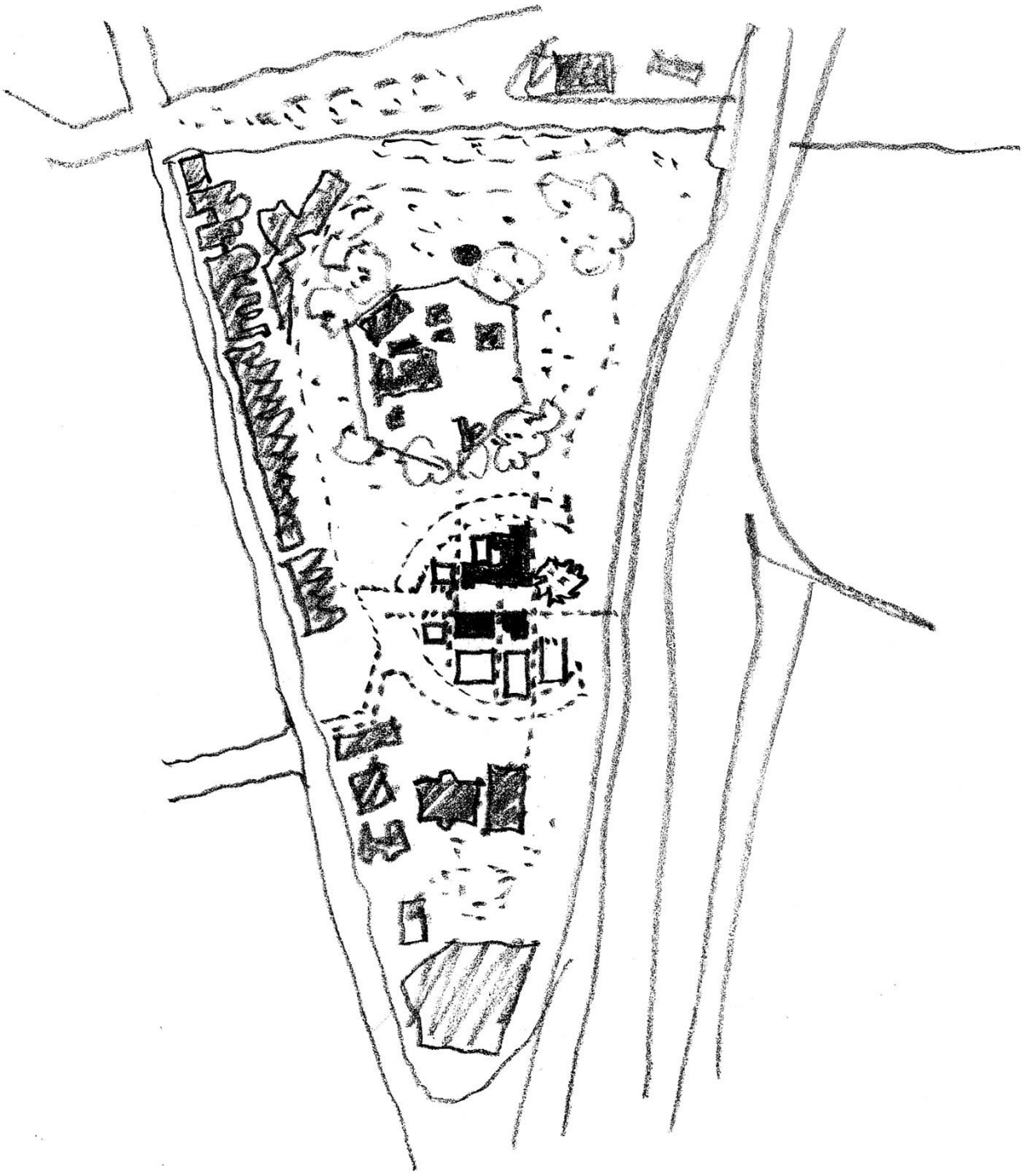
Fort Street Public School
Conservation Management Plan

SSD 10340
Prepared by Curio Projects
For School Infrastructure NSW
17 March 2020



Conservation Management Plan

FORT STREET PUBLIC SCHOOL

MARCH 2020

Prepared by Curio Projects

FINAL REPORT

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Curio *noun* cu·rio \kyur-ē-ˌō\: any unusual article, object of art, etc., valued as a curiosity

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This report has been prepared based on research by Curio Projects specialists. Historical sources and reference material used in the preparation of this report are acknowledged and referenced at the end of each section and/or in figure captions.

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Executive Summary

Curio Projects Pty Ltd (Curio Projects) have been commissioned by School Infrastructure NSW (SI) to prepare an updated Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the Fort Street Public School (FSPS) site. A previous CMP was prepared in 2015 by TKD Architects (not formally finalised). SI have engaged Curio Projects to revise and update the TKD Architects draft CMP, to properly address the current form, function, and future direction of the FSPS site, and address several identified deficiencies of the TKD report.

The aim of this revised CMP is to provide a clear foundation and operational policies to guide and support the day to day, and future, site function and uses of the FSPS site, within the context of the site's cultural heritage significance.

This CMP has been divided into two sections for clarity of use and comprehension.

- **Part A** (Sections 1–5) presents the statutory, historical and physical context of the site to provide a comprehensive background from which to assess the heritage significance (Section 4.0) and therefore to fully understand the existing opportunities and constraints of the site (Section 5.0).
- **Part B** (Sections 6 and 7) uses the findings of Part A to develop the heritage conservation policy and implementation strategy for the site.

The FSPS site is located on Observatory Hill, at Upper Fort Street, Millers Point, and is generally defined by the circular cut of the Cahill Expressway on ramp. The site is located to the south of the Sydney Observatory, between the Bradfield Highway in the east, and residential development along Kent Street to the west.

At the time of writing (September 2019), the FSPS site consisted of four main buildings: The Fort Street School; The Messengers Cottage; The Bureau of Meteorology building (MET Building), and the Environmental Educational Centre (EEC) building. Of these four structures, only the EEC building is not heritage listed.

Statement of Significance

The Fort Street Public School site comprises several institutional, governmental and residential buildings in a setting that has developed from the early nineteenth century, and is a site of historical, aesthetic, and social significance.

The Aboriginal archaeological resources within the Fort Street Public School area, if present, have the potential to contribute knowledge regarding resource gathering and subsistence strategies of Aboriginal people in the area prior to European contact. While midden sites are the most common Aboriginal archaeological sites recorded in the local area, a limited number have been archaeologically investigated.

The Aboriginal archaeological resources within the footprint of Fort Street Public School would have moderate significance. Although an assessment of cultural value has not been undertaken it is likely that, if present, the local Aboriginal community would view any Aboriginal archaeological deposits as being of high cultural value to the community.

The historical archaeological resource associated with the early buildings within the footprint of Fort Street Public School, the Military Hospital's surgeon's residence (later associated with the National School), the Observatory's Messenger's Cottage and associated buildings and facilities, have the potential to provide information regarding the lives of the people living and working at these early colonial institutions. Particular aspects of colonial Sydney would be demonstrated in the physical evidence of buildings and in an artefact assemblage of the detritus of everyday life discarded by military and medical personnel, teachers and students, and staff of the Observatory. An extensive artefact assemblage that may be present in wells, rubbish and / or cess pits would have the potential to provide an insight into lifestyles associated with the Military Hospital or Observatory that would contribute to substantive questions regarding institutional life in the colony. The historical archaeological resources within the foot print of Fort Street Public School have state significance.

Fort Street Public School is associated with Fort Street School, a highly significant school that was established as a National School in 1850. Although not a part of the original school site, the building is the only section of the school at Observatory Hill that continues to serve its original function. It resulted from the construction of roadworks of the historically significant City Circle railway loop viaduct and the Cahill Expressway. Fort Street Public School reflects the influence of prominent architect Harry Rembert, amongst the most significant architects to have worked in the Department of Public Works Government Architects Branch during the middle third of the twentieth century, The building is a fine, representative and generally intact example of the Inter War Functionalist style and a rare example of this style applied to public school architecture by the Government Architect's Branch. Its planning is a concise representation of public school design during the interwar period. The building is also significant for its visual contribution to the setting of Observatory Hill Park. Fort Street Public School has social significance, particularly for former pupils and is likely to have significance for parents of pupils and former staff.

The Messenger's Cottage is historically significant because of its associations with the Sydney Observatory. and because of its strong associations with the Bureau of Meteorology, which occupied it for several years between 1916 and 1922, and continued to use it after that period. The Cottage is also historically significant because it housed what has been claimed to be the first corporate childcare centre in Australia, opened in 1987. The two main nineteenth century phases of construction are associated with the office of the Colonial Architect headed by Alexander Dawson and James Barnet. The Messenger's Cottage is a representative and relatively intact example of a modestly scaled Victorian era cottage that was built to house a government employee of the Sydney Observatory and may have some rarity value because of that. It has aesthetic significance because of its scale and picturesque massing. It is one of three comparable cottages on Observatory Hill.

Messenger's Cottage provides a tangible historical connection between the FSPS Site and the Observatory to the north, it's very presence being representative of the wider connectivity and historical use of the whole of Observatory Hill from the mid 1800s onwards- many years prior to the physical boundary created by the excavation for the Cahill Expressway.

The Bureau of Meteorology building is historically significant as the first purpose-designed building to house the Bureau's activities in Sydney and possibly NSW after the formation of the Commonwealth Meteorological Bureau in 1908. It has strong historical associations with weather observations on Observatory Hill and with the former Messenger's Cottage, which housed the Bureau at the beginning of the twentieth century. It is a fine example of the work of the Department of Works and Railways under the direction of John Smith Murdoch and is a restrained and relatively intact example of the Inter War Free Classical style that demonstrates subtle refinement in the detailing of its external fabric. The Bureau of Meteorology building was built as purpose designed headquarters for the main NSW branch of the organisation and is considered to be rare both at State and National level.

The EEC (former Fanny Cohen Gymnasium) has some historical significance as the last purpose designed building to be erected at Observatory Hill for Fort Street Girls' High School and is associated with architects of the Government Architect's Branch. A relatively early post World War II school building, the EEC is considered to be representative of post-World War II school gymnasia and school halls. While it demonstrates typical characteristics of the architecture of this period, the building has little aesthetic distinction. It is understood to be a relatively uncommon example of a post-World War II school gymnasium.

PART A—INTRODUCTION

1. Introduction

Curio Projects Pty Ltd (Curio Projects) have been commissioned by School Infrastructure NSW (SI) to prepare an updated Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the Fort Street Public School (FSPS) site. A previous CMP was prepared in 2015 by TKD Architects (not formally finalised). SI have engaged Curio Projects to revise and update the TKD Architects draft CMP, to properly address the current form, function, and future direction of the FSPS site, and address several identified deficiencies of the TKD report.

The aim of this revised CMP is to provide a clear foundation and operational policies to guide and support the day to day, and future, site function and uses of the FSPS site, within the context of the site's cultural heritage significance.

1.1. Background to this CMP Update

Through the preparation of this revised CMP, Curio undertook a gap analysis and assessment of the TKD draft CMP (2016), in order to identify any omissions in the document and/or areas requiring additional research to ensure the CMP complies with NSW Heritage Division criteria for the preparation of CMPs.

The TKD draft CMP has been used as a baseline document for the preparation of this updated document, with many sections of the 2016 document remaining relevant. Therefore, this consolidated CMP has been prepared with sections extracted from the TKD Architects draft CMP document, supplemented by additions and revisions (where appropriate) by Curio Projects.

1.2. Structure of this CMP

This CMP has been divided into two sections for clarity of use and comprehension.

- **Part A** (Sections 1–5) presents the statutory, historical and physical context of the site to provide a comprehensive background from which to assess the heritage significance (Section 4.0) and therefore to fully understand the existing opportunities and constraints of the site (Section 5.0).
- **Part B** (Sections 6 and 7) uses the findings of Part A to develop the heritage conservation policy and implementation strategy for the site.

1.3. Site Identification

The Fort Street Public School (FSPS) site (the study area) is located on Observatory Hill, at Upper Fort Street, Millers Point, and is generally defined by the circular cut of the Cahill Expressway on ramp (Figure 1.1). The study area is located to the south of the Sydney Observatory, between the Bradfield Highway in the east, and residential development along Kent Street to the west (Figure 1.1).

At the time of writing (March 2020), the FSPS site consisted of four main buildings (Figure 1.2): The Fort Street School; The Messengers Cottage; The Bureau of Meteorology building (MET Building), and the Environmental Educational Centre (EEC) building. Of these four structures, only the EEC building is not heritage listed.

Figure 1.1: General FSPS Study area Location. (Source: Curio 2019)

Figure 1.2: FSPS Site Plan (Source: TKD 2016, Fig. 36)

1.4. Limitations and Constraints

This report has been prepared using the historical data and documentation available for the site, utilising some of the historical information contained in previous heritage studies prepared for the Fort Street Public School site and its surrounds. Additional primary historical research has been undertaken with a focus on photographic data and archival historical documentation.

This CMP has not been informed by Aboriginal community consultation, and therefore Aboriginal cultural heritage values presented in this report should be considered as preliminary only.

Due to the severely degraded state of the Bureau of Meteorology (MET) Building, physical investigation has been limited and Curio was therefore not granted access. A condition report for the MET Building cannot be prepared until such time that safe WHS conditions are provided in order to have access to the interiors of the building. Once the building is stabilised,

decontaminated and made safe for access, a detailed condition report will be able to prepared. Therefore, any assessment of significance for elements of the MET Building are indicative only until such time that the building is safe and access for detailed inspection is possible.

1.5. Authorship and Acknowledgements

While Curio Projects have been engaged to prepare a consolidated and updated CMP, it is appropriate to acknowledge authorship of individual sections. Therefore, where sections within this consolidated document have been extracted from the TKD draft CMP, this has been clearly indicated and acknowledged as appropriate. Generally, sections that have been wholly extracted from the TKD draft CMP have been noted in the introduction to the relevant section, as well as indicated *in italics* to ensure this is clearly identifiable.

This consolidated CMP was prepared by Sam Cooling, Cultural Heritage Manager, and Natalie Vinton, Director, with assistance from Jacky Dalton, Cultural Heritage Educator, of Curio Projects.

The following table provides an overview of each section of this consolidated CMP in relation to its authorship, and corresponding sections of the TKD 2016 draft where relevant.

Purcell Architects prepared a Draft Scope of Conservation Works for select buildings on the site, including limited access to the MET Building. Purcell's preliminary recommendations for conservation works for the MET Building have been referenced in this CMP as appropriate. Curio have also referenced this draft documentation in this report.

Table 1.1: Overview of CMP Authorship by Section

SECTION	HEADING	AUTHOR	TKD DRAFT CMP
1	**Introduction**	**Curio Projects**	**N/A**
2	**Historical Evidence**	**Curio Projects/TKD**	**Section 2**
2.1	*Aboriginal Ethnohistory*	Curio Projects	N/A
2.2	*Early Site History*	TKD	Section 2.2
2.3	*Board of National Education*	TKD	Section 2.3
2.4	*Development of Fort Street School*	TKD	Section 2.4
2.5	*A New Primary School Building*	TKD	Section 2.5
2.6	*The Messenger's Cottage and the Bureau of Meteorology*	TKD	Section 2.6
2.7	*Historical Timeline*	Curio Projects	N/A
3	**Description and Physical Evidence**	**Curio Projects/TKD**	**Section 3 and 5**
3.1	Existing Topography and Environment	TKD	Section 3
3.2	Built Elements/Structures	TKD	Section 3.3-3.5
3.3	Movable Heritage	Curio Projects/TKD	Section 3.2
3.4	Setting and Visual Character	Curio Projects	N/A
3.5	Archaeological Assessment	Curio Projects	N/A

SECTION	HEADING	AUTHOR	TKD DRAFT CMP
4	**Assessment of Heritage Significance**	**Curio Projects/TKD**	**Section 5**
4.1	*Previous Assessments*	Curio Projects	N/A
4.2	*Comparative Analysis*	TKD	Section 4
4.3	*Assessment Methodology & Criteria*	Curio Projects	N/A
4.4	*Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Values*	Curio Projects	N/A
4.5	*Statement of Significance*	Curio Projects/TKD	Section 5
4.6	*Gradings of Significant Components*	Curio Projects/TKD	Section 5.5
4.7	*Heritage Curtilage*	Curio Projects/TKD	Section 5.6
4.8	*Significant Views*	Curio Projects	N/A
5	**Opportunities and Constraints**	**Curio Projects/TKD**	**Section 6**
6	**Conservation Policy**	**Curio Projects/TKD**	**Section 7**
6.1	*Conservation Policy Development*	Curio Projects	N/A
6.2	*Conservation Policies*	Curio Projects/TKD	Section 7
7	**Implementation Strategy**	**Curio Projects**	**N/A**

2. Historical Evidence

This historical summary has been predominantly extracted from the TKD draft CMP (2016), with additional research and supplementary information prepared by Curio Projects as required. Where text has been directly extracted from the TKD draft CMP, this has been *indicated in italics*. Generally, where standard font is used, this has been written by Curio Projects, unless stated otherwise.

2.1. Aboriginal Ethnohistory

The traditional owners of the Sydney Cove region are the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. The traditional territory of the Gadigal stretches along the southern side of Sydney Harbour from South Head, west to approximately Darling Harbour, and south towards Botany Bay. The Sydney region has two main language groups: Darug–with two main dialects, one spoken along the coast, and another in the hinterland/Cumberland Plain region of western Sydney; and Tharawal–spoken to the south of Botany Bay (Attenbrow 2012). Within the Darug language group, people belonged to smaller family/territorial groups or clans, through which they were connected to, and occupied, different areas of land across Sydney, of which the Gadigal people are one.

While the Observatory Hill locality would most likely have been an original contact site between the new colonists and Sydney's first inhabitants, few accounts or evidence remain to provide further information about contact in this location. The local Aboriginal people living in the area of the Fort Street Public School would have pursued a mixed food economy in the region, utilising and relying upon the abundant natural resources of Sydney cove, including marine resources from the harbour and surrounding waters, hunting terrestrial mammals, as well as collecting and processing local plants (Figure 2.1).

At the time of arrival of the First Fleet and Captain Arthur Phillip in January 1788, it is estimated that at least 1500 Aboriginal people would have lived along the coastal region between Broken Bay and Botany Bay. The arrival of the First Fleet devastated the lives and activities of Aboriginal people of the Sydney Harbour area, restricting access to areas traditionally used for hunting and gathering, shelter and for ceremonial purposes, while introducing devastating diseases such as smallpox. It is estimated that almost half of Sydney's Aboriginal population died in the first smallpox epidemic recorded in the colony in 1789 (Hinkson 2010). However, despite the widespread devastation of colonial arrival and establishment to the Aboriginal inhabitants of Sydney, the Gadigal endured and remain a continuing culture in Sydney today.

Figure 2.1: View of Parramatta River from Observatory Hill, c.1789 (Source: NLA. http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-135681388)

2.2. Early Site History

Before it was named Observatory Hill, the high ridge on the western side of Sydney Cove was known in the 1790s as Windmill Hill when it was the site of the colony's first successfully functioning windmill, then Fort Phillip or Citadel Hill from 1804 and Flagstaff Hill from the time of Governor Macquarie. The name Observatory Hill came into currency during the 1860s.

The site of Fort Street Public School was originally chosen as the location for the Royal Military Hospital. It seems to have been vacant ground on Windmill Hill and was unused up until the time that the hospital was erected. The Royal Military Hospital was commissioned in 1814 by Governor Macquarie to replace the existing Regimental Hospital located at the present-day corner of Clarence and Erskine Streets, which was in poor condition and ill-suited to its use. Lieutenant John Watts (1786-1873), lately arrived in Sydney along with the 46th Regiment, was charged with its design. Watts is said to have based the design of his buildings on West Indian colonial architecture, and his hospital designs are considered to be similar to the standard hospital/barrack buildings developed by the Royal

Engineers.[1] It was a rectangular two storey building with a mansard roof, surrounded on all sides by verandahs. Its simple plan consisted of a central hall containing a stair, a large ward on either side of the hall and two small rooms at each end of the building entered via the verandah. The new hospital was ready for occupation by the middle of July 1815 and "the Sick of the Corps" were relocated to it on the 24th of that month.[2] There were two outbuildings associated with the Hospital – the single storey doctor's house and a kitchen. Both were to its north. A wall, the stone footings of which still survive, extended along its northern boundary.

There remains some uncertainty through the historical records as to when the boundary wall was first constructed (and hence what date the extant wall within the site dates to). A plan of the compound in 1836 shows the main hospital and its two main out-buildings, all of which appear to be surrounded by a perimeter fence or wall- however, the drawing does not detail the wall, and the depiction of the northern boundary appears to be slightly splayed (Figure 2.7). An annotated drawing from the Surveyors Sketch Books dated 1854 notes that the northern boundary was fenced, the remainder of the site (including the extension to Princes Street) being walled. A 1856 plan of the site depicts the boundary line as a single faint line not double as stone wall as for other clearly depicted walls in the plan. A 1864 photograph of the site appears to depict the boundary as a wall, indicating that the boundary was constructed first as a wall sometime in the early 1860s.

The Military Hospital was in use for over thirty years. However, on 16 October 1845 the foundation stone of a military hospital at Victoria Barracks in Paddington was laid.[3] The garrison was transferred from the York Street Barracks to Victoria Barracks in August 1848, thus rendering the Military Hospital redundant. However, its buildings were shortly to enter a new phase of use as a result of changes to the colony's education system.

[1] Noni Boyd, "Watts, John", in Philip Goad and Julie Willis, *Encyclopedia of Australian Architecture*, p.755. Other buildings designed by Watts include the Lancer Barracks at Parramatta (circa 18200, additions to Government House at Parramatta (1815), the towers of St John's Church at Parramatta (1818) and Parramatta Hospital (1817; demolished)

[2] "Government and General Orders", *Sydney Gazette*, 22 July 1815, p.1.

[3] "New Military Hospital", *The Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser*, 25 October 1845, p.4.

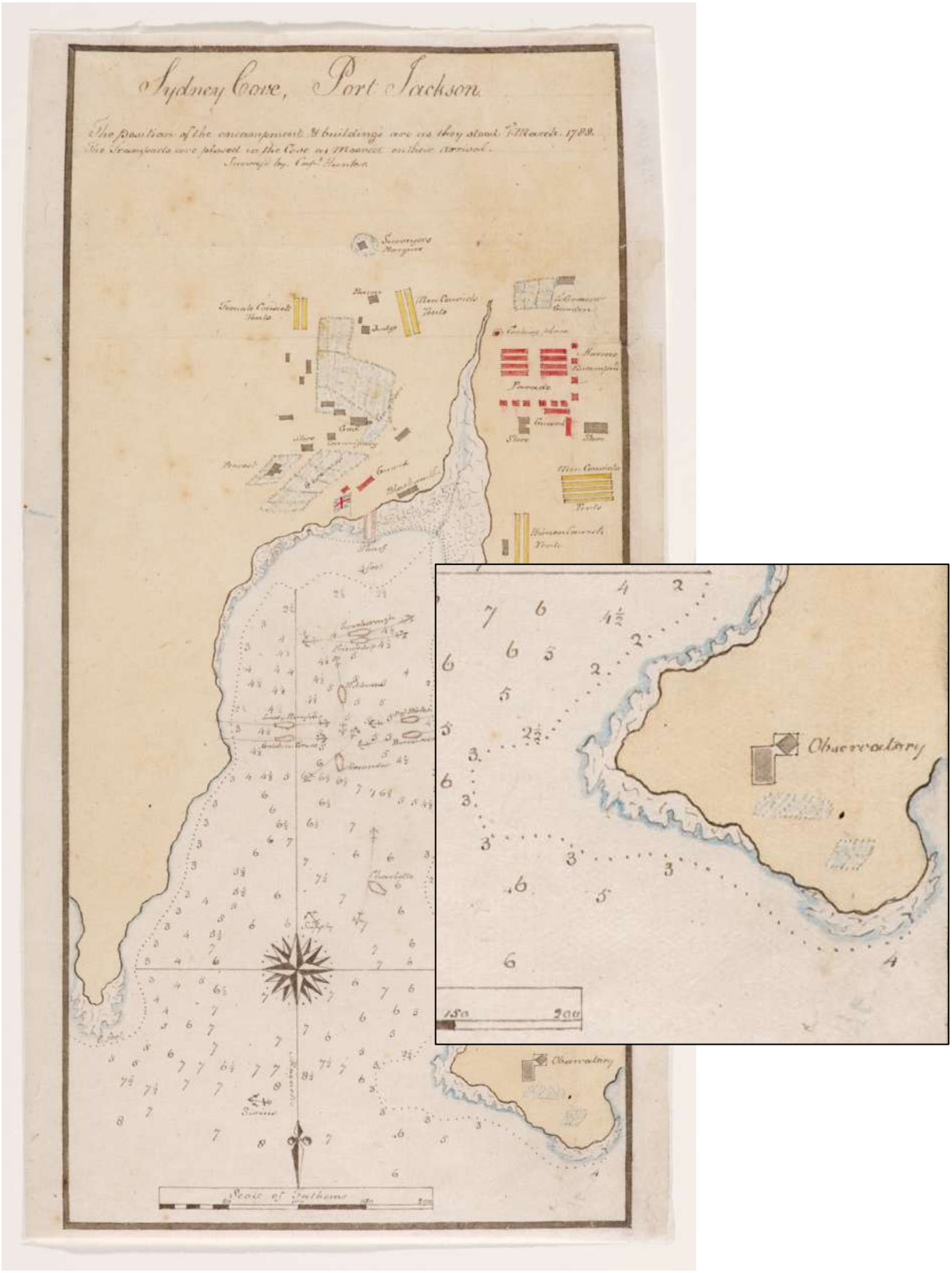


Figure 2.2: Sydney Cove, Port Jackson March 1788, William Bradley, Inset of Observatory. Charts from his Journal A Voyage To New South Wales Ca. 1802 (Source: SLNSW Safe 1 14, 7).

Figure 2.3: The Military Hospital formed a prominent part of Edward Close's depiction of the western side of Sydney Cove, circa 1818. The Government Mill and Fort Phillip can be seen to its right. (West Side Of Farm Cove With Distant View Of The Military Hospital The Smock-Mill And Fort Phillip By Edward Charles Close. Source: NLA.Pic-An4563834-S8).

Figure 2.4: c.1818 Third Government Windmill (Current School Site) in front of Fort Phillip

(Source: Mitchell Library SLNSW A1528797/Ml942).

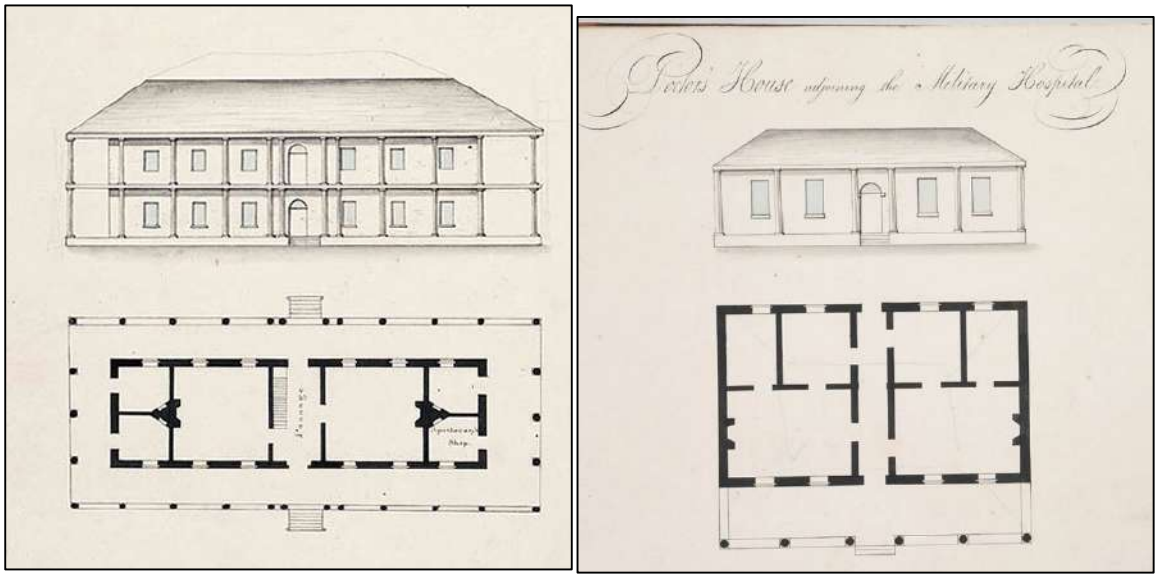


Figure 2.5: Plan of Military Hospital (1824) (Left), Plan of 'Doctor's House' (1824) From Standish Lawrence Harris – 'Report & Estimate Of The Value Of The Improvements Which Have Taken Place In The Public Buildings Of Sydney, Etc..' (Source: SLNSW C 225/ Fl3255340).

Figure 2.6: 1833 Plan, Thomas Livingstone Mitchell, 3rd Government mill within FSPS Site (Source: SLNSW A4694001/Ca83/14)

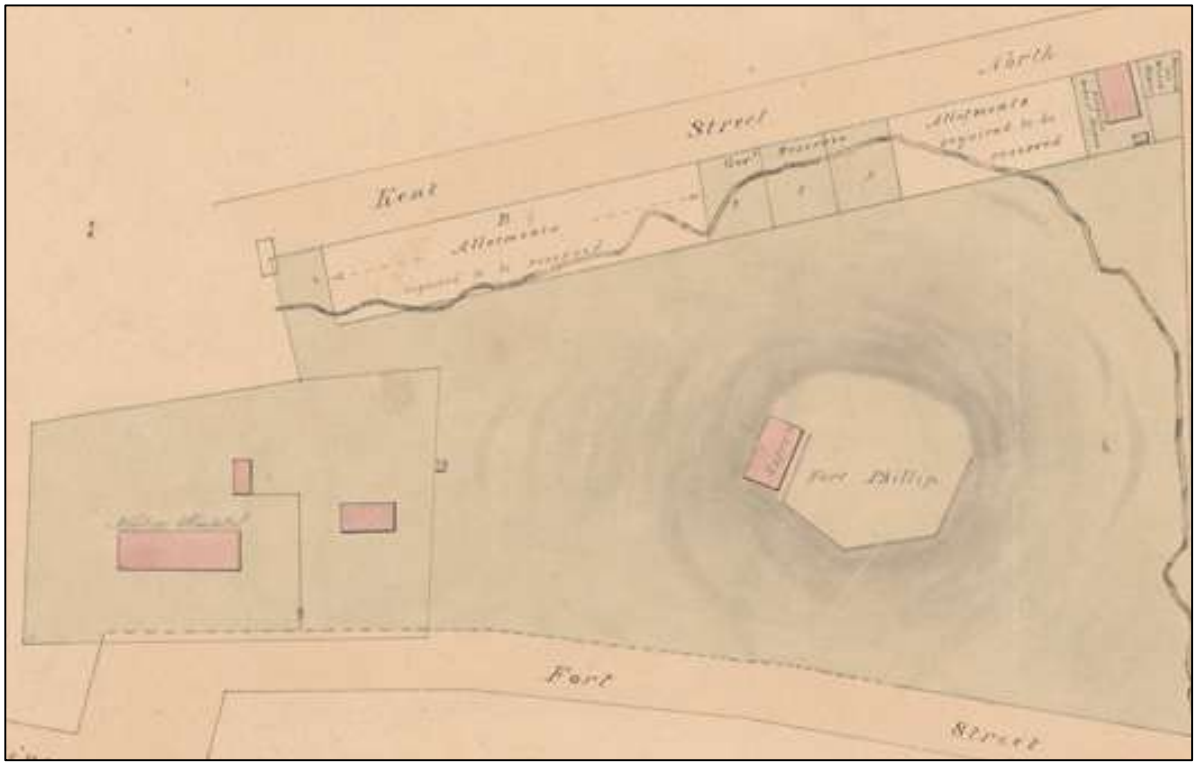


Figure 2.7: 1836 Plan of Military Hospital. Main hospital and two outbuildings surrounded by perimeter fence or wall. Detail of perimeter/boundary is not specified and north boundary appears to be slightly splayed (Source: NSW State Archives and Records, Digital ID: NRS13886[X755]_a110_000118)

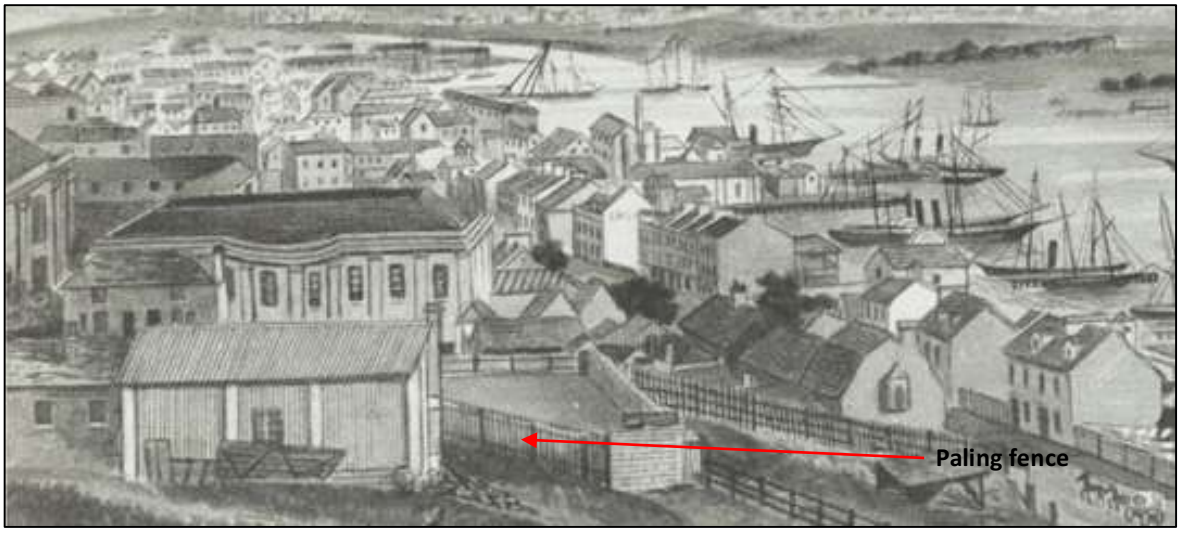


Figure 2.8: W. S. Hatton Drawing, Post 1856 (1859?) Showing fence.

2.3. Board of National Education

At the beginning of 1848 Governor FitzRoy nominated a Board of National Education, thus affirming a chain of events that started in 1836 when Governor Bourke announced his intention to introduce the National Irish system of education to NSW in a bid to provide non-denominational education for the children of NSW.

The National Irish system came into operation in 1831. The system had developed in response to the animosity between the denominations of the Christian church. The result was a state-supported system of primary education where children of all religious denominations to be taught together in the same school, with separate religious instruction. The new system was initially supported by the religious denominations but soon lost their support. However, this was countered by the enthusiasm of the general public.

Bourke, who was honoured for his principles of religious equality, left NSW in December 1837. The education of children remained the realm of the churches into the 1840s. However, this was a decade of great change, with the cessation of transportation, economic depression and the establishment of a Legislative Council. By 1848 economic conditions had improved and educational reform was more feasible, reflected by the establishment of the Board of National Education.[4] A Denominational School Board was responsible for Church-founded schools. All of the schools operated by the Board of National Education were known as National Schools.

In the middle of January 1848, the Colonial Secretary wrote to the Commanding Officer of the Royal Engineers concerning expenditure on the Military Hospital at Victoria Barracks. The correspondence

included reference to the possibility that the old Hospital should be given to the Colony in recompense for the costs incurred due to the construction of the new hospital at Victoria Barracks.[5] At around the same time the Board of National Education applied to the Governor for a suitable building to accommodate both a model school and a normal school for training future teachers. At the end of July 1848, the Board received word from the Governor that the commanding Royal Engineer had been requested to hand over the Military Hospital to it once it had been vacated, although the Board did not obtain final possession until 4 January 1849.

On 30 November 1848 the Board was able to transmit plans of alterations "necessary to render this building well adapted for two separate schools", which plan was furnished to the Board by the Colonial Architect. The Colonial Architect at that period was Mortimer Lewis. The Governor duly approved a sum not exceeding £1,100 for the conversion of the building to a school house on 5 January 1849 and ten days later the tender of £849 submitted by Peter McBeath was accepted.[6] His bond was accepted on 15 January 1849 with a contract period of five months. The works duly proceeded:

> *The Board of National Education have commenced active operations. The old Military Hospital near Fort Phillip, having been granted to them, they have placed it under a course of thorough repair, and the changes which have been effected in the building are such as to increase its strength, while they add to its beauty. A wall of strong brick work has been erected at the edge of the old verandah, with ornamental arches fronting the windows; and when this wall shall have been stuccoed in the ordinary way, the hitherto unsightly hospital will form a noble feature in the prospect from the waters of Port Jackson, where, from its commanding situation, it is a distinct and prominent object. The building will be surrounded by ornamental grounds, and besides containing the model school and the residence of the master and mistress, it will contain the*

[4] Alan Barcan, *Two Centuries of Education in New South Wales*, p.61.
[5] "Military Hospital, Fort Phillip", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 9 May 1848, p.2.
[6] "Council Paper. Report from Board of National Education", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 6 June 1849, pp.2-3.

> *offices and meeting room of the Board, and the secretary's quarters. The school will be conducted on exactly the same principles as those which govern the Model School in Marlborough-street, Dublin, and a master and mistress for its management are almost daily expected from the National Establishment of Ireland. In this model school the teachers of scholastic establishments dependent upon the Board of National education will be trained …7*

The separation of boys from girls was achieved by locating the former on the ground floor of the building and the latter on its first floor. The internal stair was removed and the building enlarged by incorporating the verandahs into classroom spaces and constructing arcaded loggias around the periphery of the building. The existing roof was retained. The building's spare Georgian character was transformed by the rather ponderous Classical loggias. Access to the first floor was by means of an external stair on the northern end of the building. After inspecting the building on 1 September 1849, the Commissioners deemed the works complete, other than the installation of a stone coat of arms rather than the moulded cement arms originally intended.[8] The school opened on 1 April 1850.[9]

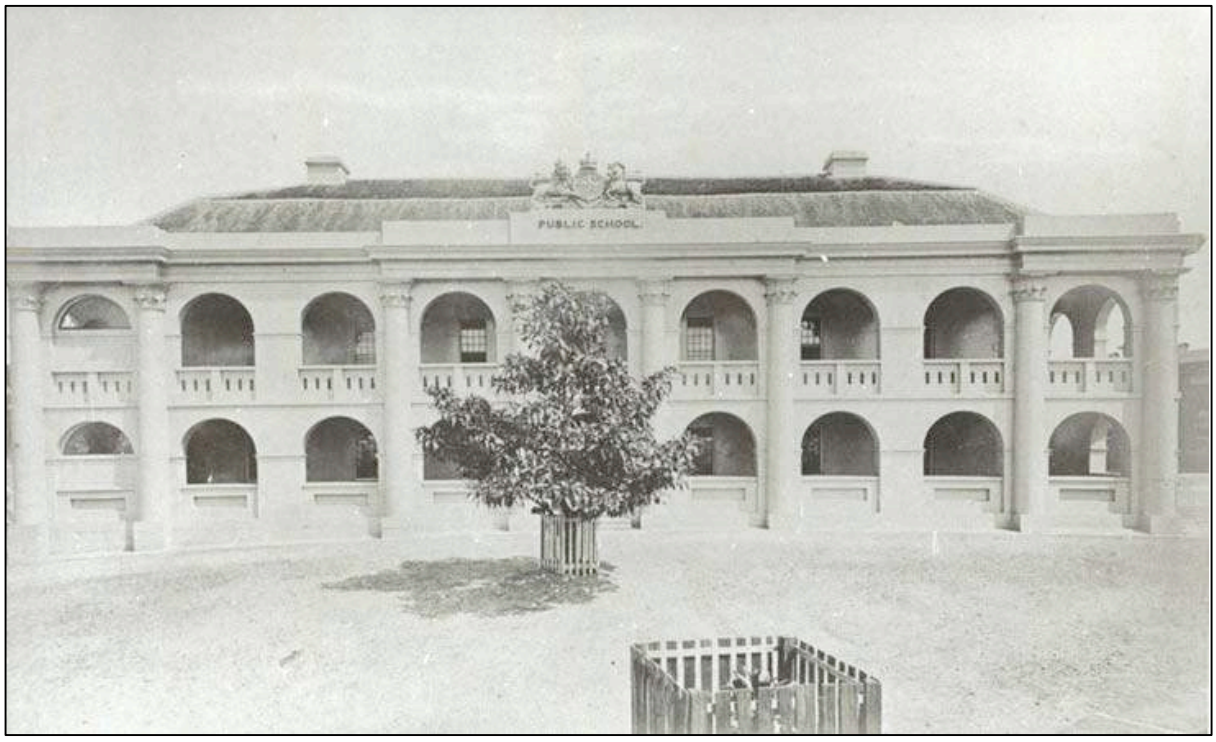


Figure 2.9: Undated photograph of Fort Street School. The roof of the original Military Hospital rises above the parapets of the loggias. (Source: State Records digital ID. 15051_a047_005335.jpg)

Fort Street was one of four early National Schools established in inner Sydney, although the first in the metropolitan area, at Botany, opened in January 1849. The first two, short-lived, schools opened in 1849 at Crown and Riley Streets while the fourth opened at William Street during 1851. Fort Street School was the largest and most important of these, the first model school intended to demonstrate the construction, organisation and management of a National School. However, Fort Street was not

[7] "The National System of Education", *The Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser*, 9 May 1849, p.4.
[8] Ronald S Horan, *Maroon and Silver: Fort Street sesquicentenary, 1849-1999*, p.10.
[9] Horan, p.11.

considered a model school until the arrival of schoolmaster William Wilkins. It was anticipated that Fort Street's first master would come from Dublin, bringing with him firsthand experience of the National Irish system, but in the event Wilkins arrived from London and with English training. Despite this disappointing start he introduced the latest European methods and advocated education that extended beyond the basics to include the liberal arts.[10]

2.4. Development of Fort Street School

In 1854 secondary education came to Fort Street and necessitated some modifications to the building. A *new building to the west of the existing school was constructed. The building contained "two capacious rooms" for male and female pupils respectively, and was nearing completion in September 1856.*[11] *It was designed by Henry Robertson (1802-1881), architect to the Board of National Education between 1850 and 1866. Its construction allowed more space in the older building for teacher training.*

An infants' school was in course of erection during 1862.[12] *The building housing the school was located to the north of the existing buildings, adjacent to the fence separating the former doctor's residence from the School playgrounds. It too was designed by Henry Robertson.*

[10] Horan, p.11.
[11] "Parliamentary Papers. Eighth Report of the Commissioners of National Education in New South Wales", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 10 September 1856, p.8.
[12] "National Education. Report for 1862", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 23 July 1863, p.8.

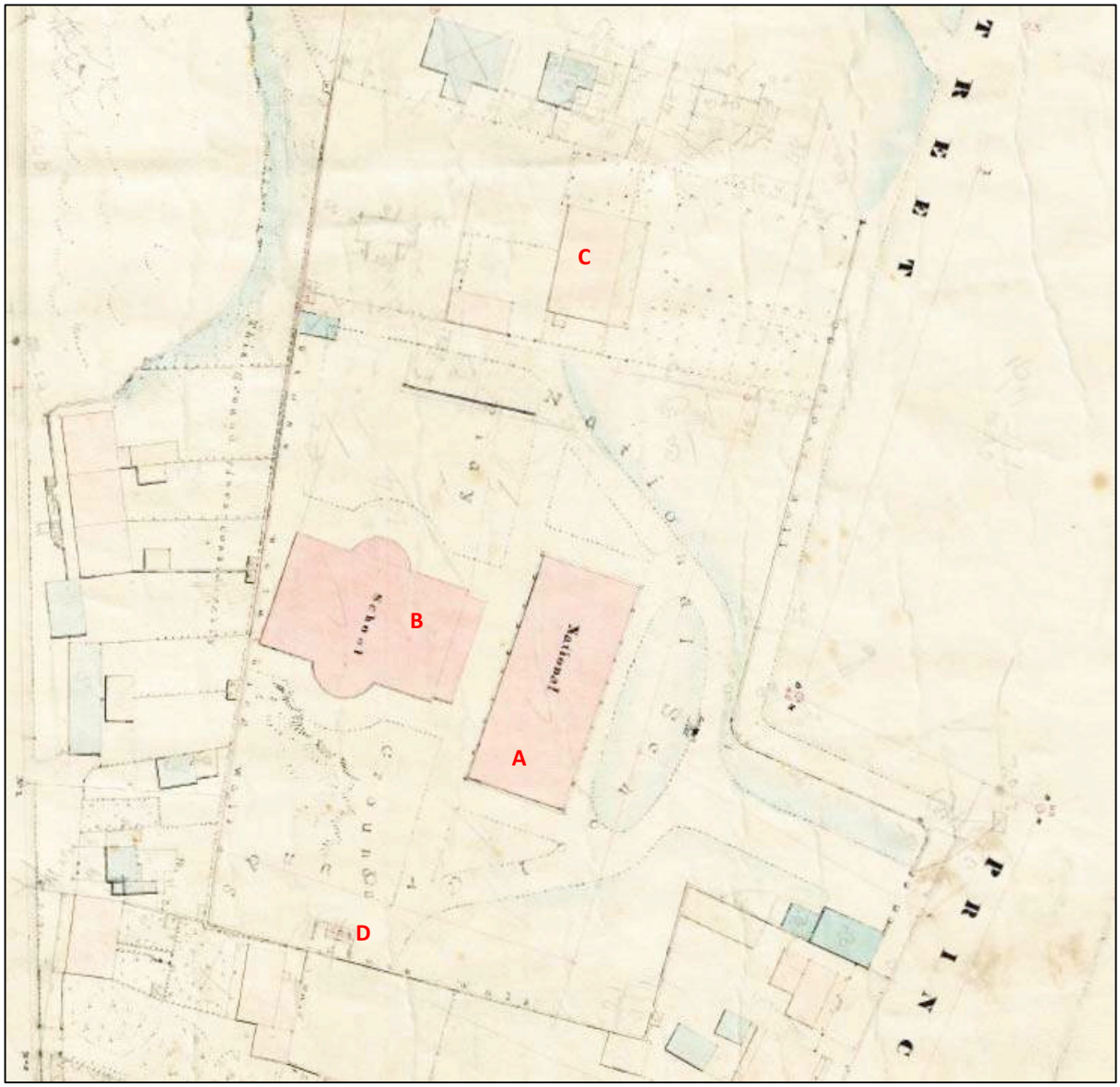


Figure 2.10: Portion of a survey prepared by H Chauncy and dated 7 October 7 1856 showing development across the National School site, which included the modified Military Hospital (A), Henry Robertson's recently completed classroom block (B), the former doctor's residence (C) and privies (D). (Source: Historical Atlas of Sydney - City Detail Sheets, 1855 – Sheet_01.)

Figure 2.11: Portion of a survey showing Fort Street School circa 1865. The infants' school is located at A, close to the former surgeon's residence at B. C= Messengers cottage. D= Cottage/outbuilding present on site c.1855-1880 (Source: City of Sydney Archives, Historical Atlas of Sydney – Trigonometrical Survey of Sydney, 1855-1865, Block A1)

Figure 2.12: View to the south from the observatory towards Fort Street School. The site of the present day Fort Street Public School is part of the open area in the foreground. Part of a panorama taken by Freeman Bros & Prout in 1864. (Source: SLNSW SV/13-16, digital order no. a260004.)

With the passage of the Public Schools Act in 1866 the Board of National Education was superseded by the Council of Education, consisting of five persons appointed by the Governor for a term of four years. Under the Act the Council was charged with the establishment of training schools for the education of teachers.[13] During the following decade there was little physical change to the school. For instance, repairs to buildings were undertaken during 1871 and the physical well-being of pupils was enhanced with the introduction of gym equipment in 1876.

As with other schools across the state, Fort Street came under the jurisdiction of the Minister for Public Instruction after the passage of the Public Instruction Act, which dispensed with the Council of Education. The Act established five classes of schools:

- *Public schools, which were to provide primary education to all children regardless of class or religious persuasion;*
- *Superior public schools in towns and "populous districts", which were to provide additional classes in higher branches of education, effectively providing primary and secondary education;*
- *Evening public schools, which were intended to instruct those who had not received a primary education;*
- *High schools for boys, intended to complete the public school curriculum but were also preparatory for University studies; and*
- *High schools for girls. The Act did not define their role, which was presumably of a similar role to boys' high schools.*

[13] Act No 22, 1866 (Public Schools Act) Clauses 1, 3 and 15.

In 1881 Fort Street School was made a superior public school, although for much of the 19th century it had performed both as a primary school and a secondary school, without being recognised as such. Superior public schools competed very well against the early private and denominational high schools that were established in NSW.[14]

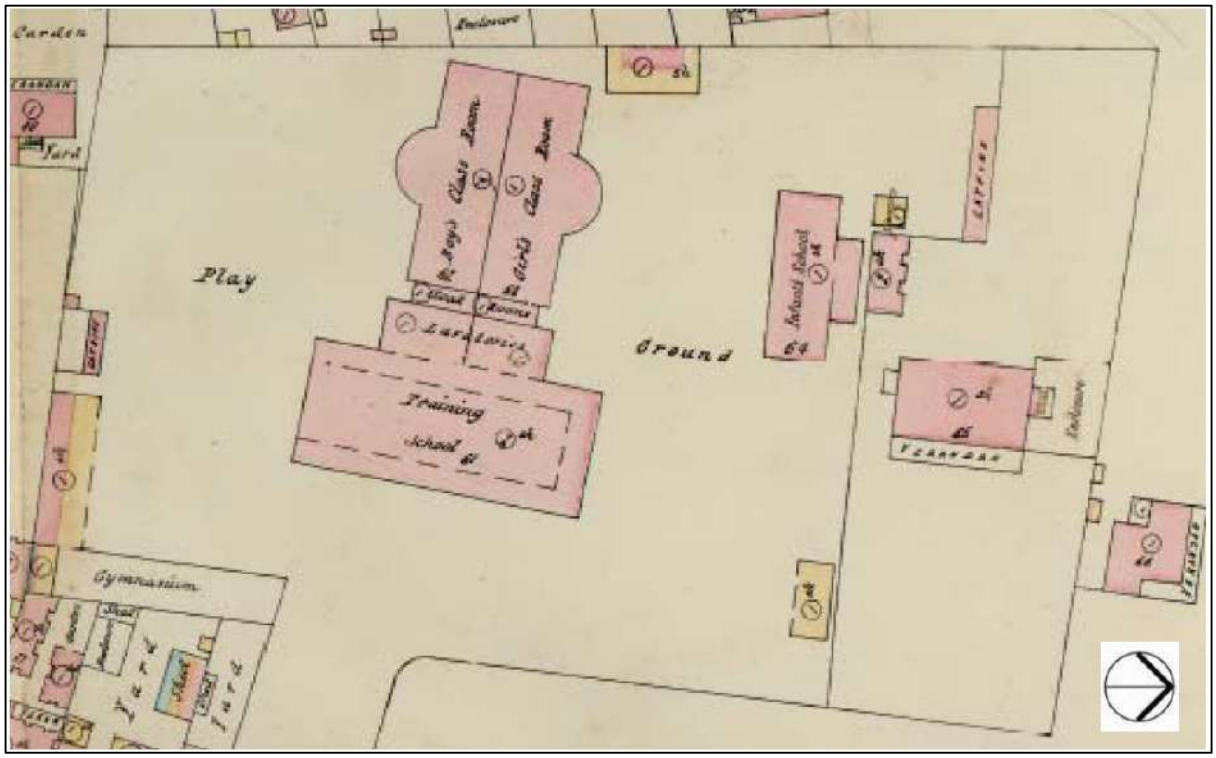


Figure 2.13: Development at Fort Street School, circa 1880. (Source: Historical Atlas of Sydney – Dove's Plans of Sydney, 1880, Blocks 66 and 67)

In December 1890 a new needlework room and several other classes were to be provided. Eventually the old sheds were removed to make way for the two storey brick building which was to be open on the ground floor and used as an armoury. The enclosed area on the first floor was to be a sewing room with a second class room adjoining. The building remained open on the ground floor for some time. In 1894 the sewing room teacher complained of the draught and cold because of the wind coming up from the exposed section below. Another addition created about the same time was the link created between the former hospital building and the 1856 school building. Between 1887 and 1889 several new classroom buildings were added to the school and repairs were made to the existing buildings to the value of 1275 pounds. In approximately 1890-1891 a timber carpentry shed was built along the western end of the playground. Used for manual training this and cookery rooms were educational experiments in practical training. As space became restricted on the site the area under this shed, which was built on piles, was used as teaching space. By the end of the 19th century the impact of such intense use was evident in wear and tear in all aspects of the site. In October 1896 tenders were received for the execution of a general maintenance program of works.

The land occupied by Fort Street School (along with other land on Observatory Hill) was not formally transferred to the colonial government until 1899, by means of what was called the New South Wales

[14] J Fletcher and J Burnswoods, *Government Schools of New South Wales, 1848-1976*, p.20.

Military Lands Order in Council.[15] *This was an English document related to land that had been granted to the Ordnance Department. The site was not dedicated as a public school until November 1901.*[16]

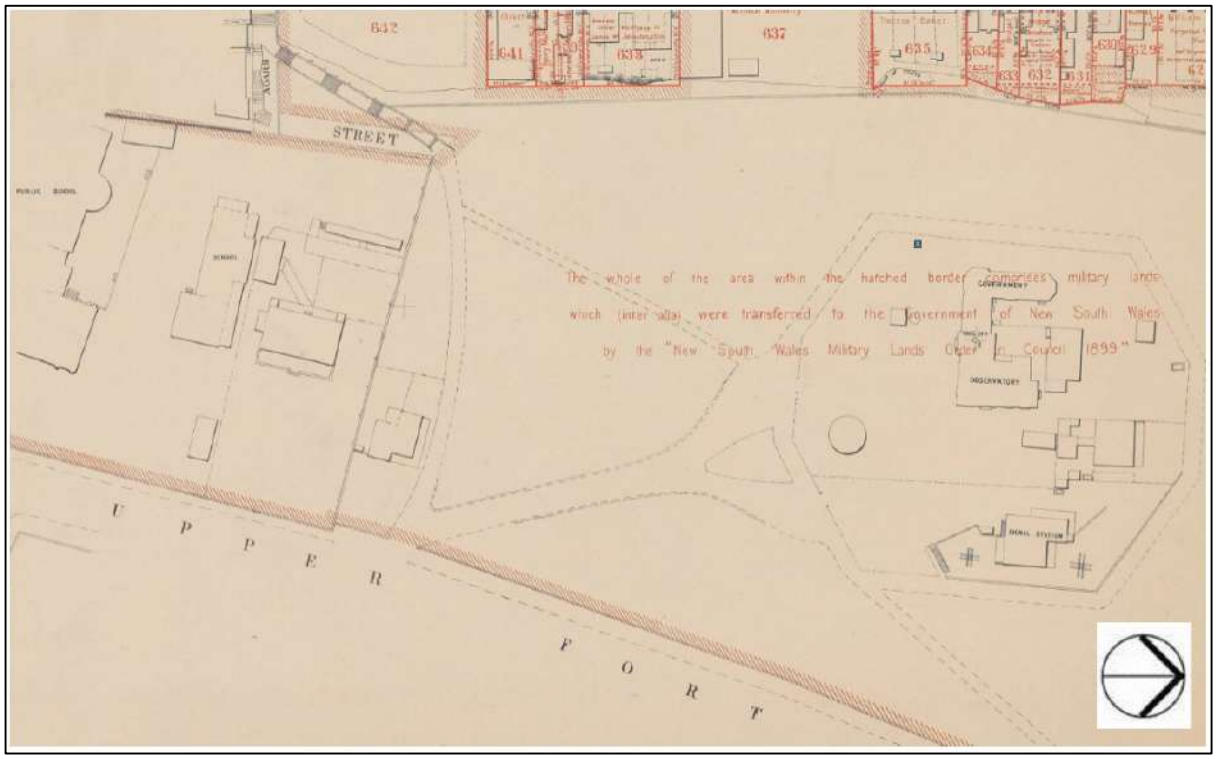


Figure 2.14: Layout of the northern section of the School and its relationship with Sydney Observatory and parklands in 1900. The wide hatched border shows the extent of military lands transferred to the Government of NSW in 1899. (Source: Historical Atlas of Sydney – The Rocks and Foreshore Resumptions, Plan S.)

[15] City of Sydney Archives, Historical Atlas of Sydney – The Rocks and Foreshore Resumptions, Plan S.
[16] *Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales*, Issue No. 791 (Supplement), 21 September 1901, p.7329.

Figure 2.15: Fort Street School, circa 1900. (Source: SLNSW PXE 77/365, digital order no. a116365.)

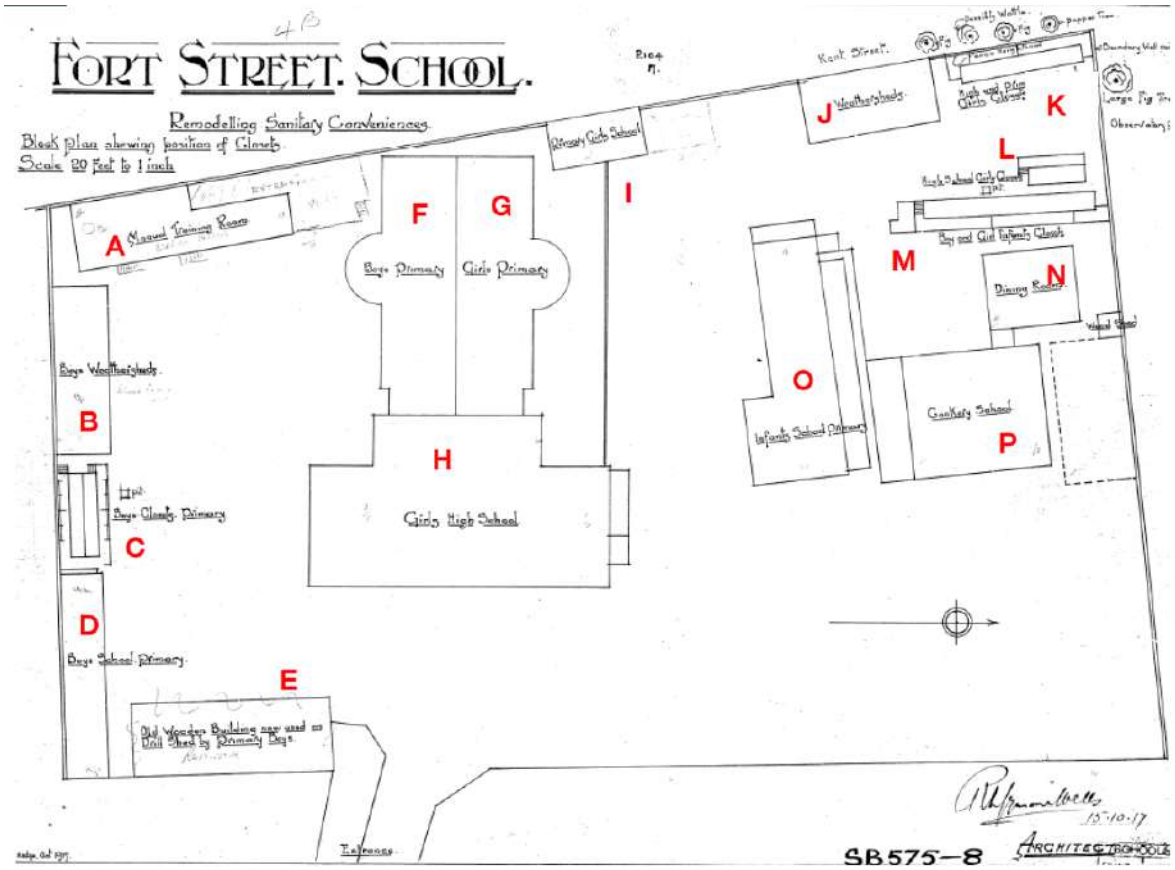
Figure 2.16: View of Fort Street School, circa 1900, showing the gates on Princes Street and the wall extending along Essex Street and Upper Fort Street. (Source: State Records digital ID 4481_a026_000240.jpg)

The early decades of the twentieth century were times of great change for both the physical environment of the school and its organisation. In 1911 the school reverted back to its primary role as a public school, but was divided into a primary school and boys' and girls' high schools. This reflected the reorganisation of the state's education system, a major part of which was upgrading secondary education to include the provision of intermediate and leaving certificates. Implementation began in 1911 and the reorganisation of Fort Street was gazetted on 8 March 1911. Fort Street Boys' High School and Fort Street Girls' High School were thus established.[17]

Five years later Fort Street Boys' High School was relocated to new buildings that could accommodate 500 pupils at Taverner's Hill, Petersham and was officially opened on 18 August 1916. Despite the removal of the boys' high school the Observatory Hill site was still found inadequate. Buildings were thought to be ill-adapted for their purposes and the overall site area was considered too small to adequately accommodate pupils. An effort was made to remedy some of these problems by the adaptation of a former Wesleyan chapel located on an adjoining property on Princes Street, to provide science rooms. Alterations were documented in the Government Architect's office during November 1917.[18] *At this time the former surgeon's residence associated with the Military Hospital was in use as a "cookery school."*[19]

In 1929, in order to make ample provision for Fort Street Girls High School, approval was given for the absorption of the Junior Technical and Domestic Science pupils at other schools. The buildings that became available were then remodeled for the high school.

[17] *Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales*, 8 March 1911, No. 31, p.1421.
[18] Department of Finance Plan Services drawing SB575/9.
[19] Department of Finance Plan Services drawing SB575/8, dated 15 October 1917.



Legend

A	Manual training room	I	Girls' primary school
B	Boys' weather shed	J	Weather sheds
C	Boy's closets (primary)	K	Primary and high school girls' closets
D	Boys' primary school	L	Girls' high school closets
E	Primary boys' drill shed	M	Boys and girls infants' closets
F	Boys' primary school	N	Dining room
G	Girls' primary school	O	Infants' school
H	Girls' high school	P	Cookery school

Figure 2.17: Layout of Fort Street School, 1917 (Source: Finance & Services Information Services, drawing SB575/8, with TKD Additions.)

*The most substantial physical impact on Fort Street School resulted from the resumption of land for the approaches to the Sydney Harbour Bridge. These works required the resumption, demolition and excavation of a large portion of the eastern part of the school. This meant the loss of several buildings including the former doctor's residence and the Princes Street entrance to the school, which had iron gates and a fountain to one side. The former Wesleyan chapel may also have disappeared at this time. Once the approaches were complete the space between them and school buildings was put to use as tennis courts (*Figure 2.18*).*

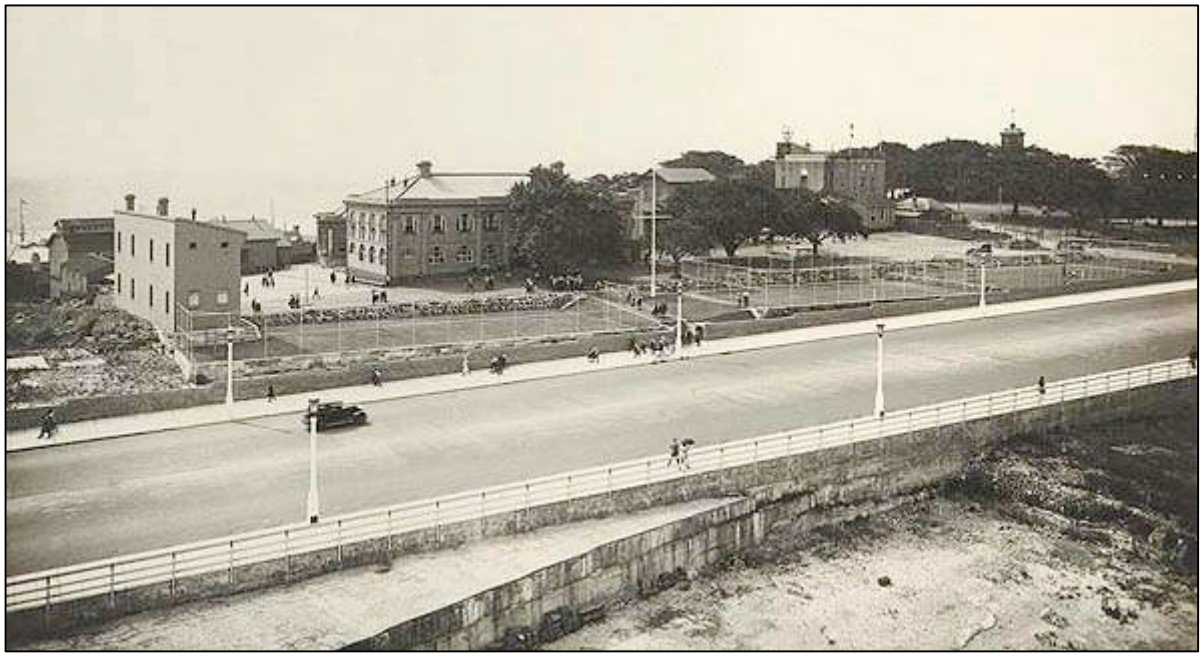


Figure 2.18: View looking west towards Fort Street School in 1932, after completion of the approaches to the Sydney Harbour Bridge. (Source: State Records digital id.12685_a007_a00704_8735000188)

2.5. A New Primary School Building

Because of further road works associated with the Sydney Harbour Bridge it was necessary to build a new primary school on another part of Observatory Hill, which had through a relatively protracted process over several decades come under the jurisdiction of the City Council.[20]

In February 1937 the Circular Quay Co-ordination Committee recommended to Minister for Local Government that a roadway over the proposed railway viaduct and station at Circular Quay to form part of the railway loop in Central Sydney was a "necessary part of city traffic facilities."[21] *This proposal, with and without an overhead roadway, had a long history extending back to the Royal Commission for the Improvement of Sydney and its Suburbs held in 1908 and was part of an integrated system that included the Sydney Harbour Bridge.*

Although the City Council opposed the notion, the Committee provided detailed recommendations at the end of the year that included a road loop cut through part of the Fort Street Public School site. After a period of indecision and debate, in January 1939 the State Government approved the railway and roadway at Circular Quay,[22] *although work did not commence until the following August and*

[20] *At the end of the 1860s the Colonial Government contemplated the possibility of dedicating Flagstaff Hill as a reserve for public recreation, under the control of the Municipal Council of Sydney. The trustees of Flagstaff Hill Reserve were appointed by the Executive Council on 21 December 1875, under the provisions of the Public Parks Act, 1854. Their duties included effecting improvements to and maintenance of the reserve, dealing with requests for its use, and drafting regulations, the first of which were drawn up in 1876. On 29 April 1884, Flagstaff Hill Reserve was dedicated as a public park for the purposes of public recreation within the meaning of the Public Parks Act, 1884. Flagstaff Hill Reserve's named was changed to Observatory Park by proclamation on 6 May 1887 and the trustees became known as the Observatory Park Trustees. They were dissolved when the management of Observatory Park was taken over by the Municipal Council of Sydney on 6 May 1909.*

[21] "Circular Quay. Roadway Over Railway", Sydney Morning Herald, 23 February 1937, p.10.

