

**University of Sydney  
Proposed Chau Chak Wing Museum**

**Statement of Heritage Impact**

Prepared by

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Campus Infrastructure and Services

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## Executive Summary

This Statement of Heritage Impact (SHI) for the proposed Chau Chak Wing Museum at the University of Sydney Camperdown Campus has been prepared to accompany the Environmental Impact Statement for the State Significant Development Application (SSD 7894).

The SEARS issued by the Department of Planning & Environment require the SHI to address the impact of the Chau Chak Wing Museum on the following:

- significant heritage items on site;
- adjacent significant heritage items;
- significant landscapes and views;
- potential archaeological relics; and
- Aboriginal cultural heritage values and potential archaeology.

In preparing the SHI reference was made to Drawings JPW-DA-A-0100 to JPW-DA-A-3022 inclusive, prepared by Johnson Pilton Walker, Architects (dated 05.05.17).

With reference to the issues identified in the SEARS the HIS concludes the following:

i) Impact on significant heritage items on site:

Having occupied this site for more than a century the Fisher Tennis Courts and associated clubhouse have an historic association with the site, but they are not of sufficient heritage significance to warrant retention. In accordance with University procedures an archival record of the site will be prepared prior to demolition.

ii) Impact on adjacent Significant Heritage Items:

The impact of the proposed Museum on the cultural significance of the adjacent heritage items, including the Quadrangle (East Wing, Clock tower and Great Hall), Fisher Library, Baxter's Lodge and Gates, Parramatta Road palisade boundary fence and Victoria Park is acceptable.

iii) Significant Landscapes and Views:

The siting of the museum in an area currently occupied by the three concrete tennis courts and clubhouse will result in the loss of some landscaped 'open space' of Moderate heritage significance, but the sensitive siting of the new building will ensure the retention of the significant trees that define this landscape.

Located to the north-east of the Quadrangle, opposite the Great Hall, the museum will be noticeable when viewed from the Clock tower entrance to the Quadrangle, but its visual impact on the primary view corridor from the Clock tower entrance, down University Avenue and across Victoria Park to the southern CBD skyline will be peripheral. Conversely, the impact of the museum building, when viewed from within Victoria Park looking up to the Quadrangle and Great Hall, will be minimal due to the dense canopy of the Port Jackson Fig trees that line University Avenue.

iv) Potential Archaeological Relics

The museum site was terraced and levelled to create the original tennis courts (c.1911). Additional ground disturbance occurred when the grass courts were replaced by the present concrete courts, further diminishing the potential for finding any archaeological evidence. Various archaeological reports which encompass the museum site conclude that "there is unlikely to be any archaeological relics or remains of heritage significance present within the development area." (Casey & Lowe report, 2017)

v) Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Values and Potential Archaeology:

None of the places identified in the AHIA as retaining Aboriginal cultural values on the University of Sydney campus are located near the museum site. The construction of the museum on the proposed site is unlikely to have any adverse impact on the Aboriginal cultural heritage values of this part of the University campus. The University's Museum staff have in place a process of consultation with those Aboriginal communities who have a direct association with the Aboriginal artefacts to ensure their cultural values are respected.

The potential for the preservation of in-situ Aboriginal archaeological deposits within the museum site is low, however it would be appropriate to prepare an 'unexpected finds' procedure.

The conclusion of this assessment is that the proposed Chau Chak Wing Museum will have a minimal impact on the overall heritage significance of the University of Sydney Camperdown campus and the adjacent Victoria Park and, therefore, could be approved subject to the preparation of:

- a) an Archival Recording of the Fisher Tennis Courts and the associated Clubhouse, in accordance with the NSW Heritage Office guideline;
- b) an Interpretation Plan and Interpretation Strategy for the Fisher Tennis Courts and Clubhouse; and
- c) an Unexpected Archaeological Finds Procedure.

## **1.0 Introduction**

### **1.1 Background and Purpose of the Statement of Heritage Impact**

This Statement of Heritage Impact (SHI) for the proposed Chau Chak Wing Museum at the University of Sydney Camperdown Campus has been prepared to accompany the Environmental Impact Statement for the State Significant Development Application (SSD 7894).

The location of the museum has been informed by the University of Sydney Grounds Conservation Management Plan (GCMP, 2016), prepared by the Planning Team, Campus Infrastructure and Services, based on information provided by Clive Lucas, Stapleton and Partners and additional material prepared by Circle Square Design. The GCMP was prepared in accordance with the guidelines issued by the NSW Heritage Office, the requirements of the EP&A Act and the NSW Heritage Act, and was submitted to the Heritage Council for endorsement in accordance with the D-G requirements for SSD 6123.

### **1.2 Report Objectives**

The SEARS to be issued by the Department of Planning & Environment is likely to require the SHI to address the impact of the proposed Chau Chak Wing Museum on the following:

- significant heritage items on site;
- adjacent significant heritage items;
- significant landscapes and views;
- potential archaeological relics; and
- Aboriginal cultural heritage values and potential archaeology.

The assessment of Aboriginal archaeology and cultural heritage values is dealt with in the Aboriginal Heritage Impact Assessment prepared by AHMS (February 2016). [refer to Appendix B]

The assessment of potential archaeological relics is dealt with in the CCWM Historic Archaeological Assessment, prepared by Casey and Lowe (March 2017). [refer to Appendix D]

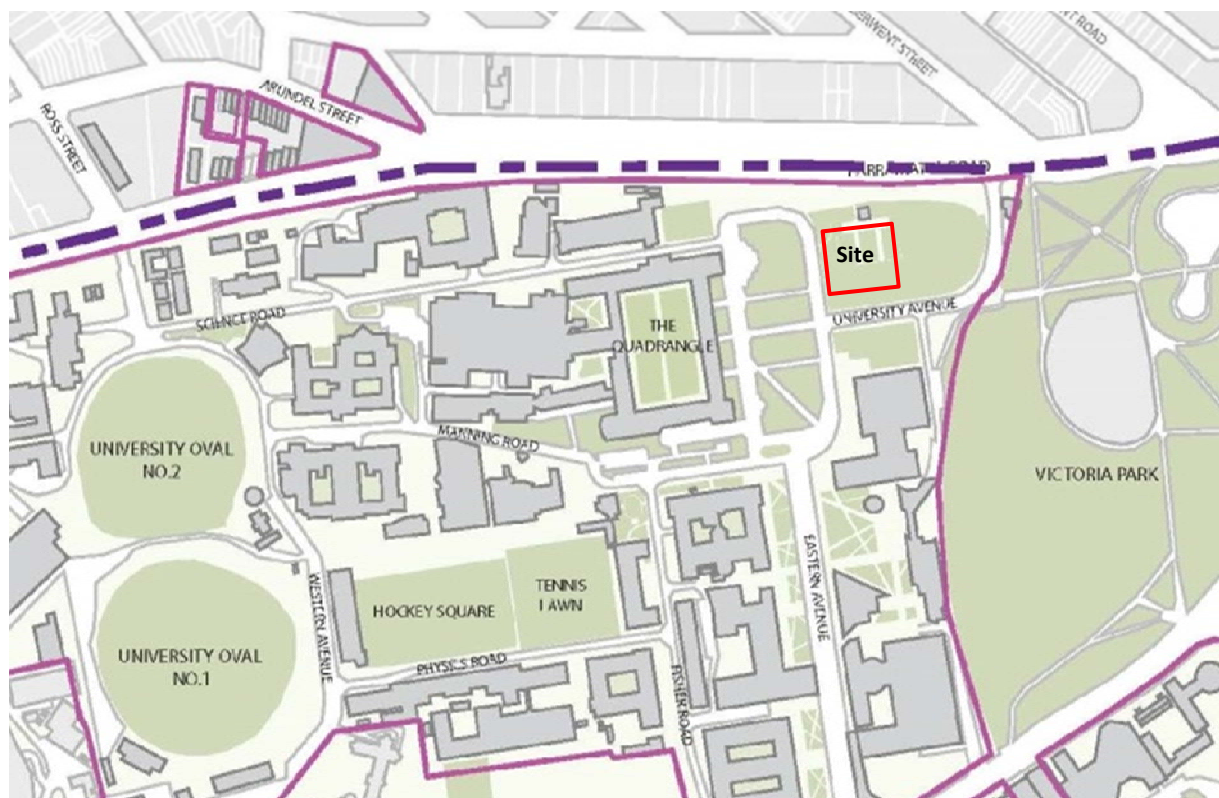
### **1.3 Methodology**

This SHI has been prepared generally in accordance with the principles and guidelines of *The Burra Charter (the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance)* and the methodology described in the Statements of Heritage Impact prepared by the NSW Heritage Office.

### **1.4 Site Location**

The site of the proposed museum is located in the north eastern sector of the University of Sydney's Camperdown campus. The site is bounded on the north by Parramatta Road, to the east and south by University Avenue and to the west by University Place. The site currently comprises the Fisher Tennis Courts (three concrete courts and the associated clubhouse) and landscaped open space, bounded by numerous significant trees. (Fig.1.1)

In this report reference to the University of Sydney (the University) refers specifically to the Camperdown Campus, as distinct from the adjacent Darlington Campus which is located on the southern side of City Road. The Camperdown Campus is bounded on the north by Parramatta Road, east by Victoria Park, south by City Road and St Paul's College, and west by St Andrew's College, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and St John's and Sancta Sophia Colleges.



**Figure 1.1 Site of the proposed Museum, University of Sydney - Camperdown Campus**  
(source: CIS, University of Sydney) (Note: The purple unbroken line defines the University owned land.)

## 1.5 Heritage Status

Various statutory and non-statutory heritage registers, schedules and lists have been checked to ascertain whether The University of Sydney campus and its component buildings and landscape spaces are listed. These listings are detailed below.

### 1.5.1 Statutory Listings

#### i) Register of National Heritage Places

The Register of National Heritage Places is maintained by the Australian Heritage Council, under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).

The University of Sydney, its grounds and buildings are not listed on the Register of National Heritage Places. It is noted that a number of University buildings were listed as having heritage value on the Register of the National Estate (RNE). Since 2007, however, the RNE has been a non-statutory archive. All the University buildings listed in the RNE archive are included in the University's Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Register. (see below.)

#### ii) State Heritage Register

Under the NSW Heritage Act 1977, the Heritage Council maintains the State Heritage Register (SHR), a register of items and places considered to be of heritage significance to the State of NSW.

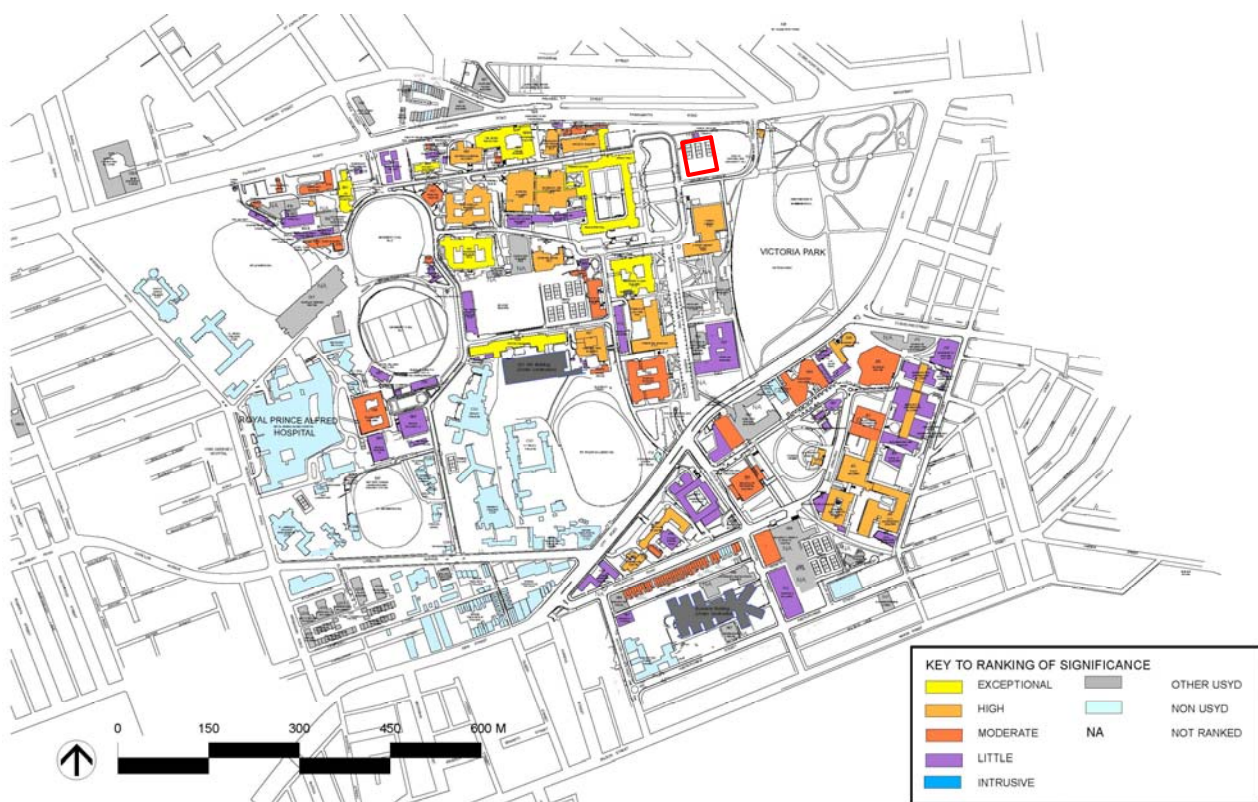
The University's Camperdown and Darlington campuses are currently not listed in whole, or in part, on the SHR, nor are any individual items listed on the SHR. The Heritage Council resolved (February 2016) to recommend to the Minister for Heritage to list the University of Sydney, the University Colleges and Victoria Park as a collective heritage item on the State Heritage Register, but the proposed SHR listing has not yet occurred.

#### iii) Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Register

The University of Sydney, as a Crown body, is required under Section 170 of the NSW Heritage Act 1977 to identify, conserve and maintain those heritage items under its ownership and control.

