

O C P A R C H I T E C T S

FORMER CLEVELAND STREET PUBLIC SCHOOL,
244 CLEVELAND STREET, SURRY HILLS
Conservation Management Plan, Volume One



For: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Job No: 16012
Final Issue: E – 2 December 2016

Report Register

The following report register indicates the development and issue number of this report, undertaken by OCP Architects.

Document status:

Issue	Date	Purpose	Written	Approved
A	May, 2016	Draft Issue to Client	AC/CC	OC
B	July, 2016	Draft Issue to Client	CC/OC	OC
C	September, 2016	Draft Issue to Client	CC/RD	OC
D	October, 2016	Draft Issue to Client	RD/KU	OC
E	2 December, 2016	Final Issue to Client	RD/KU	OC

Copyright

OCP Architects has, where possible, referenced the historical sources and reference material within this report. Reasonable effort has been made to identify, contact, acknowledge and obtain permission to use material from the relevant copyright holders. Copyright in this report remains with OCP Architects Pty Ltd ('OCP') and in the owners of any pre-existing historic source or reference material.

Right to Use

OCP Architects grants the right for the client to reproduce or use this report, specific to this project and site, unless the use infringes on other copyright or rights of OCP Architects or third parties.

CONTENTS VOLUME ONE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
1 INTRODUCTION	3
1.1 Aims of the Conservation Management Plan	3
1.2 Site Identification and Ownership	3
1.3 Authorship.....	5
1.4 Methodology and Structure.....	5
1.5 Limitations.....	6
1.6 Terminology	6
1.7 Abbreviations	7
1.8 Acknowledgments.....	7
1.9 Resources	7
2 HISTORY	8
2.1 Pre-European Historical Context and Early Contact	8
2.1.1 Early Landscape Character	9
2.2 The Iron School 1850-67	11
2.3 The New Building 1867-90	17
2.4 Expanding the School and its Site 1890-1912	28
2.4.1 Erecting the Girls' School 1891-1893	28
2.4.2 Continuing Accommodation Problems 1894-1907	31
2.4.3 Erecting the Boys' School 1907-1912.....	35
2.5 High School and Language Centre 1912 to date	40
2.5.1 Developing a High School 1912-1924	40
2.5.2 Modern High School 1924-1945	45
2.5.3 Post-war Expansion 1945 to date	48
2.6 Chronology of Cleveland Street School.....	60
2.6.1 The Iron School 1850-67	60
2.6.2 The New Building 1867-90	62
2.6.3 Expanding the School and its Site 1890-1912	64
2.6.4 High School and Language Centre 1912 to date	66

3	PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF CONTEXT AND VIEWS	71
3.1	Context Surrounding the Site.....	71
3.2	Views	73
4	PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE.....	78
4.1	General External Description	78
4.2	Building 1 (1891 and 1909)	79
4.2.1	Building 1 Interior Description	85
4.3	Building 2 (1867 and 1891) Exterior Description	87
4.3.1	Building 2 Interior Description	94
4.4	Building 3 (1924)	96
4.4.1	Building 3 Interior Description	101
4.5	Building 4 (1968)	103
4.5.1	Building 4 Interior Description	105
4.6	Moveable Heritage.....	105
4.7	Landscape Features.....	110
5	ARCHAEOLOGY	113
5.1	Historical Archaeological Potential	113
5.1.1	Archaeological Zoning Plan	113
5.1.2	Historical Archaeological Potential	114
5.2	Aboriginal Archaeological Desktop Study	115
5.2.1	Aboriginal Archaeological Context.....	115
5.2.2	Aboriginal Archaeological Potential.....	115
6	COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS	116
6.1.1	Sussex Street Public School.....	116
6.1.2	Crown Street Public School	116
6.1.3	Blackfriars Public School	117
6.1.4	The importance of the former Cleveland Street Public School.....	118
7	STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE	119
7.1	Assessment of Significance for Cleveland Street Public School	119
7.1.1	Summary Levels of Significance Matrix.....	124
7.2	Summary Statement of Cultural Significance	124

