

# HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT, ALLIED FLOUR MILL, SUMMER HILL, NSW

EG FUNDS MANAGEMNT



*1943 Aerial View of the Allied Flour Mill Site. .*

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# **INTRODUCTION**

## **1.1 Background and Project Initiation**

EG Funds Management has engaged Archaeological & Heritage Management Solutions (AHMS) Pty Ltd to undertake an Historical Archaeological Assessment of the Allied Flour Mill Site, Summer Hill. The assessment has been prepared at the request of Ashfield Council to provide information related to the potential survival of relics associated with the occupation of the site.

This report contains recommendations for management of the potential archaeological relics affected by the proposed development at the site.

## **1.2 Site Location**

The study area is located at Summer Hill, in the inner west of Sydney. The site is bounded on the east by Hawthorne Canal and the Dulwich Hill Goods line, the north by Smith Street, the west by Edward Street and to the south by a residential area fronting Edward Street.

The total site area is approximately 24,738 square metres. The current buildings, other facilities, hard stand areas and driveways for the operating flour mill cover about 80% of the site the remainder being an open grassed area at the northern boundary.

The site consists of:

Lot 1/DP131120  
Lot 2/DP131120  
Lot 1/DP171676  
Lot 1/DP302585  
Lot B/DP171931  
Lot B/DP172600  
Lot 1/DP182276  
Lot 16/DP130884  
Lot 15/DP315  
Lot 14/DP315  
Lot 13/DP315  
Lot 11/DP315  
Lot A/DP302421  
Lot B/DP302421  
Lot 1/DP955001  
Lot 1/DP951124  
Lot 100/DP221222  
Lot 1/DP900501;

Parish of Petersham, County of Cumberland as shown in Figures 1 and 2.



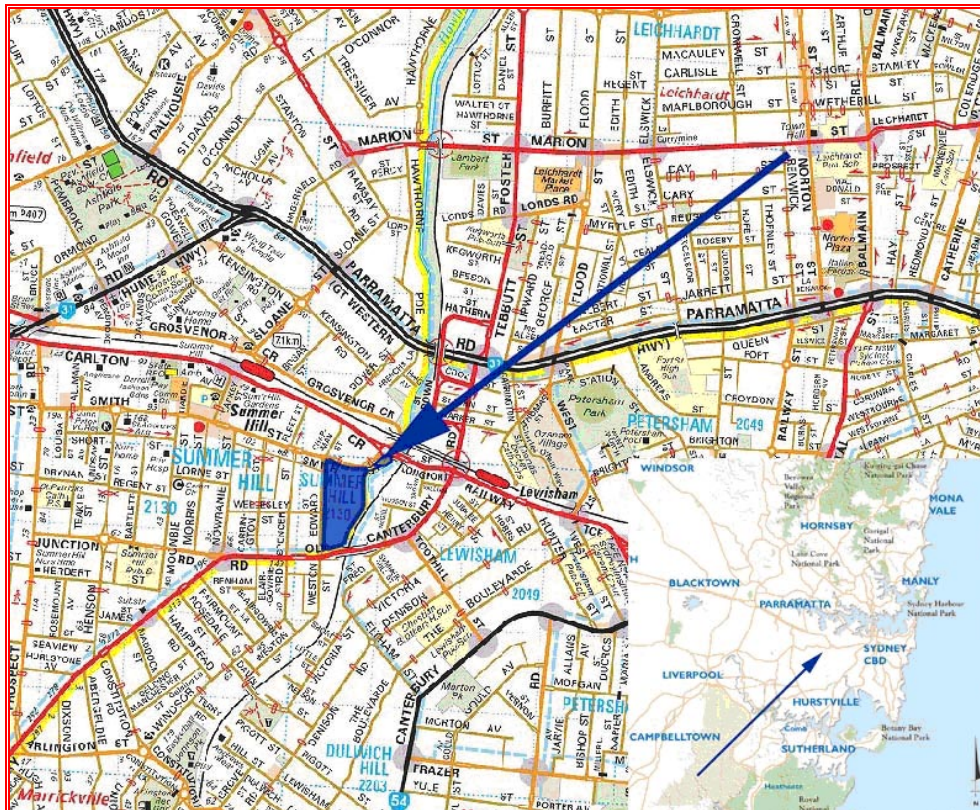


Figure 1. Location of Allied Flour Mill site (NSW Lands Department, Six portal)

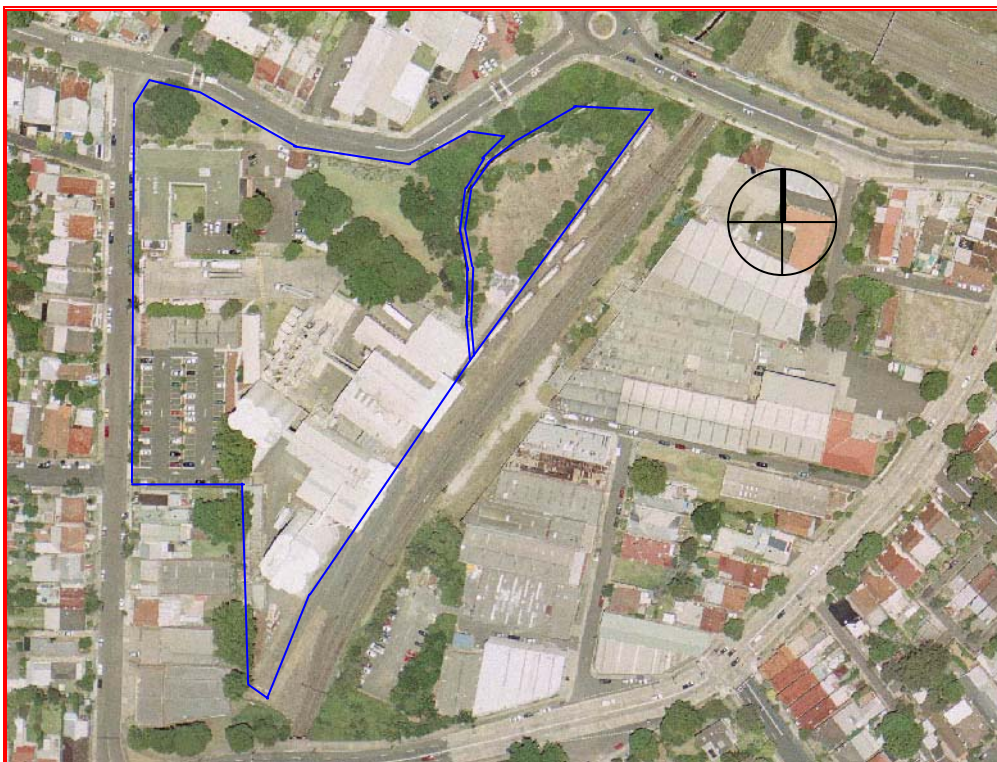


Figure 2. Aerial photograph of Allied Flour Mill site (NSW Lands Department, Six portal)



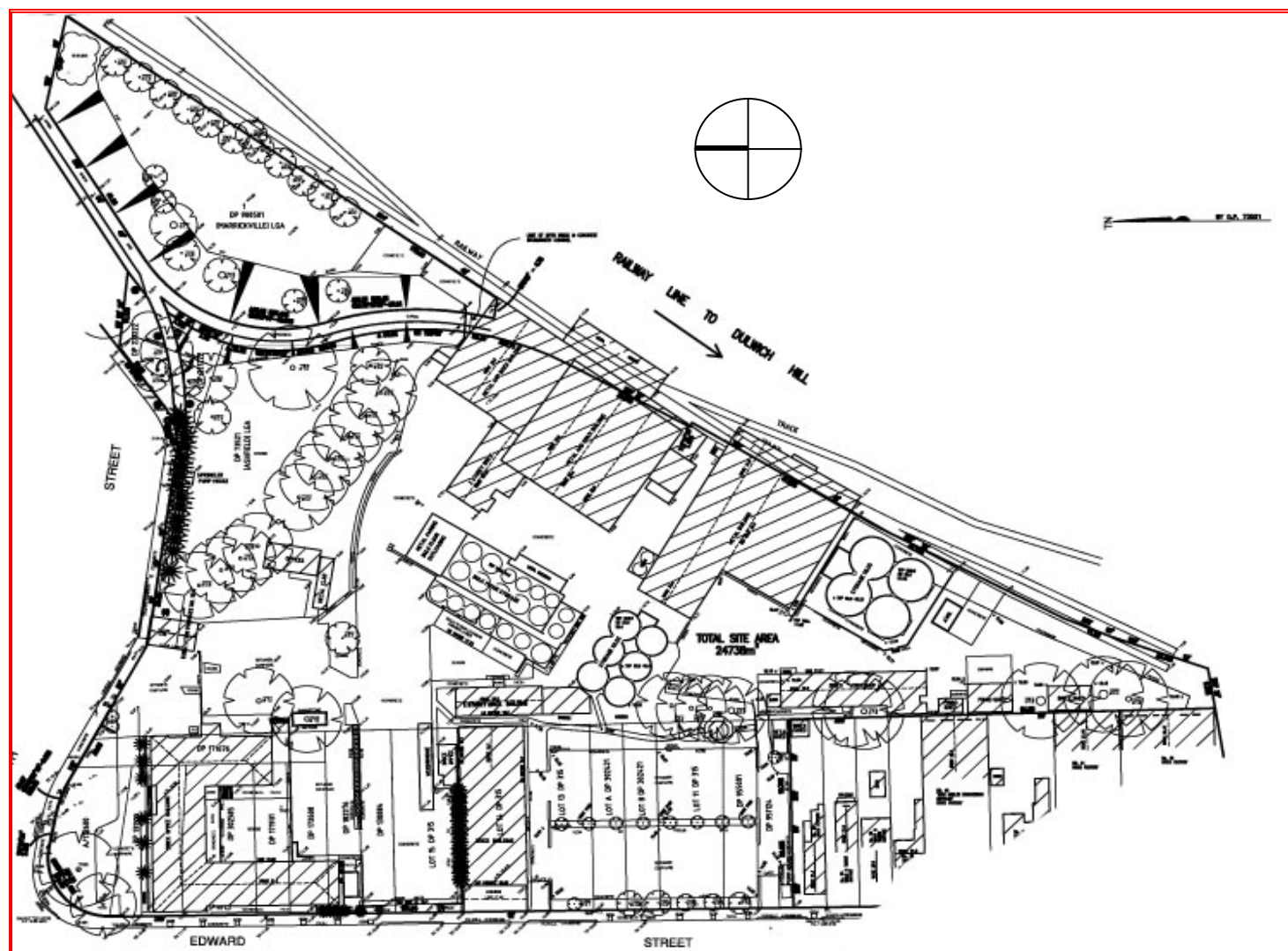


Figure 3. Site Survey of Allied Flour Mill site (Watson Buchanan Pty Ltd)

## **1.3 Heritage Studies of the Site**

A Heritage Assessment Survey, undertaken by Rod Howard Heritage Conservation Pty Ltd, was completed in 1998<sup>1</sup>.