[22] "Rebuilding Quay", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 24 January 1939, p.11.

there was lingering disagreement over who was to pay for it.[23] In December 1939 the Municipal Council of Sydney received correspondence from the Under Secretary of the Department of Works proposing the construction of a new primary school building "in the northern section of that portion of Observatory Park to be surrounded by the new roadway in open cut." The Council agreed to transfer the land to the Department in the second half of February 1940 [24] then advertised an auction sale of the two storey brick Upper Fort Street Primary School building for the purposes of demolition and removal from the site in March 1940.[25] This clearly necessitated a new primary school building.

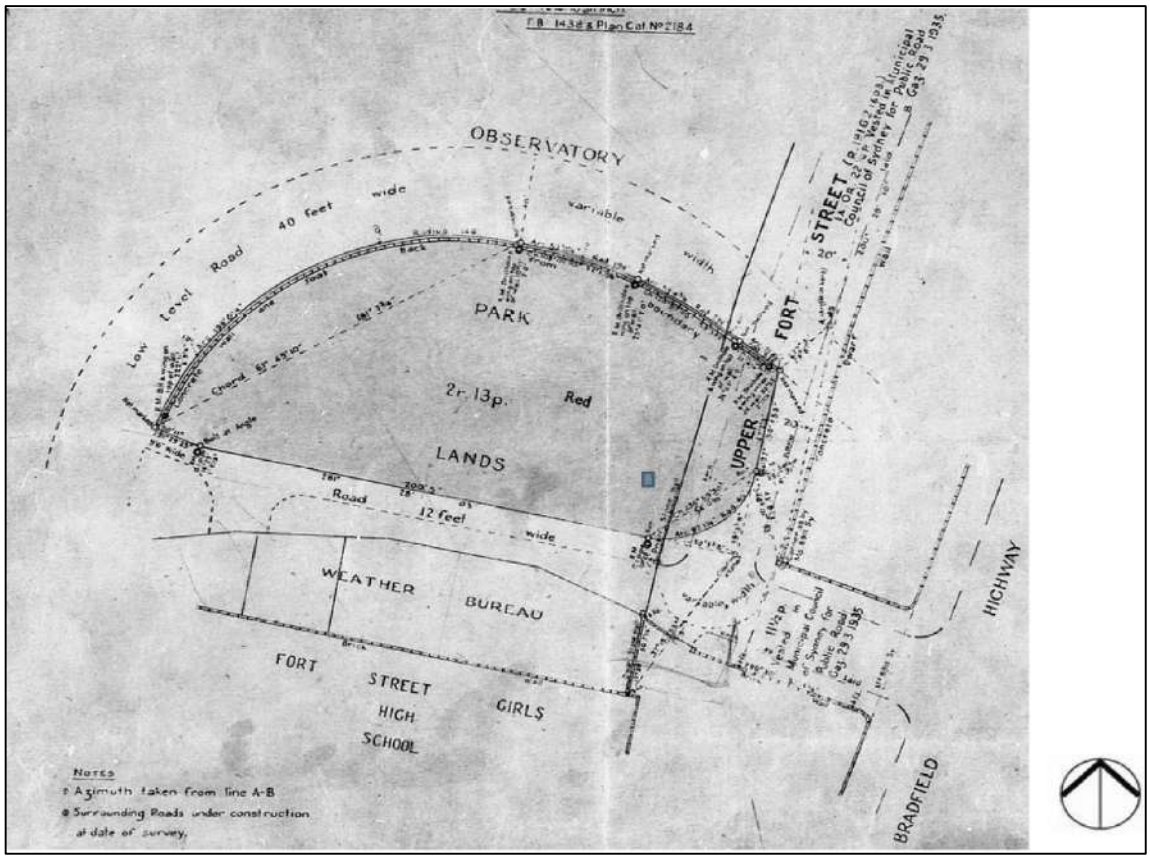


Figure 2.19: Survey of land in Observatory Park acquired for Fort Street Primary School. The survey is dated 16 February 1942. (Source: City of Sydney Archives Series 512, item G1-46/2)

[23] "Circular Quay. Connecting Road To Bridge", Sydney Morning Herald, 15 August 1939, p.11.
[24] Proceedings of the Municipal Council of Sydney during the Year 1940, p.29 – Item 360/40, 19 February 1940.
[25] "Auction Sales", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 5 March 1940, p.16.

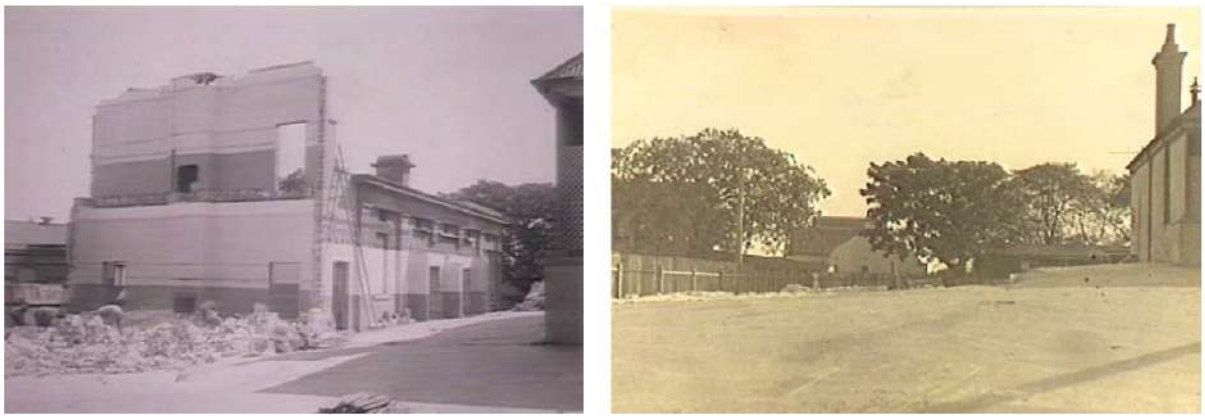


Figure 2.20: Demolition of the Primary School building (left) and the site after demolition was completed, 22 May 1940. (Source: SLNSW digital order no. d1_28549; City of Sydney Archives NSCA CRS 66/2/17.)

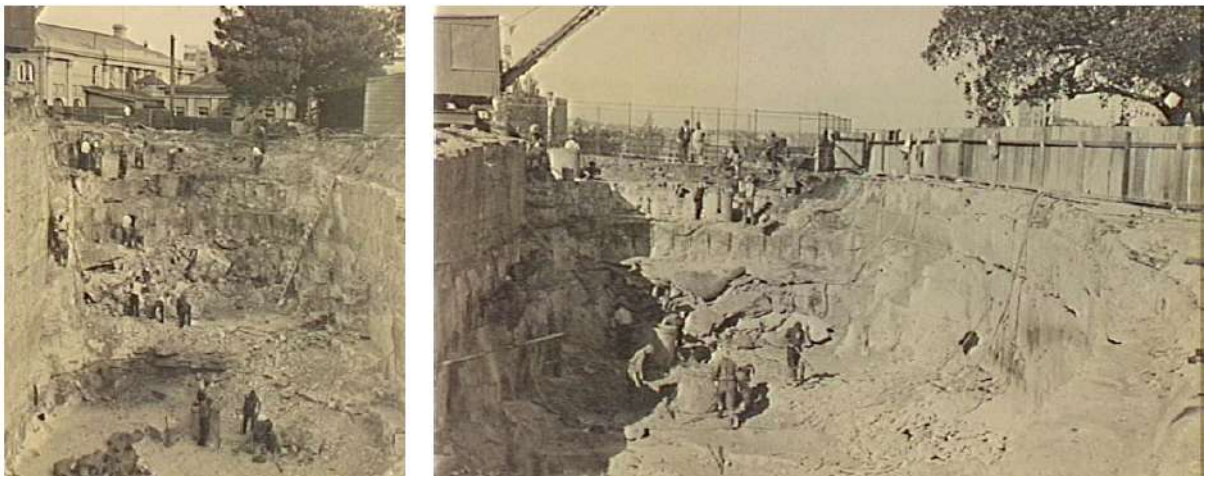


Figure 2.21: Excavating for the road loop looking south east, 22 May 1940 (left) and looking east, 4 September 1940. (Source: City of Sydney Archives NSCA CRS 66 2 18 and CRS 66 2 23.)

The new Primary School building was designed in the office of the Government Architect and is generally credited to architect Harry Rembert. Design and documentation took place during 1940, although drawings were not signed off by the Government Architect until February 1941. A foundation stone was set by Minister for Education Clive Evatt on 26 July 1941. Standard fencing to surround the roadway cutting and make it safe for the school and other instrumentalities, notably the Bureau of Meteorology, encircled by the cutting, was documented by the City of Sydney in the middle of 1941.

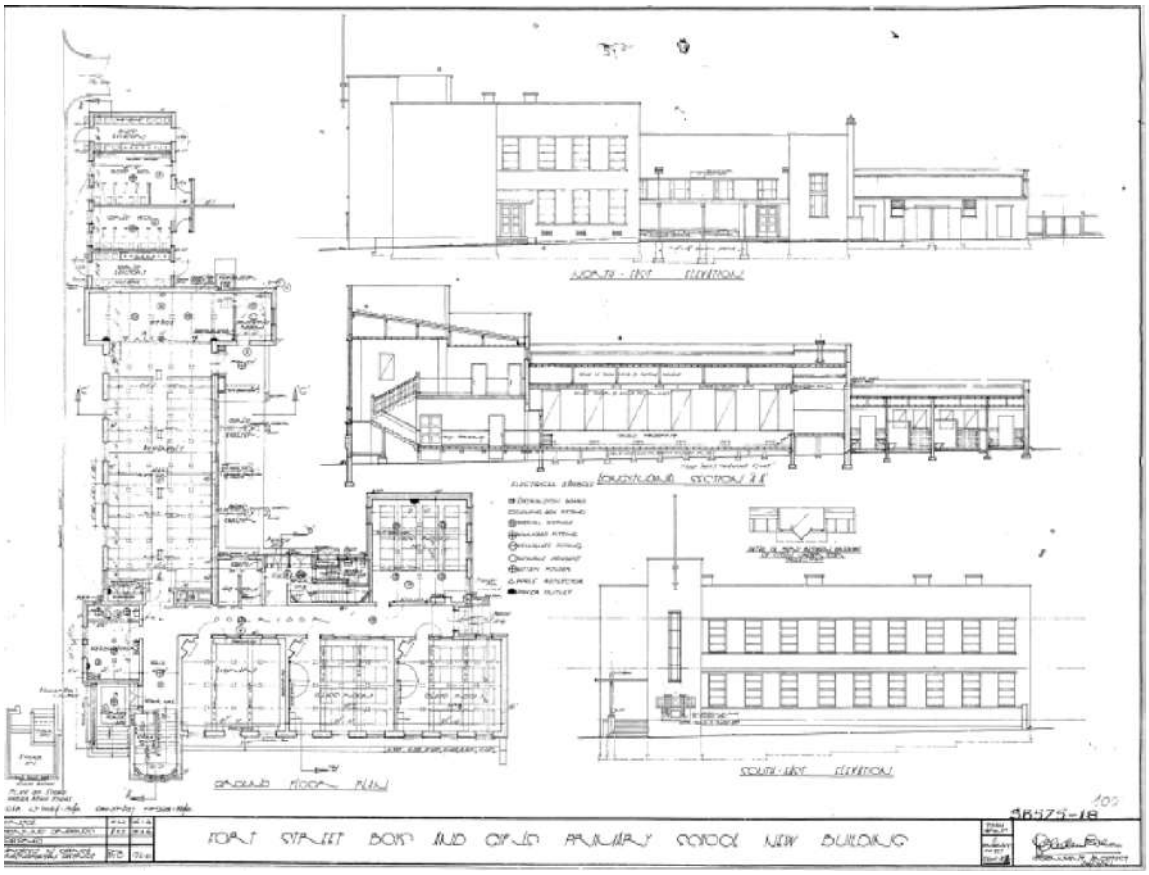


Figure 2.22: Drawing prepared in the Government Architect's office describing the ground floor plan, north east and south east elevations and a longitudinal section through the building. (Source: Finance & Services Information Services, drawing SB575-18.)

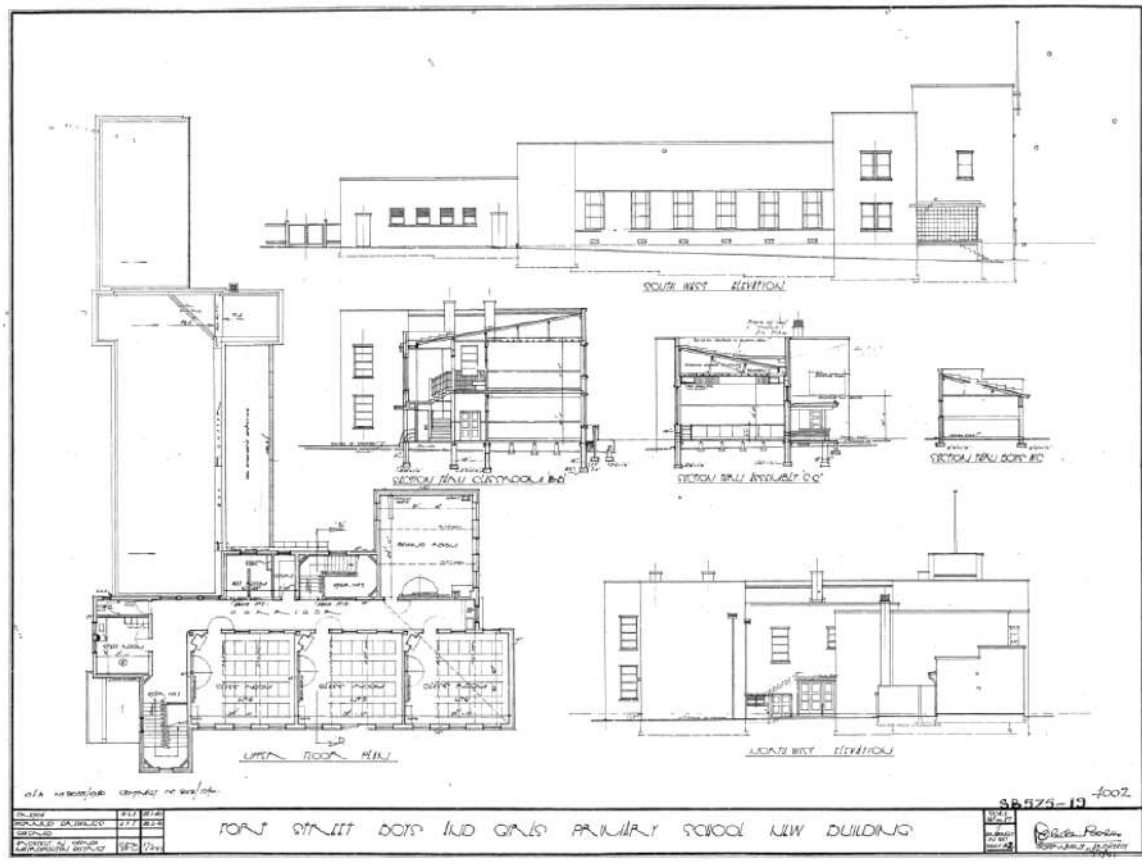


Figure 2.23: Drawing prepared in the Government Architect's office describing the first floor plan, south west and north west elevations, and cross sections through the building. (Source: Finance & Services Information Services, drawing SB575-19.)

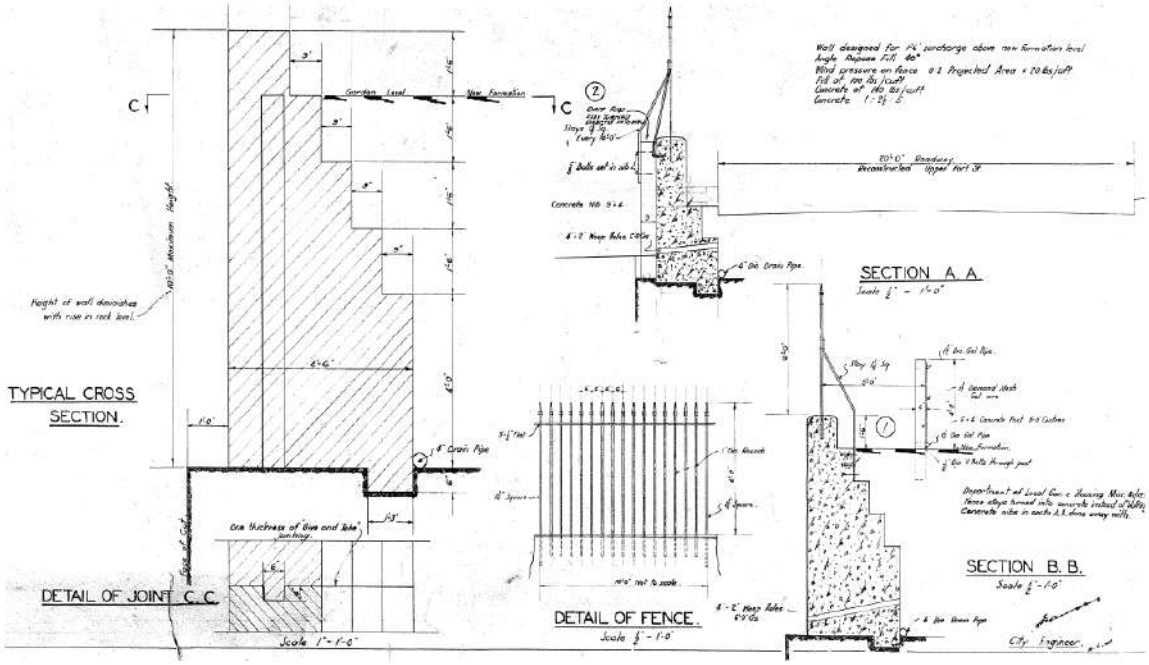


Figure 2.24: Portion of a drawing detailing the perimeter fencing around the road excavation, documented by the City of Sydney and dated 4 June 1941. (Source: City of Sydney Archives Series 466, item E3-38/28)

The Minister for Education, Clive Evatt, officially opened the new building on 20 November 1942,[26] although it seems to have been completed and occupied several months earlier. The building, which was L-shaped in plan, contained five classrooms, a library and sewing room over two levels and a lofty assembly hall with a stage and dressing rooms. There was also a headmaster's room, staff room and lavatories and a shelter for boys and girls. Steel framed awning sash windows provided light and air while the classrooms and library were provided with fireplaces. Two existing Moreton Bay fig trees in the eastern part of the site were retained to enhance the setting of the school.[27] Between 1943 and 1949 a bridge was constructed across the road cutting to provide a narrow connection between the new primary school building and the rest of Fort Street School.

Figure 2.25: Photographs of Fort Street Public School taken shortly after the building was completed. (Source: Building, August 1942, pp.26-27.)

Figure 2.26: Photographs taken in 1941 showing construction of roadworks and fencing in the vicinity of the Public School. (Source: City of Sydney Archives SRC13421 and SRC13420.)

School buildings to the immediate south of the Bureau of Meteorology, which was located between the new primary School and Fort Street Girls' High School, were demolished at some time during the 1940s. Amongst them was the surgeon's residence associated with the Military Hospital. A gymnasium

[26] "Fort Street Primary School", Sydney Morning Herald, 23 November 1942, p.8.
[27] "Fort Street Public School, Sydney", Building, 24 August 1942, pp.26-27; SB575-18 and 19.

was subsequently constructed for Fort Street Girls' High School on the vacant land to the south of the Bureau of Meteorology. The building was documented in the office of the Government Architect. Its foundation stone was laid by Minister for Education Robert Heffron on 30 April 1949, at which time the school was celebrating its centenary. He returned around the end of April or early May 1952 to officially open the completed building, which was named the Fanny Cohen Gymnasium. Fanny Cohen was an influential and highly regarded teacher and headmistress at the school from 1929 until 1952. The opening coincided with her retirement and she attended the ceremony.

In August 1954 the City Council agreed to lease a portion of land to the south west of the Public School and to the west of the Bureau of Meteorology for the purposes of erecting a classroom on it. A demountable building was subsequently installed on the land. A larger two classroom demountable building was documented for Fort Street Girls' High School by the Government Architect's office during 1954[28] *but does not seem to have been erected until after 1961. It was situated to the north west of Fanny Cohen Gymnasium.*

A second bridge over the road cutting, which linked the gymnasium to the footway alongside the Harbour Bridge approaches, was constructed during 1957. The roadway within the cutting came into use on 24 March 1958 after the opening of the so-called Circular Quay Overhead Roadway (later to become part of the Cahill Expressway). 1958 was significant for another reason. On 24 November a memorial window to commemorate those had who died in both World Wars was installed in the tall window opening on the eastern side of the stairwell of the Public School and unveiled by Deputy Premier Robert Heffron, who was still Minister for Education. The window was an initiative of the headmaster, ex-serviceman B McKervey, who came to the school in 1956 and undertook fund raising to finance its installation. The window was fabricated by the firm of John Ashwin & Co.[29]

[28] City of Sydney Archives - Government Building Plans 1, Item no. G103 Fort Street Girls High School Timber Framed Classroom.
[29] "Memorial Window for Fort Street Primary School", Reveille, 1 March 1959, p.10.

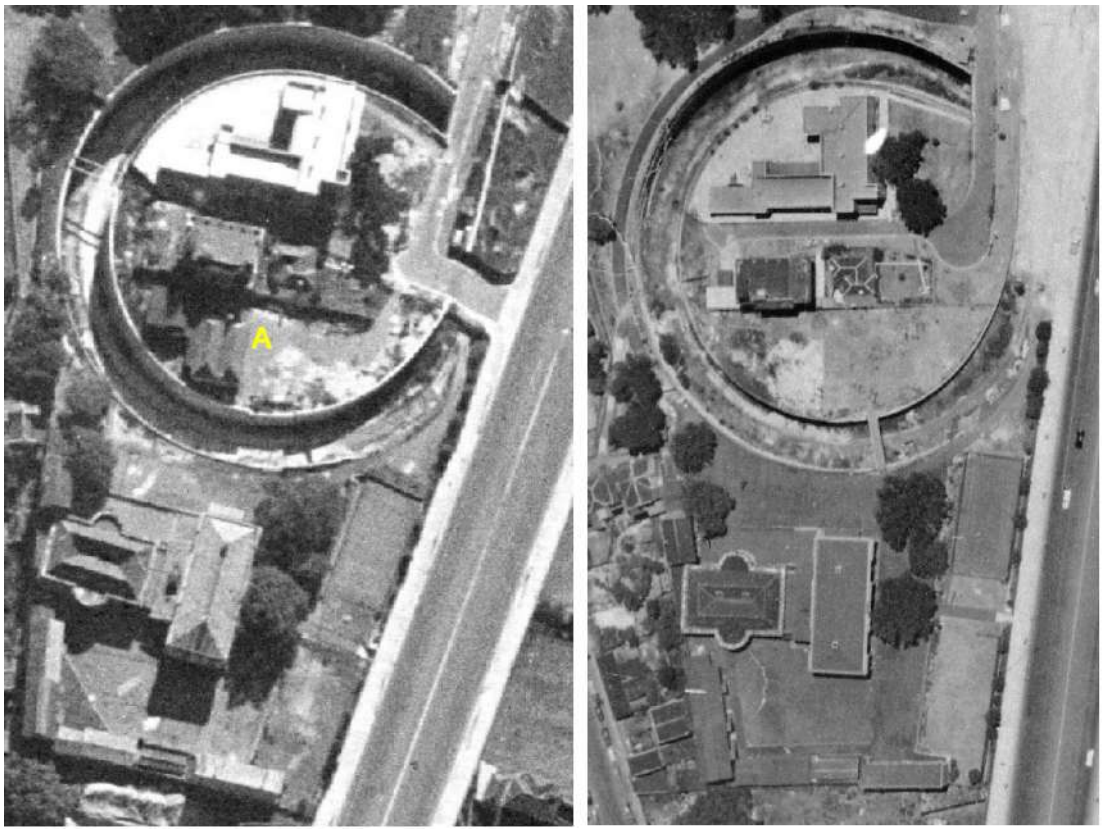


Figure 2.27: Aerial photographs taken in 1943 (left) and 1949 (right). During the intervening period of six years buildings associated with Fort Street School that were situated behind the Bureau of Meteorology, including the former surgeon's cottage associated with the Military Hospital (indicated at A), were demolished. (Sources: City of Sydney Archives Historical Atlas of Sydney; Spatial Information Exchange.)

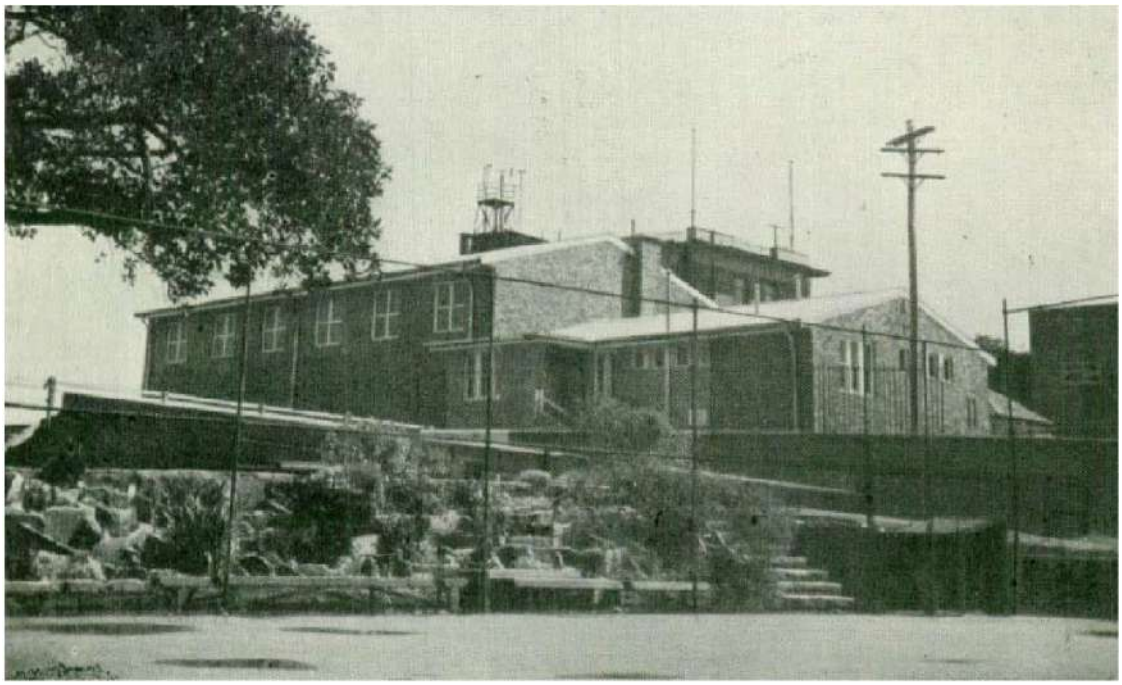


Figure 2.28: The gymnasium built for the Fort Street Girls' High School, 1952. (Source: Report of the Department of Works for the year ended 30th June, 1952, p.31.)

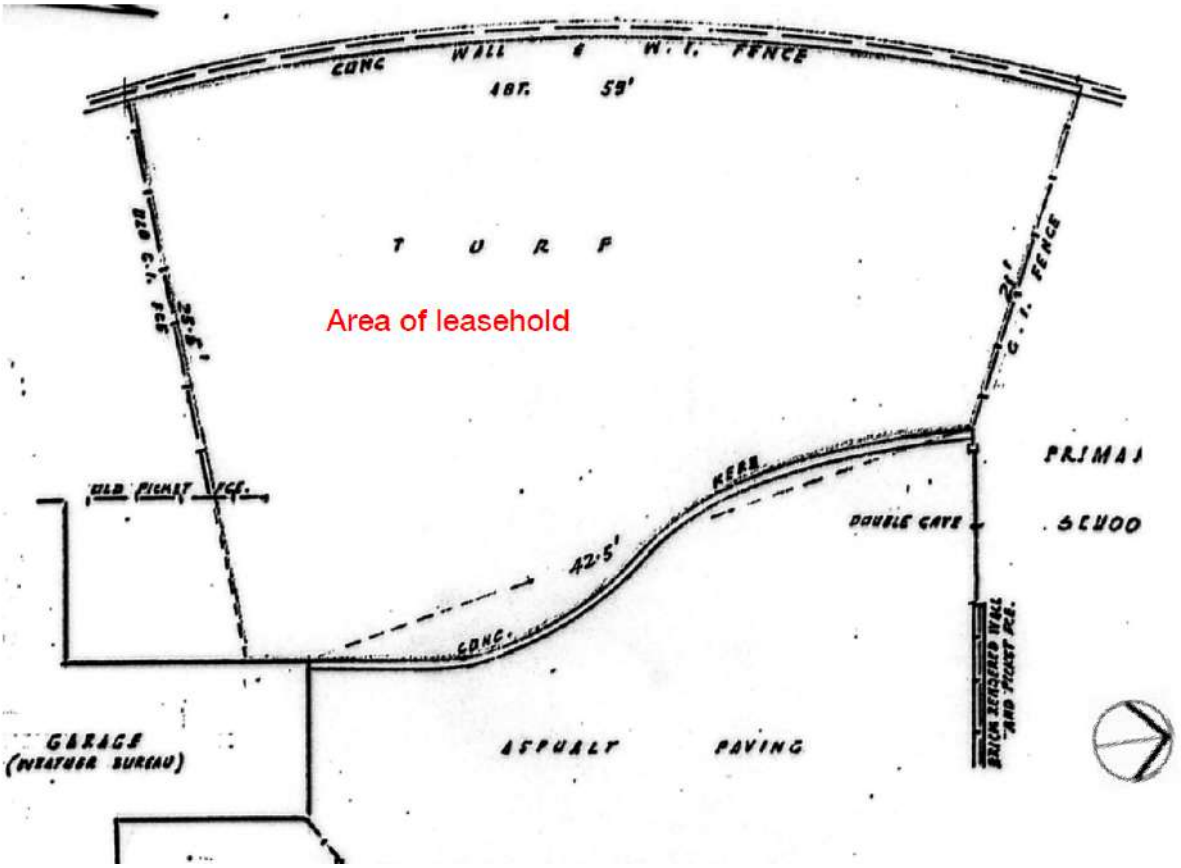


Figure 2.29: Land to the west of the Bureau of Meteorology leased from the City Council to the Department of Education (Source: City of Sydney Archives Plans of Parks, Reserves and Playgrounds – Plan P251-1; SRC1793.)

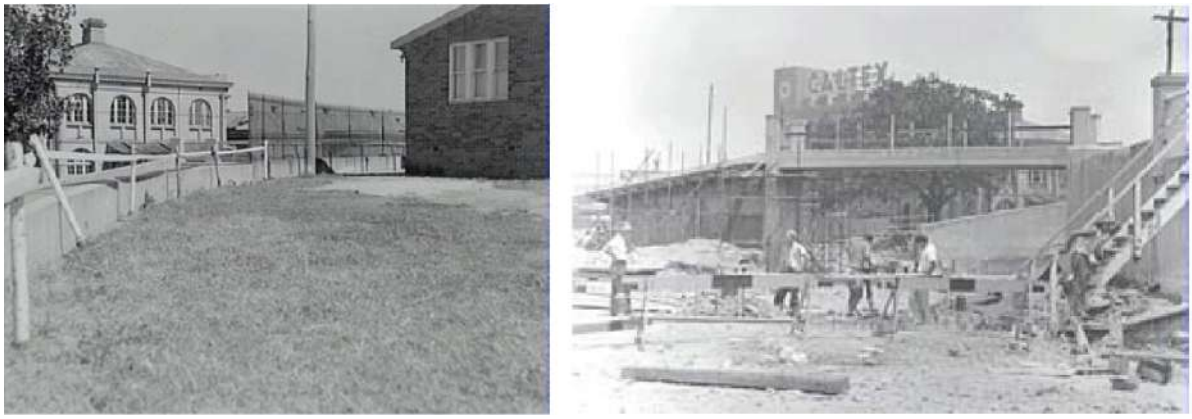


Figure 2.30: Removal of palisade fencing on the eastern side of the gymnasium in preparation for the second footbridge, 24 August 1956 (left); construction of the second footbridge over the road cutting, 18 November 1957 (right). (Source: City of Sydney Archives NSCA CRS 48/507 and NSCA CRS 48/707.)

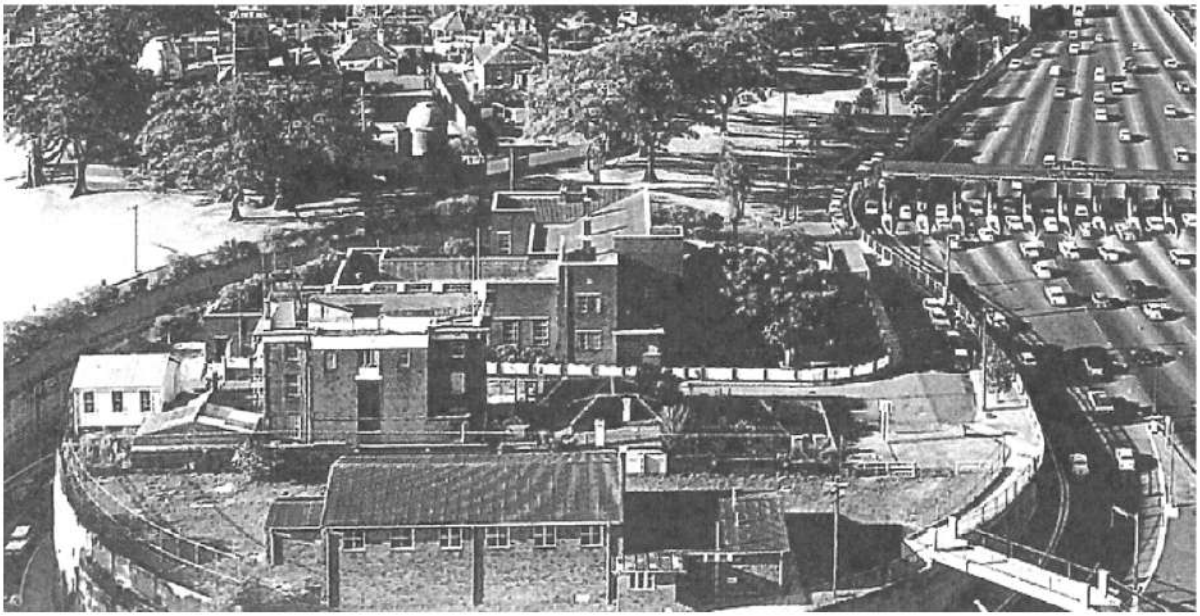


Figure 2.31: Portion of photograph, 1966. Demountable school buildings can be seen in front of the western end of the Bureau of Meteorology on the leased portion of land. (Source: Charles Pickett with Bruce Lamb, Observer and Observed: a pictorial history of Sydney Observatory and Observatory Hill – Max Dupain photograph.)

Figure 2.32: The area to the west of the gymnasium was occupied by a demountable school building by the first half of the 1970s, as shown in this circa 1975 photograph. (Source: City of Sydney Archives SRC80.)

Plans to close the school surfaced in the 1960s but were postponed for some time. As an alternative, in the mid 1960s a proposal to modernise buildings was prepared by the Government Architect. The only outcome was one new roof and the removal of several sheds. As discussion about the possible closure of the school became more public a delegation from the National Trust, the school and several other groups approached the Minister in 1969 to request clarification about its fate. They were assured that if the school were to be relocated the existing site would be redeveloped.

The state government released a statement concerning the school site during 1972. In it the redevelopment of the site was estimated to cost over $3 million and as a result consideration was given to relocating the school. In 1974 Fort Street Girls' High School was closed. Almost immediately

after closure the site was vested in the Department of Public Works and in 1975 was given to the National Trust of Australia (NSW). Fort Street Public School continued in operation.

In 1991 the Fanny Cohen Gymnasium entered a new phase when it became a field studies centre. Field studies centres emerged in 1971 to provide for the study and observation of the natural environment by primary and secondary pupils. The centres have no regular enrolment, but are visited by groups of pupils, with the teachers in the centres working in conjunction with the class teacher concerned. In January 1999 all field studies centres were renamed environmental education centres.[30]

2.6. The Messenger's Cottage and the Bureau of Meteorology

Observatory Hill has important historical links with meteorological recording and observation in NSW. Between 1858 and 1963 it was the principal location of weather recording, observation and forecasting in New South Wales. The first organised network of weather stations in NSW followed the establishment of Sydney Observatory on the Flagstaff Hill at Fort Phillip in the 1850s. The fort was initiated by Governor King in response to his fears of potential insurrection and construction commenced around the beginning of 1804. The citadel, completed in March 1806, enclosed the first windmill to have been constructed in NSW, which was completed in 1797 and had by this time fallen into disuse. Not far away, to the south of the fort was a government windmill, only the third to have been erected in NSW. It was built by Nathaniel Lucas and construction was well underway in February 1806, at which time its 12 metre high octagonal frame had been completed.[31] *Between 1808 and 1811 a flagstaff was erected on the east rampart of Fort Phillip, and the site became generally known as Flagstaff Hill.*[32] *The mill had a relatively short life and was demolished by 1836.*

Figure 2.33: James Taylor's depiction of the third government mill and Fort Phillip, circa 1817-1819. The tower of the former mill encompassed by the Fort was converted to provide residential accommodation and storage for the signal master of Flagstaff Hill. (Source: SLNSW ML 942, digital order no. a1528797.)

[30] http://www.governmentschools.det.nsw.edu.au/glossary/e.shtm
[31] "Sydney", Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser, 16 February 1806, p.2.
[32] James Semple Kerr, Sydney Observatory: A conservation plan for the site and its structures, pp.4-11.

Governor Sir Thomas Brisbane was the first to initiate weather observations for the Sydney region, which began at the observatory established at Parramatta shortly after his arrival in 1821.[33] In November 1838 the Colonial Office instructed Sir George Gipps, who had taken up the role of Governor of NSW the previous February, to maintain meteorological recordings. Three convicts were taught by the superintendent of the Parramatta Observatory, James Dunlop, to take readings and in the early 1840s one of these men started keeping records in Sydney.[34] With the closure of the government observatory in Parramatta in the latter part of the 1840s it was to be ten years before another would be constructed.

In the early 1850s Fort Phillip was accepted as the most appropriate place to locate a time ball, to be used for rating ships' chronometers. Early plans also provided space for astronomical equipment. A final decision on Fort Phillip was made in 1856 and Sydney Observatory was completed in 1859.

The government astronomer, the Reverend William Scott had obtained agreement for the appointment of a messenger and the construction of a cottage to house him in 1861. The messenger also seems to have performed the roles of porter, gardener, carpenter and general help. The small building was probably designed in the office of the Colonial Architect, headed by Alexander Dawson, who was responsible for Sydney Observatory. The cottage constructed in the location recommended by Scott to the immediate north of Fort Street School. Scott maintained that if the cottage was placed at some distance from the Observatory it could be constructed of brick rather than stone because there was less need for it to harmonise with the older building and thus would cost less to build. Tenders for the construction of the cottage were advertised in April 1862[35] the tender of contractor Alexander Graham was accepted the following month.[36] Early photographs showing the cottage depict it as a simple and austere building with a hipped roof and a tall chimney at one end and a skillion roofed section to the rear. There was, as yet, no verandah along its northern and eastern sides. The building was subsequently enlarged in 1877, when tenders were called in January and again in March. The tender of H Wilson was accepted in April 1877.[37]

[33] http://observatoryhilleec.nsw.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Met-history-summary.pdf, accessed 22 April 2016.
[34] David Day, The Weather Watchers: 100 years of the Bureau of Meteorology, p.4.
[35] "Tenders for Public Works and Supplies", The Freeman's Journal, 19 April 1862, p.11.
[36] "Accepted Tenders", Sydney Mail, 10 May 1862, p.3.
[37] "Tenders for Public Works and Supplies", Sydney Morning Herald, 26 January 1877, p.9.; "Tenders for Public Works and Supplies", Sydney Morning Herald, 12 March 1877, p.6; "Government Gazette", Sydney Morning Herald, 11 April 1877, p.7.

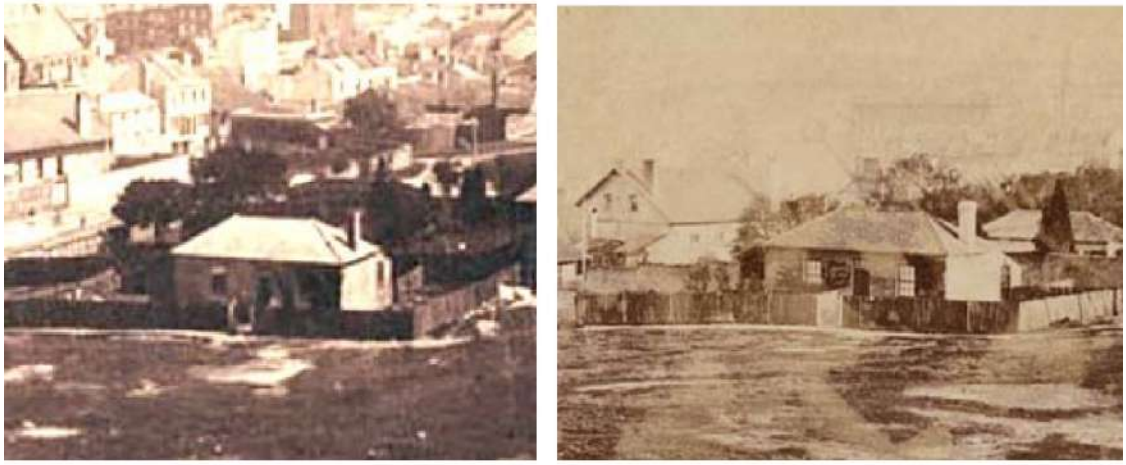


Figure 2.34: The Messenger's Cottage as it appeared in 1864, part of a panoramic series of photographs by Freeman Bros & Prout (left); and in 1871 (right). (Source: SLNSW SV / 16, digital order no. a260004; SPF / 998, digital order no. a089998.)

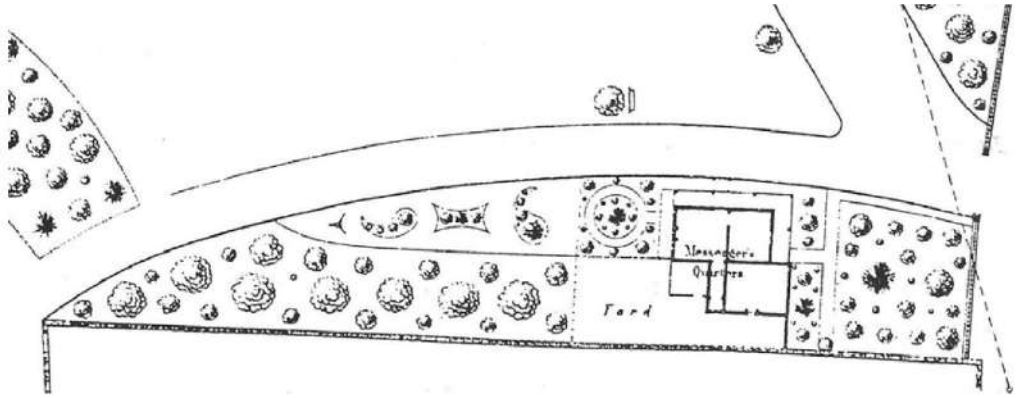


Figure 2.35: Portion of a map of the Flagstaff Hill Reserve around 1880, which indicates the planning of the Messenger's Cottage and perhaps what is idealised landscaping surrounding it. The plan suggests it originally contained only two rooms and the verandahs on two sides formed part of the 1877 additions. (Source: Henry Chamberlain Russell, Results of Astronomical Observations Made at the Sydney Observatory, New South Wales in the years 1879, 1880 and 1881, reproduced in Kerr, p.28.)

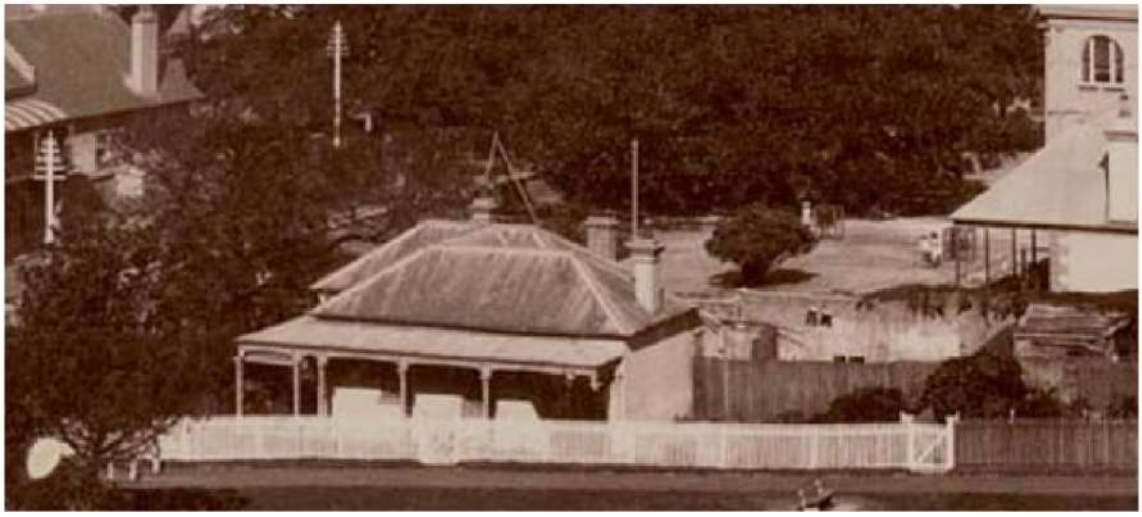


Figure 2.36: Messenger's Cottage from Observatory, c.1900-10. (Source: SLNSW PXE 711/365. a116365.)

During the late 1890s and the 1900s the Cottage was subjected to maintenance and some improvements. Sanitary fixtures were upgraded during 1897 and repairs to building fabric carried out in 1905.[38] The building was to undergo a significant change of use the following decade when it became home to the Sydney agency of the Commonwealth Meteorological Bureau.

Observatory Hill had been the site of meteorological observations for many years. They were certainly taking place after the completion of Sydney Observatory in 1858. Further afield, a network of weather stations was established and expanded across New South Wales under the direction of Henry Russell, who was the NSW government astronomer between 1870 and 1905. At the state premiers' conference held in Sydney during April 1906 it was decided to hand over meteorological work undertaken in each state to the federal government.[39] The resulting Commonwealth Meteorological Bureau, which was based in Melbourne and commenced functioning on 2 January 1908, was headed by former Sydney Observatory officer Henry Ambrose Hunt. Henry Hunt had been originally appointed meteorological assistant to the NSW government astronomer in 1886.

The Sydney agency of the Meteorological Bureau was initially installed in the Observatory's residence.[40] However, during the second half of 1916 the Premier's Department served notice on the Commonwealth Government, terminating of the Meteorological Bureau's tenancy. This was considered necessary so that the "urgent requirements of the State Government Astronomer" could be met. The Commonwealth was offered "another strip of the Observatory ground" in compensation.[41] The NSW government astronomer, William Ernest Cooke, moved into the residence and the Meteorological Bureau moved into the Messenger's Cottage (known at that time as Observatory Lodge).

In 1918 David John Mares, who had entered the Observatory as a junior in 1895, was appointed State Meteorologist. He was to ultimately benefit from the new building that was constructed to the west of the Messenger's Cottage. The building was constructed on the site of a two small cottage and outbuilding that was built before 1855 but had been demolished by 1880.[42]

[38] "Tenders". Evening News, 26 January 1897, p.7; Government Gazette, 21 July 1905, p.4921.
[39] "The Premiers' Conference", Sydney Morning Herald, 11 April 1906, p.7.
[40] Kerr, p.31.
[41] "Current News", Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, 12 October 1916, p.4.
[42] The buildings appear on the so-called City Detail Sheets, 1855 – Sheet 01 but are not indicted on Percy Dove's 1880 map of the same locality (City of Sydney Archives, Historical Atlas of Sydney).

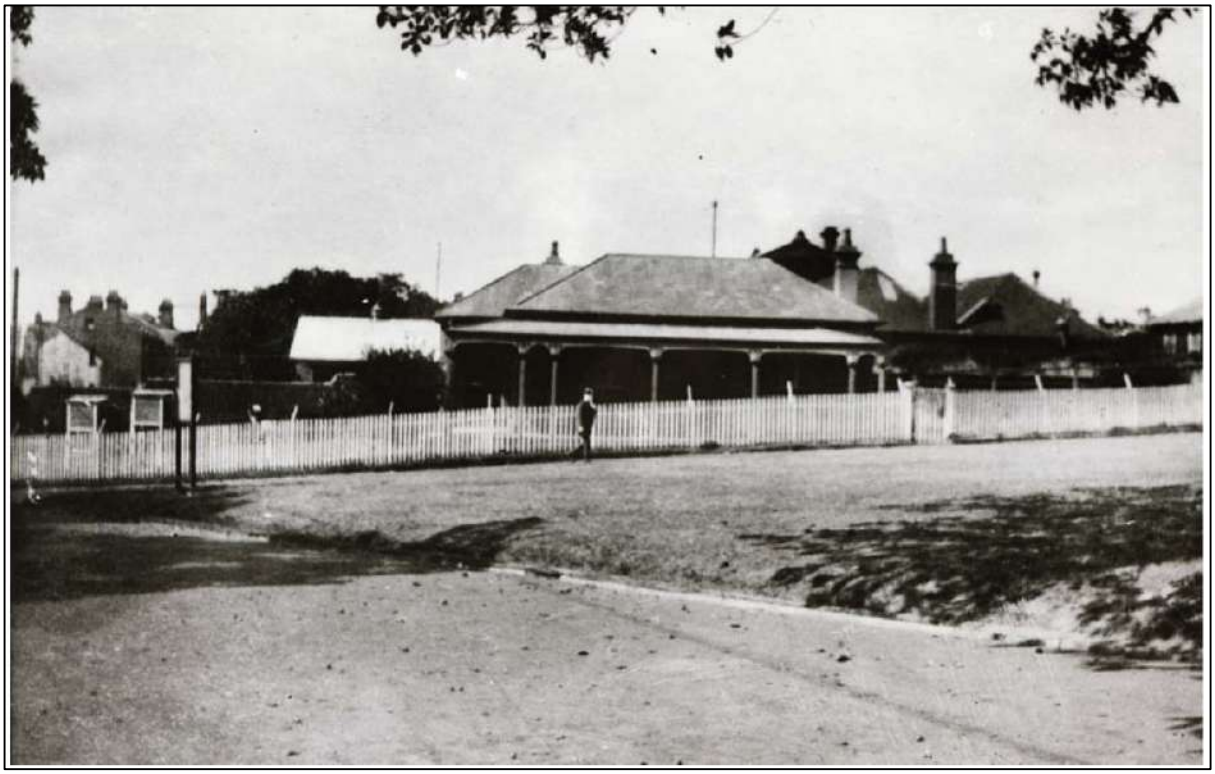


Figure 2.37: The Messenger's Cottage in 1918, after occupation by the Meteorological Bureau. (Source: observatoryhilleec.nsw.edu.au.)

Figure 2.38: Cottages on the site of the Bureau of Meteorology Building, depicted on a circa 1855 survey of Observatory Hill. The footprint of the Messenger's Cottage roughed in above the cottages. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 35).

The process leading to the actual occupation of the new building was somewhat protracted. The Commonwealth Government's Home and Treasuries Department requested the preparation of plans and cost estimates for the building in February 1917 and sketch plans were forwarded to it towards the end of the following April. Despite the urgent need to adequately house the Meteorological Bureau

in Sydney there was apparently uproar in federal parliament. Many MPs thought the Bureau of Meteorology an unnecessary extravagance and deplored expenditure on the building while Australia was at war.[43] *The new building was designed in the Federal Department of Works and Railways under the direction of architect George Oakeshott. Tenders for its construction were finally invited during May 1921*[44] *and the contract was awarded to builders Paynter & Dixon. It was not long before the building was described in the press:*

> *The new bureau, of brick, will be of imposing appearance, and will command, incidentally, from its flat roof magnificent views of the harbour. The site, however, has been selected for its strictly utilitarian rather than its aesthetic virtues … One floor will be set apart for general office purposes, and another floor for the meteorological library and equipment – its records and publications, and all the apparatus essential to it. Surmounting this second floor will be a residential flat for Mr Mares. Living on the spot, Mr Mares will now be able to keep his finger on the weather pulse in a far better way than at present. One thing alone shows the need for more commodious buildings. The bureau has a mass of important overseas publications, which it is unable either to house or to catalogue for reference purposes at the present time, and if any of these publications are needed at any time it is only with great difficulty that they can be brought to light. …*
>
> *It is on the flat roof, immediately above Mr Mares' residential quarters, that one sees perhaps the biggest scope for the operation and expansion of the Bureau. This roof is being so designed as to permit of the investigation of the upper air for the purposes of aerial navigation, and to enable the Bureau to prosecute research work along other far-reaching lines. In the south west corner of the roof will be a tower to carry the wind-recording apparatus. … The roof, in the present state of meteorological progress, will be an adjunct to the work of the observatory, for it will enable Sydney, in collaboration with Melbourne, to work on parallel lines with many of the European and other overseas observatories in determining, for one thing, the directions and velocities of the wind at various altitudes.*[45]

An act was passed in the NSW Parliament in October 1923, authorising Commonwealth use and occupation of a section of Observatory Park as a weather bureau.[46]

[43] Day, p.113.
[44] "Business Opportunities", Construction and the Local Government Journal, 2 May 1921, p.4.
[45] "Upper Air. Mapped by Balloons. New Weather Bureau", Sydney Morning Herald, 5 January 1922, p.10.
[46] Act No. 8, 1923 – Observatory Park Weather Bureau Site Act.

Figure 2.39: Bureau of Meteorology, photographed circa 1932. The recessed balcony of the residential apartment appears to have also served as a drying area. The building directly addressed Observatory Hill Park. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 36).

However, during the second half of the 1920s the Bureau faced a new challenge with the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. This impacted on local geography, which in turn interfered with instrument readings. Nevertheless the Bureau was allowed additional land to the west, which was authorised by the passage of an amending Act in November 1934.[47] *The land was subsequently utilised by the construction of stores and garaging. The construction of the roadway loop in the early 1940s further interfered with instrument readings and so the Observing Station was raised by a metre to cope with the interference.*

Figure 2.40: The Bureau of Meteorology photographed in 1941, prior to the commencement of the construction of the Public School. Garaging and stores are to the right of the building. (Source TKD 2016: Fig 37).

[47] Observatory Park Weather Bureau Site (Amendment) Act, Act No. 27, 1934.

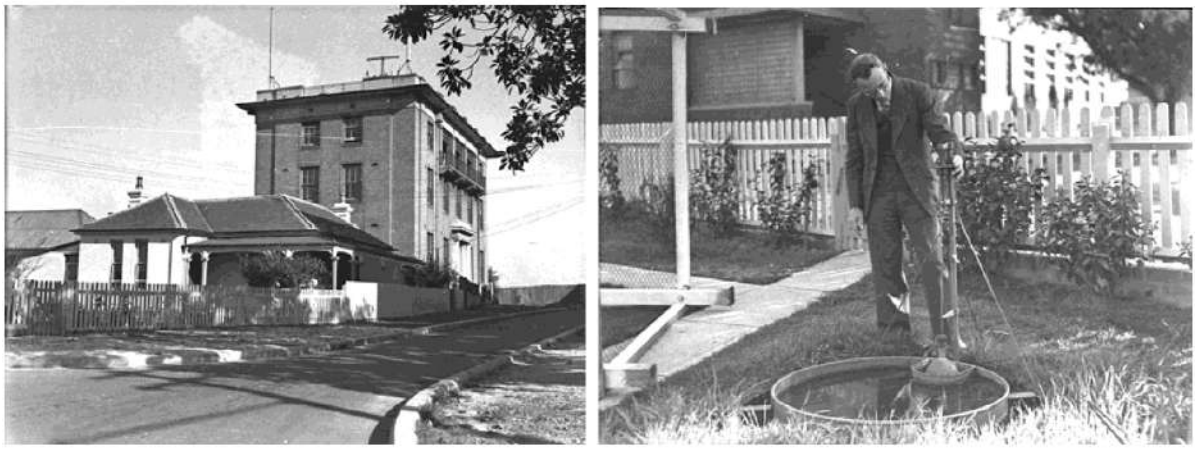


Figure 2.41: The Messenger's Cottage and Bureau of Meteorology viewed from the east (left) and the grounds of the cottage with Fort Street Public School forming the backdrop (right). These photographs were taken in 1947. The Cottage has a slate roof. Palisade fencing along the roadway has not yet enclosed the Public School site. (Source TKD 2016: Fig 38).

The building underwent some modification after completion. Internal repairs and new partitions were installed during 1935, minor internal alterations were undertaken during 1951 and further internal works were undertaken prior to August 1962.[48] A dumb waiter was also installed at some time.

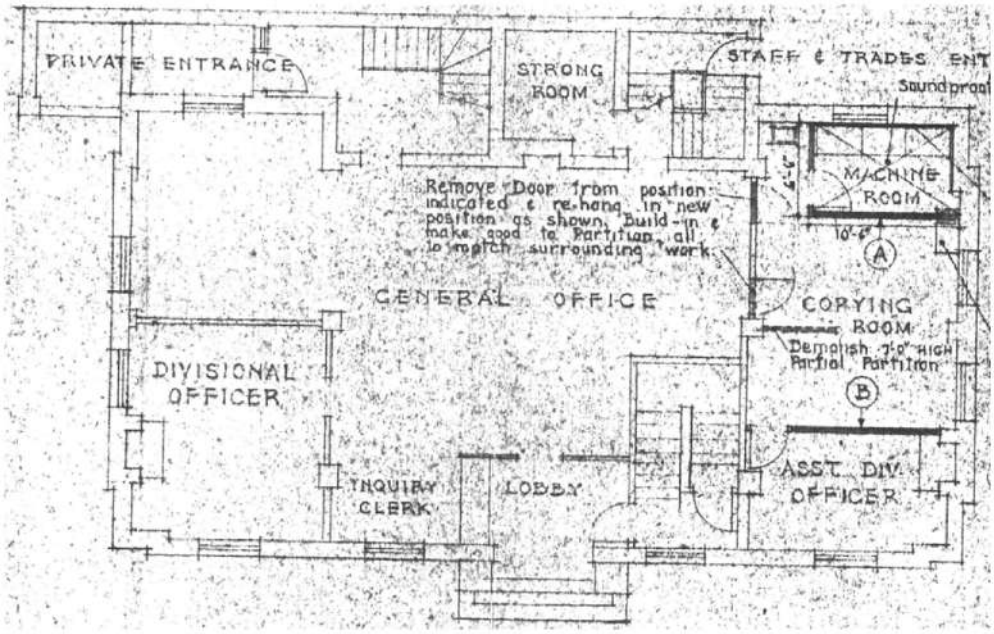


Figure 2.42: Ground floor plan of the Bureau of Meteorology, documented by the Commonwealth Department of Works and Housing, March 1951. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 39).

[48] David Waghorn, Meteorological Building Observatory Hill Conservation Management Plan, pp.10 and 12.

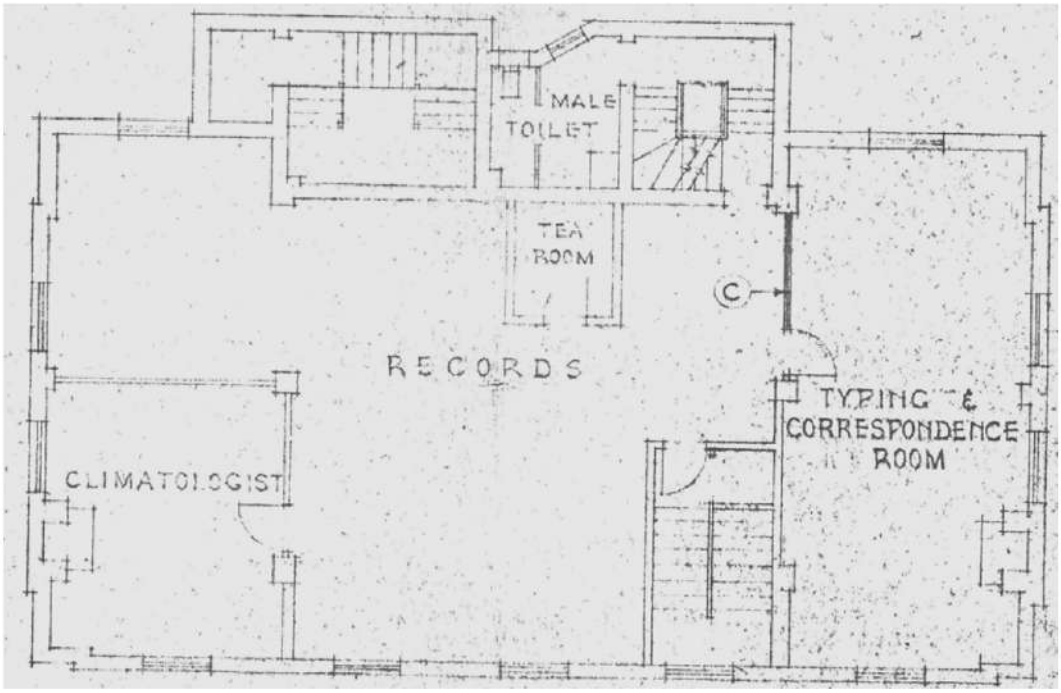


Figure 2.43: First floor plan of the Bureau of Meteorology, documented by the Commonwealth Department of Works and Housing, March 1951. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 40).

Changes to the surrounding environment after World War II, which included the development of taller buildings, made accurate readings increasingly difficult. After 1950, satellites and computer technology revolutionised meteorology and the original function of the building was becoming obsolete. The Bureau moved to the recently completed Commonwealth Centre at Chifley Square in 1963. Radar installed on the roof to give better warnings of changing weather conditions. However, weather observations continued to be made at the Observatory Hill site.[49]

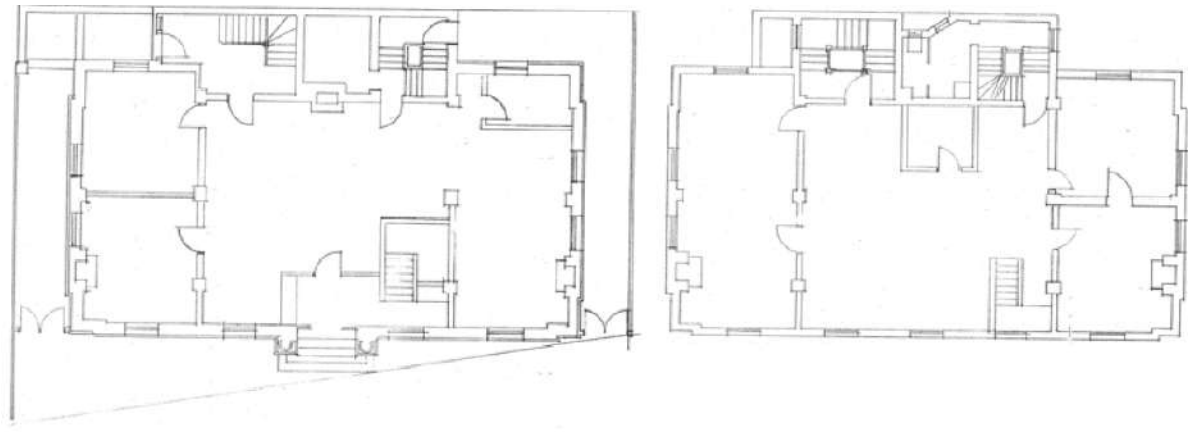


Figure 2.44: Ground floor plan (left) and first floor plan (right) of the Bureau of Meteorology, circa 1962. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 41).

[49] Day, p.351.

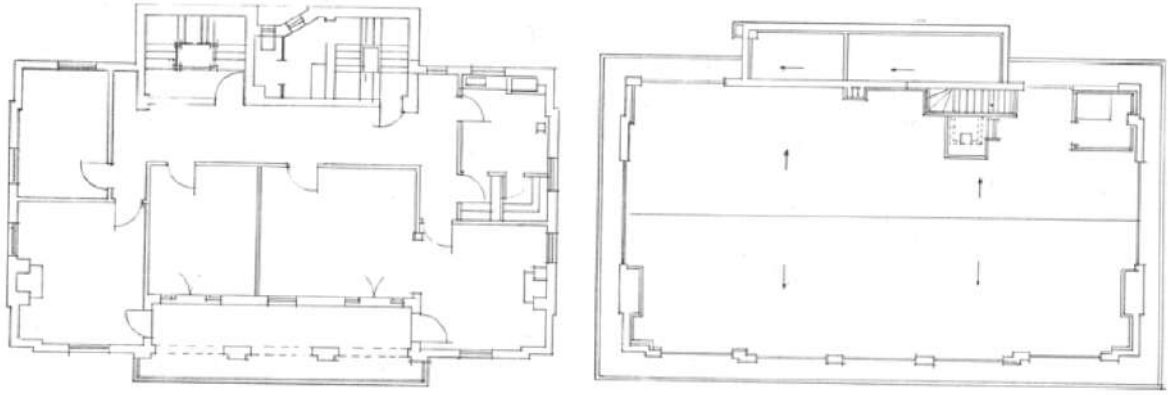


Figure 2.45: Second floor plan (left) and roof plan of the Bureau of Meteorology, 1962. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 42).

Both the Department of the Army and the Department of Defence expressed interest in occupying the building during 1962. The Army believed that the building would be suitable for a small Headquarters Unit while Defence sought the building to house the Hydrographic Service of the Royal Australian Navy. The Minister of Defence decided to occupy the building in August 1963. While the building was being cleared out after the Bureau of Meteorology vacated the premises a fire broke out in one of the stairwells on 14 November 1963, damaging timber elements, glazing and a dumbwaiter. Other parts of the building suffered smoke and water damage. Repairs were undertaken and the transfer of tenancy took place as at 1 January 1965.[50]

Concurrently part of the building was home to the Royal Australian Navy's cartographic section and archive, and became known as the Admiralty Chart Building. The 1923 Act authorising Commonwealth occupation and use of a section of Observatory Hill and the subsequent 1934 amending Act were repealed with the passage of another Act in December 1983.[51] *At some period the National Trust began using the building for storage, which in 1999 provoked a response from the Lord Mayor of Sydney, Frank Sartor. He planned to remove this "unauthorised occupancy" and install a cultural group in the building. Despite this, the Trust continued to store items in the building.*[52] *It no longer does so.*

Although the Bureau vacated its purpose-designed building in 1963, weather forecasting and measuring equipment remained at the Messenger's Cottage. By 1970, if not earlier, the Cottage was being used as an electrical and mechanical workshop, but by the mid 1970s it was considered too small to serve these purposes. Until the end of the 1970s it was known as "Weather Bureau Cottage" and was for a time occupied by Bureau employees. After the Bureau vacated the Cottage there were rumours that the Cottage would be demolished. In April 1978 the National Trust of Australia approached the NSW Planning & Environment Commission asking if it were possible for the building to be used as the headquarters of its Junior Group Committee. The Commission was favourably disposed towards the idea and implemented its decision in March 1979. The Young Trust Group undertook some repair and conservation work on the building.

