- Immediately cease all excavation activity in the vicinity of the remains
- Notify NSW Police
- Notify Office of Environment and Heritage via the Environment Line on 131 555 to provide details of the remains and their location, and
- No recommencement of excavation activity unless authorised in writing by OEH.

5.2 Policies

5.2.1 Aboriginal Archaeology

Policy 13. An Aboriginal Archaeological Impact Assessment should be prepared for areas identified in this report as being of moderate archaeological potential if future development is proposed within these areas.

Policy 14. If unexpected Aboriginal objects are identified during works all work should cease in the vicinity of the find, and an archaeologist, the Local Aboriginal Land Council and the OEH should be notified. Further archaeological works and/or Aboriginal consultation may then be required.



5.2.2 Historical Archaeology

Policy 15. A Historical Archaeological Impact Assessment and Research Design should be prepared for areas identified in this report as being of moderate archaeological potential if future development is proposed within these areas.

Policy 16. If unexpected historical archaeological relics are encountered during works, it would be necessary to stop all work in the immediate vicinity of the identified relics and a qualified archaeologist would need to be contacted to assess the significance of the material and recommend whether further action is required.

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