## **1.4 The Assessment Report**

This report was prepared in accordance with the Heritage Council's guidelines Archaeological Assessments (1996), and Assessment of Heritage Significance in accordance with 'Assessing Heritage Significance' (2001), a NSW Heritage Manual update.

The report is divided into the following sections:

- Section 2 provides an overview of heritage legislation applicable to the site;
- Section 3 discusses the aims of the study and summarises methods used during historical research;
- Section 4 presents results of the historical research and outlines the potential archaeological resource;
- Section 5 provides an evaluation of the sites archaeological research significance;
- Section 6 presents conclusions of the assessment, and recommendations for management of potential archaeological relics during any development at the site.

This study was limited to examination of the sites of historic (non Indigenous) archaeological potential.

## **1.5 Authorship**

A draft version of this report was prepared by Matthew Kelly (AHMS Archaeologist), who also undertook the site survey. Felicity Barry undertook the research in the Land Title Office. Lisa Newell reviewed the report. Tony Brassil, industrial archaeologist, Godden Mackay Logan provided advice regarding the operations of the Mill.

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<sup>1</sup> Rod Howard Heritage Conservation Pty Ltd, 1998, Mungo Scott Flour Mill, 2-32 Smith Street, Heritage Assessment Survey, for Goodman Fielder.

## **1.6 Acknowledgements**

The author acknowledges the valuable assistance and comments of Mark Syke and Michael Zelas, EG Funds Management, Craig Roberts, Allied Mills Pty Ltd and Jan Brazier of the Macleay Museum in the writing of this report.



## 2. STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS & CONTROLS

### 2.1 Heritage Act, 1977 (NSW)

The *NSW Heritage Act* is legislation designed to conserve the environmental heritage of New South Wales and is used to regulate development impacts on the State's heritage assets. In addition to buildings and items listed on the State Heritage Register, archaeological features and deposits are afforded automatic statutory protection by the relic's provisions of the *NSW Heritage Act 1977* (as amended in 1999)<sup>2</sup>. The Act defines 'relic' as:

*"any deposit, object or material evidence relating to the settlement of the area that comprises NSW, not being an aboriginal settlement, and which is fifty or more years old."*

The relic's provisions of the Heritage Act (Division 9 of the Act) protect all relics in NSW. An excavation permit is required if a person undertaking excavation work on a site knows of, or has reasonable cause to suspect, that the site contains relics. If such relics will be discovered, exposed, or moved by development on the site, the work may only be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist to whom an excavation permit has been issued by the Heritage Council of NSW.

The potential archaeological resource at the Allied Flour Mill site falls within the definition of relics under the *NSW Heritage Act, 1977*.

### 2.2 Statutory Heritage Registers

Heritage listings for sites are made on either statutory or non-statutory registers. In New South Wales protection for heritage items listed on statutory registers is provided by the *NSW Heritage Act, 1977* (as discussed above) and the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979*.

#### 2.2.1 The State Heritage Register

The State Heritage Register (SHR) is a statutory list of places and items of State heritage significance made by the Minister of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources. The Register lists a diverse range of places, including archaeological sites, that are particularly important to the State and which enrich our understanding of the history of NSW. State Heritage significance is defined by the

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<sup>2</sup> NSW Heritage Act, 1977

NSW Heritage Office as “significance to the State in relation to the historical, scientific cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural or aesthetic value of the item”<sup>3</sup>.

Places and items listed on the SHR are legally protected by the *NSW Heritage Act* and require approval from the Heritage Council of NSW prior to undertaking work that results in their alteration or modification.

The Allied Flour Mill site is not listed on the State Heritage Register.

### **2.2.2 The State Heritage Inventory**

The State Heritage Inventory (SHI) is an electronic database of statutory listed heritage items in New South Wales that are protected by heritage schedules of Local Environmental Plans (LEP’s), Regional Environmental Plans (REP’s), by the State Heritage Register or on the s170 Heritage and Conservation Register of State Government Agencies in NSW. The inventory can include historical archaeological sites, maritime archaeological, industrial sites, urban landscapes including parks and gardens, private and civic buildings, heritage items owned by State government agencies, moveable heritage such as transport vehicles or heritage collections and Aboriginal heritage.

The Allied Flour Mill site is not listed on the State Heritage Inventory under the Ashfield Local Environmental Plan as an item of environmental heritage.

The length of Hawthorne Canal, part of which passes under the site and part of which forms the eastern boundary of the site is listed as an item on the SHI (see Appendix)

### **2.2.3 Ashfield Local Environmental Plan**

Other documents that include statutory listings for both Historic and Aboriginal heritage items in NSW include Regional Environmental Plans (REPs), Development Control Plans (DCPs) and Local Environmental Plans (LEPs). These planning instruments are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *NSW Environmental and Planning Assessment Act, 1979* and are designed to integrate heritage management and conservation into the planning and development control process to ensure that development does not affect the significance of heritage items, sites and/or places, and conservation areas. Ashfield Council gazetted a Local Environmental Plan in 1985, which includes provisions related to potential archaeological sites.<sup>4</sup>

*The Council may grant consent to the carrying out of development on an archaeological site that has non-Aboriginal heritage significance or*

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<sup>3</sup> Section 4A (1), Heritage Act, 1977

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/>

a potential archaeological site that is reasonably likely to have non-Aboriginal heritage significance only if:

(a) it has considered an assessment of how the proposed development would affect the conservation of the site and any relic known or reasonably likely to be located at the site prepared in accordance with any guidelines for the time being notified to it by the Heritage Council, and

(b) it has notified the Heritage Council of its intention to do so and taken into consideration any comments received from the Heritage Council within 28 days after the notice was sent, and

(c) it is satisfied that any necessary excavation permit required by the [Heritage Act 1977](#) has been granted

It is noted that Ashfield Council does not currently have an Archaeological Zoning or Archaeological Management Plan for the local area.

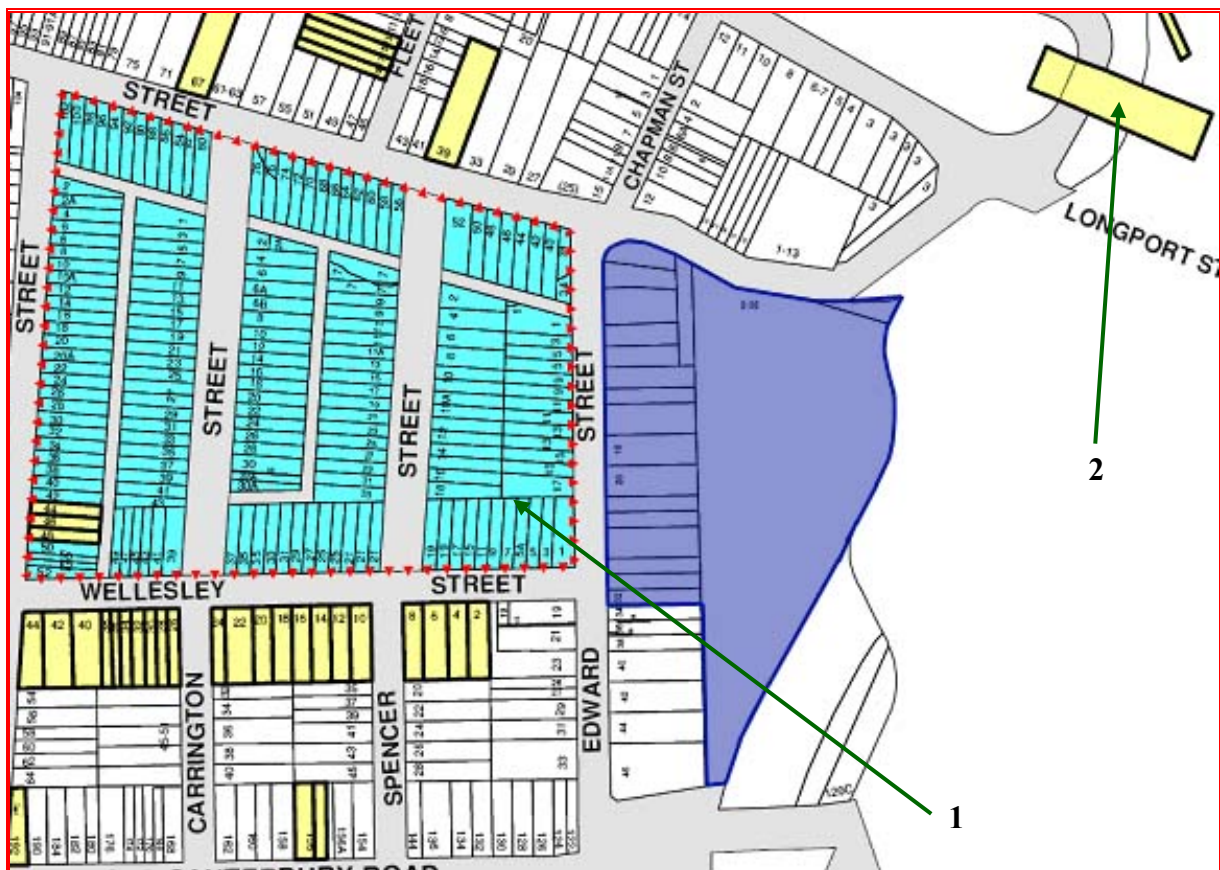


Figure 4. Ashfield Heritage Map showing the site adjacent to (1) the heritage conservation area and (2) the nearby railway viaduct.

