

Godden Mackay Logan (GML) (2013), University of Sydney Campus Improvement Program, Aboriginal Heritage Due Diligence Report prepared for the University of Sydney.

Goodrum, J. (1987). 'Locations of Aboriginal groups in the Sydney area' in Mulvaney, D.J. & White, J.P., *Australians to 1788*. Broadway: Fairfax, Syme & Weldon Associates, p. 345.

Jo McDonald Cultural Heritage Management Pty Ltd (JMcDCHM) (1997). 'Interim heritage management report: ADI site St Marys. Test excavation report (2 volumes)', for Lend Lease – ADI Joint Venture.

Jo McDonald Cultural Heritage Management (2004), Archaeological Survey of an Aboriginal Heritage Assessment, University of Sydney NSW, Prepared for Capital Insight.

Jo McDonald Cultural Heritage Management (2005), Sydney University Campus 2010: Test Excavations at the Law Building Site, Camperdown Campus and at maze Green, the Old Darlington School. Darlington Campus, prepared for Capital Insight Pty Ltd.

Jo McDonald Cultural Heritage Management (2006), Sydney University of Campus 2010: test Excavation at the University of Sydney Central Site, Darling Campus, prepared fr Capital Insight Pty Ltd.

Jo McDonald Cultural Heritage Management (2009), University of Sydney: Centre for Obesity Diabetics and Cardiovascular Research (CODCD) Project, Aboriginal Heritage Assessment, prepared for the University of Sydney.

Kohen, J.L. (1986). *Prehistoric Settlement in the Western Cumberland Plain: Resources, Environment, Technology*. Sydney: PhD Thesis, School of Earth Sciences, Macquarie University.

Kohen, J. (1993). *The Darug and Their Neighbours: The Traditional Owners of the Sydney Region*. Sydney: Darug Link in association with Blacktown & District Historical Society.

McDonald, J. (1997). Archaeological Test Excavation of PAD 1 CSIRO Laboratory, Ian Clunies Ross Research Laboratory. Report to CSIRO Australia.

Morgan, G. (2001). 'Delineation and description of the Eastern Environmental Subregions (provinces) in New South Wales Study.' Retrieved 25/3/2015, from <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/bioregions/SydneyBasin-Subregions.htm>.

Office of Environment & Heritage (2015). 'eSPADE', NSW Soil and land information. Retrieved 14/5/2015, from <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/eSpadeWebApp/>.

Pearson, M., Marshall, D., Ellsmore, D., Attenbrow, V., Rosen, S., Kerr, R. and Betteridge C. 2002, University of Sydney Grounds Conservation Plan, Vol.2, prepared for facilities management office, University of Sydney.

Steele, D., & Barton, H. (1998). Angel Place, Sydney. Archaeological Salvage of Site #45-6-2581, Angel Place, Sydney. Report prepared for AMP Investments Pty Ltd.

Steele, D., & Czastka, J. (2003). Archaeological Salvage Excavations at the Quadrant, Broadway. Australand Holdings.

Steele, D., & Czastka, J. (2005). Aboriginal Archaeological Salvage at KENS, Sydney. Unpublished report by Dominic Steele Consulting Archaeology for Leightons Pty Ltd.

The Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust (2015) 'PlantNET - The Plant Information Network System of The Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust, Sydney, Australia (version 2.0).' Retrieved 26/3/2015, from <http://plantnet.rbg Syd.nsw.gov.au>.

Thackway, R. and Crasswell, I.D. (1995). 'An interim biogeographic regionalisation for Australia: a framework for setting priorities in the National Reserves System Cooperative Program, Version 4.0'. Australian Nature Conservation Agency, Canberra.

White, E., & McDonald, J. (2010) 'Lithic artefact distribution in the Rouse Hill Development Area, Cumberland Plain, New South Wales', *Australian Archaeology* 70:29-38.

White, J (1790). *Journal of a Voyage to New South Wales*. London: J. Debrett.

### **Websites**

[http://indigenoustrights.net.au/civil\\_rights/freedom\\_ride\\_1965](http://indigenoustrights.net.au/civil_rights/freedom_ride_1965)

**THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY  
PROPOSED MUSEUM SITE  
LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT**

**October 2016**



**CAB CONSULTING PTY LTD.**

ABN: 48076670990

Heritage Urban Design

Landscape and Architecture

CRAIG BURTON AAIA FAILA AAA

BArch.MA.DipLD.DipEnv.S.Hort.Cert

PO Box 277

CHURCH POINT N.S.W.2105

Tel/Fax: 02-99971085 Scot. Island

02-99971050 Church Pt.

mobile : 0428424414

e-mail: [craigburton@cabconsulting.com.au](mailto:craigburton@cabconsulting.com.au)

web site: [www.cabconsulting.com.au](http://www.cabconsulting.com.au)

## **CONTENTS**

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Background**
- 1.2 Study Area**
- 1.3 Scope and Objectives**
- 1.4 Methodology**

### **2.0 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

- 2.1 Geology**
- 2.2 Landform**
- 2.3 Drainage and Water Form**
- 2.4 Soils**
- 2.5 Vegetation**

### **3.0 CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT**

- 3.1 History**

### **4.0 ANALYSIS**

- 4.1 Landscape Character**
- 4.2 Visual and Spatial Structure**

### **5.0 SIGNIFICANCE**

### **6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **7.0 SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY**

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background**

This report arises from a request by the NSW Heritage Division to prepare a Landscape Assessment of the land to the east of the Main Quadrangle complex forming part of the grounds of the University of Sydney and its landscape setting. This is in addition to all previous studies. Reference was made to the

### **1.2 Study Area**

The study area is the

### **1.3 Scope and Objectives**

The purpose of the study is as follows ;

To identify the landscape characteristics, areas and items of cultural landscape significance.

To provide a philosophical basis for future work.

To inform the preparation of a architectural design proposal which is integrated with a landscape master plan for the whole of the study area.

### **1.4 Methodology**

The methodology that was adopted was based on an understanding of the landscape of the study area and its setting as a cultural expression derived from existing documentary evidence and a review of the physical evidence. Time constraints have limited the extent of any detailed documentary research.

The methodology includes the following;

- \* Analysis of existing documentary and physical evidence
- \* Assessment of the study area as a cultural landscape and the identification of significant areas and items.
- \* Analysis of the physical qualities of the place with an emphasis on identifying the landscape character of the place.

## **2.0 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

### **2.1 Geology**

The Study area is located within the geological formation known as Ashfield Shale which is the most extensive sedimentary layer of the Wianamatta Group. Its dominant shaley composition has produced moderately fertile soil and a low undulating topography.

### **2.2 Landform**

The study area is a remnant slope of a former undulating topography with an easterly aspect and has been adapted for agriculture, pedestrian and vehicular

access routes together with terracing to create a sporting facility associated with the physical development of the University of Sydney.

### **2.3 Drainage and Water Form**

The study area formed part of the catchment of a tributary creek draining to Blackwattle Swamp Creek and ultimately to Blackwattle Bay ( now reclaimed). The natural line of the creek was intercepted by the formation of Parramatta Road and the development of the Glebe, particularly Bishopgate and St Phillip's estates. A lake formed within a depression at the junction of Parramatta Road and the Cooks River Road ( later Newtown Road and now City Road). The resulting pond was called the Horse Pond and remains, in a different form as Lake Northam within Victoria Park.

### **2.4 Soils**

The soils for the study area are classified as belonging to the Residual Soil Landscape Group and have been identified as Blacktown. ( Soil Landscapes Sydney 1:100,000 Sheet). The soil characteristics comprise shallow to moderately deep Red and Brown Podsollic soils on the well drained slopes but with moderately reactive highly plastic subsoil with low soil fertility and generally poor soil drainage. These soils are generally capable of sustaining regular cultivation and grazing.

### **2.5 Vegetation**

The study area is in an altered state in terms of its indigenous vegetation structure and floristic composition. Early clearing of timber has favoured grassland since the late 18<sup>th</sup> century when the first Colonial occupiers referred to this area as part of the Kangaroo Grounds where hunting kangaroo on the cleared country was established as a form of sport by the Military Corps. The vegetation structure may have been that of an Open Woodland to a Forest depending on local variation in soil, aspect and moisture. Benson and Powell have identified the area as part of a former Turpentine – Ironbark Forest however patches of Blackbutt ( *Eucalyptus pilularis* ) and Blue Gum ( *Eucalyptus saligna* ) may have also been present. A dense understory of shrubs may have been also present, particularly along water courses with more moist pockets supporting visually distinctive *Melaleuca* species and *Callicoma* species ( Blackwattle).

## **3.0 CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT**

### **3.1 History**

The study area has undergone eight main periods in its evolution from an environment occupied by Aboriginal people to the present institutional parkland landscape setting.

The periods of historical evolution are considered to be;

1. Aboriginal Occupation.
2. Land Grants and Rural Leases

3. Establishment of the University of Sydney 1850 - 1862
4. Development of the Approach Reserve 1865 – 1872
5. Development of the Approach Reserve 1872 – 1889
6. Development of the Approach Reserve 1890 – 1911
7. Competing Visions and Land Swap 1912 - 1925
8. Expanding Campus 1926 – 2016

Periods 4 to 8 are represented in the diagrams at Figures 23 and 24.  
The periods are briefly summarised as follows;

#### 1. Aboriginal Occupation

The study area is part of the territory of the Darug Coastal Nation and the land is within the freshwater catchment of Sydney Harbour. The University Grounds form part of the ridgeline separating the Sydney Harbour catchment and the Botany Bay catchment. Its former creeks drained towards the north into Wanagal country whilst the ridgeline to the east was connected to Cadigal country.

#### 2. Land Grants and Rural Leases

In 1789, after Governor Arthur Phillip had established a colonial settlement at Sydney Cove, received instructions requiring him to provide an allotment of land for the support of a clergyman and a schoolmaster for the new settlement. In 1790 he selected 1000 acres of land to the south and west of Blackwattle Creek for these purposes. It comprised 400 acres for the Church to the north, 400 acres for the Crown in the middle and 200 acres to the south, for a schoolmaster. The north became The Glebe and the middle and south the University where the clay soils were better for farming compared to the sandstone soils of the settlement at Sydney Cove. The lands supported a forest vegetation formation which was eventually cleared for farming when 30 acres was leased to Lieutenant – Governor Grose for fourteen years. Adjacent land was granted to Major Foveaux in 1794 and Thomas Laycock in 1797. When these leases lapsed a block of 500 acres was granted in 1803 by Governor King to the Orphan Institution however the Orphan Institution later relinquished the grant for other land in western Sydney and Bathurst. This land continued to be called Grose Farm despite Grose relinquishing the land much earlier. The Glebe lands eventually came under the control of the Church and School Corporation which subdivided the land in 1828 and in so doing established Glebe Point Road coming off the Parramatta Road. The Glebe lands and that of Grose Farm lay outside of the Sydney City boundary which aligned itself with the Cooks River Road ( now City Road) and the course of the Blackwattle Swamp Creek. A Toll house was established on the Grose Farm side of Parramatta Road and to the west with the junction with Glebe Point Road.

The dammed water at the junction of the Cooks River Road and Parramatta Road within Grose Farm was known as the Horse Pond as livestock would use

the pond accessed from near the Toll House as well as livestock agisted within the Grose Farm lands.



Figure 1. Governor Phillip's selected allotments.



Figure 2. View East from the University site c.1850 including the Horse Pond, the Toll house and remnant indigenous forest on the Glebe.