The University's Heritage and Conservation Register (commonly referred to the s.170 Register) lists 52 heritage items located within the Camperdown – Darlington campus. The University's s.170 Register does not assign a level of significance to each heritage item, however the recent revision of the *University of Sydney Grounds Conservation Management Plan (2016)* addresses this issue and has ascribed a relative grading of heritage significance to each of the heritage items that contribute to the overall cultural significance of the University campus. (Fig. 1.2)

The site of the museum is surrounded by a number of significant heritage buildings. The Quadrangle (East Range, Clocktower and Great Hall) (Exceptional significance) is located to the west of the site, distanced by University Place; the Fisher Library and Bookstack (High significance) is located on the southern side of University Avenue; the Parramatta Road palisade boundary fence (High significance) is to the north; and Baxter's Lodge (High significance) is located on the eastern side of University Avenue, adjacent to the Parramatta Road entrance. To the east and south-east of Baxter's Lodge, outside of the University grounds, is Victoria Park (High significance).

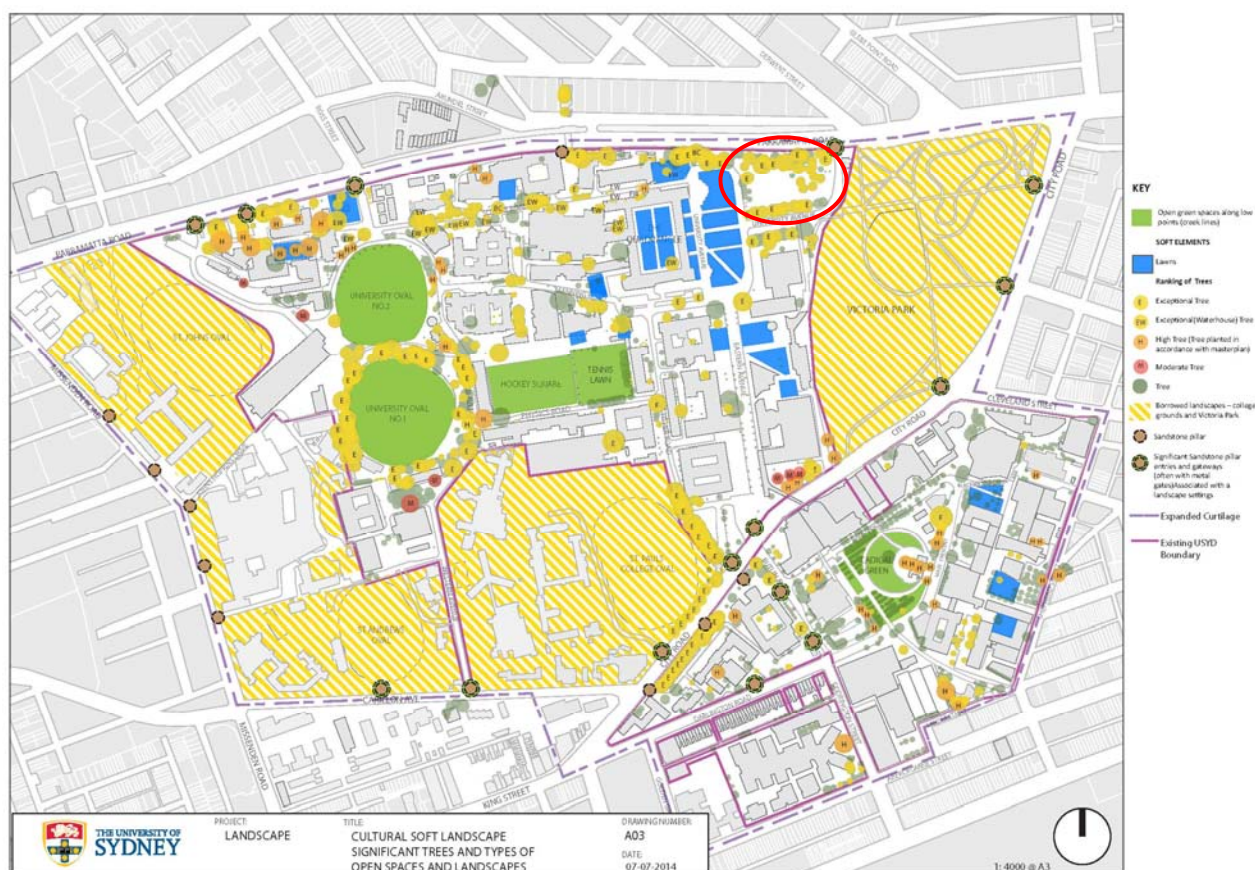


**Figure 1.2 Relative grading of heritage significance of buildings across the University campus**

(source: University of Sydney Grounds Conservation Management Plan (2016))

The GCMP also provides a grading of the cultural significance of Character Areas and Landscapes. (Fig. 1.3) The site of the museum is designated as being a Character Area of Exceptional significance, surrounded by a number of trees of Exceptional significance (Fig.1.3).

In both instances the relative grading of significance - Exceptional, High, Moderate, Little or Intrusive – assists the University in making decisions to minimise any adverse impact on an item of heritage significance. (It should be noted that a number of more recent buildings on the University campus are too new to have been assessed for their heritage significance.)



**Figure 1.3 Relative grading of Significant Trees, Open Spaces and Landscapes**

(source: University of Sydney Grounds Conservation Management Plan (2016))

#### iv) City of Sydney Local Environment Plan 2012

The University of Sydney is located within the jurisdiction of the City of Sydney Council. The University's Camperdown campus is listed as a General Conservation Area in the Sydney LEP 2012 heritage inventory (Item C5 - Sydney University Conservation Area). Numerous individual heritage items are also listed in the Sydney LEP 2012. All the heritage items listed in the Sydney LEP 2012 are also listed in the University's Section 170 Register.

The City of Sydney has adopted a Register of Significant Trees (2013), which lists the trees lining the University's Parramatta Road Frontage (Item C-258) and University Avenue (Item C-260) as being significant.

### 1.5.2 Non-Statutory Listings

#### i) National Trust of Australia (NSW) Classified Buildings.

The National Trust has classified 32 individual buildings, precincts or items located within the University campus as having heritage value. With the exception of the Darlington Road terrace houses, International House and the Greenwood & Batley Materials Testing Machine (located in the School of Civil Engineering), all the other classified items are listed in the University's Section 170 Register. The site of the museum is not listed.

Although the National Trust's classification of a heritage item does not have any legal force, the heritage significance of any of the classified items impacted by this application (SSD 7054) has been taken into consideration in this Heritage Impact Assessment.

#### ii) Australian Institute of Architects (NSW) Register of Significant Architecture in NSW

The AIA Register of Significant Architecture in NSW lists 34 heritage items on the University campus, 25 of which are listed on the University's Section 170 Register. The other 9 buildings on the AIA list are all post-

WWII buildings located within the Engineering Precinct on the Darlington campus. The site of the museum is not listed.

### **1.5.3 Historical Archaeology**

The NSW Heritage Act 1977 provides for the management of archaeological relics. The disturbance or development of a site containing archaeological relics may require the issue of a permit under section 140 of the Heritage Act. The Heritage Division is responsible for the issuing of permits to undertake archaeological excavation.

There are no statutory heritage listings that identify any archaeological relics or archaeological sites within the University of Sydney campus.

### **1.5.4 Aboriginal Archaeology**

There are no statutory heritage listings that identify any indigenous archaeological relics or archaeological sites within the University of Sydney campus.

### **1.5.5 Aboriginal Cultural Significance**

The Aboriginal Heritage Impact Assessment, prepared by AHMS (February 2016), has identified several sites across the University campus as having cultural significance to the Aboriginal community. The sites of Aboriginal cultural significance are some distance from the site of the museum.

## **1.6 Statutory Controls**

Planning controls under the City of Sydney LEP are limited to the zoning of the University campus as 'SP2 Educational Establishment' and the identification of heritage items on the Heritage Maps. There are no LEP planning controls pertaining to building heights and no Floor Space Ratio (FSR) relevant to the F23 site.

SSD 6123 (Campus Improvement Program) established the building footprints and building envelopes for seven major redevelopment projects around the perimeter of the University campus. The site of the proposed museum is outside the scope of SSD 6123.

## **1.7 Authorship**

This Heritage Impact Assessment has been prepared by Ian Kelly (M.Arch), Heritage Consultant for Campus Infrastructure and Services, University of Sydney.

The following documents, prepared by experienced heritage consultants, have supported the preparation of this report:

- University of Sydney Grounds Conservation Management Plan, prepared by the Planning Team, Campus Infrastructure and Services (2016);
- University of Sydney Campus Improvement Program Aboriginal Due Diligence Report, prepared by Godden Mackay Logan (October 2013);
- University of Sydney Aboriginal Heritage Impact Assessment, prepared by AHMS (February 2016);
- Non-indigenous Archaeological Assessment, University Campus 2010, prepared by Casey and Lowe (August 2004); and
- Victoria Park Conservation Assessment, prepared by Geoffrey Britton (2009).

In preparing the HIS reference was made Drawings JPW-DA-A-0100 to JPW-DA-A-3022 inclusive, prepared by Johnson Pilton Walker, Architects (dated 05.05.17).

## **2.0 Historical Summary**

The following historical summary is a précis of the University campus history as detailed in the University of Sydney Grounds Conservation Management Plan (2016).

### **2.1 Contact and Initial European Occupation (1788- 1850)**

The land on which the University of Sydney is located within the traditional land of the Cadigal people. There are no detailed descriptions of the vegetation and animal communities that inhabited this district, nor has any archaeological evidence relating to pre-colonial Aboriginal occupation or use of the area been found within the University grounds. Although historical records provide many descriptions of early British colonial life around Port Jackson, none of them identify any definitive associations with the land that was set aside as the site for the University of Sydney.

In 1789 Governor Phillip formally divided one thousand acres around Petersham Hill for Crown, church and school purposes. In 1792 Lieutenant-Governor Francis Grose was granted 30 acres out of the 400 acres that had been designated for church or glebe land, which he then farmed. Grose sold the leasehold when he left the colony in 1794, but the land continued to be known, and marked on maps, as Grose Farm until the mid-1800s.

During Governor Macquarie's administration the land surrounded by Parramatta, Newtown, St Paul's and Missenden Roads (some 194 acres) was fenced for the agistment of horses and cattle. The area to the south east was later developed into part of the suburb of Darlington.

### **2.2 Establishment of Campus (1850-1900)**

In the 1840s the rising class of bankers, manufacturers and professional men saw a growing need for the state to provide a higher level (tertiary) of education. At the time it was necessary to travel abroad to acquire a university education. In particular, the legal and medical professions saw a need to provide local education in these fields. As a result of local agitation an Act to incorporate and endow the University of Sydney was passed on 1 October 1850.

The structure and philosophy of the University of Sydney was based on the models of London, Edinburgh and Dublin universities, which provided a non-denominational, non-residential, education in fields more appropriate to the commercial, scientific and professional interests of an industrial democracy. In the early years the University offered a narrow curriculum.

In 1854 the University was authorised to take possession of 126 acres of land at Grose Farm, an area bounded by Parramatta Road, St Paul's Road (Carillon Avenue), Newtown (City) Road and Missenden Road, on which to construct the university and university college buildings. A building fund of £50,000 was established, originally to be provided in annual installments of £5,000 - £10,000, but this requirement was waived to enable a more rapid completion of the buildings.

In the mid-19thC British architects were immersed in a heated debate on the appropriate architectural style (the Battle of the Styles - Classicism versus Gothic/Elizabethan) for public buildings. In Sydney, the Gothic Revival style was recommended for the University buildings because the building form could more easily be extended as the needs of the University grew.

The Great Hall and the East Wing, built between 1855 and 1863, established the stylistic template for the rest of the Quadrangle and several, later, substantial campus buildings. Situated atop the Petersham ridge, the tall sandstone buildings, echoing the form of the great English universities, were clearly visible from the city. (Fig.2.1)

Between 1856 and 1876 the residential colleges of St Paul's (Anglican), St John's (Roman Catholic) and St Andrew's (Presbyterian) were built on land specifically set aside on the southern and western sides of the university campus. These college buildings were also designed in the Gothic Revival style.

By 1880's there was a shift from the concept of the University being a 'gentlemen's university' to a 'professional university'. This was reflected in the range of courses (Medicine and Science) and the teaching (night time classes) on offer. This educational growth was reflected in the construction of the Medical School (Anderson Stuart, 1889), Physics Laboratory (Badham, 1887), Chemistry (1890), the Natural History Museum (Macleay, 1891), and the School of Mines (old Geology, 1895). (Fig.2.2)



**Figure 2.1 View of the University building, looking up Main Drive, the approach avenue from Newtown (now City) Road (1870)**

(source: University of Sydney Archives)



**Figure 2.2 Detail from Survey of Sydney University and landscape (1885)**

(Source: University of Sydney Archives G74/1/10)

### 2.3 Development of Campus (1900-1920)

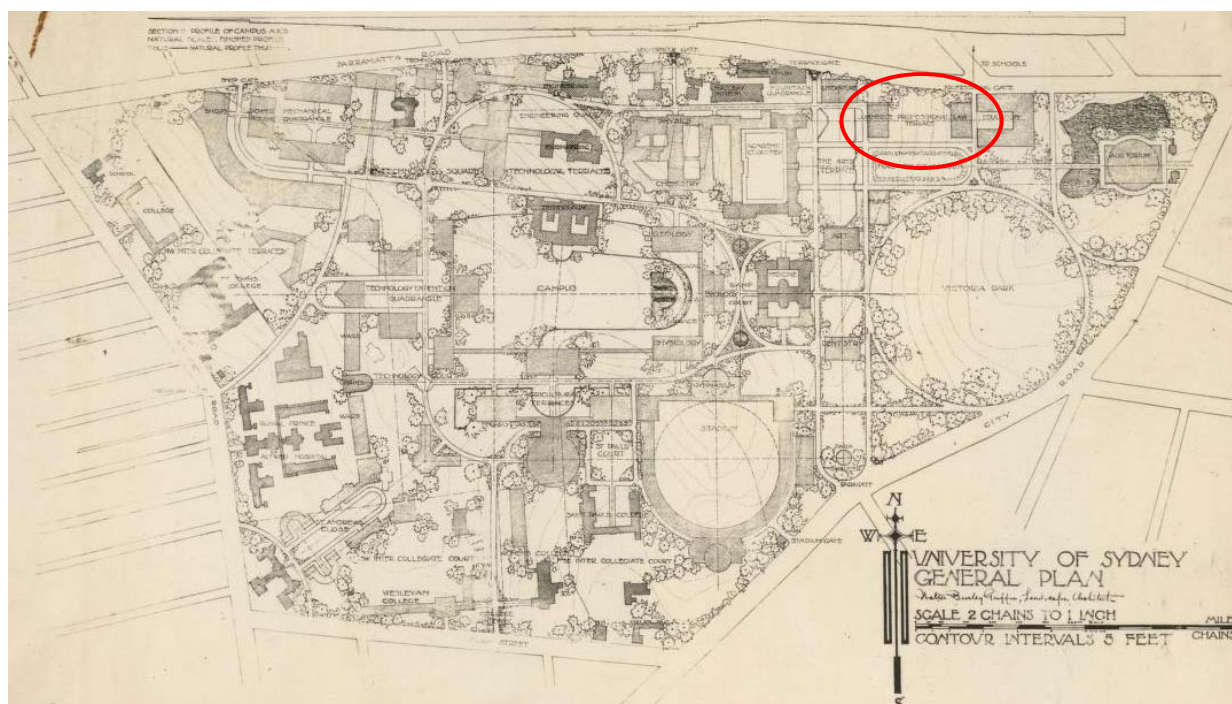
Professional education continued to expand in the early 20th Century. New courses, a number which led to their own degrees, were introduced including dentistry, agricultural science, veterinary science, architecture, economics and commerce, and education. This growth in courses and student numbers was matched by the construction of new buildings in the northern sector of the campus: Biology (Zoology, 1903), Engineering School (John Woolley, 1909), Fisher Library (MacLaurin Hall, 1909), Veterinary

Science School (J.D.Stewart, 1912), Student Union Building (Holme, 1912), Agriculture (R.D.Watt, 1916) and the Teachers' College (1920).