## **2.3 Non-Statutory Heritage Registers**

### **2.3.1 National Trust of Australia (NSW)**

The National Trust of NSW maintains a register of places “classified” by it as having cultural significance and are worthy of conservation.

The Register does not have any statutory power but classification of an item or place on the Register is considered an authoritative statement of the cultural significance of the place. The Trust maintains the Register as an advisory and educative tool.

Allied Flour Mill is not listed on the National Trust Register.

## **3. METHODS**

### **3.1 Research**

A desk-based assessment determines, as far as is reasonably possible from existing records, the nature of the archaeological resource within the specified area. The purpose of this work is to gain information about the known or potential archaeological resource within a given area or site (i.e. the presence or absence, nature and extent, date, state of preservation, and relative quality of relics) in order to allow assessment of their cultural significance.

Conclusions regarding the above matters lead to one or more of the following:

- The formation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource;
- The formulation of a strategy for further investigation, whether or not intrusive, where the character and value of the resource is not sufficiently defined to permit a mitigation strategy or other response to be devised; and,
- The formulation of a proposal for further investigation within a programme of research.

The sequence and chronology of development at the site was determined by reviewing available histories of the area and augmenting that information with site specific research including photographic resources, maps and plans and historic aerial photos;

The following state and local archives were reviewed:

- State Records (Archives) NSW (SRNSW);
- NSW Department of Lands; and
- Mitchell Library;

A full list of documentary references used during the assessment is set out at the conclusion of this report.

### **3.2 Field Investigation**

Physical inspection and assessment of the site was undertaken in March 2008 during which observations were made regarding the nature and configuration of the current surfaces, ground topography and the setting of the site and the site's potential to contain any other relics or subsurface evidence which may relate to former occupation of the site.



### 3.2.1 General Description

The study site is bounded by Edward Street on the west, Smith Street to the north and the Summer Hill Goods line to the east, with a small portion of the study area between Hawthorne Canal and the railway. The canal is open for only a short length at the north east corner of the site.

The site is currently an operating flour mill with extensive standing buildings and industrial structures associated with the milling processes. In addition the site contains grassed amenities areas, concrete and bitumen surfaces and a car parking area along the Edward Street frontage and at the corner of Edward and Smith Street.

The site slopes gently from the south west to the north east to the area of Hawthorne Canal with levels dropping from about 13m AHD to 9m AHD.

### 3.2.2 Soil Landscape

The site is situated within the Sydney Foreshore Physiographic region of the Blacktown soil landscape.<sup>5</sup> This soil landscape is typified by gently undulating relief, 10m to 30m, on Wianamatta Shales and Hawkesbury Shales. The soil profile consists of a friable brownish black loam, over a brown clay loam. This in turn covers mottled brown clay over light grey mottled clay.<sup>6</sup>

### 3.2.3 Pre-European and Early Vegetation

The early slopes and crests of the suburb of Ashfield/Summer Hill were formerly part of a large Turpentine and Ironbark forest (with *Syncarpia glomulifera*, *E. pilularis*, *E. paniculata* and *Angophora costata*) growing on the clay soils derived from the Wianamatta Shales which typified the area.<sup>7</sup> Surveyor Grimes notes the presence of “oak” (*Casurina*) and “stingybark” on Kable’s grant in the 1804 field book.<sup>8</sup>

Along the line of Long Cove Creek were mangroves and Swamp Oak or *Casurina glauca* forest.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Chapman, G and Murphy, C, 1989, *Soil Landscapes of the Sydney 1:100,000 Sheet*, Soil Conservation Service NSW, pp. 30-4.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, p. 31.

<sup>7</sup> Benson, D and Howells, J, 1995, *Taken for Granted: The Bushland of Sydney and Its Suburbs*, Kangaroo Press, Sydney, p. 46ff

<sup>8</sup> Pratten, C, 1999, “Summer Hill: An Introduction”, in C Pratten, [ed.], *Summer Hill*, Ashfield and District Historical Society, p.7.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid*.

## 4. RESULTS

### 4.1 Historical Research

The following history summarises past use and occupation of the site from the period of early European settlement through to the present.

A copy of the extrapolated Land Title search for Allied Flour Mill is provided in Appendix A of this report and will be referred to in text below.

### 4.2 Historical Summary

#### 4.2.1 Early Development of Summer Hill/Ashfield: 1790s-1840s

The area which is now the Allied Flour Mill site was contained within Henry Kable's and Captain Joseph Fouveaux's first grants in the Ashfield area (see Figure 5)<sup>10</sup>.

Henry Kable had consolidated the grants of 4 privates of the NSW Corps to add to previous grants of 30 acres (1794), 151/2 acres (1795) and 30 acres (1804), in the area, bringing his total to over 175 acres. Kable developed his holdings into a farm which by 1802 consisted of 110 acres cleared, 65 under wheat, 6 under barley and 24 under maize. The underdeveloped nature of the surrounding countryside at this time is suggested by the report in 1804 that part of his flock was savaged by "native dogs" killing several.<sup>11</sup>

On October 11, 1821 Kable sold the grant to T Winder after several years of trying to divest himself of the land at Summer Hill. Winder sold the land onto James Underwood a year later.<sup>12</sup>

Underwood does not appear to have developed the land or attempted to realise value through farming and only three years after the purchase he advertised it to let.<sup>13</sup> After his death in 1844 the ownership of the land passed through a number of hands and was subject to court cases and parliamentary hearings but it was eventually put up for sale in the late 1870s when it was described as "run down through neglect".<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>10</sup>Pratten, *op cit*, p.5.

<sup>11</sup> Sydney Gazette, October 21, 1804.

<sup>12</sup> Pratten, *op cit*, p.9-10.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid*, p.12.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid*, p.13.

Captain Fouveaux was an officer in the NSW Corps and took up 100 acres at Petersham Hill on what was known as Fouveaux's or Long Cove Farm.<sup>15</sup> Fouveaux sold the farm on to Charles Grimes the surveyor in 1799 who in turn sold it to John "Jack": Palmer, the colony's Commissariat in 1801. Palmer was to own Long Cove Farm for over a decade but by 1814 it had passed to his brother in law, Robert Campbell

Campbell was an early colonial merchant, entrepreneur and philanthropist who was instrumental in developing NSW as a trading destination.<sup>16</sup> Campbell was reported to have bought his Canterbury Estate from William Cox to "accommodate the overflow of imported cattle rejected by the Government", which by 1810 consisted of 1611 acres with 640 cattle, 266 sheep and 20 horses.<sup>17</sup> His sheep were reportedly washed before shearing in a rocky hole in Long Cove Creek.<sup>18</sup>



Figure 5. Parish Petersham (nd). Note the position of Cabell (sic) and Fouveaux's grant, parts of which comprise the study area. The heavy black line is the Sydney Parramatta rail corridor and the approximate location of the Mill is indicated.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid*, p.5.

<sup>16</sup> Steven, M, 1966, "Campbell, Robert (1769 - 1846)", *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 1, Melbourne University Press, pp 202-206.

<sup>17</sup> Pratten, *op cit*, p.11.

<sup>18</sup> The location of this rocky hole was identified in 1897 as near the Stanton Bridge but Pratten suggests it may have been closer to the site of the flour mill. See Pratten, *op cit*, p. 11.

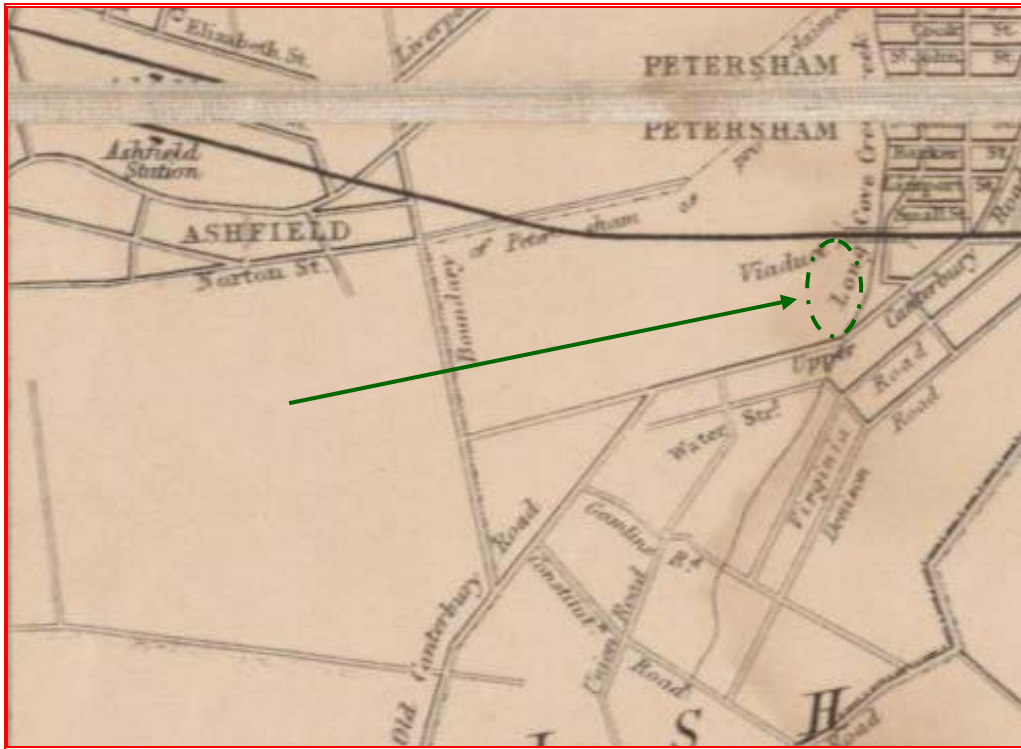


Figure 6. Part of map of early inner west showing the early road alignments and the rail corridor and overpass prior to the later subdivisions of the Canterbury Estate. The position of the study area is indicated". ("Map of Port Jackson and City of Sydney, showing the adjacent municipalities, N.S.W", James Willis, 1867, NLA Map F109).