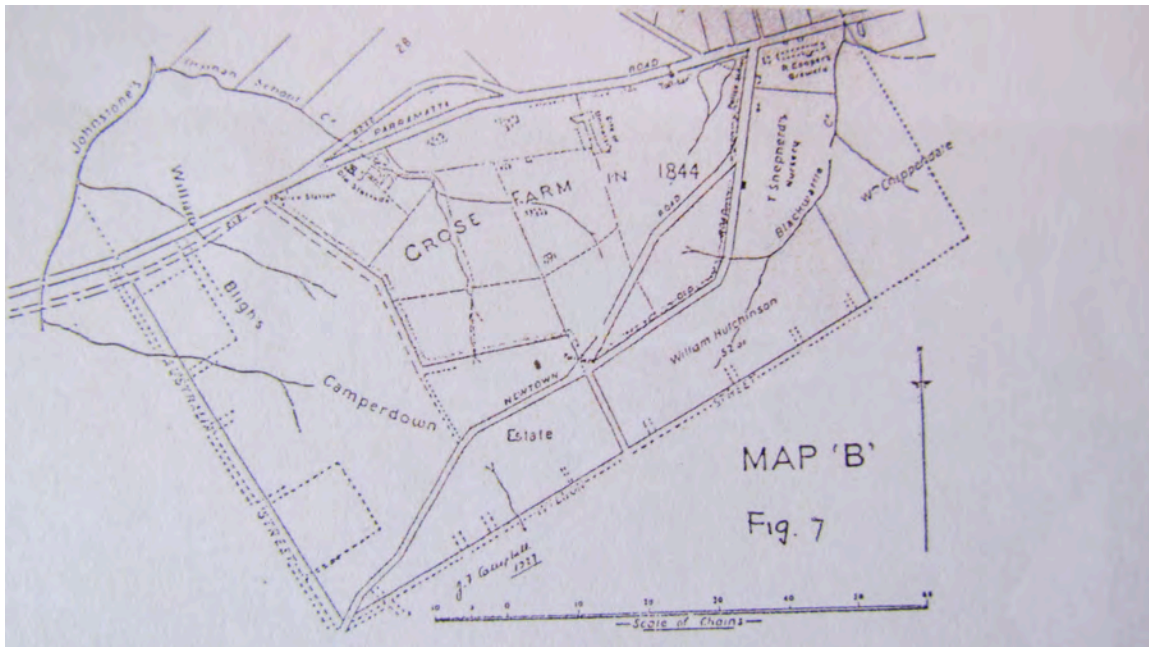


Figure 3. Grose Farm 1844

### 3. Establishment of the University of Sydney 1850 - 1862

The University of Sydney was founded following the University of Sydney Act passed in September 1850 and inaugurated on 11 October 1852 sharing premises in what is now Sydney Grammar School.

The Government granted land in Grose Farm (126 acres) in 1855 as the main campus for the University.

The first buildings were designed by the ex Colonial Architect Edmund Blacket and were sited in a conspicuous location along one of the ridge lines of the Petersham Hills and relatively close to the Parramatta Road alignment.

The sandstone buildings forming the eastern section of the Quadrangle and Great Tower were completed by 1862. The Victorian Academic Gothic buildings dominated the cleared ridgeline of the hill overlooking the Horse Pond at the bottom of the grassed slope.

By 1858 a plantation of mixed trees had been made along the northern boundary of the University Grounds and adjacent to the then alignment of Parramatta Road. The plantation was defined by hardwood paling fences. It ran from the western side of the Toll House and to the west terminating just to the west of the original Medical School building located to the north west of the first Quadrangle buildings.

An 1857 plan of the intended Quadrangle complex clearly shows the intention to create a main access road across the Horse Pond to connect to the Cook's

River Road and a secondary access off Parramatta Road together with tree plantings.

By 1862 plantation of four rows of Moreton Bay Figs ( *Ficus macrophylla*) had been planted around a central fenced avenue space and aligned as a formal axis centred on the Tower on the eastern façade of the intended Quadrangle building. The central avenue spanned the Horse Pond with a timber bridge structure and continued along with the formal tree row plants to meet the Newtown Road (formerly Cooks River Road).

The space between the Quadrangle building, Newtown road and Parramatta Road was fenced with a timber paling fence and the land understood to be used for the purpose of a park and gardens associated the University. The formed avenue and its defining plantations were also fenced, first with a post and rail fence then later as a paling fence which also ran around the Quadrangle complex to enclose the first buildings on the ridge. Further plantations were made to the south of the Quadrangle building

In 1865 an 8 acre area of land was added to the University grounds for use as a formal entrance. This was referred to as the Approach Reserve.

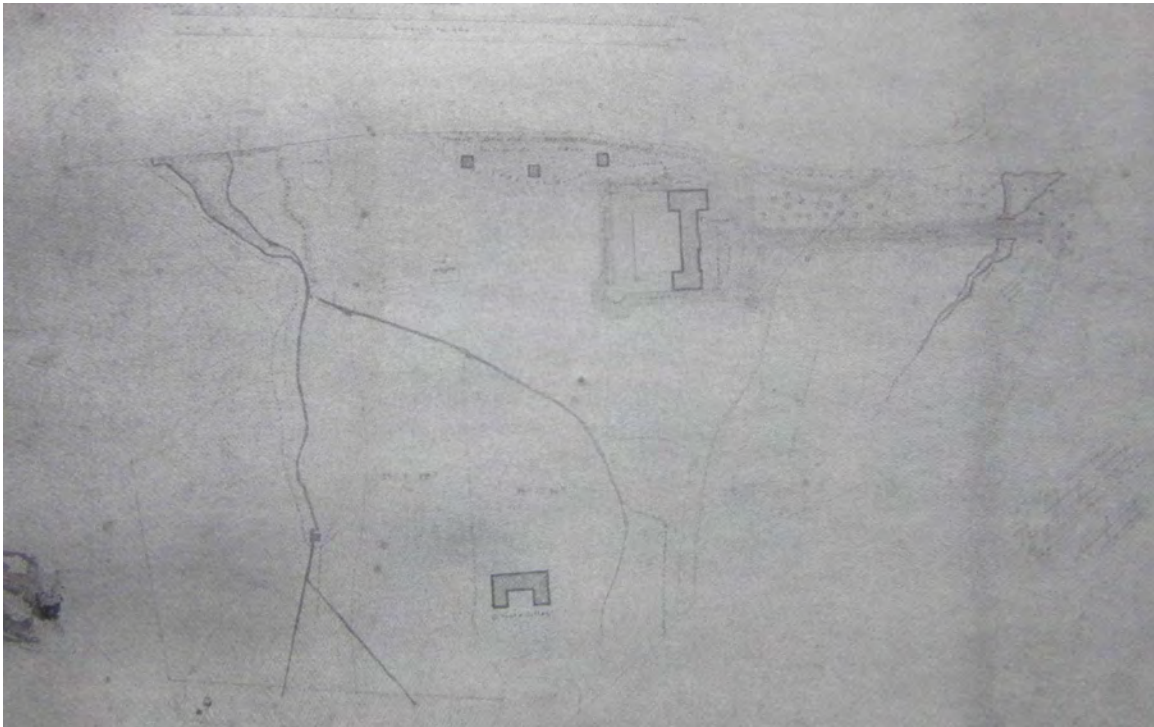


Figure 4. 1857 Plan of University buildings and Grose Farm ( copy of Blacket drawing )



Figure 5. 1858 View from Parramatta Road

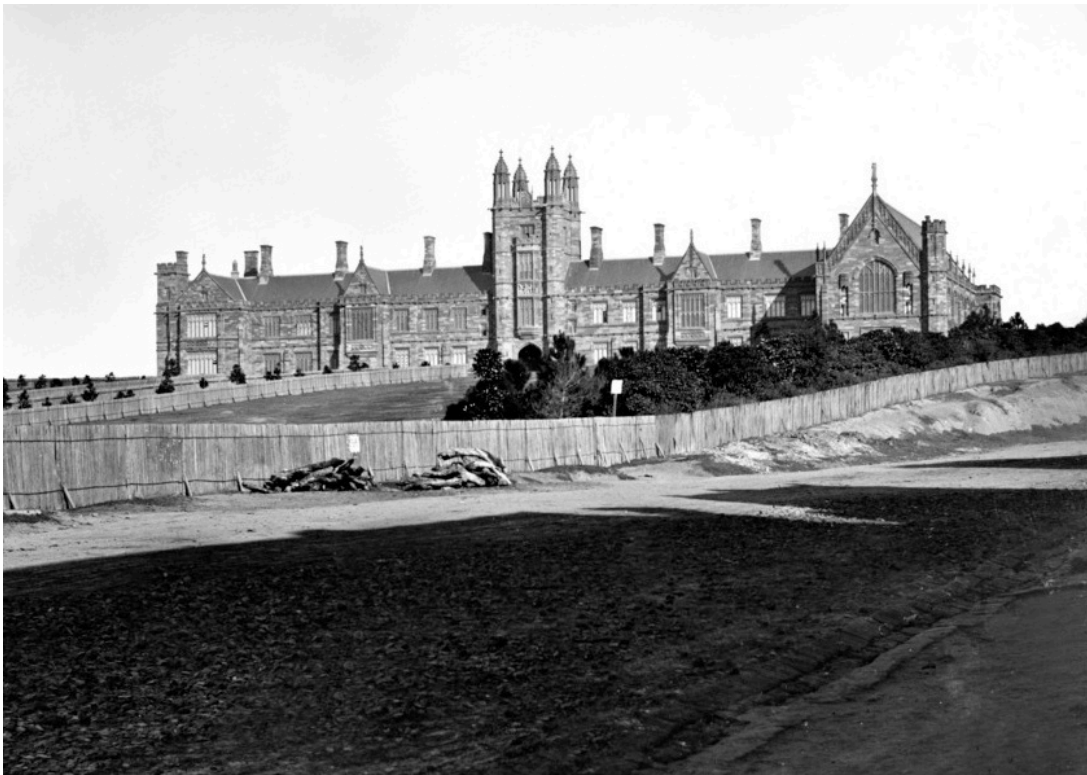


Figure 6. 1862 View from Parramatta Road (Professor J. Smith image)

#### 4. Development of the Approach Reserve (1865 – 1872)

A pedestrian gate and a curving path had been provided for access from Parramatta Road at the termination of the earlier 1850s plantation and was located to the west of the Toll house and opposite Derwent Street junction with Parramatta Road. The path linked to a more formal path composition across the grass terraces established as a major forecourt to the Quadrangle building. Each path was aligned to existing entrance doors in the façade of the Quadrangle building as symmetrical composition.

Derwent Street was formed as part of the Bishopthorpe subdivision of the Archdeaconry land to the west of Glebe Point Road in 1856.

The Glebe was predominantly a working class suburb however many of the academic staff of the university were housed in Glebe. Edmund Blackett and James Barnet both lived in Glebe, particularly to be close to the construction sites within the university.

With the establishment of the Approach Reserve in 1865 the plantation along the Parramatta Road boundary was extended past the Toll house and down to the edge of the Horse Pond which was now also referred to as the University Pond. Planting was also carried out along the Newtown Road boundary from the corner of Parramatta Road to the entry point of the formal avenue which became known as the University Avenue and later University Way. The tree species at the corners of the fenced plantations next to the pond appear to be Willow (Salix species).

In 1870 Victoria Park was proclaimed as a public park with the University Approach Reserve running through it. The Park's design came under the care of the Sydney Botanic Gardens and its then Director Charles Moore.



Figure 7. 1869 View from Parramatta Road



Figure 8. 1870 View along Approach Avenue



Figure 9. 1870s View junction of Parramatta Road and Newtown Road

## 5. Development of the Approach Reserve (1872 – 1889)

At some point during this period the formal entrance plantation of Moreton Bay Figs were removed except for the last line adjacent to the University Pond and the remainder of the avenue from the bridge to Newtown Road. The removed trees were replaced by Stone Pines (*Pinus pinea*). Also the Parramatta Road edge was planted with rows of Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*). Plants were sent from the Sydney Botanic Gardens in May 1872, July 1881 and August 1881.