[50] NAA Series Number SP857/10, Control Symbol PR521 Part 1, Observatory Hill – lease of site to Weather Bureau.
[51] Observatory Park Weather Bureau Site (Repeal) Act, 1983, No. 126.
[52] Waghorn, p.12.

The National Trust undertook a program of works to the Cottage. The major components of external works included:

- *Demolition of a brick and concrete ramp and concrete paving in the rear yard;*
- *Lowering the ground level in the rear yard and regrading to an existing sump;*
- *Removal of verandah infill materials;*
- *Removal of concrete roof tiles and replacement with corrugated steel sheeting, along with replacement of guttering and downpipes where needed;*
- *Installation of a new front door, French doors, boarded door to the kitchen and replacement of the lower kitchen window sash;*
- *Repainting external surfaces.*

Internal works included:

- *Removal of all existing floor coverings and refurbishment of existing timber flooring;*
- *Opening up fireplaces and installation of "traditional" chimneypieces, cast iron grates, firebricks and hearths:*
- *Removal of many electrical conduits and outlets from walls and ceilings;*
- *Removal of battened plaster ceilings and replacement with plasterboard and in some places timber boards;*
- *Repainting internal walls and ceilings.*[53]

[53] National Trust of Australia (NSW): David Sheedy, Schedule of proposed works for the National Trust Junior Group Committee, 5 August 1980.

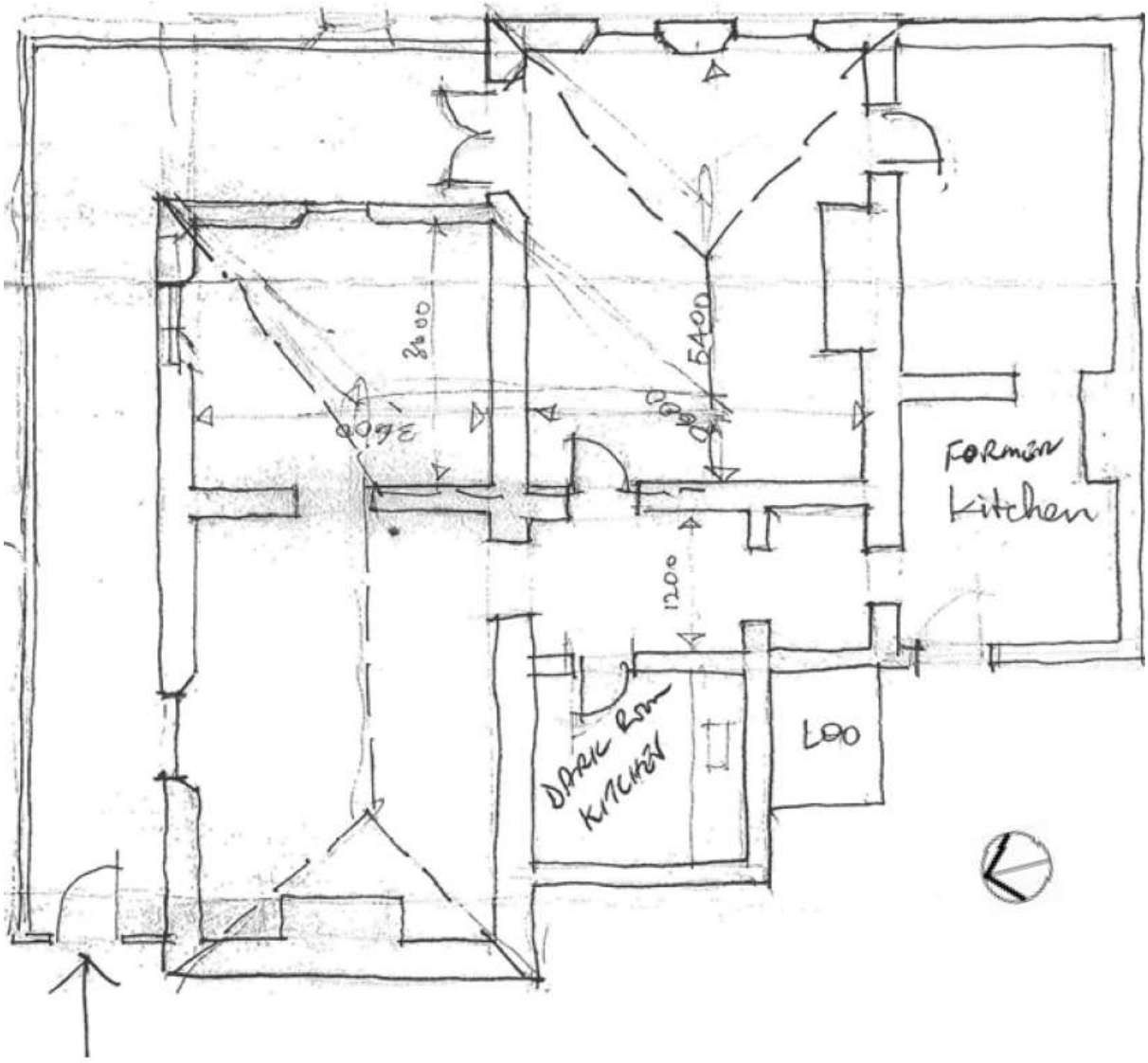


Figure 2.46: Plan of the Messenger's Cottage drawn by architect Don Ellsmore on 16 November 1978. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 43).

Figure 2.47: The Messenger's Cottage after the Bureau of Meteorology had departed, circ1978. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 44).

The cottage assumed a new and innovative role when it became what was claimed to be Australia's first corporate childcare centre after the National Trust leased the building to Esso and Lend Lease in 1987.[54] The facility was managed by the Kindergarten Union Children's Services. The lease arrangement lasted until 2000.

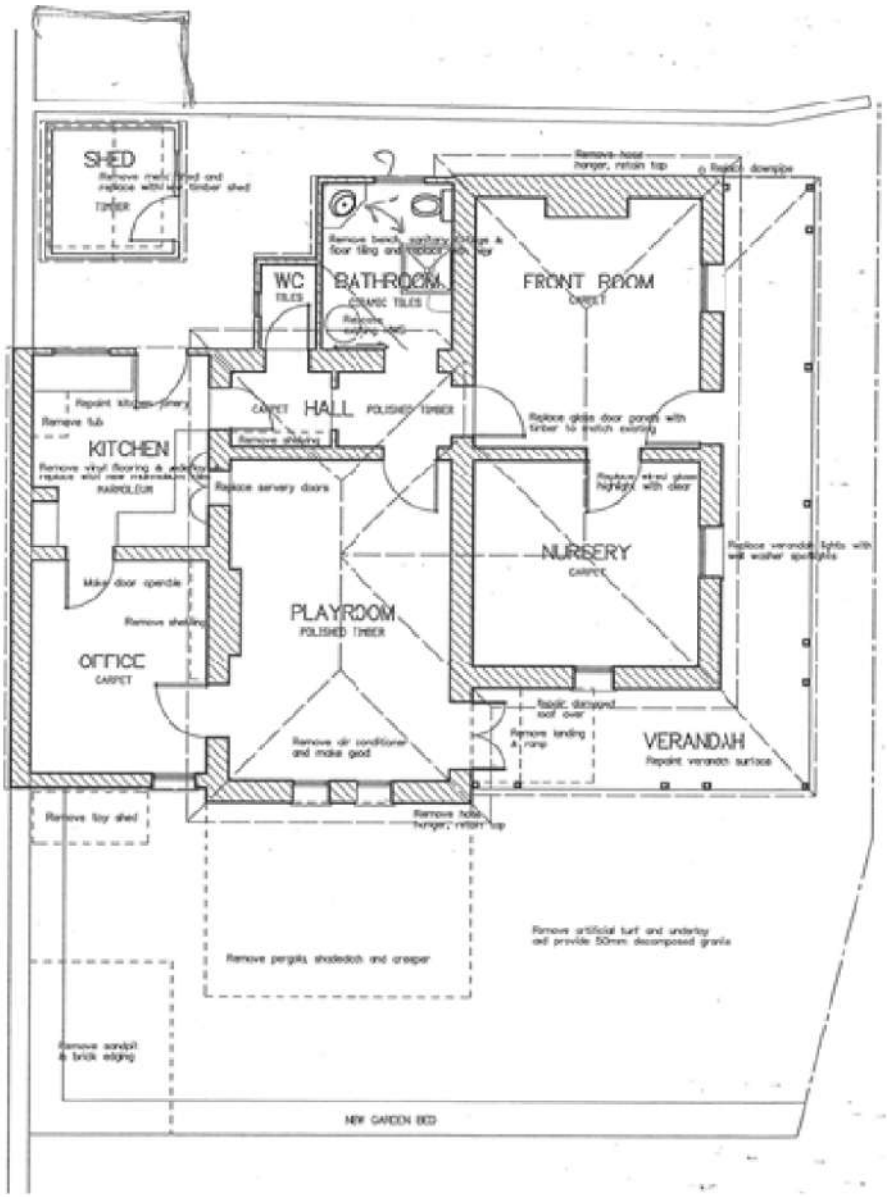


Figure 2.48: Plan describing the layout of the childcare centre, documented in the office of heritage architects Orwell &Peter Phillips, 28 May 2001. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 39).

Towards the end of 1992 the National Trust was appointed to manage the Reserve Trust for the Messenger's Cottage "for public purposes of heritage and community purposes", which was notified in the Government Gazette on 30 October 1992. About a year before this the Trust was given permission to use the former Bureau of Meteorology building for storage, a situation that lasted until 2000. The

[54] Pascol News, October 1993.

building has deteriorated rapidly and is currently in a derelict state. The building was subsequently administered by the NSW Department of Lands but fell into disuse and disrepair.57 It remains disused.

The Messenger's Cottage has been taken over by Fort Street Public School and is now used for administrative purposes. The open land to the east of the Cottage is still used for taking weather recordings.

2.7. Historical Timeline

For ease of reference, a brief historical timeline presenting the key developments, alterations and modifications undertaken at Fort Street Public School site has been developed, based on the historical evidence as outlined in the sections above.

DATE	EVENTS
1790s:	Government windmills built on the high land; construction of Dawes Point fort and Observatory.
1804:	Construction of Fort Phillip on the heights of the peninsula ridge.
1806	A third government windmill, a large wooden structure, was built by Nathaniel Lucas near the site where Fort Street public school now stands (Figure 2.4)
1815-20	Construction of Military Hospital and associated outbuildings (Surgeon Quarters, kitchen, servant's apartments)
1820s-80s	Spread of urban development across whole Millers Point and Dawes Point Precinct, active quarrying along Kent Street
1840	Part of Fort Phillip demolished, new signal station erected in its place, later incorporated into Sydney Observatory
1849	Relocation of Military Hospital to Paddington, Commanding Engineer officially relinquishes possession of hospital site to National School
1849	Fort Street School established, remodelling/adaptation of Military Hospital
1850	Military Hospital building modified for school use to carry the two storey arcade by infilling the encircling verandah altering the building to Victorian Mannerist style.
1850s	Adaptation of Fort Phillip site for Observatory and parklands. (Current Observatory constructed between 1857-1859.)
1862	**Messenger's Cottage** for Sydney Observatory constructed
1862	Fort Street Infants school erected (west of Surgeons residence, likely associated with original structure of military kitchen outbuildings)
1877	Substantial additions to the Messenger's Cottage, including verandah
1880	Doves 1880s plan shows that Military Hospital has been extended to join the 1855 school building with an additional out building at the rear on the west boundary, the Infants school is on the northwest boundary and three out buildings (privies) are shown on the southern boundary of the National Trust site
1887-89	Classroom buildings added and repairs made to existing school buildings
1900s	Post plague demolitions and rebuilding throughout the precinct, less so in Dawes Point.
1909	Military Hospital kitchen block and cellar demolished, playground repairs, construction of retaining wall and fence.
1916	Boys relocated to new Fort St High School at Taverners Hill. Fort St School, Millers Point became girls school only

DATE	EVENTS
1920-30	Construction of Sydney Harbour Bridge and approaches on the heights of the peninsula ridge.
1922	Construction of purpose-built **Bureau of Meteorology Building (MET)**
1929	Military Hospital remodelled
1940s	School buildings south of MET Building demolished, including former surgeon's residence and infants school.
1930-50s	New group of school buildings constructed including hall, gymnasium and several classrooms.
1940-50s	Construction of the ring road to the Cahill Expressway for the Sydney Harbour Bridge
1940-41	Construction of **present Fort Street Primary School** by Clive Evatt the Minister for Education at the time
1949	**Fanny Cohen Gymnasium** constructed
1950s	Fort Street School secondary pupils relocated to Taverner's Hill. The primary school pupils vacated the model school to occupy the newer buildings (current FSPS main building)
1954	Classroom added to 1940 primary school building. Demountable building constructed to west of MET building
1957	Second bridge over Cahill cutting, linking gymnasium to footway alongside Harbour Bridge approach
1961	Two larger demountable classrooms constructed for Fort Street Girls School to NW of Gymnasium
1963	Bureau of Meteorology vacated MET building, weather forecasting and measuring equipment remained at Messenger's Cottage
1975	Military Hospital/former school buildings adapted for National Trust occupation.
1979-2000s	Various uses of Messengers Cottage, including by National Trust 'Young Trust Group', and as Childcare Centre. Some repair, alterations and conservation works undertaken
1991	EEC opens in former Fanny Cohen Gymnasium
1991	Use of MET Building by National Trust for storage
2000	MET Building fell into major disrepair and disuse
2000-Current	Use of Messengers Cottage by Fort Street Public School

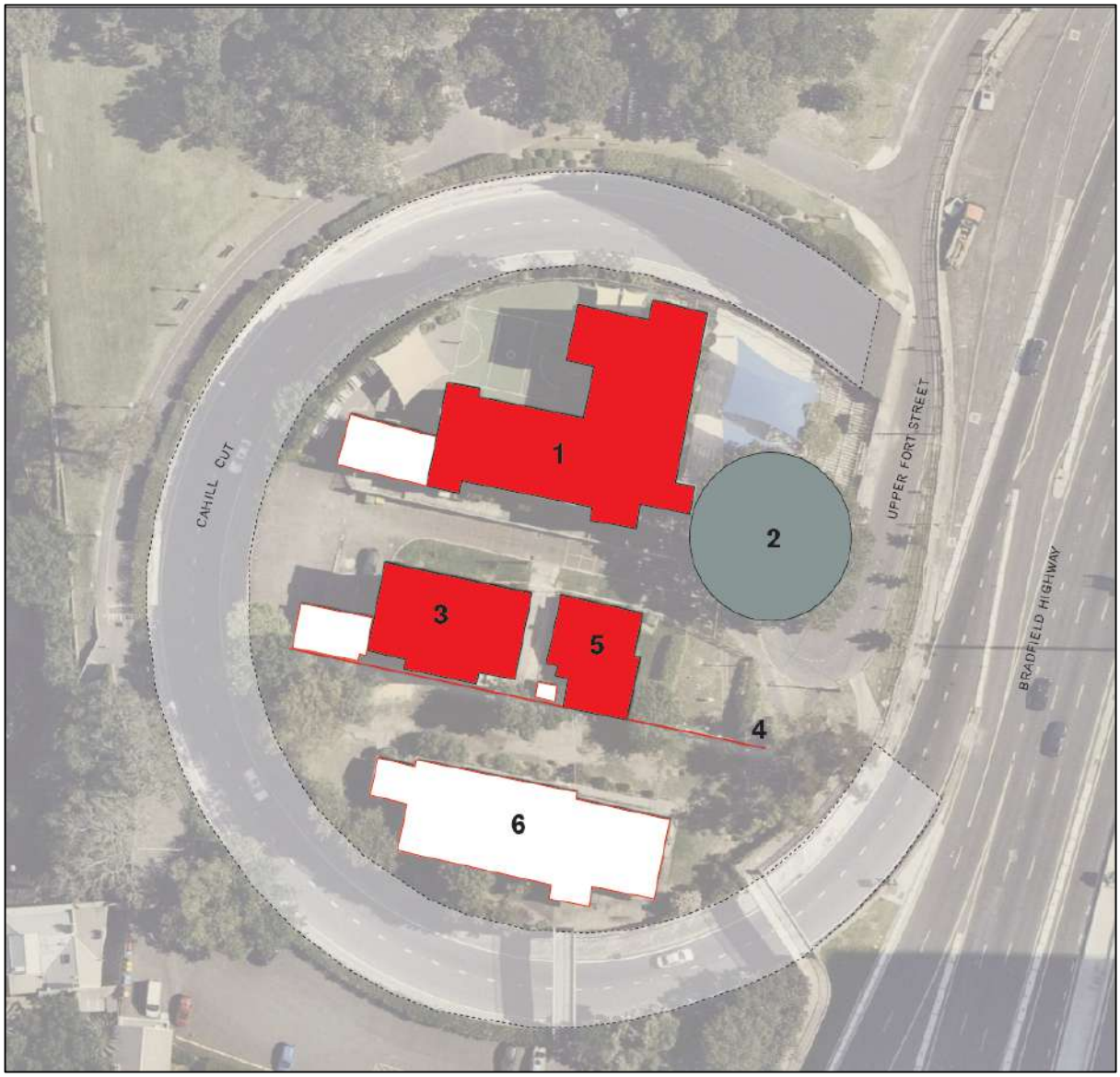
3. Description and Physical Evidence

This section presents a detailed description of the physical elements present at Fort Street Public School site. The physical analysis assesses the existing environment and landscape of the FSPS site including the state of each of the key site elements and built structures, in relation to the wider cultural and physical setting of the site in the context of other significant landscape and heritage elements. This section also provides an assessment of the Aboriginal and historical archaeological potential associated with the FSPS site.

The following section has been predominantly sourced from Section 3 of TKD 2016 draft CMP (*indicated by italics*) along with Curio additions, appropriately indicated where relevant. Where Curio additions have been inserted directly within the TKD sections, this has been indicated in **bold**.

3.1. Existing Topography and Environment

The site of Fort Street Public School and its environs, defined by the road circle linking the Cahill Expressway to the Sydney Harbour Bridge, contains small array of buildings of different ages. A pair of pedestrian bridges on the south eastern side of the site provides a connection to the National Trust Centre.



LEGEND

- CAHILL CUT
- HERITAGE BUILDING
- NON-HERITAGE BUILDINGS
- HERITAGE TREE

1. Fort Street Public School (1940-41)
2. Mature Fig Tree (Heritage Significance)
3. Bureau of Meteorology Building (1922)
4. Heritage Boundary Wall (c1830s)
5. Messenger's Cottage (1862)
6. Observatory Hill Environmental Education Centre (1949)

Figure 3.1: Site Plan. Buildings and Significant Landscape Features (Source: FJMT 2019)

3.2. Built Elements/Structures

3.2.1. Fort Street Public School

Fort Street Public School is a brick building with reinforced concrete floors and an L-shaped plan, consisting of a two storey wing extending north containing classrooms on each level and a high single storey wing extending west containing an assembly hall and lavatories. The roof is covered with steel

decking. The exterior of the building is a fine example of the Inter War Functionalist style, which was relatively popular during the second half of the 1930s and early 1940s, and lingered after World War II into the first half of the 1950s. The style reflects the influence of European Modernist architecture of the interwar period, which many young Australians saw when they visited Europe during the 1930s. Characteristics of the style that are clearly demonstrated by the school include clear geometric shapes, asymmetrical massing, windows expressed as linear components of the exterior, a balance of horizontal and vertical elements that often resulted in a three dimensional quality, plain face brick surfaces externally and parapets concealing the roof structure.[55]

The exterior of the building is substantially intact when compared to original plans and early photographs. Minor alterations that have taken place include replacement of steel framed awning and fixed windows with aluminium framed window units, removal of glass bricks from the entry porch and the small openings located above the foundation stone at base of the tower on the southern end of the east elevation, and removal of the lettering spelling out the name of the school above these openings. There is also some brickwork deterioration on the northern side of the building and in the vicinity of the foundation stone at the base of the tower. The only later addition to the building is a store room alongside the assembly hall, beneath part of the external canopy that extends along its northern side.

Figure 3.2: Fort Street Public School viewed from the north east (left) and from the south east (right). The main entry to the building is located at the base of the tower, which contains the main stair, and can be distinguished by its projecting roof slab. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 45)

[55] Richard Apperly, Robert Irving and Peter Reynolds, *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture*, p.187.

Figure 3.3: The tower at the eastern end of Fort Street Public School viewed from the grounds of the EEC, which occupies the gymnasium that was built in the early 1950s (left); the School viewed from the west on Observatory Hill (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 46)

Figure 3.4: Mesh has been placed over the slender window opening to the stair to protect the stained glass window installation (left); the original brick planter at the base of the building's east elevation is still in place (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 47)

Figure 3.5: Porch at the main entry to the Public School (left); north elevation of the Public School viewed from Observatory Park (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 48)

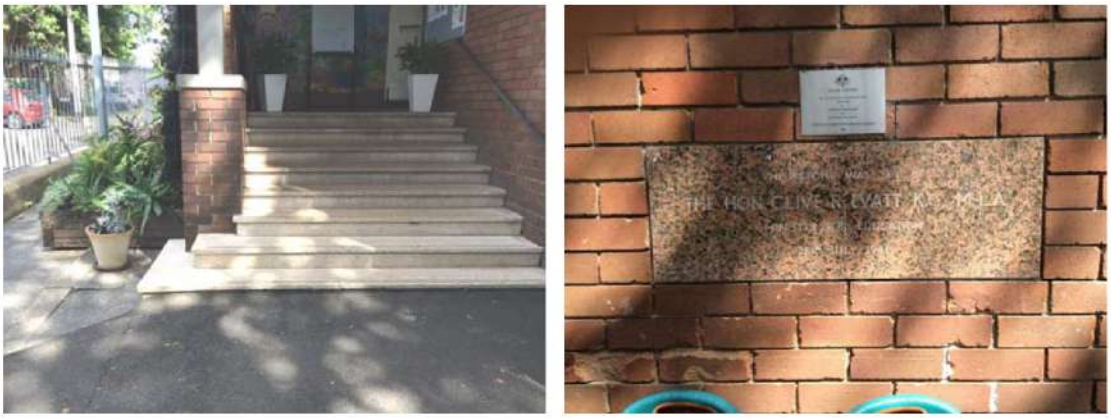


Figure 3.6: The stairs to the porch at the main entry are lined with terrazzo, a popular selection at the time the building was constructed (left); foundation stone laid by Clive Evatt at the base of the tower (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 49)

Figure 3.7: A wide reinforced concrete canopy, which is part of the original building structure and was intended as the children's weather shelter, extends along the northern side of the assembly hall. A store room has been constructed under part of it, and is highlighted by its brightly coloured painted finish (left). A similar paint scheme has been applied to part of the exterior of the children's toilet block (right) (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 50)

Figure 3.8: Northern side of the wing containing the assembly hall. The stage is contained in the projecting section at its western end, beyond which can be seen the low structure containing the children's toilets (left). These original doors (right) are located at the western end of the hall near the stage. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 51)

Figure 3.9: Doors and canopy associated with the secondary stair (left). This stylish streamlined railing provides some control to the movement of children through the door openings (right) (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 52)

Figure 3.10: Doorway and porch at the northern end of the corridor in the classroom wing (left). Brickwork joints are deteriorating and a number of bricks are fretting in the northern section of the building (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 53)

The plan of the building is little changed when compared to the 1941 drawings. The two wings of the school are organised around the stair and hall at the south eastern corner of the building. The tall narrow opening lighting the stair contains the war memorial leadlight window. On the southern side of the hall is an office (ground floor) and staff room (first floor). The wing that extends to the west contains a high assembly hall with a stage at the western end. Girls' and boys' lavatories are located in a low structure attached to the western end of the wing and are only accessible from the school grounds.

A corridor extends to the north from the hall. On the eastern side of the corridor are three classrooms each on the ground and first floor. On its western side is an additional stair and a classroom on both levels. Each classroom has a fireplace in one corner. Originally there was also a hat room and store on each level, but these spaces have been modified to accommodate ancillary storage and office functions. Apart from the modification of the hat rooms and stores the only notable internal modifications have been the refurbishment of the staff room and the lavatory adjacent to it. Finishes within the building are very restrained, with very little decorative detailing. Cornices in ground floor classrooms are coved and cavetto profile on the first floor. A simple dado moulding is inscribed on walls and skirting boards are simple in profile. Stair balustrades are equally simple and fabricated out of steel while the tops of newel posts have a stepped profile. Window sills in classrooms are terrazzo. The fireplaces have terrazzo mantels and tiled firebox surrounds; if heaths remain in place they have been concealed by carpet.

A small basement store on the western side of the eastern wing has been modified to provide lavatory accommodation.

Figure 3.11: Ground floor entry hall (left) and view from the stair to the hall, looking towards the assembly hall (right). Timber floor boards are exposed in this part of the building. (Source TKD 2016: Fig 54)

Figure 3.12: Ground floor corridor looking towards the hall. The section of wall containing the small window and door has infilled an opening that served the ground floor hat room (left); short passage from the corridor to the playground (right). (Source TKD 2016: Fig 55).

Figure 3.13: Eastern wall of the ground floor corridor, which is punctuated by what appear to be original windows providing light and air to classrooms (left); details of window joinery (right). (Source TKD 2016: Fig 56).

Figure 3.14: Western (left) and eastern (right) views of the assembly hall. The eastern end has a perforated acoustic finish above the door opening. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 57)

Figure 3.15: Ground floor classroom interior. Doors to classrooms have deep fanlights. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 58)

Figure 3.16: Details of newel post and balustrade, main stair (left); view to stair from first floor hall (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 59)

Figure 3.17: Staff room (left) and adjacent lavatory (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 60)

Figure 3.18: Receptacles and hanging space for the use of children in the first floor hall (left); modifications to the first floor hat room and store (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 61)

Figure 3.19: Classrooms on the first floor. Windows to the corridor are similar to those of classrooms on the ground floor. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 62)

Figure 3.20: The corridor on the first floor has parquet flooring and opens into the secondary stair (left). A sink and cupboard has been installed at its northern end. (right). Comparison with original plans indicates that this has replaced an earlier joinery unit (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 63)

Figure 3.21: Fireplaces in classrooms on the eastern side of corridors are located in corners near doors. The fireplaces have terrazzo mantels and tiled firebox surrounds. Heaters have been installed in each of them. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 64)

Figure 3.22: Windows in the external walls of classrooms have terrazzo sills (left); a store room in a small basement below the secondary stair has been adapted for use as a lavatory (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 65)

Figure 3.23: The girls' and boys' toilets consist of separate, unconnected rooms containing stainless steel troughs and lavatory fixtures. These photographs show the boy's toilet. Apart from the urinal, both are identical but have distinguishing paint schemes. Stainless steel fitments and ceramic wall tiles are not original. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 66)

3.2.2. Messenger's Cottage

The former Messenger's Cottage, which now houses administrative functions associated with Fort Street Public School, is a single storey brick building with a hipped roof covered by corrugated steel that was installed during the first half of 2016, replacing earlier corrugated steel roofing (which at some stage replaced slate). Gutters are fabricated out of galvanised metal in an ogee pattern. Chimneys with decoratively moulded tops and terracotta pots are located on the western and southern sides of the roof. External masonry wall surfaces have been lined with cement render that has been scribed to resemble ashlar coursing. A verandah extends across the front and part of the eastern side of the building. Its roof is supported off timber posts with decorative brackets, which were reconstructions of originals when the National Trust took over occupancy of the building. The verandah floor is formed out of concrete. Detailing of timber framed double hung window sashes

indicates that original windows have been replaced. A timber structure, which is understood to have originally been constructed as part of the original cottage, with skillion roofs and walls lined by vertical beaded timber boards is located at the south western corner of the building. Another skillion-roofed structure extends across the rear of the cottage. It abuts the brick wall separating the cottage and EEC grounds. It is understood to have been constructed after 1892 and may have been built during the first decade of the twentieth century. The external wall at the western end is also timber framed and lined with vertical beaded timber weatherboards. The wall at the western end is constructed of brick and is lined externally with cement render.

The earliest section of the Cottage is the section containing two rooms on its northern side. The Cottage is entered directly into Room 1 from the northern part of the verandah. Rooms 1 and 2 are connected; access to the east of the building is via a door opposite the main entrance, which accesses a short hall terminating at a kitchen to the rear of the Cottage. A small bathroom, the structure of which shows in the 1864 photograph of the building, and lavatory are located on the western side of the hall and a large room that was added to the original building during the 1870s (Room 3) is on its eastern side. This space connects to the eastern side of the verandah via a pair of French doors and to a small space at its rear (Room 4) that is connected in turn to the kitchen at the rear of the Cottage.

A large amount of internal fabric was installed after the National Trust gained control of the building at the end of the 1970s and afterwards. The four principal rooms and hall have simple flush-finished plasterboard ceiling linings without cornices in principal rooms. Two have chimneybreasts with simple open fireplaces containing grates and simple mantels above the firebox opening. Architraves, doors (including French doors in Room 3) picture rails and skirting boards are all likely to be relatively recent. Floors are constructed out of early polished tongue and groove timber boards, which were refurbished by the National Trust.

There are timber board linings to kitchen and bathroom walls and ceilings, which are understood to have been installed on behalf of the National Trust. Ceilings over theses spaces follow the rake of the skillion roofs over them. The bathroom was fitted out as a kitchen when the Cottage came under the jurisdiction of the National Trust. The bathroom, adjacent W.C. and kitchen have been recently refurbished with new fittings and, in the kitchen, new cupboards. The kitchen has retained an early fireplace. The southern wall of the kitchen is formed by the exposed and painted surface of the early brick wall separating the Cottage grounds from the EEC.

A small weatherboard shed is located to the south west of the Cottage near the brick wall separating its grounds from the EEC. The shed post-dates the initial occupation of the Cottage by the National Trust.

Figure 3.24: The Messenger's Cottage viewed from the east (left) and the north (right). The photograph at left was taken in February 2016, prior to the replacement of the roof covering. Security fencing and gates across Upper Fort Street were installed during the second half of 2016. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 69)

Figure 3.25: Eastern section of the Messenger's Cottage verandah – the French doors are not original but only date to the time that the building was taken over by the National Trust (left); looking east along the northern section of the verandah (right). The inscribed lines in the surface of the cement render imitating ashlar coursing can be seen. A "plinth" has been formed at the base of the walls. Verandah posts are reconstructions undertaken by the National Trust. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 70)

Figure 3.26: Skillion roofed timber weatherboard structures enclosing the bathroom and w.c. at the rear of the Cottage (left); western wall of the skillion roofed section containing the kitchen and Room 4 at the rear of the Cottage (right). The small shed can be seen in both photographs. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 71)

Figure 3.27: Looking to the south east across Room 3, originally added to the Cottage in the 1870s (left); fireplace and chimney breast in Room 1 (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 72)

Figure 3.28: Looking north along the hall to the main entrance in Room 1 (left); recently refurbished bathroom in the Cottage (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 73)

Figure 3.29: Cottage kitchen – recently installed cupboards and fitments (left) and the early fireplace in the south eastern corner of the space (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 74)

3.2.3. Bureau of Meteorology

The former Bureau of Meteorology building is a three storey brick structure with timber framed floors and a timber roof structure. Although the basic brick structure appears to be sound, the roof, first and second floor structures are in some locations in very poor condition and unsafe, while other parts of

the building's interiors have been damaged by water ingress. Because of the extensive deterioration of floor and roof fabric a full inspection of the building could not be undertaken.

The exterior of the Bureau of Meteorology building demonstrates a number of characteristics of the Inter War Free Classical style. They include the symmetrical composition of elevations, the centrally placed and classically detailed main entry elevations, the cement rendered frieze below the wide eaves overhang, modulation of corners by recessing sections of brickwork and the detailing of piers and brackets associated with the second floor loggia on the northern side of the building. The exterior of the building is constructed of common bricks relieved by vertical bands of red bricks at the sides of window openings and laid in soldier courses over window heads. There is a diaper-like cross pattern executed in single header course red bricks within first floor window spandrels. Windows consist of timber framed multipaned double hung sashes – those on the second floor are smaller than on lower levels. The corners of the building are subtly modulated by recessed areas of brickwork on each elevation. Sections of the wide timber-lined eaves are deteriorating badly.

The principal northern façade is distinguished by the elegantly detailed main entrance and porch, with glazed doors, sidelights and highlights, and the second floor loggia, which is partly recessed within the building envelope and partially cantilevers from the façade. A simply detailed wrought metal balustrade encloses the cantilevered section and is repeated at roof level, where it extends between low brick piers.

The eastern and western elevations each contain two bays of windows while the southern elevation incorporates a recessed light well serving lavatories on the first and second floors. There are a limited number of window openings on the ground and first floor levels in this elevation. Windows on this side of the building are boarded up.

A pair of simple gable roofed garages, one of which projects to the north of the second, is located on the western side of the building. It does not appear in early photographs of the building but was evidently in place by 1939.

Figure 3.30: Bureau of Meteorology and Messenger's Cottage viewed from the Environmental Education Centre (left); Bureau of Meteorology viewed from the west (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 75)

Figure 3.31: Bureau of Meteorology viewed from the west (left); portion of the south elevation, including the recessed light well (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 76)

Figure 3.32: Deteriorating planter wall and balustrade on the northern side of the building (left); porch to principal building entrance (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 77)

Figure 3.33: Deteriorating eaves fabric (left) and window joinery (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 78)

Figure 3.34: Wrought metal balustrade, bracket and piers associated with the 2nd floor loggia. Medallion located above the piers in the frieze (left). Similar balustrading located at roof level (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 79)

Figure 3.35: Steel-framed tower that was installed to support the wind recording apparatus (left); roof membranes are in very poor condition and are missing in some locations (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 80)

Figure 3.36: Private entry porch to the residential level at the south eastern corner of the building (left); pair of garages to the west of the building (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 81)

The interior of the building is in poor condition. Of particular concern is the amount of damage caused by water ingress, which has caused section of ceiling linings to collapse and is resulting in the deterioration of timber floor framing.

As stated in earlier sections of the report, the ground and first floor levels of the building were intended to house the activities of the Bureau of Meteorology and the second floor provided accommodation for the State Meteorologist and his family. The building is served by three stairs – a timber stair in the south eastern section of the building serves the residential flat and gives access to other levels of the building, a concrete stair in the south western section of the building extends between the ground floor and roof, and another stair that is accessed from the reception area adjacent to the main entry connects the ground and first floors. A lift was installed in the well of the residential level stair at some time after the building was completed Original fabric survives within the building and includes timber skirting boards, doors and architraves, fibrous plaster ceilings and cornices, stair fabric and fireplaces. The condition of the fabric varies on each level.

Sections of the building's interior that were in sufficiently safe condition to inspect are described in the following photographs.

Figure 3.37: Ground floor reception area adjacent to the main entrance. The space has retained a substantial amount of original fabric, including timber joinery items such as the counter and highlight window over it. Decorative plaster cornices are suffering from water damage. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 82)

Figure 3.38: Terrazzo stair on the northern side of the building linking the ground and first floors (left), stained and polished timber stair providing access to the residential apartment (centre) and concrete stair connecting all levels of the building, including the roof (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 83)

Figure 3.39: Ground floor level, looking to the south west. The tubular steel column is not original. Structural beams have been encased by fibrous plaster linings. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 84)

Figure 3.40: North eastern section of the ground floor level (left); intact chimney piece in the south eastern corner of the ground floor (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 85)

Figure 3.41: A later door has been installed in the private entrance to the building, although original sidelights and highlights remain in place (left). Sections of ceiling lining have come away, exposing the structure of the first floor. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 86)

Figure 3.42: General views across the first floor of the building. Ceiling linings are coming away from the floor structure above in places. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 87)

Figure 3.43: North eastern corner of the first floor, which has retained an original fireplace (left); looking towards the stair in the northern section of the building (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 88)

Figure 3.44: Deteriorating ceiling fabric on the first floor (left); fireplace in the north western corner of the first floor (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 89)

Figure 3.45: Hallways on the southern side of the second floor. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 90)

3.2.4. Environmental Education Centre

The Environmental Education Centre occupies the building constructed in the early 1950s as a gymnasium for Fort Street Girls' High School. It is a single storey brick building with a shallow pitched gabled roof covered by corrugated steel sheeting. The building has three components, a long high section that originally contained the gymnasium, a low subsidiary section on its eastern side that originally contained changing facilities, lavatories and staff accommodation, and a small projecting section at its western end.

The different functions assigned to each portion of the building were clearly reflected in the placement and design of fenestration. A shallow concrete canopy along the northern side of the building shades door openings, which are separated by cement rendered and painted panels. The building has relatively wide overhanging eaves lined with spaced timber battens to provide some roof ventilation. The principal entry is at the south eastern end of the building, reflecting the relationship between the building and Fort Street Girls' High School.

As might be expected, the interior of the building has undergone some modification to suit changing user needs. The large high space that formerly contained the gymnasium has been subdivided into three separate spaces. The eastern space is occupied by the EEC and the remaining spaces are used by Fort Street Public School. The original flush finished ceiling, with perforated acoustic linings along the northern and southern sides of the rooms and inset shallow domed recesses light fittings, extends across the three rooms. Ceilings in the administrative section are also flush finished. Wall surfaces are cement rendered and painted throughout. Plain white ceramic wall tiles in spaces used for storage indicate the location of shower facilities associated with gymnasium use.

At the time of writing, the EEC facilities had been relocated off site due to FSPS demand for further teaching space. The existing EEC building is currently used as a staff room, teaching space, and library.

Figure 3.46: Two views of the northern side of the EEC. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 91)

Figure 3.47: EEC viewed from the east (left) and from the grounds of the National Trust Centre to its south (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 92)

Figure 3.48: Spaces within the eastern section of the building, utilised for administrative and staff functions. The photograph at right shows part of the reception area near the principal entrance to the building. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 94)

Figure 3.49: Commemorative items at the EEC include the engraved stone foundation stone on the exterior of the building near the principal entrance (left) and the engraved metal plaque marking the official opening of the building, which is mounted on one of the walls in the reception area (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 95)

3.2.5. Boundary Wall

The brick wall that extends across the boundary between the EEC and land occupied by the Bureau of Meteorology and the Messenger's Cottage is constructed out of sandstock bricks set in a soft mortar over a sandstone foundation. It has been suggested that the wall was part of the Military Hospital compound.[56] *According to one source the likely period in which the wall was constructed was the 1830s and 1840s, based on an analysis of bricks and mortar composition, although the sandstone footings are part of the northern wall to the Military Hospital.*[57] *However, what appears to be a timber fence in this location is shown on Sheet 01 of the 1855 City Detail Sheets held at the City of Sydney Archives, on which brick and stone walls are carefully noted and delineated (*Figure 3.50*). It does show up behind the Messenger's Cottage in the 1864 photograph of Flagstaff Hill (*Figure 2.12*). Repairs, repointing and reconstruction of damaged sections have been undertaken using the bricks that were available at the time set in a harder mortar.* **The 1900-01 resumption plans depicts a wall in its current location (Figure 3.51).**

[56] State Heritage Inventory database entry for the Bureau of Meteorology.
[57] Edward Higinbotham, *Report on Historical and Archaeological Sites in Observatory Hill Management Plan*, Appendix II, pp.5; Edward Higinbotham, *Inventory for Military Hospital Boundary Wall in Inventory of Historical and Archaeological Sites in Observatory Hill Management Plan*, Appendix 3.

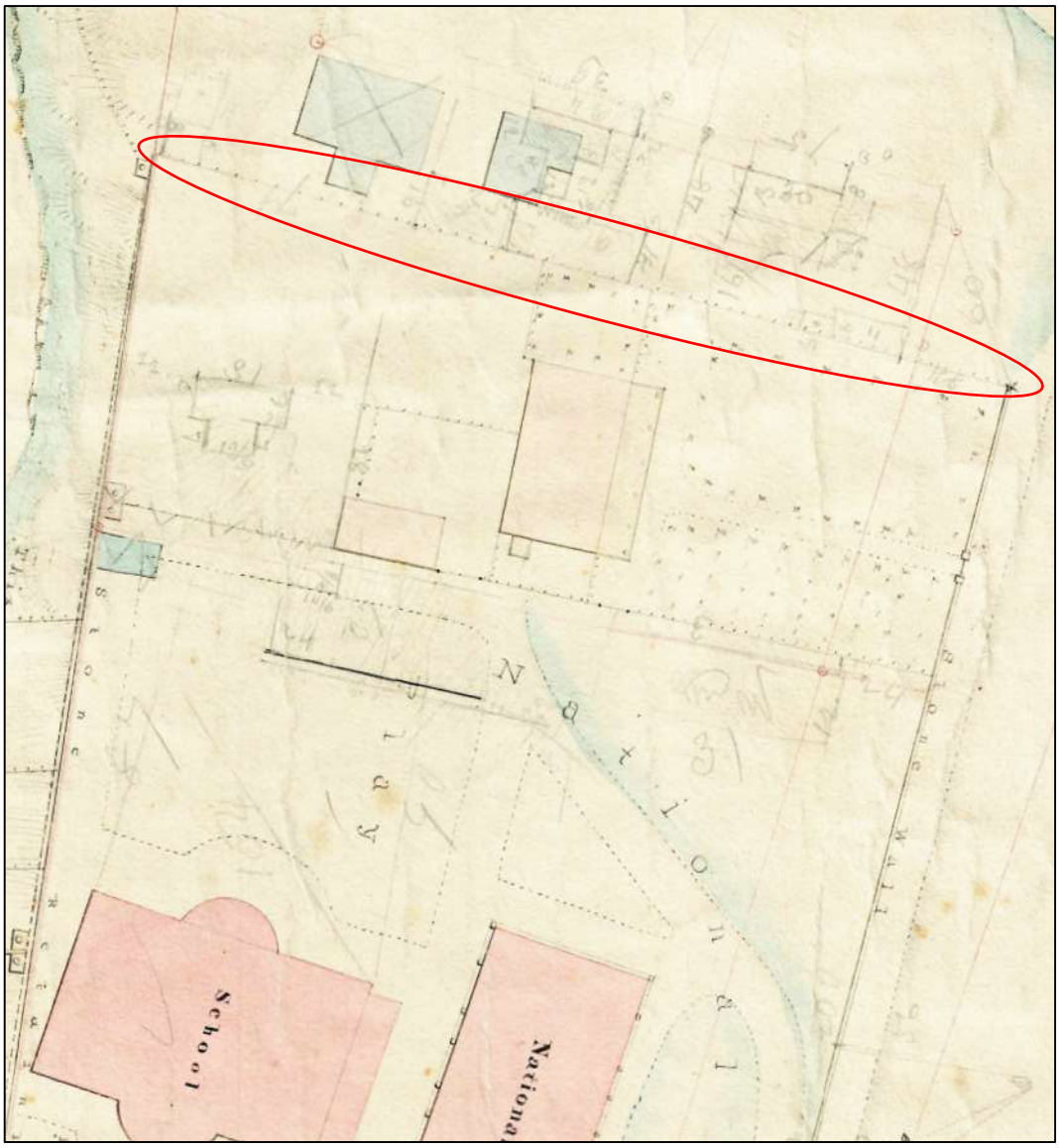


Figure 3.50: 1856 Plan showing stone wall to east and west of national school (former military) compound. Northern boundary line between Messengers cottage and school buildings not specified as stone. Likely still a fence boundary. (Source: Historical Atlas of Sydney - City Detail Sheets, 1855 – Sheet_01)

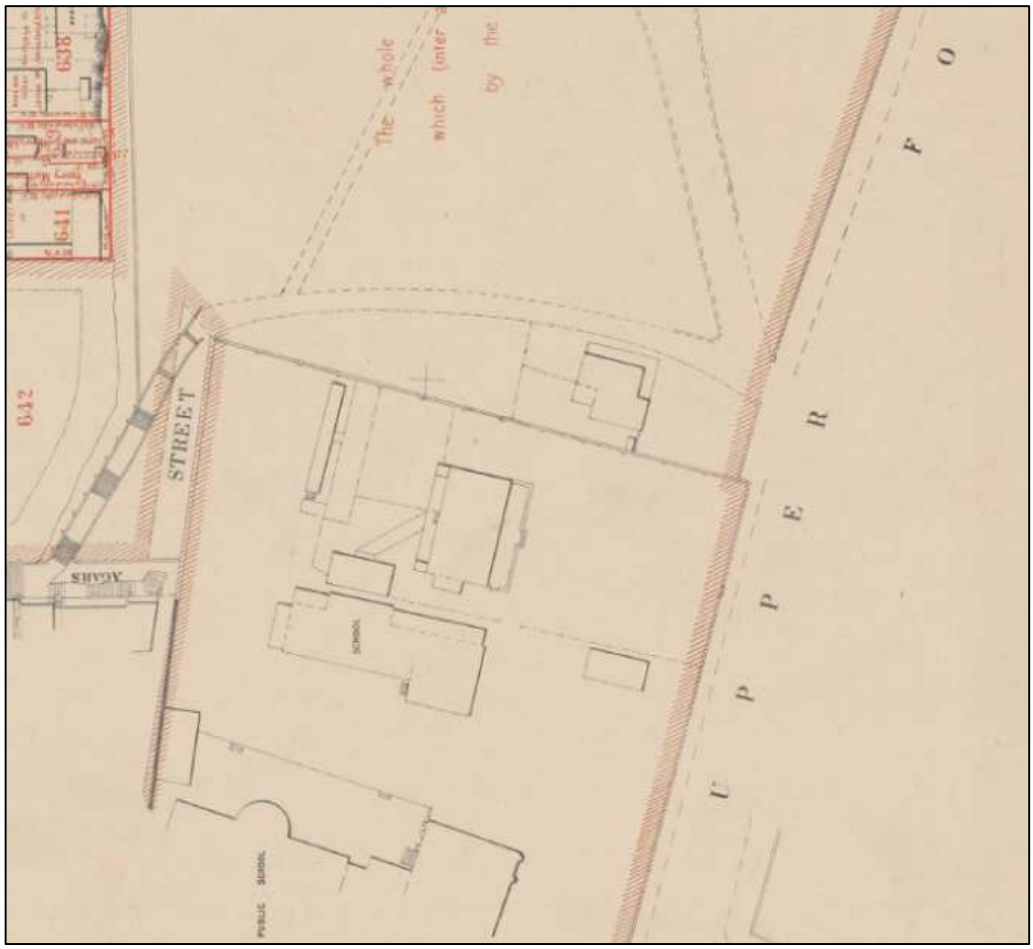


Figure 3.51: Sydney 1900-01 Resumption plan showing northern boundary in its current location as a wall

Figure 3.52: Circa 1910 photograph showing children being taught about gardening in front of the southern side of the wall. (Source: State Records Digital ID 15051_a047_005381)

Figure 3.53: Northern section of the wall, to the east of the Messenger's Cottage. Later works associated with the upper sections of the wall are clearly visible (left); southern section of the wall, which is strengthened by brick piers (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 97)

Figure 3.54: The extant brick wall is constructed over stone footings. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 98)

3.2.6. Cahill Expressway Cut

The following description of the Cahill Expressway Cut has been extracted from the Millers Point and Walsh Bay Heritage Review Final Report, prepared for City of Sydney Council by Paul Davies, 2007.

The expressway was first proposed in 1945 as part of an overall expressway plan for Sydney. Public opposition began when the proposal was first made public in 1948, with the Quay Planning Protest Committee being formed. Despite the opposition, construction on the elevated section of the expressway went ahead in 1955. Funding was provided by the Sydney Council and the NSW Government, and the elevated section was opened on 24 March 1958. Work on the sunken section commenced almost straight away after that, and the additional section was opened on 1 March 1962.[58] The Expressway is named after the then NSW Premier Joseph Cahill, who also approved construction of the Sydney Opera House. While a vital link in the Sydney road system, it is generally not well loved by Sydneysiders, for its ugly appearance and the way it divides the city from its waterfront.

[58] http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/history/sydneystreets/How_to_Build_a_Street/Cahill_Expressway/default.html

The Cahill Expressway was controversial from when it was first proposed. Its elevated nature, proximity to the city and utilitarian appearance meant that when the design of the elevated section was first unveiled to the public, it was described as ridiculous, ugly, unsightly and a monstrosity. An early example of freeway revolt. Sydney Morning Herald writer Elizabeth Farrelly describes the freeway as 'doggedly first proposed. Its elevated nature, proximity to the city and utilitarian appearance meant that when the design of the elevated section was first unveiled to the public, it was described as ridiculous, ugly, unsightly and a monstrosity. An early example of freeway revolt. Sydney Morning Herald writer Elizabeth Farrelly describes the freeway as 'doggedly symmetrical, profoundly deadpan, severing the city from the water on a permanent basis'.[59]

Davies also notes the Cahill Expressway as:

> *An important feature for the [Millers Point] precinct but not a highly visible one is the circular stone excavation for the Cahill Expressway that separated the school grounds from Observatory Hill and from the National Trust Centre (former school building). (Davies 2007: 84)*

While the cutting for the Cahill Expressway is a dominant physical and visual feature in relation to the FSPS site, its presence is not directly connected to the history of the site as a military hospital and Fort Street Public School.

Figure 3.55: Cahill Expressway Cut, view from EEC to National Trust (Source: Curio 2019)

[59] SMH, 12/02/02-Opening up the Cahill Expressway won't be a dynamic change

Figure 3.56: Cahill Expressway Cut, view from National Trust towards EEC (Source: Curio 2019)

3.3. Movable Heritage

A number of movable heritage items have been identified within the FSPS site that contribute to the understanding of significance and history of the place. These items include:

- Fanny Cohen Gymnasium Foundation Stone (1949) (Figure 3.57);
- Fanny Cohen Gymnasium Opening Plaque (1952) (Figure 3.59);
- Memorial window in main stair well of School building (c1958);
    - The window contains a figure of Peace above the school badge, below which is a figure of St George and the dragon representing war. An open book at the base of the window is inscribed "To the men and women of Fort Street Primary School who served and died in two World Wars."
- Wall mounted metal plaque near the base of the window that commemorates the unveiling of the window by Robert Heffron (November 1958) (Figure 3.60); and
- Honour rolls mounted on side walls of assembly hall in School building (Figure 3.61).

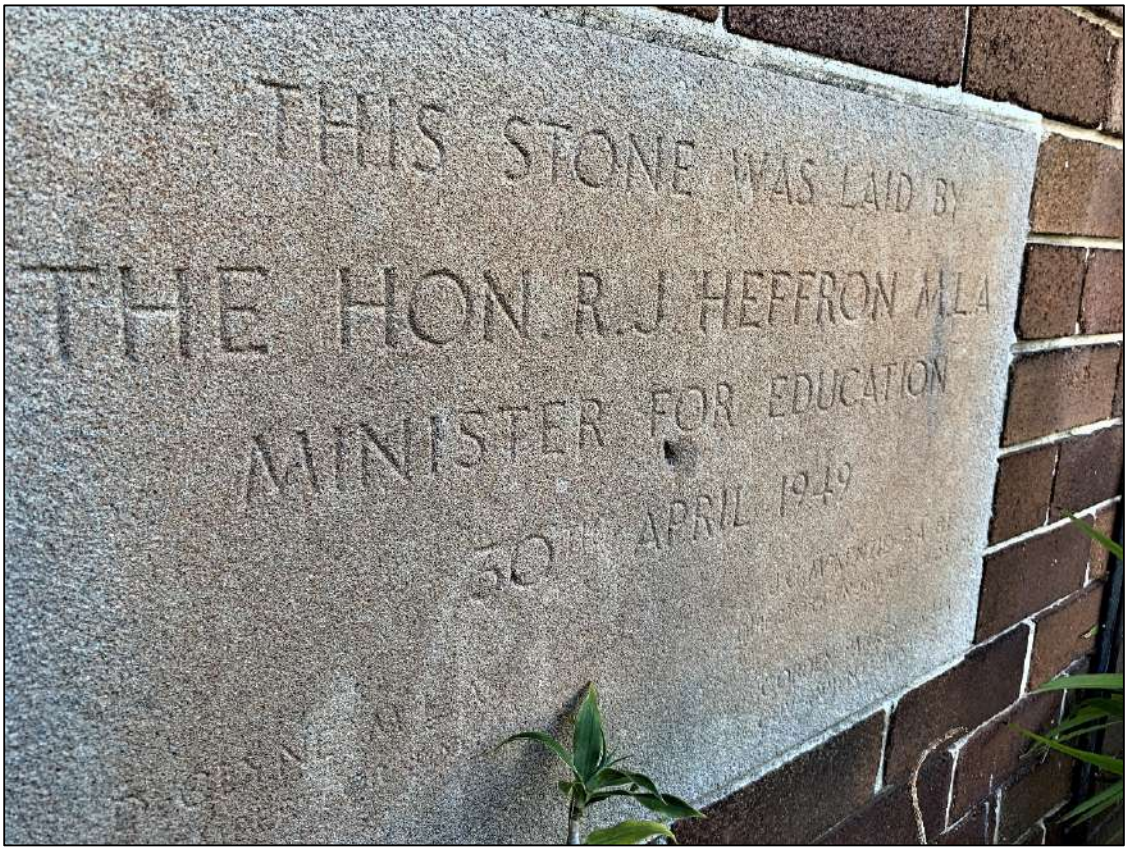


Figure 3.57: EEC Foundation Stone, 1949, on southern side wall of EEC building

Figure 3.58: Current Location of FSPS Foundation Stone, southern side of EEC building.

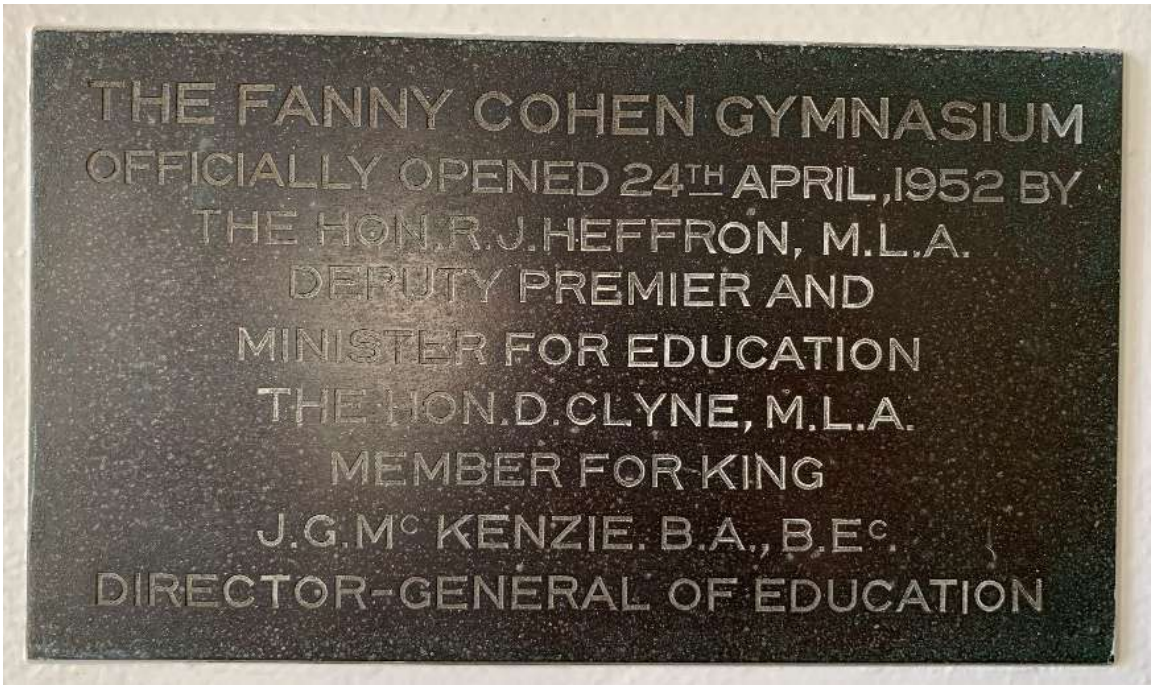


Figure 3.59: Opening Plaque, Fanny Cohen Gymnasium (1952). Currently mounted on a wall in reception area of EEC.

Figure 3.60: Memorial stained-glass window (left) and opening plaque (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig. 67)

Figure 3.61: Two of the honour rolls mounted on the side walls of the assembly hall. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig. 68)

3.4. Setting and Visual Character

The Fort Street Public School site is visually prominent in its location, located at the northern road entrance to the Sydney CBD. The wider landscape setting of the FSPS site on Observatory Hill places it in a complex, layered and varied topographical and built form setting, with a strong presence of landscaping and trees- closely linked with Millers Point and the Rocks. The built form is generally dominated by its heritage buildings, which are smaller in scale and height that those of the adjoining CBD.

The locality of Fort Street Public School is significant in its location in connection and/or proximity to several other significant heritage items and places- some of which are readily visible to, and from the site. These include:

- Sydney Observatory
- National Trust Building (former Fort Street School)
- Sydney Harbour Bridge
- Millers Point
- Sydney Opera House.

Visually, however, the connection between the FSPS site and the above significant heritage items has been impacted and interrupted to varying degrees by landscape features such as the rising topography between the water's edge to Observatory Hill, and built elements such as the cut for the Cahill Expressway, and the alignment of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. For example, despite their relative proximity, there are no clear view lines between the Fort Street Public School site and the Sydney Opera House. The Bradfield and Cahill Expressways present physical and visual boundaries in the locality that serve to create a sense of isolation of Observatory Hill and FSPS from the Rocks to the east and Millers Point to the north and west. The Fort Street Public School building is visible from the eastern side of the Harbour Bridge approaches, while the Bureau of Meteorology can be seen from Kent Street.

Other notable elements of the immediate setting and visual character of the Fort Street Public School site include:

- Mature fig tree and associated landscaping at the southeastern corner of the site (Figure 3.63);
- Palisade fencing and stone pier (Figure 3.64 and Figure 3.65);
- Perimeter landscaping planting between the school grounds and Cahill Expressway cut and vicinity of EEC (Figure 3.66); and
- Cahill Expressway cut (Figure 3.67 and Figure 3.68).

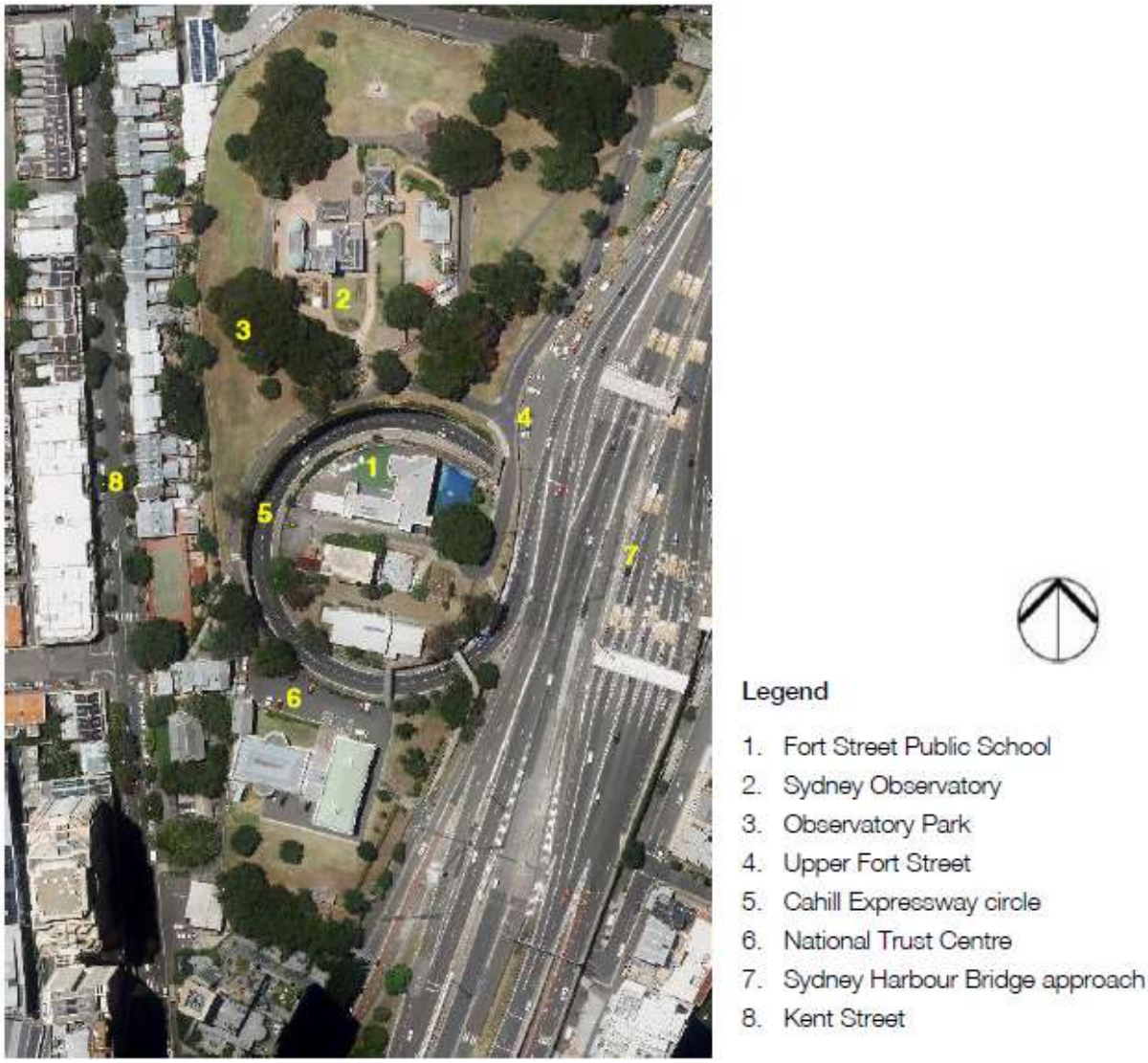


Figure 3.62: Diagram indicating elements in the vicinity of the subject site, which contribute to its setting. Source: Spatial Information Exchange with TKD Architects overlay. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 99)

Figure 3.63: Fort Street Public School viewed from different sections of Upper Fort Street. The mature fig tree is a defining element at the south eastern corner of the school site and an important part of the setting of the school and Observatory Hill Park. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 100)

Figure 3.64: The section of Upper Fort Street between Fort Street Public School, and the Messenger's Cottage and Bureau of Meteorology. The school site is bounded by a palisade fence. Originally a simple timber post and rail fence marked the boundary. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 101 (Left); Curio 2019 (Right)))

Figure 3.65: This stone pier to the east of the Messenger's Cottage was constructed around 1942, as indicated in the archival photograph at left. Construction took place after the Public School was completed and while the southern section of Upper Fort Street was being formed. (Source: City of Sydney Archive SRC13421; TKD 2016: Fig 102)

Figure 3.66: Well-established native trees planted on the western boundary (left) and northern boundary (right) of the area occupied by the EEC. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 107)

Figure 3.67: The cutting for the Cahill Expressway road circle is an obvious physical element surrounding the FSPS site. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 108)

Figure 3.68: EEC viewed across the road circle cutting from the west (left); Fort Street Public School and the Bureau of Meteorology viewed from the west across the cutting (right). (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 109)

3.5. Archaeological Assessment

An Archaeological Assessment was prepared by AMBS in 2016 as part of the draft CMP (Appendix A). Since the preparation of this assessment, further archaeological assessment and investigation has been undertaken at the FSPS site (Curio Projects 2019). Therefore the following sections provide a summary of the AMBS assessment, and then goes on to provide further assessment and information with respect to the Aboriginal and historical archaeological potential for the FSPS site.

3.5.1. Aboriginal Archaeology

AMBS (2016, Section 3.4) concluded that:

> *On the basis of the registered Aboriginal sites in the region, a review of previous archaeological studies, and the environmental context of the study area, the following conclusions can be drawn regarding the potential presence of Aboriginal heritage sites within the landscape of the study area:*
>
> - *Aboriginal midden sites are one of the most common site types occurring across the landscape, and are the most likely site type to be present in the study area. Such midden deposits may include stone artefacts, if present;*
> - *wide scale vegetation clearance has resulted in the removal of all original native vegetation, and there is therefore no potential for culturally modified trees surviving in the study area;*
> - *axe grinding grooves, art and shelter sites are highly unlikely to be found in the study area due to the lack of suitable stone outcrops;*
> - *excavations within the region indicate that high densities of artefacts can be present up to 500 metres from water sources, and that subsurface material may be much greater than indicated by surface numbers of artefacts.*
>
> *Given the study area's elevated location, which would have provided commanding views, access to resources along the shoreline, and access to fresh water and resources*

along the Tank Stream, encampment of Aboriginal people may have occurred in the vicinity.

There is potential for Aboriginal archaeological deposits to be present in areas within the study area which have experienced limited construction and other development impacts, specifically in the school yards north and east of the current school building, which have not been directly impacted by previous development. However, given the propensity of the local soils to experience significant sheet erosion following vegetation clearing, it is possible that any archaeological deposits in the area would have been disturbed.

An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) was prepared by Curio Projects in 2019 (Curio Projects 2019c), which undertook a reassessment of Aboriginal archaeological potential across the FSPS site, in the context of recent investigations. The following has been extracted from Curio Projects 2019c.

The following assessment of Aboriginal archaeological potential within the study area is based on a combination of the environmental assessment, including original landform, possible levels of disturbance across the site, and original resource zones that would have been favourable to, or sustained local Aboriginal populations of the area prior to European settlement, in combination with known previous archaeological research in the vicinity of the subject site, or on comparable sites in Sydney. Consideration of these above factors determines the likelihood for Aboriginal archaeology, artefacts or physical objects to remain at the subject site in a subsurface capacity.

The following predictions are made with regards to Aboriginal archaeological potential within the study area:

- *In order for Aboriginal archaeological deposits to be present in situ within the study area, they would require the retention of natural soil profiles in the area that would be extant from 1788- and require these natural soils to be intact- subject to limited amounts of natural erosion.*
- *Artefact and midden sites are the most common site type in the region, and are the most likely site types to be present within the study area, should the site conditions allow the preservation of such a site (i.e. where historical land disturbance activities have not already removed all natural soil profiles)*
- *There may also be potential for isolated Aboriginal artefacts (stone artefacts and shells) to be present in a disturbed context.*
- *The study area has no potential for site types such as scarred trees, rockshelters and grinding grooves, as the natural features required for these types of sites are not present.*
- *It is highly likely that the study area landscape was occupied and used in some way by Aboriginal people prior to 1788- especially in consideration of the commanding presence and advantageous views from (what is now referred to as) Observatory Hill.*

- *The Gymea soil landscape has a high propensity for sheet erosion following vegetation clearance, and this would have impacted the ability for the soils within the study area to retain an Aboriginal archaeological deposit.*
- *The study area has been subject to very high levels of historical ground disturbance and use since 1788 relating to the use of the site as a Military Hospital, Sydney Observatory activities/Bureau of Meteorology, and Fort Street Public School, that would likely have impacted and/or removed the majority of natural soil profiles.*

Overall, the FSPS study area is considered to have low potential for intact Aboriginal archaeological deposits to be present.

3.5.2. Historical Archaeology

AMBS (2016, Section 4.2) concluded that:

The potential for the area within the footprint of the school to contain historical archaeological remains is defined by the Cahill Expressway on-ramp, which surrounds and isolates the Fort Street Public School from the former Military Hospital/National School building, now the National Trust of Australia, to the south and the Sydney Observatory to the north.