Campbell died in 1846 and the Estate was divided between Sophia and Sarah and Sarah's husband. By 1865 Sophia's land had been subdivided.<sup>19</sup> The western portion study area was contained within Allotment XXVII of the subdivision and also within the area listed as Fyle's land between Allotment XXVII and Long Cove Creek. Allotment XXVII was to be further subdivided by 1876 into portions 11 and 12 of Section C of the "Canterbury Farms" (see figure 9).

<sup>19</sup> See Figure 7 which is titled "Part of the Canterbury Estate: The Property of Miss Campbell".



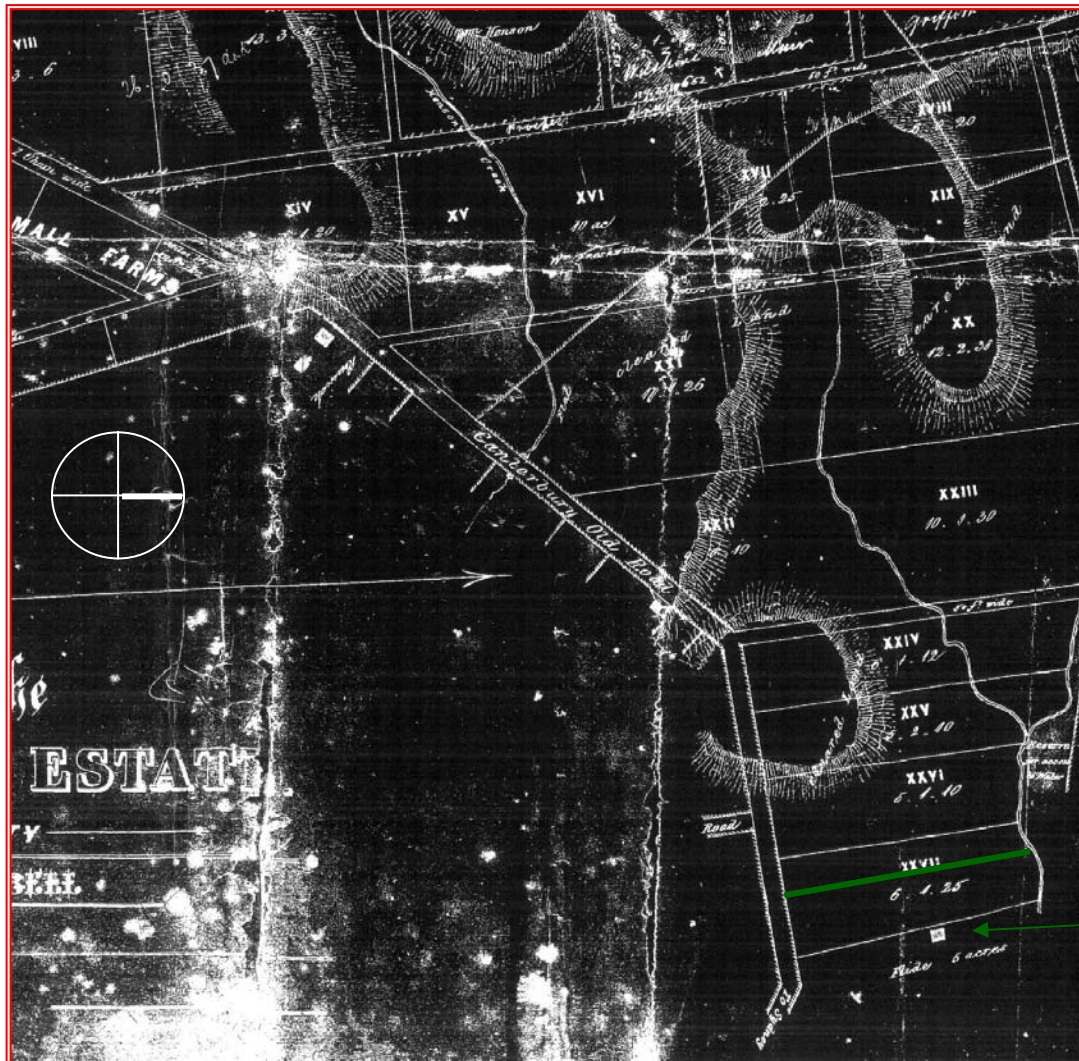


Figure 7. Detail of a plan of the Canterbury Estate from 1865. Note Fyle's land of 5 acres with a small structure situated at the centre of his western boundary (indicated). This boundary is now in the centre of the study area with the alignment of what is now Edward St indicated by the green line (cf Figure 9). The creek running from the west (top of map) is now forms the alignment of Smith Street. ("Part of the Canterbury Estate: The Property of Miss Campbell". ML ZM3 811.1829/1865/1)



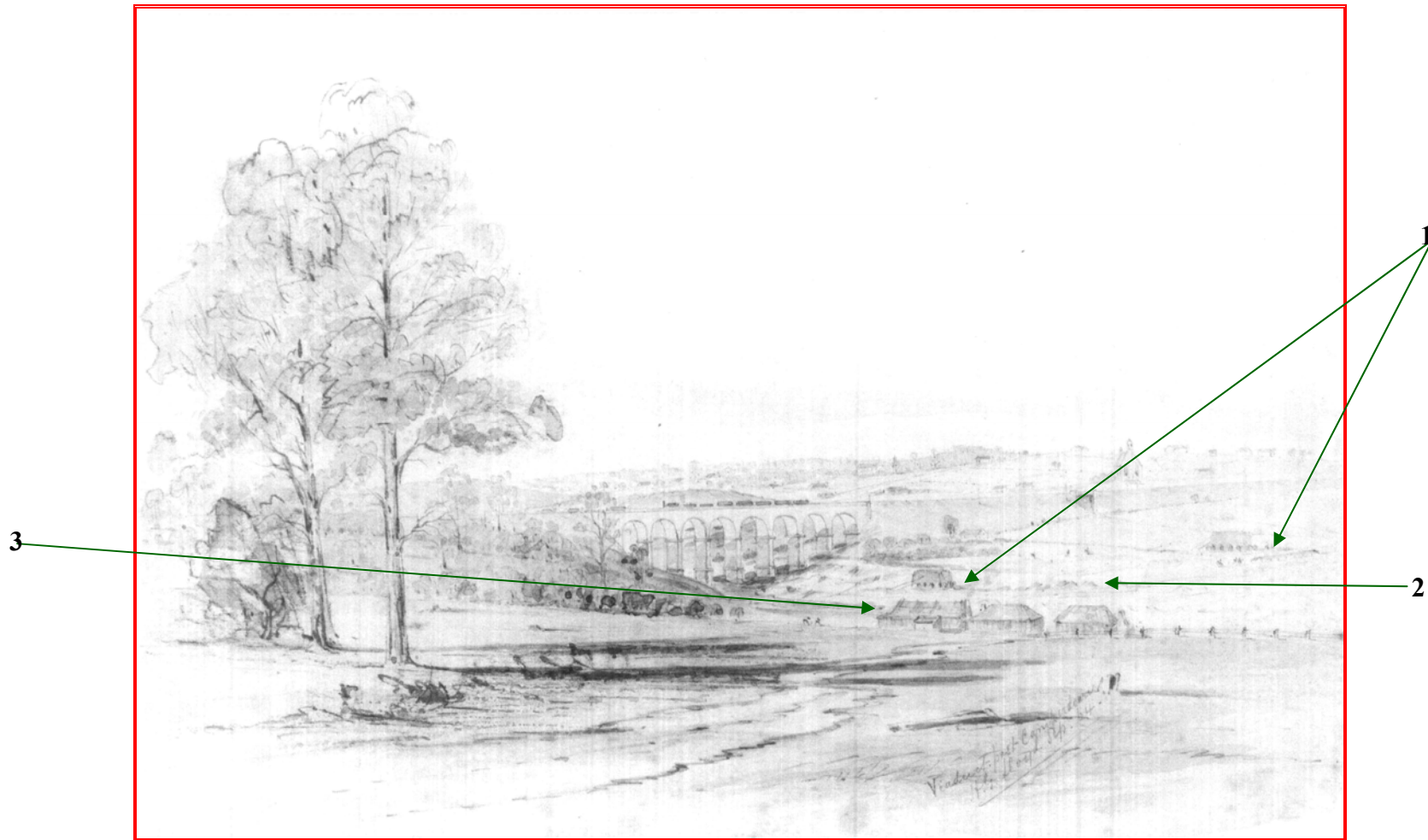


Figure 8. View of the site from the high ground to the west looking towards the Long Cove Viaduct and creek. This is the period of Fyle's use of the site. Elements associated with that occupation are two brick clamps (indicated as 1); piles of extracted clay weathering prior to "pugging" (indicated 2) both on the eastern side of the creek and three small cottages and fencelines on the creek's western side (indicated 3), which are possibly on the study site. H.G. Lloyd, c.1864, "Viaduct. Past Camperdown", (ML SPF).