## 2.4 Campus Master Plans (1900-1920)

It was the construction of these new buildings, however, that prompted the University to develop a campus master plan. In 1910 W.L.Vernon, the Government Architect, prepared a general plan for the development of the University grounds. A few years later his successor, George McRae, prepared a new campus plan (1913) showing existing and future buildings, and then Walter Burley Griffin was appointed to prepare a campus master plan.

Griffin's plan was presented to the University's Building and Grounds Committee on 22 January 1915. (Fig.2.3) This plan, which ignored the existing boundaries for the university colleges and Victoria Park as well as the position of the University oval, was described as an "admirable harmonious scheme", but it was criticised on the grounds of its practicality and cost.

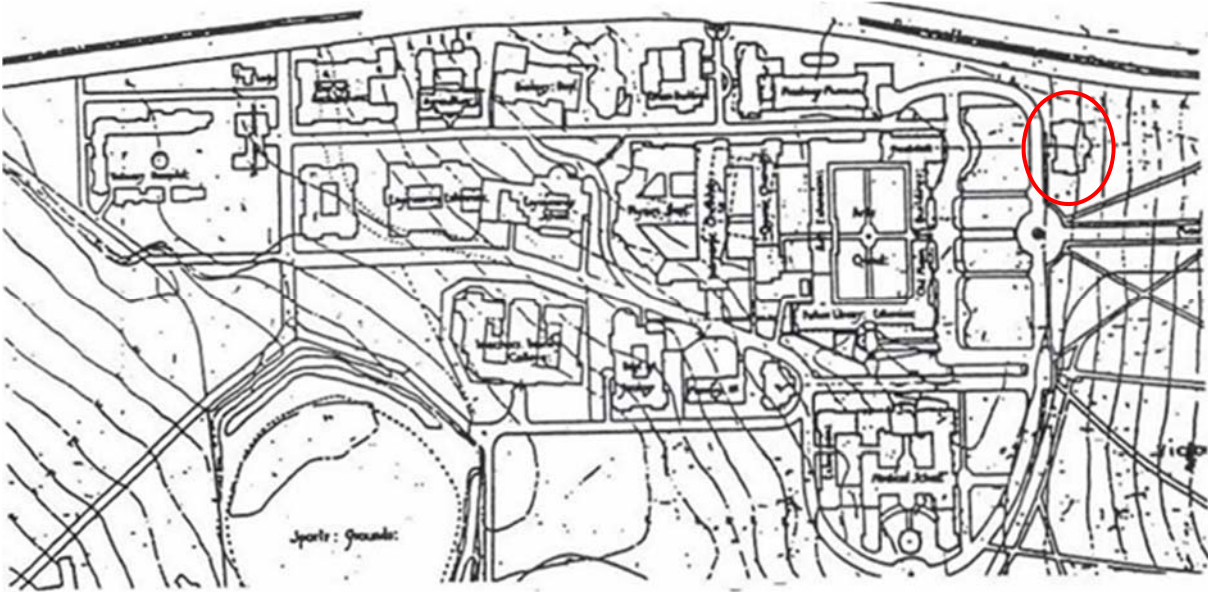


**Figure 2.3: Walter Burley Griffin's General Plan for the University of Sydney, 1915.**

(Source: Part of Eric Nicholls Collection, National Library of Australia, nla.pic-vn3603884-s210)

The Building and Grounds Committee requested Griffin's plan to be revised accordingly, but there is no evidence that a revised plan was ever prepared or submitted to the Committee. Consequently, in 1917, Gorrie Blair, the PWD Principal Design Architect, redrew and refined McRae's earlier plan, but due to war restrictions this plan was not implemented. (Fig.2.4) Both the Griffin and Blair campus plans proposed locating a building in the area now proposed for the museum.

It was around this period (c.1911) that the first tennis courts (grass) were built on the proposed museum site. The tennis courts and the associated clubhouse are shown on Wilkinson's "as built" campus plan (1919) and the campus plan in the University Calendar (1923). Tennis courts in various configurations have continued to occupy this area up to the present time.



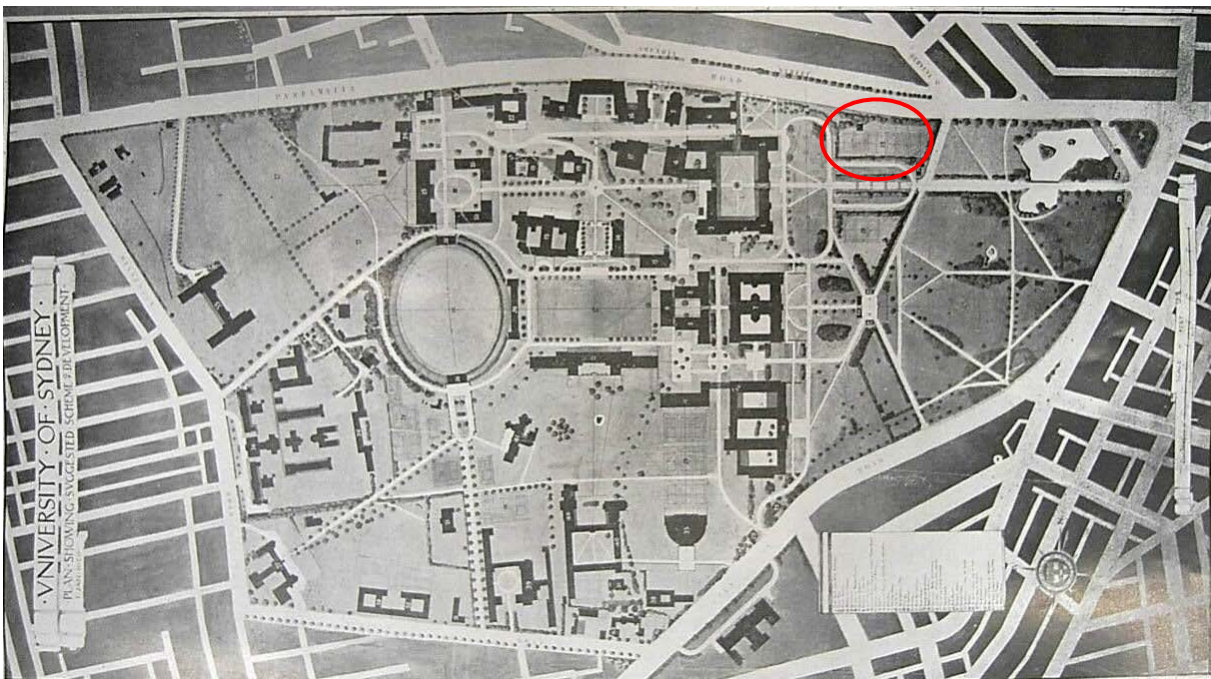
**Figure 2.4 Site Master Plan by Government Architect (1917)**

(source: Public Works Archives)

## **2.5 Development of Campus (1920-1929)**

Following the cessation of WWI the University experienced unprecedented growth in student numbers. The University's capital works program was partly funded by the University (Building) Act (1919) whereby the NSW government voted to provide £50,000 annually for five years to enable the University to accommodate the doubling of students numbers.

In response the University requested Professors Leslie Wilkinson, Madsen and Craig to advise on the general layout of the University grounds. Their report, titled "A Plan showing suggested scheme for development", was presented to the Senate in 1920. (Fig.2.5)



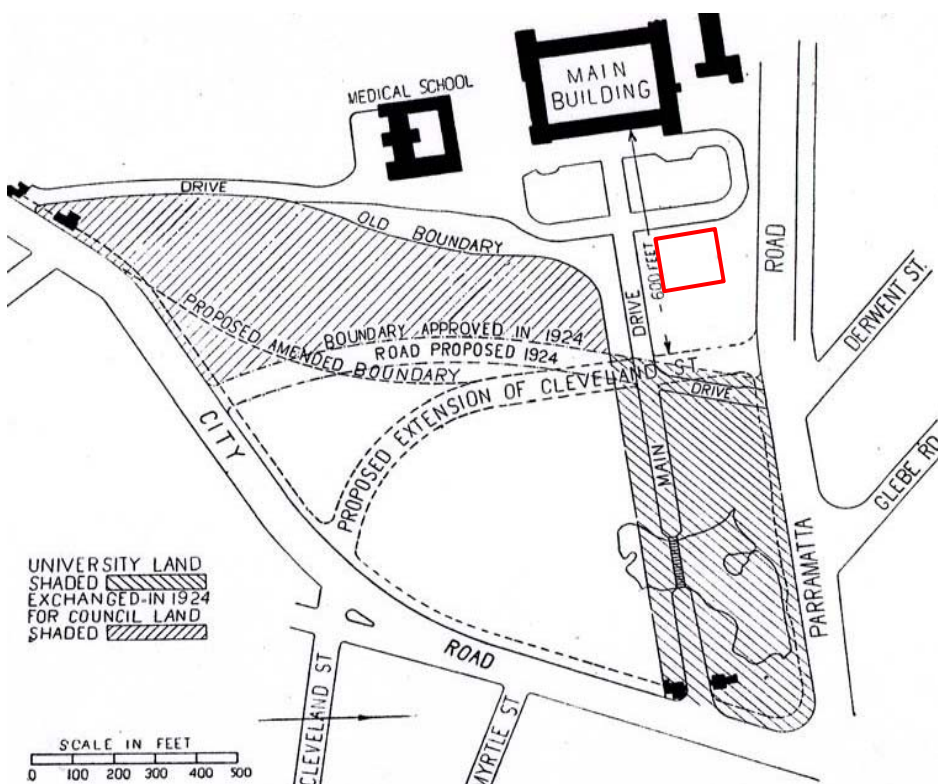
**Figure 2.5 Prof. Leslie Wilkinson's Campus Master Plan (1920)**

(source: University of Sydney Archives)

Prof. Wilkinson, the first Chair of Architecture (1918) and University Architect (1920), believed that “the peaceful order of good buildings in beautiful surroundings is of paramount importance in creating the right environment for university life” and this ideal was reflected in his campus master plan.

The Wilkinson plan shows a series of new buildings ordered on planned axes. The principal east-west axis, centred on the Quadrangle Clocktower, served to reinforce the role of the Main Drive and University Place in defining the foreground of the Quadrangle. Wilkinson’s master plan also showed a new large building sited south of the Anderson Stuart Building, which would reinforce the eastern ridgeline of the campus, bounded by a straightened Eastern Avenue. The challenge with Wilkinson’s plan, like Griffin’s, was that new university buildings were located on Victoria Park land, owned by the City of Sydney.