The land between the school, as now defined by the Cahill Expressway on-ramp, and the Sydney Observatory, known as Flagstaff Park, has remained undeveloped. Until the construction of the school buildings, in particular the Primary School building on land north of the Messenger's Cottage, the land had remained vacant. The ground around the school buildings is a combination of asphalt, adjacent to the Primary School building, and grass lawns adjacent to the former Messenger's Cottage and Bureau of Meteorology building. The east-west brick wall immediately south of the Messenger's Cottage and Bureau of Meteorology building is on the alignment of the northern boundary wall of the Military Hospital and the National School.

The area within the footprint of Fort Street School has the potential to retain structural features associated with the Military Hospital, the National School and the Observatory.

Historically, the area to the north of the boundary brick wall had remained undeveloped except for construction of the Messenger's Cottage and the small stone and timber buildings to its west indicated on the Trigonometrical Survey Plan, but which are gone by Dove's plan of 1880. These buildings may also have been associated with the observatory and its operation; however, this is not known. The area is now occupied by the Bureau of Meteorology building, which does not have a basement, and as such there is the potential that physical evidence of these buildings may be present.

The east-west boundary wall to the Military Hospital and National School is extant and is the earliest physical evidence of these structures surviving within the footprint of the school. There is potential that physical evidence associated with the construction of the wall is present within the trenches excavated for the wall foundations and adjacent areas.

To the south of the wall was the surgeon's residence associated with the Military Hospital, re-used during the National School period as a dining room and kitchen, when adjacent school buildings were constructed. The area that had been occupied by the former surgeon's residence, demolished in 1949, is now occupied by the Environmental Education Centre, which does not have a basement. There is the potential for physical evidence of the surgeon's residence to survive beneath this building. Part of the building to the north of the Infant's School may survive at the south-west corner of the site.

Although not indicated on any plans or maps of Flagstaff Hill, rubbish pits, wells or cess pits were an essential feature of everyday life in the colony, and were frequently filled with an assortment of discarded artefacts, which may provide an insight into the daily lives of the people who lived in the associated buildings.

Reassessment of Historical Archaeological Potential

A Historical Archaeological Research Design (HARD) (Curio Projects 2019a) was prepared for the FSPS site to guide a program of historical archaeological test excavation undertaken at the site (July 2019- see relevant section below). The HARD included a reassessment of the historical archaeological potential of the FSPS site in accordance with seven identified historical phases of use of the site as follows.

Phase 1 (1788-1820)—Windmill Hill

It is considered that the study area generally has low to moderate potential to contain archaeological evidence related to the 1788-1820 use of the site, particularly relating to the 3rd Government Windmill (Smock Mill). Remains from this period may include:

- Stone footings of the smock mill and/or other ephemeral evidence associated with the use of the site for mill activities
- Evidence of the pre-settlement environment through to evidence of changes brought about to the environment through land clearing and early landscaping and development activities (potential to be recovered through palaeobotanical data retrieved from soil samples)
- Other evidence related to onsite activities from c1788-1820 for which we have very little detail or, to date, have remained undocumented including small outbuildings, postholes, remnant footings, fencelines, early rudimental drainage attempts, pathways, and other remnant, fragmentary pockets of construction may also exist.
- Historical archaeological 'relics' recovered from wells, cesspits and rubbish dumps, if discovered, are likely to include a broad range of cultural materials that might provide an insight into the everyday life in early colonial NSW—evidence of the types of foods eaten, such as animal bones, oyster shells, seeds and other material evidence that helps to build the picture of the daily lives of early colonists.

Phase 2 (c.1820-1850)—Military Hospital

It is considered that the study area generally has moderate to high potential to contain archaeological evidence related to the 1820-1850 military use of the site. Remains from this period may include:

- Evidence associated with the Surgeon's Cottage and other outbuildings associated with the Military Hospital (such as kitchen, servant's quarters and outhouse), possibly towards the southern boundary of the FSPS study area. Evidence associated with this phase of the site's use is likely to include remnant fabric associated with the construction and use of the buildings—such as structural remains, footings, drainage, sewer systems, pathways, stone boundary walls, gardens and related landscaping elements.
- Significant subsurface features such as cellars cut into the sandstone bedrock, known to be associated with the kitchen and/or surgeon's house.
- Other evidence related to undocumented buildings and onsite activities from the Military Use period, or features for which we have very little detail, including small outbuildings, postholes, remnant footings, fencelines, pathways, and other remnant, fragmentary pockets of construction.

Phase 3 (c.1850-1890s)—Fort Street National School, Observatory and Messengers Cottage

It is considered that the study area generally has moderate to high potential to contain archaeological evidence related to the 1850–1890s early school and observatory use of the site. Remains from this period may include:

- Deeper subsurface features such as wells, cisterns, and rubbish dumps, which may be present within the study area, likely undocumented, potentially cut into the sandstone bedrock.
- Evidence of the two cottages originally located to the west of the Messengers Cottage (i.e. see 1855 historical plan), assumed to be associated with Observatory activities at the time.
- Other evidence related to undocumented buildings and onsite activities from early school use and Observatory activities (i.e. messengers cottage), or features for which we have very little detail, including other school outbuildings (kitchen, sheds, privies, etc.), former classrooms, postholes, remnant footings, fencelines, pathways, gardens, other remnant, fragmentary pockets of construction, and other drainage and landscape features.

Phase 4 (c.1890s-1900s) and 5 (1905-1918)—Ongoing School Use and Additions

It is considered that the study area generally has moderate to high potential to contain archaeological evidence related to the 1890s-1918 ongoing school use of the site. Remains from this period may include:

- Other evidence related to undocumented buildings and onsite activities from early school use and Observatory activities (i.e. messengers cottage), or features for which we have very little detail, including small outbuildings, postholes, remnant footings, former classrooms e.g. carpentary shed), fencelines, pathways, gardens, other remnant, fragmentary pockets of construction, and other drainage and landscape features.

Phase 6 (c.1919-1950)—Bureau of Meteorology, New Fort St School and Cahill Expressway

It is considered that the study area generally has high potential to contain archaeological evidence related to the 1919–1950 use of the site. Remains from this period may include:

- Structural remains relating to demolished school buildings from this period, such as structural remains/footings of the Infants School (although it is considered likely that the majority of the Infants School was removed for the Cahill Cutting), additions and alterations made to the former military buildings (surgeons cottage, kitchen etc) in their adaptation for school use.
- Evidence associated with use of the site by the Bureau of Meteorology, including undocumented outbuildings, relics and artefact deposits associated with the construction and/or use of the MET building, use by the Bureau of the Messengers Cottage and surrounds, use of the site as the Bureau weather station etc.
- Evidence for fill and soil movement associated with the construction of the Cahill Cutting.

Phase 7 (c.1950-1990s) and 8 (1990s–Present)—High School Relocation, National Trust and FSPS

It is considered that the study area generally has moderate to high potential to contain archaeological evidence related to the later use of the site (1950s–Present). Remains from this period may include:

- Ephemeral and artefactual evidence of school use.
- Evidence of the demountable classrooms erected to the west of the MET building (although considering the semi-permanent nature of these structures, they are unlikely to leave a substantial archaeological signature.

Summary of Test Excavation Results

Historical archaeological test excavation was undertaken at the FSPS site in July 2019 (Curio Projects 2019b), in accordance with a Section 60 excavation permit issued by the NSW Heritage Division in May 2019. Seven archaeological test excavation trenches (Test Trench 1-7) were excavated within the FSPS study area, along with a further three pits (Pits 8-10) excavated by environmental scientists under archaeological supervision (Figure 3.69).

The major feature exposed during the test excavation was the brick footings of the former surgeon's house below the EEC building (Test Trenches 4 and 6), confirming the presence of substantial evidence of the surgeon's house brick footings and a suggestion of an attached outbuilding retained within the FSPS site (Figure 3.70 to Figure 3.72). While not encountered during the July 2019 test excavation investigation, the FSPS site retains further un-investigated archaeological potential for occupation deposits and deeper sub-surface features.

The test excavation also revealed potentially intact soil profiles (Test Trench 5, Environmental Pit 8 & 9) demonstrating potential for archaeological remains to be present in areas surrounding the EEC and adjacent to the Messenger's Cottage. Test Trenches 1-3 revealed substantial modern truncation of the profile at the crest of the site and demonstrated the extensive nature of construction disturbance surrounding the main Fort Street Public School building.

Test Trenches 1 and 2 were located to investigate the potential for evidence of the third government windmill and early quarrying, however recovered no archaeological evidence of this former feature- with investigation demonstrating substantial modern truncation of the soil

profile at the crest of the site and extensive nature of construction disturbance around the main Fort Street Public School building.

Figure 3.69: Historical Archaeological Test Excavation Trenches Location (Source: Curio 2019b, drawn by B. Owens)

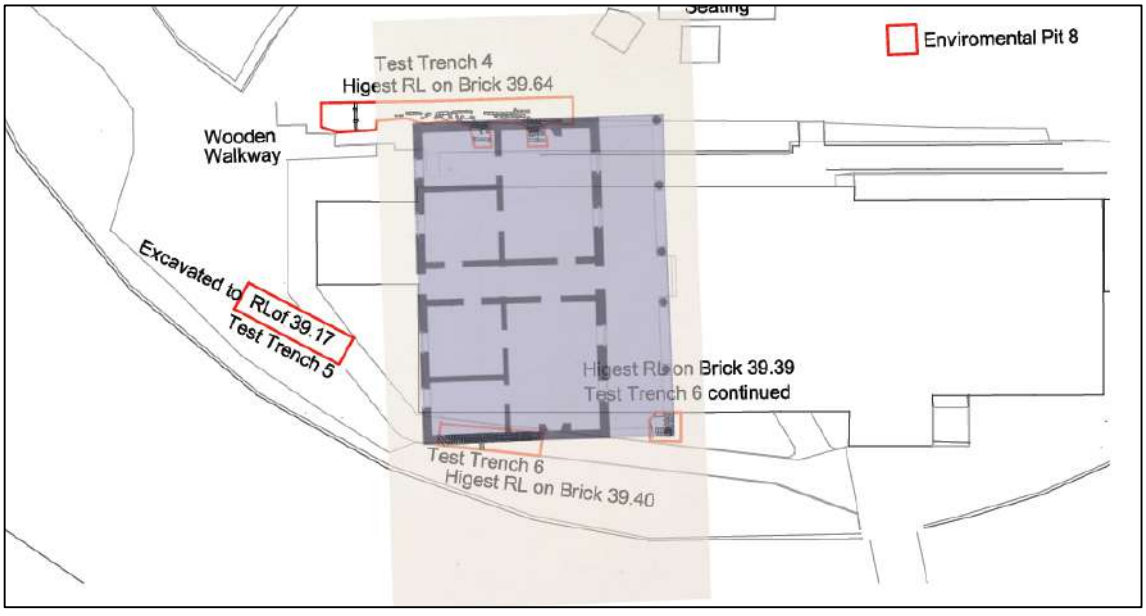


Figure 3.70: Overlay of Surgeons Cottage Plan (1824) on archaeological survey plan

Figure 3.71: Remnant footings of Surgeons Cottage on northern side of EEC (Source: Curio 2019)

Figure 3.72: Remnant footings of Surgeons Cottage on southern side of EEC (Source: Curio 2019)

4. Assessment of Heritage Significance

This section provides an updated and detailed analysis of the heritage significance of the Fort Street Public School site according to the specific legal standards and principles stated in the Heritage Act 1977 as well as The Burra Charter and the NSW Heritage Manual. This assessment explains the relationship between the significance of an object, building or any other tangible elements and fabric of the station within broader historical, social and cultural context of the Sydney local government area, the state of NSW and Australia. Furthermore, it establishes a clear relationship between the heritage character of the site in its immediate setting within its social and cultural universe through time, assisting with the further process of providing clear guidelines and policies to be adopted on site aiming to guide future development whilst reinforcing and conserving the heritage significance of the site.

4.1. Previous Assessments

4.1.1. State Heritage Register

The Fort Street Public School site is located within the Millers Point and Dawes Point Village Precinct Conservation Area, which is listed on the NSW State Heritage Register, Listing Number 01682. The Statement of Significance from the State Heritage Inventory Sheets identifies:

> *Millers Point & Dawes Point Village Precinct is of state significance for its ability to demonstrate, in its physical forms, historical layering, documentary and archaeological records and social composition, the development of colonial and post-colonial settlement in Sydney and New South Wales.*
>
> *The natural rocky terrain, despite much alteration, remains the dominant physical element in this significant urban cultural landscape in which land and water, nature and culture are intimately connected historically, socially, visually and functionally.*
>
> *The close connections between the local Cadigal people and the place remain evident in the extensive archaeological resources, the historical records and the geographical place names of the area, as well as the continuing esteem of Sydney's Aboriginal communities for the place.*
>
> *Much (but not all) of the colonial-era development was removed in the mass resumptions and demolitions following the bubonic plague outbreak of 1900, but remains substantially represented in the diverse archaeology of the place, its associated historical records, the local place name patterns, some of the remaining merchants villas and terraces, and the walking-scale, low-rise, village-like character of the place with its central 'green' in Argyle Place, and its vistas and glimpses of the harbour along its streets and over rooftops, the sounds of boats, ships and wharf work, and the smells of the sea and harbour waters.*
>
> *The post-colonial phase is well represented by the early 20th century public housing built for waterside workers and their families, the technologically innovative warehousing, the landmark Harbour Bridge approaches on the heights, the parklands marking the edges of the precinct, and the connections to working on the wharves and*

docklands still evident in the street patterns, the mixing of houses, shops and pubs, and social and family histories of the local residents.

Millers Point & Dawes Point Village Precinct has evolved in response to both the physical characteristics of its peninsular location, and to the broader historical patterns and processes that have shaped the development of New South Wales since the 1780s, including the British invasion of the continent; cross-cultural relations; convictism; the defence of Sydney; the spread of maritime industries such as fishing and boat building; transporting and storing goods for export and import; immigration and emigration; astronomical and scientific achievements; small scale manufacturing; wind and gas generated energy production; the growth of controlled and market economies; contested waterfront work practises; the growth of trade unionism; the development of the state's oldest local government authority the City of Sydney; the development of public health, town planning and heritage conservation as roles for colonial and state government; the provision of religious and spiritual guidance; as inspiration for creative and artistic endeavour; and the evolution and regeneration of locally-distinctive and self-sustaining communities.

The whole place remains a living cultural landscape greatly valued by both its local residents and the people of New South Wales. (NSW State Heritage Register)

4.1.2. City of Sydney LEP 2012

The Fort Street Public School site is also located within the locally listed 'Millers Point and Dawes Point Village Precinct' Heritage Conservation Area (HCA) on the City of Sydney LEP (2012, Heritage Map - Sheet HER_014) (Figure 4.1). Three heritage items are located within the FSPS site, while an additional three sites in close proximity (but outside of) the site are also listed as items of local heritage significance.

- Fort Street Primary School Site including buildings and their interiors, fig trees and grounds - 1005 Upper Fort Street (Local Heritage Item # I938)
- The Messenger's Cottage for Sydney Observatory including interior - 9A Upper Fort Street (Local Heritage Item # I937)
- The Bureau of Meteorology including interior - 9 Upper Fort Street (Local Heritage Item # I936)

Other locally heritage listed sites in close proximity to, but outside of, the FSPS site include:

- National Trust Centre Including Buildings & Their Interiors, Retaining Walls & Ground - 1001 Bradfield Highway (Local Heritage Item # I876).
- Tennis Court and Pavilion - 96-108 Kent Street (Local Heritage Item #I920)
- Observatory Park Including Boer War Memorial, Bandstand, Fences and Landscaping – Upper Fort Street (Local Heritage Item #I935) (southern portion falls within the subject area).

The following summary Statements of Significance have been extracted from the State Heritage Inventory Sheets. These statements relate principally to the extant heritage buildings.

Fort Street Primary School

Fort Street School is significant in providing evidence of educational use at Observatory Hill from the 1850s to the present day. The current school building is significant as a good example of post war modernism in a complete building complex with only minor changes since construction. Designed by the Government Architects office, it is part of a fine tradition of well designed school buildings in contemporary styles located in a prominent location within the centre of a very significant historic precinct. The building is a rare example of a modernist school.

The Messenger's Cottage

Messenger's Cottage for Sydney Observatory (c.1862) is aesthetically significant as a fine and largely intact single storied rendered brick cottage with hipped corrugated iron roof and timber framed verandah in the simple asymmetrical Victorian cottage style. It was built in its current location far from the Observatory on the suggestion of Government Astronomer William Scott in order to reduce expense by allowing a brick building to be constructed. The building is significant for its association with architect Alexander Graham.

The Bureau of Meteorology

The Bureau of Meteorology Building is significant as one of the first purpose built building for Meteorology in NSW in 1922. The building is associated with the Bureau of Meteorology which is an Executive Agency of the Australian Government responsible for providing weather services to Australia and surrounding area which was established in 1906 under the Meteorology Act, and brought together the state meteorological services that existed before then. The buildings dominant location beside and above City of Sydney, made it an appropriate site for meteorological observations. The building is significant for its operation as a Weather Bureau for over 70 years from 1922 until 1992. The buildings' size, colour, massing and position render it a dominant physical element in its immediate setting. Designed by the Commonwealth Department of Works and Railways, it is part of a fine tradition of well designed Commonwealth buildings in a prominent location within the centre of a very significant historic precinct. The building is a rare example of a mid war Georgian revival style building purposefully designed for meteorological observations and reflects the economic constraints of the period in which it was built with only minor changes since construction.

Figure 4.1: Heritage Map. Fort Street Public School #I938, the Former Messenger's Cottage #I937, the Bureau of Meteorology Buildings #I936, the National Trust Centre #I876.

4.2. Comparative Analysis

The following section has been extracted directly from Section 4 of the draft CMP by TKD Architects, as indicated by the use of italics.

The discussion below compares aspects of Fort Street Public School with other places in New South Wales to establish its relative significance in terms of cultural heritage values. Aspects such as the design of school buildings during the inter war period, the influence of architect Harry Rembert on educational buildings designed in the Government Architect's Branch (GAB) from the second half of the 1930s onwards, and the relationship of Fort Street Primary School to the schools designed in the post World War II decades are examined.

4.2.1. Fort Street Public School Building

The advent of Modernist design in the GAB is credited to Edward Henry Rembert. Rembert, who was educated at Sydney Technical College, registered as an architect in 1924 and joined the Department of Public Works in August 1926. He was confirmed in the post of architect in 1942 and subsequently appointed senior designing architect in July 1947. Rembert worked under several Government Architects. They included Richard McDonald Seymour Wells, and Edwin Smith, who reorganised the GAB in 1930 to absorb the Architect's Branch of the Education Department of Public Instruction. The work undertaken by the GAB during the tenures of Wells and Smith tended to be conservative in character. Similarly, the schools designed by the architects of the Department of Education during the 1920s were restrained and relatively plain, generally brick buildings with tiled hipped roofs, and repetitive bays of windows relieved by decorative detailing derived from classical architecture around entries (Figure 4.2)*. In 1931 the GAB of the Department of Public Works and the architectural section*

of the Department of Education were amalgamated, most likely as an effort to reduce costs during the Depression.[60]

*The GAB undertook a tentative and early foray into more modern design when the isolation block at Crown Street Women's Hospital was documented (*Figure 4.2*). This building, which demonstrated a mild Art Deco influence in external decorative detailing, was officially opened at the beginning of June 1930. However, traditional architectural idioms predominated over the following decade. Some of Harry Rembert's work from the first half of the decade is polite and restrained in effect, relying on proportions and massing relieved by elements such as arcades and loggias to emphasis key parts of the building. This is demonstrated by Quirindi Courthouse (1930)* (Figure 4.3) *and the Children's Ward at Parramatta Hospital (1935). These buildings are little different from those documented by other architects of the GAB during the 1930s.*

Edwin Smith's successor was Cobden Parkes, who served as government architect from October 1935 until 1958. During the second half of the 1930s the GAB was responsible for an increasing number of significant Modernist buildings, most particularly hospitals. Examples of which include the Heffron and Delaney Buildings at Prince Henry Hospital (designed circa 1934), Tweed District Hospital at Murwillumbah (1936) and Jeffrey House at Parramatta Hospital (1937) (Figure 4.4)*.*

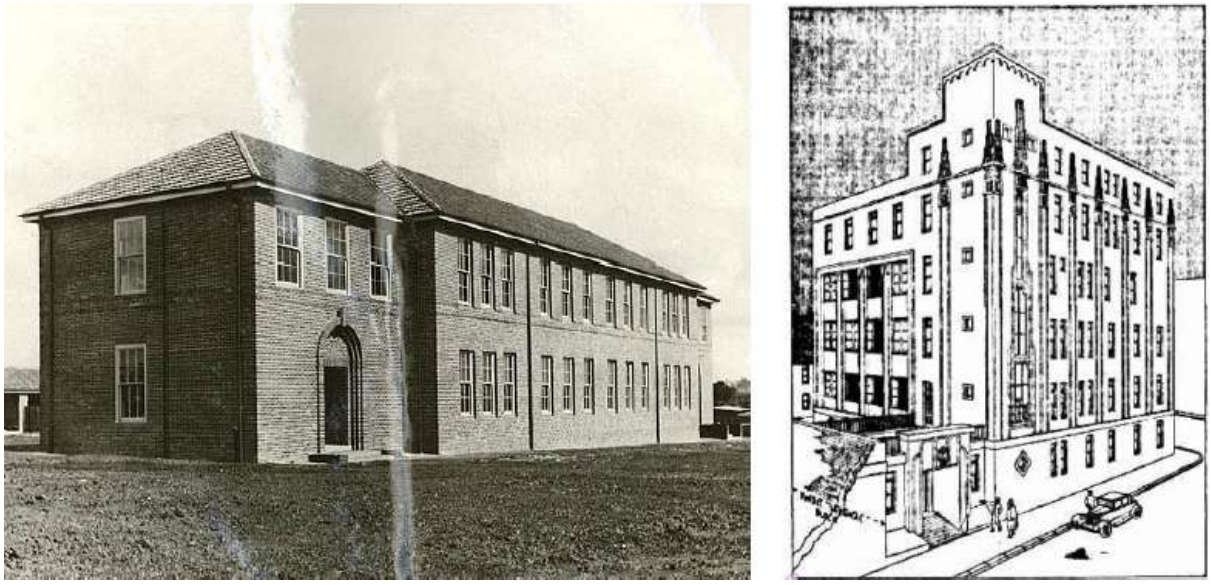


Figure 4.2: Auburn West Public School, designed in 1929, is characteristic of schools built in NSW during the 1920s (left). More modern architectural forms began to emerge in public buildings such as Crown Street Women's Hospital isolation block (right). (Sources: State Records digital id no. 4346_a020_a020000301; Sydney Morning Herald, 9 January 1929., TKD 2016 Fig. 119)

[60] "Public Service", Sydney Morning Herald, 30 May 1931, p.14.

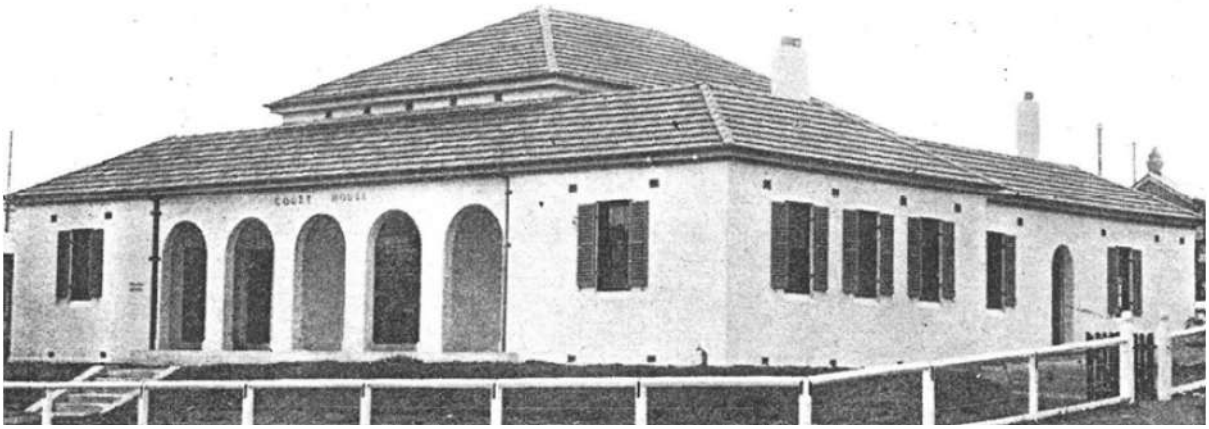


Figure 4.3: The restrained and conservative architectural expression of buildings from the first half of the 1930s attributed to Harry Rembert: Quriindi Courthouse, completed in 1930. (Source: Building, 12 August 1931, TKD 2016 Fig. 120)

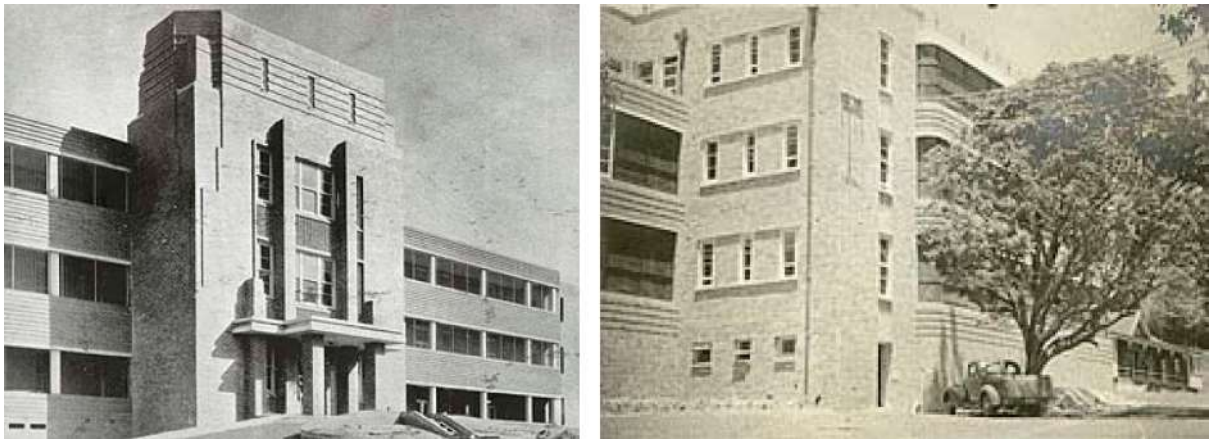


Figure 4.4: Early Modernism at Prince Henry Hospital (left) and Tweed District Hospital (right). (Source: State Records digital id no's 4346_a020_a020000190 and 4346_a020_a020000234, TKD 2016 Fig. 121)

Parkes, although conservative in outlook, encouraged Harry Rembert's tendencies towards Modernism. Rembert was responsible for the design of numerous public buildings, including schools, hospitals, courthouses, police stations and technical colleges during the 1930s and 1940s. By the mid-1930s his work reflected the influence of prominent Dutch architect Willem Dudok, who is noted for public buildings constructed in brick and dramatic asymmetrical compositions of square and rectangular geometric masses[61] (Figure 4.5). *Significant buildings attributed to Rembert and constructed during the 1930s include the Hoskins Block at Sydney Technical College (1937-38) and major buildings (1934-38) at Tighes Hill Technical College* (Figure 4.6)*. During the 1940s Rembert's output included the Maternity Block at the Royal Hospital for Women at Paddington (1938) and St Margaret's Hospital in Darlinghurst (1941).*

[61] http://greatbuildings.com/architects/Willem_Marinus_Dudok.html, accessed 14 December 2015.

Figure 4.5: The blocky brick composition and massing of Fort Street Public School (left) is very reminiscent of buildings by Willem Dudok such as the Bavinckschool in Hilversum (right).
(Sources: Building, August 1942; archinect.com – Ossip van Duivenbode photograph. TKD 2016 Fig. 122)

Figure 4.6: Significant educational buildings attributed to Harry Rembert include the Hoskins Block at Sydney Technical College (left) and the Trades Block at Tighes Hill Technical College (right). (Source: Roy Lumby, TKD 2016 Fig. 123)

The depression of the early 1930s curtailed the construction of new school buildings in the early 1930s, but picked up from 1933. Many schools were designed and documented in the Government Architect's office during the second half of the 1930s and early 1940s. Although most were conservative buildings with conventional hipped and tiled roofs with a minor acknowledgement of modern design by the inclusion of Art Deco influenced entry porches, a small number were, like Fort Street, more advanced aesthetically. They included what was originally called Bondi Central Domestic Science School (later Dover Heights Domestic Science School and now Rose Bay Secondary College) and East Maitland Boys High School (now Maitland High School). Documentation for both schools was completed in 1941. Rembert may have been involved with the drawings for the Domestic Science School, unlike Fort Street where the sketch design and documentation was undertaken by other personnel. However, it is confirmed that Rembert exercised a major influence on the building's design.[62] *East Maitland Boys' High School opened in June 1943 but delays in construction meant that the Dover Heights Domestic Science School was not completed until 1947* (Figure 4.8)*.*[63] *Both were consistent in character with Fort Street Public School, sharing similar asymmetrical massing, extensive planes of brickwork and horizontal parapets concealing roofs. They also shared common planning features such as linear*

[62] Peter Webber, E H Rembert: the life and work of the Sydney architect, 1902-1966, p.45.
[63] "Opening of Home Science School", Sydney Morning Herald, 18 September 1949, p.16.

organisation, grouping of functions and double loaded corridors. The schools were, however, much larger in scale.

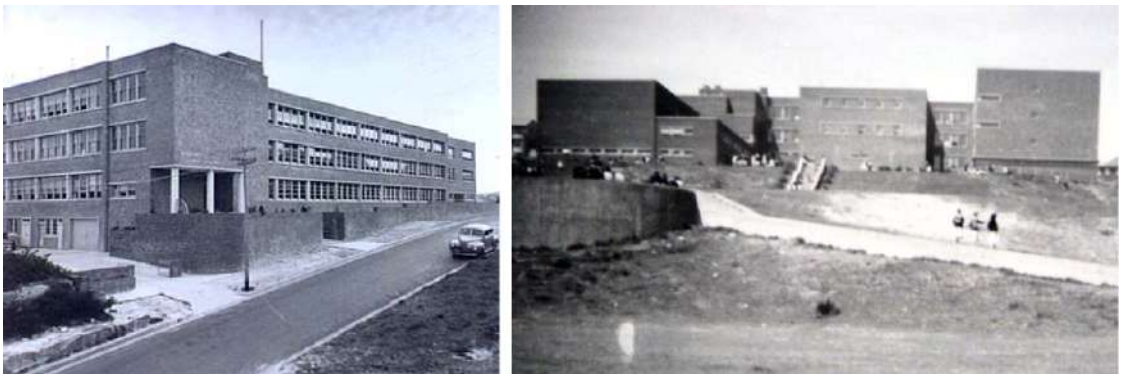


Figure 4.7: Two views of the Dover Heights Domestic Science School (now Rose Bay Secondary College) photographed around the time the school was completed (left) and in 1955 (right). (Source: Waverley Library Picnum 5741 and File 002/002556. TKD 2016 Fig. 124)

In 1947 Harry Rembert was appointed Senior Design Architect, increasingly less involved with the design process but having responsibility for the architectural design of the entire office. However, he became mentor to a talented generation of young trainee architects. Amongst the last projects he is credited with is the Infants section of the Moree Public School,[64] documented in 1949 but not completed until 1957. The building was more conservative in detail and architectural expression than its pre-war predecessors. At least one building constructed for a denominational school in the post war period recalls the advanced buildings designed and influenced by Harry Rembert. The first stage of St Francis de Sales Regional College at Leeton, a secondary school, was constructed between 1954 and 1956 to the design of local architects Steven O'Halloran and William Purtell (Figure 4.8)*. Its large areas of plain brickwork, massing and balance of horizontal and vertical elements are characteristic of the Inter War Functionalist style and the Rembert buildings.*

Figure 4.8: Initial stage of St Francis de Sales Regional College, 1956. (Source: flikr.com, TKD 2016 Fig. 125)

[64] Russel Jack, The Work of the NSW Government Architect's Branch – 1958-1973, Volume 1, p.120. Rembert was not involved with preparation of drawings, which were the work of architect Robert Maclurcan

Notwithstanding Rembert's example, the design of school buildings within the GAB remained conservative and functional for much of the 1950s. Pre-war concepts informed design with only minor changes taking place until the introduction of the Wyndham Scheme in 1962. Planning remained linear in character. Steel framing allowed the introduction of larger areas of glazing. New building technologies such as glazed metal curtain walls found their way into some buildings and presented an up to date appearance, if nothing else. However, the loss of verandahs and extensive glass proved unsatisfactory because of the sun penetrating classrooms (Figure 4.9)*.*[65]

Figure 4.9: Primary school buildings from the 1950s demonstrate the tendency towards increased areas of glazing and access to sunlight in buildings: Goulburn North Public School (left) and Hornsby Public School (right). (Source: State Records digital ID 15051_a047_005925 and 15051_a047_006629, TKD 2016 Fig. 126)

During the 1950s the GAB took on a number of very talented trainees, who were mentored by Harry Rembert, by now senior designing architect. In 1958 young architect Michael Dysart, who had joined the GAB in the first half of the 1950s, developed an innovative new concept for primary school buildings. It consisted of a single ring of classrooms around a central court, wide eaves overhangs, external access within the court, cross ventilation and lighting from two sides of classrooms. A version was constructed at Belmont Primary School (1964). It was christened the "doughnut plan" and developed into a standard school typology (Figure 4.10)*.*[66] *The precedent established by Rembert for the design of modern schools was at last fulfilled.*

Individual primary school buildings of architectural distinction were built during the early 1960s. One example was the Modernist Ultimo Public School (Figure 4.11)*, located on a constrained inner city site. It dealt with its proximity to a busy road and western exposure by restricting fenestration and recessing the wall plane behind horizontal canopies and projecting end walls. Another was the public school in Mica Street, Broken Hill, which was designed to deal with the climatic conditions of the town and was influenced by the doughnut plan* (Figure 4.11)*. Light was drawn into classrooms from central courts, leaving small areas of glazing in the perimeter walls. Louvered roof fascias, ventilated roof spaces and local stone was used in masonry walls.*[67]

[65] Jack, Volume 1, pp.120-121.
[66] "Country School, New South Wales", Architecture in Australia, Volume 47 Number 3: 46-47, July-September 1958; Jack, Volume 1, pp.93-94 and Volume 2, pp.12-15.
[67] Jack, Volume 1, pp.122-123.

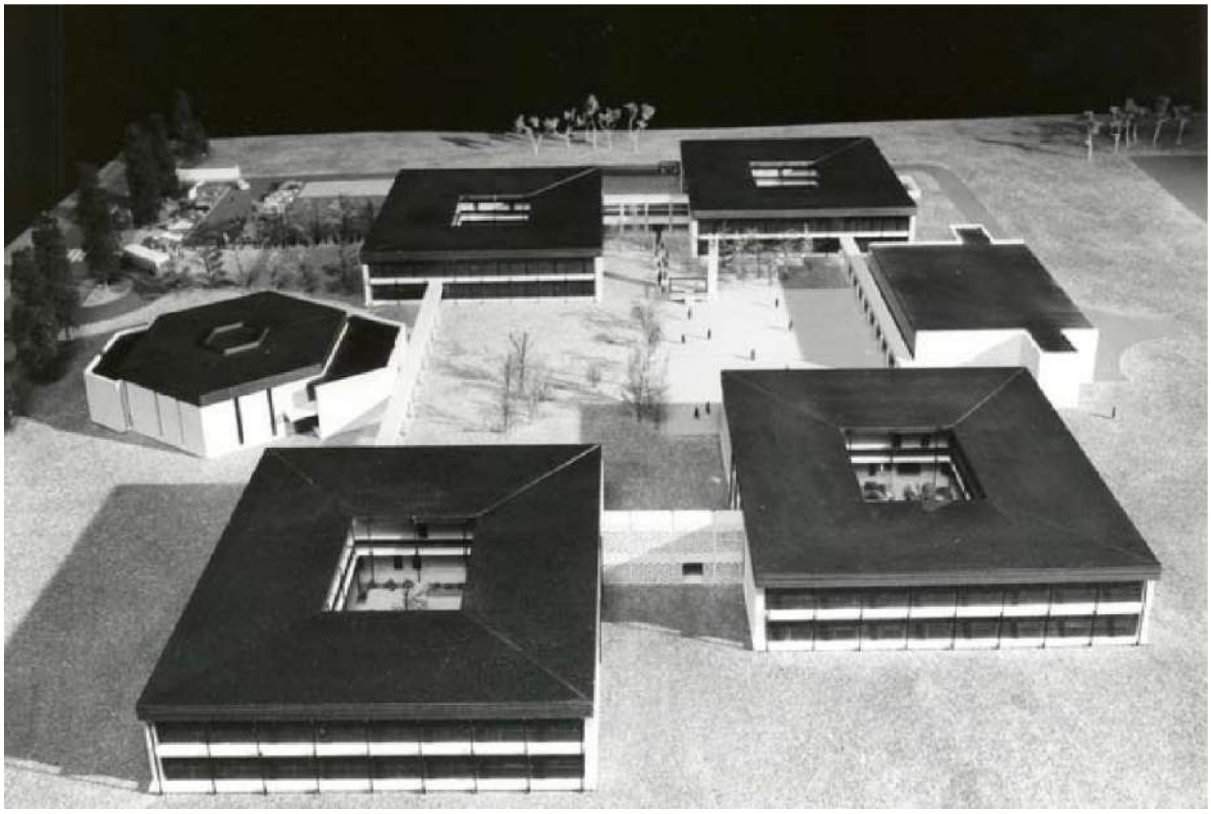


Figure 4.10: Model of the "doughnut plan" devised by Michael Dysart. (Source: http://architectureau.com/articles/designing-australian-schools/, TKD 2016 Fig. 127)

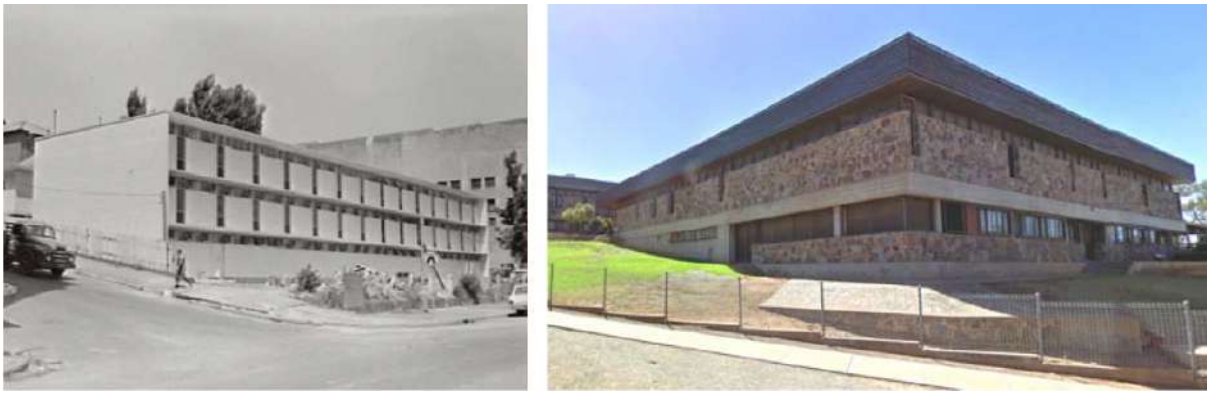


Figure 4.11: Ultimo Public School (left) and Broken Hill Public School in Mica Street (right). (Sources: City of Sydney Archives NSCA CRS 47/2361; Google Street View., TKD 2016 Fig. 128)

During the second half of the 1960s the GAB Schools Building Research and Development Group looked into the changing needs of primary schools. There were fewer pupils in each class and curriculums had been revised and expanded. There was also a requirement for flexibility to meet new needs in the future. A new concept, designed by architect R Bailey, emerged. It was known as the cluster plan and was an alternative to the established linear plan. The cluster plan consisted of groups of classrooms, which incorporated ablutions facilities, small multi-purpose spaces for group work and operable walls to provide double class spaces if needed (Figure 4.12)*. Primary and infants school components were integrated by centralised administration, library, food service and common room areas. The design was compact to overcome sprawling, informal in character and domestic in scale.*

Each block had central corridors only two classrooms long and was linked to each other by covered ways (Figure 4.13)*. A more compact and economical version was also developed at the same time.*[68]

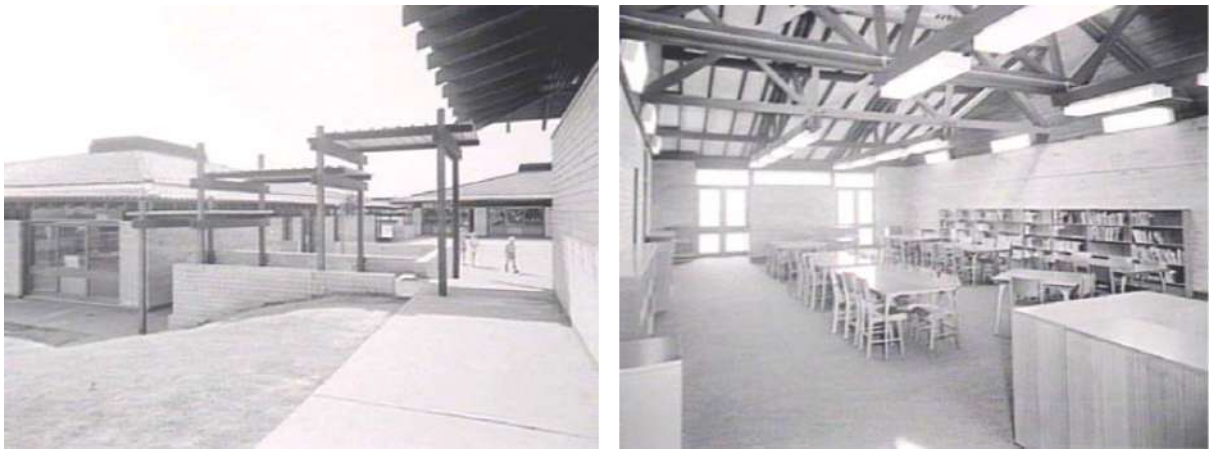


Figure 4.12: Tregear Primary School, designed in 1967, was an early example of cluster planning. (Source: SLNSW digital order no. d2_35487 and d2_35483., TKD 2016 Fig. 129)

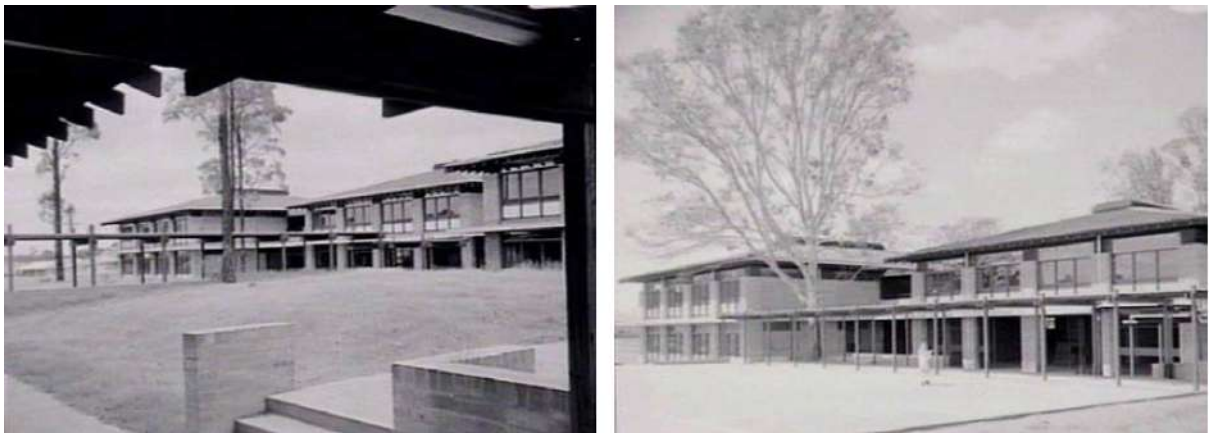


Figure 4.13: Lethbridge Park Primary School, designed in 1968 (left) and Blackett Primary School, designed in 1970 (right) are other early examples of cluster planning. The pyramidal tiled roofs and similarities in scale and building form were common features of these types of schools. (Source: SLNSW digital order no. d2_45710 and d2_39187., TKD 2016 Fig. 130)

4.2.1. Messenger's Cottage

The Messenger's Cottage was a pragmatic and low-cost solution to housing an employee of Sydney Observatory. Originally consisting of two rooms, it was subsequently enlarged to include verandahs and a third room. The most directly comparable buildings to it are probably the two cottages in the grounds of Sydney Observatory - the signal master's cottage (also known as the signal station) and the messenger's cottage, both of which were associated with the Fort Phillip signal station.

The location of each of these three cottages in relation to each other are depicted in Figure 4.14.

[68] Jack, Volume 1, pp.123-125

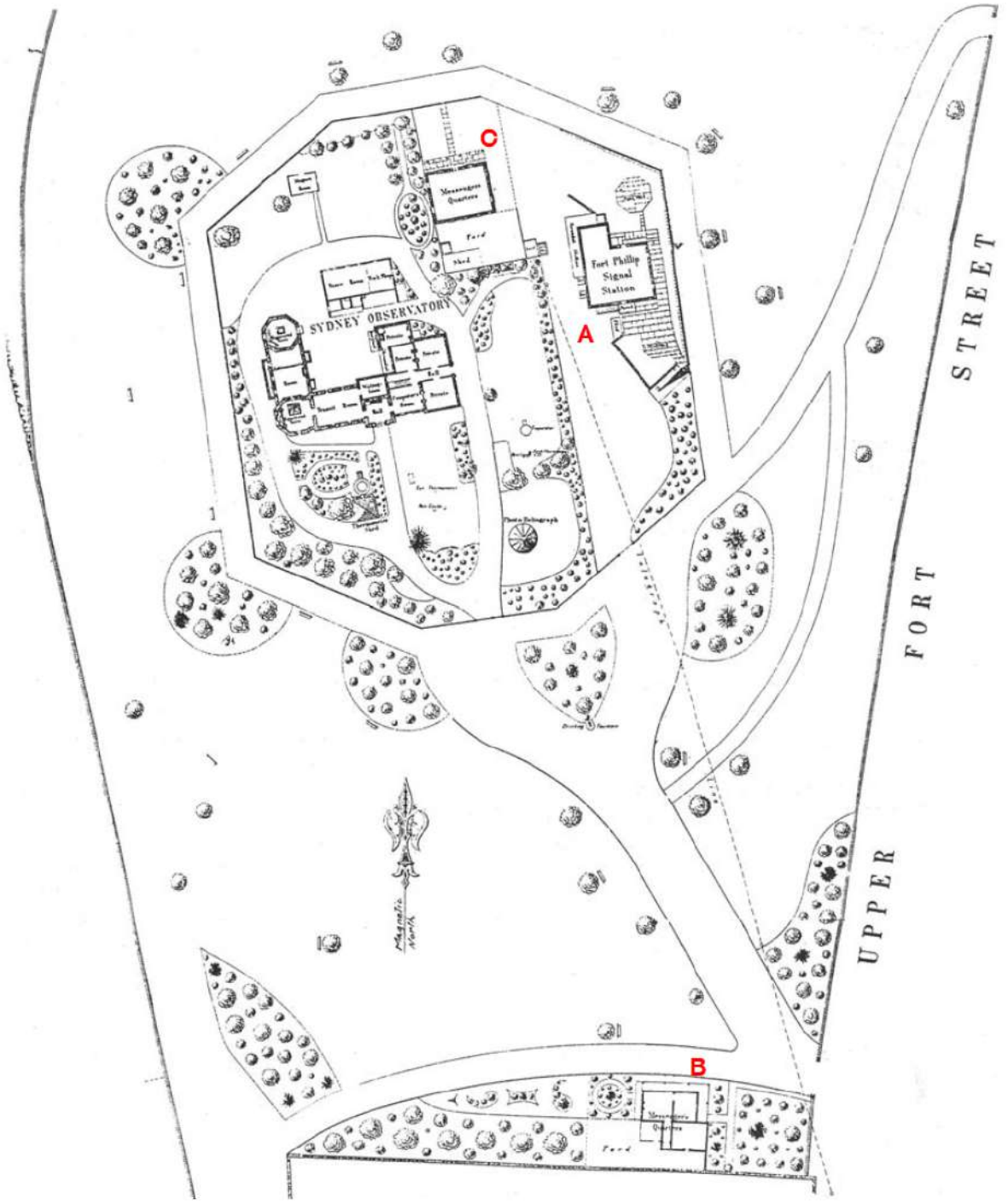


Figure 4.14: The three cottages associated with Fort Phillip and Sydney Observatory are indicated on this section of a map of Observatory Hill drawn around 1880. The Signal Station (signal master's cottage) is at A, the Observatory Messenger's Cottage at B and the Signal Station Messenger's Cottage at C. (Source: reproduced in Kerr, p.28. TKD 2016, Fig. 131)

Signal Station (Signal Master's Cottage)

The signalman's cottage was built to house the signal master at Fort Phillip and functioned both as workplace and residence. A flagstaff was initially erected in the 1790s on Dawe's Point to provide signals for shipping. By the first half of the 1840s the signal operative's job had become so demanding and responsible that he was paid a substantial salary and provided with quarters. These were initially

accommodated by a hut and the windmill tower in the grounds of the Fort. During the second half of the 1840s this increasingly inadequate housing was replaced by a stone cottage designed in the office of Colonial Architect Mortimer Lewis. Funding for the cottage was approved by the colonial government at the end of 1846 but tenders for its construction were not advertised until the beginning of December 1847. The builders commenced work the following month.[69] The stone cottage was completed during 1848. Its hipped roof appears to have been covered with slate. It straddled the rampart of the fort so was partially two storeys high. It contained four rooms on the upper level, beneath which were the kitchen and service areas. The cottage was subsequently enlarged around the end of the 1850s and early 1860s.[70]

According to James Semple Kerr, the original 1840s section, particularly the upper level, was notable for its high level of integrity, while the northern extension of 1859 as subjected to a relatively high level of internal change.[71] In the second half of the 1980s Sydney Observatory was converted into a museum, presenting its own history, as well as the history of astronomy and meteorology in New South Wales. Signal Station use as by Museum agreed to by The Minister for Public Works agreed to the Signal Station being used for museum purposes in November 1987. Around 2008 conservation works were undertaken to the building.

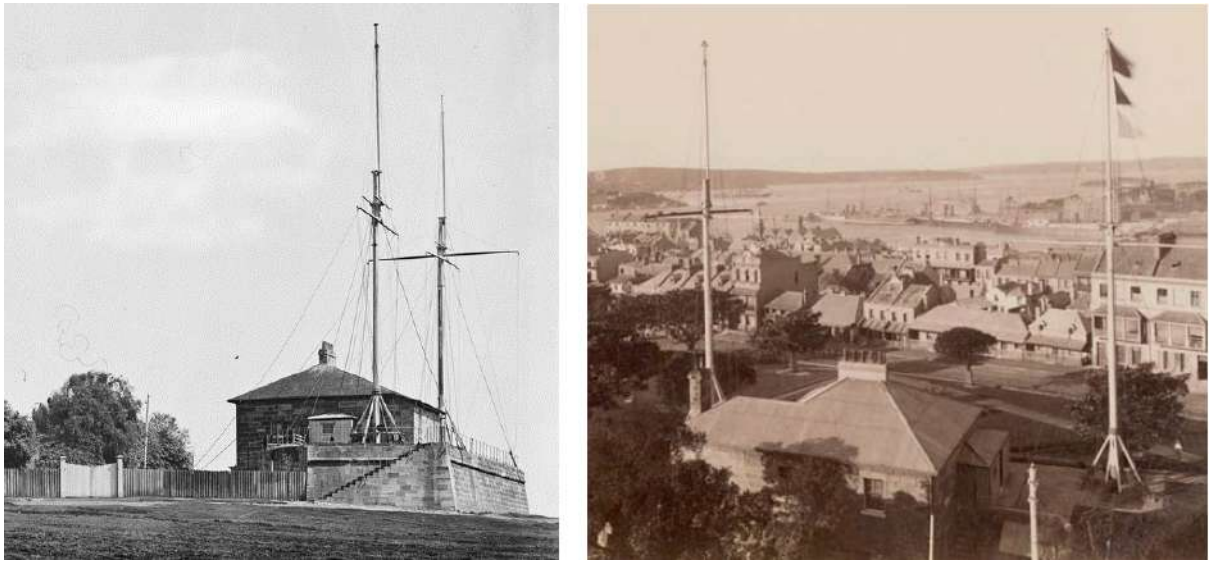


Figure 4.15: The Signal Station viewed from the south, circa 1875 (left) and from the Observatory Tower, circa 1905 (right). By this time it had been re-roofed with corrugated steel. (Source: SLNSW ON 4 Box 60 No 336, digital order no, a2825055 and PXE 711 / 37, digital order no. a116037. TKD 2016, Fig. 132)

[69] "The Signal Master's House", Sydney Morning Herald, 20 January 1848, p.2.
[70] Kerr, pp.10-11.
[71] Kerr, p.50.

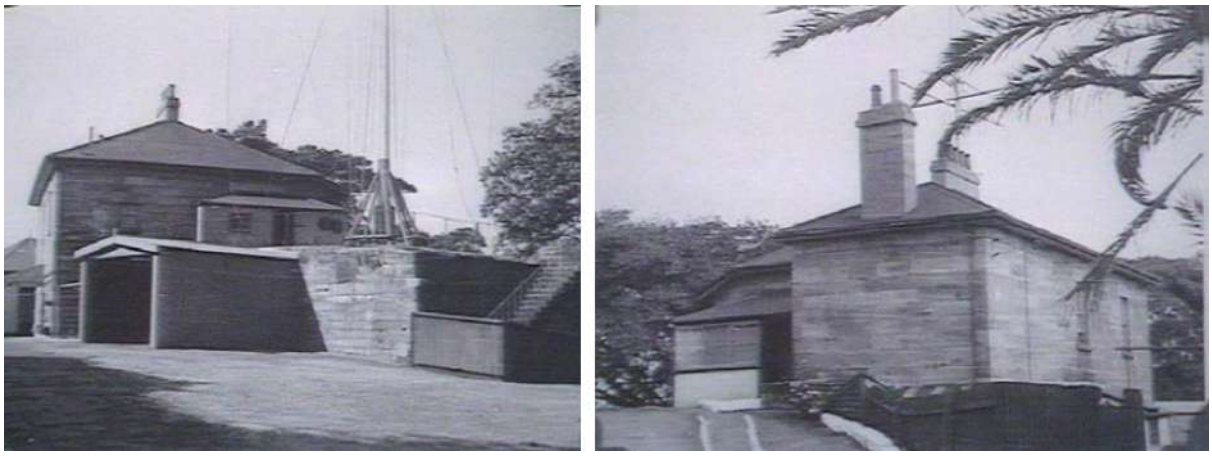


Figure 4.16: Photographs of the Signal Station taken in December 1938. The Cottage continued to house the signal station and master during the 1930s. (Source: SLNSW digital order no's d1_19516 and d1_19517.TKD 2016, Fig. 133)

Figure 4.17: The signal master's cottage viewed from the north east (left) and west (right), 2015. (Source: TKD 2016, Fig. 134)

Observatory Messenger's Cottage

In 1858 an electric telegraph line commenced operating from South Head to the city and out to Liverpool. As a result the station master became responsible for Morse code reception and transmission as well as manual signalling. The increased responsibilities eventually meant that the signal master needed assistance with operation of the Signal Station. The Colonial Government allowed the sum of £500 for the construction of a messenger's cottage at Fort Phillip during the second half of 1866[72] *but tenders were not invited until January 1868, and fresh tenders were invited the following month. The tender of Brown & Grace was accepted at the end of March 1868.*[73] *Thought to have been designed by colonial architect James Barnet, the modest building was completed by 1871. The colonial architect designed a number of residences during the 1860s. They included the residence for the master of the benevolent asylum at Liverpool (1864), the pilot's residence at Newcastle (1869) and the telegraph station master's cottage at South Head (1869). It was a simple brick building with a*

[72] Government Gazette, 28 December 1866 p.3256
[73] Government Gazette, 27 March 1868, p.901.

verandah across the northern side, constructed of brick. Its hipped roof, punctuated by a tall chimney on either side of the building, was covered with slate.

According to James Semple Kerr the Messenger's Cottage was extensively renovated internally, probably during the 1970s. This resulted in the replacement of plasterwork and joinery. The Messenger's Cottage remained in use and was occupied by retired Maritime Services Board staff until the early 1990s when it was fitted out as offices for the administration of the complex by the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences. Use as a museum was agreed in-principle in November 1993 and the following year the Cottage was restored as an office for staff. Work included the introduction of air conditioning and removal of the verandah enclosure and the paint from three of the exterior walls to reveal the structural dichromatic brickwork.

The cottages on Observatory Hill are similar in scale and form to other dwellings designed in the Colonial Architect's office during the nineteenth century. Telegraph station offices were incorporated into larger purpose-designed residential buildings. A number of houses were associated with police stations and also gaols (Figure 4.20)*. The residences were not dissimilar to those built to accommodate school masters, as indicated by the following examples. Houses continued to be designed by the Government Architect's Office for a large part of the twentieth century.*

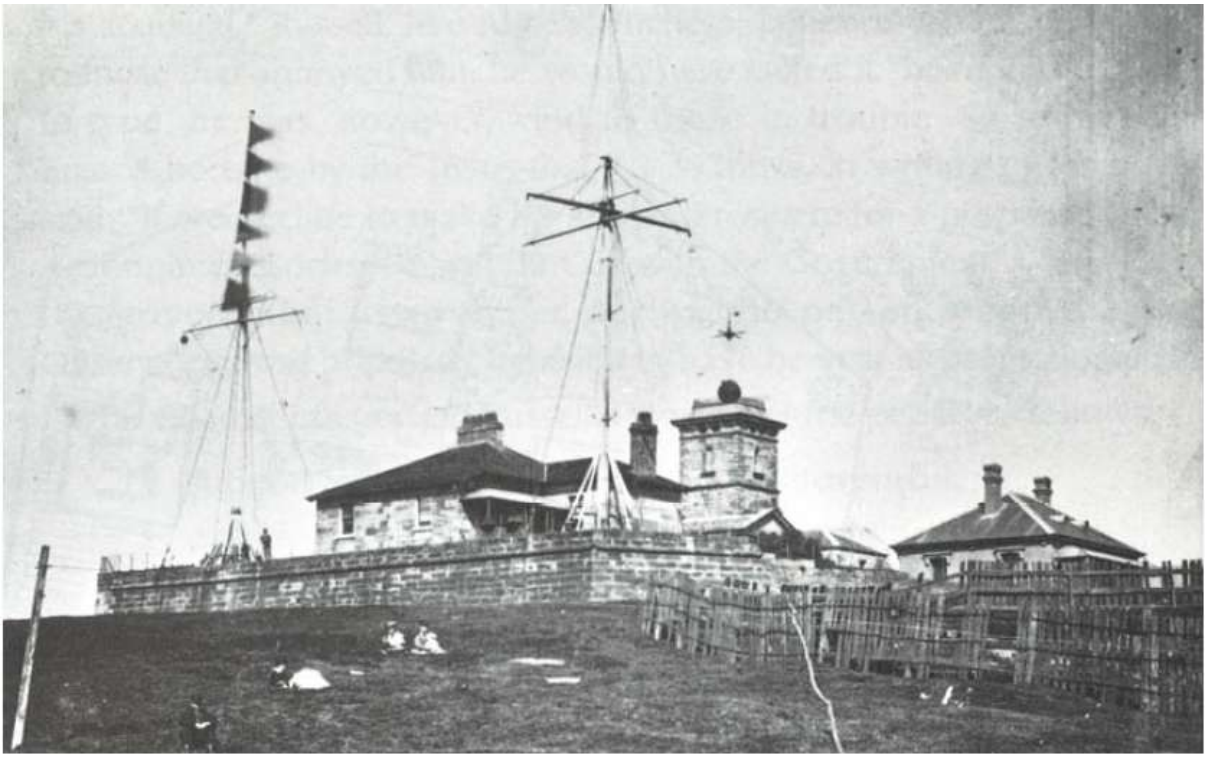


Figure 4.18: Photograph of the Observatory with the Signal Master's Cottage (left) and Messenger's Cottage (right) in the foreground, April 1871. (Source: SLNSW digital order no. d1_05276. TKD 2016, Fig. 135)

Figure 4.19: The Messenger's Cottage viewed from the west (left) and south (right), 2015 (Source: TKD 2016, Fig. 136)

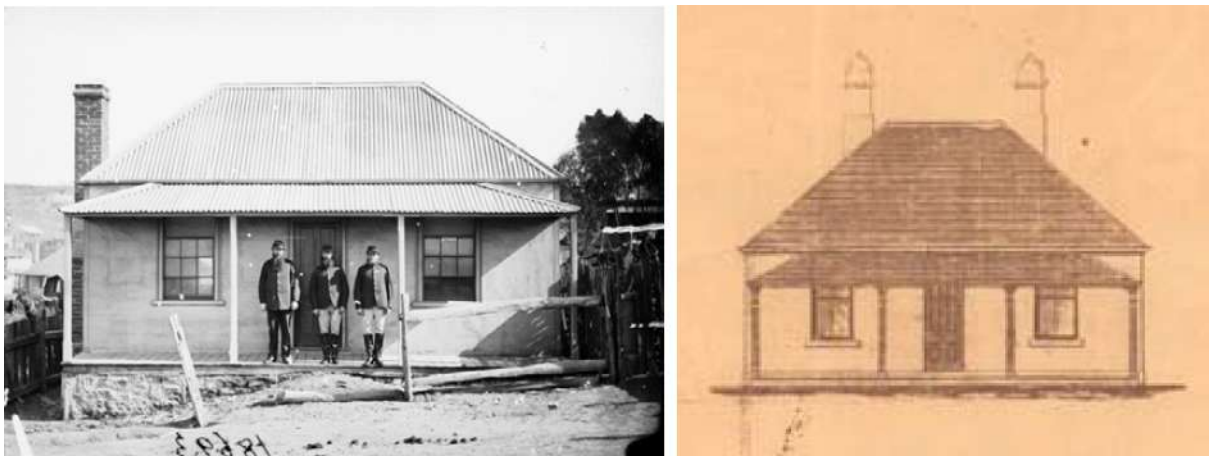


Figure 4.20: Police residence at Hill End, circa 1872 (left) and Bungendore Public School, 1878 (right). (Sources: SLLNSW digital order no. a2822580; State Records digital id no. 4335_a120_002453. TKD 2016, Fig. 137)

4.2.1. Bureau of Meteorology Building

As noted in Section 1.4 (Limitations and Constraints) of the report, Curio Projects were not granted access to the Bureau of Meteorology Building as part of this CMP update process. This was due to the fact that the building was deemed not safe for access. A final description of the current physical status of the MET building will be prepared by the client once safe WHS conditions are created in order to provide safe access to the interiors of the building. Once the building is stabilisation, decontaminated and made safe for access a new condition report will be prepared by the client.

As a result, it is important to note that any assessment of the physical state of the MET Building remain indicative only, and are based on the TKD assessment (undertaken 4 years prior). It is understood however, that the building condition is likely to be more deteriorated rather than improved since the TKD assessment was undertaken.

With the formation of the Commonwealth Meteorological Bureau during the first decade of the twentieth century, new purpose-designed buildings were constructed in a number of state capitals during the interwar period. The buildings were designed by Federal Government instrumentalities.

In 1904, the Public Works Branch was established within the Department of Home Affairs to carry out public works.[74] In 1916, the Public Works Branch was transferred to the newly created Department of Works and Railways. The Department of Works and Railways, based in Melbourne, was responsible for public works, rivers, railways, construction and maintenance of public buildings and engineering works. The Department established an office in Sydney. It later became responsible for war service home building schemes, lands and survey, and properties (transferred and acquired). After the Department of Works and Railways was abolished in 1932, most of its functions passed firstly to the Department of the Interior, then briefly to the Department of Works in 1938 and then to the reformed Department of the Interior, established in April 1939.[75] Before June 1955 meteorological functions were carried out by the Meteorological Branch/Bureau of the Commonwealth Department of the Interior, after which the Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology was established.

At the time the Bureau of Meteorology building was built John Smith Murdoch was chief architect of the Department of Works and Railways. Murdoch was responsible for the design and construction of many early Canberra buildings, such as the provisional parliament house, the power-house and the Hotel Canberra. The Department of Works and Railways and the Department of the Interior documented buildings associated with Commonwealth government instrumentalities around the country, the most familiar of which were post offices and branch buildings for the Commonwealth Bank of Australia.

The central administration of the newly formed Commonwealth Meteorological Bureau was located in Melbourne. It was established in leased premises, a house known as "Frosterly" in Carlton, which was built as a family residence by Dr William Snowball around 1890. The Bureau took up residence at the beginning of 1908. It was selected because of its close proximity to the site of the proposed meteorological observatory in this section of the city.[76] Increases in staff levels after 1937 led to their dispersal into several rented premises, and the subsequent construction of a three storey addition designed by the Commonwealth Department of Works. The building was completed during the second half of 1939. According to one newspaper report:

> *The building … will be three stories of steel frame and concrete construction. The forecasting staff will be housed on the ground floor, where special teleprinter facilities in sound-proof rooms will be installed. Bedrooms for staff on night duty will also be included … The library and research section will be housed on the first floor, which also includes class and lecture rooms for the training of the meteorological staff and staffs engaged in civil aviation work. The top floor will have accommodation for the aviation staff, and a drafting room, as well as staff dining rooms [sic]. On the flat roof weather instruments will be installed operating recording instruments on the lower floors. … The existing building will be remodelled on completion of the new wing.[77]*

[74] Responsibilities for astronomical and meteorological observations were transferred from the Postmaster-General's Department to Home Affairs in 1912.
[75] http://guides.naa.gov.au/melbourne/chapter2/works.aspx, accessed 31 August 2016
[76] "Meteorological Bureau", *Leader,* 22 June 1907, p.34.
[77] "Extensions to Cost £11,600", *The Age*, 27 April 1939, p.

In 1974 the Bureau's Head Office was transferred to a multi-storey building in the centre of Melbourne. The former "Frosterly" and the 1939 addition are still standing and have been adapted to contain residential apartments.

By way of contrast, for a number of years, in the national capital an official weather station was established in Acton. It was transferred to the Commonwealth Forestry Bureau at Westridge (now known as Yarralumla) in 1939.

The construction of the Sydney building on Observatory Hill at the beginning of the 1920s was followed by the proposed construction of a new three storey building in Perth in the grounds of the Perth Observatory during the second half of the decade. Perth Observatory was located on a site close to the city centre and near Kings Park that was selected in 1895. Construction commenced in 1897 and the observatory was officially opened on 9 April 1900. Work undertaken at the observatory included time and weather information; official meteorological records had been kept in WA since 1867.