The main entry point off Newtown Road had a sandstone Messenger's Lodge sited on the south side of the Avenue entrance and adjacent to new sandstone piers and gates.

The study area remained an open grassed space defined to the north and south by tree plantations and with the addition of a more formalised road access intersecting with the University Avenue whilst the footpath alignment was kept. This new vehicular entrance off Parramatta Road also had a set of sandstone piers and gates established, most probably to the design of the then Government Architect James Barnet c.1880s. Integrated with the new gateways was a dwarf sandstone wall and an iron palisade fence which enclosed both the boundary of the park and the university grounds.



Figure 10.1880 – 90 View of University entrance avenue across Victoria Park



Figure 11. Main Entry University Avenue Newton Road



Figure 12. View along Parramatta Road



Figure 13. Parramatta Road Gates c.1890

#### 6. Development of the Approach Reserve (1890 – 1911)

In this period the inside row of Stone Pine trees were removed and replaced with linear garden beds of mass planting of a variety of shrubs only along the distance between University Place and the Pond with two original Moreton Bay Figs retained next to the bridge as well as those beyond the bridge over the remodelled pond to create a more Picturesque setting.

The pathway from the Parramatta Road gates was fenced and planted with a mixture of shrub species.

In 1906 the creation of the Broadway impacted on Victoria Park through the loss of fig trees.

In 1911 the Women's Tennis Courts were constructed in the centre of the previously grassed sloping land of the study area as three lawn tennis courts by cutting and filling the slope. A fence was erected to enclose the courts. It is unknown if there were any paths to and from the courts in this period however the northern boundary plantation of mixed species appears to have been continually added to with mostly Pines amongst other species.

In 1911 management of Victoria Park was given to Sydney City Council.



Figure 14. View from Victoria Park c.1890

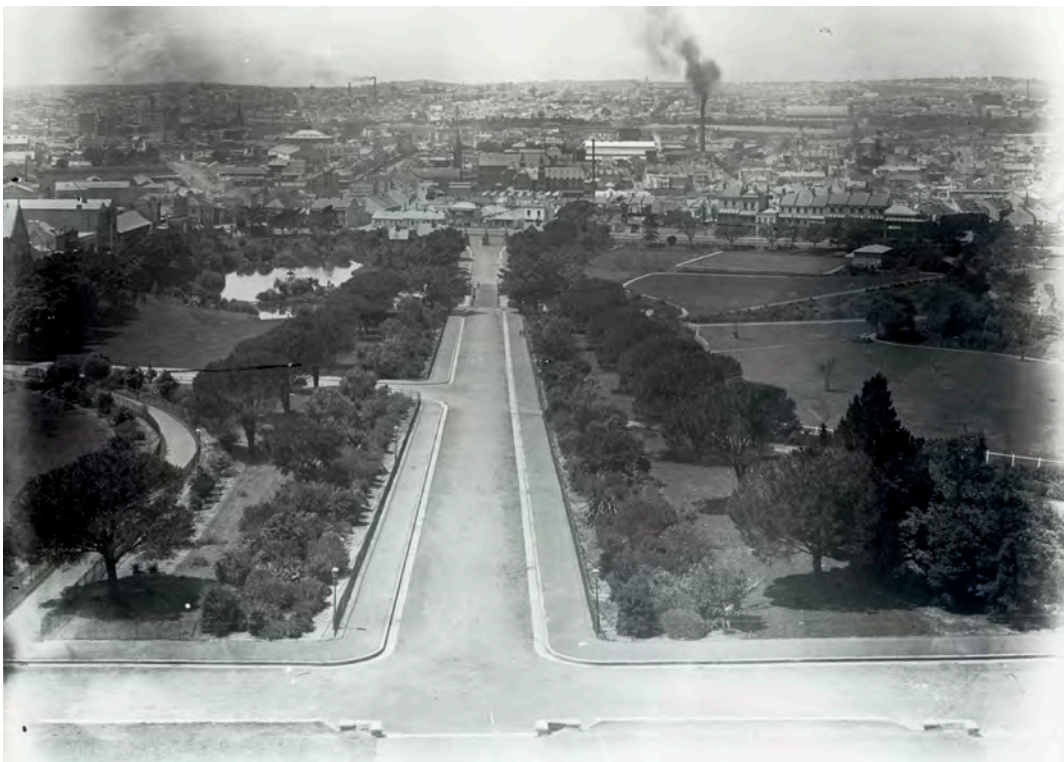


Figure 15. View from Quadrangle Clock Tower c. 1890

## 7. Competing Visions and Land Swap (1912 – 1925)

In this period visions of the future planning of the campus were developed following a 1910 plan for the campus prepared by the Government Architect Walter Liberty Vernon. In 1913 George McRae prepared a new campus plan. In 1915 Walter Burley Griffin prepared a master plan. A further plan was prepared in 1917 by the Government Architects Office and in 1920 a plan was presented by Professor Wilkinson. All of the plans with the exception of Wilkinson's proposed new buildings within the study area.

At some point in this period the plantations forming the University Avenue were changed again. Photographic evidence suggests that the pines were replaced by Port Jackson Figs ( *Ficus rubiginosa*) and Small Leaved Fig (*Ficus obliqua*) about 1916 with a single row either side of the central avenue. A row of trees were also planted in the centre of the grass terraces comprising University Place together with a pair of Canary Island Palms ( *Phoenix canariensis*) framing the entrance to the central tower of the Quadrangle building.

In 1924 part of the Approach Reserve (7.75acres) was transferred to the City of Sydney in exchange for 9 acres of Victoria Park to allow for the expansion of the university onto the then existing extent of Victoria Park. Both the Griffin and the Wilkinson plans had taken the liberty of extending the boundary.

In 1925 road widening took place along Parramatta Road which resulted in a loss of trees along the northern boundary.



Figure 16. View along Parramatta Road c. 1920s

## 8. Expanding Campus (1926 – 2016)

In the 1920s a Sports Union tennis courts pavilion is evidenced through photographic images on the northern side addressing the central court and sitting within the edge of the plantation to the north. A structure was depicted on the 1919 Campus Plan by Professor Wilkinson which may indicate that the structure may have been built as a clubhouse at a similar time as the construction of the terraced tennis courts.

As a result of the land swap the Parramatta Gateway became the principal entry point for vehicles particularly and it was not until 1939 - 40 that new gates and gate lodge were constructed to the designs of Professor Wilkinson.

In 1930 the iron palisade fence surrounding Victoria Park was removed and a new fence constructed between the Park and the University.

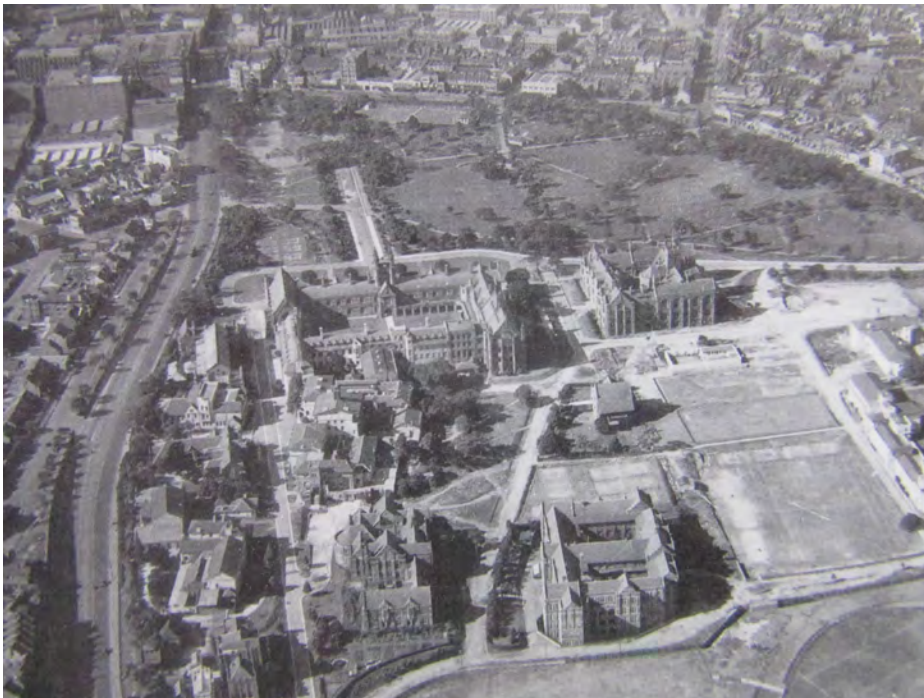


Figure 17. Aerial view c.1930

The lawn Tennis courts appear to have been reconstructed into concrete terraces In this period.



Figure 18. 1937 View



Figure 19. Parramatta Road Gates and Lodge 1940

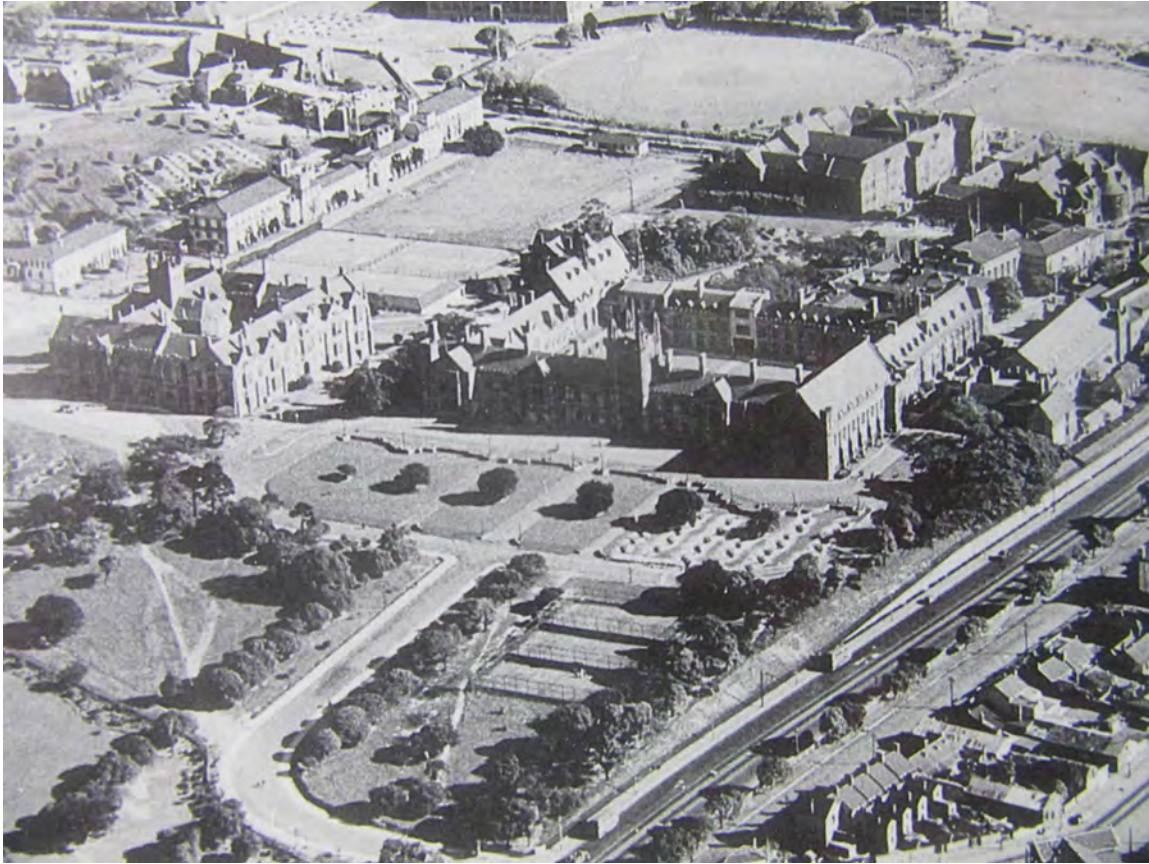


Figure 20. 1943 Aerial view of the Study area

The new entrance road from Parramatta Road had a wider carriageway than previous alignments and included footpaths on both sides of the road with a stone kerb. This reduced the curving pedestrian path to a track through the grass with some remnant planting derived from the earlier gardens and now of a more informal nature. Two other informal tracks were located to the north to link to the tennis courts and to the northern end of University Place.