8	GRADING OF SIGNIFICANCE.....	125
8.1.1	Grading of Significance Table.....	126
8.1.2	Levels of Significance Items and Spaces	127
9	CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES	131
9.1	Implications of Heritage Significance.....	131
9.2	Implications of the Physical Fabric.....	131
9.2.1	Use of the Place	131
9.2.2	Condition and Intactness of Built Fabric	132
9.3	Owner's Requirements	132
9.4	Heritage Management Framework.....	132
9.4.1	NSW Heritage Act (1977)	132
9.4.2	Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012	133
9.4.2.1	Design Excellence (Clause 6.21)	135
9.4.3	Sydney Development Control Plan 2012	135
9.4.3.1	Prince Alfred Park East Special Character Area	135
9.4.4	NSW Government Total Asset Management Process.....	137
9.5	Non-Statutory Heritage Listings and Community Groups	137
9.5.1	The National Trust of Australia (NSW)	137
9.5.2	Australian Heritage Database	138
9.6	NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION CODE OF AUSTRALIA & ACCESS REQUIREMENTS	138
9.7	Disability Access Requirements	139
9.8	APPLICATION OF THE BURRA CHARTER.....	139
10	CONSERVATION POLICIES.....	141
10.1	Best Practice Heritage Management	141
10.2	Documenting Change.....	144
10.3	Skills and Experience.....	145
10.4	Ownership, Participation and Approvals	146
10.5	Setting / Related Places	147
10.6	Landscape.....	149
10.7	Archaeology	150
10.8	Conservation of Significant Fabric and Elements.....	152

10.9	Use	155
10.10	Adaptation / Alterations & Additions	156
10.11	New Development	158
10.12	Sustainability	161
10.12.1	Air Modification Systems	161
10.13	Building Code Compliance	162
10.14	Accessibility	163
10.15	Maintenance and Repair of Existing Buildings and Elements.....	163
10.16	Painting of Existing Buildings and Elements	165
10.17	New Services	165
10.18	Interpretation.....	166
10.19	Moveable Heritage.....	168
11	Annexures	171

Archaeological Assessment, 244 Cleveland Street, Surry Hills (Casey + Lowe, 2016)

Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment, 244 Cleveland Street, Surry Hills (Comber Consultants, 2016)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Conservation Management Plan (CMP) has been prepared for the Department of Education (DoE) to guide the future conservation and use of the buildings on the site at 244 Cleveland Street, Surry Hills. The preparation of this document reflects the long-term commitment of the NSW Government and the Department of Education to the conservation of its buildings and sites of heritage significance.

The school is currently known as Cleveland Street Intensive English High School. For the purposes of this document, the school will be referred to by the title as listed in the Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012; the former Cleveland Street Public School (CSPS), which includes the buildings, interiors, grounds and boundary fence.

This conservation management plan analyses the history and surviving fabric of the former CSPS, and from the analysis derives a statement of cultural significance. The primary objective of this study is to guide the conservation of the significant heritage assets and values of the site at 244 Cleveland Street, Surry Hills, including in the context of the development of a Master Planning Strategy to redevelop the site to a comprehensive secondary school. The aim is to retain and enhance the cultural significance of the place, whilst guiding the adaptation and ongoing future use of the building complex and its environs.

Policies have been developed that set out internal and external processes for conservation and management of the site, including the management of change in ways that will best retain and protect the heritage values of the place. The policies aim to protect the significant values of the place by doing as much as necessary to facilitate conservation with as little intervention as possible.

This conservation management plan generally concludes that:

- The former CSPS is a collection of structures with a high level of significance both on a local and state level.
- The conservation guidelines from the Heritage Branch, NSW Office of Environment & Heritage, and the principles of the Burra Charter should inform any future decisions on use and conservation works.
- The continued use and conservation of the site should encompass the conservation objectives of this plan.
- The retention of a compatible use will contribute to the ongoing conservation and maintenance of the former CSPS building site.
- The fabric of all significant structures and from all significant periods should continue to be conserved using advice from conservation professionals and appropriately qualified trades people.
- The ongoing use of the former CSPS building site for educational purposes is an important aspect that contributes to its significance.
- The historical development of the school should be conveyed through appropriate interpretive measures.