Wilkinson’s master plan prompted the University to enter into discussions with the Sydney City Council for an exchange of land, culminating in 1924 when the University exchanged  $7\frac{3}{4}$  acres, including the lake and the Main Drive, with the Sydney City Council for 9 acres of Victoria Park, primarily along the edge of Eastern Avenue. (Fig.2.6)

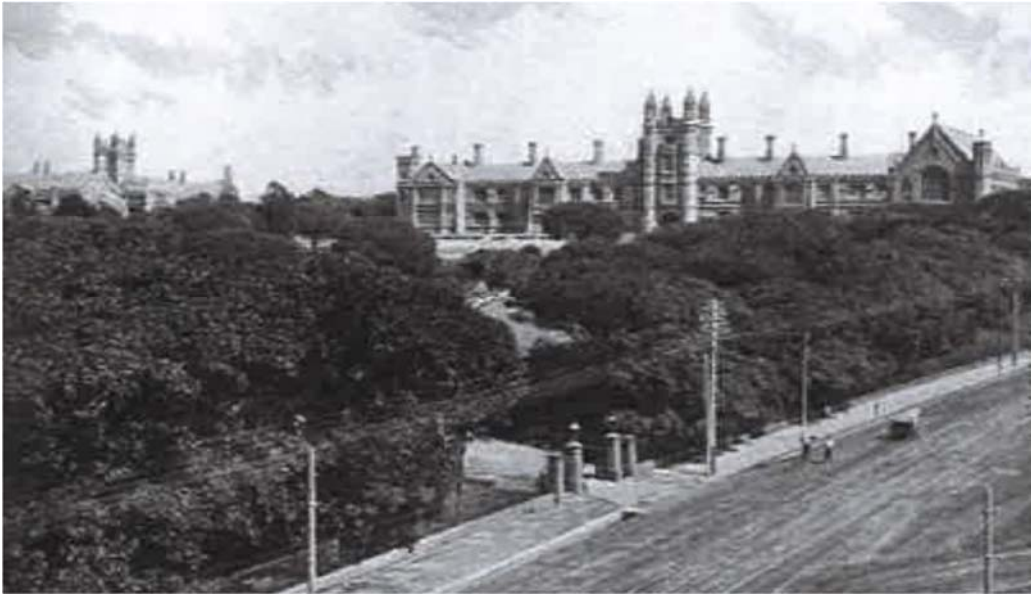


**Figure 2.6 Plan showing the land transferred between the University and City of Sydney (1924)**

(source: University of Sydney Archives)

Note: The City Council’s proposal for a new road connecting City and Parramatta roads, as shown on this plan, was dropped due to considerable public resistance. (Victoria Park Heritage Assessment 2010)

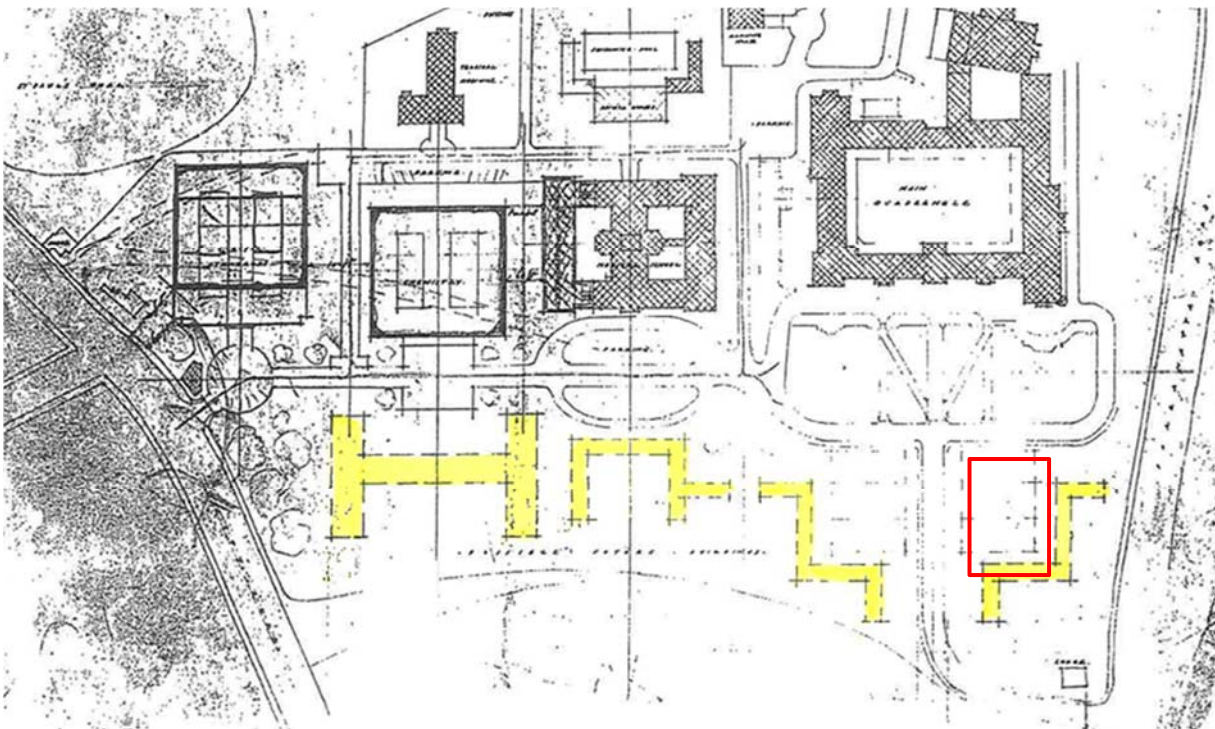
As a result of the land swap the Main Drive from City Road was truncated and the University’s secondary entrance, off Parramatta Road opposite Derwent Street (Fig. 2.7), served as the principal entrance. (Due to issues related to the land swap and the University’s finances, it was not until 1939 that the entrance gates and the associated gatekeeper’s house, now known as Baxter’s Lodge, were constructed in their current location, set well back from Parramatta Road.)



**Figure 2.7 University of Sydney, viewed from Parramatta Road (c.1901)**  
(source: City of Sydney Archives, SRC 919.441 SYDN/27 #29)

## 2.6 Development of Campus (1929-1940)

The Depression years saw the campus building program slow down, with the exception of co-operative ventures with Commonwealth agencies. The Animal Health laboratory (McMaster, 1929) was a joint venture with the newly established Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). The Public Health and Tropical Diseases (Ford, 1930) was supported by the Commonwealth Government. The new Medical School building (Blackburn, 1933) was funded by the Rockefeller Medical Foundation and the CSIR building (Madsen, 1940) was the result of a Commonwealth decision to locate its National Standards Laboratory at the University.



**Figure 2.8 Prof. Leslie Wilkinson's Plan for "Possible Future Buildings" (March, 1939)**  
(source: University of Sydney Archives)

Following the land transfer a number of plans were drawn for a new formal entrance and lodge, but it wasn't until 1939 that the Building and Grounds Committee endorsed a design by Wilkinson. The new gateway and two storey Gothic Revival lodge, now known as Baxter's Lodge, was constructed in late 1939, early 1940. At the same time Wilkinson drew up a plan indicating the possible layout of future campus expansion on the newly acquired former Victoria Park land, on the city side of Eastern Avenue. Wilkinson's proposal included a pair of buildings symmetrically framing the approach up University Avenue to the Quadrangle. (Fig.2.8)

## 2.7 Expansion of Campus (1945-75)

By mid-1940s, a number of elements of Wilkinson's plan had been completed. The Madsen building on Eastern Avenue, the Physics building and part of the Edward Ford building had been constructed. Manning House lay to the west of the Quadrangle, and Anderson Stuart building had reached its present stage of construction. The new entrance gate and Baxter's Lodge, off Parramatta Road, clearly marked the University's principal entrance. (Fig.2.8)



**Figure 2.8 Aerial photograph of the University of Sydney and Victoria Park (c.1943)**  
(source: City of Sydney Archives)

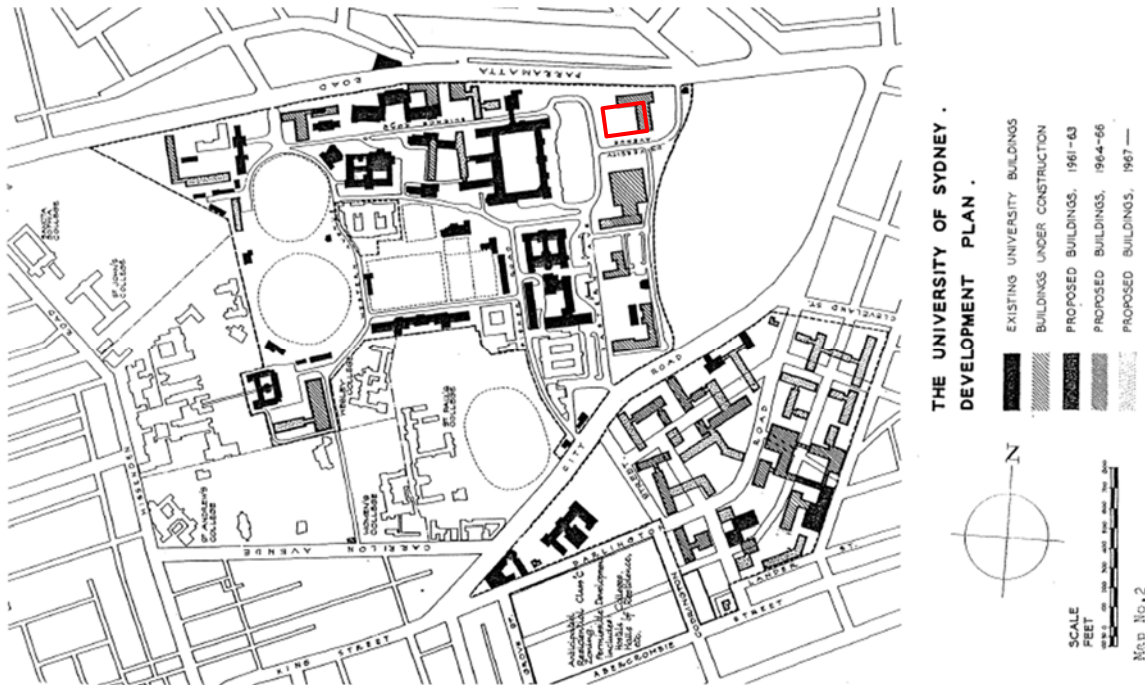
Immediately after the Second World War, the large influx of students, including returned servicemen and women (by 1946 enrolments had doubled to 8,000 students) required a rapid expansion of teaching facilities. In some instance this was achieved through the erection of temporary timber framed buildings, most notably at Ross Street and on Fisher Road, but the biggest growth occurred across City Road in Darlington. Following the adoption of the Cumberland County Planning Scheme (1951) the State Government re-zoned part of Darlington for 'special uses' (aka. the University Extension area), which enabled the University to extend its campus across City Road. By 1975 the University's entire engineering faculty had been relocated to the new Darlington campus.)

On the Camperdown campus, the construction of the Chemistry (1958), Edgeworth David (1961) and Carlsaw (1965) buildings, the Stephen Roberts lecture theatre (1962) and the new Fisher library (1962) and its associated Book Stack (1967) established the University's "east front" facing Victoria Park.

The construction of these new buildings firmly established the physical alignment and visual character of the Eastern Avenue as it exists today. The campus Development Plan (1961), prepared in the office of the University's Assistant Principal, indicates a building on the museum site. (Fig.2.9) The plan indicates the new building was to be constructed in 1964-66 triennium, but in that period the focus of campus development shifted to the Darlington campus.

## 2.8 Development of Campus (1975-90)

Australian universities faced a difficult financial time from the mid-1970s. In August 1975 the Commonwealth Government suspended the triennial grants. Funding cut backs resulted in the postponement of major building projects. Construction work over the following years was largely limited to the renovation and extension of existing buildings.



**Figure 2.9: Draft Report on the Development of the University Site, prepared in the office of the Assistant Principal, W.H. Maze, May 1961.**

(Source: University of Sydney Archives)

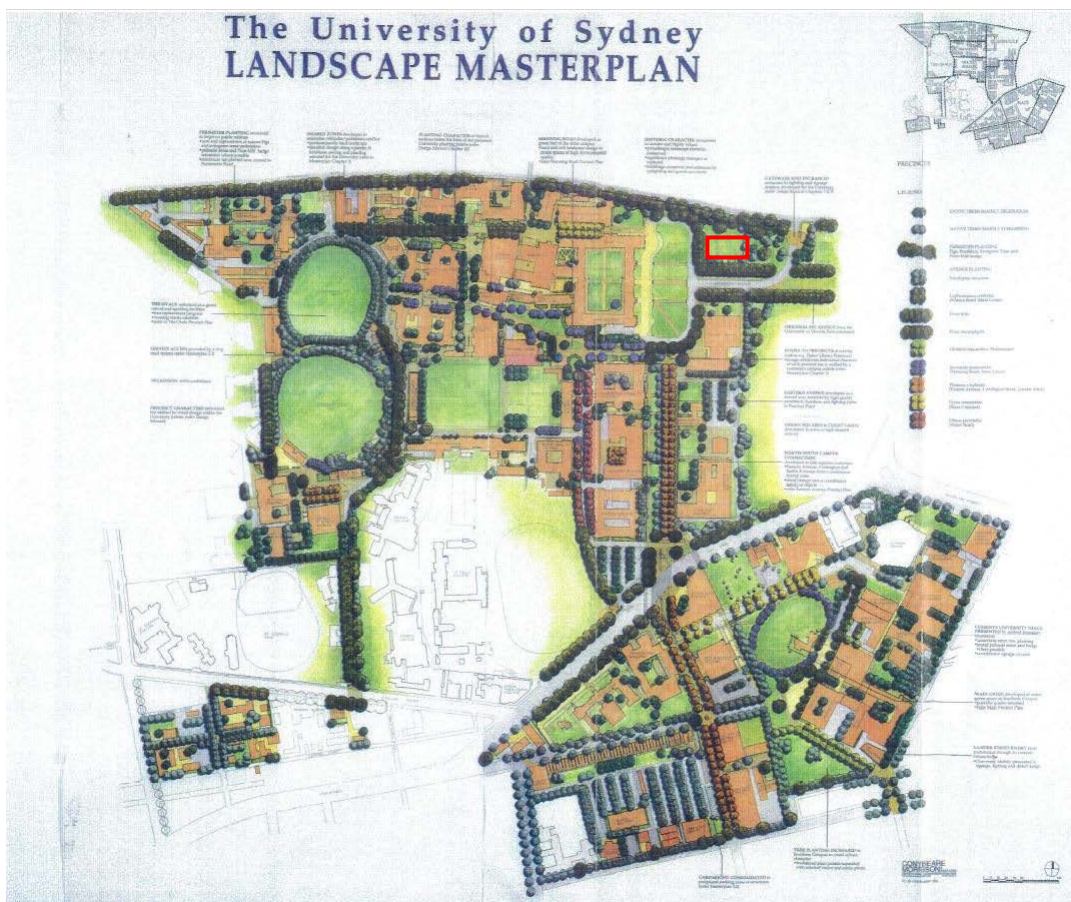
## 2.9 Expansion of Campus (1990-2000)

Student enrolments in 1989 had reached 19,076, with 3,846 full time staff and the University campus had increased to 72 hectares, a sizeable increase on the original 51 hectares of the Grose Farm site. Anticipating further development of the University campus, Conybeare Morrison was commissioned to prepare a University Strategy Plan (1990) (Fig.2.10), followed by a Landscape Master Plan (1993). (Fig.2.11) In both these plans the existing tennis courts remained on the museum site.

The community's notion of a university was changing; gaining a tertiary education was considered to be the norm, rather than elitist; enrolment fees were re-introduced by way of the Higher Education Contribution Scheme in 1990; and universities across Australia became active in the enrolment of full fee paying overseas students. The post-Modernist Education Building (1991) and the Economics and Business Building (2002) reflected the continuing growth in university teaching and also the divergent architectural styles for campus buildings.