The proposed Perth building and Sydney buildings were remarkably similar in the way that each level was employed:

> *The Federal Government has decided to erect a three-storey brick building … on a site in the Observatory ground … The new building … will contain two floors for official purposes, while the top storey will be reserved for the residential quarters of the officer-in-charge. The ground floor will consist of a general office and two small rooms, one for the use of the divisional officer and the other as a copying room. The first floor will be occupied by records department and the library, and above this the officer-in-charge will have six rooms and two balconies. The building will be covered by a flat roof, and on the north-western corner will stand a 10ft. tower for meteorological instruments.*[78]

However, there is little evidence to suggesting the building was actually constructed. A final site had not been decided on in 1928 and in the first half of the 1930s the Meteorological Bureau was reportedly housed in the main Observatory buildings.[79] *Photographs taken of the site up to the 1970s do not show a building like that described in the 1927 newspaper report. The Observatory was closed in the early 1960s, a number of buildings demolished and much of the site given over to government office buildings. The former observer's residence was vested in the National Trust of Australia in 1984.*

Staff moved into the "handsome new three-storey building" at the intersection of Edward Street and Wickham Terrace, Brisbane building in the second half of November 1938. It was on the site of a cottage which became Brisbane's first observatory around 1887. As with Sydney, the meteorologist and their staff occupied the ground and first floor while the divisional meteorologist and his family occupied the second floor. A tall tower was used for wind recording apparatus.[80]

Construction of a three storey addition to the Bureau in Melbourne commenced around the end of April 1939 and took about four months to complete. Designed by the Commonwealth Department of Works, it housed staff who were scattered across the city in rented accommodation. It was constructed with a steel frame and reinforced concrete floors. Forecasting staff and equipment were located on the

[78] Meteorological Bureau. New Three-Storey Building", *West Australian*, 4 June 1927, p.8.
[79] "No Time Signal? Will Observatory Close? Keenness of Economy", *The Daily News*, 24 February 1932, p.6.
[80] "A New Home. Brisbane's Weather Bureau", *Daily Mercury*, 18 November 1938, p.6.

ground floor, along with bedrooms for staff on night duty. The first floor contained the library and research section along with class and lecture rooms to train staff. The second floor contained accommodation for what were described as the aviation staff, along with staff dining rooms and a drafting room. The roof was put to use as well with the installation of weather recording instruments.[81]

The Bureau in Adelaide appears to have been the last to have been constructed during the interwar period. Located at the intersection of West Terrace and Glover Avenue, it was completed around the end of 1939. There is little evidence of the planning and organisation of the single storey building, which had a pitched roof and a tall observation tower rising above the intersection. The building no longer exists.

Figure 4.21: The Bureau of Meteorology in Melbourne showing the original section at left and the 1939 addition (left); the Bureau of Meteorology in Brisbane (right). (Sources: reproduced in The Weather Watchers, p.64; University of Queensland, Fryer Library - https://espace.library.uq.edu.au/collection. TKD 2016, Fig. 138)

[81] "Weather Bureau. Extensions to Cost £11,600", *The Age,* 27 April 1939, p.17.

Figure 4.22: The Bureau of Meteorology in Adelaide, 7 March 1941. (Source: State Library of South Australia - oia:collections.slsa.sa.gov.au:(AUASA)b2065800x, B 10416. TKD 2016, Fig. 139)

4.2.2. Environmental Education Centre (EEC)

The EEC was originally designed as a gymnasium serving Fort Street Girl High School. Although physical activity was a part of early schools in NSW, demonstrated by the presence of playgrounds, physical education was not a part of the organised curriculum.

During the 1880s the provision of gymnasia at public schools was advocated by members of the community, who generally cited their successful presence in German schools. Momentum apparently gathered during the decade, but the installation of a gymnasium seems to have been related to the provision of equipment rather than buildings. In any case, the Department of Public Instruction at this period did not supply apparatus or a place to put it. For instance, at Bathurst in 1889:

> *An impression appears to have been formed that the Department of Public Instruction intends to supply a gymnasium to the girl's high school. Such, however, is not the case. Tenders were called for the erection of a weatherboard shed at the High School similar to those supplied to small country schools. The teachers of the High School have come forward and guaranteed the difference between such a shed and one that can be made available for a gymnasium. Their offer has been accepted by the Department, and we are glad to congratulate them on the fulfilment of their wishes. Some six or seven months ago Mr Boyd obtained specifications for a gymnastic apparatus from a local firm, and we understand it is intended to supply the new shed with all the latest appliances.*[82]

Apparently by the early 1890s the Department had made known its intention to "try and establish gymnasia in all the large schools of the colony"[83]*, but during the rest of the decade and beyond local residents continued to pay for apparatus. Sometimes the pupils joined the endeavours – in 1901*

[82] "High School Gymnasium", *National Advocate*, 27 December 1889, p.2.
[83] "Superior Public School Gymnasium", *Bowral Free Press and Berrima District Intelligencer*, 8 June 1892, p.2.

senior students at Lithgow Public School staged a concert from which funds were contributed towards the establishment of a gymnasium and equipment for senior boys.[84] In 1903 Sydney Girls' High School could boast a tennis club and a languishing cricket club (there were no playing fields). Girls could partake of calisthenics. However, there was no proper gymnasium building.[85]

However, conditions were changing. By way of contrast, the pupils at Hillgrove Public Scholl, about 34 kilometres east of Armidale, were pleased with what was thought to be a well-equipped gymnasium, notwithstanding it was housed in a corrugated iron shed held up by roughly hewn tree trunks.88 In 1909 a report on Hurlstone Agricultural School referred to a library and gymnasium as part of the recreation for the school89 and in 1914 the facilities at Parramatta included a detached timber gymnasium with boys' and girls' dressing rooms, instructor's rooms, shower baths, lavatories and a store.90 The contemporary North Sydney Girls' High School was also provided with a detached gymnasium offering similar facilities.

The location of a gymnasium could vary from school to school. For instance, in 1921 a major program of works at Sydney Girls' High School included a building combining the functions of a gymnasium and tuck shop, as did a building erected at Newcastle Girl's High School during the second half of the 1920s. 1927 additions to a dormitory block at Hurlstone Agricultural College incorporated a gymnasium below the sleeping quarters. However, a gymnasium could also be little more than a climbing structure erected in a playground, such as the recreational gymnasium erected at Brighton-Le Sands Public School around 1917 and one erected by the Mother's Club at Tempe Public School in 1925. This type of funding was still fairly prevalent – during 1926 local residents staged fundraising activities to build a gymnasium at Taree High School.

[84] "Lithgow Public School Concert", *Lithgow Mercury*, 15 October 1901, p.2.
[85] "Our Public Schools. Sydney Girls High School", *Australian Town and Country Journal*, 25 February 1903, p.31.

Figure 4.23: The capacious, if rustic, gymnasium at Hillgrove Public School. (Source: State Records digital id no. 15051_a047_006524. TKD 2016, Fig. 140)

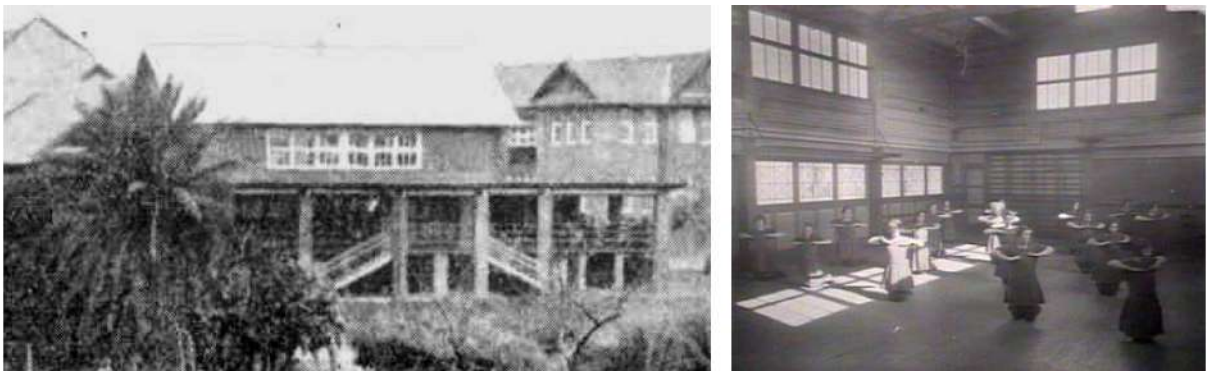


Figure 4.24: Gymnasium and tuckshop at Sydney Girls High School. Its interior was lined with timber weatherboards, indicating that it was timber framed. Clerestory windows above the verandah augmented natural lighting. (Source: Sydney Mail, 27 July 1921; SLNSW digital order no. d1_03575. TKD 2016, Fig. 141)

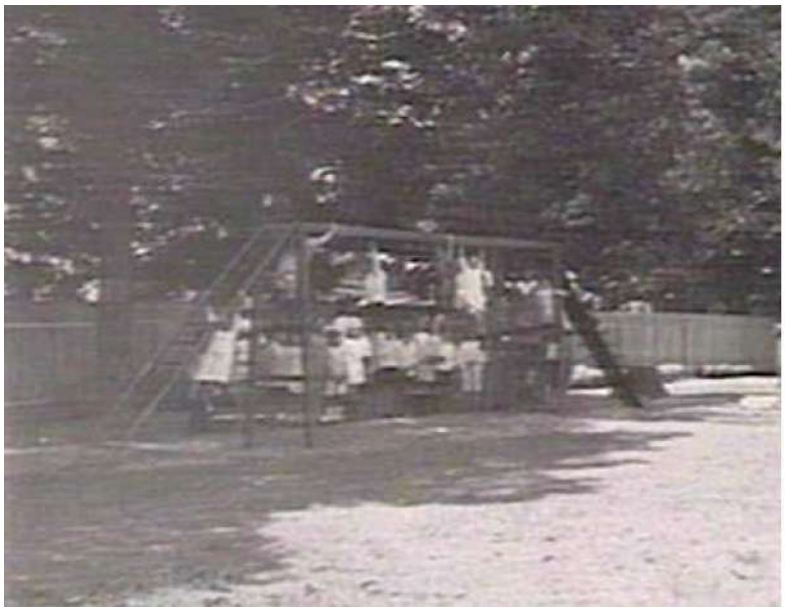


Figure 4.25: Recreational gymnasium at Brighton-Le-Sands Public School, circa 1917 (left) and the popular gymnasium at Tempe Public School, 1925 (right). (Sources: SLNSW digital order no. d1_38093; Sydney Morning Herald, 10 September 1925. TKD 2016, Fig. 142)

By the late 1920s a gymnasium was becoming a standard component of many high schools although they were by no means universal. Examples include the gymnasium incorporated into the basement of Hornsby Girls High School (1930), and the detached buildings adjacent to the Domestic Science Schools completed at Gladesville, Parramatta and Willoughby in 1933 and 1934. At Wagga Wagga High School a gymnasium was located within an earlier school building that was modified to include it and the assembly hall and library (1935). However, some buildings were designed with assembly halls that doubled as a gymnasium, such as Dover Heights Domestic Science School, for which documentation was completed by 1941. The school itself was not completed until 1947.

During the post World War II era many assembly halls were designed so that they could perform additional duty as gymnasia. They were not automatically equipped – in 1949 Bathurst High School anticipated construction of an approved gym, but the school's P&C Association approved the expenditure to equip it.[86] *At the time that the Fanny Cohen Gymnasium was documented there were few such purpose designed buildings coming out of the Government Architect's Branch – the Department of Public Works Annual Report for 1948-49 suggests that the only other one to be documented at this time was for Goulburn High School, although it has not been ascertained if it was built. Buildings combining assembly and gymnasium functions predominated from the second half of the 1940s through the 1950s, although nine gymnasiums were documented in the period 1954-55. Extant photographs of the interiors of these buildings show similarities in detail to what was constructed at Fort Street. Demand for gymnasia at public and secondary schools could also be fulfilled by the erection of imported English Hawkesley prefabricated aluminium buildings – at least nine were erected at secondary schools between June 1953 and June 1954, and eight were imported*

[86] "High School Gymnasium", *National Advocate*, 27 May 1949, p.3.

during 1955.[87] *They were part of a whole program of prefabricated school buildings that were erected across the state from the end of the 1940s through to the middle of the 1950s.*

Figure 4.26: Exterior of gymnasium associated with Willoughby Domestic Science School, 1934 (left); impressive combined assembly hall and gymnasium at Dover Heights Domestic Science School, 1947 (right). (Source: State Records digital id no.15051_a047_004225. TKD 2016, Fig. 143)

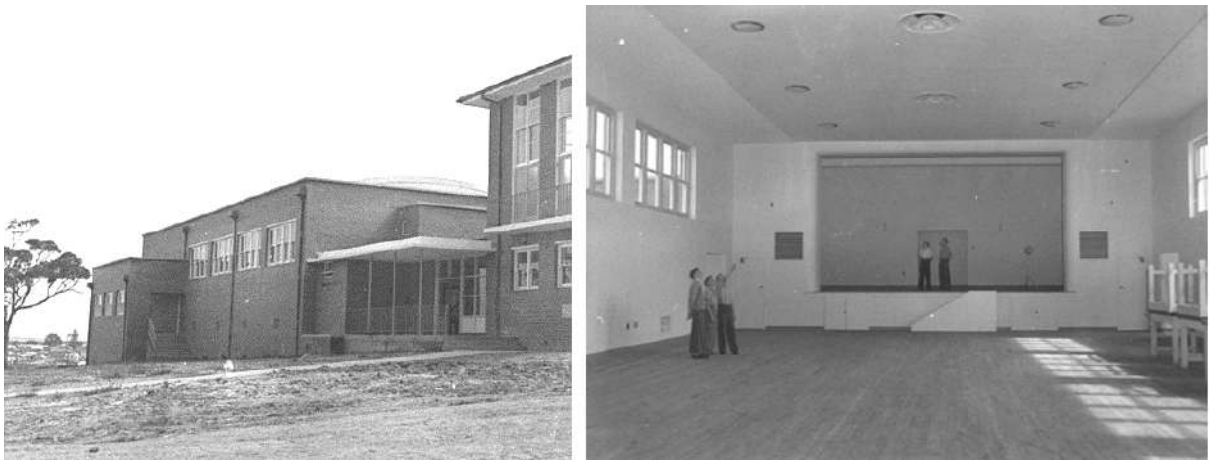


Figure 4.27: Assembly hall and gymnasium combined at the 1953 Belmont High School. The ceiling and placement of windows is similar to the gymnasium at Fort Street Girls' High School. (Source: SLNSW, digital order no's. hood_26887 and hood_26894, Sam Hood photographs. TKD 2016, Fig. 144)

[87] "High School To Have A Gymnasium", *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 5 October 1955, p.10.

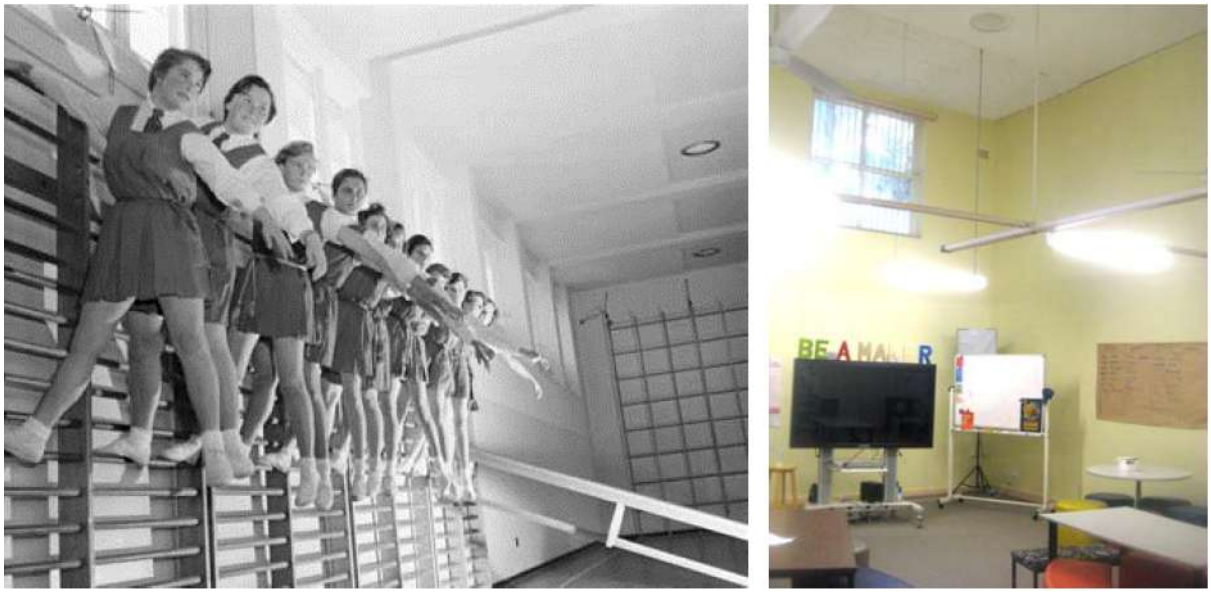


Figure 4.28: Liverpool High School gymnasium, here photographed in 1957, was completed in 1954 and was contained within its own building. It shared similarities with the Fanny Cohen Gymnasium (EEC) at Fort Street. These included regularly spaced high windows, recessed circular light fittings and slightly dropped acoustic ceiling linings on either side of the spaces. (Source: National Archives image no. A12111, 1/1957/31/19, Don Edwards photograph. TKD 2016, Fig. 145)

4.2.3. Conclusions

Fort Street Public School Building

The available evidence suggests that there were few educational buildings that were influenced by advanced Modernist thinking constructed in NSW during the 1930s and early 1940s. The known examples were designed in the GAB by or under the direct influence of Harry Rembert and consisted of technical colleges, a domestic science school and a secondary school. Fort Street Public School is the only primary school amongst these examples. It stands apart from the more conservative primary schools of the era because of its advanced aesthetic expression and functional, compact planning that exploited to advantage the restrictions of its small and constrained site. Fort Street also shares similarities in planning with other schools of the period. These include an assembly hall integrated into the building and linear planning of classrooms accessed from one side by a corridor. It was not until the late 1950s that innovative school buildings were being designed, which although not directly influenced by Fort Street Public School, were certainly made possible by Rembert's role and influence in the GAB at this time.

Messenger's Cottage

The Messenger's Cottage is generally typical of dwellings designed to house government employees during the nineteenth century. They share similar rectilinear footprints, economical masonry or timber construction, hipped roofs and verandahs across principal elevations. As with many of these buildings, it was enlarged and modified as needed to accommodate changing occupant requirements. The building is one of three cottages constructed on Observatory Hill during the mid nineteenth century.

Bureau of Meteorology

The Bureau of Meteorology was one of a small number of purpose designed buildings designed for various state capitals during the interwar period, of which only four are understood to have been constructed. It's planning and organisation of spaces, with office and administrative functions on lower levels and a residential flat on the top floor, appears to be typical. The architectural design of the building's exterior is characteristic of its early 1920s construction date but is unlike buildings erected in other state capitals during the 1930s. It is understood to be one of only two buildings to have survived and is the only building to have the potential and capacity to demonstrate original operations and uses.

EEC

Available evidence suggests that there were relatively few purpose designed gymnasia constructed in schools across NSW during the second half of the 1940s and 1950s compared to the numbers of schools where assembly halls and gymnasia shared the same space. On the other hand, its overall design and internal detailing would appear to be very representative of these types of buildings and spaces.

4.3. Cahill Cut Significance Assessment

While the cut for the Cahill Expressway is located adjacent to but immediately outside of the FSPS site boundary, it is appropriate to consider its heritage significance in the context of the setting of the FSPS site.

While the cutting for the Cahill Expressway is a dominant physical and visual feature in relation to the FSPS site, its presence is not directly connected to the primary heritage significance and history of the site as a military hospital and Fort Street Public School. Further, while the cut is clearly visible in the immediate context of the FSPS Site (i.e. from the edge of the site internally, and immediate perimeter of the cut itself externally- see Figure 4.30), the cut is not readily visible from more of a distance (i.e. not readily visible from Millers Point). From many perspectives from the wider setting of the FSPS Site, the Cahill Cut is not visible as all, with the existing views generally appearing as a visual illusion of Observatory Hill as a connected landscape (see Figure 4.30 to Figure 4.32 demonstrating visual illusion of connection of hill from majority of external perspectives, regardless of presence of Cahill Cut).

Therefore, while the Cahill Cut is undeniably a dominant landscape element in the immediate context of the FSPS Site, it is not considered to contribute to the significance of the actual FSPS Site. This is reinforced by Paul Davies in his conclusion that:

> *An important feature for the [Millers Point] precinct but not a highly visible one is the circular stone excavation for the Cahill Expressway that separated the school grounds from Observatory Hill and from the National Trust Centre (former school building). (Davies 2007: 84)*

Figure 4.29: Physical element of Cahill Cut disconnecting FSPS site from surrounding Observatory Hill is only readily visible from immediately next to cut- view from National Trust site along northern boundary fence (Source: Curio 2019)

Figure 4.30: View north to FSPS from National Trust, bridge over Cut is visible, however from this perspective, FSPS Site and National Trust site visually appear as consistent connected hill landscape (Source: Curio 2019)

Figure 4.31: View south to FSPS from Upper Fort St, near Sydney Observatory. Boundary of landscaping and fencing to Cut on northern side visible, but site still appears to read as a relatively connected hill landscape (Source: Curio 2019)

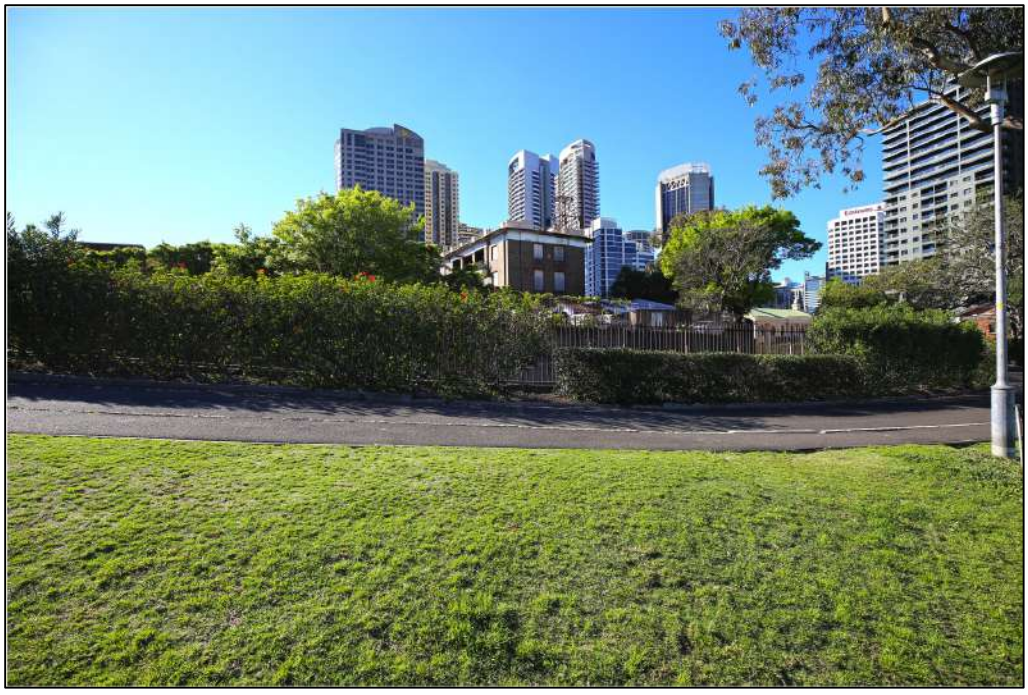


Figure 4.32: View from west of Cahill Cut back towards FSPS Site. Palisade fencing visible, but due to landform, cut itself is not overly obvious as a feature of this viewline (Source: Ethos Urban 2019)

4.4. Assessment Methodology and Criteria

The Assessment of Significance of the Fort Street Public School site is based on the principles and definitions previously consolidated in *The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance*; and in the NSW Heritage Manual – prepared by the former Heritage Branch, NSW Office of Environment and Heritage. This literature indicates the guidelines and criteria selected to assess the heritage significance of a place, in which the Burra Charter defines cultural significance as:

> *Cultural significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations.*
>
> *Cultural Significance is embodied in the place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects.*
>
> *Places may have a range of values for different individuals or groups.*

Furthermore, the NSW Heritage Manual correlates the assessment of significance of a place with the understanding and description of its main uses, association with individuals or groups, archaeological potential and overall meaning of the cultural significance within those groups. This assessment is done by comparing the significance of a place with the NSW Heritage assessment criteria, in which a place can meet more than one criterion. Such process will determine the level of significance of a place – either for the local government area, for the state of NSW or for the broader Australian community – and will assist in preparing a succinct statement of heritage significance.

For the assessment of local or State significance of an item, the NSW Heritage Guidelines indicates that the item must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- *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);*
- *Criterion (b)—an item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in the cultural or natural history of NSW (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);*
- *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);*
- *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;*
- *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);*
- *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);*
- *Criterion (g)—an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's (or a class of the local areas'):*

- *cultural or natural places; or*
- *cultural or natural environments.*

Further to the above criteria, assessment of the heritage significance of an item/place is also influenced by its level of intactness, which refers to the physical condition of such item/place. According to the Heritage Division's manual *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and 'Relics'*, intactness refers to:

> *A heritage place or archaeological site may need to retain sufficient integrity that it is able to convey its significance to people in the present. This could derive from factors unrelated to 'research potential' such as location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, association.*

The significance assessment as presented below has been drawn both from the TKD draft CMP, with additions by Curio Projects. TKD assessment is indicated at the start of each section *in italics* while Curio additions are presented after the TKD assessment, written in **bold** text.

4.4.1. Criterion (a)—Historical Significance

- *The historical archaeological resources within the footprint of Fort Street Public School have an association with the colonial Military Hospital, the first National School and the Sydney Observatory and as such have state significance.*
- *Fort Street Public School is associated with Fort Street School, a highly significant school that was established as a National School in 1850 and has continued to educate primary and secondary school students to the present day. Although not a part of the original school site, which has retained Fort Street's earliest buildings that are now occupied by the National Trust of Australia (NSW), the building is the only section of the school at Observatory Hill that continues to serve its original function*
- *The construction of the school building was a direct result of the construction of the City Circle railway loop and the associated Cahill Expressway, which was constructed above the railway viaduct traversing Circular Quay. The excavation for the road circle linking the Cahill Expressway to Sydney Harbour Bridge necessitated the demolition of the existing primary school building at Fort Street Public School and its replacement with a new building.*
- *The Messenger's Cottage is historically significant because of its associations with the Sydney Observatory. It was constructed about four years after the Observatory was completed to provide accommodation for an Observatory staff member. The Cottage is also significant because of its strong associations with the Bureau of Meteorology, which occupied it for several years between 1916 and 1922, and continued to use it after that period – in the 1960s it housed a member of the Bureau's staff and his family. The Cottage is also historically significant because it housed what has been claimed to be the first corporate childcare centre in Australia, opened in 1987.*
- *The Bureau of Meteorology is historically significant as the first purpose-designed building to house the Bureau's activities to have been built in Sydney (possibly NSW) after the formation of the Commonwealth Meteorological Bureau in 1908. It has strong historical associations with weather*

observations on Observatory Hill, which had commenced by 1858, and with the former Messenger's Cottage, which housed the Bureau for a number of years at the beginning of the twentieth century.

- *The EEC (former Fanny Cohen Gymnasium) has some historical significance as the last purpose designed building to be erected at Observatory Hill for Fort Street Girls' High School.*

4.4.2. Criterion (b)—Associative Significance

- *Fort Street Public School reflects the influence of prominent architect Harry Rembert, who worked in the GAB from 1926 and 1965. Rembert is one of the most important architects to have worked in the GAB during the middle third of the twentieth century, pioneering modern architectural design there. He exercised a great influence on young trainees working there during the 1950s and early 1960s, a number of who became significant and influential architects in their own right. Whilst not the designer of the Fort Street Public School, he oversaw both its design and documentation and was influential in its design. It has similarities to technical college and school buildings for which he is credited.*

- *The original section of the Messenger's Cottage is understood to have been designed in the office of the Colonial Architect headed by Alexander Dawson, who was also responsible for Sydney Observatory. The additions that were undertaken in 1877 were documented in the office of the Colonial Architect whilst it was headed by James Barnet.*

- *The Bureau of Meteorology is associated with the Department of Works and Railways under the direction of John Smith Murdoch. The Department was responsible for a wide range of buildings constructed for Federal government instrumentalities such as the Post Master General's Department, the Commonwealth Bank and significant early buildings in Canberra such as the Provisional Parliament House and hostels to accommodate politicians and public servants.*

- *As is the case with Fort Street Public School, the EEC is associated with architects of the GAB and is a relatively early post World War II school building documented by the Branch.*

4.4.3. Criterion (c)—Aesthetic Significance

- *Fort Street Public School is a fine and generally intact example of the Inter War Functionalist style, reflecting the infiltration of European Modernist architectural philosophies and aesthetics into the Government Architect's Branch of the Public Works Department. The building also has aesthetic significance for its contribution to the environs of Observatory Hill Park.*

- *The Messenger's Cottage is an example of a modestly scaled Victorian era cottage that was built by the Colonial government to house an employee of the Sydney Observatory. Although enlarged some fifteen years after the original section was completed and then subsequently modified, the house has a consistency of scale and picturesque massing. Its overall form, general appearance and internal planning are relatively intact.*

- *The Bureau of Meteorology is a restrained example of the Inter War Free Classical style that demonstrates subtle refinement in the detailing of its external fabric. The building, parts of which are in poor physical condition, has retained a relatively large amount of original external and internal building fabric.*

- *The EEC has little outstanding aesthetic distinction. It has typical characteristics of post-World War II architecture, such as the detailing of the main entry and the canopy protecting northern door openings. Such characteristics can be found on other buildings of the immediate post war era.*

4.4.4. Criterion (d)—Social Significance

- *The value of the Aboriginal archaeological resources within the footprint of the Fort Street Public School to the local Aboriginal community has not been assessed for this project. However, if Aboriginal heritage items are present, it is likely that they would be identified by the Aboriginal community as having high cultural value as a direct tangible link to past Aboriginal activity in Sydney.*

- *Fort Street Public School has special associations for former pupils. Evidence for this can be found at http://homepages.ihug.com.au/~parsog/fortstreet/reunion2007a.html, which describes a reunion and the feelings of participants towards the school and staff. It is also likely to have significance for parents of pupils and former staff, although this needs to be confirmed. Fort Street School alumni are known as "Fortians."*

- *The Messenger's Cottage, Bureau of Meteorology and EEC may have social significance, but there is little or no immediately available evidence to support this.*

4.4.5. Criterion (e)—Scientific Significance

- *Aboriginal archaeological resources have moderate potential to survive within the study area, particularly in school yard areas north and east of Fort Street Public School, which may have experienced limited development impacts since European settlement. While such deposits may have been impacted by erosion following removal of vegetation, midden and artefact deposits still have potential to provide insight into Aboriginal occupation and use of the Sydney area and its resources prior to European contact. Aboriginal archaeological resources, if present, would be demonstrative of past activities.*

- *The research potential of the Aboriginal archaeological resources within the footprint of Fort Street Public School would have moderate research value.*

- *The integrity of the historical archaeological resources associated with the Military Hospital, the National School and Observatory that may survive within the footprint of the Fort Street Public School is likely to be high. The associated research potential of these resources has also been assessed as having an ability to respond to substantive questions regarding aspects of life in early Sydney.*

- *Physical evidence associated with the early buildings within the footprint of Fort Street Public School –the Military Hospital's surgeon's residence, later associated with the National School; the Observatory's Messenger's Cottage and associated buildings and facilities – have the potential to provide meaningful and substantive information regarding the lives of the people living and working at these early colonial institutions. Particular aspects of colonial Sydney would be demonstrated in the physical evidence of buildings and in an artefact assemblage of the detritus of everyday life discarded by military and medical personnel, teachers and students, and staff of the Observatory.*

- *If present, an extensive artefact assemblage that may be present in wells, rubbish and/or cess pits would have the potential to provide an insight into lifestyles associated with the Military Hospital or Observatory that would contribute to substantive questions regarding institutional life in the colony.*
- *The research potential of the historical archaeological resources within the footprint of Fort Street Public School would have state significance.*

The following additional assessment of scientific significance was made following historical archaeological test excavation within the FSPS site in July 2019 (Curio Projects 2019b):

- **The archaeological resource of the Former Surgeon's House (confirmed to be extant within the FSPS site) has the potential to provide important information from the archaeological evidence for the occupation of an element of a significant Government establishment from the early Colony. The archaeological evidence is likely to relate to several periods of different use of the structure, and surrounds, most significantly the occupation of the building by the military hospital's surgeon and/or assistant surgeon from 1815 onwards.**
- **Later use for the Fort Street School, while not as significant is nevertheless likely to be substantial and provide insights into the operation of this important educational establishment that are not available from historical sources.**
- **This site is rare as it reflects a specialist use for the first 20 or so years of its occupation. The quarters of such establishment figures as the hospital surgeon (or assistant) are uncommon. This fact and the combination of occupations, i.e. medical then educational, simply add to this site's rarity.**
- **The potential archaeological evidence may be further assessed as highly significant as the site, the individual occupants and the nature of their occupation are largely historically undocumented. This site may bear historical comparison with other early colonial hospital sites such as the earlier George Street hospital and the former southern wing of the 'Rum' Hospital on Macquarie Street. However, for reasons of the individual site development neither of these sites has produced substantial information related to their use and occupation by medical personnel.**
- **The archaeological excavation of the study area has the potential to augment our information about the early colony, the colonial elites, the medical profession, the transformation of the site for educational purposes and its use for this purpose through the latter nineteenth and twentieth centuries.**
- **The archaeological resource of the former surgeon's house within the FSPS site has been assessed to be potentially of State Significance.**

4.4.6. Criterion (f)—Rarity

- *Fort Street Public School is a rare example of an Inter War Functionalist style primary school building designed by the Government Architect's Branch of the Public Works Department. It is thus a rare example of a primary school demonstrating the style in NSW.*

- *The Messenger's Cottage may be an uncommon surviving example of a modest cottage designed in the office of the Colonial Architect. It is one of three comparable cottages on Observatory Hill.*

- *The Bureau of Meteorology is a rare example of a purpose designed building to house the main NSW branch of the Bureau. There are known to have been four buildings, including Sydney and the addition to the Bureau of Meteorology's Melbourne headquarters, which were designed and constructed for this purpose during the interwar period. Only the Melbourne and Sydney buildings are known to have survived but the Melbourne building has been adapted to residential use.*

- *The EEC is understood to be a relatively uncommon example of a post-World War II school gymnasium. However, a large number of schools were provided with spaces that served both as an assembly hall and a gymnasium. The internal design of these spaces would appear to be very similar to that of individual gymnasium buildings.*

4.4.7. Criterion (g)—Representativeness

- *Fort Street Public School is representative of the Inter War Functionalist style architecture produced by the Government Architect's Branch during the second half of the 1930s and early 1940s, and representative of the style generally. Its planning compactly encapsulates public school design of the interwar period. Despite some modifications to items of building fabric, particularly windows and glazing, the building has retained a relatively high level of integrity in terms of its architectural form, planning and fabric.*

- *The Messenger's Cottage is representative of modestly scaled Victorian era residential buildings. Although a relatively large amount of internal and external fabric has been replaced or reconstructed, its early character can still be interpreted.*

- *The EEC is considered to be representative of post-World War II school gymnasia and school halls because of similarities between it and other comparable contemporary buildings.*

4.5. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Values

Social, cultural and spiritual values of a site can only be identified through consultation with Aboriginal people. However, it is likely that should an Aboriginal archaeological deposit be present within the study area, it would be viewed to be of high social and cultural significance by the Aboriginal community, providing a direct and tangible link to past Aboriginal life and activity in Sydney's centre.

While little historical evidence is available regarding Aboriginal historical use of the study area and surrounds, as the highest point in Sydney Cove, Observatory Hill would likely have been a popular and/or important lookout for the local Aboriginal population. Therefore, Aboriginal archaeological deposits, if found to be located within the study area, may be of historical value.

Should an Aboriginal archaeological deposit be found to be present within the FSPS study area, this may have moderate scientific significance for its ability to provide evidence for and insight into Aboriginal occupation and use of the Millers Point/Observatory Hill locality prior to 1788,

representative of the FSPS study area as part of the wider Aboriginal cultural landscape of the Sydney Harbour Foreshore.

The FSPS study area may have aesthetic value to the local Aboriginal community in the context of the wider Sydney Aboriginal landscape it exists in. Should Aboriginal archaeological deposits be found to be present within the FSPS study area, they may potentially have aesthetic significance for technological form of the artefacts, or as potentially considered useful for education and interpretative purposes.

4.6. Statement of Significance

The Fort Street Public School site comprises several institutional, governmental and residential buildings in a setting that has developed from the early nineteenth century, and is a site of historical, aesthetic, and social significance.

The Aboriginal archaeological resources within the Fort Street Public School area, if present, have the potential to contribute knowledge regarding resource gathering and subsistence strategies of Aboriginal people in the area prior to European contact. While midden sites are the most common Aboriginal archaeological sites recorded in the local area, a limited number have been archaeologically investigated.

The Aboriginal archaeological resources within the footprint of Fort Street Public School would have moderate significance. Although an assessment of cultural value has not been undertaken it is likely that, if present, the local Aboriginal community would view any Aboriginal archaeological deposits as being of high cultural value to the community.

The historical archaeological resource associated with the early buildings within the footprint of Fort Street Public School, the Military Hospital's surgeon's residence (later associated with the National School), the Observatory's Messenger's Cottage and associated buildings and facilities, have the potential to provide information regarding the lives of the people living and working at these early colonial institutions. Particular aspects of colonial Sydney would be demonstrated in the physical evidence of buildings and in an artefact assemblage of the detritus of everyday life discarded by military and medical personnel, teachers and students, and staff of the Observatory. An extensive artefact assemblage that may be present in wells, rubbish and / or cess pits would have the potential to provide an insight into lifestyles associated with the Military Hospital or Observatory that would contribute to substantive questions regarding institutional life in the colony. The historical archaeological resources within the foot print of Fort Street Public School have state significance.

Fort Street Public School is associated with Fort Street School, a highly significant school that was established as a National School in 1850. Although not a part of the original school site, the building is the only section of the school at Observatory Hill that continues to serve its original function. It resulted from the construction of roadworks of the historically significant City Circle railway loop viaduct and the Cahill Expressway. Fort Street Public School reflects the influence of prominent architect Harry Rembert, amongst the most significant architects to have worked in the Department of Public Works Government Architects Branch during the middle third of the twentieth century, The building is a fine, representative and generally intact example of the Inter War Functionalist style and a

rare example of this style applied to public school architecture by the Government Architect's Branch. Its planning is a concise representation of public school design during the interwar period. The building is also significant for its visual contribution to the setting of Observatory Hill Park. Fort Street Public School has social significance, particularly for former pupils and is likely to have significance for parents of pupils and former staff.

The Messenger's Cottage is historically significant because of its associations with the Sydney Observatory. and because of its strong associations with the Bureau of Meteorology, which occupied it for several years between 1916 and 1922, and continued to use it after that period. The Cottage is also historically significant because it housed what has been claimed to be the first corporate childcare centre in Australia, opened in 1987. The two main nineteenth century phases of construction are associated with the office of the Colonial Architect headed by Alexander Dawson and James Barnet. The Messenger's Cottage is a representative and relatively intact example of a modestly scaled Victorian era cottage that was built to house a government employee of the Sydney Observatory and may have some rarity value because of that. It has aesthetic significance because of its scale and picturesque massing. It is one of three comparable cottages on Observatory Hill.

Messenger's Cottage provides a tangible historical connection between the FSPS Site and the Observatory to the north, its very presence being representative of the wider connectivity and historical use of the whole of Observatory Hill from the mid 1800s onwards- many years prior to the physical boundary created by the excavation for the Cahill Expressway.

The Bureau of Meteorology building is historically significant as the first purpose-designed building to house the Bureau's activities in Sydney and possibly NSW after the formation of the Commonwealth Meteorological Bureau in 1908. It has strong historical associations with weather observations on Observatory Hill and with the former Messenger's Cottage, which housed the Bureau at the beginning of the twentieth century. It is a fine example of the work of the Department of Works and Railways under the direction of John Smith Murdoch and is a restrained and relatively intact example of the Inter War Free Classical style that demonstrates subtle refinement in the detailing of its external fabric. The Bureau of Meteorology building was built as purpose designed headquarters for the main NSW branch of the organisation and is considered to be rare both at State and National level.

The EEC (former Fanny Cohen Gymnasium) has some historical significance as the last purpose designed building to be erected at Observatory Hill for Fort Street Girls' High School and is associated with architects of the Government Architect's Branch. A relatively early post World War II school building, the EEC is considered to be representative of post-World War II school gymnasia and school halls. While it demonstrates typical characteristics of the architecture of this period, the building has little aesthetic distinction. It is understood to be a relatively uncommon example of a post-World War II school gymnasium.

4.7. Gradings of Significant Components

In order to develop a holistic understanding of the significance of Fort Street Public School, it is important to assess the level of heritage significance of the individual elements that compose the historical fabric of the existing buildings, with relation to their contribution to the overall heritage values of the place. Some individual heritage elements of a place may contribute to a

greater or lesser degree than others to the overall heritage values of a place, as well as possessing varying distinct levels of intactness and integrity depending on the development history and condition of each element. The assessment of the significance for each built elements of Fort Street Public School has been ranked in accordance to the ranking, or grades, of heritage significance as defined by the NSW Heritage Manual (2001), presented in Table 4.1 below.

Table 4.1: Gradings of significance according to the NSW Heritage Manual (2001)

GRADING	JUSTIFICATION	RECOMMENDATION	STATUS
Exceptional	*Rare or outstanding element directly contributing to an item's local and State significance*	Retain, conserve (restore/ reconstruct) and maintain. Intrusive elements and fabric should be removed. Adaptation is appropriate provided that it is in accordance with Burra Charter principles and with the specific guidance provided in this CMP.	Fulfils criteria for local or State listing
High	*High degree of original fabric. Demonstrates a key element of the item's significance. Alterations do not detract from significance.*	Retain, conserve (restore/ reconstruct) and maintain. Intrusive elements and fabric should be removed. Adaptation is appropriate provided that it is in accordance with Burra Charter principles and with the specific guidelines provided in this CMP.	Fulfils criteria for local or State listing
Moderate	*Altered or modified elements. Elements with little heritage value, but which contribute to the overall significance of the item.*	Retain, adapt and maintain. Demolition/removal may acceptable provided that there is no adverse impact on the significance of the place. Retention in some cases may depend on factors other than assessed values, including physical condition and functionality	Fulfils criteria for local or State listing
Little	*Alterations detract from significance. Difficult to interpret.*	Retain, alter or demolish/remove as required provided that there are no adverse impacts on the heritage significance of the place. Sensitive alteration or demolition/removal may assist with enhancing the heritage significance of components of greater heritage significance.	Does not fulfil criteria for local or State listing.
Intrusive	*Damaging the item's heritage significance.*	Demolish/remove when the opportunity arises while ensuring there are no adverse impacts on the	Does not fulfil criteria for Local or State listing.

GRADING	JUSTIFICATION	RECOMMENDATION	STATUS
		significance of other more significant components. Components that are actively contributing to the physical deterioration of components of higher significance should be removed as a matter of priority.	

4.7.1. Overall Site Elements

Table 4.2 presents the gradings of significance for the key elements of the FSPS Site. These gradings are represented in Figure 4.33.

Table 4.2: Grading of significant components of Fort Street Public School Site

GRADING	ELEMENT
Exceptional	Potential Aboriginal and historical archaeological resources within the FSPS site curtilage Archaeological remains of former surgeons cottage (c.1815)- present in the south of the site. Fort Street Public School Building (1940s) Bureau of Meteorology Building Boundary wall between Messengers Cottage/MET Building and EEC Mature Morton Bay Fig tree on eastern side of Fort Street Public School
High	Messenger's Cottage
Moderate	Palisade fencing above the road circle and bounding Fort Street Public School Garages on the western side of the Bureau of Meteorology Toilets on the western side of Fort Street Public School
Little	Former Fanny Cohen Gymnasium (EEC) Landscaping associated with the EEC Shade structures surrounding Fort Street Public School
Intrusive	Nil

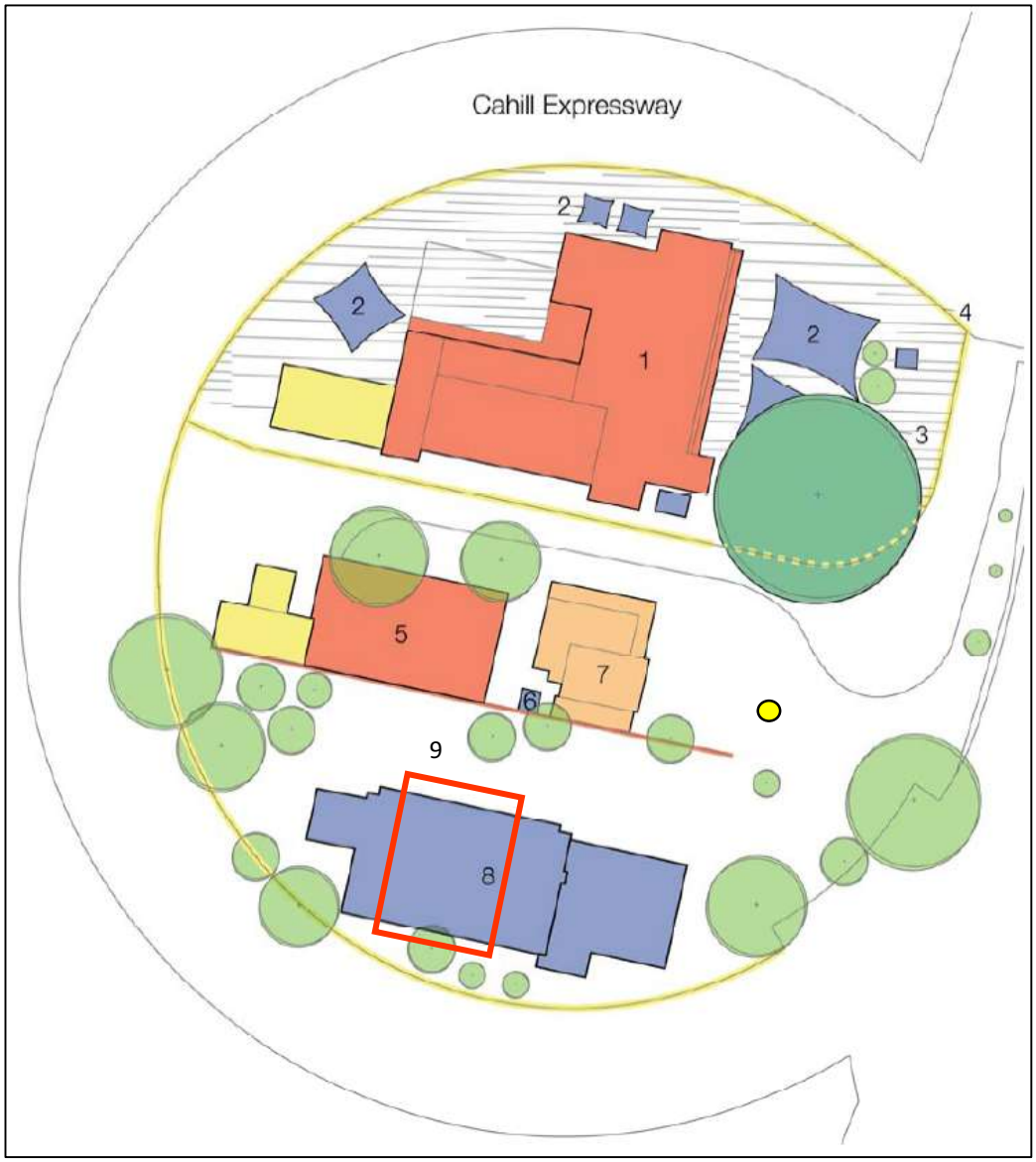


Figure 4.33: Grading of Site Components (TKD 2016 with Curio Additions)

Key- Built Form Elements

1. Fort Street Public School Building
2. Shade structures surrounding FSPS
3. Mature Morton Bay Fig tree
4. Palisade fencing around Cahill Cut
5. Bureau of Meteorology Building
6. Shed near SW corner of Messenger's Cottage.
7. Messenger's Cottage
8. EEC
9. Archaeological remains of Surgeons Quarters **10.** Pillar

4.7.2. Fort Street Public School Building

The significance grading of components of the Fort Street Public School building is summarised in *Table 4.3*, and represented in Figure 4.34 and Figure 4.35.

Table 4.3: Grading of significant components of Fort Street Public School Building

GRADING	ELEMENT
Exceptional	The intact original external form and original external fabric of Fort Street Public School, particularly the northern façade and presentation to Sydney Observatory and Observatory Hill Park. Intact original spaces within the building, including the main stair, halls and corridors, classrooms, assembly hall and stage, staff room and office. Intact original fabric, including stair balustrades and newel posts, windows and fanlights between classrooms and corridors, original doors to external openings, terrazzo stairs, the metal balustrade between the door openings to the secondary stair.
High	Movable items, including rolls of honour, the memorial window and the associated commemorative plaque, foundation stone and plaque
Moderate	Modified spaces formerly occupied by hat rooms and stores and associated fabric. Lavatory block at the western end of the building. Original timber flooring (entry hall) Pillar
Little	Aluminium framed windows. Sanitary fitments in the boys' and girls' toilets. Tiling and sanitary fitments in the staff lavatory. Tiling and sanitary fitments in the basement lavatory. Sinks, sink cupboards and tiled splash backs in the first floor corridor and classrooms. Playground items, including soft paving and synthetic grass. Lavatory fitout in the basement area.
Intrusive	Conduits and cabling installed on the exterior of the building. Signage on the east parapet of the school. Signage at the eastern edge of the site.

GRADING	ELEMENT
	Store room added to the northern side of the assembly hall.

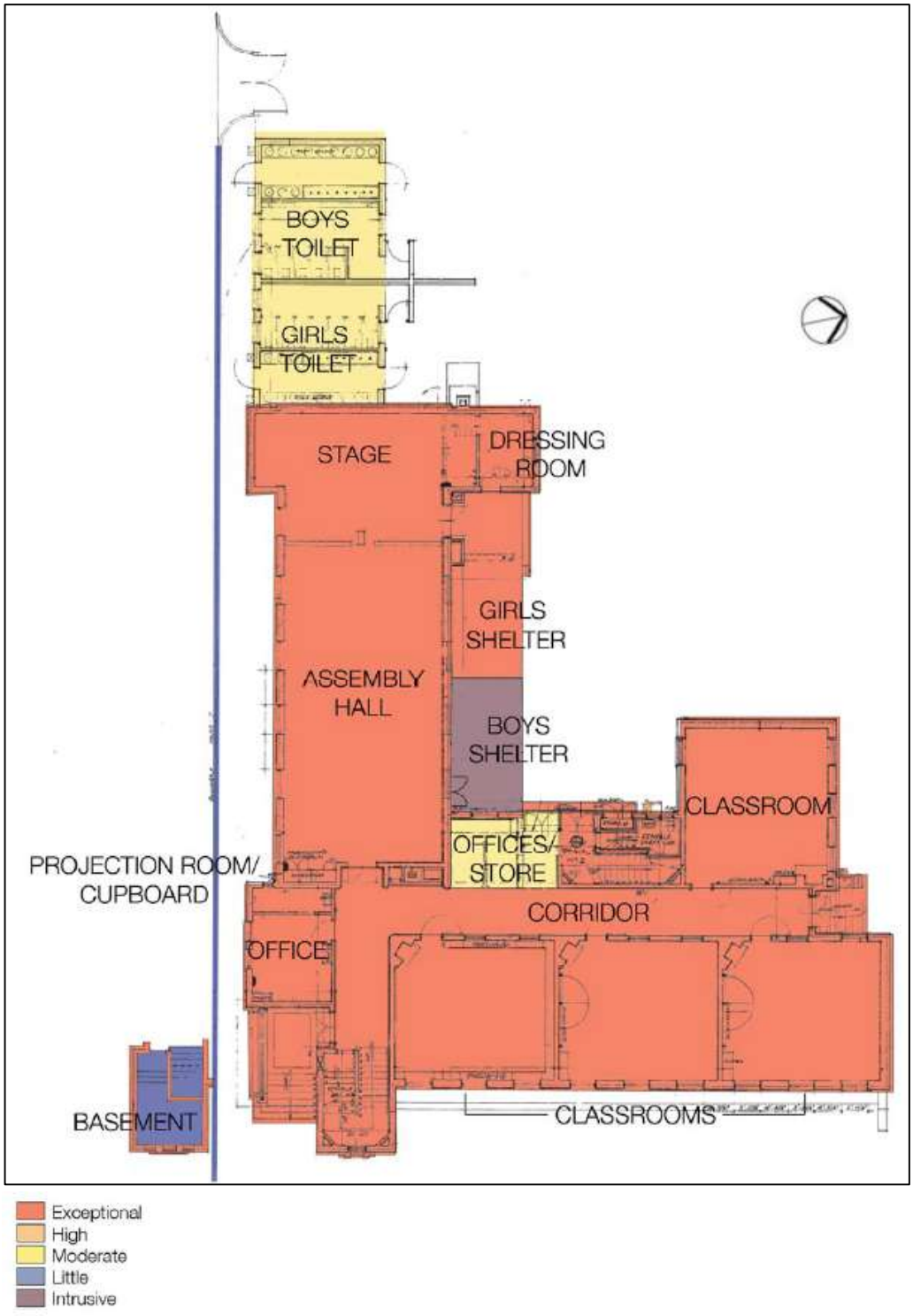


Figure 4.34: Significance of spaces in Fort Street Public School – Ground Floor (Source: TKD Architects 2016)

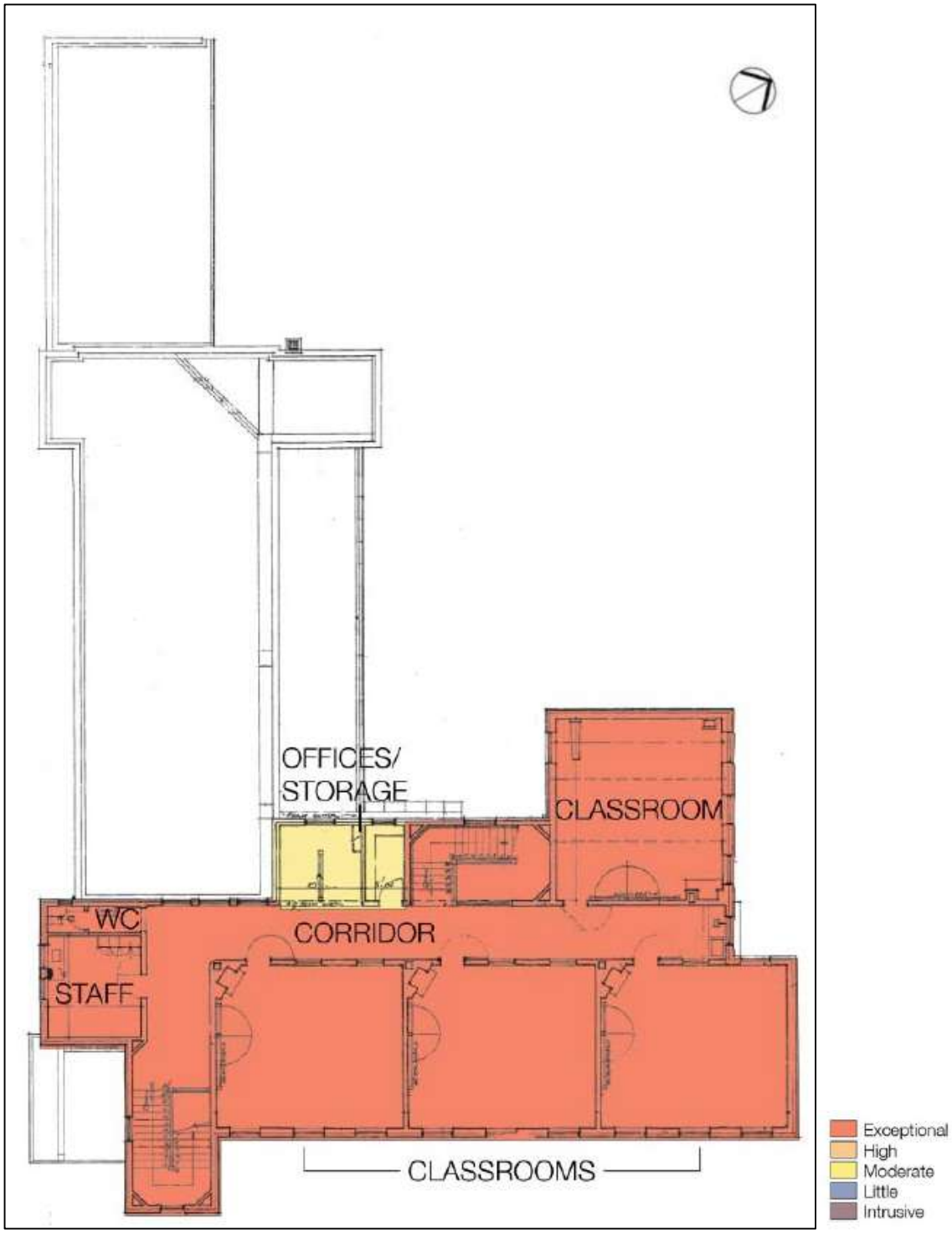


Figure 4.35: Significance of spaces in Fort Street Public School – First Floor (Source: TKD Architects 2016)

4.7.3. Messenger's Cottage

The significance grading of components of the Messenger's Cottage is summarised in Table 4.4, and represented in Figure 4.36.

Table 4.4: Grading of significant components of Messenger's Cottage

GRADING	ELEMENT
Exceptional	The intact original external form of the Messenger's Cottage, including the form of verandahs and rear additions. Original external and internal fabric of the Messenger's Cottage. The overall plan configuration of the building.
High	The spaces within the building, including the three principal rooms, rear office and hall. Reconstructed verandah fabric and volume. Although a reconstruction, it is important for the contribution it makes to the appearance of the Cottage and an understanding of its early form. Fireplace in the kitchen. Timber floor boards.
Moderate	Spaces including the kitchen, bathroom and WC. Although likely to be early parts of the building, they have been modified by the introduction of later fabric. Recent timber board wall linings, which are appropriate to the age and character of the place, and contribute to an understanding of its early form. Reconstructed timber joinery items including windows, doors, architraves and skirting boards. Reconstructed fabric associated with fireplaces in the principal rooms.
Little	Recent kitchen fitments and cabinetry. Sanitary fixtures and tiling in the bathroom and WC. Plasterboard ceiling linings. Verandah flooring. The shed near the south western corner of the Cottage.
Intrusive	Nil

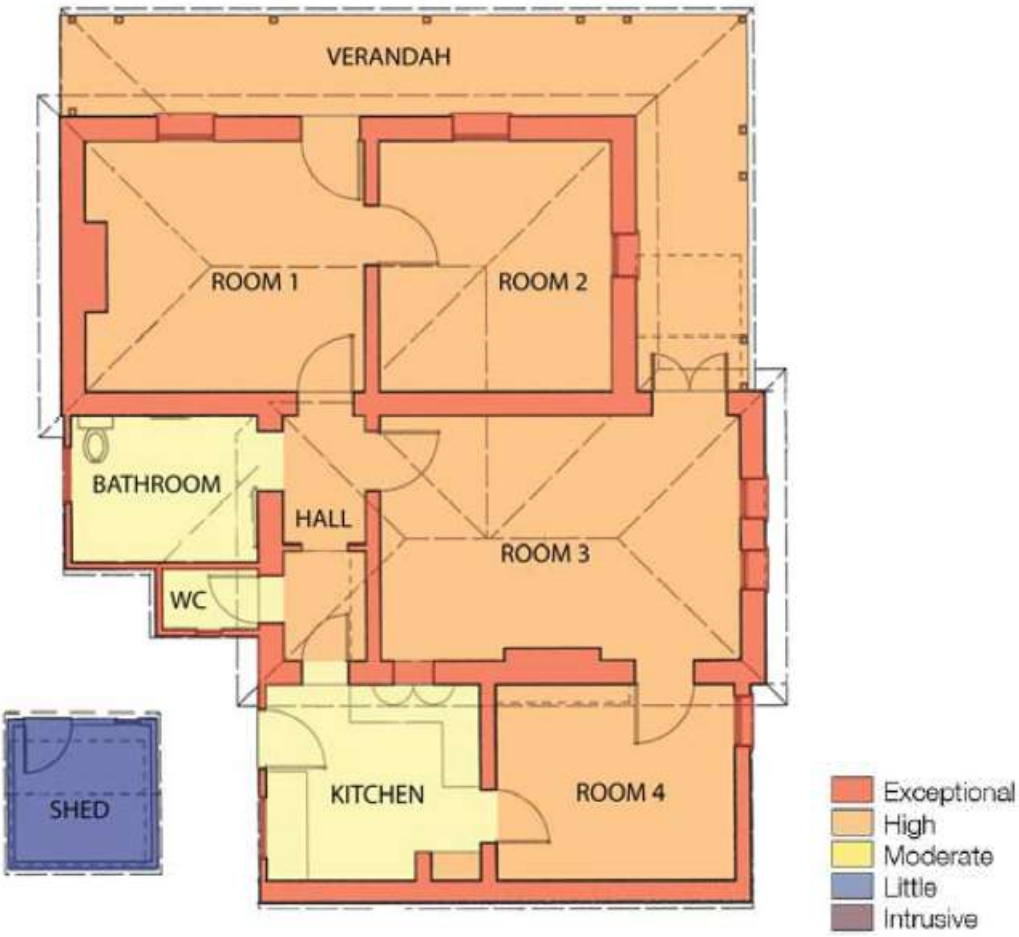


Figure 4.36: Significance of spaces in Messenger's Cottage (Source: TKD Architects 2016)

4.7.4. Bureau of Meteorology Building

The significance grading of components of the Bureau of Meteorology Building is summarised in Table 4.5, and represented in Figure 4.37 to Figure 4.40. Note, due to the severely degraded state of the building, full physical investigation and condition assessment was not able to be completed for this CMP. Therefore, this significance assessment, including figures, are to be considered preliminary only, until such time that safe access to the building allows a comprehensive condition assessment. Figures below are Curio digitisations of Purcell sketches from high level review of MET Building (prepared by Purcell as preliminary only due to limited building access).