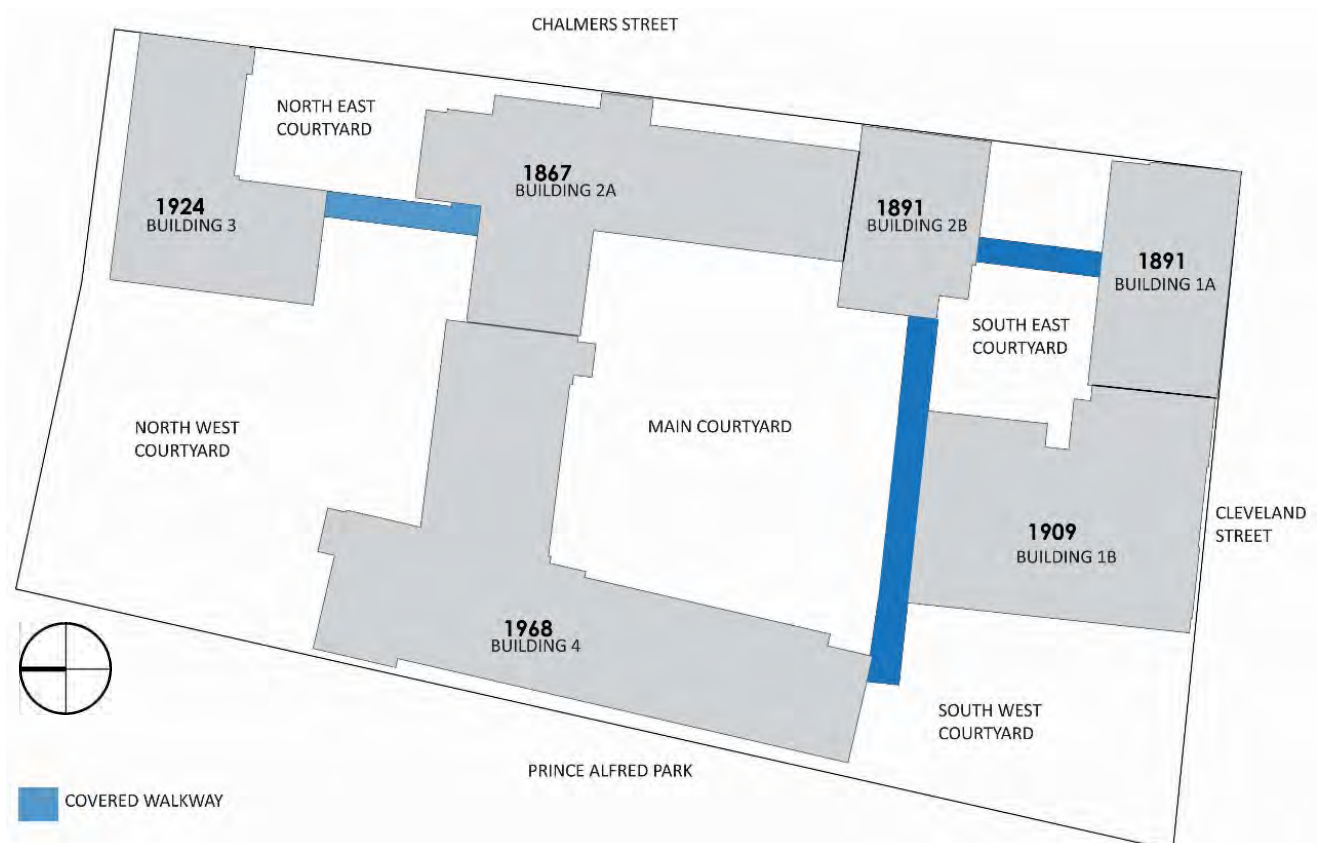


IMAGE A – SITE PLAN OF CLEVELAND STREET SCHOOL SHOWING NUMBERED BUILDINGS WITH DATES, COURTYARDS AND NEIGHBOURING STREETS (OCP ARCHITECTS 2016)

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Aims of the Conservation Management Plan

This Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the former Cleveland Street Public School (CSPS) at 244 Cleveland Street, Surry Hills, has been commissioned by the Department of Education (DoE).