**Figure 2.10: University Strategy Plan 1990**  
(Source: *The University of Sydney Strategy Plan*, Conybeare Morrison & Partners 1990)



**Figure 2.11 University Landscape Master Plan (1993), prepared by Conybeare Morrison & Partners**  
(source: University of Sydney Archives)

## 2.10 Development of Campus early 21<sup>st</sup> Century (2000-2015)

Over the next fifteen years a series of new buildings were constructed at the University, including the School of Information Technology Building (2006), the Jane Foss Russell Building (2008), and the new Law Building (2008).

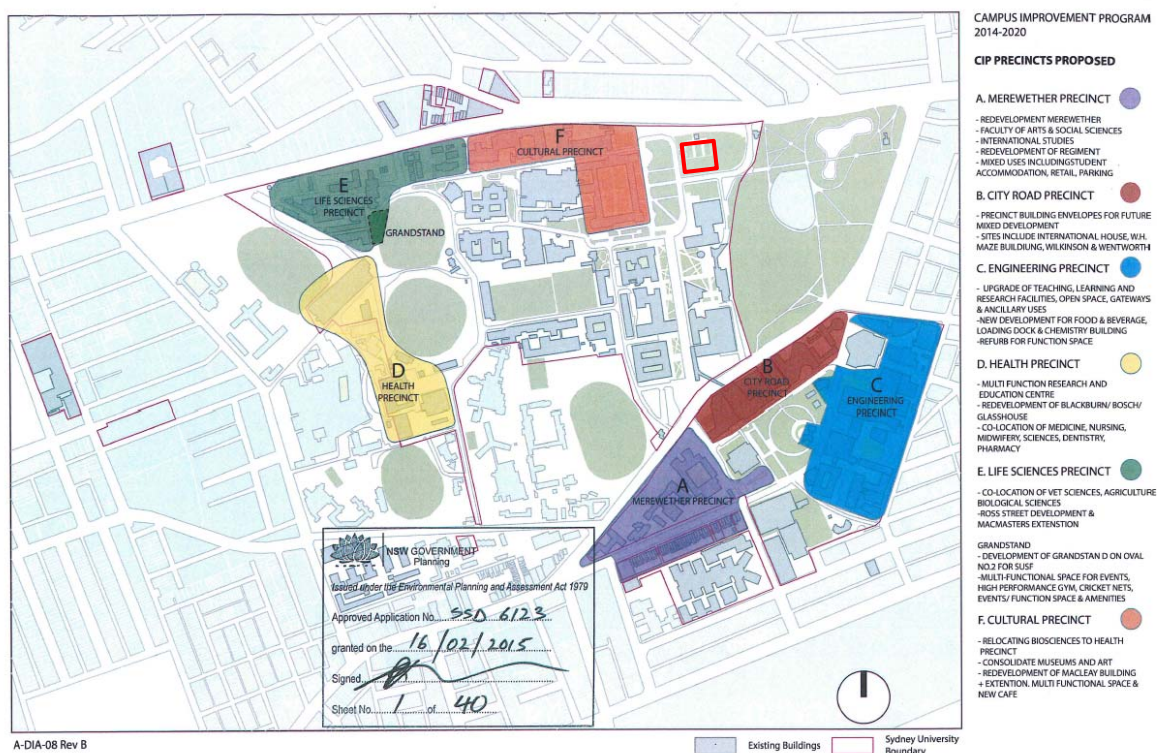
The construction of the Jane Foss Russell and Law Buildings prompted a further redesign of the Eastern Avenue urban landscape (2008). In accordance with the Conybeare Morrison Landscape Masterplan (1993) Eastern Avenue was transformed into the University's major north south pedestrian zone linking the Camperdown and Darlington campuses. As part of these works the Wentworth pedestrian overpass was demolished and replaced by a new overpass connected to the Jane Foss Russell building; cars entering the Camperdown campus were diverted from Eastern Avenue to Fisher Road; the old University gates were transferred to the City of Sydney, and reconstructed in their original location at the entrance to the University's former Main Drive up through Victoria Park; and a large entry plaza created at the City Road end of Eastern Avenue.

Faced with the challenges of overcrowding in existing facilities and the need to renew aging buildings the University commissioned a comprehensive capital development plan, the Campus 2020 Plan (March 2008), prepared by Cox in March 2008 with an objective of unifying the Camperdown and Darlington campuses. As in previous campus plans, the Fisher Tennis Court site was identified as a potential building site. (Fig.2.12)



**Figure 2.12 Campus in 2030, University Master Plan (2008), prepared by Cox Architects**  
(source: CIS, University of Sydney)

Consequently, three significant transformational projects - the Charles Perkins Centre for Obesity and Cardiovascular Disease (2013), the Australian Institute of Nanoscience, behind the Physics Building (2015); and the Abercrombie Business School, at the corner of Abercrombie and Codrington Streets (2016) – were constructed. In order to provide greater certainty for future campus development the University prepared the Campus Improvement Program (2014-20), which identified seven precincts suitable for redevelopment over the following decade. The CIP was lodged as a Stage 1 State Significant Development and approved by the Minister for Planning in March 2015. (Fig.2.13)



**Figure 2.13 Campus Improvement Program (2015)**

(source: CIS, University of Sydney)

Precinct F is identified in the CIP as a Cultural Precinct, with the Macleay Museum / Botany Building (A12) identified for an upgrade. However, several factors including: a significant portion of funding provided by the principal donor being conditional on practical completion by mid- 2018; the lengthy time to decant and refurbish the existing museum spaces; an opportunity to consolidate the Macleay, Nicholson Museums, Art Gallery and Museum collections into a single building; and concern for the long term adverse impact of the proposed Parramatta Road entry and exit portals of Westconnex M4 – M5 link on the amenity of Macleay and Edgeworth-David Buildings (since deleted) caused the University to consider the construction of new museum on the site of the Fisher Tennis Courts. (Fig.2.14)



**Figure 2.14 Chau Chak Wing Museum Location Plan** (source: Johnson Pilton Walker, Architects)

The site of the proposed museum, the subject of this SHI, was not part of the CIP and, therefore is the subject of a separate SSD application.

### 3.0 Analysis of Physical Evidence

#### 3.1 Description of the Site

The site of the museum is located in the north eastern sector of the Camperdown campus. The site is bounded on the north by Parramatta Road, to the east and south by University Avenue and to the west by University Place. (Fig.3.1) The site currently comprises the Fisher Tennis Courts and landscaped open space. The three tennis courts, which step down the site, and the associated clubhouse were first constructed c.1911. Originally grass courts, the tennis courts have had several modifications. They are currently concrete courts, enclosed by a high chain wire fence.



**Figure 3.1 Existing landscape of the Museum site, looking east from the Quadrangle.**  
(Photo: R Green, 2006)

## 4.0 Assessment of Significance

The University of Sydney Grounds Conservation Management Plan, 2015 (GCMP), prepared by the Planning Team, Campus Infrastructure and Services, provides a thorough description of the University campus. (Appendix A)

The GCMP ranks the heritage significance of campus buildings and identifies significant landscapes and landscape elements, key view corridors and planning axes, etc. The GCMP also provides conservation policies to ensure that the heritage significance of these buildings, significant landscapes and landscape elements, key view corridors and planning axes are appropriately managed as an integral part of the future developments on the University campus.

### 4.1 Statement of Significance

The following summary Statement of Significance is taken from the Grounds Conservation Management Plan (2016). This Statement of Significance provides an overview of the heritage significance of the University campus:

*The University of Sydney, University Colleges and Victoria Park is regarded to be of state historical significance, as a vestige of Governor Phillip's original 1,000 acres (404 ha) 'Kangaroo Ground' Crown reserve of 1790 and for its connection to the 18th century British government's approach to colonialism and its concept of 'terra nullius' as the foundation for dispossession of Aboriginal land in the immediate area of Sydney.*

*The cultural landscape is regarded to be of state heritage significance for its ability to demonstrate activities of the colonial era (1792–1855) associated with Grose Farm, orphan school and convict stockade.*

*The place is regarded to be of state heritage significance in demonstrating the aspirations of colonial Sydney to shape its own society, polity and ideals that ultimately led to the establishment of the University of Sydney by Act of Parliament in 1850 and being granted land at Grose Farm in 1855.*

*The University of Sydney is regarded to be of state historical significance as the first and oldest university in Australia, dating from 1850. Reflecting in the cultural landscape changes in tertiary education, landscape design, institutional architecture, economic development and social attitudes; including the establishment of the first university college for women in Australia, Women's College in 1892.*

*The Main Quadrangle Building, the Anderson Stuart Building and the Gate Lodges, together with St Paul's, St John's and St Andrew's Colleges, as a rare composition, comprise what is the most important group of Gothic and Tudor Revival style architecture in New South Wales and potentially Australia; the landscape and grounds features associated with these buildings contribute to and support the existence and appreciation of their state aesthetic significance.*

*The cultural landscape is regarded to be aesthetically significant at a state level reflecting directly the influence of E.T. Blacket (1850s), Sir J. Sulman (1890s), W.B. Griffin (1910s), Professor L. Wilkinson (1920s) and the Government Architect's Office (1960s) in shaping the place. In particular, Blacket's location of the Great Hall and East Range of the Quadrangle (1854–1862) utilised the site's topography to provide a dramatic presentation of the University on approach from the city, a setting with planning axis that still remains.*

*The University of Sydney and Victoria Park as connected landscapes have tangible links to Charles Moore Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens (1848–1896) and subsequent designers using prevalent 19th century theories of landscape design, plant material and horticultural techniques.*

*Strongly associated with Professor Leslie Wilkinson and the implementation of his 1920 master plan, the University grounds, more than any other site, reflect Wilkinson's work in beautifying and unifying buildings and their settings. This pursuit of beauty can also be seen in the work of Professor E. G. Waterhouse, who made a significant contribution to the planning and planting of gardens in the Inter-war years.*

*The University of Sydney is regarded to be of state social significance for its role as a site for student activism during the 20th century, in particular, the 1965 Freedom Ride, Vietnam War and conscription protests.*

*The 1965 Freedom Ride, a bus tour of University of Sydney students led by Charles Perkins—the first Aboriginal person to head an Australian Government department—shone a spotlight on the parlous state of Australia's race relations and is now recognised as one of Australia's most significant civil rights events.*

*The University of Sydney Grounds contain part of the land developed during the 19th and early 20th centuries as the Sydney suburb of Darlington. Substantial remains of Darlington survive, represented by the Old Darlington School Building (G18), terraced housing along Darlington Road, several light industrial buildings and remnants of the former*

street pattern.

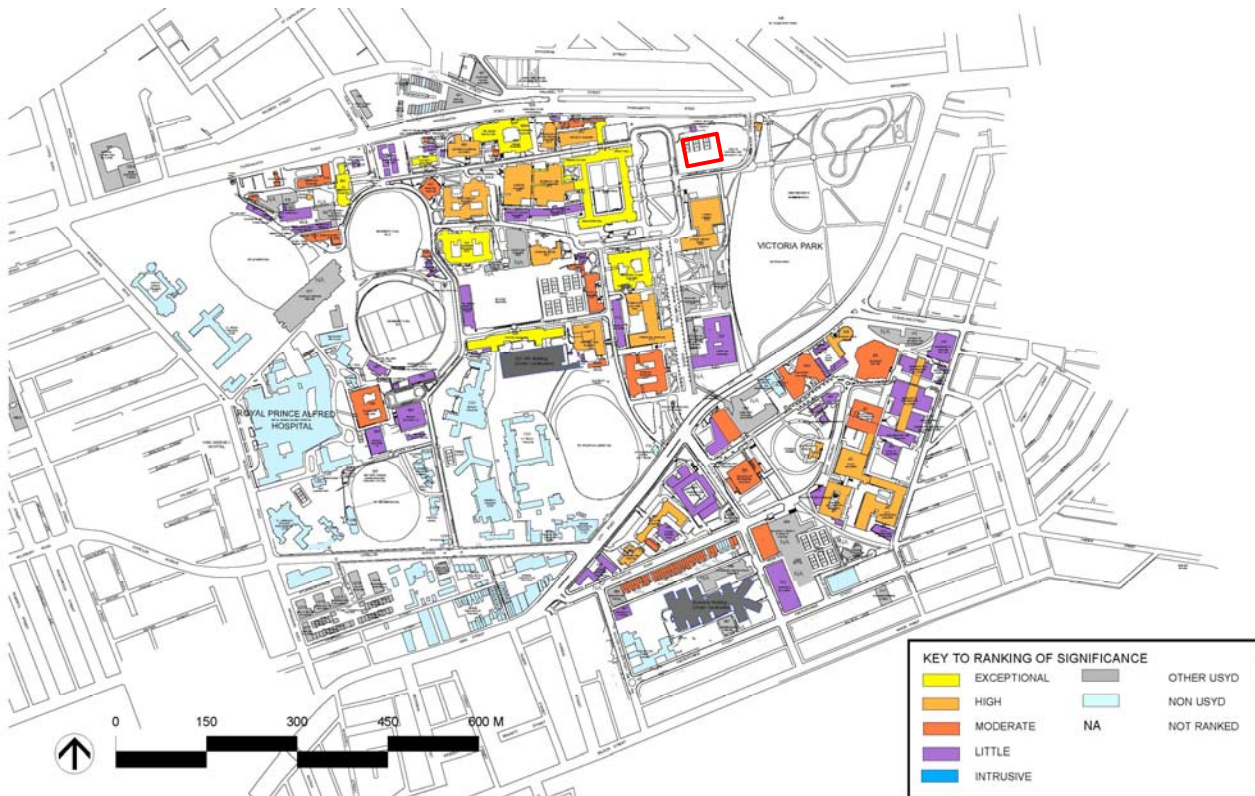
*The University of Sydney Grounds are held in regard by many Australians and other individuals and groups as a place of high university education, the place of their higher education, as the site of past events, including social protest, and especially for its research potential and for its fine buildings and landscape.*

## 4.2 Grading of Elements Contributing to Heritage Significance

The significance of the University grounds is complex – the grounds are extensive and contain a large number and variety of buildings and landscape features. These items may have individual heritage significance, significance as part of a group, a precinct, or a linear feature (i.e., an axis or view corridor), as well as contributing to the overall significance of the whole University campus.