Table 4.5: Grading of significant components of Bureau of Meteorology Building

GRADING	ELEMENT
Exceptional	The intact original external form and original external fabric of the Bureau of Meteorology; Intact original spaces within the building - building interiors are thought to be generally intact, notwithstanding some modifications;

GRADING	ELEMENT
	Intact original fabric including timber, terrazzo and concrete stairs, fireplaces and chimneypieces, doors, architraves, skirting boards, counters in the ground floor reception area, ceiling linings and cornices, wrought metal balustrades (it should be noted some fabric is in poor condition); The steel tower on the roof of the building.
High	Spaces which, although modified, have retained original fabric
Moderate	The dumb waiter and associated fabric. Any surviving internal partitions installed after World War II. The low planting bed walls and metal balustrading on the northern side and roof of the building.
Little	Modifications to the porch associated with the private entrance.
Intrusive	Later conduits installed on wall surfaces

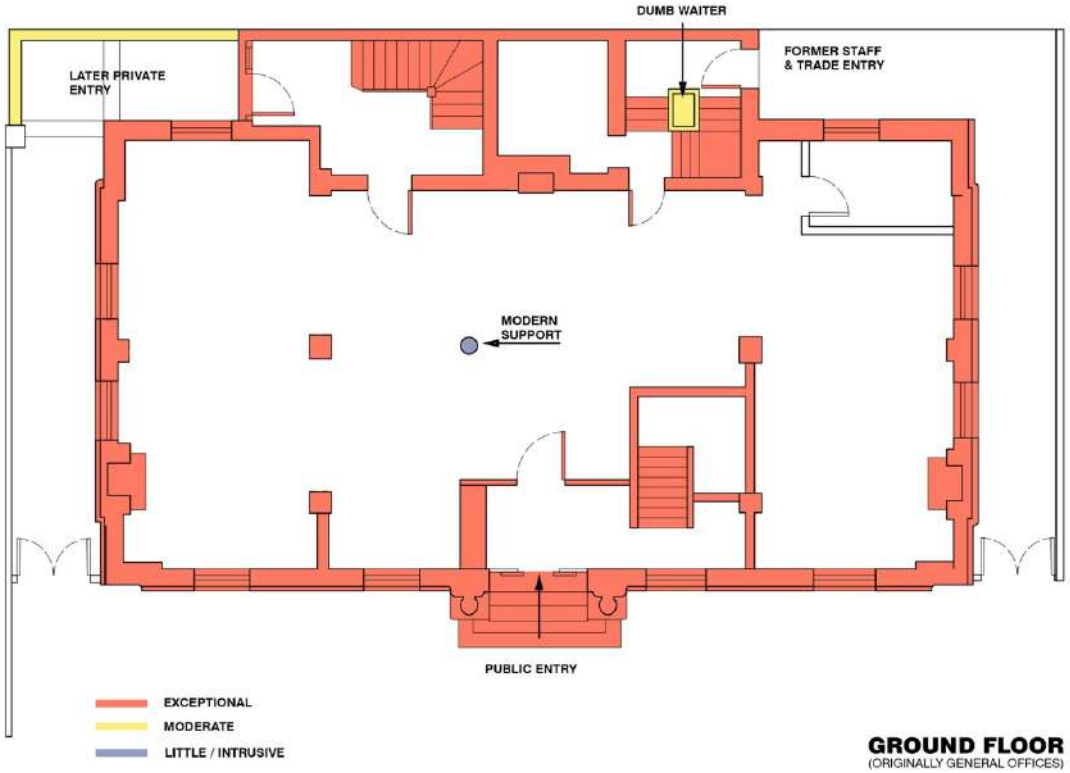


Figure 4.37: Summary of Preliminary Significance Grading within Bureau of Meteorology Building – Ground Floor (Curio 2019 digitisation of Purcell sketch)

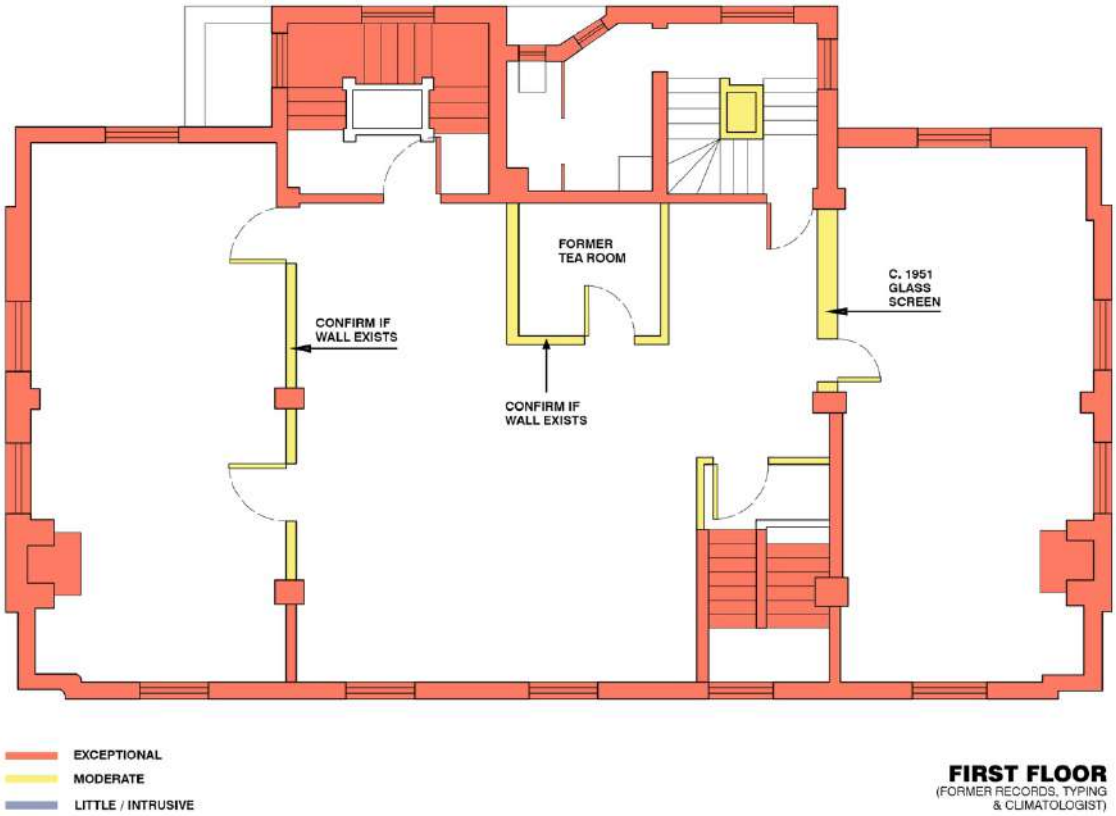


Figure 4.38: Summary of Preliminary Significance Grading within Bureau of Meteorology Building – First Floor (Curio 2019 digitisation of Purcell sketch)

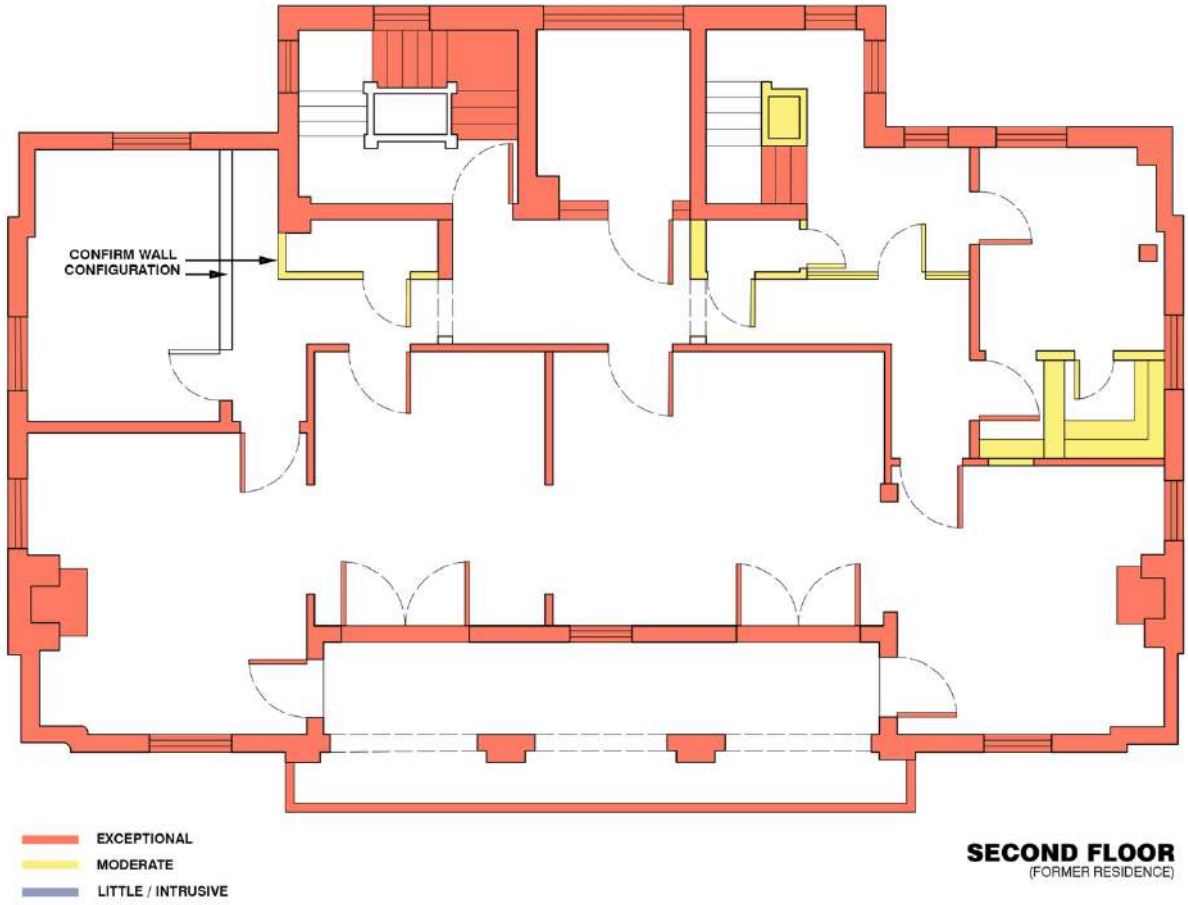


Figure 4.39: Summary of Preliminary Significance Grading within Bureau of Meteorology Building – Second Floor (Curio 2019 digitisation of Purcell sketch)

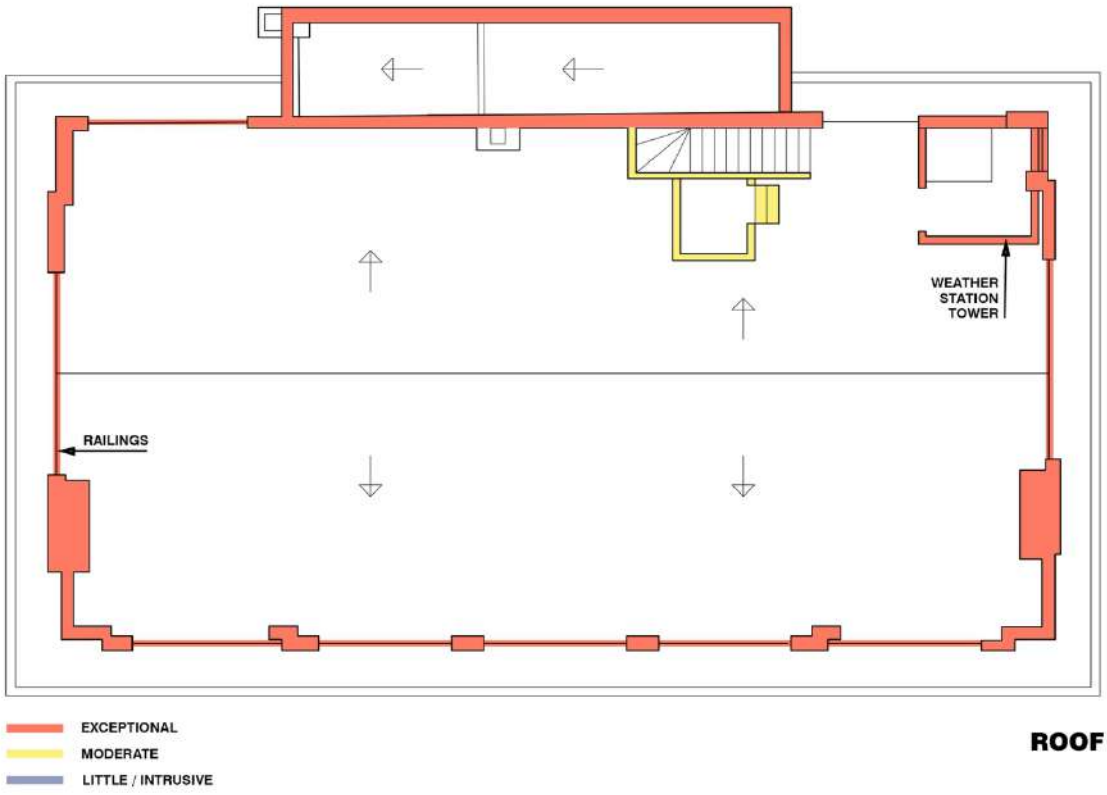


Figure 4.40: Summary of Preliminary Significance Grading within Bureau of Meteorology Building – Roof (Curio 2019 digitisation of Purcell sketch)

4.8. Heritage Curtilage

4.8.1. Definitions

The following section has been primarily extracted from the TKD draft CMP document, as indicated by italics, with Curio additions and revision in plain text.

Heritage curtilage is defined in the NSW Heritage Office publication Heritage Curtilages as:

> *"The area of land (including land covered by water) surrounding an item or area of heritage significance which is essential for retaining and interpreting its heritage significance."*

It can apply to either:

- *land which is integral to the heritage significance of items of the built heritage; or*
- *a precinct which includes buildings, works, relics, trees or places and their setting.*

The term "heritage curtilage" is also used by the Heritage Council of NSW to describe the area listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR) or on a local environmental plan.

The heritage curtilage should contain all elements contributing to the heritage significance, conservation and interpretation of a place including (but not limited to):

- *historic site boundaries;*
- *buildings and structures and their settings;*
- *functional and visual relationships between buildings and structures;*
- *important views to and from the place;*
- *any identified archaeological resources;*
- *historic and visual spatial relationships between buildings, structures and grounds.*

The NSW Heritage Office guidelines describe four different types of heritage curtilages:

- *Lot Boundary Heritage Curtilage, where the lot would adequately contain the heritage significance of the place, including buildings, gardens and other significant features such as walls, fences and driveways that contribute to the heritage significance of the place;*
- *Reduced Heritage Curtilage, where the significance of the place does not necessarily relate to the total lot area but to a lesser area of land;*
- *Expanded Heritage Curtilage, where an area larger than the lot boundary is required to retain the heritage significance of the place, including its landscape setting or visual catchment; and*
- *Composite Heritage Curtilage, which applies to conservation areas.*

4.8.2. Heritage Curtilage for Fort Street Public School

The heritage curtilage should endeavour to satisfy the following principles:

- *An understanding of the original relationships of Fort Street Public School, the Messenger's Cottage and the Bureau of Meteorology Building to the site and to each other should be maintained;*
- *An adequate setting should be provided for the three buildings that enables heritage significance to be maintained;*
- *Adequate visual catchments or corridors should be provided to the buildings from major viewing points and from the site to outside elements with which it has important visual or historical relationships. The most significant views are from the northern side of the site and from the east, because from these vantage points that the relationships of the items within the site and the relationship of the site with Observatory Hill are best understood.*

While the central lot boundary for the FSPS Site (as effectively encapsulated by the cut of the Cahill Expressway) forms the primary curtilage of the site, the wider heritage setting and character of the FSPS Site is informed by its locational context in relation to its setting on Observatory Hill. Most significantly, the expanded curtilage as relevant to the FSPS Site includes the Sydney Observatory and Observatory Hill Park in the north and west, and the National Trust site to the south. This expanded associated curtilage of heritage significance makes allowance for the heritage context and visual connections surrounding the site.

Figure 4.41Figure 4.41 presents the recommended curtilage for the FSPS Site, both with respect to the immediate lot boundary, as well as the expanded curtilage of heritage and historical significance and association.

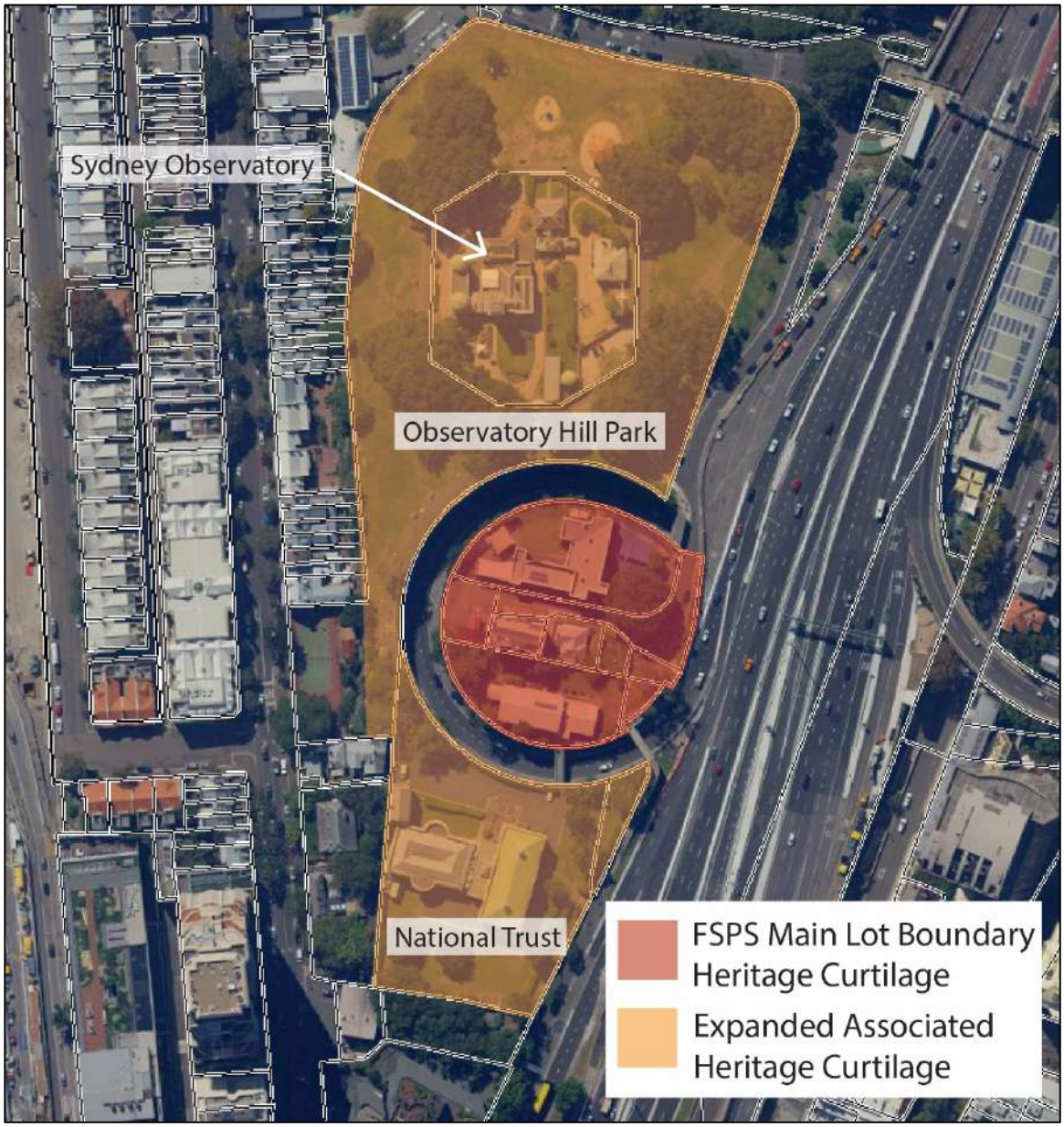


Figure 4.41: Heritage Curtilage for FSPS Site. Main lot boundary vs expanded associated curtilage (Source: Spatial Information Exchange with Curio overlay 2019)

4.8.3. Curtilage of Significant Built Elements

In addition to the overall curtilage of the FSPS Site, an appropriate curtilage for the individual heritage items contained within the site (i.e. Fort Street Public School Building; MET Building and Messenger's Cottage) is also appropriate to reflect and recognise the significance of the immediate setting and physical context of each item. The curtilage of each significant building will also serve to guide the location of future development works and/or additions within the site.

The recommended heritage curtilage for each of the items is presented in Figure 4.42.

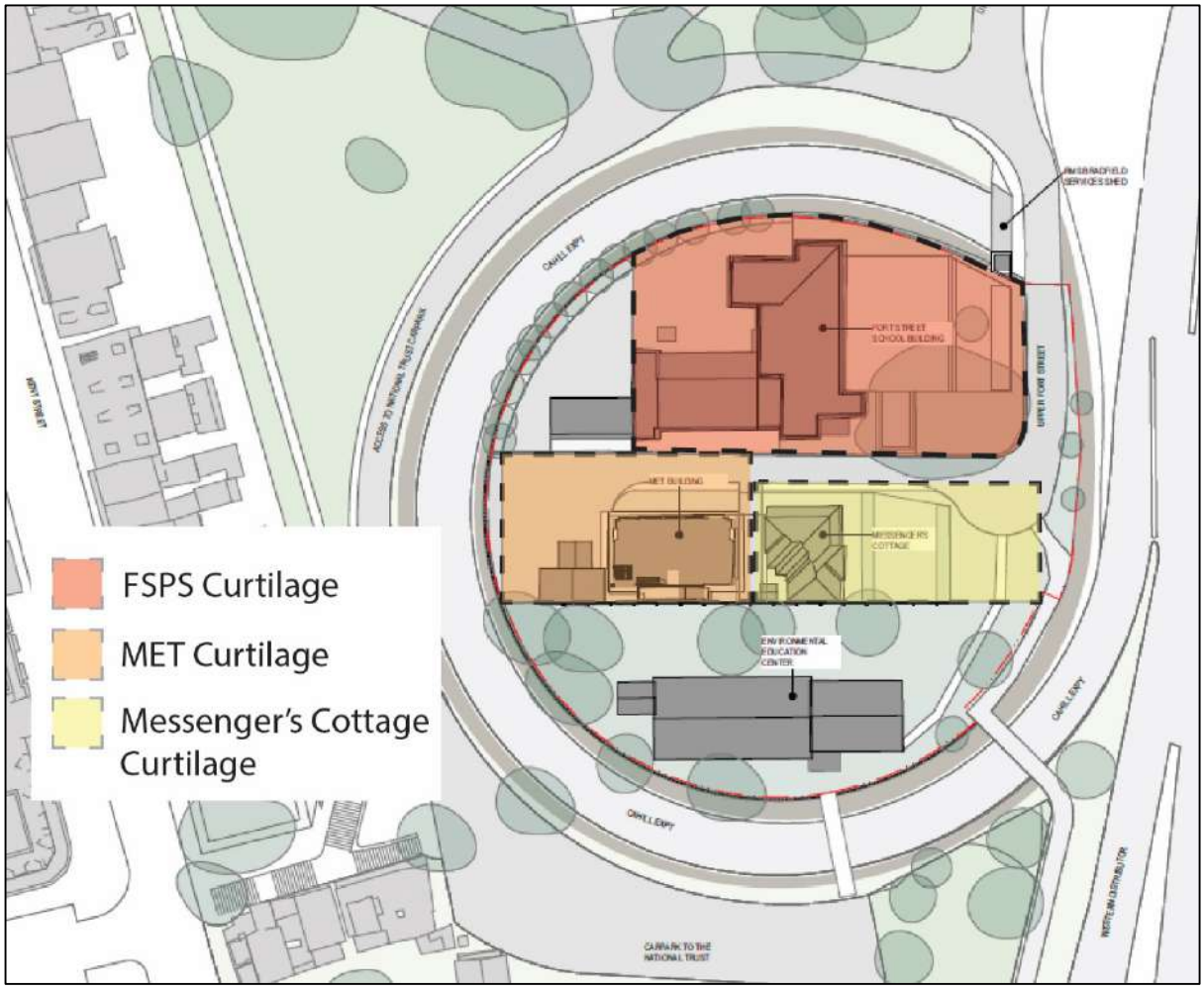


Figure 4.42: Recommended Curtilage for Heritage Items (Source: Curio over FJMT Architects Base Plan 2019)

4.9. Significant Views

4.9.1. External Views

Several key views of heritage significance have been identified for the FSPS site in relation to external heritage items and landscape character that influence, enhance, and contribute to the significance of the site, both as an individual element, as well as in its heritage context. These key five views are identified as:

1. Views to and from Observatory Hill (North)
2. Open space/low scale height to east of Messengers Cottage-views to and from site to Bradfield Hwy (East)
3. Views between Millers Point and FSPS/Observatory Hill (West)
4. Views between National Trust Building and FSPS (South)
5. Views to and from Harbour Bridge (Northeast)

These key views are indicated in Figure 4.43, and are presented and discussed in more detail in the following subsections.

Of these five identified views, the most significant are Views 1 and 2, views to and from the site in the north and the east, as these vantage points best allow the relationships between the site elements of the FSPS site and the wider heritage context and connectivity, to be visually read and understood.

Due to its significance, potential views and vistas between the FSPS site and the Sydney Opera House were considered for this assessment of significant views, however the nature of the landforms and built environment of the area means that no clear viewlines or vistas exist between the two sites (Figure 4.44).

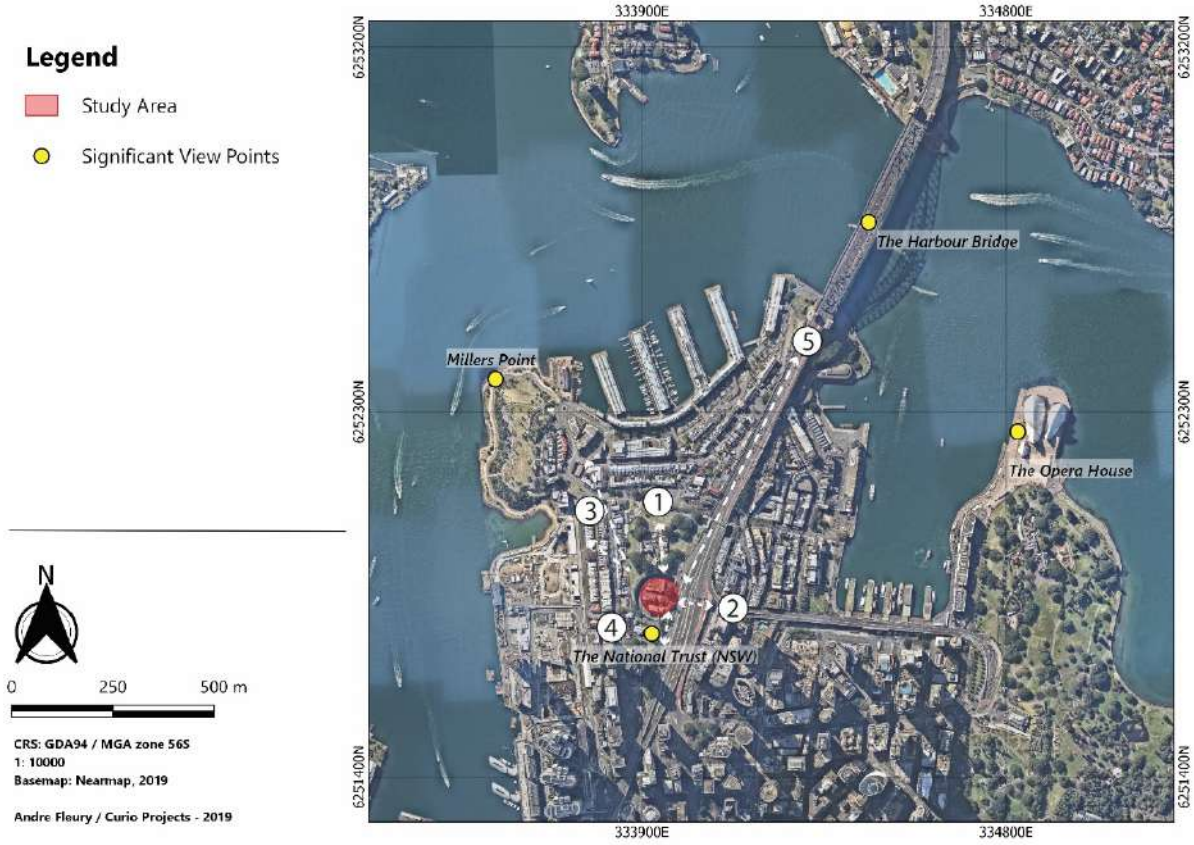


Figure 4.43: Significant External Views and Vistas (Source: Curio 2019)

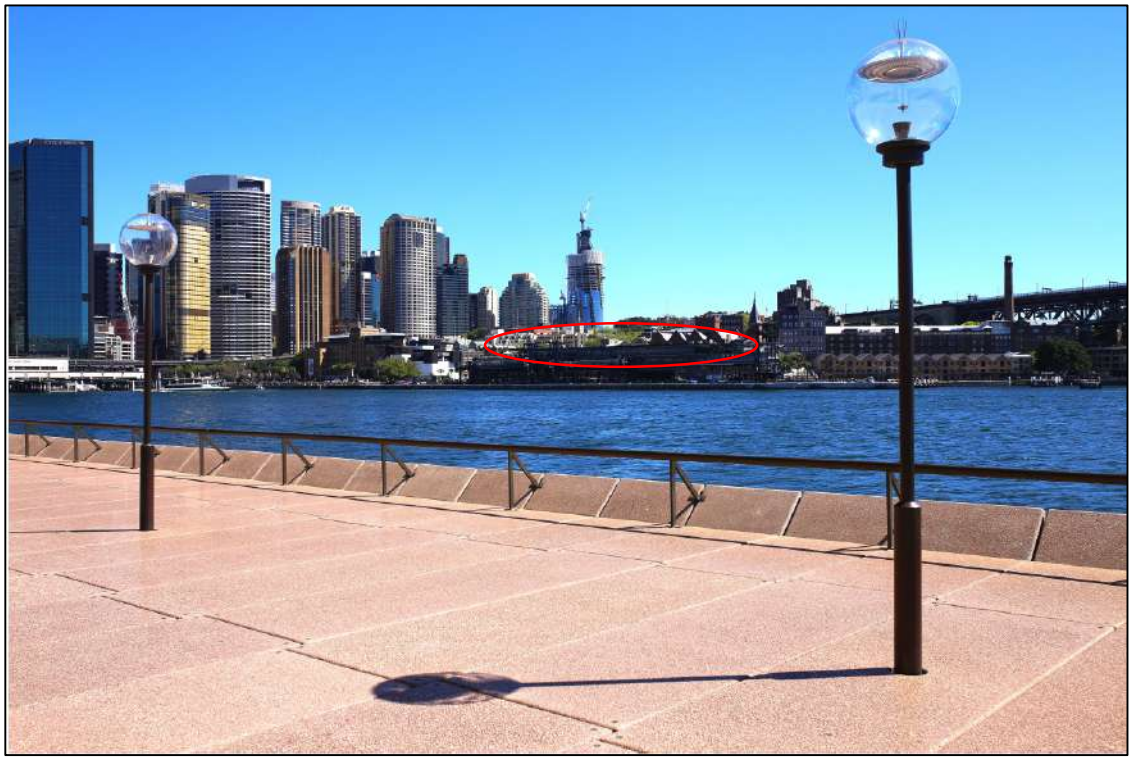


Figure 4.44: View from Sydney Opera House towards FSPS Site (indicated in red). Site not readily visible, view line already dominated by Barangaroo Development (Source: Ethos Urban)

View 1 – Sydney Observatory (North)

The historical connection between the FSPS site and Sydney Observatory remains evident through the visual connection between the two sites. While much of the visual connection between the buildings on the FSPS site that were originally connected in use to the Observatory (i.e. Messengers Cottage and Bureau of Meteorology building) has been obscured by the Fort Street Public School building, the views and vistas between these two sites are significant for their ability to communicate a visual comprehension of the wider historical and landscape context of Observatory Hill as a whole (Figure 4.45 and Figure 4.46).

The open space and mature trees in the southern extent of Observatory Hill Park to the north of the FSPS site, are also significant in providing landscape context and heritage character of the FSPS site (Figure 4.47). Views from the open space at the southern extent of the Observatory Hill Park, back south across the FSPS site, are also framed by the insistent backdrop of the Central Sydney CBD (Figure 4.48).

Figure 4.45: View 1: From Observatory hill south to Fort Street Public School (Source: Ethos Urban 2019)

Figure 4.46: View 1: To FSPS from Observatory Hill (Source: Curio 2019)

Figure 4.47: View north from northern side of Cahill Cut, to Sydney Observatory. The open space and mature trees in front of the Observatory are an important component of the Public School's setting. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 113)

Figure 4.48: Fort Street Public School viewed from the open space at the southern edge of Observatory Hill Park. Buildings in Central Sydney form an insistent backdrop when the school is seen from the north. (Source: Curio 2019)

View 2 – Bradfield Highway (East)

The Fort Street Public School site is a key visual feature from the Bradfield Highway, particularly from the northern approach from the Harbour Bridge towards the city. Views to the FSPS site from the eastern side of the Bradfield Highway visually presents the site as part of the wider Observatory Hill precinct (Figure 4.49), with clear eastern views to the site of the 1940s school building, and the Messengers Cottage (Figure 4.50). The eastern side of the FSPS site as visible from the Bradfield Highway approach is characterised by the open landscaping space and low scale built context of the buildings.

Figure 4.49: View 2: FSPS and Sydney Observatory viewed from the pedestrian walkway on the eastern side of the Harbour Bridge approaches. (Source: TKD 2016: Fig 116)

Figure 4.50: View 2: FSPS Building visible from eastern side of Bradfield Highway (Source: Ethos Urban)

View 3 – Millers Point and Observatory Hill (West)

While significant differences in elevation and landform between the FSPS Site atop Observatory Hill and lower lying area of Millers Point means that direct visual connections between these two locations are somewhat limited, parts of the site are still partly visible from Kent Street and the wider Millers Point precinct to the west.

While clear visual connections between the FSPS Site and Millers Point are mainly afforded from higher elements in the landscape only (i.e. from the Palisade Hotel in Millers Point back towards

Observatory Hill- Figure 4.51 and Figure 4.52Figure 4.52- and from the roof of the MET building down over Millers Point- Figure 4.53 and Figure 4.54), these views still retain significance for their ability to demonstrate the position of the FSPS Site in its heritage and landscape context.

Figure 4.51: View 3: From Palisade Hotel (Millers Point) to Observatory Hill and Fort Street Public School. MET Building visible (Source: Curio 2019)

Figure 4.52: View 3: Setting of Observatory Hill and Fort Street Public School (taken from Palisade Hotel, Millers Point) (Source: Curio 2019)

Figure 4.53: View to Millers Point from roof of Bureau of Meteorology Building. (Source: JSP 2019)

Figure 4.54: View northwest from roof of Bureau, Observatory Hill and Millers Point context and locational connection (Source: JSP 2019)

View 4 – National Trust (South)

As the original Fort Street Public School Building, the former military hospital- now the National Trust Building- is significant in its location and connection to the Fort Street Public School site. However, the visual connection between the FSPS Site and the National Trust building have been significantly impacted over time through the creation of the Cahill Cut (which has effectively created a visual and physical isolation of the site within the circle of the expressway excavation), as well as the slope of the landform. The construction of the EEC building (former Fanny Cohen Gymnasium) in 1949 also served to obstruct views between the National Trust building and the FSPS School/Messenger's Cottage.

Nevertheless, remaining visual connections between the FSPS Site and the National Trust Building are of heritage significance, representative of the former school use of the National Trust Building, and part of the wider historical context and character of Observatory Hill- prior to the creation of the Cahill Expressway.

Figure 4.55: View 4: Current view north from National Trust to FSPS Site. View lines to heritage buildings obscured by EEC (Source: Ethos Urban)

Figure 4.56: View from FSPS towards National Trust. Most of view blocked by existing EEC Building (Source: Curio 2019)

Figure 4.57: View from National Trust north to FSPS. Most of view blocked by existing EEC Building (Source: Curio 2019)

View 5 – Harbour Bridge

The Sydney Harbour Bridge is an internationally recognisable element of Sydney Harbour, dramatic and iconic in its aesthetic quality and setting. The Statement of Significance for the Sydney Harbour Bridge describes it as:

> *A monumental landmark in the centre of the city of Sydney and an important visual element in the cityscape when viewed from many key points around the harbour.*[88]

Inappropriate development within the setting of the Harbour Bridge has the potential to affect the values of the Bridge, dependent upon the type and location of the development. Minor views of the Harbour Bridge are afforded from the eastern side of the FSPS Site.

Figure 4.58: View 5: North towards Sydney Harbour Bridge approach, from south of FSPS Site- next to National Trust Building (Source: Curio 2019)

[88] GML 2007, *Sydney Harbour Bridge, Conservation Management Plan.*

Figure 4.59: Sydney Harbour Bridge approaches viewed from the grounds of the EEC (Source: Curio 2019)

Figure 4.60: View north to the Sydney Harbour Bridge from Upper Fort Street (Source: Curio 2019)

4.9.2. Internal Views

Two significant viewlines internal to the FSPS Site have also been identified as contributory to the heritage setting and character of the site:

1. Central Spine/Path east-west between FSPS Building and Messenger's Cottage/Bureau of Meteorology (Figure 4.61 and Figure 4.62)
2. Boundary wall (South of Messenger's Cottage/ Bureau of Meteorology) (Figure 4.63 and Figure 4.64)

Figure 4.61: View east along central circulation spine between Bureau (right) and Fort Street Public School (Left) (Source: Curio 2019)

Figure 4.62: View east along central corridor, view from in front of Bureau of Meteorology (Source: JSP 2019)

Figure 4.63: View northeast along heritage boundary wall (Source: JSP 2019)

Figure 4.64: View north of boundary wall behind Bureau of Meteorology Building (Source: Curio 2019)

5. Opportunities and Constraints

The Burra Charter Process for development of conservation policy is underpinned by opportunities and constraints arising from several key factors including: the heritage significance of the site; owner and user requirements/resources and/or feasible uses; physical condition; and other external factors (Kerr 2013: 22).

This section therefore outlines the opportunities and constraints relevant to the Fort Street Public School site, discussed as relevant to those arising from:

- Overall Cultural Heritage Significance of the site;
- Relevant heritage legislation and listings;
- Physical Condition;
- Owner and Use Requirements; and
- Heritage Interpretation and Access.

5.1. Cultural Heritage Significance

Fort Street Public School, the Messenger's Cottage and Bureau of Meteorology Building are identified as items of local heritage significance requiring management in accordance with accepted best-practice conservation principles, including The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, The Burra Charter (2013). The Burra Charter is widely accepted across Australia as an underlying methodology by which all works to sites/buildings that have been identified as having heritage significance may be undertaken.

Although the three buildings have heritage significance, the levels of relative significance across the site are not uniform - some parts of the place have a higher level of significance than others. The site is also significant for its archaeological potential.

The following opportunities arise from the heritage significance of the place:

- *Retaining, conserving and enhancing the heritage significance of the place including spaces, elements and fabric of significant buildings, structures and landscape features;*
- *Removing components that are intrusive to the heritage significance of the place;*
- *Regaining and interpreting elements that have been lost, thus contributing to the heritage significance of the place;*
- *Ensuring that new works, such as alterations and additions, and new buildings retain the heritage significance of the place;*
- *Applying best-practice principles to the care and conservation of the place and to any proposals for change that may be contemplated in the future;*
- *Enhancement of significant elements and the presentation of Fort Street Public School as an integral component of future development;*

- *The opportunity to undertake development that will regain aspects of the heritage significance of the place and better complement important heritage features of the site;*
- *Enhancement of significant cultural landscape components as an integral part of development.*

The heritage significance of Fort Street Public School does not preclude changes to the place that can enhance its uses and viability. The ongoing use of the place is the best way to ensure its conservation into the future.

The assessment of the relative heritage significance of the spaces and the policies contained in Section 6 of the CMP provide recommendations for the amount of change that each space can sustain.

5.2. Heritage Legislation and Listings

Heritage legislation and listings are a functional way in which the heritage values and significance of sites and their elements can be preserved and protected. Listing on statutory registers does not represent the inability for a heritage item to change at all, rather provides a degree of legal protection and regulated approvals protocols with regards to works and future development of heritage items, with associated processes such as permitting and assessment applicable.

The following section presents and discusses the relevant heritage listings that apply to the Fort Street Public School site, with specific reference to the relevant legislation or statutory requirements, noting any statutory implications, procedures and/or approvals that may apply, and discusses the opportunities and constraints that such heritage listings may present to the site.

5.2.1. Summary Table of Heritage Listings and Registers

Table 5.1 lists the relevant statutory and non-statutory registers, listings and orders, and identified those in which the Fort Street Public School site (or individual elements of) is sited.

Table 5.1: Summary Table of Heritage Listings and Registers

REGISTER/LISTING	DETAILS	STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS (Y/N)
National Heritage List	Not listed	N/A
Commonwealth Heritage List	Not listed	N/A
Register of National Estate	*Fort Street School (former) (western addition)*- N.B. Building is no longer extant. *Old Training Block, Fort Street School (former)* - N.B. Building is no longer extant.	N
State Heritage Register	Included within Millers and Dawes Point HCA	Y
Interim Heritage Order	Not listed	N/A
City of Sydney LEP	*Bureau of Meteorology including interior* (#I936)	Y

REGISTER/LISTING	DETAILS	STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS (Y/N)
	Messenger's Cottage for Sydney Observatory including interior (#I937) *Fort Street Primary School site including buildings and interiors, fig trees and grounds* (#I938). Included within *Millers Point Heritage Conservation Area* (HCA) (C35).	
Register of the National Trust (NSW)	Not listed	N/A
NSW National Trust Industrial Archaeology Sites List	Not listed	N/A

5.2.2. NSW Heritage Act 1977

In NSW, heritage items are afforded statutory protection under the *NSW Heritage Act 1977* (the *Heritage Act*). Heritage places and items of particular importance to the people of New South Wales are listed on the NSW State Heritage Register. The *Heritage Act* defines a heritage item as a 'place, building, work, relic, moveable object or precinct'. The *Heritage Act* is responsible for the conservation and regulation of impacts to items of State heritage significance, with 'State Heritage Significance' defined as being of 'significance to the state in relation to the historical, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural or aesthetic value of the item'.

The NSW Heritage Council is the approval authority under the *Heritage Act* for works to an item on the State Heritage Register. Section 57(1) of the *Heritage Act* requires Heritage Council approval if the work involves the following tasks:

> *(a) Demolishing the building or work*
>
> *(b) Damaging or despoiling the place, precinct or land, or any part of the place, precinct or land*
>
> *(c) Moving, damaging or destroying the relic or movable object*
>
> *(d) Excavating any land for the purpose of exposing or moving the relic*
>
> *(e) Carrying out any development in relation to the land on which the building, work or relic is situated, the land that comprises the place, or land within the precinct*
>
> *(f) Altering the building, work, relic or movable object*
>
> *(g) Displaying any notice or advertisement on the place, building, work, relic, movable object or land, or in the precinct*
>
> *(h) Damaging or destroying any tree or other vegetation on, or remove any tree or other vegetation from the place, precinct or land.*

Application for an approval in accordance with Section 57(1) can be sought via a Section 60 Application to the NSW Heritage Division. Demolition of an SHR item (in whole) is prohibited

under the *Heritage Act*, unless the item constitutes a danger to its occupants or the public. A component of an SHR item may only demolished if it does not contribute to the significance of the item. The requirement for a Section 60 approval also applies to archaeological relics within an SHR site.

Exemptions

Standard exemptions have been gazetted (5 September 2008) that apply to all SHR sites. The purpose of Standard Exemptions is to streamline the approvals process, particularly where works are minor and/or have little impact on significance. For further details of the standard exemptions, refer to the NSW Heritage Division website.

Prior to conducting any work which may be exempt, an Exemption Notification Form under Section 57(2) of the *Heritage Act* (not a Section 60 application) must be completed and submitted to the NSW Heritage Division with sufficient information to determine whether the works meet the standard exemption guidelines. Sufficient information normally takes the form of a short report clearly stating the scope of the work and how it meets the guidelines. The Exemption Notification Form must be approved prior to work commencing.

Site specific exemptions relate specifically to an individual SHR item, and can only be for works which have no potential to materially affect the item (Standard Exemption 6). Site specific exemptions must be specifically identified as exemptions in a CMP endorsed by the Heritage Council or its delegate and using wording agreed upon prior to Heritage Council endorsement.

Excavation Permits

The *Heritage Act* protects heritage, however historical archaeological remains are additionally protected from being moved or excavated through the operation of the 'relics' provisions. These protect unidentified 'relics' which may form part of the State's environmental heritage, but which have not been listed on the SHR or protected by an Interim Heritage Order. An archaeological site is an area of land which is the location of one or more archaeological 'relics'.

Since amendments were made to the Heritage Act in 2009, a 'relic' has been defined as:

> *any deposit, artefact, object or material evidence that:*
>
> *(a) Relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement*
>
> *(b) Is of State or local heritage significance.*

Division 9 of the *Heritage Act* is titled 'Protection of certain relics', with Section 139 stating that "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". Such permits are issued under Sections 140 and 141 of the Act, or under Sections 60 and 63 of the Act, in cases where 'relics' are situated within sites or places listed on the SHR.

An excavation permit is also required if a relic has been discovered in the course of excavation without a permit (Section 139(2) of the Act).

If an excavation permit is required by Section 139 of the *Heritage Act*, an application is made under Section 140 of the Act (a Section 140 Application). To obtain an excavation permit, an Archaeological Assessment and Research Design needs to be prepared in accordance with the NSW Heritage Division's relevant guidelines, including *Historical Archaeological Sites* and the *Historical Archaeology Code of Practice*. For further details of these guidelines, refer to the OEH Heritage Division website.

In addition, Section 146 of the *Heritage Act* relates to the requirement to report the discovery of relics to the Heritage Council. Specifically, Section 146 of the *Heritage Act* states:

> *146 Notification of discovery of a relic*
>
> *A person, who is aware or believes that he or she has discovered or located a relic (in any circumstances, and whether or not the person has been issued with a permit) must:*
>
> *(a) within a reasonable time after he or she first becomes aware or believes that he or she has discovered or located that relic notify the Heritage Council of the location of the relic, unless he or she believes on reasonable grounds that the Heritage Council is aware of the location of the relic, and*
>
> *(b) within the period required by the Heritage Council furnish the Heritage Council with such information concerning the relic as the Heritage Council may reasonably require.*

In accordance with the Section 146 provisions of the *Heritage Act*, the discovery of relics is generally reported to the Heritage Division, in the form of a post-excavation report or similar, depending on the circumstances in which the discovery was made- and in accordance with any requirements of the Minister.

No individual items within the FSPS site are listed on the SHR, however the FSPS site itself is located within the Millers Point and Dawes Point Village Precinct Conservation Area (SHR #01682).

5.2.3. NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NPW Act), administered by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), is the primary legislation that provides statutory protection for all 'Aboriginal objects' (Part 6, Section 90) and 'Aboriginal places' (Part 6, Section 84) within NSW.

An Aboriginal object is defined through the NPW Act as:

> *"any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale) relating to the Aboriginal habitation of the area that comprises New South Wales, being habitation before or concurrent with (or both) the occupation of that area by persons of non-Aboriginal extraction, and includes Aboriginal remains."*

The NPW Act provides the definition of 'harm' to Aboriginal objects and places as:

"...any act or omission that:

(a) destroys, defaces or damages the object or place, or

(b) in relation to an object-moves the object from the land on which it had been situated, or

(c) is specified by the regulations, or

(d) causes or permits the object or place to be harmed in a manner referred to in paragraph (a), (b) or (c), (NPW Act 1974)

The NPW Act also establishes penalties for 'harm' to Aboriginal objects and declared Aboriginal places, as well as defences and exemptions for harm. One of the main defences against the harming of Aboriginal objects and cultural material is to seek an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) under Section 90 of the NPW Act, under which disturbance to Aboriginal objects could be undertaken, in accordance with the requirements of an approved AHIP.

NSW OEH maintains a database of Aboriginal objects and places (Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System- AHIMS) which includes *'information about Aboriginal objects that have been reported to the Director General of Department of Premier and Cabinet; information about Aboriginal places which have been declared by the Minister for the Environment to have special significance with respect to Aboriginal culture; and archaeological reports*'.

No Aboriginal sites or places are registered with AHIMS within the FSPS site.

5.2.4. Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

An Environmental Planning Instrument (EPI) is made under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 (EP&A Act). An EPI can be a Local Environmental Plan (LEP), a Development Control Plan (DCP), a Regional Environmental Plan (REP), or a State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP). The applicable EPIs in this instance are as follows:

- City of Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012 (LEP 2012)
- City of Sydney Development Control Plan 2012 (DCP 2012)

Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012

Clause 5.10 of the Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012 (LEP) sets out objectives and planning controls for the conservation of heritage in the City of Sydney.

The LEP states that development consent is required for works that will involve:

(a) demolishing or moving any of the following or altering the exterior of any of the following (including, in the case of a building, making changes to its detail, fabric, finish or appearance)—

(i) a heritage item,

(ii) an Aboriginal object,

(iii) a building, work, relic or tree within a heritage conservation area,

(b) altering a heritage item that is a building by making structural changes to its interior or by making changes to anything inside the item that is specified in Schedule 5 in relation to the item,

(c) disturbing or excavating an archaeological site while 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,

(e) erecting a building on land—

(i) on which a heritage item is located or that is within a heritage conservation area, or

(ii) on which an Aboriginal object is located or that is within an Aboriginal place of heritage significance,

Clause 5.10(7) specifically relates to the management of archaeological sites:

The consent authority must, before granting consent under this clause to the carrying out of development on an archaeological site (other than land listed on the State Heritage Register or to which an interim heritage order under the Heritage Act 1977 applies):

(a)notify the Heritage Council of its intention to grant consent, and

(b)take into consideration any response received from the Heritage Council within 28 days after the notice is sent.

Schedule 5, Part 1 of the Sydney LEP establishes locally listed heritage items.

There are three locally listed heritage items located within the FSPS site: the Bureau of Meteorology including interior (#I936), the Messenger's Cottage for Sydney Observatory including interior (#I937) and the Fort Street Primary School site including buildings and interiors, fig trees and grounds (#I938).

The FSPS site is also located within the Millers Point Heritage Conservation Area (HCA) (C35) on the Sydney LEP.

5.2.5. Non-Statutory Heritage Registers

A number of organisations maintain registers of buildings or sites which they have assessed as having cultural heritage significance. These registers have no statutory authority; however the inclusion of a place on a non-statutory register suggests a certain degree of community esteem and appreciation. Non-statutory registers include the National Trust (NSW) Register, the NSW National Trust Industrial Archaeology Sites List, the RAIA 20th Century Register of Significant Buildings, and the Art Deco Society of NSW's Art Deco Building Register.

Register of the National Estate

The Australian Heritage Council is also responsible for keeping the Register of the National Estate (RNE). The RNE can no longer be added to, and for Commonwealth properties, has been superseded by the Commonwealth and National Heritage Lists. The RNE is now an indicative list

of significant places with no statutory controls, except for properties owned by the Commonwealth.

No heritage items within the FSPS site are listed on the RNE.

National Trust of Australia (NSW)

The National Trust (NSW) Register was established in 1949, and maintains a 'register of landscapes, townscapes, buildings, industrial sites, cemeteries and other items or places which the Trust determines have cultural significance and are worthy of conservation'. While the Register does not have statutory authority, it does fill a role of raising public awareness of heritage issues.

No heritage items within the FSPS site are listed on National Trust (NSW) Register.

5.3. Physical Condition

Built and cultural landscape elements are generally in good condition (with the exception of the Bureau of Meteorology Building) and do not require repair or conservation of damaged or deteriorating fabric, apart from some areas of brickwork that are fretting and/or require careful repointing. There is still the ability to appreciate the original form and setting of Fort Street Public School.

The Messenger's Cottage is in good condition, having been recently refurbished to accommodate administrative functions of Fort Street Public School.

The Bureau of Meteorology is in poor condition and is urgently in need of basic repairs to prevent further water ingress and deterioration of building fabric. Timber roof and floor structures have deteriorated to the extent that they are unsafe in some places, rendering the building in its present form unusable. As well, original building fabric such as ceiling linings and cornices, and timber items such as skirting boards in some parts of the building, have deteriorated to the extent that they need replacement – conservation and repair is no longer feasible.

5.3.1. Archaeology

The archaeological potential of the Fort Street Public School site (both Aboriginal and historical) has been summarised in Section 3.5 of this CMP. The known and/or potential archaeology present within the site presents physical constraints within the site- particularly in relation to any future works within the curtilage that propose below ground impacts.

Should a highly intact and substantial historical archaeological resource of State significance be encountered within the site, this may require in situ retention, precluding substantial below-ground impacts in the location.

Known and potential archaeological resources within the site also present a significant opportunity for integration with future interpretation initiatives for the site, including both physical integration of archaeology within future development, as well as potential for use of archaeological relics for educational and interpretation purposes within the site.

5.3.2. Physical Parameters

The Fort Street Public School site is severely constrained with respect to physical boundaries and geographical limitations of the site that will influence future opportunities for site use and development.

- Presence of the Cahill Expressway cut creates a significant boundary to future expansion of the school site. Contiguous expansion of the school would require bridging of the Cahill Cut, which while possible, introduces significant mechanical and financial considerations and constraints.
- Vehicular site access currently only available from one location via a single lane road- creating significant impact for site access both for students/parents and staff, but also for emergency access and other service and amenities access etc.
- Traffic congestion and safety implications for vehicular ingress and egress from the site to Observatory Hill/Bradfield Highway.

5.3.3. Significant Views

Section 4.9 of this CMP identifies the key significant heritage views of relevance to the Fort Street Public School site, including viewlines and vistas between the site and external features, as well as internal viewlines of significance.

Any future site development will need to consider both the opportunities and constraints presented by the location of the Fort Street Public School site in its heritage context and significant views and vistas. The site is highly visible from a number of views in connection to heritage sites of local, State and Nationally significance, as well as in connection to Sydney Harbour. View lines with potential to impact other heritage items needs to be considered in any future development works.

5.4. Owner and Use Requirements

The redevelopment of Fort Street Public School and the Environmental Education Centre (EEC) has been considered by the NSW Government for a number of years, with the development of a third business case since 2014 being undertaken in 2019.

The Fort Street Public School has now reached both student and functional capacity in its current built form. According to the most recent student projections (April 2019), the Sydney Inner-City School Community Group (SGC) will have a 26 per cent increase in demand by 2036. This demand is being driven by the construction of 18,300 dwellings within the SCG and surrounding suburbs. Three key drivers behind the most recent strategic business case for the site by SI NSW are:

- Service Need;
- Asset and Site Conditions; and
- Precinct Opportunities.[89]

[89] NSW Education, School Infrastructure 2019, *Strategic Business Case- Fort Street Public School*, dated June 2019

The age of the buildings on site currently used by the School provide a number of complications and difficulties for ongoing use- notably that:

- Existing configuration of the main Fort Street Public School building and other teaching areas are not compatible with modern teaching practices in terms of their size and functional relationships.
- The Bureau of Meteorology building requires significant refurbishment to make it habitable. The building is deteriorating fast and may soon pose a risk to students. In the interim it requires upkeep just to keep safe and detract unauthorised access.
- Current facilities do not meet the Department of Education's cooler classrooms policy
- Current buildings do not meet modern energy efficacity standards.
- Functional open play space for children is currently below the desired 10sqm per student.

5.5. Heritage Interpretation

Heritage Interpretation of the history and significance of a site should utilise a range of methods and techniques to present and deliver information to visitors and site users. It is intended to assist people to gain an understanding and appreciation of the history and heritage significance of the place, using narratives based on key themes and messages to organise the information. Interpretation of tangible items, including artefacts, buildings, structures, archaeological remains and landscape may be delivered through signage, objects and art works. It can be integrated into the design of new built and landscape elements or presented in a published format including brochures, pamphlets, books and multimedia. Interpretation can also present and explore intangible aspects of social significance.

The appropriateness of potential future heritage interpretation initiatives and elements for the FSPS site will need to be considered in the context of the use of the site as a public primary school. This may present both opportunities and constraints to heritage interpretation at the site, as some common methods of heritage interpretation such as artworks, plaques and historical information may be inappropriate for use.

PART B—CONSERVATION POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

6. Conservation Policy

6.1. Conservation Policy Development

Conservation can be regarded as the management of change. Therefore, conservation seeks to safeguard that which is significant to an item or place of heritage significance within a process of change and development. It is essential to establish criteria, policies and recommendations for conservation and on-going use of a heritage item to ensure best practice heritage management and preservation of heritage significance for the future. Within this framework, owners and managers of the heritage item or place will be able to formulate suitable proposals, and planning authorities will be able to assess those proposals against the site-specific heritage criteria.

The conservation policies developed here for Fort Street Public School are intended to assist in the long-term use, maintenance, conservation and future development of the site. These policies are intended to manage change, rather than prohibit it. The conservation policies provide the essential guiding aims for the FSPS site, which should be adopted by SI NSW and the relevant approval authorities. The following key principles provide the overarching context behind the policy development:

- The future conservation and development of the place should be carried out in accordance with the principles of the *Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance* (Burra Charter).
- The approach and options recommended for the conservation of specific fabrics, spaces, elements and qualities of the place should be endorsed as a guide to future work, the recommendations having been related to the principles of the Burra Charter.
- Care should be taken in any future development to avoid or minimise any adverse effect on the FSPS site in its broader context related both to the physical and historical context of the wider Millers Point and Observatory Hill area, as well as in the context of educational significance of the site as one of the earliest National Schools.
- Policies should consider practical options for management of built fabric, both heritage and modern, and encourage opportunities for replacement of intrusive elements with more sympathetic options, or seek to reinstate heritage finishes where possible.

6.2. Conservation Policies

For clarity and ease of use, the conservation policies for Fort Street Public School have been grouped and presented below under three categories, seen to be those of critical importance to the conservation of the heritage significance of the site. Each category is accompanied by a brief explanatory segment intended to highlight the intent behind the policies. The policies have been presented in this way to assist with any future discussion of the merits of the policies and possible changes to their recommendations.

The policy categories for Fort Street Public School include:

- General Management;

- Heritage Conservation; and
- Future Actions.

Each individual policy is accompanied by a succinct background description, followed by a series of strategic actions and guidelines, which will ensure that future decisions regarding heritage are made in an informed manner, ensuring the conservation of the significance of the place.

Policies stated below are a combination of both TKD and Curio development, therefore all policies are represented in italics, and for this section do not indicate TKD vs Curio authorship.

6.2.1. General Management Policies

General management policies below relate to the overarching management of cultural heritage significance of the Fort Street Public School site, in consideration and acknowledgement of current best practice heritage conservation protocols.

POLICY 1—PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW	
This Conservation Management Plan should provide the basis for the future conservation and adaptive reuse of the Fort Street Public School Messenger's Cottage and Bureau of Meteorology Building.	
Guidelines	
1.1	*The Conservation Management Plan should be adopted by the owners of the place as the basis for its future heritage management.*
1.2	*The Heritage Management principles, policies and guidelines within this CMP should be integrated into the current and future management structure(s) of the entire Fort Street Public School site to ensure that:* • *long-term conservation of the heritage values of the site and its significant components, spaces,* • *elements and fabric is achieved;* • *employees, contractors and other site users are made aware of the heritage significance of the site and its key components and the objectives for heritage management;* • *management roles and responsibilities are clearly established; and* • *an appropriate balance is achieved between the functional requirements of the site and the heritage imperatives applying to the significant components of the site.*
1.3	*Review and update of this CMP is recommended to be undertaken every five years to ensure up-to-date heritage values and condition are properly documented and conserved, as well as in accordance with any future legislative changes.*
1.4	*Should major modifications be undertaken within the Fort Street Public School site, particularly those including extensive changes or impact to heritage values, this CMP should be reviewed once the major changes have been completed, regardless of the time frame since preparation of this CMP (i.e. prior to the recommended five year interval)*

POLICY 2—ACHIEVING BEST-PRACTICE CONSERVATION OUTCOMES	
Management of the heritage values of the Fort Street Public School site including key structural elements of Fort Street Public School, the Messenger's Cottage and the Bureau of Meteorology Building should be in accordance with the principles, polices and guidelines in this Conservation Management Plan and in other best-practice heritage principles and guidelines.	
Guidelines	
2.1	*Future conservation and development of Fort Street Public School site should be undertaken in accordance with the principles of The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance 2013 (the Burra Charter); as well as guidelines produced by the Heritage Council of NSW.*
2.2	*Any works required to be undertaken that have potential to impact the cultural significance of the Fort Street Public School site, either tangible or intangible, should adhere to the Burra Charter principle of 'as much as necessary, as little as possible'.*
2.3	*This CMP, most notably the Statement of Significance, Grading of Significant Fabric, and Policies presented within, should be endorsed and adopted by all relevant parties as a basis for future planning and conservation works for the Fort Street Public School site.*

POLICY 3—RECOGNISING PRECINCT-WIDE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE	
The Fort Street Public School site has historical and cultural significance as part of a wider significant heritage precinct in Sydney's centre, and should be recognised and managed within its wider context, not just as a site in isolation.	
Guidelines	
3.1	*The Fort Street Public School site should be considered as being inherently connected to the history and significance of significant heritage items within the wider Millers Point precinct, significant to, but outside of, the curtilage of the site. Including:* • *Sydney Observatory* • *National Trust Building* • *Millers and Dawes Point Village Precinct*

POLICY 4—CONSERVATION EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS	
Appropriate conservation skills and experience should be employed to undertake any conservation or new works at the site.	
Guidelines	
4.1	*Ensure that all conservation works undertaken at Fort Street Public School, the Messenger's Cottage, Bureau of Meteorology and adjacent parts of the site are overseen or undertaken in consultation with qualified and experienced conservation professionals acting within the principles, policies and guidelines established in the CMP.*
4.2	*A clear process should be established for engaging suitably qualified consultants, building contractors, project managers and tradespeople that have experience with working on significant historic sites, buildings and structures.*
4.3	*Proposed conservation works should make use of all available expertise and knowledge and adopt an evidence-based approach to materials conservation.*

POLICY 4—CONSERVATION EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS	
4.4	*All historical archaeological excavations undertaken within the site should be carried out under the supervision of an Excavation Director who meets the NSW Heritage Division criteria for directing archaeological excavations of State significance.*

POLICY 5—ADDITIONAL RESEARCH AND ASSESSMENT	
Additional research and assessment of the component spaces and fabric of the Bureau of Meteorology Building should be undertaken to inform decision-making in relation to the detailed design of conservation works and alterations and additions to the site and its significant components.	
Guidelines	
5.1	*The MET building requires emergency repairs (see Policy 9) (i.e. works to make safe access). Once these works have been completed, a more comprehensive assessment of building should be undertaken.*
5.2	*Any proposals for conservation or new works within the FSPS site should be evidence based, with sufficient research and support from documented historical evidence and knowledge of the site buildings and history*

POLICY 6—ASSESSING HERITAGE IMPACTS	
Building and site works proposed within the Fort Street Public School site should be assessed for their potential to impact (both positively and adversely) on the heritage significance of the site and the heritage significance of other heritage items and /or heritage conservation areas in the vicinity.	
Guidelines	
6.1	*Any significant works proposed for within the site curtilage should be accompanied by a Heritage Impact Statement, specific to the proposed activities, to be assessed in accordance with the policies presented within this CMP and all relevant NSW Heritage Council guidelines.*
6.2	*Heritage Impact Assessments should include an evaluation of the potential impacts of the proposed change on the heritage significance of the place and on any other heritage items or heritage conservation areas in the vicinity.*

POLICY 7—RECORDS OF MAINTENANCE AND CHANGE	
A recording of the condition of significant fabric and key features of Fort Street Public School, the Messenger's Cottage and the Bureau of Meteorology Building should be undertaken before, during and after repair works or as part of any new works.	
Guidelines	
7.1	*Archival recording of all future works including demolition and changes, particularly works that will present unavoidable changes to significant elements, spaces or fabric, should be undertaken in accordance with following NSW Heritage Division guidelines:* • *Photographic Recording of Heritage Items Using Digital Film Capture (revised 2006);* • *How to Prepare Archival Recordings of Heritage Items (revised 1998); and*

POLICY 7—RECORDS OF MAINTENANCE AND CHANGE	
	• *Maintenance series 1.2: Documenting Maintenance and Repair.*
7.2	*A hardcopy and digital copy of archival recordings should be lodged with the Department of Education & Communities archive.*

POLICY 8—COMPLIANCE WITH STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS	
Fort Street Public School, the Messenger's Cottage, the Bureau of Meteorology and the overall Fort Street Public School site will be managed in ways that are consistent with applicable heritage legislative requirements. Works required to comply with building code and other legislative requirements should aim to avoid or minimise impacts on the site's heritage significance.	
Guidelines	
8.1	*The Fort Street Public School site is included within the 'Millers and Walsh Point Village Precinct' NSW State Heritage Register listing, and must be managed in accordance with the statutory requirements of the NSW Heritage Act 1977.*
8.2	*It will be necessary to submit the appropriate Development Application (DA) for any proposal which alters a place- be that via an Integrated Development Application (IDA) to the City of Sydney, or a State Significant Development (SSDA) to the Department of Planning (future development approvals pathways will depend on nature and scope of development works proposed). The relevant DA approval body must include the Heritage Council of NSW in the approval process.*
8.3	*Future works within the site curtilage may require a Section 60 application under the NSW Heritage Act 1977, dependant on the nature of the works and statutory approval process.*
8.4	*Works required to achieve compliance with the National Construction Code (NCC) 2019 should be undertaken in a manner that does not damage the cultural significance of the site or its significant built and landscape components. Alternate solutions may be required.*
8.5	*Where works are required to significant heritage fabric to achieve WHS/NCC compliance, alternative solutions to minimise heritage impact are encouraged*

6.2.2. Heritage Conservation Policies

Heritage conservation policies set out below provide ongoing guidance for the conservation of significant built and landscape components, elements, spaces and fabric contained within the Fort Street Public School site.

POLICY 9—HERITAGE CONSERVATION- GENERAL
Heritage conservation should: • **Adopt a holistic approach and extend to all significant aspects of the place** • **Retain significant components, spaces, elements and fabric of the place consistent with their assessed level of significance and in accordance with specific actions identified within this CMP;** • **Make use of all expertise and knowledge, and adopt an evidence-based approach to materials conservation; and** • **Ensure that the authenticity of original elements and fabric is maintained.**
Guidelines

POLICY 9—HERITAGE CONSERVATION- GENERAL	
9.1	*Components, elements, spaces and fabric of the place should be managed according to the contribution that they make to the heritage significance of the place. See Section 4.7- Gradings of Significant Components.*

POLICY 10—BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES	
The conservation of the significant buildings and fabric is to be undertaken in a manner that is consistent with their assessed levels of heritage significance and in accordance with the guidelines included in this CMP.	
Guidelines- General	
10.1	*Retain and conserve all items of Exceptional and High heritage significance.*
10.2	*The significant internal spaces of High heritage significance should also be retained and conserved.*
10.3	*Items of Moderate heritage significance should be retained where possible. Demolition or removal is acceptable, provided that it would not result in adverse impact to other items of higher heritage significance.*
10.4	*Items of Little heritage significance may be retained and adapted or removed. Removal is preferred where it would enhance the heritage significance of other items of higher heritage significance or the site as a whole.*
10.5	*Items that are intrusive should be removed when the opportunity arises. Removal should ensure that buildings and structures of higher heritage significance are not damaged.*
10.6	*Sensitive adaptive re-use of significant items is encouraged provided that adaptation is consistent with the guidelines contained in this CMP and with other best-practice guidelines*
Guidelines- Fort Street Public School Building	
10.7	*Fort Street Public School is of Exceptional heritage significance and should therefore be retained, conserved and adapted appropriately in the future.*
10.8	*The lavatory block attached to the western end of Fort Street Public School has Moderate heritage significance. It may be retained, adapted or demolished.*
Guidelines- Messenger's Cottage	
10.9	*The Messenger's Cottage is of High heritage significance and should be retained, conserved and adapted* *appropriately in the future. Of particular importance are:* • *The overall external form of the building, including verandahs and rear additions, and extant early building fabric;* • *The internal layout of the building and extant early fabric.*
Guidelines- Bureau of Meteorology	
10.10	*The Bureau of Meteorology is of Exceptional heritage significance and should therefore be retained, conserved and adapted appropriately in the future. Of particular importance are:* • *The overall external form of the building and intact early building fabric, including the roof tower.* • *Subject to confirmation, surviving original internal layouts and original building fabric that has retained its integrity.*
10.11	*The MET Building is currently in an extremely poor state of repair. Emergency repair works as recommended in the Draft Scope of Conservation Works by Purcell (2019), and as finalised as part of*

POLICY 10—BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES	
	a final scope of works, should be undertaken should as soon as possible to make the building safe to enter and to prevent further deterioration. These emergency report works include: • *Install a temporary roof to the building that overhangs the parapet to weatherproof the roof as a major priority.* • *Undertake a general clean-up of the building using approved contractors, taking care to avoid areas of collapsed floor etc.* • *Remove existing timber doors, fireplaces etc from the building, record their condition in an inventory and store in a secure, weatherproof location on site to prevent further damage.* • *Install a temporary perimeter fence to the building to prevent access.* • *Install temporary floor joists/columns where necessary to ensure the stability of the existing structure. Where floors are missing or severely deteriorated, install a temporary plywood floor or similar to permit access.*
10.12	*Develop schedule of repairs for MET Building, following from that prepared by Purcell 2019 (pp.15-17, as shown in Appendix B of this document)) (See Policy 15- Maintenance and Repair Schedule) should be undertaken in a manner consistent with this draft advice, and for which a final formal scope of works should be prepared by a Heritage Architect.*
10.13	*Any works undertaken to the MET Building should be as recommended, specified and supervised by an experienced heritage architect and/or qualified heritage specialist.*
10.14	*Constructed in part at a later date than the Bureau Building, the Garages are of Moderate heritage significance for the evidence they provide of the workings of the place. The Garages may be retained, adapted or demolished.*
Guidelines- EEC (former Fanny Cohen Gymnasium)	
10.15	*The EEC is of Moderate heritage significance because of its historical associations with Fort Street Girls' High School and because it is an uncommon example of a purpose designed post World War II gymnasium. However, its aesthetic value is at best representative and the building has been modified internally. The EEC may be retained, adapted or demolished.*
10.16	*Any adaptation of the EEC building for new uses should enable some interpretation of its original uses and historical roles.*
Guidelines- Brick Boundary Wall	
10.17	*The brick wall between the Messenger's Cottage and EEC is an item of Exceptional heritage significance. It is understood to include fabric associated with the Military Hospital and had achieved its present form by the 1860s, around the time the first section of the Messenger's Cottage was built.*
10.18	*The orientation and alignment of the brick wall should be retained and conserved. Sensitive alterations and adaptations to the fabric of the wall may be appropriate depending on location and rationale.*

POLICY 11—CULTURAL LANDSCAPE
Management of the cultural landscape of the Fort Street Public School site should be consistent with the assessed levels of heritage significance of its key elements and in accordance with the principles, policies and guidelines in this CMP.
Guidelines

POLICY 11—CULTURAL LANDSCAPE	
11.1	*Retain and conserve all landscape components of Exceptional heritage significance. Adaption of these areas may be acceptable provided that the overall significance of the component is not impacted or diminished.*
11.2	*Manage the landscape character of the site as a balance of open space and areas of planting.*
11.3	*A proactive maintenance program should be developed to manage the landscape of Fort Street Public School. This should be based on a comprehensive knowledge of the place, and include provisions for regular inspections and prompt preventative maintenance and repair.*

POLICY 12—MOVABLE HERITAGE	
Items of movable heritage should be managed in a manner that is consistent with the following documents and guidelines: • ***Movable Heritage Principles*, NSW Heritage Office (Now Heritage Division, Office of Environment and Heritage) and the Ministry for the Arts, 2000; and** • ***Objects in Their Place: an Introduction to Movable Heritage*, NSW Heritage Office, 1999**	
Guidelines	
12.1	*Identified movable heritage items should be retained and conserved.*
12.2	*Movable heritage items should be subject to a heritage significance and condition assessment and retained for potential incorporation into future site interpretation.*
12.3	*Relocation of movable heritage items should be adequately justified, and if elements are removed, they are to be photographed, tagged and recorded in situ prior to movement.*

POLICY 13—ABORIGINAL ARCHAEOLOGY	
Aboriginal archaeological potential had been assessed as low to moderate, with potential for Aboriginal archaeological deposits to be present within remnant natural soil profiles, where they remain within the site. Proposed future works that will disturb the ground surface will require further Aboriginal archaeological assessment.	
Guidelines	
13.1	*If works are proposed that are likely to impact on areas with potential for natural soil profiles capable of retaining an Aboriginal archaeological signature, an Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment, specific to proposed works, should be prepared in accordance with the OEH Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales (DECCW 2010).*
13.2	*Depending on the location within the site, Aboriginal archaeological test excavation under the OEH Code of Practice may not be possible, depending on the location of the proposed below-ground works in relation to known historical archaeology. In this case, an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) in accordance with Section 90 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 will be required to allow Aboriginal archaeological test excavation.*
13.3	*Future development applications should include a process of Aboriginal community consultation to be undertaken in accordance with the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010 (DECCW 2010), to be supported by an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report.*
13.4	*Wherever possible, future ground disturbing work should avoid areas with the highest potential to retain Aboriginal archaeological deposits (i.e. areas to the north and east of Fort Street Public School.)*

POLICY 13—ABORIGINAL ARCHAEOLOGY	
13.5	*Should previously unidentified Aboriginal objects be discovered during future works, excavation or disturbance of the area should cease and the Biodiversity and Conservation Division (BCD) of NSW Department of Planning, Environment and Industry should be informed in accordance with Section 89A of the NPW Act. Works should not continue without the written consent of BCD.*
13.6	*Should disturbance be required where Aboriginal archaeological deposit/Aboriginal objects have been identified, an application under Section 90 of the NPW Act may be required.*
13.7	*Interpretation of any Aboriginal associations with the land should be incorporated into any site-wide interpretation strategy.*

POLICY 14—HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY	
The Fort Street Public School site has both demonstrated presence of, as well as further potential to retain a historical archaeological resource of State significance, which require management in accordance with the provisions of the *NSW Heritage Act 1977*, and all relevant best practice guidelines for archaeology.	
Guidelines	
14.1	*The archaeological remains of the former surgeon's cottage in the south of the site should be retained as much as possible within future development. Should unavoidable impact to this resource be required, this should be minimised as much as possible, and would require further archaeological investigation in accordance with a Section 60 Excavation Permit to allow impact.*
14.2	*Any future works requiring excavation and/or below ground impacts should be proceeded by a historical archaeological assessment, specific to the location and nature of the impact.*
14.3	*Below ground works that have potential to encounter and/or impact a known and/or potential historical archaeological resource would require archaeological excavation in accordance with a Section 60 excavation permit from the NSW Heritage Division under the provisions of the NSW Heritage Act 1977, to be guided by a Historical Archaeological Research Design.*
14.4	*All historical archaeological excavations undertaken within the site should be carried out under the supervision of an Excavation Director who meets the NSW Heritage Division criteria for directing archaeological excavations of State significance.*
14.5	*Any historical archaeological resource present within the FSPS site should be conserved and retained in situ as much as possible, and opportunities for incorporation into heritage interpretation strategies for the site considered.*
14.6	*An Unexpected Finds Procedure should be developed for the site in the case that historical archaeological relics are encountered within the Fort Street Public School site curtilage.*

POLICY 15—INTERPRETATION	
A Heritage Interpretation Plan should be prepared for the Fort Street Public School site to assist with enhancing user and visitor appreciation and understanding of the history and heritage significance of the site.	
Guidelines	
15.1	*The Interpretation Plan should be prepared based on sound and up-to-date knowledge of the heritage significance of the place.*

POLICY 15—INTERPRETATION	
15.2	*Interpretation should address both tangible and intangible evidence and values of the site, including Aboriginal and historical archaeology, buildings and structures, natural and cultural landscape and the people associated with the site.*
15.3	*Interpretation of Aboriginal associations with the land should be incorporated into the site-wide interpretation plan.*
15.4	*Interpretative initiatives that allow the communication of the original use and function of the heritage buildings (such as the Messengers Cottage and the Bureau of Meteorology building) should be encouraged where possible and appropriate within the context of the ongoing use and function of the site as a public school.*
15.5	*Implementation of preferred options arising from the Interpretation Plan should be undertaken when the opportunity arises.*
15.6	*Interpretation should seek to communicate with a wide variety of people through a range of communication methods, responsive to the needs of potential audiences within the local and wider community.*

6.2.3. Future Actions

The following policies have been developed to guide the ongoing and future use of the site, including maintenance and repair of heritage items, as well as to manage future works and strategic planning, in order to ensure heritage significance, values, and fabric can be conserved in the future.