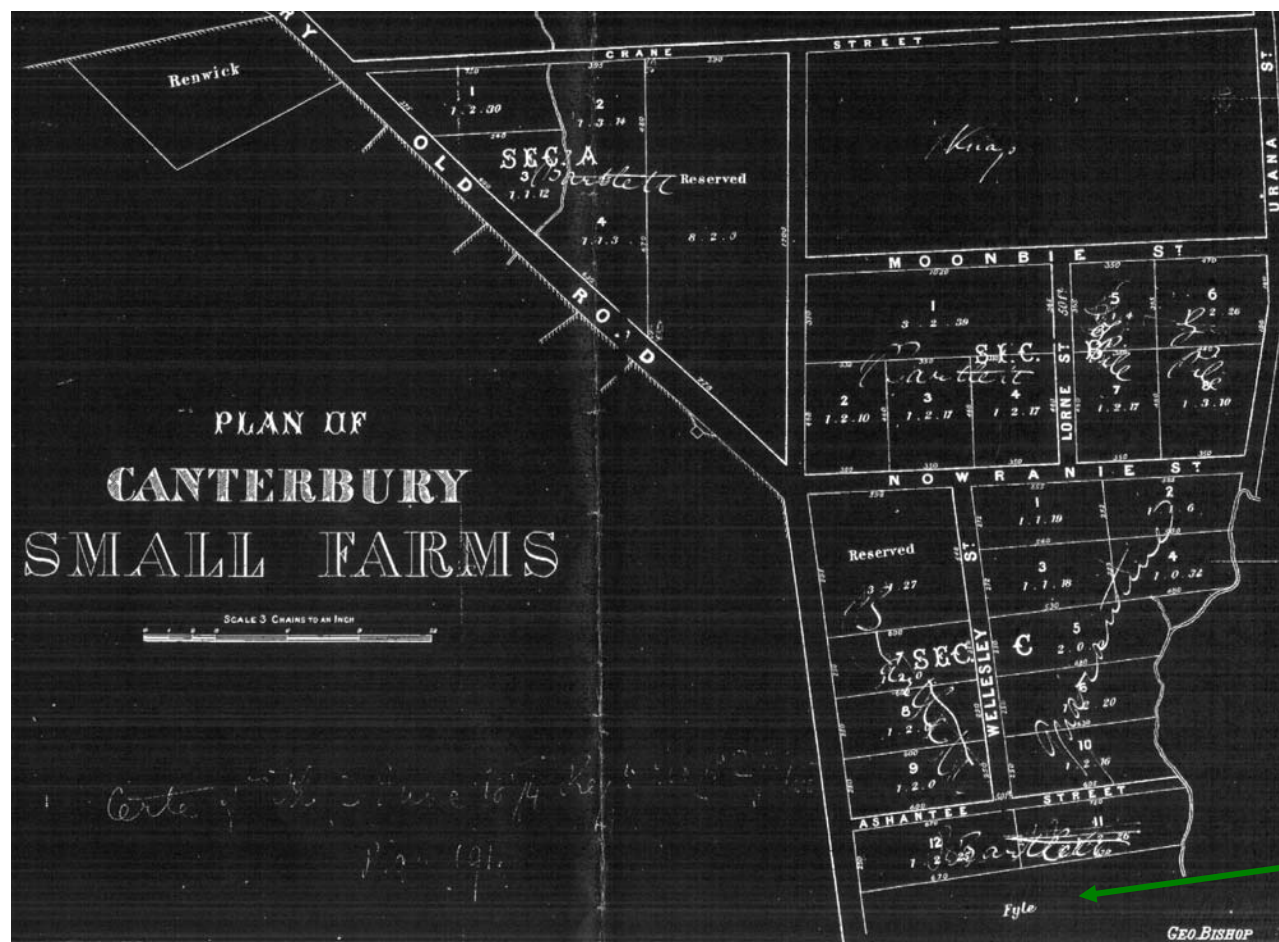


Figure 9. Map of the small farm allotments subdivided from the Canterbury Estate. Note Fyle's name it still associated with part of the study area but no structures are indicated on the site. Ashantee Street was later to become Edward Street. (Plan of the Canterbury Small Farm, ML M2 811.1829/1876/1)



Figure 10. The study area (approximately indicated) in 1883 after the initial subdivisions along Edward Street and 6 structures area shown already in place here. Note the area to the east adjacent to the creek is still associated with Fyle. Municipality of Ashfield, Higginbotham and Robinson, (ML M3 811.1829/1883/1)

## 4.2.2 First Occupation of the Study Area, 1840-1900

The study area had been part of the Campbell ‘Canterbury Estate’ from the 1820s but the first use of the site appears to have been undertaken by John Fyle who possibly occupied the land as early as the 1840s.<sup>20</sup> Despite the numerous land dealings related to the site there is however no evidence for a formal transfer of land which constituted part of the study area to Fyle.<sup>21</sup> It is more probable that some form of informal lease was agreed to enable Fyle to use the land as a brick works.

Fyle was listed as occupying land alongside Parramatta Road to the west of the Liverpool Road. Here he occupied 63 acres and had a fenced paddock and slab cottage and stable.<sup>22</sup> He was also later granted licenses for two local hotels, the “Canterbury Arms” and the “Gardener’s Arms”.<sup>23</sup>

Possibly as early as his initial occupation of the site Fyle established a brickmaking works along the western edge of Long Cove Creek and later also possibly on land north of the railway line on land formerly on Kable’s 63 acres.<sup>24</sup>

The 1864 Lloyd watercolour (figure 8) shows what is probably Fyle’s operations with two updraught kilns operating along the eastern side of Long Cove Creek, mounds of excavated clay weathering nearby, fencelines and three slab cottages up slope toward the artist. What could be ‘borrow’ pits for clay are evident adjacent to the viaduct itself.

The first rate book of the Ashfield Council notes File (sic) as the owner and occupier of 8 cottages (three of which are slab and bark construction) on a brick yard near the viaduct, however the 1865 plan shows just one structure on the land (see Figure 7) .

It would appear that Fyle ceased operation of the brickworks in about 1882, though the 1883 plan still shows him associated with the site (see Figure 10), and that he died in 1887.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> Felicity Barry pers comm..

<sup>22</sup> Pratten, *op cit*, p.13.

<sup>23</sup> Publican’s Licenses, State Records, RL 5060.

<sup>24</sup> Pratten, C and Peek, N, 1996, *Working the Clays: Brickmakers of the Ashfield District*, ADHS , p.15.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid, p.16 and NSW Registry Birth, Deaths and Marriages, Ashfield, 2617/1887.



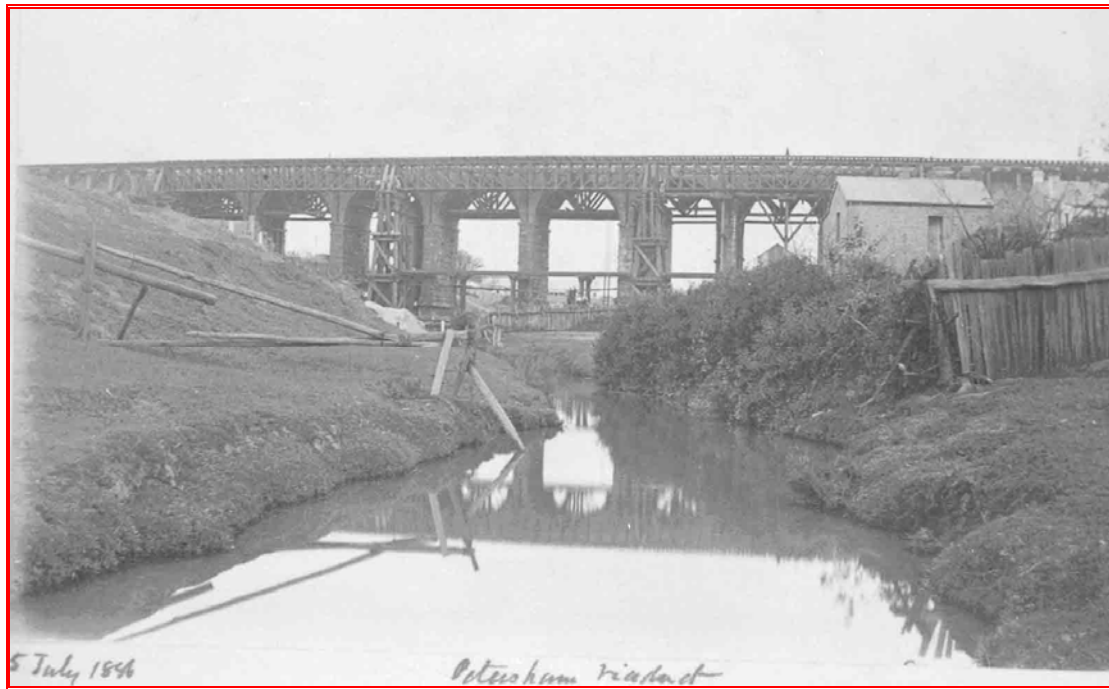


Figure 11. Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century photo looking south down the valley of Long Cove Creek. Note the encroachment of habitation to the very creek edge and the terracing on the eastern bank. (Macleay Museum Hunt Coll. July 1886, 811060158).



Figure 12. View down the creekline from the south. Compare with figure 11 and note the level of disturbance to the areas adjacent to the line of the creek the result of clay extraction during the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> Century for the Fyle Brickworks. The study area is the the left of photo (Macleay Museum Hunt Coll. July 1886, 811060157.)<sup>1</sup>





Figure 13. View of the Petersham overpass and construction of the canal c.1890-1. Note the level of disturbance associated with the construction of the canal. (SR: NRS 17420 item 621/14)

### 4.2.3 Hawthorne Canal and Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century Development

By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century the creek had become “a putrid receptacle of decaying matter and was perceived to be a public health problem.<sup>26</sup> The increase in population and development, the impact of numerous brickworks all along the course of the creek turned this small water course into an environmental ruin. (see Figures 11 and 12).

For several years call had been made by locals to canalize the creek and even make its course navigable up to Parramatta Road.<sup>27</sup> This concept gradually gained the acceptance of local politicians but due to infighting this was realised only to Marion Street. This navigable section was completed shortly after 1895 with the remainder, a storm water canal, completed by 1897.<sup>28</sup> It was during this period that the early subdivision of Allotment XXVII portions 11 and 12 were further subdivided, creating 19 lots fronting Edward Street and Old Canterbury Road (see Figure 10). By 1883 6 of these lots had structures on them.

<sup>26</sup> Sabloch, M, 2006, *Hawthorne Canal: The History of Long Cove Creek*, ADHS, p.63.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid*, pp.70-1.

From images taken at the time it is clear that one of the major impacts on the area prior to the construction of the canal was the brickmaking works near the study area. Borrow pits for the clay, evident in the 1864 image, had severely cut into the creek banks along the eastern and western sides of the creek. The construction of the canal for Long Cove Creek, and the canal for the tributary from the west past the sheep quarantine area, also impacted enormously upon the areas adjacent to the creek line (see figure 13).

#### **4.2.4 Construction of the Mill and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Development**

The unclear status of the land which was associated with Fyle was resolved in 1912 was resumed by the Railways and Tramways Construction Authority.<sup>29</sup> The land surplus to the rail needs was sold to Mungo Scott in 1917 with a siding constructed to give access for the site to the rail facility.

With additional purchases facing Edward Street it was possible to commence construction of a mill on the land in 1921.<sup>30</sup> The mill began operations in June 1922. A fire destroyed a portion of the site in January 1927 and work saw the facility reopened for business by September 1928.