### 4.2.1 Significant Heritage Items

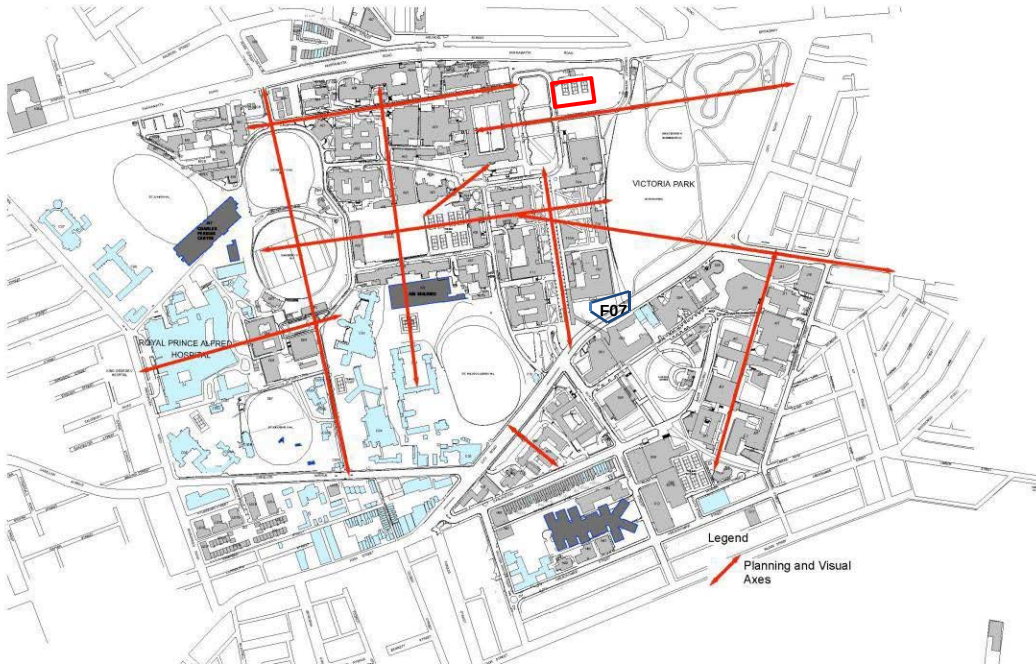
There are no identified heritage items within the museum site, however the site is bounded on the north by the Parramatta Road palisade boundary fence (High significance) and is surrounded by trees identified as having heritage significance. Also, there are a number of other heritage items in the immediate vicinity. (Fig.4.1)



**Figure 4.1 Relative grading of heritage significance of buildings adjacent to the development site**  
(source: University of Sydney Grounds Conservation Management Plan (2016))

### 4.2.2 Significant Views

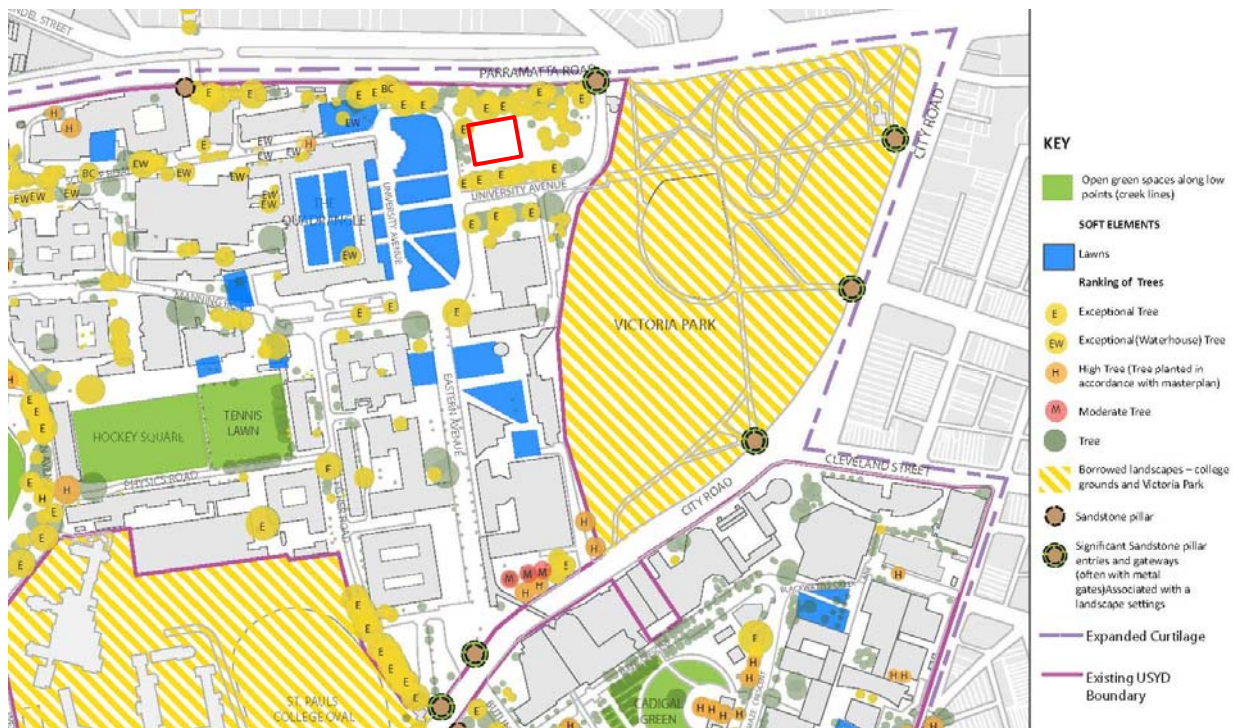
The GCMP identifies a number of significant views to and from the expanded curtilage and within the University grounds that “should be retained and if possible enhanced.” (GCMP Policy 18) (Fig.4.2) The view corridor from the Quadrangle, looking down University Avenue to the city, is the most significant view corridor in the University grounds.



**Figure 4.2 Significant views to and from the expanded curtilage and within the University grounds**  
(source: University of Sydney Grounds Conservation Management Plan (2016))

#### 4.2.1 Significant Trees and Landscapes

The University Grounds Conservation Management Plan (2016) has identified the Significant Trees and Types of Open Spaces and Landscapes across the University campus. The row of trees along the University's Parramatta Road Frontage and University Avenue are ranked as having Exceptional significance. (Fig.4.3) These trees are also listed (Items No.C258 and C-260, respectively) on the City of Sydney's *Register of Significant Trees* (2013).



**Figure 4.3 Significant Trees and Types of Open Spaces and Landscapes**  
(source: University of Sydney Grounds Conservation Management Plan (2014))

#### 4.3 Aboriginal Heritage Assessment

The Aboriginal Heritage Impact Assessment (AHIA) prepared by AHMS (February 2016) in consultation with the local Aboriginal community has identified places across the University's Camperdown and Darlington campuses which have Aboriginal cultural heritage values. (Appendix B) These places include the Macleay Museum, Shellshear Museum in the Anderson Stewart Building, Mackie Building, the Quad, the Koori Centre, the Sports Ovals and the University entrances." (AHIA, p.64.)

A number of Aboriginal heritage assessments of the university campus in general and for specific work sites, prepared over the past decade, have concluded that no archaeological sites or artefacts relating to Aboriginal occupation have been found within the University grounds.

The Campus Improvement Program Aboriginal Heritage Due Diligence Report (AHDDR), prepared by GML Heritage (October 2013), concludes:

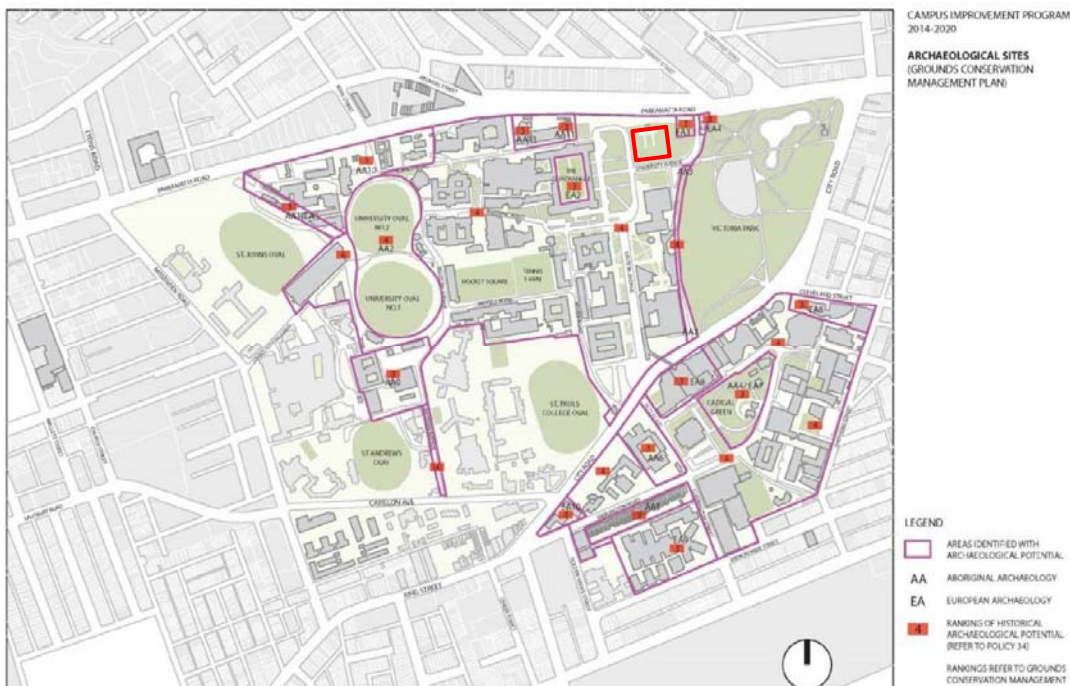
*"The current state of knowledge about the nature of past Aboriginal landscape use in the study area suggests that only few traces of these past inhabitants may be visible in the archaeological record. This result is a low potential for the preservation of in-situ Aboriginal archaeological deposits within the study area; however, if found these deposits would be of high archaeological significance due to their rarity." (AHDDR, p.34)*

The GML conclusion was reinforced by the Aboriginal Heritage Impact Assessment, prepared by AHMS (February 2016), which concludes:

*"Existing information suggests that much of the subject area (University campus) is heavily disturbed by historical activities. This disturbance has reduced or removed the potential for cultural materials to be present. In the unlikely event that in-situ deposits are identified, they are likely to be of local or State significance." (AHIA, p.63)*

#### 4.4 Archaeology Assessment

Over the past decade a number of archaeological reports have been prepared for the University campus, both in general and for specific work sites. Based on these previous reports, and given the amount of development that has occurred at the place, the GCMP concluded "the potential for archaeology, either Aboriginal or European, is considered to be low." (GCMP, p.120) There are, however, a number of areas within the University grounds which, because they have remained generally undisturbed, are regarded as being archaeologically sensitive. (Fig.4.4) These areas are primarily ovals and playing fields, none of which are impacted by the proposed development.



**Figure 4.4 Archaeological sensitive areas on the Camperdown – Darlington Campus**  
(source: University of Sydney Grounds Conservation Management Plan (2015))



**Figure 4.4 University Building viewed from Parramatta Road (undated, between 1865 - 1885)**

(source: University of Sydney Archives, Photograph G3/224/1572)

The one potential archaeological site (EA3) near the proposed museum site refers to the former University Gate House (c.1870). (Fig.4.4)

#### **4.5 Heritage Items in the Vicinity**

There are several heritage items of varying levels of significance in the vicinity of the museum site. (Fig 4.1) The heritage items include:

- The Quadrangle (Exceptional significance)
- Fisher Library (High significance)
- Baxter's Lodge (High significance)
- Parramatta Road palisade boundary fence (High significance); and
- Victoria Park (High significance).

This Heritage Impact Assessment addresses the potential adverse impact of the proposed development upon these adjacent heritage items and recommends the means to mitigate any adverse impacts.



- Loading dock
- Plant rooms

The proposed works also include associated earthworks, tree removal, landscape works and augmentation to existing infrastructure and services.

## 6.0 Assessment of Heritage Impact

### 6.1 Heritage Impact Analysis

The SEARS to be issued by the Department of Planning & Environment is likely to require the SHI to address the impact of the proposed museum on the following:

- significant heritage items on site;
- adjacent significant heritage items;
- significant landscapes and views;
- potential archaeological relics; and
- Aboriginal cultural heritage values

### 6.2 Potential Impacts on Heritage Items on Site

Discussion: The site of the proposed Chau Chak Wing Museum is currently an open grassed area, which contains three (3) concrete tennis courts and the associated weatherboard clubhouse. (Fig.6.1) Tennis courts have occupied this site since c.1911. Originally the tennis courts were grass, but it is unclear as to when the present concrete courts were constructed.

The modest weatherboard clubhouse originally housed the Sydney University Women's Sports Association (SUWSA) until 1932 when the SUWSA moved to a more substantial clubhouse at the western end of the Hockey Square (demolished and replaced by the Arena Sports Centre in 1967). The University Lawn Tennis Club is now based in the purpose built tennis pavilion (1935) at the eastern end of Hockey Square. The Fisher Courts clubhouse is presently used to store sporting equipment



**Figure 6.1 Fisher Tennis Courts and Clubhouse**  
(source: Author (Nov. 2016))

Conclusion: Having occupied this site for more than a century the Fisher Tennis Courts and associated clubhouse have an historic association with the site, but they are not of sufficient heritage significance to warrant retention. In accordance with University procedures an archival record will be prepared prior to demolition.