POLICY 16—CLEANING, MAINTENANCE & REPAIR	
Ongoing maintenance and repair of site heritage items and elements is required to ensure functionality and safety of the site, including minor day-to-day activities as well as larger scale repairs, restoration or alteration works. Policies have been developed to guide all maintenance and repair activities, in order to avoid adverse impact to heritage values and significance through such activities.	
Guidelines	
16.1	*Significant buildings, including Fort Street Public School, the Bureau of Meteorology and the Messenger's Cottage are to be subject to regular physical inspection, assessment, cleaning, maintenance and repair to avoid deterioration of significant elements and building fabric*
16.2	*Recommendations in the draft Schedule of Repairs (Purcell 2019) should be implemented for the Fort Street Public School building, Messenger's Cottage and Bureau of Meteorology building, as soon as practicable.*
16.3	*A Maintenance and Repair Plan should be developed for the site to conserve heritage fabric (to be based on documented historical evidence and knowledge of the site buildings and history), in accordance with NSW Heritage Division guidelines such as The Maintenance Series 1.1: 'Preparing a maintenance plan', (NSW Heritage Office 2004), available from www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/heritagebranch/heritage/maintenance11preparingplan.pdf*
16.4	*Cleaning, maintenance and repair should:* • *aim to protect fabric from further deterioration and retain as much as possible the integrity of significant fabric and construction methods;*

POLICY 16—CLEANING, MAINTENANCE & REPAIR	
	• *be consistent with The Burra Charter principles and aim to do 'as much as necessary but as little as possible'—this would include retaining significant fabric where possible rather than replacing elements in full; and* • *be undertaken by staff or contractors experienced in working with historic fabric and using appropriate techniques.*
16.5	*Regular inspections of building elements at particular risk of deterioration and decay should be undertaken, particularly timber, corrugated iron and similar materials at high risk of weathering.*
16.6	*Appropriate traditional techniques and materials should be used for any repair works required to significant fabric, appropriate to the nature, historical period and form of the fabric requiring repair.*
16.7	*Adequate funding and other necessary resources should be incorporated into annual budgets for the site for ongoing cleaning, maintenance and repair.*
16.8	*All interior and exterior surfaces and brickwork of heritage elements originally intended to be unpainted must remain unpainted, while originally painted elements should remain painted.*

POLICY 17—REMOVAL OF HAZARDOUS BUILDING MATERIALS	
Buildings contained within the Fort Street Public School site may contain a range of hazardous materials. Management of hazardous materials is essential to ensure that all associated health risks are appropriately considered but will need to be undertaken to avoid, minimise or mitigate impacts on significant fabric and features.	
Guidelines	
17.1	*Removal of hazardous materials should ensure that physical impacts on the heritage significance of the place are avoided, minimised or appropriately mitigated.*
17.2	*A Hazardous Materials Management Plan has been developed by JBS&G for the Fort Street Public School site. The recommendations outlined within this plan should be implemented within the site as soon as it is practicable and safe to do so.*
17.3	*Any further hazardous materials investigation required within the site should avoid destructive investigation as much as possible. Destructive investigation should only be undertaken where there is no viable alternative.*
17.4	*Removal of hazardous materials within heritage fabric should be undertaken under supervision from a suitably qualified and experienced heritage architect, and an archival recording of the process undertaken.*

POLICY 18—SERVICES	
The existing services and services infrastructure at the site are of varying age and condition. Services are also subject to improvements in technology. Replacement and upgrading of existing services, as well as installation of new services, will need to occur from time to time.	
Guidelines	
18.1	*Upgrading of existing services and the installation of new services should seek to avoid or minimise physical and visual impacts on potential archaeological relics, significant buildings, trees and other landscape elements, as much as possible.*
18.2	*Installation of new services must be neat and unobtrusive and respond to the existing environment within which installation is required.*

POLICY 18—SERVICES	
18.3	*Where possible, works undertaken for maintenance, repair and upgrade of existing services should seek to 'make good' of any previously installed services or elements that are intrusive to heritage fabric or significance.*
18.4	*Any intervention into significant building fabric should respect its integrity and be limited to that required by the proposed works.*
18.5	*Where penetrations in significant fabric are required for new services, options to utilise existing penetrations should first be explored, prior to the creation of new penetrations.*
18.6	*Installation of new services shall be appropriated documented including annotated photographs.*

POLICY 19—GROUND DISTURBANCE/ EXCAVATION	
Any required or proposed ground disturbance and/or excavation in the future at the site have potential to adversely impact significant aspects of the site including known/potential archaeology, significant buildings, trees and other landscape elements.	
Guidelines	
19.1	*Proposals for new works within the site should be formulated to minimise ground disturbance/ excavation as much as practicable.*
19.2	*Where required future ground impacts have potential to impact significant heritage elements (e.g. archaeology, heritage fabric, significant trees etc), opportunities and creative solutions should be investigated to minimise heritage impacts as much as possible.*
19.3	*Significant heritage elements and/or fabric within the vicinity of (but outside of the impact zone of) proposed ground disturbance/excavation works should be protected from damage during the works.*

POLICY 20—GROUND REMEDIATION	
There is potential for the site to contain contaminated soil as a result of previous actions such as the use of hazardous building materials in existing and now demolished structures, the use of pest control chemicals and the importation of contaminated fill.	
Guidelines	
20.1	*Suitable options to remediate contaminated soil should be selected on their ability to achieve the desired remediation outcome as well as minimising impacts on significant site components including buildings, trees, potential archaeological resources, and other landscape elements.*
20.2	*Where unsatisfactory WHS conditions require ground remediation techniques that will cause impact to heritage significance, fabric and/or archaeology, appropriate heritage specialists should be engaged prior to commencement of remediation works to provide advice and guidance through the process to minimise impact.*

POLICY 21—APPROPRIATE FUTURE USES	
The most appropriate uses and activities for the site are those that would avoid adverse impacts and that would continue to allow the site's history and heritage values to be easily understood. The preferred uses for the significant buildings within the site are those that would enhance an appreciation of the place, its evolving role and ensure the conservation of the significant buildings and landscape features.	
Guidelines	
21.1	*Continuing and future use of the Fort Street Public School site as a public school is encouraged.*
21.2	*The adaptive reuse of Fort Street Public School, Bureau of Meteorology Building and the Messenger's Cottage is encouraged. New uses should be selected on the basis that they will enhance the appreciation of the history and heritage significance of the place and ensure conservation of the building and significant landscape components.*
21.3	*The long-term management of the site, including its adaptation to new uses, should take into account its heritage significance. All decisions should consider and seek to retain the heritage values of the place.*
21.4	*Any future development should retain the general bulk and massing character of precinct (i.e. complement single storey Messengers Cottage as well as three stories of MET)*

POLICY 22—ALTERATIONS & ADDITIONS	
Alterations and additions within the Fort Street Public School site are permissible, provided they respond to the heritage significance of the site and significant building fabric.	
Guidelines	
22.1	*Alterations and additions should be designed to minimise adverse impacts on significant buildings and on the heritage significance of the site as a whole.*
22.2	*Retain and conserve original internal walls, ceiling and floor finishes where possible. Damaged or removed finishes should be re-instated to match existing where possible. Consider applying or interpreting original paint colours where documentary evidence exists.*
22.3	*Additions should be sympathetic to the heritage values without attempting to imitate original form, and readily differentiated from the heritage fabric.*
22.4	*Any proposed additions and alterations to heritage items should be supported by a Heritage Impact Statement to assess the nature of the overall potential heritage impact of the proposed changes to the significance of the individual item, both within its site and precinct-wide heritage context.*
Fort Street Public School Building	
22.5	*The eastern classroom and western assembly hall wings should be retained.*
22.6	*Any alterations and additions should ensure the architectural readability of the main structure as the 'L shaped' brick building is retained.*
Messengers Cottage	
22.7	*Additions and alterations to the Messengers cottage that impact its readability as a small cottage, comparable with other similar items (for example Messengers Cottage within the Sydney Observatory) should be avoided.*
22.8	*Additions to the east of the Messengers Cottage should be avoided.*
22.9	*Alterations should seek to retain the readability and interpretation of the existing plan and configuration of the cottage.*
22.10	*Any additions should be restricted in height to one storey.*

POLICY 22—ALTERATIONS & ADDITIONS	
Bureau of Meteorology	
22.11	*Once the condition of the building has been properly assessed and made safe (See Policy 10), the heritage significance of existing spaces and fabric should be properly assessed before planning modifications to the building.*
22.12	*The building was designed with a trafficable roof. Future additions and alterations should encourage access and use of the roof space.*

POLICY 23—PROVIDING EQUITABLE ACCESS	
Equitable access will be required across the Fort Street Public School site, however, modifications needed to comply with the requirements of the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* will need to be carefully designed to avoid or minimise adverse heritage impacts as much as possible.	
Guidelines	
23.1	*Equitable access is to be provided to all publicly accessible places on the site where practicable.*
23.2	*Pedestrian access and movement within the site should be enhanced and upgraded to improve the sense of entry to the place from key locations.*
23.3	*Where options for installation of equitable access would present adverse impact to significant heritage fabric or values, alternative solutions should be identified and considered.*

POLICY 24—DEMOLITION	
Determining whether demolition of buildings or parts of buildings within the Fort Street Public School site is appropriate is dependent on their heritage significance and the contribution that they make to the heritage values of the site.	
Guidelines	
24.1	*Any considered demolition at the site would need to be subject to a Heritage Impact Statement that assesses the nature of the proposed demolition on significant components and elements.*
24.2	*Wholesale demolition of components of Exceptional heritage significance should not occur. These components are an important contribution to the heritage significance of the place.*
24.3	*Wholesale demolition of components of High heritage significance should not occur unless it is required to make the building or site safe. Removal of any intrusive additions is encouraged.*
24.4	*Wholesale demolition of components of Moderate heritage significance may occur provided that there is little or no impact on the heritage significance of the site or on the ability to understand its historical development. Removal of intrusive additions is encouraged.*
24.5	*Wholesale demolition of components of Little heritage significance is acceptable provided that their demolition would not result in adverse impacts on components of higher significance.*
24.6	*Wholesale demolition of Intrusive components is encouraged and should be undertaken when the opportunity arises. Demolition would need to be designed and implemented to avoid physical impacts on components of higher heritage significance.*
24.7	*All demolition should be preceded by a photographic archival recording documenting the existing condition, layout, form and fabric of the building or structure. (As per Policy 7 of this CMP)*

POLICY 25—DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUILDINGS	
The NSW Department of Education is investigating ways that Fort Street Public School can be enlarged to accommodate additional pupils. New development has potential to alleviate future accommodation pressures on this significant building, enhance the viable and sympathetic adaptive reuse of the place and provide opportunities to achieve successful conservation outcomes.	
Guidelines	
25.1	*The design of any future new buildings will be consistent with the principles and guidelines established in this CMP.*
25.2	*Any future development/new buildings should retain the general bulk and massing character of the Fort Street Public School site precinct (i.e. complement single storey Messengers Cottage as well as three stories of MET)*
25.3	*The height of new buildings is to be considered in relation to existing buildings on the site and views to them from the north and east. Maximum heights of new buildings should not exceed those of the existing heritage items to which they are locationally and visually related.*
25.4	*Future development should respect the curtilages of each significant building (i.e. Section 4.7.3) and the significant views (i.e. Section 4.8). Development of new buildings should be avoided in the following locations:* ▪ *East of the FSPS Building main façade* ▪ *East of the Messenger's Cottage* ▪ *Along the central spine/main east-west axis through the middle of the site*
25.5	*The Bureau of Meteorology should remain as a dominant building on site (both in height, and architectural form)*
25.6	*Any future development west of the Bureau of Meteorology building should be limited to 2-3 storeys*
25.7	*New development to the east of the Messengers Cottage that overshadows the cottage, and/or that obscures views from the Bradfield Highway and surrounds should be avoided.*

POLICY 26—LANDSCAPING	
The fig tree on the eastern side of the school is an important part of its setting. In addition to this, landscaping in the immediate environs of the school provides an additional attractive setting for the place and assists in overcoming the impacts of the road cutting that surrounds the site.	
Guidelines	
26.1	*New landscaping works should be designed in consideration of the location and significance of the significant built and landscape components of the site.*
26.2	*A Landscape plan should be developed for the site to ensure the significant heritage elements and cultural significance of the site are retained within an appropriate landscape context and setting, commensurate with the wider heritage precinct setting of the Fort Street Public School site.*

POLICY 27—VEHICULAR ACCESS AND PARKING	
Visitors, student drop-off and student collection are considerations at Fort Street Public School but vehicular access and parking is extremely restricted. Whilst these needs should be addressed in future development, they should be met in a way that does not adversely impact the heritage significance of the place.	
Guidelines	
27.1	*Removal of vehicular parking from the site would be a desirable outcome, where possible.*
27.2	*Future vehicular access and parking at Fort Street Public School will be carefully designed to avoid adverse impacts on the character of the site and its significant built and landscape components.*

POLICY 28—SIGNAGE	
The Fort Street Public School site is an active facility and will continue to need signs to assist with wayfinding within the site and other guidance. The location, size and character of the signs should acknowledge and consider the heritage significance of the site, including location, form and significance of individual elements, landscape components, and key heritage views to and from the site- as well as internal views within the site.	
Guidelines	
28.1	*Proposals for new signs should be formulated with the aim of avoiding or minimising adverse impacts on the significant built and landscape components of the site.*
28.2	*New entry signs should not detract from important views into the site, in particular to significant built components.*

7. Implementation Strategy

7.1. Approach to Implementation

The following section outlines the specific action-based policies for Fort Street Public School as developed through this CMP, and assigns each relevant policy a priority level, timeframe, and responsible party for implementation. The assignment of priority and timeframe for implementation has been assessed based on the level of risk each relevant policy presents to the heritage values of the site, as well as in consultation with SI, to ensure this implementation strategy is reasonable and attainable. This will ensure that this CMP will be able to function as a practical and applicable document for SI in their ongoing conservation management of the Fort Street Public School site, and provide a link between documented policy, and workplace actions.

Priorities have defined as having three categories, being:

> **High**—Key implementation actions of this CMP. Required to be undertaken immediately, due to risk of impact to heritage significance, or for functionality of the site.
>
> **Moderate**—Actions that are important to be undertaken in the near future in order to avoid heritage impact, but will not cause heritage impact if not undertaken immediately.
>
> **Low**—Actions that should be undertaken to contribute to the overall conservation of heritage significance and safeguard against potential future impacts, but delay in undertaking these actions will not pose adverse impact to heritage fabric or values.

Based on the assessment of priority for each strategy, recommended timeframe parameters have been assigned to encourage and ensure completion of each policy action. Timing has been divided into six categories:

- **Immediate**—Urgent works to be undertaken as soon as possible.
- **Short Term**—Upon endorsement of CMP. *0-6 months.*
- **Medium Term**—In reasonable time. *12-24 months.*
- **Long Term**—within *5-10 years.*
- **Ongoing**—Policies that should be maintained/actioned on an ongoing basis.
- **As Required**—Action policies that do not have a specific timeframe associated with them due to variance in application

7.2. Implementation Table

Table 7.1 below provides a summary of the key action-based policies developed through this CMP, and the priority, timeframe, and responsibility of implementation for each.

Table 7.1: Implementation Table of Action-Based Strategies

POLICY	STRATEGY/ACTION	PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
General Management				
5.1	The MET building requires emergency repairs (see Policy 9) (i.e. works to make safe access). Once these works have been completed, a more comprehensive assessment of building should be undertaken.	High	Immediate	SI
Heritage Conservation Policies				
10.11	The MET Building is currently in an extremely poor state of repair. Emergency repair works as recommended in the Draft Scope of Conservation Works by Purcell (2019) should be undertaken should be undertaken as soon as possible to make the building safe to enter and to prevent further deterioration. • Install a temporary roof to the building that overhangs the parapet to weatherproof the roof as a major priority. • Undertake a general clean-up of the building using approved contractors, taking care to avoid areas of collapsed floor etc. • Remove existing timber doors, fireplaces etc from the building, record their condition in an inventory and store in a secure, weatherproof location on site to prevent further damage. • Install a temporary perimeter fence to the building to prevent access. • Install temporary floor joists/columns where necessary to ensure the stability of the existing structure. Where floors are missing or severely deteriorated, install a temporary plywood floor or similar to permit access.	High	Immediate	SI
10.12	Develop schedule of repairs for MET Building, following from that prepared by Purcell 2019 (pp.15-17, as shown in Appendix B of this document) (See Policy 15- Maintenance and Repair Schedule)	High	Short Term	SI
11.3	A proactive maintenance program should be developed to manage the landscape of Fort Street Public School. This should be based on a comprehensive knowledge of the place, and include provisions for regular inspections and prompt preventative maintenance and repair.	Moderate	Short Term	SI

POLICY	STRATEGY/ACTION	PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
12.1	Movable heritage items should be subject to a heritage significance and condition assessment and retained for potential incorporation into future site interpretation.	Moderate	Short Term	SI
15.0	A Heritage Interpretation Plan should be prepared for the Fort Street Public School site to assist with enhancing user and visitor appreciation and understanding of the history and heritage significance of the site.	Moderate	Short Term	SI
15.5	Implementation of preferred options arising from the Interpretation Plan should be undertaken when the opportunity arises.	Moderate	Medium Term	SI
Future Actions				
16.2	Recommendations in the draft Schedule of Repairs (Purcell 2019) should be implemented for the Fort Street Public School building, Messenger's Cottage and Bureau of Meteorology building, as soon as practicable.	High	Short Term	SI
16.3	A Maintenance and Repair Plan should be developed for the site to conserve heritage fabric (to be based on documented historical evidence and knowledge of the site buildings and history), in accordance with NSW Heritage Division guidelines	High	Short Term	SI
17.2	A Hazardous Materials Management Plan has been developed by JBS&G for the Fort Street Public School site. The recommendations outlined within this plan should be implemented within the site as soon as it is practicable and safe to do so.	Low	Medium Term	SI
26.2	A Landscape plan should be developed for the site to ensure the significant heritage elements and cultural significance of the site are retained within an appropriate landscape context and setting, commensurate with the wider heritage precinct setting of the Fort Street Public School site.	Moderate	Short Term	SI

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APPENDIX A – AMBS Archaeological Assessment 2016

Fort Street Public School Archaeological Assessment

Prepared by AMBS Ecology & Heritage
for Tanner Kibble Denton Architects Pty Ltd

Final

October 2016

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1 Introduction

AMBS Ecology & Heritage (AMBS) has been commissioned by Tanner Kibble Denton Architects (TKD) to prepare an Aboriginal and historical archaeological assessment for the Fort Street Public School and immediate surrounds. The assessment is to address all sites that fall within the circular Cahill Expressway on-ramp to the Harbour Bridge, comprising the Fort Street Public School, Environmental Education Centre, former Sydney Observatory Messenger's Building and former Bureau of Meteorology. The findings are to be incorporated into a new Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the site, currently being prepared by TKD.

1.1 Study Area

The site comprises Lots 2, 4 and 9 DP 732592, Lot 5 DP 258013, Lots 106-108 DP 748340 and Lot 2 DP 244444. It is bounded by the circular north-bound Cahill Expressway entry to the Sydney Harbour Bridge (Figure 1.1). The site is within the City of Sydney Local Government Area (LGA). The school is within the boundaries of the State Heritage-listed *Millers Point and Dawes Point Village Precinct*, as well as being listed on the Sydney Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2012 for both its built environment and its archaeological potential.

1.2 Methodology

This report is consistent with the principles and guidelines of the *Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance 2013*. It has been prepared in accordance with current best-practice guidelines as identified in the *NSW Heritage Manual* (1996), published by the Heritage Office and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (now the Heritage Division, Office of Environment and Heritage), and associated supplementary publications in particular *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and 'Relics'* (2009). The Aboriginal heritage component has been prepared in accordance with Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) guidelines as specified in the *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010).

1.3 Authorship

This report has been prepared by Jennie Lindbergh, AMBS Director Historic Heritage and Chris Langeluddecke, AMBS Director Aboriginal Heritage. The authors acknowledge the assistance of Jenna Weston, Heritage Consultant in the preparation of the report.

Figure 1.1 Study area location and extent.

2 Environmental Context

An understanding of environmental factors within the local landscape provides a context for past human occupation and history of an area. The analysis of environmental factors contributes to the development of the predictive modelling of archaeological sites, but it also is required to contextualise archaeological material and to interpret patterns of past human behaviour. In particular, the nature of the local landscape including topography, geology, soils, hydrology and vegetation are factors which affect patterns of past human occupation.

2.1 Geology & Soils

The study area is located within the Gymea soil landscape, which is characterised by shallow to moderately deep yellow earths and earthy sands on crest landforms, underlain by Hawkesbury sandstone. Sideslope landforms within the soil landscape, such as those immediately surrounding the study area, generally comprise discontinuous siliceous sands and lithosols, with rock outcrops covering up to 25% of the ground surface. Soils within this landscape are prone to severe sheet erosion following removal or damage to stabilising vegetation cover, such as bushfires or land clearing (Chapman & Murphy 1989:64-67).

Figure 2.1 Soil landscapes in the vicinity of the study area.

2.2 Topography, Hydrology & Drainage

Aboriginal occupation was often focussed on prominent landforms such as ridges, which were favourable locations for camping and travelling, and from which surrounding plant and animal resources could be viewed. The study area is located on the crest of Observatory Hill overlooking the Sydney Harbour foreshore. It forms a high point in the undulating to low rolling hills that occur along the Sydney harbour foreshore in the Sydney Basin, at an elevation of approximately 40m above sea level (Chapman & Murphy 1989: vi). The study area is also located near the border of what would have been the former catchment area for the Tank Stream, which would have in the past drained much of the area that is now the CBD. Although no sources of permanent water were present within the study area itself, it may therefore have provided good access to water and associated resources.

2.3 Vegetation

The ridge and slope landforms in and around the study area would have originally been covered by low, dry sclerophyll woodland (Chapman & Murphy 1989: 26-27). Common tree species in the local area would have comprised *Eucalyptus gummifera* (red bloodwood), *E. eximia* (yellow bloodwood), *E. haemastoma* (scribbly gum), *E. capitellata* (brown stringybark), *E. fibrosa* (broad-leaved ironbark), *E. agglomerata* (blue-leaved stringybark) and *Banksia serrata* (old man banksia) Chapman & Murphy 1989: 65).

Early historic clearing of the site for development would have extensively cleared the area, impacting the integrity of archaeological deposits, exposing the soils to sheet erosion, and removing any trees modified (scarred or carved) by Aboriginal people. No evidence of the natural vegetation remains in the study area.

2.4 Land Use & Disturbance

As detailed in Section 4, the study area has experienced significant levels of successive development and activity since European settlement. Following initial vegetation clearing, lands within and around the study area have been impacted by the construction of schools, the Military Hospital and associated buildings, the Observatory and associated Messenger's Cottage, the Bureau of Meteorology building and most notably, the Cahill Expressway on-ramp. Limited construction has taken place in the immediate surrounds of the current school. The ground around the school buildings is a combination of asphalt and softfall rubber surfacing adjacent to the Primary School building, and grass lawns adjacent to the former Messenger's Cottage and Bureau of Meteorology building.

The study area has been subject to a long period of historic land use, and this will have impacted on the presence and integrity of Aboriginal archaeological deposits.

3 Aboriginal Heritage Context

This section describes the nature of the known Aboriginal archaeology of the study area, based upon a review of relevant archaeological reports and publications, and a search and review of previously recorded sites in the OEH Aboriginal Heritage Impact Management System (AHIMS) database. This review and discussion allows for the development of a predictive model for potential Aboriginal sites within the study area.

3.1 Historical & Ethnographic Context

The original inhabitants of the Sydney Cove area were the Gadigal people of the Eora nation. Their lands extended from the entrance of Sydney harbour along the south shore to the cove adjoining the settlement (Phillip 1790 [1892:309]; Attenbrow 2010:22; Godden Mackay Logan [GML] 2013:9). It is likely that these local Aboriginal people had a mixed food economy, obtaining marine resources from the waters surrounding the harbour, as well as hunting terrestrial animals and collecting and processing local plants. However, contact with the European settlers led the Gadigal to avoid Sydney Cove and camp instead in Ultimo and the surrounding areas. Their departure from Sydney town intensified following the 1789 smallpox epidemic, which is said to have halved Port Jackson's Aboriginal population. The local Aboriginal population continued to decline, and by the 1860s there were very few Gadigal people living in the Sydney city area and its immediate vicinity (Attenbrow 2010:14-15).

3.2 Regional Aboriginal Archaeological Context

Aboriginal occupation of the Sydney basin, of which the Sydney Harbour foreshore and the CBD are a part, is likely to have spanned at least 20,000 years, although dates of more than 40,000 years have been obtained from artefacts found in gravels of the Cranebrook Terrace on the Nepean River (Stockton & Holland 1974; Nanson et al 1987; Stockton 1993). Late Pleistocene occupation sites have been identified on the fringes of the Sydney basin and from rockshelter sites in adjoining areas. Dates obtained from these sites are 14,700 Before Present (BP) at Shaws Creek in the Blue Mountain foothills (Kohen et al. 1984), c. 11,000 BP at Mangrove Creek and Loggers Shelter (Attenbrow 1981, 2004), and c. 20,000 BP at Burrill Lake on the South Coast (Lampert 1971). The majority of sites in the region, however, date to within the last 3,000 to 5,000 years, with many researchers proposing that occupation intensity increased from this period (Attenbrow 1987, 2002, 2004; Kohen 1986; McDonald & Rich 1993; McDonald 1994). Such an increase in occupation intensity may have been influenced by rising sea levels, which stabilised approximately 6,500 years ago. Older occupation sites along the now submerged coastline would have been flooded, with subsequent occupation concentrating along, and utilising resources of, the current coastlines and the changing ecological systems of the hinterland (Attenbrow 2002).

A study of the Sydney region reveals that Aboriginal sites are distributed across the whole range of physiographic units and environmental zones, although certain types of sites may be more frequently associated with certain parts of the landscape (for example, shelter sites are particularly common in areas of Hawkesbury Sandstone), and different parts of the landscape contain different resources, which may be seasonally available or highly localised (Koettig 1996). Hence, shell middens are common in the Part Jackson region around the shores of bays, rivers, harbours and the coast, in areas where shellfish are available. Accordingly, the Port Jackson archaeological record is different to that of the Cumberland Plain of Sydney, partly because of the different resources in these areas (Attenbrow 1990:30).

In 1989-90, Val Attenbrow undertook Stage 1 of the Port Jackson Archaeological Project, which involved documentary research on previous archaeological work done in the catchment, detailed recording of registered sites and some field survey of areas where no sites had been registered. Stage 2 involved further research of regional issues through excavation of certain sites. Overall,

Attenbrow classified six sites as having excellent research potential, 48 as having good potential, and 151 as having poor to nil potential. Attenbrow found, from a review of excavation work in the Port Jackson area, that Aboriginal people were living around the harbour foreshores gathering shellfish at least 4,500 years ago, that the number and species of shellfish represented in middens varied according to distance from the harbour mouth, and that a change from exploitation of predominantly cockle (*Anadara trapezia*) to predominantly oysters (*Saccostrea commercialis*) appears to have occurred over time in this region (Attenbrow 1990:30). She also found that most middens are located within 10m of the high water level, and that burials were placed in open middens as well as in middens within rockshelters. In the same year, as part of an Aboriginal Sites Planning Study for the Lane Cove River State Recreation Area, the NPWS observed that regional excavations of coastal sites with midden layers indicated the exploitation of a variety of sea and land resources.

It should also be recognised that the archaeological evidence within any particular site can vary considerably in quantity and the range of evidence present, and that the number of sites or amount of archaeological evidence found in any specific area varies. Further, the distribution of presently recorded sites in some areas is unlikely to be indicative of the original distribution of Aboriginal sites and therefore may not be a reliable guide to the occupation history of that area (Koettig 1996). Accordingly, without professional archaeological assessment of an area, the sites most likely to have been recorded are those which are most obvious to non-professionals, such as rockshelters and art sites.

3.3 Local Archaeological Context

An extensive search of the OEH AHIMS database was submitted on 26 May 2016 (AHIMS Client Service ID 227063), which identified no previously recorded Aboriginal heritage sites, objects or places within or immediately near the study area. The search identified 112 previously recorded Aboriginal heritage sites in the local area, bounded by coordinates GDA Zone 56, Eastings 332000-337000, Northings 6250000–6255000. An additional three sites were contained in the search results; however, the detailed AHIMS search results confirms that they are not sites, and as such they are not considered in this background analysis. The search results are summarised in Table 3.1 and presented in Figure 3.1. Summary descriptions of site features identified in the search area are provided in Table 4.1.

The most common site types previously recorded in the local area are middens, rock shelters and artefact sites. The nearest previously recorded site listed on the AHIMS search results was AHIMS #45-6-1853, a midden site excavated during construction of a hotel at 174 Cumberland Street (Thorp 1991). Analysis of the excavated midden material identified Rock Oyster and Anadara species in a 6cm thick layer, below historic cottage footings. Attenbrow concluded that the deposit represented a brief period of activity, and was not the result of long-term occupation or use of that site. Radiocarbon dating of shell recovered within the midden indicated a date of approximately 502 Before Present (BP) (Attenbrow 1992:20). No additional Aboriginal archaeological assessments or excavations have been undertaken within the study area or immediate surrounds.

Table 3.1 Summary of Aboriginal sites previously recorded near the study area.

Site Type	Number of sites present	Percentage (to 2 decimal places)
Shelter	1	0.89%
Shelter, Art	6	5.36%
Shelter, Art, Midden	1	0.89%
Shelter, Artefact	1	0.89%
Shelter, Midden	10	8.93%
Shelter, Midden, Artefact	9	8.04%
Shelter, Midden, Artefact, Art	1	0.89%
Midden	16	14.29%
Midden, Artefact	32	28.57%
Midden, Artefact, Ceremony & Dreaming	1	0.89%
Midden, PAD	1	0.89%
Burial/s, Midden	1	0.89%
Burial/s, Shelter, Art, Midden, Artefact	1	0.89%
Burial/s, Historic Place	1	0.89%
Art	11	9.82%
Axe Grinding Groove, Art	1	0.89%
Artefact	8	7.14%
Artefact, PAD	1	0.89%
PAD	9	8.04%
total	112	100.00%

Table 3.2 Description of Aboriginal site features previously recorded near the study area (after OEH 2012:8-10).

Site Feature	Description
Art	Art is found in shelters, overhangs and across rock formations. Techniques include painting, drawing, scratching, carving engraving, pitting, conjoining, abrading and the use of a range of binding agents and the use of natural pigments obtained from clays, charcoal and plants.
Artefacts	Objects such as stone tools, and associated flaked material, spears, manuports, grindstones, discarded stone flakes, modified glass or shell demonstrating evidence of use of the area by Aboriginal people.
Burials	A traditional or contemporary (post-contact) burial of an Aboriginal person, which may occur outside designated cemeteries and may not be marked, e.g. in caves, marked by stone cairns, in sand areas, along creek banks etc.
Grinding Grooves	A groove in a rock surface resulting from manufacture of stone tools such as ground edge hatchets and spears, may also include rounded depressions resulting from grinding of seeds and grains.
Midden	An accumulation or deposit of shellfish from beach, estuarine, lacustrine or riverine species resulting from Aboriginal gathering and consumption. Usually found in deposits previously referred to as shell middens. Must be found in association with other objects like stone tools, fish bones, charcoal, fireplaces/hearths, and burials. Will vary greatly in size and components.
Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD)	An area where Aboriginal heritage objects may occur below the ground surface.
Shelter	A naturally formed rock shelter or overhang used as an occupation used by Aboriginal people for short or long term occupation, often retaining surface archaeology, art or *in situ* archaeological deposits.

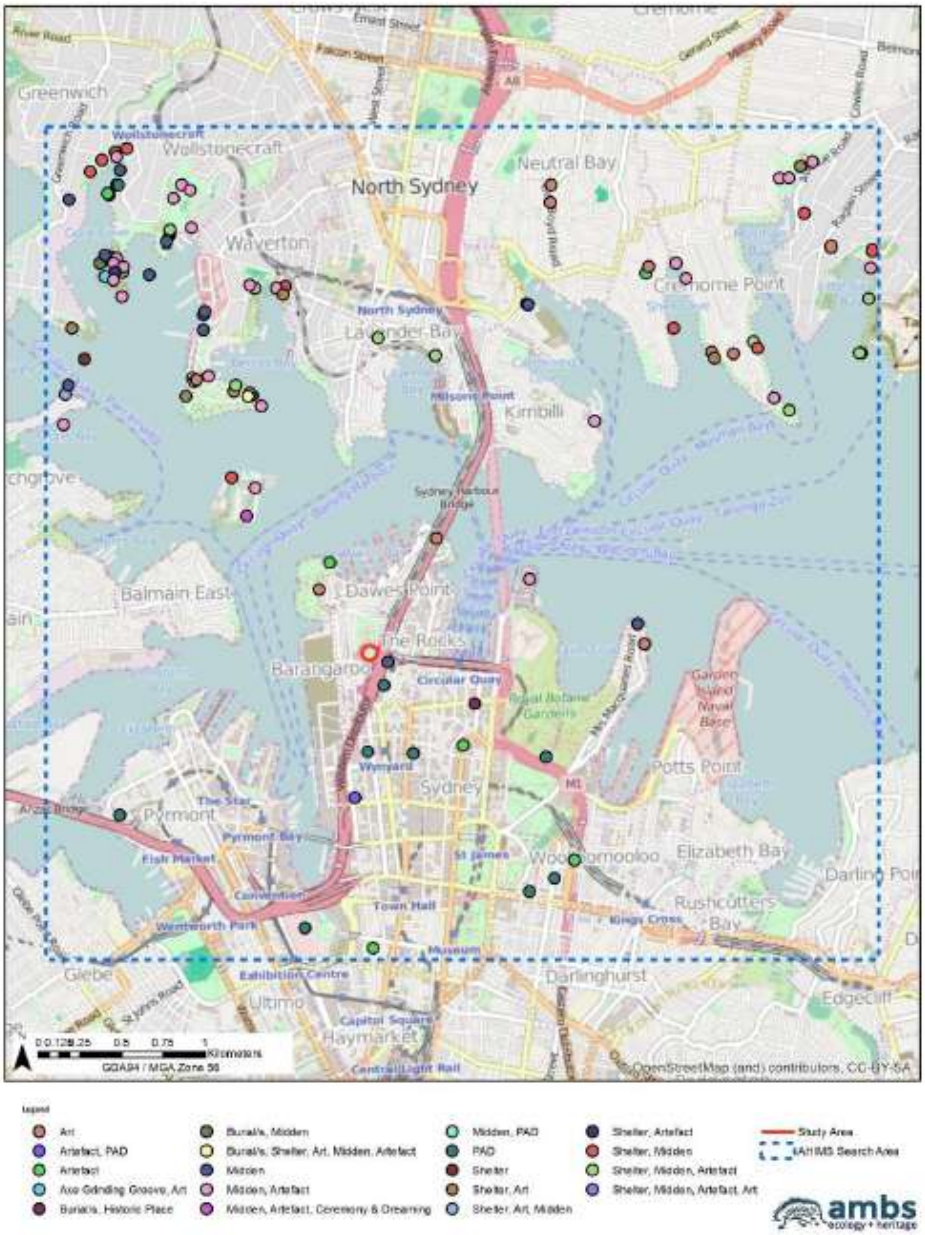

Figure 3.1 Location of Aboriginal sites previously recorded near the study area.

3.4 Analysis of Aboriginal Archaeological Potential

On the basis of the registered Aboriginal heritage sites in the region, a review of previous archaeological studies, and the environmental context of the study area, the following conclusions can be drawn regarding the potential presence of Aboriginal heritage sites within the landscape of the study area:

- Aboriginal midden sites are one of the most common site types occurring across the landscape, and are the most likely site type to be present in the study area. Such midden deposits may include stone artefacts, if present;
- wide scale vegetation clearance has resulted in the removal of all original native vegetation, and there is therefore no potential for culturally modified trees to be present in the study area;
- axe grinding grooves, art and shelter sites are highly unlikely to be found in the study area due to the lack of suitable stone outcrops;
- excavations within the region indicate that high densities of artefacts can be present up to 500m from water sources, and that subsurface material may be much greater than indicated by surface numbers of artefacts.

Given the study area's elevated location, which would have provided commanding views, access to resources along the shoreline, and access to fresh water and resources along the Tank Stream, encampment of Aboriginal people may have occurred in the vicinity.

There is potential for Aboriginal archaeological deposits to be present in areas within the study area which have experienced limited construction and other development impacts, specifically in the school yards north and east of the current school building, which have not have been directly impacted by previous development. However, given the propensity of the local soils to experience significant sheet erosion following vegetation clearing, it is possible that any archaeological deposits in the area would have been disturbed.

4 Historical Archaeological Context

Section 2, 'Historical Overview', of the Conservation Management Plan for the Fort Street Primary School site is a comprehensive history for the study area. As such the following includes and expands on the information contained in that history to explore and assess the potential for historical archaeological resources to be present in the site.

4.1 History of the Site

The Europeans initially established their settlement on the banks of the Tank Stream around Sydney Cove. This stream was the colony's first main source of drinking water, and also acted to demarcate housing areas for different 'classes' of settlers. For example, to the east was the governor's residence, provost marshal's tent, general's marquee, storehouses and farming gardens; to the west was the Rocks, where convicts lived in makeshift accommodation, being overseen by the marine officers and barracks (Casey 2006:88; GML 2013:9).

In 1788, Governor Phillip brought 40 hand mills for grinding grain, which destabilized because no-one in the colony had the skills to maintain them. In 1795, Governor Hunter arrived in Sydney with windmill machinery and a scale model, and the first windmill was built on the Flagstaff Hill, now Observatory Hill, within what would later be Fort Phillip's ramparts. As the site of the first successful windmill in the colony, the area became known as Windmill Hill. The windmill's masonry tower was completed by 1796, with the remainder of machinery in place by early 1797, and soon became a central feature of Fort Phillip (Figure 4.1). However, despite its apparently sturdy construction, by 1810 the windmill had fallen into disrepair, surviving only as a stone tower (Fitzgerald 2008; Thorp 1997:12-13, 17).

The windmill, known as the military windmill, was constructed in 1798, where Clarence Street now crosses the top of Grosvenor Street. However, this too suffered, when it was damaged during a violent three-day storm the following year, following repairs the windmill continued to function into the 1840s (Figure 4.2). In 1805, a third, large timber windmill was built, known as the wooden government windmill, which stood near the site of Fort Street public school and was also known as the *octagon smock mill* (*Sydney Gazette*, 16 February 1806) (Figure 4.3 and Figure 4.4). With the growth of the colony and mercantile activities, private windmills were being built and the government mills went out of use (Fitzgerald 2008; Thorp 1997:12-13).

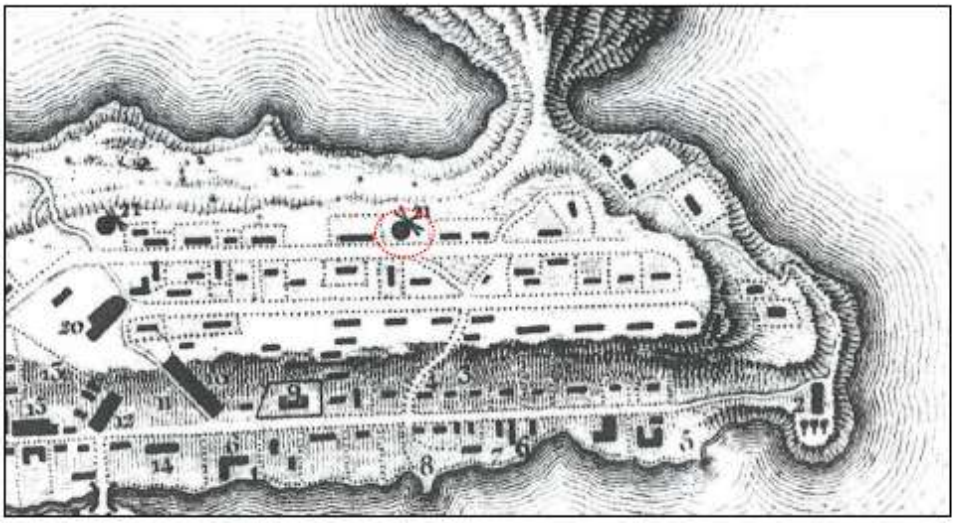

Figure 4.1 ***Plan de la ville de Sydney, Capitale des Colonies Anglaises Aux Terres Australes*** **by Jean Baptiste Antoine Cloquet, 1802, showing the first of the area's windmills (circled) and the government windmill to its south (National Library of Australia [NLA] object 150873690).**

Figure 4.2 Watercolour by James Taylor, ***Sydney looking south from Flagstaff Hill,*** **ca. 1821 of the military windmill (Source: Mitchell Library, SLNSW, digital image a2850001).**

Figure 4.3 Watercolour by James Taylor, ***Parramatta River Sydney Harbour,*** **ca 1819-21 of the smock mill (Source: Mitchell Library, SLNSW, digital image a1528797).**

Figure 4.4 Drawing of the Smock windmill and house, Observatory Hill, Sydney, ca. 1850, dated 1876. The octagonal timber construction is clearly visible (http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-135207038).

4.1.1 The Military Hospital

The topography of the peninsula to the west of Sydney Cove was such that the Rocks and Millers Point were essentially separated by the rocky outcrops, a situation that also deterred settlement. However, by the early 1800s housing was present along the lower margins of the rocky prominence, and by the 1830s the western side of the peninsula was being developed with wharves, bond stores and housing, particularly on higher ground where advantage could be taken of the sea breezes (Davies 2007:12). By the early 1820s, the eastern edges of the Flagstaff Hill were being quarried for building materials and there were only some half dozen houses in the area (Figure 4.5).

In 1815, Governor Macquarie constructed the Military Hospital on Flagstaff Hill, where it could *catch breezes which were considered to be health-giving for the wards* (Thorp 1997:19). Conveniently located near the military barracks on York Street, Governor Macquarie commissioned the building because of the poor condition of the Regimental Hospital, at the corner of what are now Clarence and Erskine Streets. The hospital was designed by Lieutenant John Watts (1786-1873) of the 46th Regiment, apparently based on West Indian colonial architecture, and similar to the standard hospital/barrack buildings that were developed by the Royal Engineers. The rectangular two-storey building was encircled by verandahs and had a shingled mansard roof. There was a large ward to each side of a central hall with stairway, and two small rooms at each end with entries onto the verandah. The building was designed to accommodate 100 patients. Two outbuildings to the north of the hospital were also constructed; a kitchen and a single-storey brick surgeon's residence to accommodate the military surgeon and one assistant surgeon (Figure 4.6). The hospital remained in use for over 30 years; however, in 1848 following establishment of a new hospital and transfer of the garrison to Victoria Barracks in Paddington, the Military Hospital was redundant (Thorp 1997:19, TKD Architects 2016:7).

Figure 4.5 1822 *Plan of the town and suburbs of Sydney*, showing Fort Phillip (#3), stone quarries (#15), the military windmill (#16) and Military Hospital (#17, circled), the government windmill is arrowed. Note regular housing in addition to other buildings (http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-229911701).

Figure 4.6 James Taylor's watercolour, *The town of Sydney in New South Wales* c.1821 with the Military Hospital, with surgeon's residence and kitchen in the foreground, and military windmill beyond (Source: Mitchell Library, SLNSW, digital image a2916002r).

4.1.2 The Fort Street National School

Following closure of the Military Hospital and establishment of the Board of National Education, the former hospital was remodeled as a National School. Colonial Architect Mortimer Lewis, was responsible for the adaptation of the building as a school and the changed façade from Georgian to Italianate (Figure 4.7; Thorp 1997:21-22). Works associated with the adaptation included

excavations to level the ground, replacing the old stable and water closets with new buildings and repairing the kitchen outbuilding.

In 1856, the school was remodeled to provide additional accommodation for the growing numbers of students, and to provide the first kindergarten (infant's school) in Australia. This involved additional modifications of the main school building, and the construction of new buildings including the new boys' and girls' classrooms to the west of the main building, designed by the Board of National Education architect Henry Robertson. Robertson also designed the infant's school building, constructed in 1862, to the west of the former surgeon's residence (TKD Architects 2016:9-10, Thorp 1997:22).

By the late 1870s, the school had almost 2000 pupils and certain facilities were in need of repairs, including the former surgeon's cottage (now the cookery school); the kitchen (now a dining room) and its cellars; playground retaining walls and other sanitation facilities (Thorp 1997:23). In addition, an infill link between the main and 1856 classroom building was built (Figure 4.8). Nevertheless, by 1880 the buildings, furniture and playgrounds were all apparently in need of repair. Some drainage was immediately upgraded, but it was 1884 before further improvements were made in ventilation and water provision. The western stone boundary wall was repaired, during which a part collapsed onto and damaged a cottage, which was repaired, and the 'new practicing school' was constructed. From 1887-89 there were again building repairs and construction of new classrooms; an open shed on the south side of the playground, later replaced by a two-storey brick building for the primary school and arts and crafts building; a two-storey brick building for sewing and general classes in front of the school used. In c.1890-91 a carpentry shed was constructed on the western end of the playground. In November 1901 it was dedicated as a public school (TKD Architects 2016:12, Thorp 1997:23-24).

Figure 4.7 1871 photograph by Charles Percy Pickering of *Fort St. Public School, Sydney*, with the 1850s classroom building immediately behind (http://acmssearch.sl.nsw.gov.au/search/itemDetailPaged.cgi?itemID=412953).

Figure 4.8 Detail from the 1865 Trigonometrical Survey of Sydney Block A1 (left; colours identify primary construction materials; pink is brick, yellow is stone and grey is timber), and from Dove's 1880 Plan of Sydney, Block 66-67 (right), showing the 1870s additions and changed layout of the school. The former Messenger's Cottage is circled in red and the former surgeon's residence in blue. Note the boundary of the school grounds is defined by walls, including the western wall that had collapsed and the northern boundary wall, which remains in place behind the Messenger's Cottage and Bureau of Meteorology building (http://www.photosau.com.au/CoSMaps/scripts/home.asp).

Changes in the Twentieth Century

In 1916, the boys were relocated to a new Fort Street High School at Taverners Hill, and the National School became a girls' school. Construction of the Harbour Bridge in the early 1930s, included resumptions for the approaches, together with much of the front of the school (Figure 4.9). A deep excavation for the Harbour Bridge on-ramp cutting through part of the school site was approved in January 1939.

A new primary school building for the Fort Street Public School was proposed for construction *in the northern section of that portion of Observatory Park to be surrounded by the new roadway in open cut*. The proposal was agreed and Council arranged to sell the existing two storey brick Upper Fort Street Primary School building, which was demolished a few months later. Excavations for the on-ramp began surrounding the primary school which was to stand within a circular island of land (**Error! Reference source not found.**; TKD Architects 2016:15-17, Thorp 1997:24-25).

The new two-storey, L-shaped primary school building was completed in mid-1942, with five classrooms and a library, sewing room, headmaster's room, staff room, an assembly hall with a stage and dressing rooms, lavatories and a shelter for boys and girls. The two Morton Bay fig trees to the east were retained to enhance the school's setting. Also within the circular area of land created by the on-ramp was a three-storey Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology building

constructed during the late 1910s, and a Messenger's Cottage, also constructed for the Sydney Observatory in 1862 (see Section 4.1.3 below). School buildings to the immediate south of the Bureau of Meteorology were demolished in the 1940s, as was the old kitchen and infants school by 1943, and the surgeon's residence by 1949 (Figure 4.11). Sometime during these years, a bridge was constructed to connect the new primary school building with the rest of the Fort Street Public School. In 1952, a gymnasium was constructed on the vacant land to the south and another demountable classroom added in 1954. In 1957, another bridge over the road cutting was built to link the gymnasium with the footway next to the Harbour Bridge approaches (TKD Architects 2016:18-19).

Despite these additions, ultimately the loss of several of the old buildings and the surrounding lawns to the excavations for the Bridge approaches, made it difficult for the school to continue. In addition, redevelopment of the school on this site was considered to be more costly than to construct a new school elsewhere. The girl's school closed in 1974, and the Fort Street Boys High School became co-educational. The former school buildings were given to the National Trust of Australia (NSW) in 1975 (TKD Architects 2016:22, Thorp 1997:25). The 1942 Public School building continued to be used.

The Messenger's Cottage had been slated for demolition but in 1978, it was given to the National Trust, which used it for the Young Trust Group. During this time it was conserved and in 1987, it became the first corporate childcare centre until 2000. The cottage now serves as the administrative offices to the school.

Figure 4.9 View to the west, showing the Primary school building and Gymnasium, on the left, after construction of the Harbour Bridge approaches. Photograph taken on 13 December 1932 (Source: State Records, digital image 12685_a007_a00704_8735000188r).

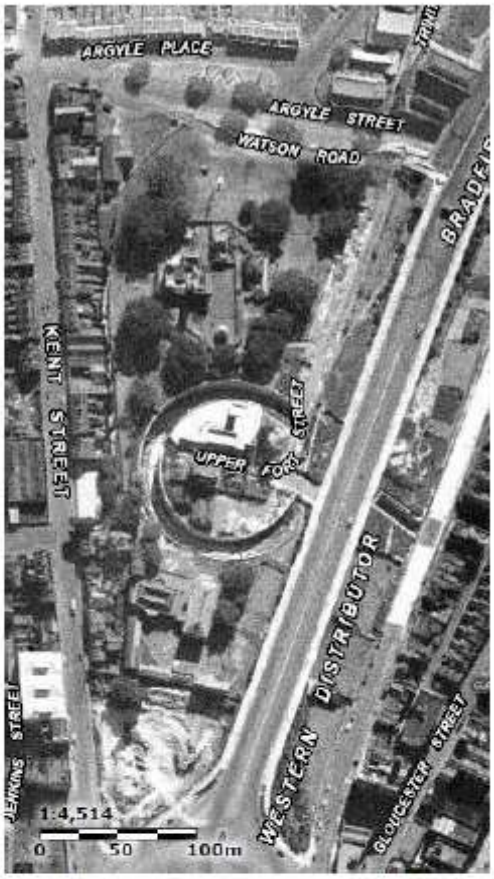

Figure 4.10 The 1943 aerial photograph showing the effect of the Cahill Expressway on-ramp on the layout of the school.

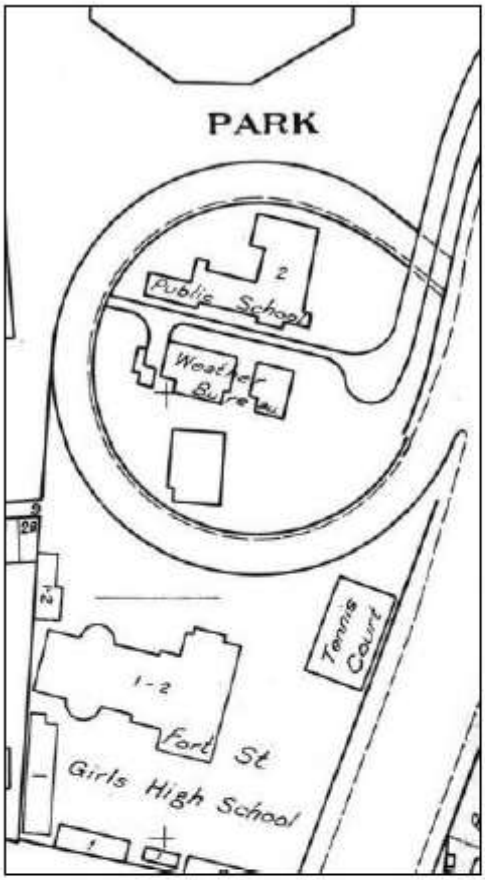

Figure 4.11 Detail from the Civic Survey, 1938-1950 — Circular Quay Dawes Point. The former surgeon's residence is standing to the south of the Messenger's Cottage and Bureau of Meteorology building.

4.1.3 The Observatory and Weather Bureau

Australia was well sited for astronomical observations and several observatories were established early in the Sydney region, including one at Dawes Point in July 1788. As many of the first observatories had closed by the mid-nineteenth century, educational and philosophical groups began lobbying for a new observatory; however, community support was for a time-ball for ships in the Harbour to rate their chronometers. The best site for this was considered to be Fort Phillip, as the most visible point in Sydney Harbour and Cockle Bay (Figure 4.12; Thorp 1997:26).

Although the initial plan, prepared in 1850 by Colonial Architect Edmund Blacket, was a modest one-room observatory with another room for time-keeping purposes, further plans evolved over the next several years. Finally, Governor Denison, newly arrived in 1855, decided to establish not just the time-ball; rather, a complete observatory, to assist in the precise survey of the rest of the colony and connect Australia with the scientific communities of Europe and America. The new plans, by Colonial Architect Alexander Dawson, were for a two-room building to house the telescope and time-keeping machinery; a circular building with an open ceiling for additional observations; and an astronomer's house with detached kitchen and offices. The Observatory buildings were constructed within and based on the footprint of Fort Phillip (Thorp 1997:26-27).

In 1856, the astronomer William Scott arrived in Sydney, and initiated some minor changes to the original observatory design, including increasing the height of the time-ball tower. Constructed in 1858-1859, the building was a picturesque landmark (Figure 4.13). Scott also applied to have a Messenger's Cottage built, which was approved in 1861. The Messenger's Cottage was constructed in 1862, at a distance to the south of the Observatory, now within the school grounds, so that it could be of brick rather than the more expensive stone (Figure 4.14). Scott resigned later that same year, but other additions were built over the next decade. In 1864, a small thermometer shed was built to the south of the Observatory, which survived until WWI and was replaced by a similar structure in 1986. In 1866, a room was built to the north of the transit room for magnetic observations; and in 1868 four thermometer pits were excavated (Thorp 1997:27).

The Observatory was at its height during Henry Russell's time as Government Astronomer, appointed in 1870, who petitioned the government to provide instruments. Russell also oversaw improvements; in particular, a west wing was built in 1878. The new wing had a large ground floor room with offices and an entrance lobby, which required changes to the transit room, a library above and a second equatorial dome at its northern end. The old equatorial tower and the astronomer's residence were improved in 1880, with a northern extension to the drawing room. The Observatory precinct gained its present size with an addition around 1875, and during the 1870s and 1880s, Russell did much to improve the public land surrounding the Observatory (Figure 4.15; Thorp 1997:27-28). It seems that the Messenger's Cottage was also improved at this time with the addition of a verandah to the north and east sides (Figure 4.16).

In 1906, meteorological work became the responsibility of the Commonwealth, and the meteorological department at the Observatory came under the auspices of a small Commonwealth agency housed in the same building. A new three-storey building was constructed between 1918 and 1922, for the department next to the Messenger's Cottage, the land being provided by Council. The construction of this new building also required construction of a new entrance for the Fort Street Public school (Thorp 1997:28).

During the early twentieth century, improvements and additions were again made to the Observatory site. However, proximity to the city meant that increasing light and smog levels made the site unsuitable for its purpose. After its major work, a recording and publishing program was completed in the 1930s-1940s; however, it was inevitable that the Observatory would close, and this eventually happened in 1982. Over the next few years, the site was renovated and restored for its conversion into a Museum of Astronomy, attached to the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (Thorp 1997:28-29).

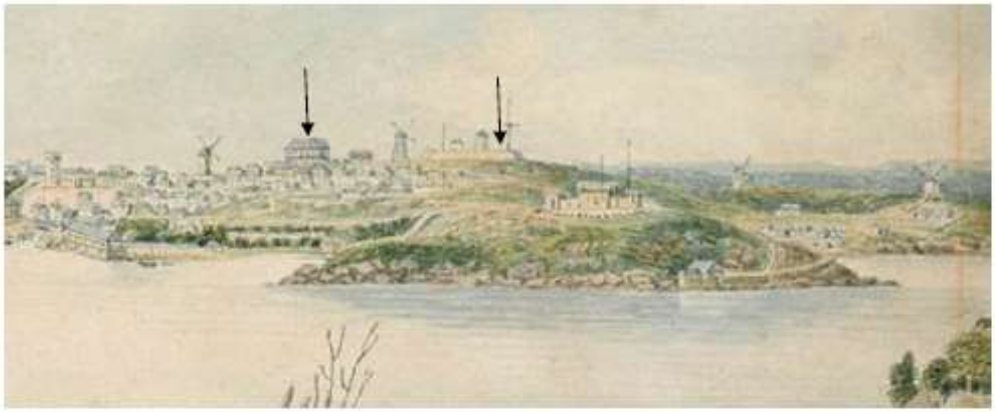

Figure 4.12 Detail from Joseph Lycett's 1822 *North View of Sydney* with Dawes Point in the foreground, Fort Phillip and the Military Hospital (arrowed) and windmills (http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/collection-items/north-view-sydney-new-south-wales-taken-north-shore-1822-j-l-delt).

Figure 4.13 The Observatory in c.1870-75, and the parkland separating it from the school, (Mitchell Library, SLNSW, digital image a2825055r).

Figure 4.14 Detail from a photograph taken in 1864 by James & William Freeman and James Prout, *City of Sydney looking south from Observatory Hill*. The Messenger's Cottage in the foreground is circled (http://acms.sl.nsw.gov.au/album/ItemViewer.aspx?itemid=823867&suppress=N&imgindex=4)

Figure 4.15 Detail from MS Hill's 1888 *City of Sydney Birdseye View* with the Observatory, the Messenger's Cottage (circled) and the National School buildings beyond (http://www.photosau.com.au/CoSMaps/scripts/home.asp).

Figure 4.16 *Sydney from the Observatory*, photograph taken in c.1900-1905. The Messenger's Cottage has a verandah along the front and east side (http://acms.sl.nsw.au/item/itemDetailPaged.aspx?itemID=413642#).

4.2 Assessment of Historical Archaeological Potential

The potential for the area within the footprint of the school to contain historical archaeological remains is defined by the Cahill Expressway on-ramp, which surrounds and isolates the Fort Street Public School from the former Military Hospital/National School building, now the National Trust Centre, to the south and the Sydney Observatory to the north (Figure 4.17).

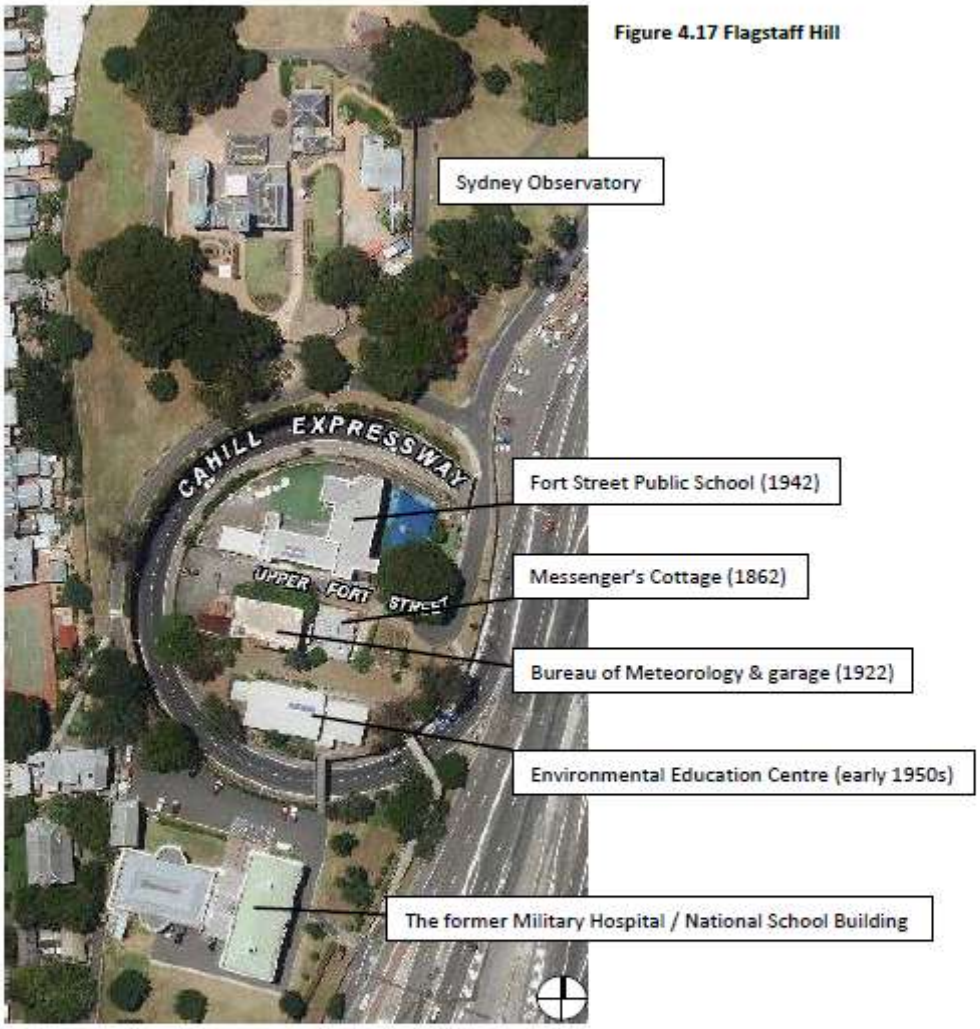

Figure 4.17 Flagstaff Hill

The land between the school, as now defined by the Cahill Expressway on-ramp, and the Sydney Observatory, known as Flagstaff Park, has remained undeveloped. Until the construction of the Primary School building in 1942, the land to the north of the Messenger's Cottage had also remained vacant (Figure 4.18). The ground around the school buildings is a combination of asphalt, adjacent to the Primary School building, and grass lawns adjacent to the former Messenger's Cottage and Bureau of Meteorology building. The east-west brick wall immediately south of the Messenger's Cottage and Bureau of Meteorology building is on the alignment of the northern boundary wall of the Military Hospital and the National School (see Figure 4.8 above, and Figure 4.18).

The precise location of the third Government (Smock) Mill site is not certain; however, it stood to the north of the Military Hospital and south of Fort Phillip. As such there is potential that there may be physical evidence associated with the Mill within the northern part of the school grounds, perhaps beneath the play area in the north-east corner (Figure 4.21).