This CMP aims to be a practical document, to guide decisions that may affect the heritage value of the place. It will form a basis for future planning and provide a standard against which to assess the heritage impact of future developments on the building site and in the vicinity. It should be used when planning any works, both temporary and permanent, that involve alteration to the surviving fabric of the place.

The Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (Burra Charter 2013) provides the Australia-wide accepted guidelines for heritage conservation. Section 2 (Conservation and Management) of the charter states:

- 2.1 *Places of cultural significance should be conserved;*
- 2.2 *The aim of conservation is to retain the cultural significance of a place;*
- 2.3 *Conservation is an integral part of good management of places of cultural significance;*
- 2.4 *Places of cultural significance should be safeguarded and not put at risk or left in a vulnerable state.*

The primary objectives of the CMP are to:

- Review the historical and archival material relating to the building and its chronological development. Much of this material is drawn from the historical information prepared by historian, Dr Terry Kass in March 2016.
- Investigate the existing physical fabric to determine the extent of original elements and the nature of any subsequent changes.
- Review of the documentary, physical and comparative evidence to assess the degree of significance of the building complex and individual components and establish a statement of significance.
- Prepare policies for the conservation of the cultural significance of the building, taking into account its historical and social significance, the significant physical fabric and more recent changes. Conservation policies are to enable the cultural significance of the place to be retained in any future upgrading, additions and alterations, conservation work or change of use.

1.2 Site Identification and Ownership

The former CSPS is located at 244 Cleveland Street, Surry Hills, on the corner of Cleveland and Chalmers Street, in the City of Sydney Local Government Area. The building site is bounded by Prince Alfred Park on the north western end of the site. The building site consists of three allotments known as Lot 8 in DP 821649, Lot 1 in DP 797483 and Lot 1 in DP 797484. The site includes four buildings, grounds and a palisade fence.

Central Railway Station is located in close proximity to the building site to the north east, with railway lines running along the north west of Prince Alfred Park.

The site is currently owned by the Department of Education.