These were rationalised into one concrete path in the early 1950s with a small stepped terrace and marked by a sculpture created by Tom Bass entitled “the student”.

By 1953 the row of trees in the middle of University Place had been removed as had the Canary Island Palms at an earlier date.

In the 1960s further plantings were added to the northern boundary plantation whilst the plantings on the old park boundary were removed for the construction of the Fisher Library in 1962. This became the most eastern sited building on the main campus and established a precedent for siting buildings to the east of the Quadrangle complex.

The building sited to the east of Eastern Avenue reflect the Draft Maze Report on the Development of the University Site in May 1961.



Figure 21. Tom Bass Sculpture at new entrance and northern path 1953

In the late twentieth century further plantings have been made both to the east, west and to the northern plantation. These include mostly Australian plants such as Eucalyptus species and Tristaniopsis species to further enclose the space occupied by the courts.

At some point the lawn tennis courts were converted into a stepped concrete slab facility and more recently plantings have been made around the concrete skirt of the terraced courts.

In 1990 a Conservation Management Plan was prepared by Helen Proudfoot for Victoria Park and in March 1992 a Draft Plan of Management of Victoria Park for South Sydney Council was prepared by Environmental Partnership Pty Ltd. This plan proposed the reconstruction of the University Avenue through the park, conservation of the remaining Gatehouse and extending Lake Northam (formerly the University Pond).

Following this report South Sydney Council reconstructed the Approach Avenue from City Road and including a new bridge over the lake. In 2002 the University completed work to reinstate the vista to the clock tower through its grounds. Also in 2002 a University of Sydney Grounds Conservation Plan was prepared. In 2007 the original City Road gates were returned to the City Road entrance to



Figure 22. Early 1960s Aerial View

create a direct pedestrian access line along the former alignment of the Approach avenue.

In 2016 an updated University of Sydney Grounds Conservation Management Plan was prepared. This plan recognised the significance of the tree vegetation and the nomination of a select number of individual trees as of exceptional significance (9 trees out of 71 trees existing as indicated on Figs 4.2 and 4.3 in the Grounds CMP.). The Landscape Character Area for the study area was assessed as exceptional without reference to the Tennis courts and built amenity nor the space formed by the mature and semi mature trees in which the tennis court facility was sited in the early twentieth century.

A number of trees have been identified as significant and listed on The City of Sydney Register of Significant Trees. These include trees within the larger Precinct 17 : Camperdown and specifically within the identified sub precincts Parramatta Road frontage , Group B Macleay Museum to Baxter's Lodge and University Avenue. The Register records the Fig species as *Ficus rubiginosa* f. *rubiginosa* and *Ficus rubiginosa* f. *glabrescens*. This identification is different to that contained in the Arboricultural Report of 2 September 2016 prepared by ArborSafe Pty Ltd. Where the University Avenue trees are listed as *Ficus rubiginosa* and *Ficus obliqua* .

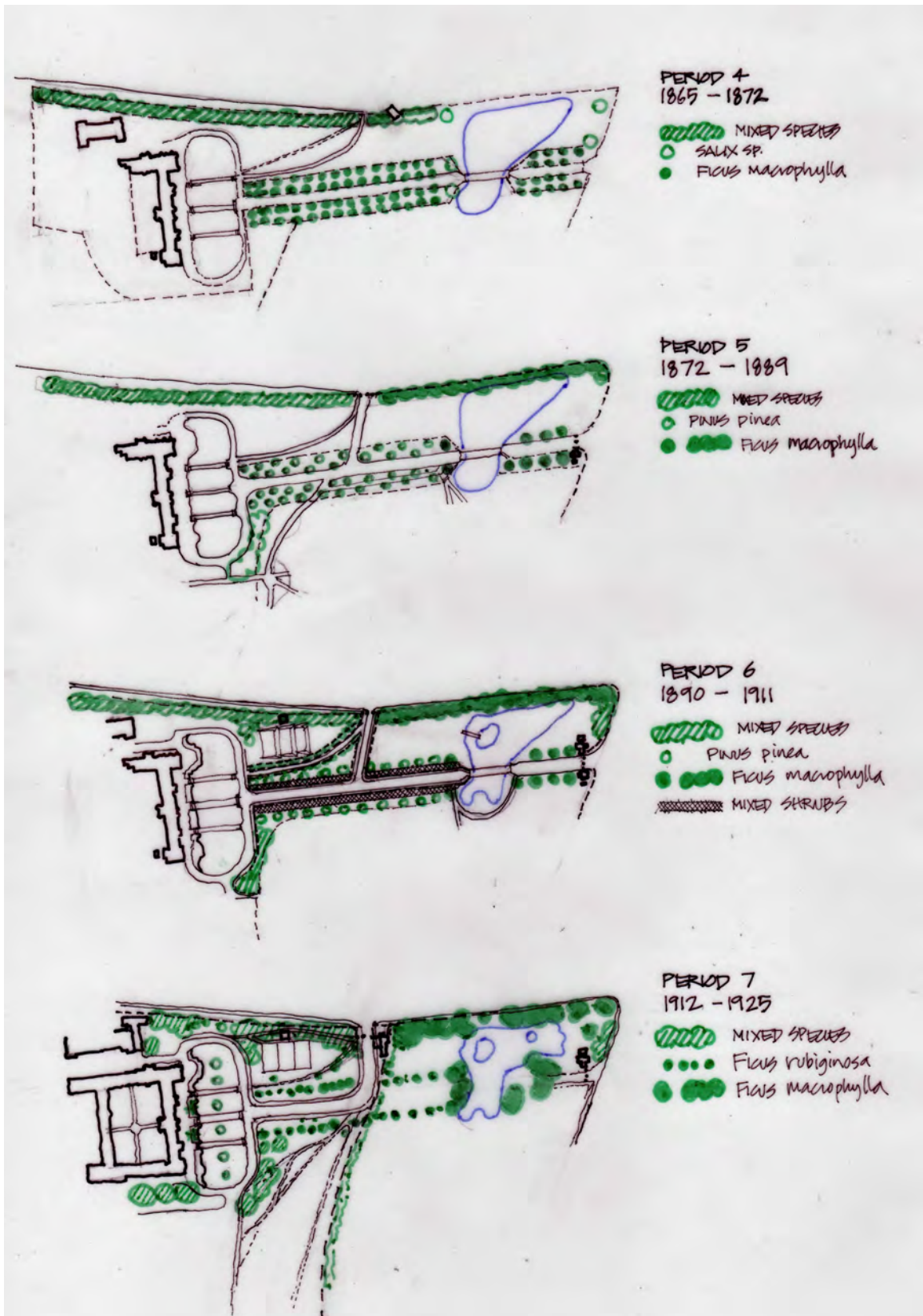


Figure 23. Evolution of the Approach Reserve ; Periods 4 - 7

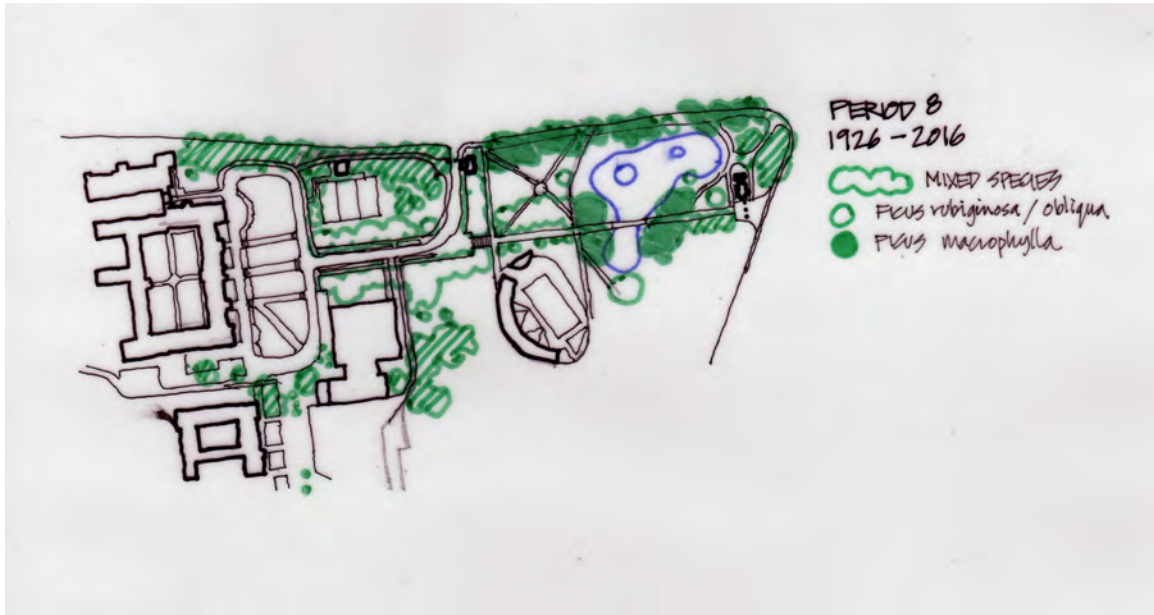


Figure 24. Period 8

The various Master Plans for the University Campus have recommended different proposals for the study area. Walter Burley Griffin's Plan of 1915 proposed two buildings with a central open space where the tennis courts are located and a much larger structure located within Victoria Park.

Leslie Wilkinson's plan of 1920 indicated the conservation of the tennis court facility and with the periphery planted on all sides with trees.

The W.H.Maze plan of 1961 indicates a building proposed in the study area and sited more to the east than the alignment with the Fisher Library ( built 1958 – 1962).