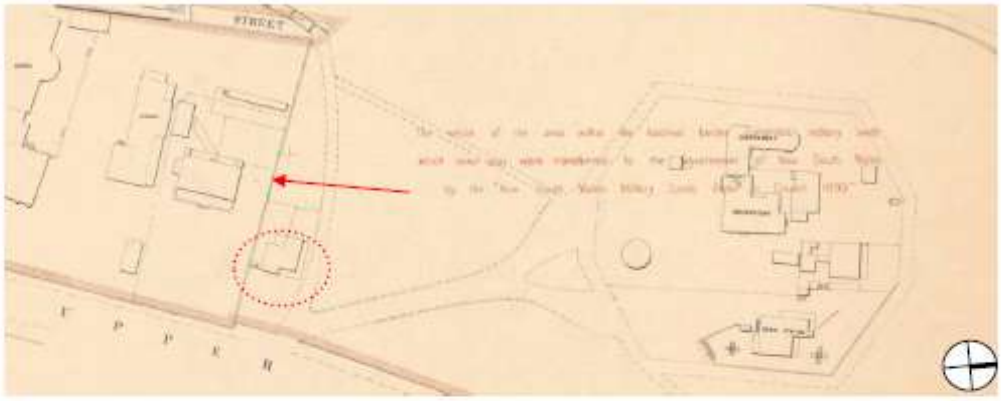

Figure 4.18 Detail from the 1900 Resumption Plan S showing the lack of development of the land between the Messenger's Cottage (circled red) and the Observatory. The northern boundary wall is arrowed (http://www.photosau.com.au/CoSMaps/scripts/home.asp).

Figure 4.19 View south across the front of the L-shaped Public School building, surfaced in soft fall and asphalt, with a grassed area around the trees.

Figure 4.20 The path around the north of the school building linking the front with rear play areas.

Figure 4.21 View north-east of the rear of the L-shaped Public School building. Remains of the Smock Mill may be extant below the asphalt surface

Figure 4.22 View south-west to the former Messenger's Cottage, now administration, and the Bureau of Meteorology building beyond.

Figure 4.23 View south of the east-west brick boundary wall behind the Messenger's Cottage and the Bureau of Meteorology building. The Environmental Education Centre is visible beyond.

Figure 4.24 Detail view of the east-west brick boundary wall showing areas of damage and the modern wall extending to the north.

Figure 4.25 The Environmental Education Centre is to the south of the brick boundary wall and surrounded by grass lawns.

Figure 4.26 Grassed area between the Environmental Education Centre and the brick boundary wall.

Figure 4.27 Detail view of the brick boundary wall and the Bureau building wall. The bricks are evidently hand-made sandstock bricks set in a soft pre-Portland cement.

Figure 4.28 Section of the brick boundary wall within the Environmental Education Centre showing evidence of repair and reconstruction using modern bricks and mortar.

Figure 4.29 View north-east of the rear of the Bureau of Meteorology building and the brick wall. Note the sandstone block foundations.

The area within the footprint of Fort Street Public School has the potential to retain structural features associated with the Military Hospital, the National School and the Observatory (Figure 4.30).

Historically, the area to the north of the brick boundary wall had remained undeveloped except for construction of the Messenger's Cottage and the small stone and timber buildings to its west indicated on the Trigonometrical Survey plan, but which are gone by Dove's plan of 1880 (see Figure 4.8 above). These buildings may also have been associated with the observatory and its operation; however, this is not known. The area is now occupied by the Bureau of Meteorology building, which does not have a basement and as such, there is potential that physical evidence of these buildings may be present.

The east-west northern boundary wall to the Military Hospital and National School is extant and is the earliest physical evidence of these structures surviving within the footprint of the school. There is potential that physical evidence associated with the construction of the wall is present within the trenches excavated for the wall foundations and adjacent areas.

To the south of the wall was the site of the surgeon's residence associated with the Military Hospital, re-used during the National School period as a dining room and kitchen, when adjacent school buildings were constructed (see Figure 4.11 above and Figure 14 of the main TDK CMP). The area that had been occupied by the former surgeon's residence, demolished in 1949, is now occupied by the Environmental Education Centre, which also does not, apparently, have a basement. There is potential for physical evidence of the surgeon's residence to survive beneath this building. Part of the building to the south of the Public School may survive at the south-west corner of the site.

Although not indicated on any plans or maps of Flagstaff Hill, rubbish pits, wells or cess- were an essential feature of everyday life of the colony, and were frequently filled with an assortment of discarded artefacts which may provide an insight into the daily lives of the people who lived in the associated buildings.

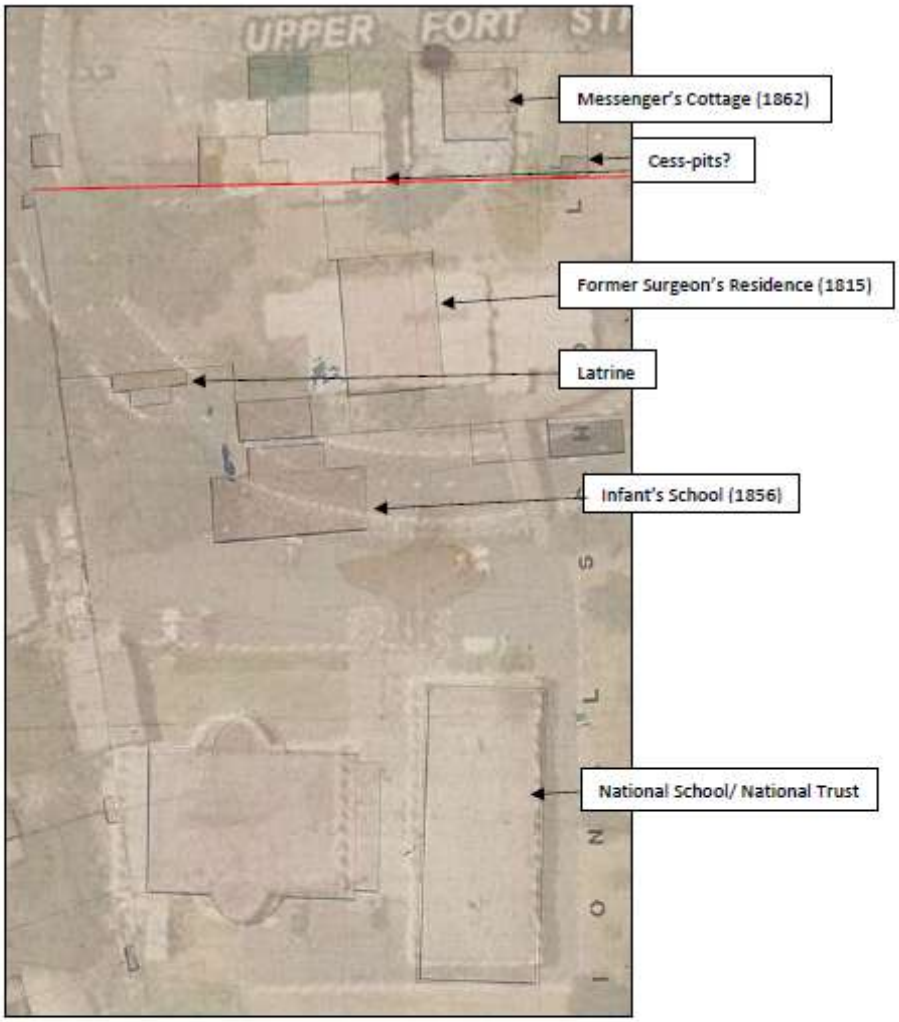

Figure 4.30 Overlay of the 1865 Trigonometrical Survey over the modern aerial, locating potential archaeological features. The northern boundary wall is identified in red.

4.3 Analysis of the Historical Archaeological Potential

The following evaluation of the potential archaeological resource of the study area is based on the background history, physical analysis and the results of archaeological excavations within the vicinity.

The 1991 *Rocks and Millers Point Archaeological Management Plan* (AMP) assesses elements within the Fort Street Public school site (Figure 4.31 and Figure 4.32):

- *Inventory 89*: Allotment of land, Upper Fort Street, Fort Street Public School; possible site of third government windmill. Partly terraced into hillside – partly disturbed
- *Inventory 90*: Allotment of land, Lane from Upper Fort Street, Fort Street Public School; possible site of third government windmill. Modern building, floors above original ground surface – partly disturbed
- *Inventory 91*: Allotment of land, Upper Fort Street, Fort Street Public School; Messengers Quarters. Messengers Quarters, 1862, part of Signal Station complex – Signal Station

- *Inventory 92*: Allotment of land, Upper Fort Street, Fort Street Public School. Hospital and school. Boundary wall to Military Hospital and former Fort Street Public School. Sandstock brick.

The management strategy for each of the items is:

- *An historical and archaeological assessment prior to archaeological investigation is recommended* for items 89 and 90.
- *An archaeological conservation plan is recommended* for items 91 and92.

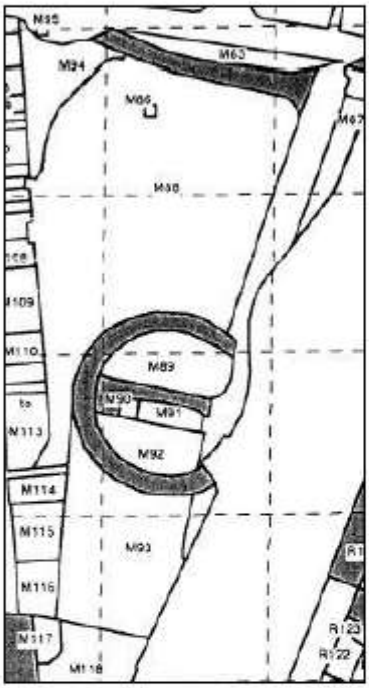

Figure 4.31 AMP Plan identifying the archaeological features within the school footprint.

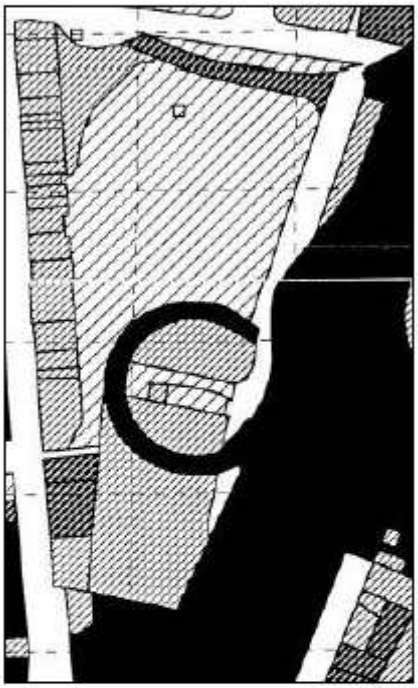

Figure 4.32 AMP plan identifying levels of disturbance of below-ground archaeological features; black – destroyed, narrow hatching – partly disturbed, wide hatching – minor disturbance

However, excavations on Flagstaff Hill and in The Rocks since this time indicate that a re-evaluation of this assessment may be appropriate.

Perhaps one of the best known excavations in The Rocks was *'The Big Dig'* undertaken in 1994by Godden Mackay (now GML Heritage). The excavation covered a large block comprising some 30 houses between Cumberland and Gloucester Streets, bisected by Cribbs Lane. As well as extensive structural remains, a wealth of artefacts was recovered to provide an insight into the activities and daily lives of the people living and working there. Physical evidence of laneways and houses, some built over earlier housing on slightly different alignments, all contribute to an understanding of life in the Rocks from the eighteenth into the nineteenth century.

In 1997, Dr Wayne Johnson, Archaeologist SHFA monitored works at *182½-186 Cumberland Street*, during which the rear of the terraces was excavated to bedrock. Glass and ceramic artefacts dating to the mid-nineteenth century were uncovered from demolition layers. Evidence of pre-1898

occupation was encountered along the length of the rear wall, including a cess-pit and cuts in the bedrock which correlated with the 1820s building.

In 1998, Johnson discussed the assessment and results of excavations of a number of sites in The Rocks.

- ***Jobbins Buildings, 105 Gloucester Street***, excavations in 1991of underfloor deposits indicated pre-1857 site use. The 1992 excavations of rear yard deposits found evidence of 1790s occupation. In addition, the foundation wall of a stable was found at No. 111 Gloucester St. Johnson predicted that the deposits which correspond to the construction debris (1857) of the Jobbins building (removed during the various excavations) have sealed European occupational deposits from 1788-1857 and possibly also Aboriginal deposits.

- ***113-117 Gloucester Street*** excavations exposed a sandstone paved rear yard, as well as a timber kitchen floor covered in linoleum. Underfloor deposits containing artefacts to a depth of 150mm were excavated in the kitchen. Excavation of a service trench across the yard space between 113-117 Gloucester Street revealed evidence of the 1865 brick oviform drain. It is predicted that evidence of earlier occupation is present beneath this occupation layer.

- During excavations for stormwater pipes at ***130-142 Cumberland Street***, stone blocks possibly associated with the foundations of earlier structures were exposed. A line across the buildings from 130-138 Cumberland Street was correctly predicted to coincide with the worked face of the 1820s quarry. The pre-1823 quarry face, which had been backfilled by 1834, continued beneath the houses. Removal of concrete paving at No. 130 also revealed stone flagging of an earlier yard surface. Historic plans indicated the presence of three cesspits, which were targeted for and excavated to the top of the stonework. At the rear of the property, a stone wall of an unidentified feature was uncovered, possibly related to the Cribb period (1811-1834). Johnson predicted that pre-1790 occupational deposits survive on the site.

- ***136/138 Cumberland Street*** is an intact building with a cellar, and no sub-floor deposits were disturbed during excavation. Beneath the extant building two pre-1834 wells were revealed, one beneath the centre of the east wall, and the other less than three metres away. In addition, a brick and stone cesspit was noted beneath the southeast corner. These remains have been dated to the 1834-1880 buildings.

- Demolition of an addition to the rear of a building at ***140-142 Cumberland Street*** revealed stone foundations relating to rear of Former No. 4 Longs Lane (1838-40). During works to lay new services in 1996, three iron pipelines were encountered, one of which is dated to the 1840s. It is expected that pre-1913 occupational deposits survive.

- It had been predicted that later construction at the site of ***Former 4-6 Longs Lanes*** would have removed any pre-1913 occupation evidence. However, the 1913 ground surface and fragmentary remains of the terraces were exposed, but earlier occupational deposits had mostly been removed. Within a natural rock crevice, leather off-cuts and other household artefacts, including ceramics were recovered suggestive of a 1830s–1840s date.

The Casey & Lowe report on the archaeological monitoring of the ***King George V Recreation Centre***, exposed a well and the remains of a cess-pit. Among the many good quality ceramics in

the well, was the Moreton Plaque, with the basemark of former convict potter John Moreton and his sons, and associated with an Elizabeth Boulton who lived at the site c1807 to 1866. An extensive collection of shoe and boot leather were associated with a shoemaker, Frank Mustow, who lived nearby at 129 Cumberland Street between 1858–59 to 1865. Therefore, the shoe leather and offcuts came from nearby but it is thought likely that Elizabeth had owned the plaque and fine china recovered from the well.

From 2008 until 2010, the Government Architect's Office and Casey & Lowe undertook excavations of ***Fort Phillip on Observatory Hill*** (Allen 2011). Excavations exposed substantial foundations of the southern range of Fort Phillip and its bombproof room were uncovered, with associated military period artefacts (Figure 4.33 and Figure 4.34). Areas of flagging associated with the Signal Master's Cottage, anchor points for the Fort Phillip flagstaffs and late nineteenth and early twentieth century artefacts were also recovered. Structural features were exposed within relatively shallow depths of approximately 1m below the surface.

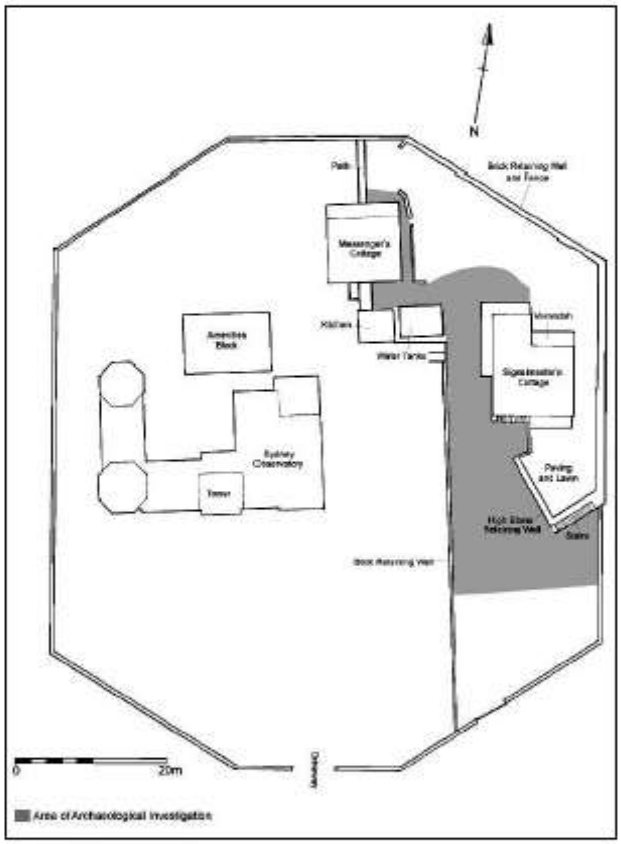

Figure 4.33 The area of archaeological excavations within the footprint of Fort Phillip/Sydney Observatory (Allen 2011:3, Figure 1.2a).

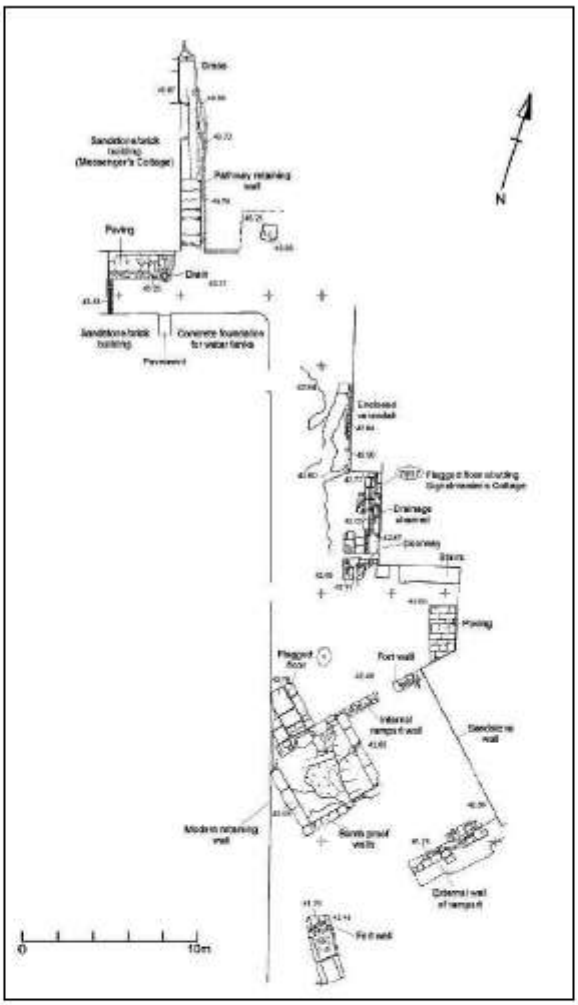

Figure 4.34 Overall plan of findings – prepared prior to excavation of the bombproof doorway in 2010 (Allen2011:8, Figure 2.1)

4.4 Historical Archaeological Research Potential

The archaeological resources of any site are finite but have the potential to provide insights into everyday life that are not available from any other resource. The above discussion demonstrates the extent of survival of physical remains with an ability to provide information that is not available from other sources regarding colonial Sydney. Archaeological resources may provide evidence that will enhance the historical record and as such, make a contribution to an understanding of the history and settlement of a local region. In view of the substantial costs involved in archaeological excavation of a site, a clear justification for any archaeological excavation needs to include the following considerations:

- What is the likely integrity of the archaeological resource? Is it likely that largely intact physical evidence would be exposed during excavations such as structural features, artefacts from occupation deposits, rubbish- and/or cess-pits, wells or other features with an ability to contribute meaningfully to an understanding of the development of the site as part of the wider development of colonial Sydney?

- What is the research potential of the archaeological resource? Is it likely that the results of the excavation would make a significant or important contribution to an understanding of wider research issues regarding the early settlement and development of Sydney?

4.4.1 Integrity of the Resource

The excavations of Fort Phillip within the grounds of the Observatory, in particular, indicate that there is good potential for physical remains to be extant within the footprint of the school as defined by the Cahill Expressway on-ramp. The archaeological resources are likely to be associated with the occupation and activities of the Smock Mill, the Military Hospital, the National School and the Observatory. The area is currently occupied by school buildings, the former Bureau of Meteorology building and the Messenger's Cottage. Also extant within the study area is the northern boundary wall to the Military Hospital and National School. Apart from the intrusions of twentieth century school buildings and the Bureau building foundations, the site appears to be generally undisturbed. As such, the integrity of the archaeological resource should be good. Research Potential

The historical and physical analysis indicates that the archaeological remains of early buildings; the former surgeon's residence and two buildings adjacent to the Messenger's Cottage and possible associated features; occupation deposits, wells, rubbish- and/or cess-pits would have good integrity. An assemblage of artefacts would have the ability to contribute to substantive questions regarding the daily life of the military and teaching staff and students in the colony, that may not be available from other sources.

Physical evidence that could provide an insight into the daily lives of the people associated with the Smock Mill, the Military Hospital, the National School and the Observatory would add to our understanding of daily lives on Flagstaff Hill, and perhaps provide some insight into the activities of the broader Millers Point and The Rocks areas.

Physical evidence of the construction and layout of the two cottages adjacent to the Messenger's Cottage would contribute to understanding of their function and thus any associations they may have with the Observatory.

The archaeological resources within the footprint of the Fort Street Public School would make a contribution to substantive research into the early colony. In particular questions regarding the daily life of the Smock Mill, the Military Hospital and of the National School and local environment.

The archaeological resources associated with the early brick boundary wall may also provide an insight into its construction and its builders.

5 Assessment of Archaeological Significance

The physical evidence of past activities is a valuable resource that is embodied in the fabric, setting, history and broader environment of an item, place or archaeological site. The above evaluation has identified the potential for Aboriginal and historical archaeological resources associated with pre- and post-contact occupation and activities on Flagstaff Hill to be present. The value of this resource to the community can be evaluated by assessing its cultural heritage values. 'Cultural significance' and 'heritage value' are terms used to express the tangible and intangible values of an item, place or archaeological site, and the response that it evokes in the community. Identification of this value, the significance of the archaeological resources with an ability to demonstrate early colonial and nineteenth century activities within the footprint of the Fort Street Public School on Flagstaff Hill within the Cahill Expressway southern on-ramp, is assessed against the following SHR criteria.

Aboriginal and historical archaeological resources can provide information regarding the daily and working life of a local area or a specific site that may not be available from other sources.

5.1 Assessment Against Criteria

All Aboriginal heritage objects and places in NSW are protected and should be managed under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and *National Parks and Wildlife Amendment Regulation 2010.*

Historical archaeological relics assessed as having State or local significance should be managed under the 'relics' provisions of the *Heritage Act 1977*.

Archaeological Research Potential (NSW Heritage Criterion E)

Aboriginal archaeological resources have moderate potential to survive within the study area, particularly in school yard areas north and east of Fort Street Public School which have experienced limited development impacts since European settlement. While such deposits may have been impacted by erosion following removal of vegetation, midden and artefact deposits still have potential to provide insight into Aboriginal occupation and use of the Sydney area and its resources prior to European contact.

The research potential of the Aboriginal archaeological resources within the footprint of Fort Street Public School would have moderate research value.

The integrity of the historical archaeological resources associated with the Smock Mill, the Military Hospital, the National School and Observatory that may survive within the footprint of the Fort Street Public School is likely to be moderate to high. The associated research potential of these resources has also been assessed as having an ability to respond to substantive questions regarding aspects of the life of early Sydney.

If present, an extensive artefact assemblage that may be present in occupation deposits, wells, rubbish- and/or cess-pits, would have the potential to provide an insight into lifestyles associated with the Smock Mill, the Military Hospital or Observatory that would contribute to substantive questions regarding institutional life in the colony.

The research potential of the historical archaeological resources with good integrity, within the footprint of Fort Street Public School would have state significance.

Associations with individuals, events or groups of historical importance (NSW Heritage Criteria A, B & D)

The value of the Aboriginal archaeological resources within the footprint of the Fort Street Public School to the local Aboriginal community has not been assessed for this project. However, if Aboriginal heritage items are present, it is likely that they would be identified by the Aboriginal community as having high cultural value as a direct tangible link to past Aboriginal activity in Sydney.

The historical archaeological resources within the footprint of Fort Street Public School have an association with the Smock Mill, the colonial Military Hospital, the first National School and the Sydney Observatory and as such have state significance.

Aesthetic or technical significance (NSW Heritage Criterion C)

Aboriginal archaeological resources, if present, may have technical value.

Physical evidence associated with the early buildings within the footprint of Fort Street Public School; the Smock Mill, the Military Hospital's surgeon's residence (later associated with the National School), the Observatory's Messenger's Cottage, associated buildings and facilities have the potential to provide meaningful and substantive information regarding the lives of the people living and working at these early colonial institutions.

The historical archaeological resources within the footprint of Fort Street Public School have state significance.

Ability to demonstrate the past through archaeological remains (NSW Heritage Criteria A, C, F & G)

Aboriginal archaeological resources, if present, would be demonstrative of past activities.

Physical evidence associated with the early buildings within the footprint of Fort Street Public School; the Military Hospital's surgeon's residence, later associated with the Smock Mill, the National School, the Observatory's Messenger's Cottage and associated buildings and facilities, have the potential to provide information regarding the lives of the people living and working at these early colonial institutions. Particular aspects of colonial Sydney would be demonstrated in the physical evidence of buildings and in an artefact assemblage of the detritus of everyday life discarded by military and medical personnel, teachers and students, and staff of the Observatory.

The historical archaeological resources within the footprint of Fort Street Public School have state significance.

5.2 Statement of Archaeological Significance

5.2.1 Aboriginal Archaeological Significance

The Aboriginal archaeological resources within the Fort Street Public School area, if present, have potential to contribute knowledge regarding resource gathering and subsistence strategies of Aboriginal people in the area prior to European contact. While midden sites are the most common Aboriginal archaeological site recorded in the local area, a limited number have been archaeologically investigated. The Aboriginal archaeological resources within the footprint of Fort Street Public School would have moderate significance.

Although an assessment of cultural value has not been undertaken, it is likely that, if present, the local Aboriginal community would view any Aboriginal archaeological deposits as being of high cultural value to the community.

5.2.2 Historical Archaeological Significance

The historical archaeological resources associated with the early buildings within the footprint of Fort Street Public School; the Smock Mill, the Military Hospital's surgeon's residence, later associated with the National School, the Observatory's Messenger's Cottage and associated buildings and facilities, have the potential to provide information regarding the lives of the people living and working at these early colonial institutions. Particular aspects of colonial Sydney would be demonstrated in the physical evidence of buildings and in an artefact assemblage of the detritus of everyday life discarded by military and medical personnel, teachers and students, and staff of the Observatory. An extensive artefact assemblage that may be present in wells, rubbish- an/or cess-pits, would have the potential to provide an insight into lifestyles associated with the Military Hospital or Observatory that would contribute to substantive questions regarding institutional life in the colony

The historical archaeological resources within the footprint of Fort Street Public School as defined by the Cahill Expressway southern on-ramp have state significance.

Managing Archaeological Values

5.3 Aboriginal Archaeological Resources

Under the provisions of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act), all Aboriginal Objects are protected under the NPW Act regardless of their significance or land tenure. Aboriginal Objects can include pre-contact features such as scarred trees, middens and open camp sites, as well as physical evidence of post-contact use of the area such as Aboriginal fringe camps.

5.3.1 Policy

Under Section 90 of the Act, it is an offence for a person to destroy, deface, damage or desecrate an Aboriginal Object or Aboriginal Place except in accordance with an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP). The Act requires that a person takes reasonable precautions and due diligence to avoid impacts on Aboriginal Objects. AHIPs may only be obtained from the Environmental Protection and Regulation Division of OEH. The *National Parks and Wildlife Amendment Regulation 2010* excludes activities carried out in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* from the definition of harm in the Act. That is, test excavations may be carried out in accordance with this Code of Practice, without requiring an AHIP. The Regulation also specifies Aboriginal community consultation requirements (*Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*).

Fort Street Public School has been identified as having potential to retain Aboriginal archaeological deposits of moderate research value, and of significant cultural value to the local Aboriginal community.

Guidelines

- Wherever possible, works on this site should avoid areas with potential to retain Aboriginal archaeological deposits: school yard areas to the north and east of Fort Street Public School:
- Should previously unidentified Aboriginal objects be discovered during future works, excavation or disturbance of the area should cease and the Cultural Heritage Division of OEH should be informed in accordance with Section 89A of the NPW Act. Works should not continue without the written consent of OEH.
- Should disturbance be required where Aboriginal archaeological material has been identified, additional archaeological investigation should be undertaken in consultation with the local Aboriginal community, and an application under Section 90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act* may be required.

Recommendation

Further archaeological assessment of the areas around Fort Street Public School with potential to retain Aboriginal archaeological deposits is required to investigate the nature and extent of any underlying Aboriginal deposits. If works are proposed that are likely to impact on the archaeologically sensitive area, an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment, incorporating a program of archaeological test excavation, should be prepared in accordance with the OEH Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales *(DECCW 2010). Aboriginal community consultation should be undertaken as part of the assessment in accordance with the* Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010 *(DECCW 2010)*

5.4 Historical Archaeological Relics

The archaeological resources within the footprint of the Fort Street Public School have been assessed as having potential state significance and as such should be managed in accordance with the requirements of the *Heritage Act 1977* (Heritage Act). The apparent lack of disturbance at the site means that any works that extend into sub-surface deposits would affect the underlying archaeological resources.

The Heritage Act provides protection for heritage places, buildings, works, moveable objects, precincts and archaeological sites that are important to the people of NSW. Sections 139 to 146, Divisions 8 and 9 of Part 6 of the Act refer to the protection of historical archaeological relics, which are defined as:

> *Any deposit, artefact, object or material evidence that:*
> *(a) relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement, and*
> *(b) is of State or local heritage significance.*

The Act requires that excavation or disturbance of land that is likely to contain, or is believed may contain, archaeological relics is undertaken in accordance with an excavation permit issued by the Heritage Council of NSW (Heritage Council). For excavations within the curtilage of a place listed on the State Heritage Register the application should be made for a permit under Section 60, or a gazetted Exemption under Section 57(2) of the Act.

An application for an excavation permit should be supported by a Historical Archaeological Research Design (HARD), which should provide a strategy for the appropriate management of the archaeological resources in the Fort Street Public School site in accordance with Heritage Council requirements.

5.4.1 Policy

The Fort Street Public School site, in its entirety, has been identified as likely to contain significant archaeological resources and as such, all excavations should be carried out under the supervision of an Excavation Director who fulfils the requirements of the *Criteria for the Assessment of Excavation Directors*. A Section 60 excavation permit should be sought from the Heritage Council of NSW prior to the commencement of works.

Guidelines

- In accordance with the updated assessment of significance of the site, based on the results of historical archaeological investigations in the vicinity, it is recommended that a Historical Archaeological Research Design is submitted as supporting documentation to the NSW Heritage Council, for a Section 60 Excavation Permit application.

5.4.2 Policy

The potential archaeological resources within the footprint of the school should be protected and conserved, in accordance with the requirements of the Heritage Act, and their potential for interpretation considered.

Guidelines

- Wherever possible, works within the footprint of the Fort Street Public School should avoid areas of archaeological significance.

- Should disturbance be required to areas of archaeological significance, an application under Section 60 of the Heritage Act will be required for this disturbance.
- Archaeological resources should be managed in accordance with the recommendations arising from the Historical Archaeological Research Design and any approval issued by the Heritage Council.
- In the event archaeological material is unexpectedly discovered during any works to this site, work should immediately cease in the affected area and the Heritage Council consulted. Work would not proceed until agreed to by the Heritage Council.

Recommendation

An Excavation Director who fulfils the requirements of the Criteria for the Assessment of Excavation Directors should prepare a Historical Archaeological Research Design that identifies an appropriate management strategy for the significant archaeological resources in the Fort Street Public School. To protect the archaeological resources, an application for a Section 60 excavation permit should be lodged with the Heritage Council, for any works that have the potential to have an impact on the significant archaeological resources.

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APPENDIX B –Scope of Conservation Works (Purcell 2019)

FORT STREET PUBLIC SCHOOL

DRAFT SCOPE OF CONSERVATION WORKS

13 NOVEMBER 2019

PURCELL

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FORT STREET PUBLIC SCHOOL - CONCEPT PLAN HERITAGE ADVICE

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INTRODUCTION
PURPOSE & SCOPE OF REPORT

PURPOSE & SCOPE OF THE REPORT

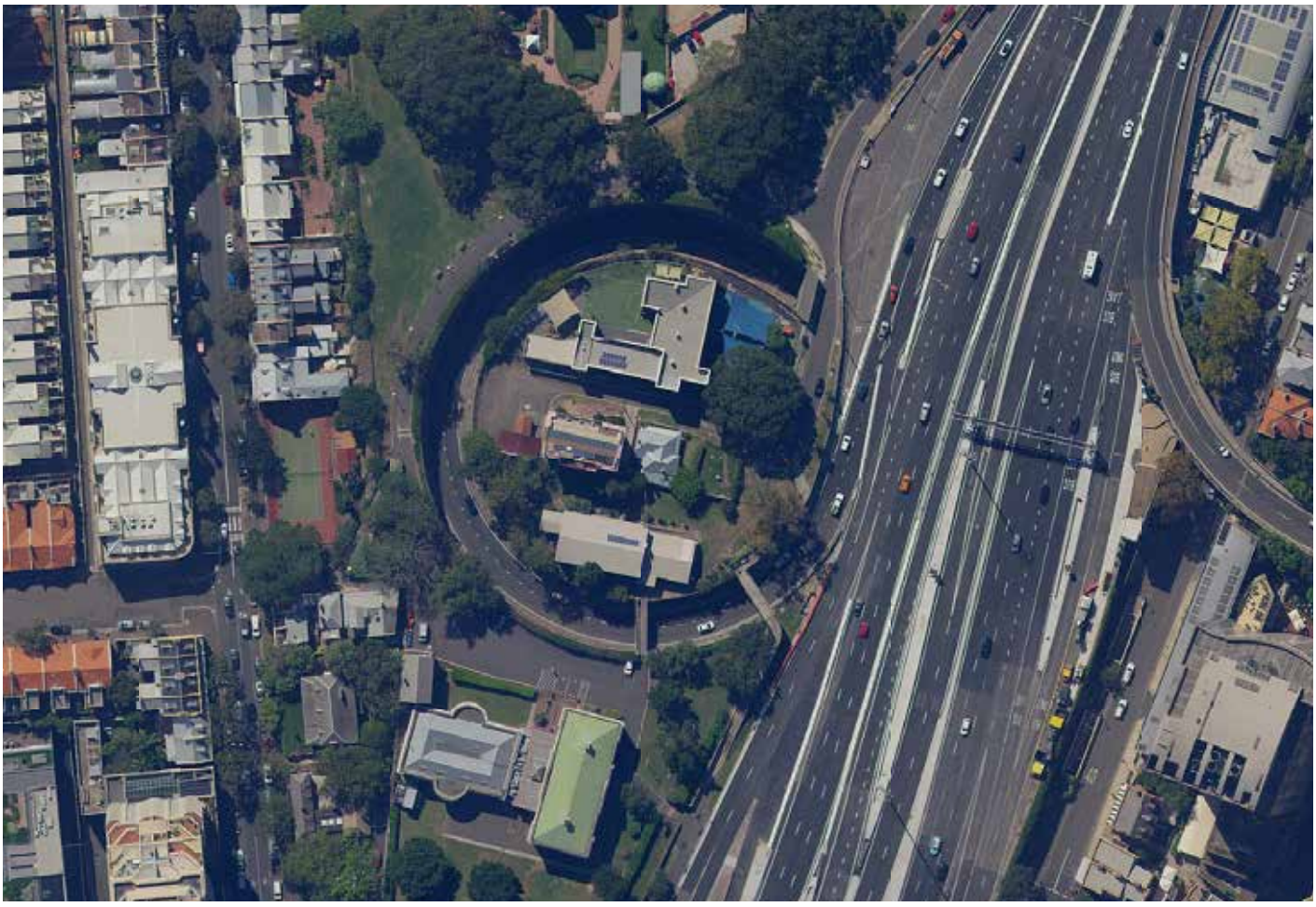
This report has been prepared to provide high level heritage advice on the CONCEPT DESIGN for the proposed upgrades to the Fort Street Public School. The report provides advice relating to the likely scope of conservation works that will be required to the existing significant buildings on the site in order to provide some guidance to early costings for the works, including their current condition, opportunities for conservation works (including reinstatement of original features), and some initial "make safe" works required for the MET Building. It examines the heritage impact upon significant buildings as a result of the proposed changes outlined in the Option 1A Concept Design drawings prepared by FJMT Architects and dated 16 August 2019.

This report does not seek to explore the history of the place or provide a detailed analysis of significant fabric. More detailed assessment will be required as the design concept progresses.

This assessment has been prepared by Purcell Asia Pacific Limited (Purcell). It has been informed by a site visit conducted by David Burdon and Tracey Skovronek on 16 July 2019, when conditions were sunny and 20 degrees Celcius. Purcell have also undertaken desktop archival research - primarily a review of the Conservation Management Plan for the site prepared in October 2016 by Tanner Kibble Denton Architects.

LOCATION & CONTEXT

The site is located at Observatory Hill, Millers Point. The site is currently occupied by a series of buildings including the original Fort Street Girls and Boys Primary School (1941), Messenger's Cottage (1861, extended c.1877, restored 1979) and the Bureau of Meteorology (MET) Building (1922). The Environmental Education Centre (EEC) Building (c.1950) is on the southern portion of the site, and is proposed for demolition. The brick wall on a sandstone foundation that extends across the boundary between the EEC and the MET is likely part of the Military Hospital compound, dating from c.1830.



Aerial View - Fort Street Public School site, located within the boundary of the Cahill Expressway on-ramp. The original Fort Street School (now the National Trust Centre) is located to the south. Source: https://maps.six.nsw.gov.au/

UNDERSTANDING THE SITE
HERITAGE LISTINGS

NSW STATE HERITAGE REGISTER

Fort Street Public School, the former Messenger's Cottage and the Bureau of Meteorology building are situated within the State Heritage Register Millers Point and Dawes Point Village Precinct, although none of the buildings is noted individually in the listing.

SYDNEY LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN 2012

Fort Street Public School is listed as a heritage item in Schedule 5 Part 1 of Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012 (Item I938, Lots 1 and 2 DP 732592). The Bureau of Meteorology (Item I936) and the Messenger's Cottage for Sydney Observatory (Item I937) are also listed under the LEP.

The site is included in the Millers Point/Dawes Point Conservation Area (C35) and in the immediate vicinity of a number of individually listed heritage items, including the Sydney Observatory Group (Item I934), and Observatory Park (Item I935).

OTHER LISTINGS

Fort Street Public School is not currently classified in the Register of the National Trust of Australia (NSW), or the Register of Significant Architecture in NSW prepared by the Heritage Committee of the Australian Institute of Architects - New South Wales Chapter.

SIGNIFICANCE ASSESMENT
SIGNIFICANCE GRADINGS

2016 CMP ASSESSMENT

The 2106 CMP for the site prepared by Tanner Kibble Denton Architects has assessed the site and assigned the following levels of significance. It is against these criteria that Purcell have undertaken their heritage assessment for the place.

Grading of Significance	Justification for Grading
Exceptional	Element that makes a direct and irreplaceable contribution to the overall heritage significance of the site. It will exhibit a high degree of integrity with any alterations of a minor nature and generally reversible. Demolition/removal or inappropriate alteration would substantially diminish the heritage significance of the site.
High	Element that makes a substantial contribution to the overall heritage significance of the site. It may have alterations that do not detract from its significance. Demolition/removal or inappropriate alteration would diminish the heritage significance of the site.
Moderate	Element that makes a moderate contribution to the overall heritage significance of the site. It may have undergone alterations that detract from its heritage significance but still contributes to the overall significance of the place. Demolition/removal or inappropriate alteration may diminish the heritage significance of the site.
Little	Element that makes only a minor contribution to the overall heritage significance of the site. It has undergone substantial and irreversible alteration and is difficult to interpret. Demolition/removal would not diminish the heritage significance of the site.
Intrusive	Element (or component of an element) that adversely impacts on the overall heritage significance of the site. Demolition/removal would enhance the heritage significance of the site.

5.5.1 Site elements

Grading	Item
Exceptional	Potential Aboriginal and historical archaeological remains across the site. Fort Street Public School. Bureau of Meteorology Building. Brick wall between the Cottage and EEC. Playgrounds on the northern and eastern sides of Fort Street Public School. Ficus tree on the eastern side of Fort Street Public School.
High	Messenger's Cottage.
Moderate	Palisade fencing above the road circle and bounding Fort Street Public School. Garages on the western side of the Bureau of Meteorology. Toilets on the western side of Fort Street Public School.
Little	Former Fanny Cohen Gymnasium (EEC). Landscaping associated with the EEC.
Intrusive	Shade structure on the eastern side of the Public School.

Source: 2016 Conservation Management Plan by TKD Architects.

SIGNIFICANCE ASSESMENT

OVERALL SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Source: 2016 Conservation Management Plan by TKD Architects.

SIGNIFICANCE ASSESMENT
FORT STREET SCHOOL BUILDING

2016 CMP ASSESSMENT

The 2016 CMP for the site prepared by Tanner Kibble Denton Architects has assessed the individual built elements and assigned the following levels of significance. It is against these criteria that Purcell have undertaken their heritage assessment.

FORT STREET SCHOOL BUILDING - SIGNIFICANCE GRADINGS

Grading	Item
Exceptional	The intact original external form and original external fabric of Fort Street Public School. Intact original spaces within the building, including the main stair, halls and corridors, classrooms, assembly hall and stage, staff room and office. Intact original fabric, including stair balustrades and newel posts, windows and fanlights between classrooms and corridors, original doors to external openings, terrazzo stairs, the metal balustrade between the door openings to the secondary stair.
High	Movable items, including rolls of honour, the memorial window and the associated commemorative plaque.
Moderate	Modified spaces formerly occupied by hat rooms and stores and associated fabric. The lavatory block at the western end of the building.
Little	Aluminium framed windows. Sanitary fitments in the boys' and girls' toilets. Tiling and sanitary fitments in the staff lavatory. Tiling and sanitary fitments in the basement lavatory. Sinks, sink cupboards and tiled splash backs in the first floor corridor and classrooms. Palisade fencing around the perimeter of the site. Playground items, including soft paving and synthetic grass. Lavatory fitout in the basement area.
Intrusive	Conduits and cabling installed on the exterior of the building. Signage on the east parapet of the school. Signage at the eastern edge of the site. Store room added to the northern side of the assembly hall.

Source: 2016 Conservation Management Plan by TKD Architects.

LEVELS OF SIGNIFICANCE

FORT STREET SCHOOL BUILDING - GROUND FLOOR

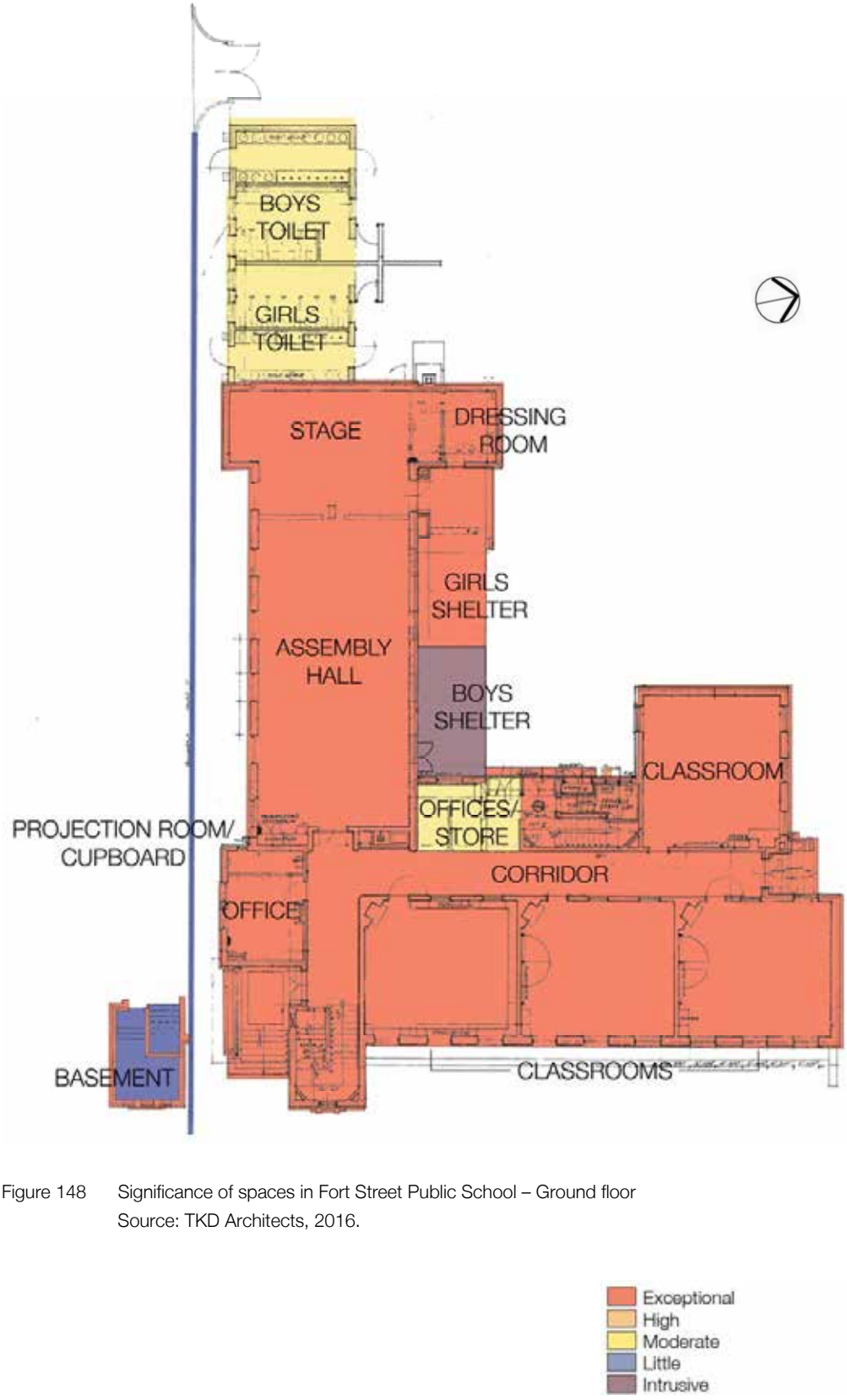


Figure 148 Significance of spaces in Fort Street Public School – Ground floor
Source: TKD Architects, 2016.

Source: 2016 Conservation Management Plan by TKD Architects.

LEVELS OF SIGNIFICANCE

FORT STREET SCHOOL BUILDING - FIRST FLOOR

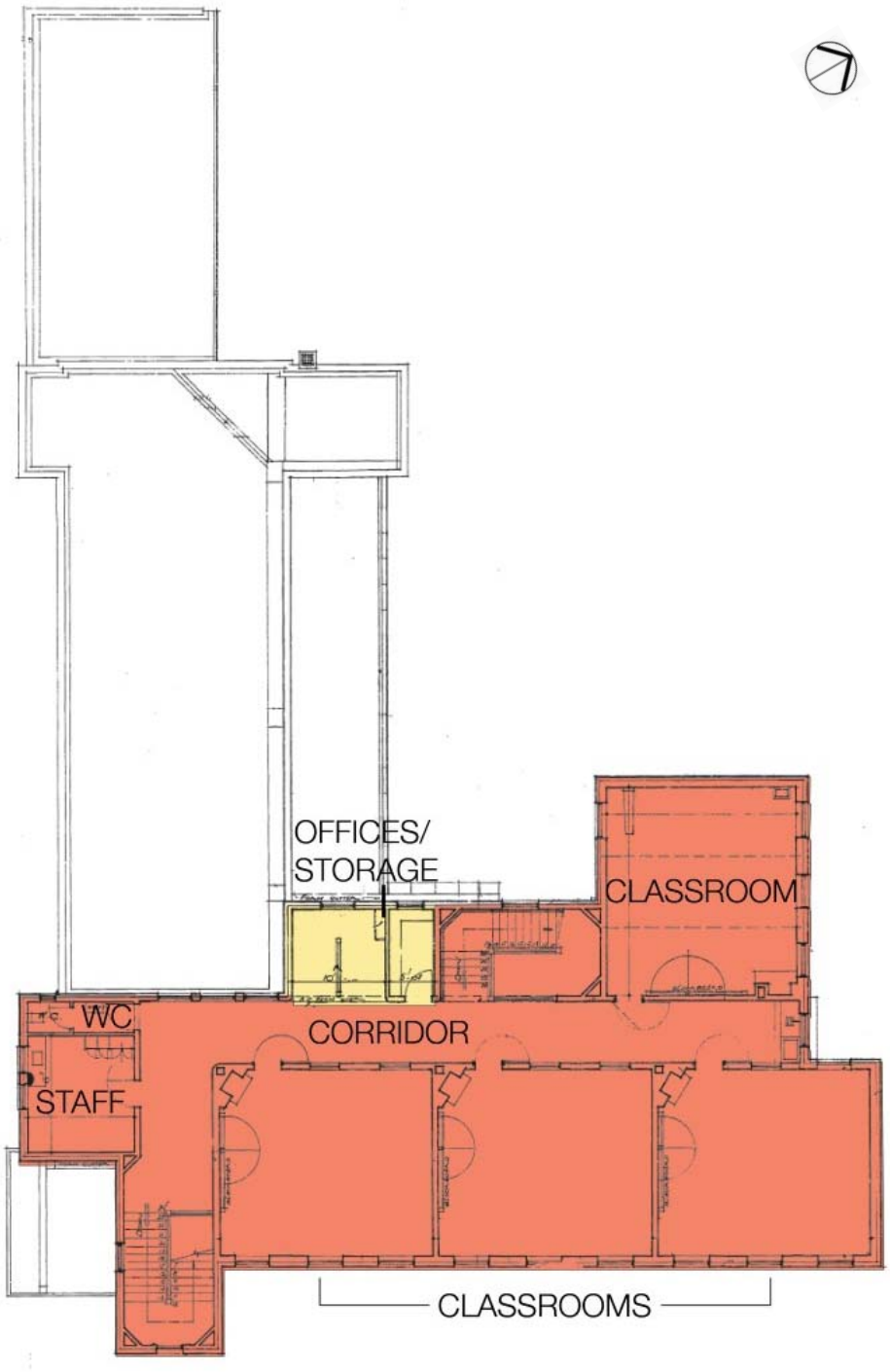


Figure 149 Significance of spaces in Fort Street Public School - First Floor
Source: TKD Architects, 2016.

Source: 2016 Conservation Management Plan by TKD Architects.

SIGNIFICANCE ASSESMENT
MESSENGER'S COTTAGE BUILDING

MESSENGER'S COTTAGE BUILDING - SIGNIFICANCE GRADINGS

Grading	Item
Exceptional	The intact original external form of the Messenger's Cottage, including the form of verandahs and rear additions; Original external and internal fabric of the Messenger's Cottage; The overall plan configuration of the building
High	The spaces within the building, including the three principal rooms, rear office and hall. Reconstructed verandah fabric and volume. Although a reconstruction, it is important for the contribution it makes to the appearance of the Cottage and an understanding of its early form; Fireplace in the kitchen; Timber floor boards.
Moderate	Spaces including the kitchen, bathroom and w.c. Although likely to be early parts of the building, they have been modified by the introduction of later fabric. Recent timber board wall linings, which are appropriate to the age and character of the place, and contribute to an understanding of its early form; Reconstructed timber joinery items including windows, doors, architraves and skirting boards; Reconstructed fabric associated with fireplaces in the principal rooms.
Little	Recent kitchen fitments and cabinetry; Sanitary fixtures and tiling in the bathroom and w.c.; Plasterboard ceiling linings; Verandah flooring; The shed near the south western corner of the Cottage.
Intrusive	There are no intrusive elements associated with the Messenger's Cottage.

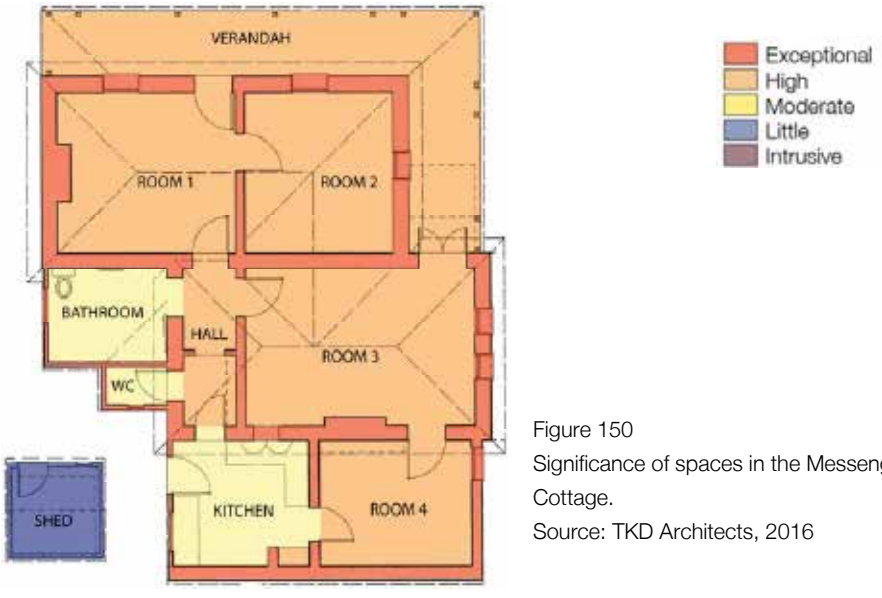


Figure 150
Significance of spaces in the Messenger's Cottage.
Source: TKD Architects, 2016

Source: 2016 Conservation Management Plan by TKD Architects.

SIGNIFICANCE ASSESMENT
BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY BUILDING

BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY BUILDING - SIGNIFICANCE GRADINGS

The 2016 CMP assessment of the Bureau of Meteorolgy Building was limited by the restricted access to the building due to its poor condition. The assessment noted that "a more detailed inspection of the building may re-evaluate assessment of the relative heritage significance of spaces and fabric." Purcell have produced a summary drawing showing significance and possible existing floor plan below based on a desktop study.

Grading	Item
Exceptional	The intact original external form and original external fabric of the Bureau of Meteorology; Intact original spaces within the building - building interiors are thought to be generally intact, notwithstanding some modifications; Intact original fabric including timber, terrazzo and concrete stairs, fireplaces and chimneypieces, doors, architraves, skirting boards, counters in the ground floor reception area, ceiling linings and cornices, wrought metal balustrades (it should be noted some fabric is in poor condition); The steel tower on the roof of the building.
High	Spaces which, although modified, have retained original fabric.
Moderate	The dumb waiter and associated fabric; Any surviving internal partitions installed after World War II; The low planting bed walls and metal balustrading on the northern side of the building.
Little	Modifications to the porch associated with the private entrance.
Intrusive	Later conduits installed on wall surfaces.

Source: 2016 Conservation Management Plan by TKD Architects.

CONSERVATION WORKS
DRAFT SCHEDULE OF REPAIRS

BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY (MET) BUILDING

The 1922 Bureau of Meteorology Building is currently in an extremely poor state of repair. It requires emergency repair works to make it safe to enter and to prevent further deterioration. The longer that the building is left in its current state, the more damage that will occur to original fabric, and the more costly will be the repair works that will need to be undertaken.

The building has been assessed as being of EXCEPTIONAL SIGNIFICANCE. This means that it "makes a direct and irreplaceable contribution to the overall heritage significance of the site" and that "demolition/removal or inappropriate alteration would substantially diminish the heritage significance of the site."

Its intact external form, internal spaces, original fabric (timber, terrazzo and concrete stairs, fireplaces, chimneypieces, doors, architraves, skirtings etc) are to be conserved.

MET BUILDING - EMERGENCY / MAKE-SAFE WORKS

ELEMENT	EMERGENCY WORKS
	The roof is currently in a very poor state. it has completely perished in some places and a temporary sarlon covering is doing nothing to halt further water ingress. URGENT WORKS: Install a temporary roof to the building that overhangs the parapet and which has temporary downpipes installed. NOTE: Weatherproofing the roof is the major priority. Unless the roof is repaired, additional make-safe works will be of little effect. The building needs to be able to dry-out before the majority of further assessment can be undertaken. Works are to be specified by an experienced heritage architect.
	The interior of the building is currently full of broken-down material, much of it related to the ceilings which have collapsed. There is likely to be a number of hazardous materials within the detritus. URGENT WORKS: Undertake a general clean-up of the building using approved contractors, taking care to avoid areas of collapsed floor etc. Scope of Works for clean up to be specified by an experienced heritage architect (to prevent removal/disposal of potentially significant fabric).

CONSERVATION WORKS
DRAFT SCHEDULE OF REPAIRS

There is a large amount of original fabric within the building, including doors, fireplaces, skirtings etc. Constant water ingress is significantly damaging this fabric which is in otherwise good condition.

URGENT WORKS: With input from the heritage architect, remove existing timber doors, fireplaces etc from the building, record their location in an inventory and store in a secure, weatherproof location on site to prevent further damage.

There is a risk of debris falling from the building, including damaged eaves and possibly more major structural members.

URGENT WORKS: Install a temporary perimeter fence to the building to prevent access.

There is a risk of ceiling and floor collapse in certain sections of the building. In some cases the floor is unsafe to walk on or missing completely.

URGENT WORKS: With the advice of a structural engineer and input from heritage architect, install temporary floor joists/ columns where necessary to ensure the stability of the existing structure. Where floors are missing or severely deteriorated, install a temporary plywood floor or similar to permit access.

CONSERVATION WORKS
DRAFT SCHEDULE OF REPAIRS

MET BUILDING - CONCEPT DESIGN REPAIR SCHEDULE

The following schedule of works is not an exhaustive list of repairs that will need to be undertaken to the building. It provides general advice for costing purposes at the CONCEPT DESIGN stage only.

ELEMENT	REPAIR SCHEDULE
	The external brickwork to the building is in various states of repair. The patterned nature of the brickwork is no longer apparent due to the build-up of pollution on the facade. Downpipes and rainwater heads to the building are mostly no longer in place. Only the SE corner has a rainwater head intact. WORKS: Allow for a general clean of the brickwork on all elevations. Allow for approximately 75% repointing of brickwork. Allow for three new custom copper rainwater heads and associated downpipes.
	The concrete parapets, door surround and base to the building appear to not have originally been painted. Window and door frames, along with metalwork were painted. WORKS: Allow for historic paint analysis to determine original colour scheme. Allow for complete removal of existing (presumed acrylic) paint from concrete surfaces using approved paint stripping method. Allow to repaint all metalwork following stripping back, repair and application of protective coating. Allow to repaint all timber windows and doors.
	The "wind recording apparatus" to the SW corner of the building is an important element related to the original function of the building. WORKS: Allow for complete restoration of this element. This may involve substantial off-site repair work, sandblasting, repainting, installation of missing elements or new structral members, etc. The two flagpoles (seen in the image above) should also be considered for reinstatement.

CONSERVATION WORKS
DRAFT SCHEDULE OF REPAIRS

ELEMENT	REPAIR SCHEDULE
	A number of noticeable structural repairs are required on the exterior of the building. Of particualr concern is the major cracking to the parapet on the southern elevation. WORKS: Advice of a specialist structural engineer should be sought. Allow for complete dismantling and rebuilding of this section of parapet.
	The eaves to the building are in generally poor condition. In some cases they are missing or have completely rotted through. Where they remain in good condition they should be repaired. WORKS: Allow for 100% replacement of eaves using exact matching profile.
	The lining boards to the upper verandah have rotted. External doors and windows are generally in moderate condition. WORKS: Replace the lining boards to the upper verandah. Allow to remove all external doors and windows for repair in a factory. These elements (and their frames) should be sanded back, re-primed and re-painted. New glass should be installed that assists in meeting acoustic requirements. Sash windows should be repaired and made operational. Install appropriate acoustic brush seals to the windows. Original hardware is to be retained and repaired where possible.

CONSERVATION WORKS
DRAFT SCHEDULE OF REPAIRS

ELEMENT	REPAIR SCHEDULE
	The building interiors need significant repair works. WORKS: Allow for complete reinstatement of all plaster ceilings and cornices to match existing details. Allow for complete reinstatement of all timber floorboards, but retain if possible on the lower floors where there has been less damage. Aim to retain original structure (floor joists etc) where possible, but supplement with new structure where necessary. Allow for upgraded sound and/or fire insulation between floors. Strip paint from all walls, patch and repair as necessary prior to repainting. Remove all existing conduits, wiring etc and re-wire the entire building to meet current standards.
	Substantial early joinery remains in the building. it is in generally moderate condition and should be repaired to match. This includes internal doors, the entrance vestibule, fireplaces, skirtingboards, picture rails, and dividing screens. WORKS: Repair all timberwork to the building. Replace elements where missing or damaged (allow 50%). Repaint.
	The roof and guttering to the building is missing. WORKS: Repair the existing roof. Exact roof type is to be determined, but this roof is to be trafficable. Existing handrails are to be rpaired and repainted, and a new compliant barrier is likely required. Allow for full replacement of the guttering to the building. Allow for full replacement of perimeter membrane above eaves. Allow for new cement topping to all parapets to prevent further water ingress.

CONSERVATION WORKS
DRAFT SCHEDULE OF REPAIRS

FORT STREET SCHOOL - CONCEPT DESIGN REPAIR SCHEDULE

The following schedule of works is not an exhaustive list of repairs that will need to be undertaken to the building. It provides general advice for costing purposes t the CONCEPT DESIGN stage only.

The 1941 Fort Street Primary School Building is currently in good condition and in use. The building has been assessed as being of EXCEPTIONAL SIGNIFICANCE. This means that it "makes a direct and irreplaceable contribution to the overall heritage significance of the site" and that "demolition/removal or inappropriate alteration would substantially diminish the heritage significance of the site."

Its intact external form, internal spaces, original fabric (stairs and newell posts, windows and fanlights to corridors, original external doors, terrazzo stairs etc) are to be conserved.

ELEMENT	REPAIR SCHEDULE
	The external brickwork to the building is in generally good condition. Cement string courses and parapet capping are in moderate condition. WORKS: Allow for a general clean of the brickwork and cement elements on all elevations. Allow for approximately 25% repointing of brickwork. Allow for removal of all non-original signage, conduit, lighting, etc and repairs to fabric as necessary. Allow for a new capping element (possibly in folded metal) to the parapet line.
	The main entry to the building and the three small windows at the base of the tower have has had their glass block windows removed. The flagpole to the main tower has also been removed. WORKS: Allow for reinstatement of the original glass block wall as per the original design. Allow for a new flagpole to the main tower.
	The original steel windows that were an integral part of the design have been replaced. Current windows do not meet acoustic requirements. WORKS: Allow for complete replacement of all external windows. The detail of the new window is to match the original historic steel windows for the building.

CONSERVATION WORKS
DRAFT SCHEDULE OF REPAIRS

ELEMENT	REPAIR SCHEDULE
 	The significant elements of the building interior should be retained and conserved. WORKS: Allow for a light sanding and repolishing of the orignal floorboards and parquetry flooring. Repair walls to match existing where any new openings are made or original openings restored. Restore the original curved corner elements to the interior.
 	Original elements to the exterior of the building remain in place and should be conserved. These include the original timber doors, terrazzo steps, and metal handrails. WORKS: Allow for repairs to terrazzo steps.
	The internal windows, doors and fanlights are in good condition. They should be retained and conserved wherever possible. WORKS: Minimal repair works required to these elements.

CONSERVATION WORKS
DRAFT SCHEDULE OF REPAIRS

ELEMENT	REPAIR SCHEDULE
	Historic display cabinets, honour boards, etc should be appropriately catalogued and incorporated into the new works. There may be some minor repair works required. WORKS: Allow for the preparation of a moveable heritage management strategy
	Existing air conditioning units, fans, lights etc are presumed to be upgraded in some way as part of the planned works. WORKS: Allow for repairs to ceilings and walls to match existing surfaces.
	The interior of the building (and selected parts of the exterior such as the doors) may be repainted as part of the works. WORKS: Allow for historic paint scrape analysis to selected original features (timber doors, handrails, internal window frames, skirtings, etc) to assist in preparation of historic colour schedule for appropriate elements.

CONSERVATION WORKS
DRAFT SCHEDULE OF REPAIRS

ELEMENT	REPAIR SCHEDULE
	The historic stained glass War Memorial window may require some repair. It would be a positive outcome to remove (or at least upgrade) the external protective grille which is in poor condition WORKS: Allow for the removal or replacement of the security grille to the window. Allow for any necessary cleaning and repairs.
	The perimeter palisade fence dates from the time of the Cahill cutting and is in poor condition in some areas. The fencing should be retained and conserved as part of the works. There is some evidence of crevice corrosion (note rusting to concrete base). WORKS: Allow for the removal of existing secondary wire fencing, and of any vegetation. Allow to repair the fence as appropriate. It may be judged necessary to paint the fence. Allow for cleaning and preparation, application of alkyd-based protective primer, and coating with a micaceous iron oxide paint.

CONSERVATION WORKS
DRAFT SCHEDULE OF REPAIRS

MESSENGER'S COTTAGE - CONCEPT DESIGN REPAIR SCHEDULE

The following schedule of works is not an exhaustive list of repairs that will need to be undertaken to the building. It provides general advice for costing purposes t the CONCEPT DESIGN stage only.

The Messenger's Cottage was originally associated with Sydney Obervatory. it was constructed c.1862 and enlarged in 1877. Subject to numerous chnages of use and modifications throughout the years, the current form of the cottage dates primarily to the 1979 conservation works undertaken by the National Trust. The Messenger's Cottage is currently in good condition and in use. The building has been assessed as being of HIGH SIGNIFICANCE. This means that it "makes a substantial contribution to the overall heritage significance of the site" and that "demolition/removal or inappropriate alteration would diminish the heritage significance of the site." It should be noted that the actual original fabric of the building has been assessed as being of Exceptional Significance.

ELEMENT	REPAIR SCHEDULE
	The exterior of the building is in generally good condition. WORKS: Allow for minor repairs only.
	The interior of the cottage is in generally good condition, with a substantial amount of the internal fabric being of new construction but to historiacally appropriate design. WORKS: Allow for minor repairs only.
 	The current bathroom and kitchen are presumed to be modified as part of the works. WORKS: Allow for careful removal and repair any elements as necessary. There may be an opportunity to expose the original external brick wall of the 1862 cottage currently in the bathroom, and this would require appropriate paint stripping.

CONSERVATION WORKS
DRAFT SCHEDULE OF REPAIRS

ELEMENT	REPAIR SCHEDULE
	The new roof was installed in 2016. It is in good condition, but there are some loose downpipes and gutter connections. WORKS: Allow for repair to downpipes.
	Numerous modern services have been inappropriately installed to the rear of the building. Circulation paths around the building will likely need to be reconfigured. WORKS: Allow for removal/consolitation of necessary cabling. Install cover and paint in to reduce visual impact. Allow for new pathways to the building perimeter. Consider upgrading the modern concrete verandah with sandstone to appropriate detail (it is presumed the building had a stone flagged verandah).