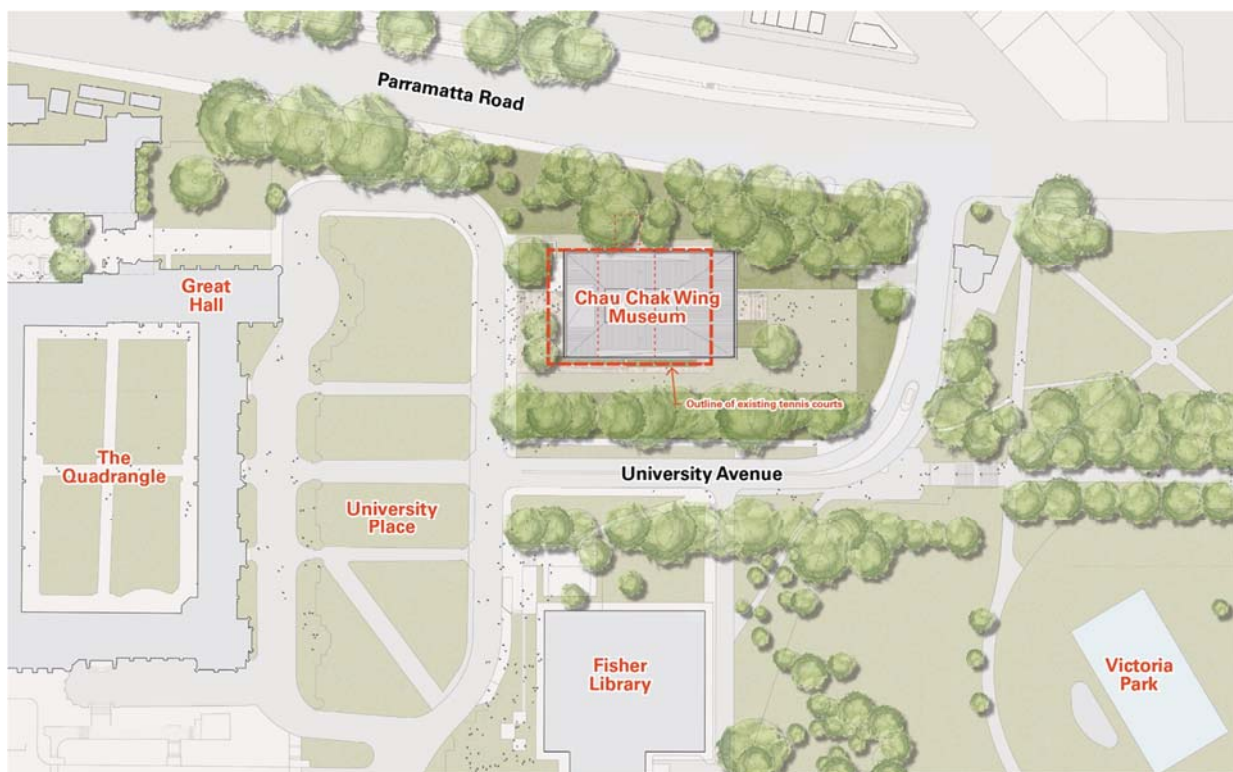
### 6.3 Potential Impacts on Adjacent Heritage Items

There are a number of other heritage items of varying levels of significance immediately adjacent to the proposed museum site, including:

- The Quadrangle and Great Hall (Exceptional significance)
- Fisher Library (High significance)
- Baxter's Lodge (High significance)
- Parramatta Road palisade boundary fence (High significance); and
- Victoria Park (High significance). (Fig.6.2)

#### 6.3.1 The Quadrangle (East Wing, Clocktower and Great Hall, 1855-62) (Exceptional Significance)

Discussion: The eastern range of the Quadrangle (East Wing, Clock Tower and Great Hall), have dominated the Petersham ridge skyline since the building was first constructed in 1855-62. (Fig.2.1) The importance of this setting was reinforced by the alignment of the Main Drive with the Clock Tower. Even after the truncation of the Main Drive in 1924, as part of the land transfer with Victoria Park, University Avenue has been maintained as the central approach to the principal University buildings.



**Figure 6.2 Heritage Items adjacent to the Museum Site**

(source: Johnson Pilton Walker, 2016)

The proposed museum site is situated to the north east of the Quadrangle, on land that drops steeply away from the ridgeline towards City Road. (Fig.6.2). The lawns and driveway of University Place provide a respectful distance (more than 70 metres) between the Great Hall and the museum. Setting the bulk of the museum into the hillside and amongst the significant trees that line University Avenue and University Place helps to minimise its physical impact. The simplicity of the museum design and the quality of the materials, details, finishes and colouration have been chosen to create an understated contrast to the visual prominence of the elaborately detailed Quadrangle complex.

Conclusion: The width of University Place dictates the physical separation (70m) of the proposed museum from the Quadrangle and Great Hall. The utilization of the steeply sloping site and the setting of the building behind the significant trees that line University Avenue and University Place will ensure the impact of the museum on the heritage significance of the Quadrangle is acceptable.

### 6.3.2 Fisher Library (1962) (High Significance)

Discussion: Fisher Library, and its adjacent Bookstack, is located well to the south of the museum site, on the other side of the tree lined University Avenue. The height and mass of the proposed museum will mirror, to a degree, the Fisher library; with the pair of buildings framing the top (western) end of University Avenue and the view to Victoria Park and the southern CBD beyond.

Conclusion: The spatial distance between the Fisher Library and the museum, as well as the two rows of significant trees that line University Avenue, will provide a suitable physical and visual separation, therefore the impact on the heritage significance of Fisher Library will be acceptable.

### 6.3.3 Baxter's Lodge and Gates (1939) (High Significance)

Discussion: The two storey Gothic revival Baxter's Lodge and Gates are located to the east of the proposed museum site, at the Parramatta Road entrance to the University. The Lodge and the museum site are physically separated by University Avenue and a broad expanse (approximately 51m) of grassed landscape. The museum building has been designed to sit into the steep slope of the site and will be partially shielded by the significant trees that line the university entrance off Parramatta Road. (Fig.6.3) As with the Quadrangle complex, the simplicity of the museum design, the quality of the materials, details, finishes and colouration have been chosen to create an understated contrast to the visually detailed, sandstone Baxter's Lodge.



**Figure 6.3 Eastern Elevation of Museum, facing Baxter's Lodge**

(source: Drawing JPW-DA-L-05XX (Rev.02), prepared by Johnson Pilton Walker – dated 05.05.17)

The entrance to the basement loading dock is located off University Avenue, across from Baxter's Lodge. The entrance has been designed so as to integrate with the landscaped foreground, east of the Museum. (Fig.6.4) It will have a minimal physical and visual impact on Baxter's Lodge.



**Figure 6.4 Site cross section, looking North through Loading Dock access**

(source: Drawing JPW-DA-A-2001, prepared by Johnson Pilton Walker – dated 05.05.17)

**Conclusion:** Due to the distance between Baxter's Lodge and Gates and the proposed museum building and the visual separation provided by the significant trees in the sloping landscape, the impact of the new building on the heritage significance of Baxter's Lodge is acceptable.

The entrance to the loading dock, designed to be integrated into the landscape, will have a minimal physical and visual impact on Baxter's Lodge and gates

#### **6.3.4 Parramatta Road Boundary Fence (High significance)**

**Discussion:** The Parramatta Road palisade boundary fence, which is to the north of the museum site, will be unaffected by the development.

**Conclusion:** The museum will have no impact on the heritage significance of this section of the Parramatta Road boundary fence and, therefore, is acceptable.

#### **6.3.5 Victoria Park (High Significance)**

**Discussion:** Victoria Park lies to the east of the University. The primary view corridor to the University from Victoria Park is along the line of the original Main Drive, which stretches from the former University Gates on City Road, across Victoria Park, and up University Avenue to the Quadrangle clock tower. This is also the primary pedestrian approach to the University. The museum site is located to the north of University Avenue and is physically and visually separated from Victoria Park by University Avenue, Baxter's Lodge, and the dense canopy of the significant Port Jackson Fig trees that line University Avenue.

**Conclusion:** Due to the physical and visual separation, the proposed museum will have a minimal impact on the overall heritage significance of Victoria Park and, therefore, is acceptable.

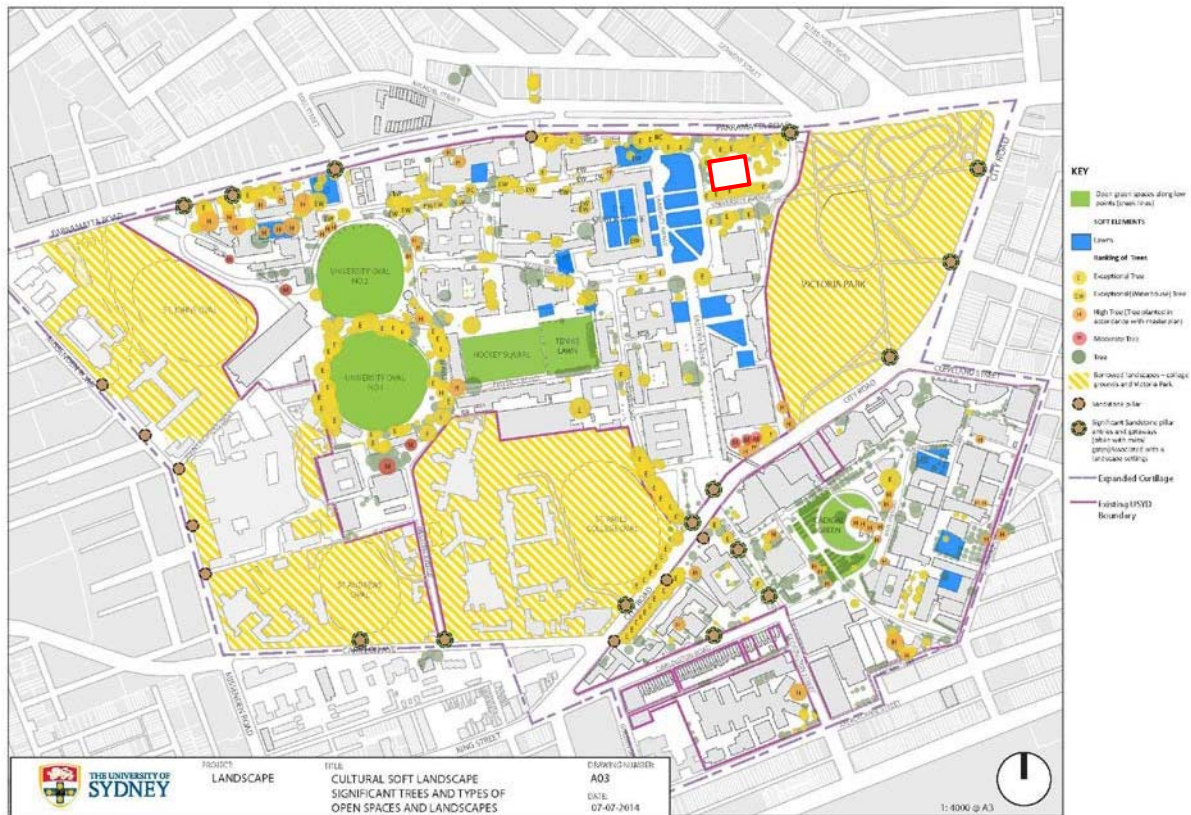
### **6.4 Potential Impacts on significant Landscapes and Views**

#### **6.4.1 Significant Landscapes**

**Discussion:** At the time the University Landscape Concept Plan was prepared by Clouston and submitted as part of the CIP (SSD 6123) the University did not contemplate the museum site being a development site and, therefore, the landscape plan proposed to retain the area as "expansive public domain", i.e. continuing the use of the Fisher Tennis Courts.

The University Grounds Conservation Management Plan (2016) identified the Significant Trees and Types of Open Spaces and Landscapes across the University campus. (Fig.6.5) The row of nine *Ficus*

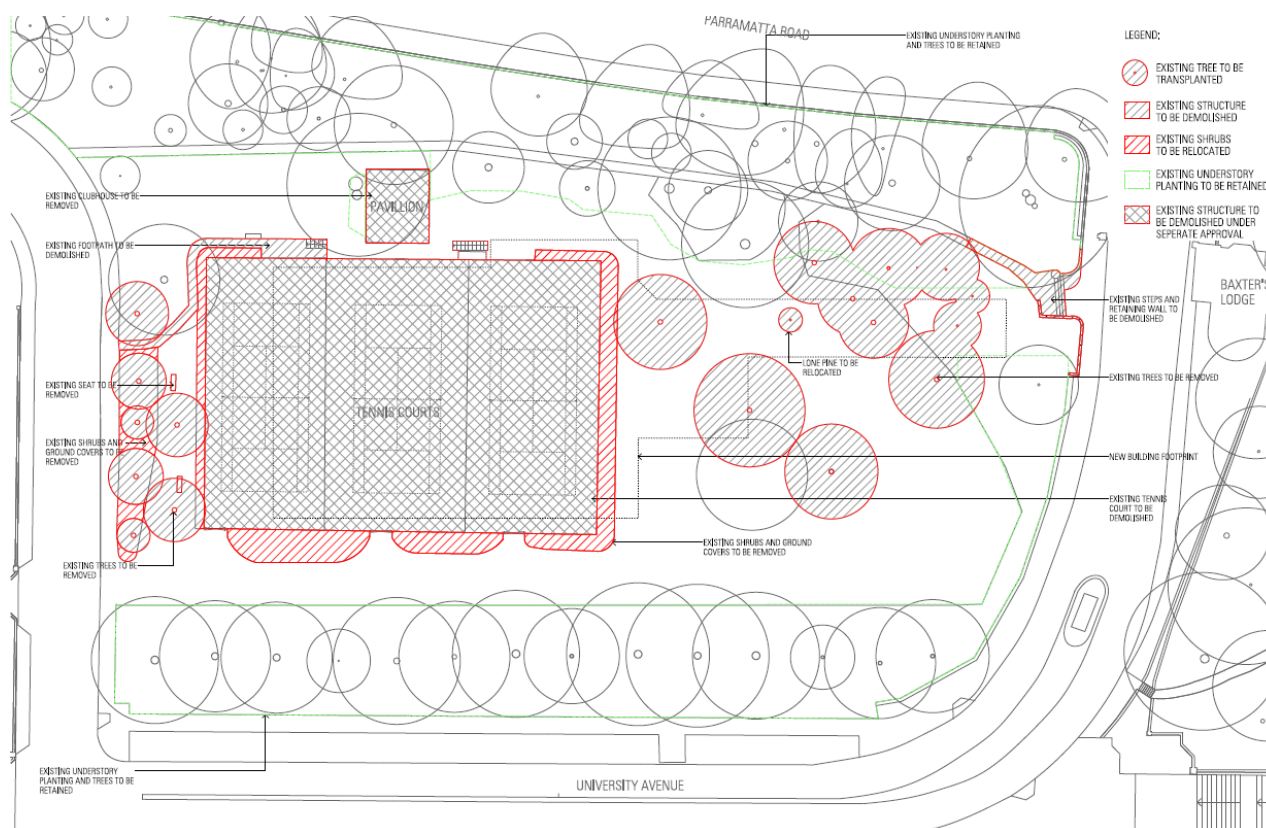
*macrophylla* (Moreton Bay Fig) and six *Ficus rubiginosa* (Port Jackson Fig) trees along the Parramatta Road together with the eighteen *Ficus rubiginosa* (Port Jackson Fig) along University Avenue that define the museum site are ranked as having Exceptional significance. These trees are also listed within the City of Sydney's *Register of Significant Trees 2013*.