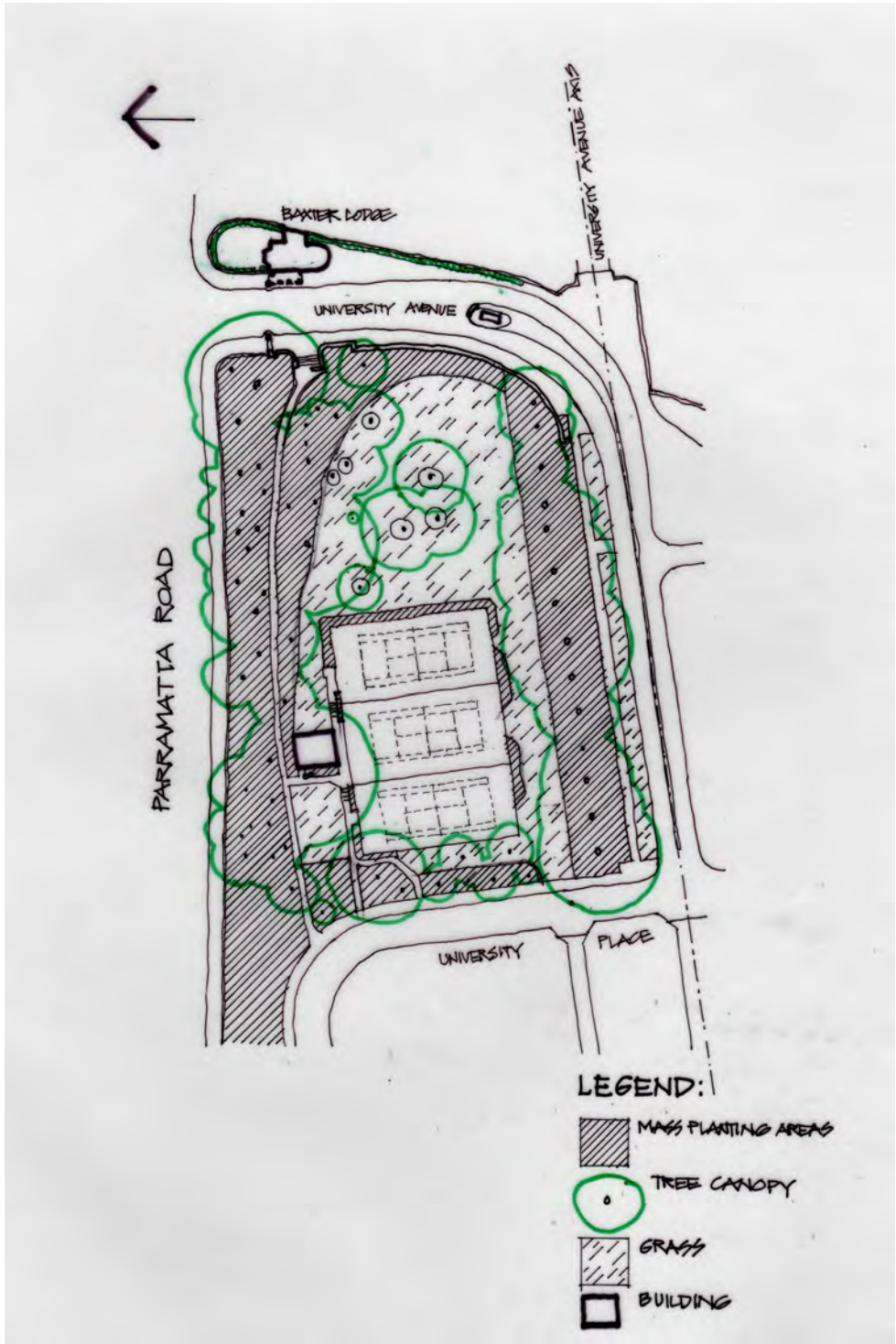


Figure 25. Existing Study Area

## **4.0 ANALYSIS**

### **4.1 Landscape Character**

The landscape character is of an institutional parkland character defined by surrounding roads, footpaths, sandstone retaining walls and fences. It is contained by largely peripheral treed vegetation forming a space which has at its central focus the built form of fenced concrete terraces and an associated single story painted weatherboard and corrugated iron roofed tennis building sited to the north side and at the centre of the tennis courts.

The remainder of the east sloping landform comprises a mixture of grassed surface or mass planting garden beds with peripheral concrete pedestrian paths.

### **4.2 Visual and Spatial Structure**

The study area provides a green framework for the highly significant Quadrangle building complex when viewed from the east. The now mature vegetation generally obscures the Quadrangle complex from a distance but it helps to define the grass terraces and open space immediately to the east, referred to as University Place.

The present Approach avenue is defined separately from the space occupied by the Tennis Courts by the tree row plantations of Port Jackson Figs (*Ficus rubiginosa*) and Small leaved Figs (*Ficus obliqua* or *Ficus rubiginosa* f. *glabrescens*) together with an area of ground cover plantings, footpath and grass verges. This formal composition reinforces the significant vista of the Clock Tower when approaching University Place from downslope.

The treed canopy on all sides creates a central space with the tennis court terraces as a focus within that space.

The nature of the mature Fig trees, with lower branches pruned, forming the northern side to the University Avenue creates a more highly visible sloping ground plane when viewed from downslope.

## 5.0 SIGNIFICANCE

The University of Sydney Grounds Conservation Management Plan (2016) has identified a selection of trees (nine trees) to the north and south of the existing tennis courts as of exceptional significance and that the landscape character of the area is exceptional without reference to the Tennis courts facility as built form.

The tennis courts and clubhouse building are of some significance but not exceptional as suggested in the University of Sydney Grounds Conservation Management Plan grading of significance as a Landscape Character Area (see Figure 4.2 : Grading of significance : landscapes and open spaces.) makes no reference to the tennis facility as a built element in the centre of the former open space.

The study area is significant as a remnant part of the open space setting of the Quadrangle building complex as the first and conspicuous development of the University however it has been developed as a sporting facility in the form of three tennis courts constructed as three fenced terraces with a central single story building located to the north side of the terraces together with connecting concrete paths, steps and planting structures. The tennis courts and associated building are the first Women's courts constructed within the University Grounds.

The Study area is strongly associated with the Approach Avenue and as part of the Approach Reserve lands as the major access to the university in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It remains as the main entry off Parramatta Road and is visually reconnected by the borrowed setting of the avenue within Victoria Park.

The northern plantation area along the Parramatta Road boundary is the site of possibly the earliest tree plantation associated with the establishment of the Sydney University grounds and is considered along with the University Avenue space and plantings as of exceptional significance.

Both plantations have been replanted several times since their formation in the mid nineteenth century and despite the fabric comprising a range of individual tree species the significance is associated with the plantations as structural landscape elements.

The tree plantations contribute to the identity of the University Campus.

The City of Sydney Register of Significant trees identifies 17 Port Jackson Figs (*Ficus rubiginosa* f. *rubiginosa* and *Ficus rubiginosa* f. *glabrescens*) forming the central avenue. Within in the Parramatta Road frontage the following trees are registered: 7 Moreton Bay Figs, 6 Port Jackson Figs ( both forms), 1 Deciduous Fig, 1 Bunya Pine, 1 Queensland Kauri Pine and 1 Wild Olive.

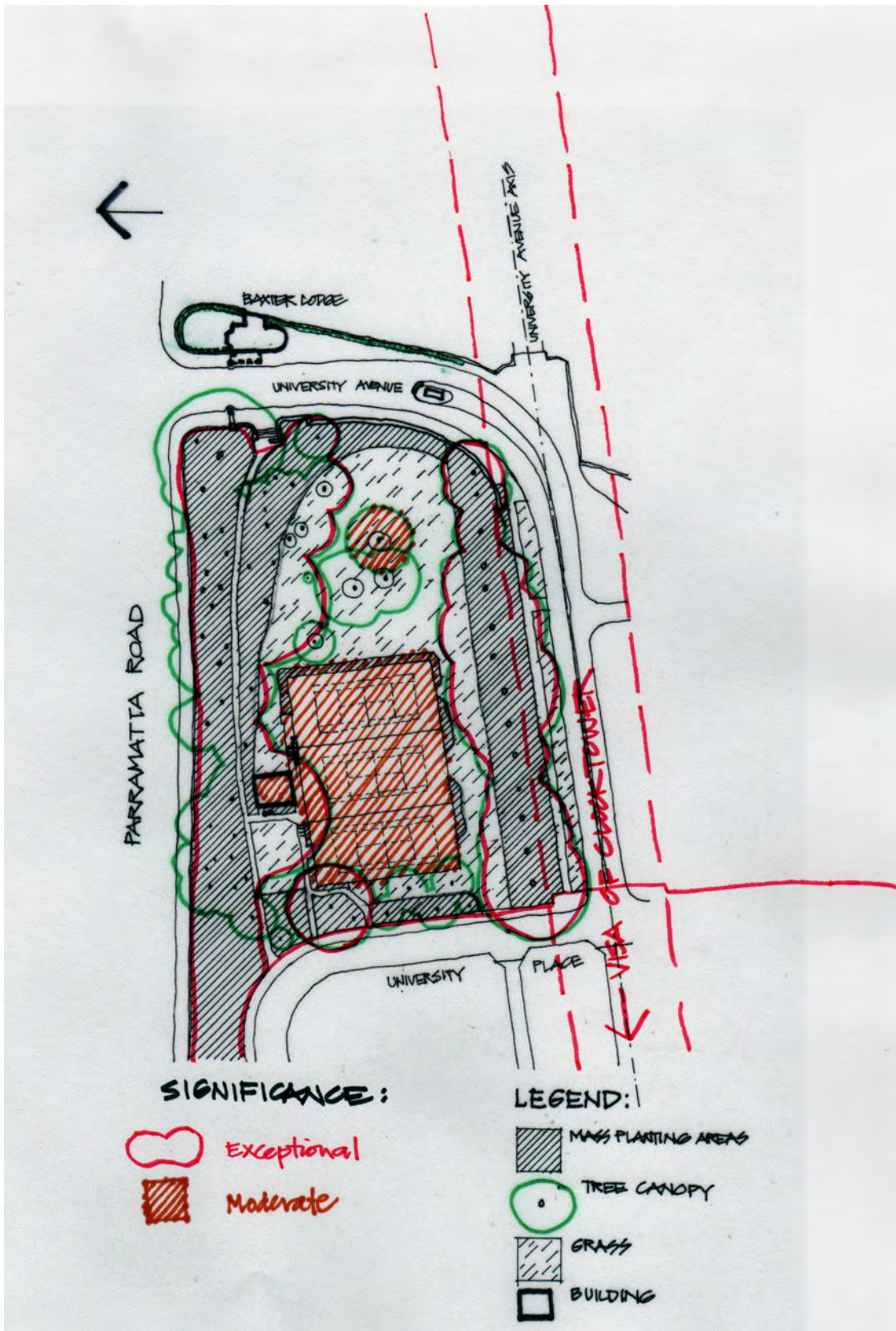


Figure 26. Levels of Significance

## **6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Any built form development of the study area will need to respect the significance of the northern and southern tree plantations through conservation actions regarding tree form, root system and canopy.

Any development should not exceed the height and scale of the University Avenue plantation and be detailed so that its mass is broken by small scaled elements to reduce its potential visual conspicuousness.

Further planting or new planting to the east and west are also a consideration to ameliorate the impact of development, particularly against the University Place space and the visual aspects when viewed from downslope and from within Victoria Park.

It is recommended that the Lone Pine commemorative planting be relocated elsewhere within the University grounds.

## 7.0 SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

ArborSafe Pty Ltd., "Preliminary Arboricultural Report and Root Investigation", 2 September 2016.

Benson, D., and Powell, J., **Taken for Granted. The Bushland of Sydney and its Suburbs**, Kangaroo Press, RBGS, 1990

Cable, K., Turney, C. & Bygott, U., **Australia's First. A pictorial History of the University of Sydney 1850 – 1990**, Southwood Press, Sydney. nd.

Council of the City of Sydney," Register of Significant Trees, Volume 3", August 2005

Groom, B. & Wickman, W., **Sydney The 1850s. The Lost Collections**, The University of Sydney, 1982. (p77)

Kelly, I., "University of Sydney Site of Proposed Chau Chak Wing Museum. Draft Statement of Heritage Impact" July 2016

Smith, Bernard and Kate., **The Architectural Character of Glebe Sydney**, University Co – operative Bookshop, Sydney, 1973.

Solling, M., **Grandeur and Grit. A History of Glebe**, Halstead Press, 2007

# CCWM Historic Archaeological Assessment

## Assessment report

---

### Summary

---

#### **Objectives**

This assessment evaluates the historic landuse of the CSWM site to determine if significant archaeological remains are likely to be present. If there are, appropriate recommendations are then made to manage this potential resource.

#### **Methods and Results**

The methodology used is to look at the historic sources available for the site and to determine the likely nature of any archaeological remains, the heritage significance of which is then assessed. The assessment has determined that there is unlikely to be any archaeological relics or remains of heritage significance present within the development area.

#### **Conclusions**

The report has determined that there is unlikely to be any significant archaeological remains on the site, whether dating to the Grose Farm period or from later use as tennis courts and the adjacent clubhouse.

#### **Recommendations**

Due to the assessed absence of significant archaeological remains on the site, no management recommendations are considered necessary.