By the middle of the WWII the mill consisted of (see Figure 14):

- The 5 storey brick mill proper with loading dock;
- A galvanised iron structure of similar dimensions to the south;
- Adjacent concrete silos;
- Chemical and inflammable stores;
- 2 storey offices at the west; and,
- Landscaped Amenities Park.

The residential properties which fronted Edward Street into the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century were purchased in a program of expansion in the 1960s (see Figure 16). This later work consisted of the construction of the weighbridge and office, 2 storey U shaped offices, new steel silos. The car parking area along Edward Street is the result of demolitions as late as the 1970s.

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<sup>29</sup> Howard, *op cit*, p. 5.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid*, p.6.



Figure 14. Allied Flour Mill in 1943. Note the relatively open nature of the site and the surviving housing along Edward Street from the 1880s and 1890s. (RTA Archives)





Figure 15. 1955 plan of the Allied Flour Mill site (Water Board Archive, Sewer Ref 41).

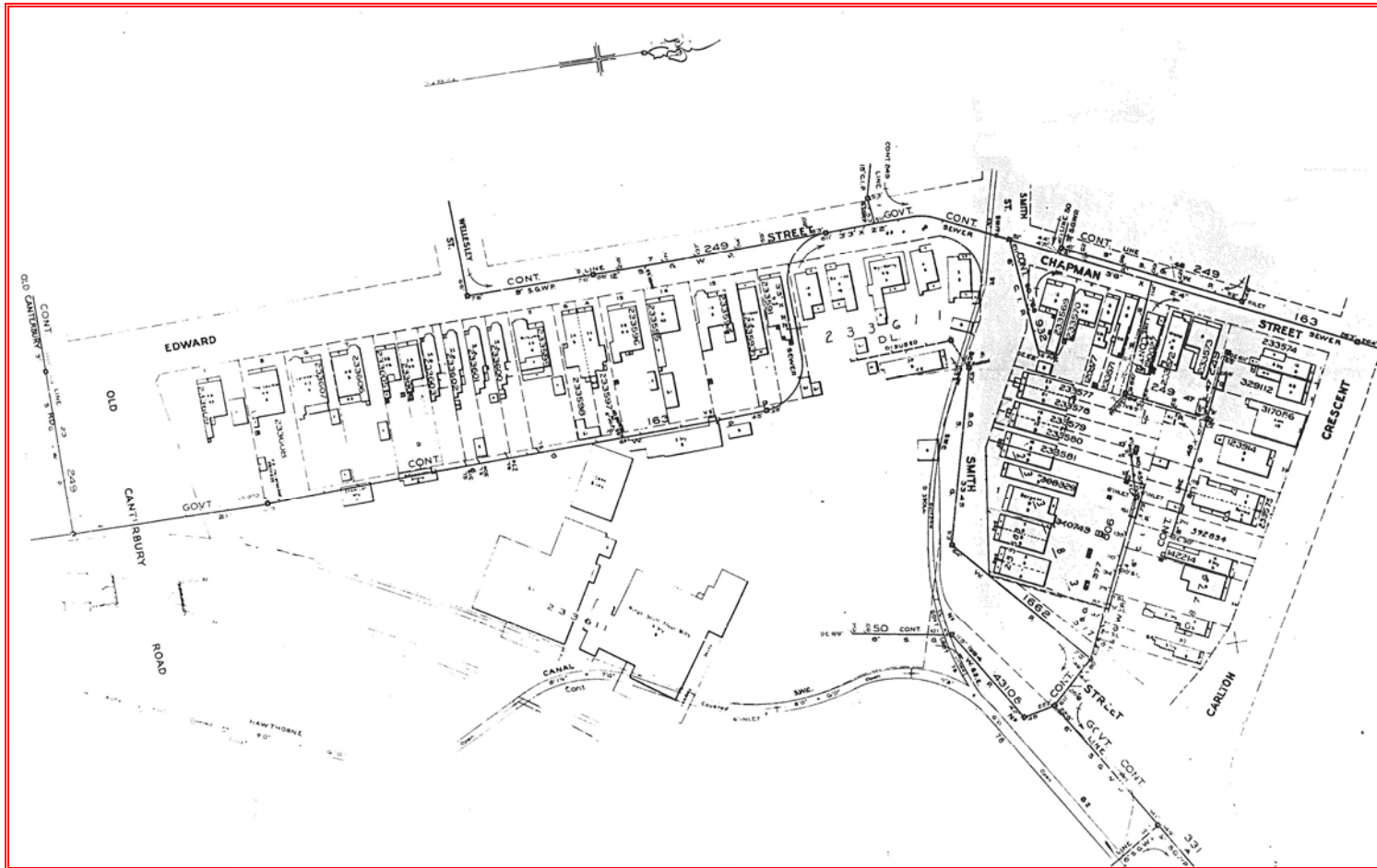


Figure 16. Wider view of the site in 1955. Note the survival of the housing along Edward Street, the majority of which was constructed in the mid 1880s to 1890s. These were to be demolished in the 1960s and 1970s for expansion of the site (Water Board Archive, Sewer Ref 41).



## 4.3 Historical Archaeological Potential

A survey of the Allied Flour Mill site to investigate the historical archaeological potential likely within the study area was undertaken March 2008 by Matthew Kelly and Tony Brassil.

### 4.3.1 Physical Remains

The site survey revealed little in the way of significant features predating the construction of the mill.

The site is typified by massive industrial mill buildings, offices and associated infrastructure interspersed by concrete drives, pathways and surfaces.

This general description is only relieved by a landscaped open grassed area at the lowest point adjacent to the canal. This area is a remnant of larger grassed areas across the site which typified it in the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

### 4.3.2 Potential Resource

The historic outline above suggests two major phases of occupation of the site that may have resulted in potential archaeological deposits or features. They are:

Fyle's use of the site; and,

Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century development along Edward Street.

The nature and extent of Fyle's occupation is only hinted at by the available historic information. The only certain structure appears in 1865 plan. This large square structure may correspond to one of the structures shown in the 1864 watercolour. However the overlay of the historic plans indicates that its position is likely to be beneath the site of a later silo, thereby almost certainly removing it (see Figure 25). The 1864 watercolour may show some features at the western edge of the site but the majority of the activity indicated in this image appears to be focussed on the eastern side of Long Cove Creek. Any remains that are on the study area are likely to consist of relatively ephemeral features such as slab cottages, post holes, pits and works (i.e. kiln remains, wasters etc) associated with brickmaking.

A potential archaeological resource also exists along the Edward Street frontage (see Figure 25). These would largely consist of the footings of domestic structures and outbuildings and yard surfaces from the late 1880s to the 1960s. These remains, should they remain, are likely to be more substantial and consist of brick footings, post holes and remnant surfaces. Given the date of construction of the buildings here it is not expected that substantial and significant subfloor occupation deposits are present. Any deposits associated with this late occupation

are likely to be associated with garbage and cess pits prior to the introduction of municipal services.

Though there is evidence that the site was once part of considerable early agricultural pursuits in the early Petersham area there is no evidence of specific activities, associated with this period, being undertaken on site. Given their exceptionally ephemeral nature, evidence of these activities is unlikely to have survived given the extent and nature of subsequent development on the site.

### **4.3.3 Site Disturbance**

The construction of the canal along the eastern boundary of the site and the attendant disturbance of deposits along its course has already been noted. The construction entailed substantial excavation along the valley of the creek to allow work room and construction for the concrete lined canal. As a consequence it must be assumed that deposits along this creek line have suffered severe disturbance.

Similarly the construction and subsequent development of the Flour Mill site has seen substantial disturbance in a majority of areas of the mill site. The site survey revealed areas of topography that have been excavated to provide level construction platforms for the mill buildings and especially the silos (see for example Figure 22).

Both the two storey office block fronting Edward Street and the weighbridge at the entrance have also removed or destroyed subsurface deposits in this area.

The demolition of the structures fronting Edward Street and the introduction of the car park here is likely to have preserved structural footings and other evidence of occupation in this area. There is no evidence of substantial lowering of levels in this area and the car park surface appears to retain the general gentle slope typical of the topography here.



Figure 17. Looking south along Edward Street with the flour mill site to photo left. Note the gentle rise to the south.

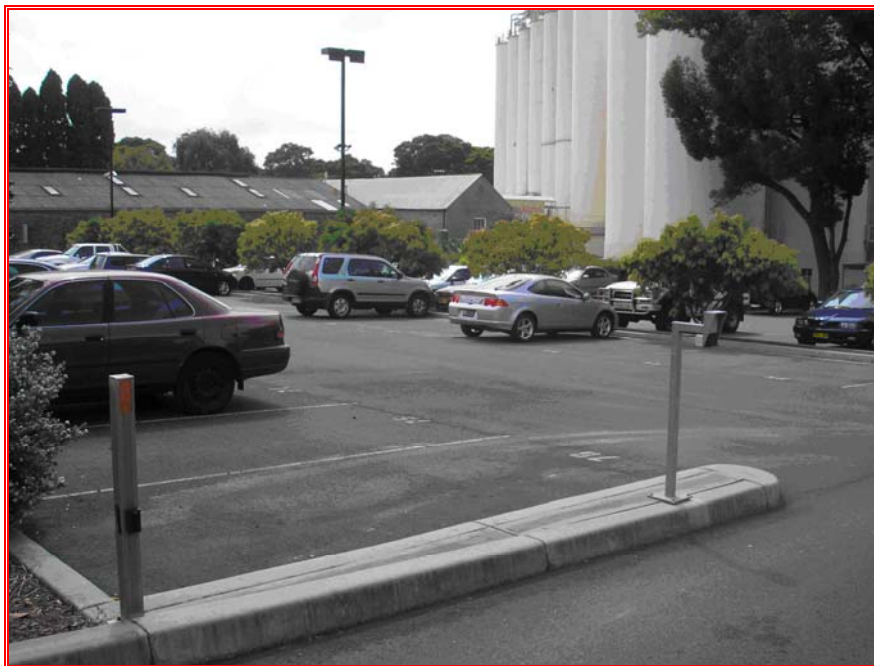


Figure 18. Photo of large car park along Edward Street frontage sloping down to east.





Figure 19. Looking east from entrance gate towards loading bay and open amenities area. The weighbridge is to the left of photo.