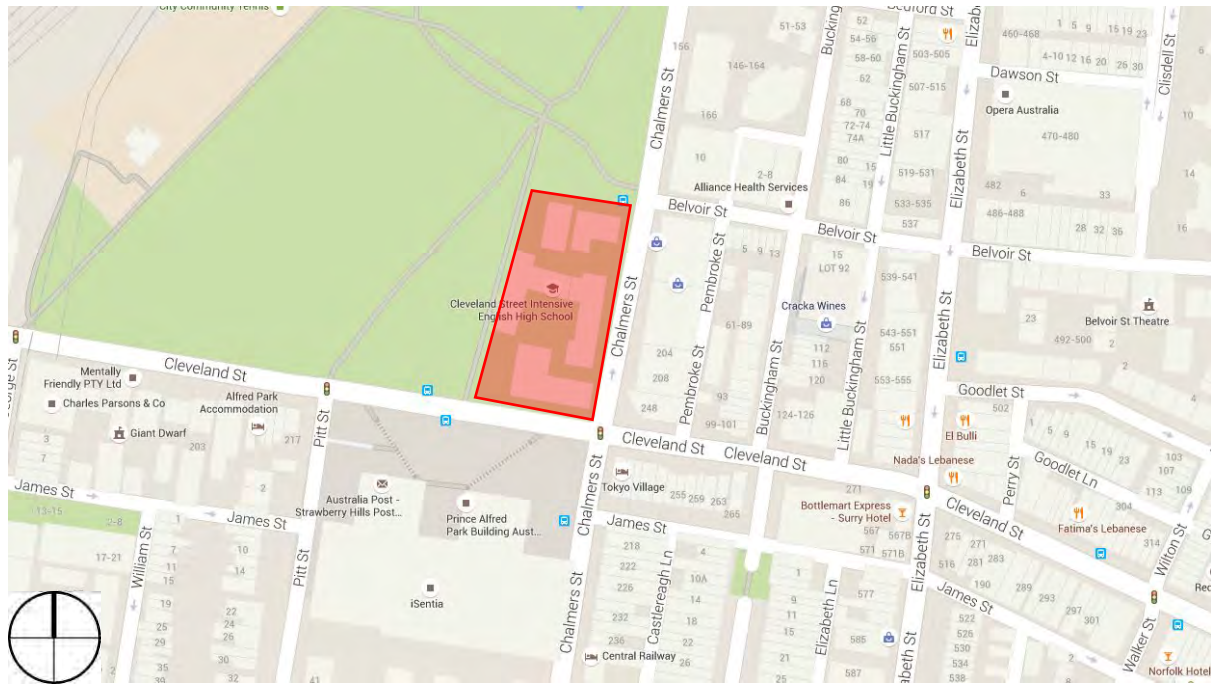


FIGURE 1.1 - LOCATION PLAN. THE SITE IS SHADED RED.
SOURCE: GOOGLE MAPS 2016



FIGURE 1.2 - AERIAL VIEW SHOWING THE SITE OF THE FORMER CSPS.
SOURCE: LPI SIX VIEWER, 2016

The former CSPS is an item of local heritage significance as listed in the Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012 (SLEP 2012). The item is listed as *Former Cleveland Street Public School, buildings including interiors, grounds and fence plinth* (Item I 1477). The site is not located within a heritage conservation area, however is within the vicinity of two heritage conservation areas.