# Contents

---

<b>Summary</b>	<b>1</b>
Objectives	1
Methods and Results	1
Conclusions	1
Recommendations	1
<b>1. Objectives of assessment</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1 Background	4
1.2 Site Description	4
1.3 Authorship	4
1.4 Previous Reports	4
1.5 Methodology	4
<b>2. Site and Project Descriptions</b>	<b>6</b>
2.1 The Site and Surrounds	6
2.2 The Project	6
<b>3. Site analysis</b>	<b>8</b>
3.1 Present Nature of site	8
3.2 Historic Development	8
3.3 Study Area	10
3.4 Nature of Historic Land Use	13
3.5 Nature of Archaeological Remains	13
<b>4. Regulatory context</b>	<b>14</b>
4.1 Statutory Constraints	14
4.1.2 Heritage Listings	15
<b>5. Methods and results</b>	<b>16</b>
5.1 Archaeological Assessment	16
5.1.1 Historical Archaeology (Non-Indigenous/European)	16
<b>6. Assessment</b>	<b>17</b>
6.1 Heritage Significance	17
6.1.1 Heritage significance and archaeology	17
6.1.2 Basis of assessment of heritage significance	17
6.2 Nature of significance criteria	18
6.3 Research Potential	19
6.3.1 Assessment of Research Potential	20
6.4 Level of Heritage Significance	20
6.5 Discussion of Heritage Significance	20
6.6 Discussion using Heritage Council Significance Criteria	21
6.7 Integrity	22
6.8 Statement of Heritage Significance	23
<b>7. Conclusions and Recommendations</b>	<b>24</b>
7.1 Conclusions	24



# 1. Objectives of assessment

---

## 1.1 Background

This report is an assessment of the potential for archaeological remains that would be regarded as historic 'relics' under the *Heritage Act 1977*, the disturbance of which would need approval by the Heritage Division, Office of Environment and Heritage.

The assessment of the development site relies on establishing the land-use history of the area which allows for the presence of archaeological remains to be determined and the requirement for archaeological approvals prior to disturbance of the site.

## 1.2 Site Description

The proposed development site, for the Chau Chak Wing Museum (CCWM) includes the former Women's tennis court and its immediate curtilage of trees and grassed area (**Figure 1**). A timber-built club-house is located within the study area on the northern side of the courts (**Figure 1.2**).

## 1.3 Authorship

This report was written by Tony Lowe, Director, and reviewed by Dr Nadia Iacono, Senior Associate Archaeologist, Casey & Lowe Pty Ltd.

## 1.4 Previous Reports

Casey & Lowe have written several assessments for projects within the University grounds, including:

Non-Indigenous Archaeological Assessment, University of Sydney Campus 2010, report to Capital Insight, 2004.

This assessment covered the present study area, although not in the detail required for the current study area. Also of relevance is:

Non-Indigenous Archaeological Assessment, ARC Project, University of Sydney, report to Jones Lang LaSalle, 2007.

This assessment covered the area between the St Johns College sports ground and the Veterinary Science buildings and included the site of Grose Farm and convict barracks established in 1819 off Parramatta Road. These reports provide a good background of the land use of the Sydney University grounds, so are relevant to this study.

## 1.5 Methodology

The production of an Archaeological Assessment is a systematic methodological process that involves a series of phases:

1. Historical research using primary material such as maps, photographs and secondary sources. Through this process an analysis of the site's historical development and use can be made, which enables a picture of the nature and likely extent of any archaeological remains to be made.

2. The likely nature of any archaeological remains is then assessed to determine their likely research value and heritage significance. This leads to recommendations for the management of the remains and the necessary permits to allow this to happen.

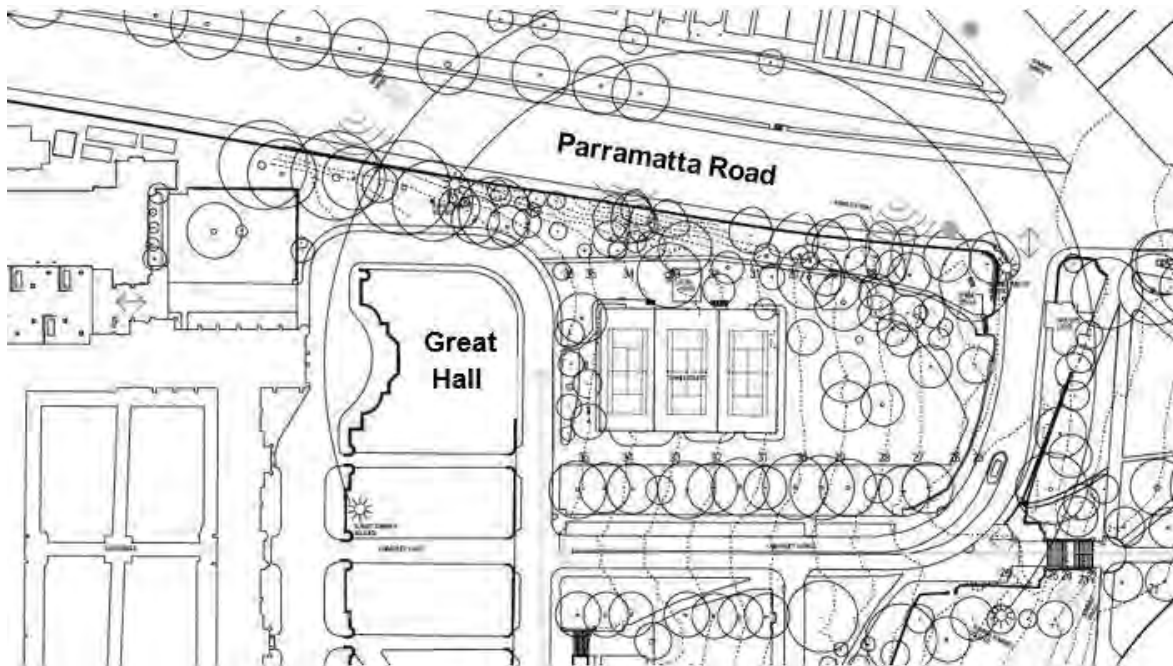


Figure 1.1: Study Area showing location of tennis courts.

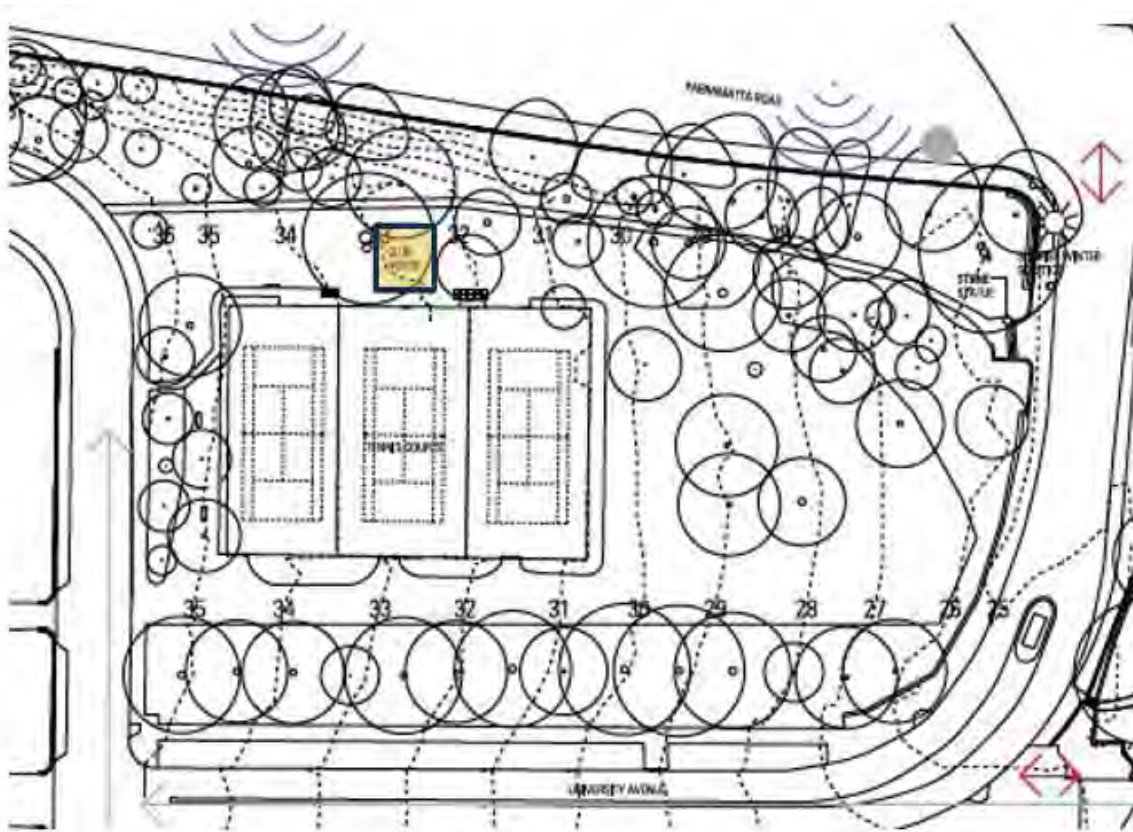


Figure 1.2: Layout of courts with the clubhouse (coloured) on the Parramatta Road side.

## 2. Site and Project Descriptions

---

### 2.1 The Site and Surrounds

The development site is located to the northeast of the University's grounds adjacent to the Parramatta Road entrance, within the area currently used as the Fisher Tennis Courts site.

Parramatta Rd runs in an approximate east to west alignment and borders the site to the north. University Place that runs in a north south direction is located to the west, beyond which is the University's main Quadrangle Building. University Avenue borders the site to the south, with Victoria Park located beyond the University grounds to the east.

The main portion of the site consists of three tennis courts, to the north of which is a small weatherboard tennis pavilion building. An area of lawn is located to the east of the site.

The northern boundary between the University campus and Parramatta Road features a retaining wall above which is a linear garden bed containing significant trees. Ground conditions of the area consist of a sloped garden bed.

The development site is bound on all sides by trees of varying significance.



**Figure 2.1: Aerial view of site.**

### 2.2 The Project

The proposal comprises the construction of the new Chau Chak Wing Museum in the north eastern sector of the Camperdown campus. The proposed museum will comprise a new five level building (maximum of three storeys above ground) with central void and will include:

- Entry foyer and museum shop
- Gallery space
- CERC (Collections Education Research & Conservation Facility) space
- Collection storage and workshop areas
- Staff offices, facilities and boardroom
- Study rooms and schools education area
- A 130 seat Auditorium
- Café and terrace facilities
- Loading dock
- Plant rooms

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

## 3. Site analysis

---

### 3.1 Present Nature of site

The site consists of three tennis courts and timber clubhouse set on level ground in front of the Great Hall. Built c1911, the courts and clubhouse are known as Fisher Courts but previously were used by 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 (pers. com. Ian Kelly). Since then they appear to have been used as general purpose courts.

### 3.2 Historic Development

#### Phase 1 - 1788-1850

The initial post-1788 land-use was as cleared farmland, called Grose Farm after Major Francis Grose to whom the land was leased in 1792. It was reported in 1820 that:

- The land was worth £11 per acre in its improved state.
- 20 acres were cleared and cultivated with wheat, oats and maize.
- The value of the farm was obvious with the opportunity for experimental farming and the eagerness with which local settlers embraced the farming practises advocated at the farm.
- The farm provided the means to instruct convict boys in ploughing, stumping and general farming works; and helped with their conversion to useful members of society. It was intended that the remaining 100 acres would be cleared and stumped and would be in use by 1821.

The farm reverted back to the Crown in 1823. By 1823 the area of Grose Farm (**Figure 3.1**) had been divided into grazing paddocks and let to butchers.<sup>1</sup>

#### Phase 2 - 1850-1880

A grant of 126 acres was made at Grose Farm for the establishment of the University in 1855 (**Figure 3.2**). Construction of the Main Building and the Great Hall, designed by Edmund Blacket, had commenced in 1854. A formal avenue running east from the Quadrangle formed the main approach to the University from Newtown Road (City Road), through what is now Victoria Park.