Figure 20. Grassed amenities area looking north west to Smith Street.



Figure 21. View along goods line to north.



Figure 22. Area at the southern extremity of the site showing substantial lowering of levels to provide building platforms for, in this case, steel silos.





Figure 23. Hawthorne Canal, looking north.



Figure 24. The eastern side of the canal looking towards the north east and the rail sidings adjacent to the site.

### **4.3.4 Archaeological Potential**

As outlined above the potential archaeological remains at the Allied Flour Mill consist of potential remains from two phases of occupation: the Fyle occupation and houses and yards fronting Edward Street (c1880s).

As a consequence of the assessment of potential archaeological features and the likely disturbance from subsequent activity three zones of archaeological potential are outlined below (see Figure 26).

#### **Areas of High Archaeological Potential (Green)**

Consists of the area along Edward Street where there is potential survival of structures and surfaces from domestic housing occupied between 1880 and 1960-70. The construction of the houses in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century is likely to have disturbed, though not necessarily destroyed, any remains from the Fyle period.

#### **Areas of Moderate Archaeological Potential (Orange)**

This area has potential for subsurface remains from the Fyle Period. Nature and extent of these is unknown.

#### **Areas of Low Archaeological Potential (Red)**

These areas have low or nil potential due to disturbance from construction activities and lowering of levels during mill period.



Figure 25. Overlay of historical plans on the Allied Flour Mill current survey (Blue) indicating features which have the potential to survive. The overlay consists of the 1865 plan (light green), Green 1895-1930 water board (green), 1943 aerial photo (pink).





Figure 26. Plan of the site with archaeological potential indicated.

## 5. SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

### 5.1 Principles & Evaluation Criteria

“Heritage significance” and “cultural significance” are terms used to describe an item’s value or importance to our society. The Australian ICOMOS Burra Charter defines cultural significance as,

“Aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for past, present or future generations”

This value may be contained in the fabric of the item, its setting and relationship to other items, the response that the item stimulates in those who value it now, or the meaning of that item to contemporary society.

Accurate assessment of the cultural significance of sites, places and items is an essential component of the NSW heritage assessment and planning process. A clear determination of a site’s cultural significance allows informed planning decisions to be made for place, in addition to ensuring that their heritage values are maintained, enhanced, or at least minimally affected by development.

Assessments of significance are made by applying standard evaluation criteria. These criteria are as follows:

*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);*

*An item has strong or special associations with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW’ cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);*

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

*An item has strong or special associations with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;*

*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);*

*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);*



*An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places; or cultural and natural environments.*

## 5.2 Evaluation

The following evaluation identifies the archaeological research significance of the historical archaeological evidence of past uses within the Allied Flour Mill site outlined in Section 4.3 of this report. This has been undertaken using the aforementioned criteria, and taking into consideration information about these items presented in preceding sections of this report.

*Criterion (a) - 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 at the Allied Mill site elements of the pastern of urban development through the early to late 19<sup>th</sup> Century in Sydney.

The site was first utilised for agricultural pursuits with relatively large scale land holdings amalgamated over time from smaller grants. This use was supplemented by resource extraction and industrial activities possibly from as early as the 1840s. Later subdivision of the land was hampered by legal problems, a similar situation to many 19<sup>th</sup> Century subdivisions in Sydney. Subsequent development saw intensive land use with the construction of domestic structures on narrow blocks in a configuration typical of late 19<sup>th</sup> century housing stock.

The potential historical archaeological evidence is therefore assessed as locally significant under this criterion.

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

Although the site was once owned by men such as Kable and Fouveau there is little potential for evidence to survive from this early period of occupation. The potential archaeological evidence from Fyle's occupation is important evidence of the locally important industry of brick making; an industry associated with the whole length of Long Cove Creek.

The potential historical archaeological evidence is therefore assessed as locally significant under this criterion.

*Criterion (c) - an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area);*

The historical archaeological remains of the Allied Flour Mill site are unlikely to demonstrate aesthetic characteristics of creative or technical achievement in the local area of NSW.

On this basis, the potential historical archaeological resource is assessed to not be significant under this criterion.

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

The historical archaeological resource is not likely to contain strong or special association under this criterion for the local community of community/cultural groups in NSW. The site is remembered locally more on the basis of the Flour Mill and its workers.

On this basis, the potential historical archaeological resource is assessed to not be significant under this criterion.

*Criterion (e) - 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);*

The historical archaeological evidence associated with the Allied Flour Mill site has an important potential to demonstrate elements of the structural features associated with occupation of this site for at least 100 years and possibly longer. The potential for demonstrating at least two phases of occupation type is significant in the local context.

The structural elements which potentially remain include the vestiges of the houses and outbuildings and yards along Edward Street and possibly features from the earlier Fyle period of brickmaking on the site. These elements have the potential to illustrate the form, configuration and technical details of both mid century industrial and later domestic occupation of this area of Sydney.

The potential historical archaeological evidence is therefore assessed as locally significant under this criterion.

*Criterion (f) - 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 two types of potential remains at the Allied Flour Mill site are largely replicated in other sites in Sydney to a greater and lesser degree. Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century housing, such as that potentially found on this site, is well represented archaeologically and as standing structure through out inner Sydney. The course of Long Cove Creek saw a number of similar brickmaking establishments set up in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Brickworks, such as Fyle's, were not rare in the local area. However until other local brickmaking sites are demonstrated to survive archaeologically then it must be assumed that any potential archaeology from the brickmaking on the site is uncommon.

The potential historical archaeological evidence is therefore assessed as locally significant under this criterion.

*Criterion (g) - an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's: cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments, or a class of the local area's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments;*

Brickmaking in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century was a significant industry in early Sydney as it sought to renew itself as a substantial and permanent mercantile settlement from a convict establishment. The potential remains from the Fyle brickworks have the potential to demonstrate characteristics of one of these significant places.

The design, construction and occupation of domestic housing in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century were important elements in the development of suburban life in Sydney. The creation of housing on the scale potentially demonstrated on the Allied Flour Mill site enabled the creation of intensively developed suburbs for city workers prior to the advent of ubiquitous personal transport. The development of such suburbs their form and architecture substantially changed peoples standards of living in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries.

The potential historical archaeological evidence is therefore assessed as locally significant under this criterion.

## **5.3 Archaeological Statement of Significance**

The former Allied Flour Mill was an important site in the development of the Ashfield/Petersham area from the 19<sup>th</sup> through to the 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries. The potential archaeological remains have the potential to demonstrate over 100 years of occupation of this site which may encompass two different phases of occupation, locally significant industrial occupation succeeded by typical inner suburban housing.

The potential physical remains of the housing at the site are well represented at other sites in the inner west. The potential remains of any brickmaking activity are possibly rarer and have more significant research potential.

## 6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 6.1 Conclusions

This historical archaeological assessment concludes that:

The site of the former Allied Flour Mill witnessed a number of successive occupations from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century through to the 1960s and 70s;

The site was originally part of agricultural concerns developed, from small early land grants, by significant merchants in early Sydney, such as Kable, Fouveaux and Campbell;

The site was subsequently utilised by John Fyle as a brickworks, possibly as early as 1840;

The site was subsequently subdivided and late 19<sup>th</sup> Century domestic houses succeeded the industrial works;

The potential archaeological relics from the brickworks and the 19<sup>th</sup> Century houses have local research significance;

Some of these relics have been subject to recent disturbance from development of the site.

### 6.2 Recommendations

The following management recommendations take into consideration the historical research and preceding assessment of the site's potential to contain relics of local archaeological heritage significance/research potential:

Any proposed development work within the site at the former Allied Flour Mill should be assessed by an archaeologist to determine the level of impact on potential archaeological remains on the site and specifically in light of the zones of potential archaeological potential on the site;

If that assessment identifies impacts on relics, as defined under the NSW Heritage Act then it will be necessary to apply for either a Section 140 Excavation Permit or an Exception under Section 139 of the NSW Heritage Act;

Any application should be accompanied by a Research Design and Excavation Methodology which manages any impacts on the potential archaeological resource;

Any archaeological program should comply with the conditions of the issued excavation permit;



The Research Design should devise a test excavation program to investigate the area of high potential on the site, impacted by the development, and an expanded archaeological program (possibly open area) should significant in situ relics be exposed by that testing;

The areas of medium to low potential, subject to impact by the development, should be subject to a program of archaeological monitoring;

These areas may also be subject to an expanded archaeological program should significant in situ relics be exposed by the archaeological monitoring;

The archaeological program should be undertaken as early as possible in the development timetable to avoid potential delays on critical elements of the development program.

## 7. REFERENCES

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Chapman, G and Murphy, C, 1989, Soil Landscapes of the Sydney 1:100,000 Sheet, Soil Conservation Service NSW, pp. 30-4.

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Sydney Gazette.

## 8. APPENDICES

### Hawthorne Canal Stormwater Channel (& Leichhardt Branch)

#### Item

**Name of Item:** Hawthorne Canal Stormwater Channel (& Leichhardt Branch)  
**Other Name/s:** Hawthorne Canal SWC (& Leichhardt Branch), Long Cove Creek  
**Type of Item:** Built  
**Group/Collection:** Utilities - Drainage  
**Category:** Storm Water Drain  
**Primary Address:** Hawthorne Parade, Haberfield to Canterbury Road, Leichhardt, NSW 2040  
**Local Govt. Area:** Leichhardt

#### Property Description:

Lot/Volume Code	Lot/Volume Number	Section Number	Plan/Folio Code	Plan/Folio Number
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**Boundary:** UDB Edition 31 Map 254 L1,2,3, 4 H5. The operational curtilage of Hawthorne Canal includes the channel beds, walls & coping. The visual curtilage of the channel will vary along the length of the channel depending on the surrounding landuses.