**Figure 6.5 Significant Trees and Types of Open Spaces and Landscapes**  
(source: University of Sydney Grounds Conservation Management Plan (2016))

To complicate matters, however, another diagram in the Grounds CMP - Grading of Significance: Character Areas and Landscapes- identified the tennis court area as being of Exceptional significance. This discrepancy in the ranking of significance prompted the Heritage Council to request the preparation of a Landscape Assessment of the Fisher Tennis Court area. The landscape assessment of the proposed museum site, prepared by Craig Burton, concluded the actual landscape containing three concrete tennis courts and the associated clubhouse “are of Some (Moderate) significance, but not Exceptional as suggested in the Grounds CMP.” (Appendix C, p.27) The Heritage Council, consequently, accepted that a suitably designed building could be built on this site, subject to specific constraints. (HC letter, dated 19 December 1916) (Note: The Grounds CMP has been amended to reflect the conclusions of the Fisher Tennis Courts landscape assessment.)

In response the footprint of the museum is only slightly longer (eastwards) than that of the existing tennis courts (Fig.6.2) and has been positioned so as to minimize intrusion into the tree root protection zone of these trees and to minimize the need to trim the tree canopy. (Fig.6.6)



**Figure 6.6 Demolition Plan (showing the extent of tree removal)**

(source: Drawing JPW-DA-L-0503-02, prepared by Johnson Pilton Walker – dated 05.05.17)

The Aboricultural Impact Assessment, prepared by Arborsafe (dated 10 April 2017) concludes that the impact of the proposed development will be as follows:

High Retention Values (13 trees):

6 trees will experience “no foreseeable impact”; 3 trees will remain viable providing tree protection measures are adhered to during construction; 1 tree will have a short term reduction in health; 2 trees will require removal; and one tree will require a modification of the landscaping design.

Moderate Retention Values (32 trees):

21 trees will experience “no foreseeable impact”, 5 will remain viable providing tree protection measures are adhered to during construction; and 6 will be required to be removed.

Low Retention Values (26 trees):

15 trees will experience “no foreseeable impact”, 3 will remain viable providing tree protection measures are adhered to during construction; and 7 will be required to be removed.

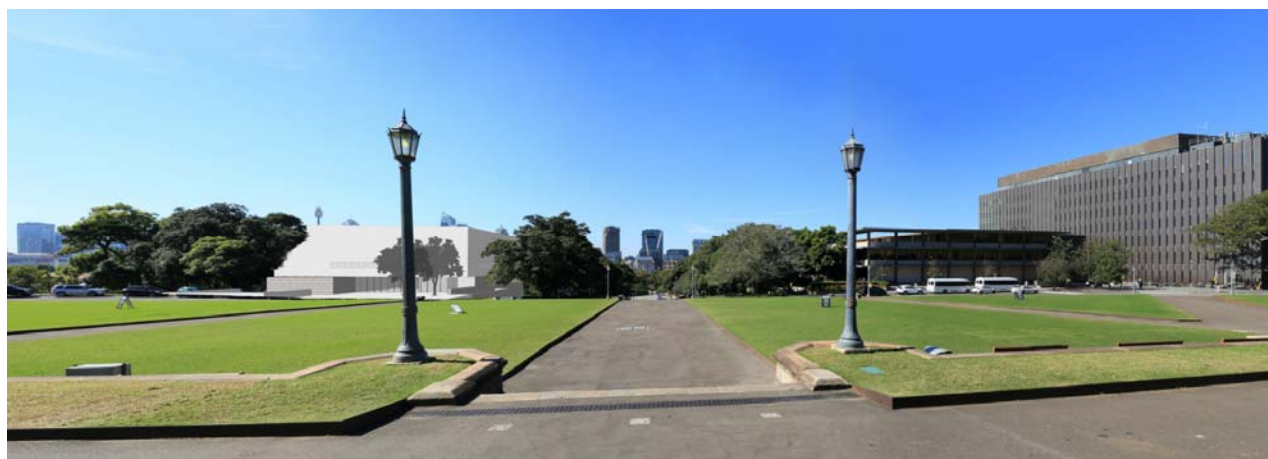
**Conclusion:** The siting of the museum in an area currently occupied by the three stepped concrete tennis courts and the clubhouse will result in the loss of some landscaped ‘open space’ of Moderate heritage significance. The proposed development will require the removal of a small number of trees (2 having HRV and 6 having MRV), but overall the sensitive siting of the new building will ensure the retention of the majority of the significant trees that define this landscape, in particular the significant Fig trees that define University Avenue and Parramatta Road.

#### 6.4.2 Significant Views

**Discussion:** The GCMP (2016) identifies the view from the Quadrangle looking down University Avenue towards the city as one of several significant view corridors within the University grounds (Fig.4.2) that “should be retained and, if possible, enhanced.” (GCMP Policy 18) This principal view corridor is centred on the Quadrangle clock tower, looking down University Avenue, and across Victoria Park to the former University gates on City Road. This view corridor reflects the alignment of the original Main Drive.

Beyond Victoria Park one sees the tall southern CBD skyline.

The museum is situated to the north-east of this principal view corridor, on an axis with the Great Hall doorway. When looking east from the Quadrangle clock tower entrance, down University Avenue, towards the southern CBD skyline, the museum is to the left of one's view cone. Set amongst the trees on the steeply sloping ground, the three storey elevation fronting University Place is no higher than the surrounding tree canopy as viewed from the Great Hall, as required by the Heritage Council (HC letter, dated 19 December 2016). The museum will not disrupt the principal view corridor down University Avenue, across Victoria Park, to the southern city skyline, but it will block some views of the CBD's north-western skyline. (Fig.6.7)



**Figure 6.7 View of the Museum from the Quadrangle Clocktower entrance**

(source: View C Pano), prepared by Johnson Pilton Walker – dated 05.05.17)

In a recent design review the NSW Heritage Council questioned whether the height of the proposed museum could be lowered to minimize the blocking of the city skyline when viewed from the main entrance to the Quadrangle. (The preferred height being lower than the previously agreed height equivalent to that of the neighbouring Fisher Library.) In addressing this issue the architects have considered a number of design responses, including: shifting the building further down the slope [east], relocating some of the functional spaces from the front of the building to the back, reducing the height of the plant room and/or reducing ceiling heights. Each option creates its own set of unacceptable compromises: to the function of the museum; the quality of its interior spaces; to equitable public access from University Place; to the vehicular access to the basement loading dock; and / or an adverse impact on the quality of the landscape, while at the same time achieving only a marginal increase in views of the southern CBD skyline.

Looking west from Victoria Park, up the former Main Drive (University Avenue) view corridor to the Quadrangle the proposed museum building, off to the right, will be screened by the dense canopy of the significant Fig trees that line University Avenue.

Conclusion: Taking into account the off-centre northern location of the museum, its understated bulk, form and materials, and the dense canopy of the surrounding significant Fig trees, the impact of the museum on the principal view corridor (from the Quadrangle clock tower entrance, down University Avenue and across Victoria Park to the southern CBD skyline) will be relatively minor and, therefore, is acceptable.

## **6.5 Potential Historical Archaeology**

Discussion: Prior to the construction of the tennis courts (c.1911) the museum site was part of the uncultivated University landscape. A row of trees defined the Main Drive (now University Avenue) and also the Parramatta Road boundary. In order to construct the tennis courts the site was terraced and levelled, thereby disturbing the surface ground. Additional ground disturbance occurred when the grass courts were replaced by the present concrete courts, further diminishing the potential for finding archaeological evidence.

The one potential archaeological site (EA3) near the proposed museum site refers to the former University Gate House (c.1870). (Fig.4.4) The Grounds CMP concludes the gate house is “likely to have been destroyed by road widening and foot path construction” along Parramatta Road and, therefore, its archaeological potential is ranked as “Low / Nil” (GCMP, Table 2.6, p.66)

Over the past decade a number of archaeological reports have been prepared for the University campus, both in general and for specific work sites. The Non-Indigenous Archaeological Assessment prepared by Casey and Lowe (2004, updated 2017) concludes the site “may contain archaeological remains belonging to the pre-university farmlands. This evidence would, however, be difficult to recognize.”

Conclusion: The recent Casey & Lowe study concludes: “there is unlikely to be any archaeological relics or remains of heritage significance present within the development area.” (Appendix D, p.1)

## **6.6 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Values and Potential Archaeology**

Discussion: The Aboriginal Heritage Impact Assessment (AHIA) prepared by AHMS (February 2016), which covers Aboriginal cultural heritage values across the University’s Camperdown and Darlington campuses, concludes:

*“Consultation with RAPs identified six places retaining cultural values within the subject area. (It is highlighted that while the discussions focused on the six CIP precincts, it also considered the wider Camperdown and Darlington Campuses). These include the Macleay Museum, Shellshear Museum in the Anderson Stewart Building, Mackie Building, the Quad, the Koori Centre, the Sports Ovals and the University entrances.” (AHIA, p.64.)*

None of the places identified in the AHIA as retaining Aboriginal cultural values on the University of Sydney campus will be affected by the construction of the museum. The consolidation of the University’s various collections in the new museum, however, may have some impact on how the Aboriginal artefacts are presented to the public. To manage this issue the University’s Museum staff have in place a process of consultation with those Aboriginal communities who have a direct association with the Aboriginal artefacts.

The University of Sydney Campus Improvement Program Aboriginal Due Diligence Report, prepared by Godden Mackay Logan (October 2013, p.34) concluded there “is a low potential for the preservation of in-situ Aboriginal archaeological deposits within the study area; however, if found these deposits would be of high significance due to their rarity.

The more recent Aboriginal Heritage Impact Assessment (AHIA) prepared by AHMS (February 2016) states that “numerous archaeological assessments have been undertaken within the University of Sydney and the surrounding area. These investigations have generally revealed very low artefact densities within heavily disturbed contexts.” Appendix B, p.6)

Conclusion: The construction of the museum on the proposed site is unlikely to have any adverse impact on the Aboriginal cultural heritage values of this part of the University campus. The potential for the preservation of in-situ Aboriginal archaeological deposits within the study area is low, however it would be appropriate to prepare an ‘unexpected finds procedure.

## 7.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

### 7.1 Conclusions

With reference to the issues identified in the SEARS the HIS concludes the following:

i) Impacts on Heritage Items on Site

Having occupied this site for more than a century the Fisher Tennis Courts and associated clubhouse have an historic association with the site, but they are not of sufficient heritage significance to warrant retention. In accordance with University procedures an archival record will be prepared prior to demolition.

ii) Impact on the significance of Adjacent Heritage Items:

The impact of the proposed Museum on the cultural significance of the adjacent heritage items, including the Quadrangle (East Wing, Clock tower and Great Hall), Fisher Library, Baxter's Lodge and Gates, Parramatta Road palisade boundary fence and Victoria Park is acceptable.

iii) Significant Landscapes and Views:

The siting of the museum in an area currently occupied by the three stepped concrete tennis courts and clubhouse will result in the loss of some landscaped 'open space' of Moderate heritage significance, but the sensitive siting of the new building will ensure the retention of the significant trees that define this landscape.

Located to the north-east of the Quadrangle, opposite the Great Hall, the museum will be noticeable when viewed from the Clock tower entrance to the Quadrangle, but its visual impact on the primary view corridor from the Clock tower entrance, down University Avenue and across Victoria Park to the southern CBD skyline will be peripheral. Conversely, the impact of the museum building, when viewed from within Victoria Park looking up to the Quadrangle and Great Hall, will be minimal due to the dense tree canopy of the Port Jackson Fig trees that line University Avenue.

iv) Potential Archaeological Relics:

Various archaeological reports affecting the museum site conclude that the potential for there being non-indigenous archaeological relics or remnants on site is considered to be low.

v) Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Values and Potential Archaeology:

None of the places identified in the AHIA as retaining Aboriginal cultural values on the University of Sydney campus are located near the museum site. The construction of the museum on the proposed site will have no direct adverse impact on the Aboriginal cultural heritage values of this part of the University campus. The consolidation of the University collections, including the Macleay Museum collection, in the new museum, will result in an improved display of the Aboriginal artefacts. The University's Museum staff have in place a process of consultation with those Aboriginal communities who have a direct association with the Aboriginal artefacts to ensure their cultural values are respected.

The potential for the preservation of in-situ Aboriginal archaeological deposits within the museum site is considered to be low, however it would be appropriate to prepare an 'unexpected finds' procedure.

### 7.2 Recommendation

The proposed Chau Chak Wing Museum will have a minimal impact on the overall heritage significance of the University of Sydney Camperdown campus and the adjacent Victoria Park and, therefore, could be approved subject to the preparation of:

- a) an Archival Recording of the Fisher Tennis Courts and the associated Clubhouse, in accordance with the NSW Heritage Office guideline;
- b) an Interpretation Plan and interpretation strategy for the Fisher Tennis Courts and Clubhouse; and
- c) an Unexpected Archaeological Finds Procedure.

## **8.0 Appendices**

### **Appendix A**

The University of Sydney Grounds Conservation Management Plan, prepared by the Planning Team, Campus Infrastructure and Services (2015)

### **Appendix B**

University of Sydney Aboriginal Heritage Impact Assessment, prepared by AHMS (February 2016)

### **Appendix C**

Proposed Museum Site Landscape Assessment, prepared by Craig Burton (October 2016)

### **Appendix D**

CCWM Historic Archaeological Assessment, prepared by Casey & Lowe (March 2017)

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