#### Phase 3 - 1880-1910

This phase saw the construction of more university buildings, such as the Anderson Stuart Building. A formal roadway to Parramatta Road ran through the southern side of where the courts would later be built (**Figure 3.4**).

#### Phase 4 - 1910-1940

In 1914-15 Walter Burley Griffin advised the Senate on the overall plan of the University grounds. A Master Plan for the University by Wilkinson, Madsen and Craig, proposing the concept of large vistas, was accepted by the Senate in 1920. In 1924 the University's main access road east to City Road was exchanged for nine acres of land in what later was to

---

<sup>1</sup> Grose Farm – Report by Major Druitt 21/10/1820, JT Bigge Report Appendices, BT 24, pp.5209-11; Pearson etc, *University of Sydney, Grounds Conservation Plan*, 2002, Vol. 2, p. A18.

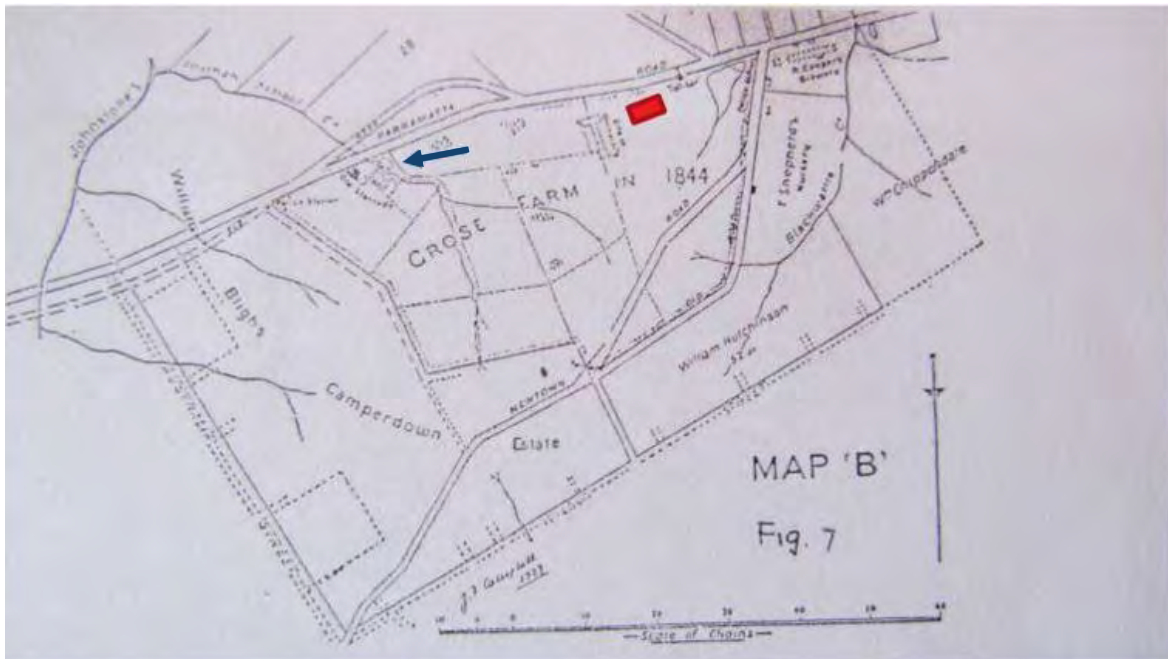
become the Eastern Avenue area, as this provided room for new buildings and building extensions.<sup>2</sup>

#### Phase 5 - 1940-1960

Air raid shelters were constructed in the grounds during WWII (**Figure 3.5**) and new buildings were completed to the south.

#### Phase 6 - 1960-1990

On the eastern side of Eastern Avenue, on land that had previously been part of Victoria Park, a series of buildings were erected in the 1960s, including the Edgeworth David Building in 1961, the first stage of Fisher Library in 1962, and the Carlaw Building in 1965. The engineering and Science faculties moved into new buildings in the Darlington area from 1963.



**Figure 3.1: Grose Farm in 1840. The location of the tennis court site is coloured and the convict stockade is arrowed.**

<sup>2</sup> Pearson etc, *University of Sydney, Grounds Conservation Plan*, 2002, Vol. 2, p. A50.

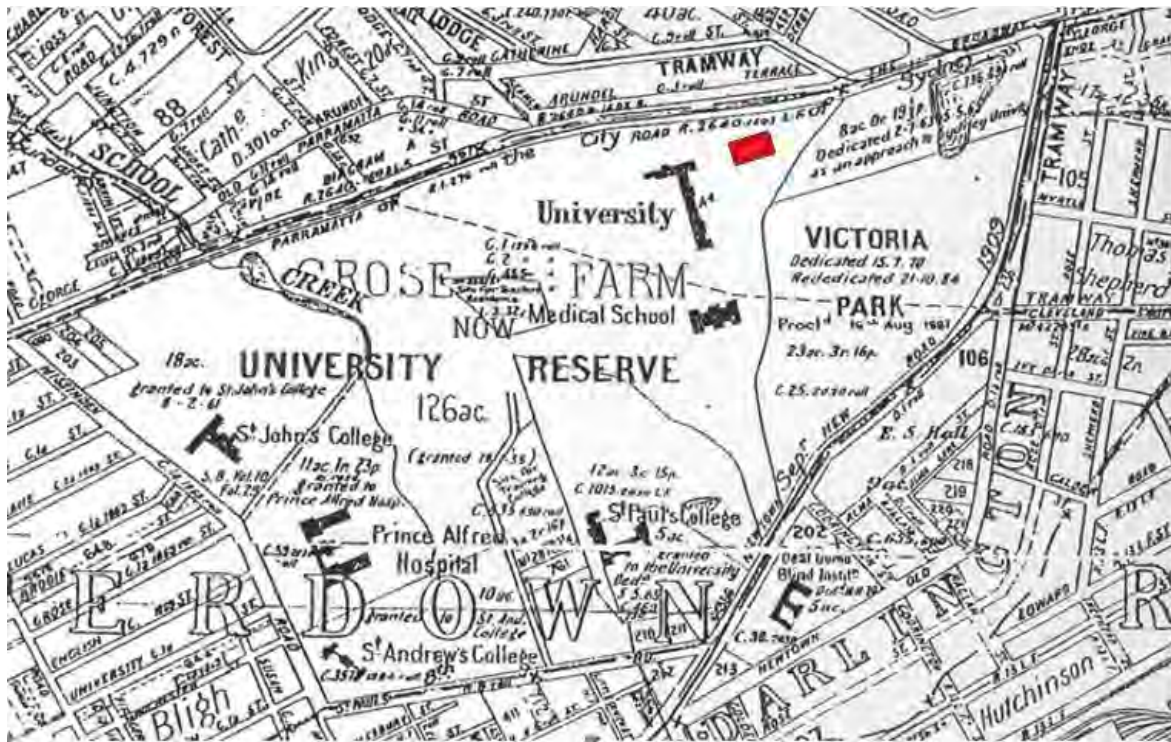


Figure 3.2: 1890 plan showing first university buildings within 'Grose Farm'. The tennis court site is coloured.

### 3.3 Study Area

The study area was part of farmland from at least 1792 when it was leased to Major Francis Grose. From the 1850s Grose Farm and its paddocks were taken over by university buildings and for university uses.

The area east of the tennis courts was part of Victoria Park until it was taken over by the University in the 1950s. The main use of the land therefore was as farmland. Several photos show the area after it became part of the university's grounds, demonstrating how the land immediately north of the courts was truncated by the widening of Parramatta Road.



**Figure 3.3: The general area of the courts in 1858 from Parramatta Road. Courtesy Craig Burton.**



**Figure 3.4: View from the university clocktower looking east c1901. A roadway which ran through the southern side of where the courts were later built is visible at left. Courtesy Craig Burton.**



**Figure 3.5:** Detail of 1943 aerial photograph showing the courts in relation to the Great Hall and Main Quadrangle and Parramatta Road. Note air-raid trenches and path to south of the courts, replacing the earlier roadway.



**Figure 3.6:** Detail of c1955 photo showing courts at right.

### 3.4 Nature of Historic Land Use

The land use history of the site indicates the following:

- Bushland prior to British settlement.
- Land clearing and use as part of Grose Farm (growing of crops such as wheat, maize and oats).
- Resumed for university lands.
- Roadway to Parramatta Road bordered by plantings runs through southern side of where the tennis courts were later situated.
- Levelling and filling of site for tennis courts.
- Building of clubhouse.
- Use for 100 years as tennis centre.

### 3.5 Nature of Archaeological Remains

Each of the phases identified above could have the following remains:

- Bushland – Possible evidence of Aboriginal occupation. To be dealt with in a separate report.
- Use as Grose Farm – Possible evidence of ploughing and fencing.
- University Lands – Fencing and plantings.
- Roadway to Parramatta Road – Remains of roadway, edging, metalling.
- Tennis Courts – Evidence of earlier courts.
- Clubhouse – Artefacts relating to its use, dating to the Women's Sports Association, and its later occupation. Artefacts might include memorabilia associated with the players.

## 4. Regulatory context

---

### 4.1 Statutory Constraints

#### 4.1.1 Heritage Act 1977

##### ***Division 9: Section 139, 140-146 - Relics Provisions - Excavation Permit***

The main legislative constraint on archaeological remains is the relics provisions of the *Heritage Act 1977*.

According to Section 139:

1. *A person must not disturb or excavate any land knowing or having reasonable cause to suspect that the disturbance or excavation will or is likely to result in a relic being discovered, exposed, moved, damaged or destroyed unless the disturbance or excavation is carried out in accordance with an excavation permit.*
2. *A person must not disturb or excavate any land on which the person has discovered or exposed a relic except in accordance with an excavation permit.*

A 'relic' is an item of 'environmental heritage' defined by the *Heritage Act 1977* (amended) as:

*those buildings, works, relics or places of historic, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural or aesthetic significance for the State.*

A relic as further defined by the Act is:

*..any deposit, object or material evidence -  
(a) which relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement; and  
(b) which is 50 or more years old*

Any item identified as an historical archaeological site or relic cannot be impacted upon without an **excavation permit**. An excavation permit forms an approval from the Heritage Council for permission to 'disturb' a relic.

An application for an excavation permit must be made to the Heritage Council of NSW. The application for a permit must nominate a qualified archaeologist to manage the disturbance of the relics.

### **Exceptions**

An application for a S139(4) Exception to applying for an Excavation Permit may be made where the impact is considered to be in accordance with the following categories:

- (1A) An archaeological assessment, zoning plan or management plan has been prepared in accordance with Guidelines published by the Heritage Council of NSW which indicates that any relics in the land are unlikely to have State or local heritage significance.
- (1B) The excavation or disturbance of land will have a minor impact on archaeological relics including the testing of land to verify the existence of relics without destroying or removing them.

- (1C) A statement describing the proposed excavation demonstrates that evidence relating to the history or nature of the site, such as its level of disturbance, indicates that the site has little or no archaeological research potential.

#### 4.1.2 Heritage Listings

The university grounds are listed on the Sydney LEP 2012 as a heritage cultural landscape and as the University of Sydney Heritage Conservation Area. The listing's Statement of Heritage Significance mentions the:

university as a heritage cultural landscape containing buildings of exceptional individual value set within a designed landscape with large areas enclosed by a historic fence.... the Area represents the establishment and continued expansion of institutional uses on Grose Farm.