#### All Addresses

Street Address	Suburb/Town	LGA	Parish	County	Type
Hawthorne Parade, Haberfield to Canterbury Road	Leichhardt	Leichhardt			Primary
Hawthorne Parade, Haberfield to Canterbury Road	Leichhardt	Ashfield			Primary
Canterbury Road	Leichhardt	Leichhardt			Alternate
Canterbury Road	Leichhardt	Ashfield			Alternate

#### Statement of Significance

Of particular historical significance as one of the first nine purpose built stormwater drains constructed in Sydney in the 1890's. Prior to this period the water courses which served to carry stormwater were entirely in their natural state and were receptacles of sewage from the large population which had settled in the suburbs. In 1890, the then minister for Public Works, the Hon. Bruce Smith, MLA., appalled at the extremely unhealthy conditions prevailing at the time, proposed a separate system of stormwater drains be built to help alleviate the

problem. By 1897 nine had been built including Hawthorne Canal. Of the nine stormwater channels Hawthorne Canal is the best example as it is the most intact. It provides a good representative example of the early stormwater drains built in Sydney in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century.

The operational curtilage of Hawthorne Canal includes the channel beds, walls & coping. The visual curtilage of the channel will vary along the length of the channel depending on the surrounding landuses. The visual curtilage will vary along the length of the channel depending on the surrounding landuse. To formulate a specific curtilage statement that includes details of surrounding landuse and encroachment of various developments would require further investigations and is beyond the scope of this study. However, the general visual curtilage can be described as follows:

- 1) The stormwater channel west of Parramatta Road is an underground structure. Therefore the upper reaches of the stormwater channel has no visual curtilage.
- 2) North of Parramatta Road through to Marion Street Leichhardt, the open cut section is flanked by urban and industrial development and can only be observed by the general public from the roadways
- 3) From north of Marion Street to the discharge point at Iron Cove the curtilage is defined by the streetscape of Hawthorne Parade, Canal Road and The Lilyfield/Leichhardt Goods Railway Line. The Richmond Marden Reserve flanks the canal and adds to the visual curtilage.

**Date Significance Updated:** 22 Jan 02

Note: There are incomplete details for a number of items listed in NSW. The Heritage Branch intends to develop or upgrade statements of significance and other information for these items as resources become available.

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## Description

**Designer:** Department of Public Works / Sydney Water

**Builder:** Department of Public Works / Sydney Water

**Construction Years:** 1890 - 1938

**Physical Description:** Hawthorne Canal extends from Dobroyd Point at Iron Cove to Canterbury Road at Lewisham with branches along Smith Street at Summer Hill. The channel is constructed from unreinforced concrete. Upstream of Parramatta Road there is a section that is paved brick along the floor of the channel. Just over 67% of the total length of the stormwater system was constructed pre 1896. 74% of the stormwater system is constructed of concrete and 20% of brick. There are several branches to this system which include: Leichhardt, Leichhardt Amplification, Petersham, Petersham Park, Smith Street, Henson



Street, Victoria Street and Grove Street. All of the branches except some parts of Leichhardt Branch and Leichhardt Amplification were constructed prior to 1900.

The Leichhardt Branch extends from the main channel immediately on the downstream side of Marion Street, Leichhardt. It drains an area of 43 hectares situated on the eastern side of the main channel and is comprised entirely within the municipality of Leichhardt. This branch was originally constructed under the following contracts.

(a) Gov. Contract 89 - This section extends from the main channel upstream to near the intersection of Flood and Lord Streets. It was constructed by PWD in 1892 and transferred to the Board in 1898. The channel size ranges from 55" - 30" circular.

(b) Council Section - This section extends from Flood Street, Leichhardt, upstream to the termination at Excelsior Street, Leichhardt. The channel size is a 3'2" x 2'10" box. Most of the channel is covered transition or pipe, and made from either concrete or vitrified clay.

A major part of the Hawthorne Stormwater Canal is evident as an open channel. There are some small sections of the system which are below ground. It is evident under the stone arch bridge "Battle Bridge" at Parramatta Road, and a remaining section of the "Whipple Truss" bridge. The Lewisham Aqueduct runs over the system and SPS 15 is located along side the canal at Haberfield.

**Physical Condition  
and/or  
Archaeological  
Potential:**

The channel is in fair to good condition. Strengthening of the channel took place in the earlier part of the twentieth century. **Date Condition Updated:** 25 May 00

**Modifications and  
Dates:**

The main section of the system was completed by 1938, under 4 separate contracts. In 1964 the Leichhardt Branch was amplified by a parallel channel for its entire length. This was constructed by the Board. The combined capacity of the old and new channel render the Branch adequate in its capacity for its entire length. Further channels were constructed after this time and the entire channel was completed around 1977.

**Current Use:**

Stormwater Channel

**Former Use:**

Stormwater Channel

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**History**

**Historical Notes:**

Hawthorne Canal extends from Dobroyd Point at Iron Cove to Canterbury Road at Lewisham. The section between Iron Cove and Marion Street was built as a navigable canal. This channel itself is


owned by the Waterways Authority, while the walls of the channel are owned by Ashfield and Leichhardt Councils. The section between Marion Street and Parramatta Road was commissioned in 1891. By 1895 it was in a highly polluted state. The channel was one of the first nine stormwater/sewer channels constructed in Sydney (along with Beattie Street Balmain, Dobroyd, Rushcutters Bay, Homebush Creek, North Sydney, Wentworth Park, Munni Street Erskineville and Iron Cove Creek extension) built according to the principle of the Secretary for Public Works, Bruce Smith. There was a proposal by the Sydney Water Commission in 1867-9 to construct a dam at Summer Hill which would be supplied directly from Warragamba Dam. The upper Nepean No.1 1200mm main runs near the canal and at one stage was clearly visible over the canal. The Pressure Tunnel Scour discharges into the canal at Weston Street. There are several branches to this system which include: Leichhardt 62A, Leichhardt Amplification, Petersham, Petersham Park, Smith Street, Henson Street, Victoria Street and Grove Street. All of these branches except some parts of Leichhardt Branch and Leichhardt Amplification were constructed prior to 1900 and are considered to be of heritage significance.

## Historic Themes

<b>Australian Theme (abbrev)</b>	<b>New South Wales Theme</b>	<b>Local Theme</b>
3. Economy - Developing local, regional and national economies	Environment - cultural landscape - Activities associated with the interactions between humans, human societies and the shaping of their physical surroundings	(none) -
3. Economy - Developing local, regional and national economies	Health - Activities associated with preparing and providing medical assistance and/or promoting or maintaining the well being of humans	(none) -
3. Economy - Developing local, regional and national economies	Technology - Activities and processes associated with the knowledge or use of mechanical arts and applied sciences	(none) -
4. Settlement - Building settlements, towns and cities	Utilities - Activities associated with the provision of services, especially on a communal basis	(none) -
9. Phases of Life - Marking the phases of life	Events - Activities and processes that mark the consequences of natural and cultural occurrences	(none) -

## Assessment of Significance

**SHR Criteria a)** The channel was originally built as a stormwater channel which was

[Historical Significance]	capable of taking some sewerage waste until the sewerage system was in place. It was one of the nine original stormwater channels in Sydney (along with Beattie Street Balmain, Dobroyd, Rushcutters Bay, Homebush Creek, North Sydney, Wentworth Park, Munni Street Erskineville and Iron Cove Creek extension).
<b>SHR Criteria c)</b> [Aesthetic Significance]	A major part of the Hawthorne Stormwater Canal is evident as an open channel. There are some small sections of the system which are below ground. It is evident under the stone arch bridge "Battle Bridge" at Parramatta Road, and a remaining section of the "Whipple Truss" bridge. The Lewisham Aqueduct runs over the system and SPS 15 is located along side the canal at Haberfield.
<b>SHR Criteria d)</b> [Social Significance]	Of social significance to the general community for its function as it helped improve public health in the early 1900's. Prior to this period the watercourses which served to carry stormwater were entirely in their natural state, and this lead to unsanitary public health conditions. The construction of this system was an important feature in reducing illness in the area and is likely to be valued by the general community for the function it serves.
<b>SHR Criteria e)</b> [Research Potential]	One of the first canals built for the rational dispersal of stormwater (and effluent) and it is tangible evidence of that historically successful method of collection and dispersal.
<b>SHR Criteria f)</b> [Rarity]	One of the first nine purpose built stormwater channels constructed in Sydney in the 1890,s.
<b>SHR Criteria g)</b> [Representitivenes]	Representative of what became a standard method of stormwater collection
<b>Integrity/Intactness:</b>	Considerably intact
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	Items are assessed against the  <a href="#">State Heritage Register (SHR) Criteria</a> to determine the level of significance. Refer to the Listings below for the level of statutory protection.

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<b>Recommended Management</b>	<p>Manage the place and its significant components in accordance with the State Owned Heritage Asset Management Guidelines.</p> <p>Where no Conservation Management Plan, Heritage Assessment or Statement of Heritage Impact is in place, or where works are outside the scope existing heritage documentation, assess heritage impacts of proposed works in accordance with Sydney Water Environment Impact Assessment procedures. Undertake a Heritage Assessment and/or Statement of Heritage Impact as required by EIA procedures.</p> <p>Where the item is listed in a Local Environmental Plan Schedule of Heritage items, determine if works are exempt from approval under the LEP provisions. Where works are not exempt, obtain necessary</p>
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approvals from the local council, in accordance with SWC EIA Guidelines.

Undertake archival and photographic recording before major changes, in accordance with Heritage Council guidelines. Lodge copies of the archival record with the Sydney Water Archives and the NSW Heritage Office.

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## Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
<i>Heritage Act - s.170 NSW State agency heritage register</i>		000140	01 Jan 00		

## Study Details

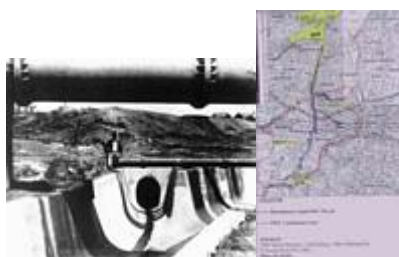
Title	Year	Number	Author	Inspected by	Guidelines Used
Sydney Water Heritage Study	1996	000140	Graham Brooks and Associates Pty Ltd	GRAHAM BROOKS AND ASSOCIATES PTY LTD	Yes

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## References, Internet links & Images

None

Note: Internet links may be to web pages, documents or images.



(Click on Thumbnail for Full Size Image and Image Details)

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## Data Source

The information for this entry comes from the following source:

**Name:** State Government Agency

**Database Number:** 4570001

**File Number:** 000140