Source: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=2431001>

## 5. Methods and results

---

### 5.1 Archaeological Assessment

#### 5.1.1 Historical Archaeology (Non-Indigenous/European)

Historical Archaeology (in NSW) is the study of the physical remains of the past, in association with historical documents, since the British occupation of New South Wales in 1788. As well as identifying these remains the study of this material can help elucidate the processes, historical and otherwise, which have created our present surroundings. Historical archaeology includes an examination of how the late 18th and 19th-century arrivals lived and coped with a new and alien environment, what they ate, where and how they lived, the consumer items they used and their trade relations, and how gender and cultural groups interacted. The material remains studied include:

- Archaeological Sites:
  - below ground: these contains relics which include building foundations, occupation deposits, rubbish pits, cesspits, wells, other features, and artefacts.
  - above ground: buildings, works, industrial structures and relics that are intact or ruined.
- cultural landscapes

The intent of the Archaeological Assessment is to determine the likely nature of the site's archaeological resource, if any. The heritage significance of the potential archaeological remains is then determined, allowing for appropriate recommendations to be made.

## 6. Assessment

---

### 6.1 Heritage Significance

Heritage significance is distinct from archaeological potential. Assessment of archaeological potential considers the probability of physical evidence from previous human activity to still exist on a site. Assessment of heritage significance for archaeological features considers the cultural values associated with those remains.<sup>3</sup> This section will outline the basis of assessing the heritage significance of archaeological remains, before then assessing likely impacts on the potential archaeological features identified in Section 3.

#### 6.1.1 Heritage significance and archaeology

This assessment of archaeological heritage significance has been written to be in accordance with the Heritage Branch 2009 guidelines: *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and 'Relics'*.

These guidelines provide the following discussion of heritage significance:

Apart from NSW State guidelines, the nationally recognised Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Significance (*The Burra Charter*) also defines 'cultural significance' as meaning:

*'aesthetic, historic, scientific and social value for past, present and future generations.'*

Significance is therefore an expression of the cultural value afforded a place, site or item.

Understanding what is meant by value in a heritage sense is fundamental, since any society will only make an effort to conserve things it values. In terms of built heritage, what we have inherited from the past is usually places that have been continuously cared for. Conversely, many archaeological sites will comprise places which, for whatever reason, have not been cared for until the relatively recent period.

Our society considers that many places and items we have inherited from the past have heritage significance because they embody, demonstrate, represent or are tangible expressions of values society recognises and supports. Our future heritage will be what we keep from our inheritance to pass on to the following generations.<sup>4</sup>

#### 6.1.2 Basis of assessment of heritage significance

To identify the heritage significance of an archaeological site it is necessary to discuss and assess the significance of the study area. This process allowed for the analysis of the site's overall values. These criteria are part of the system of assessment which is centred on the *Burra Charter* of Australia ICOMOS. The *Burra Charter* principles are important to the assessment, conservation and management of sites and relics. The assessment of heritage significance is enshrined through legislation in the NSW *Heritage Act* 1977 and implemented

---

<sup>3</sup> This distinction has long been recognised by historical archaeologists working in heritage management, but has recently been restated in *Practice Note – The Burra Charter and Archaeological Practice* (Australia ICOMOS 2013:7).

<sup>4</sup> NSW Heritage Branch 2009:1-2. Note that this passage quotes the 1988 version of the *Burra Charter*. The 1999 and 2013 revisions also include 'spiritual value' in their definition of cultural significance.

---

through the *NSW Heritage Manual* and the *Archaeological Assessment Guidelines and Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and 'Relics'*.<sup>5</sup>

## 6.2 Nature of significance criteria

The following criteria have been developed by the NSW Heritage Council. They form the basis for current assessments of heritage significance, including archaeological heritage:<sup>6</sup>

Criterion (a): *Historic Significance – (evolution)*

an item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);

Criterion (b): *Associative Significance – (association)*

an item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, or importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);

Criterion (c): *Aesthetic Significance – (scenic qualities / creative accomplishments)*

an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);

Criterion (d): *Social Significance – (contemporary community esteem)*

an item has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW for social, cultural or spiritual reasons (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);

Criterion (e): *Technical/Research Significance – (archaeological, educational, research potential and scientific values)*

an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);

Criterion (f): *Rarity*

an item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);

Criterion (g): *Representativeness*

an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places of cultural or natural environments (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

---

<sup>5</sup> NSW Heritage Office 1996:25-27; NSW Heritage Office 2001; NSW Heritage Branch 2009.

<sup>6</sup> NSW Heritage Office 2001; NSW Heritage Branch 2009:3.

To be assessed as having heritage significance an item must:

- meet at least one of the one of the seven significance criteria
- retain the integrity of its key attributes

If an item is to be considered to be of State significance it should meet more than one criterion, namely in the case of relics, its research potential.<sup>7</sup> As the 2009 guide states:

Archaeological Significance may be linked to other significance categories especially where sites were created as a result of a specific historic event or decision, or when sites have been the actual location of particular incidents, events or occupancies.

Other relevant factors may be comparative values related to the intactness and rarity of individual items. The rarity of individual site types is an important factor, which should inform management decisions.<sup>8</sup>

Relics must also be ranked according to their heritage significance as having:

- Local Significance
- State Significance

If a potential relic is not considered to reach the local or State significance threshold then it is not a relic under the NSW *Heritage Act 1977*.

Section 4A of the NSW *Heritage Act 1977* defines the two levels of heritage significance as follows:

*'State heritage significance'*, in relation to a place, building, work, relic, moveable object or precinct, means significance to the State in relation to the historical, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural or aesthetic value of the item.

*'local heritage significance'*, in relation to a place, building, work, relic, moveable object or precinct, means significance to an area in relation to the historical, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural or aesthetic value of the item.<sup>9</sup>

### 6.3 Research Potential

The heritage significance of archaeological remains most often lies in their research potential (criterion e of the Heritage Council criteria). The assessment of research potential has its own peculiarities compared with the assessment of other heritage items. The 1996 *Archaeological Assessment Guidelines* comment:

Research potential is the most relevant criterion for assessing archaeological sites. However, assessing research potential for archaeological sites can be difficult as the nature or extent of features is sometimes unknown, therefore judgements must be formed on the basis of expected or potential attributes. One benefit of a detailed archaeological assessment is that the element of judgement can be made more rigorous by historical or other research.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>7</sup> NSW Heritage Branch 2009:9.

<sup>8</sup> NSW Heritage Branch 2009:10.

<sup>9</sup> NSW Heritage Act 1977 (current January 2014), section 4A; NSW Heritage Branch 2009:6.

<sup>10</sup> NSW Heritage Office 1996:26.

### 6.3.1 Assessment of Research Potential

Once the archaeological potential of a site has been determined and research themes and likely research questions identified, through a process of archaeological investigation and analysis, the following inclusion guidelines should be applied:

*Does the site:*

- (a) contribute knowledge which no other resource can?*
- (b) contribute knowledge which no other site can?*
- (c) is the knowledge relevant to general questions about human history or other substantive problems relating to Australian History, or does it contribute to other major research questions?<sup>11</sup>*

If the answer to these questions is 'yes', then the site will have archaeological research potential. The new significance guidelines have taken a broader approach.

### 6.4 Level of Heritage Significance

New criteria were developed in 2009 to identify whether the archaeological resource is of Local or State significance.<sup>12</sup> The following four criteria were identified in the 2009 guidelines and are considered to be relevant to the present site:

- *Archaeological Research Potential (current NSW Heritage Criterion E).*
- *Associations with individuals, events or groups of historical importance (NSW Heritage Criteria A, B & D).*
- *Aesthetic or technical significance (NSW Heritage Criterion C).*
- *Ability to demonstrate the past through archaeological remains (NSW Heritage Criteria A, C, F & G).<sup>13</sup>*

The new significance guidelines were designed to assess significance in light of the amendments to the definition of relics needing to be of either local or State significance. The examples provided were fairly obvious ones but do not help us work out how a less obvious site has State rather than local significance. This means that it is basically down to the skill and expertise of the archaeologist assessing the site to make the distinction between local and State significance.

### 6.5 Discussion of Heritage Significance

The assessment of archaeological potential in Section 3 indicates that the CCWM site has little potential to contain archaeological remains related to the use of the site since the early nineteenth century. The following discussion considers significance using the above NSW Heritage Council criteria and the 2009 Heritage Branch guidelines, *Assessing significance for historical archaeological sites*. The study area's potential for Aboriginal archaeology is not assessed in this report.

<sup>11</sup> Bickford & Sullivan 1984:23.

<sup>12</sup> NSW Heritage Branch 2009.

<sup>13</sup> NSW Heritage Branch 2009:11-13.

## 6.6 Discussion using Heritage Council Significance Criteria

### Criterion (a): Historic Significance - (evolution)

***an item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);***

The potential archaeological remains on the site are considered to belong mainly to the tennis courts and their surfaces, any artefacts under or around the clubhouse building, and to the earlier roadway to Parramatta Road. These have little historic significance. There is little potential for any remains that could be connected to the Grose Farm period.

### Criterion (b): Associative Significance – (association)

***an item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, or importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);***

The tennis courts and clubhouse are not connected with any individual but were associated with the Sydney University Women's Sports Association from their construction c1911 to 1932. They have a role in providing sporting facilities to university students and ex-students for over 100 years.

### Criterion (c): Aesthetic Significance - (scenic qualities / creative accomplishments)

***An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);***

Any archaeological remains of previous court surfaces or the roadway to the south of the courts are unlikely to have aesthetic appeal. Any memorabilia that may be located under or around the clubhouse building could have appeal for the people and groups that have used the courts in the past, although such items are unlikely and would not be considered to be relics.

### Criterion (d): Social Significance - (contemporary community esteem)

***an item has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW for social, cultural or spiritual reasons (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);***

The courts and the clubhouse are well-known to the university community and have been used by thousands of students and local residents. No community consultation, however, has been undertaken.

**Criterion (e): Technical/Research Significance - (archaeological, educational, research potential and scientific values)**

***an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);***

Remains of previous court surfaces are likely to have little or no research value, as would the roadway on the southern side of the courts. As the clubhouse is the original building in this location, there would be no remains of earlier structures. Any memorabilia found under or around the clubhouse is unlikely to have research value. Any evidence of cultivation, such as plough marks belonging to the Grose Farm period, would be ephemeral and have little research value.

**Criterion (f): Rarity**

***an item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);***

The potential archaeological remains of previous tennis court surfaces or of the roadway on the southern side of the site on the site are not considered to be rare. Any remains that could be associated with Grose Farm would be rare but such remains are likely to be ephemeral and would be hard to recognise.

**Criterion (g): Representativeness**

***an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places of cultural or natural environments (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).***

The potential archaeological remains on the site are considered to be representative of an early twentieth-century sporting establishment. They would be representative of similar venues existing at other locations in the state.

**6.7 Integrity**

The tennis courts and clubhouse retain their integrity. The integrity of earlier court surfaces is unknown but may survive in places. Any remains that could be linked to agriculture dating to Grose Farm are likely to have been impacted by filling and levelling works for the later building, tennis courts and landscaping works and to be ephemeral and difficult to recognise and record.

### **6.8 Statement of Heritage Significance**

Archaeological remains would consist of earlier tennis court surfaces and the line of earlier roadway. Such remains have little or no research value and have no heritage significance. Memorabilia from the early use of the clubhouse as a women's tennis centre and later clubhouse are considered unlikely. Evidence of early agriculture such as plough lines are likely to have been impacted by later works and landscaping and would have no research value.

Due to its lack of research value, the tennis court site and its clubhouse is considered to have no archaeological significance.

## **7. Conclusions and Recommendations**

---

### **7.1 Conclusions**

The tennis court site has little potential to retain archaeological remains of heritage significance. Remains of earlier court surfaces are regarded as having no research potential. The likelihood of tennis memorabilia being present under the clubhouse floor or around the building is regarded as being low. Evidence of the use of the area as part of Grose Farm would be difficult to recognise and be of little research value.

### **7.2 Recommendations**

Due to the site's no to low archaeological potential and lack of heritage significance of any remains, no specific recommendations are regarded as being necessary.