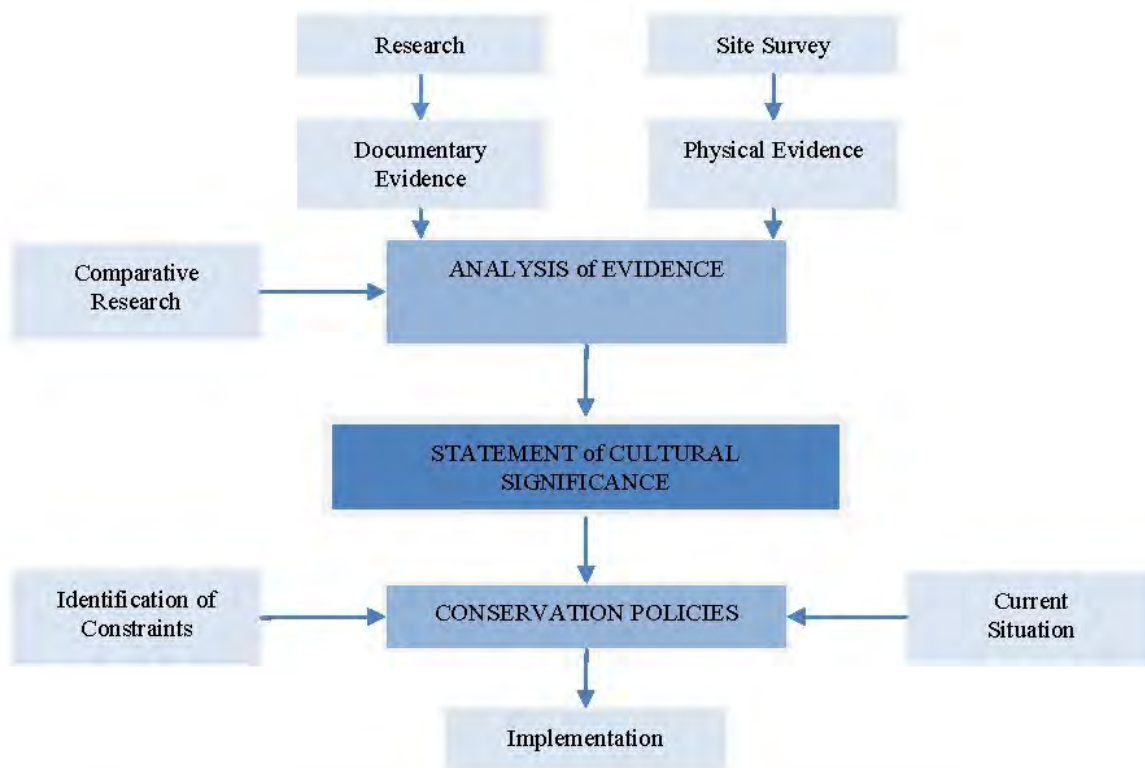
1.3 Authorship

The report was prepared by OCP Architects Pty Ltd, written by Abigail Cohen, heritage consultant, assisted by Rowan Day, historian, and reviewed by Otto Cserhalmi, principal. Unless otherwise stated, current photographs included in this report were taken on site between April and June 2016 by OCP Architects.

The historical information and images in this CMP were sourced from the historical report *A History of Cleveland Street School* prepared by historian Dr. Terry Kass, dated March 2016.

1.4 Methodology and Structure

This report follows the general methodology set out in J.S. Kerr's *The Conservation Plan* and is consistent with the guidelines set out in the *Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance* (Burra Charter 2013).



Section 1.0 Introduction is followed by *Section 2.0 Historical Analysis* which provides a comprehensive history of the building site based upon research in original primary sources.

Section 3.0 and 4.0 Physical Analysis is an overview of the physical fabric of the surrounding context and complex.

Section 5.0 Archaeology describes the archaeological potential of the site based on the existing information.

Section 6.0 provides a *Comparative Analysis* with the historical development of other education sites, highlighting similarities and differences. [Department of Education properties].

Sections 7.0 and 8.0 provide an assessment and grading of the cultural significance of the place.

Section 9.0 discusses the *Constraints and Opportunities*, providing a basis for the development of a strategy for implementation of the *Conservation Policies*, which are in *Section 10.0*. The conservation

policies provide recommendations and guidelines for general conservation and the use and management of the place.

1.5 Limitations

The inspection of the building complex and/or site to assess the condition did not involve any physical intervention or removal of fabric. In some instances, the presence of furniture and fit out limited a full inspection of the building fabric.

1.6 Terminology

The terms *place*, *cultural significance*, *fabric*, *maintenance*, *compatible use*, *preservation*, *reconstruction*, *restoration*, *adaptation* and *conservation* used throughout this report are as defined in the *Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance* (the Burra Charter) 2013, Article 1.1 to 1.17 as follows:

- 1.1 **Place** means a geographically defined area. It may include elements, objects, spaces and views. Places may have tangible and intangible dimensions.
- 1.2 **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.
- 1.3 **Fabric** means all the physical material of the *place* including elements, fixtures, contents and objects.
- 1.4 **Conservation** means all the processes of looking after a *place* so as to retain its *cultural significance*.
- 1.5 **Maintenance** means the continuous protective care of a *place*, and its setting. Maintenance is to be distinguished from repair, which involves *restoration* or *reconstruction*.
- 1.6 **Preservation** means maintaining a *place* in its existing state and retarding deterioration.
- 1.7 **Restoration** means returning a *place* to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing elements without the introduction of new material.
- 1.8 **Reconstruction** means returning a *place* to a known earlier state and is distinguished from *restoration* by the introduction of new material.
- 1.9 **Adaptation** means changing a *place* to suit the existing *use* or a proposed use.
- 1.10 **Use** means the functions of a *place*, including the activities and traditional and customary practices that may occur at the place or are dependent on the place.
- 1.11 **Compatible use** means a *use* which respects the *cultural significance* of a *place*. Such use involves no, or minimal, impact on *cultural significance*.
- 1.12 **Setting** means the immediate and extended environment of a *place* that is part of or contributes to its *cultural significance* and distinctive character.
- 1.13 **Related place** means a *place* that contributes to the *cultural significance* of another place.
- 1.14 **Related object** means an object that contributes to the *cultural significance* of a *place*, but is not at the place.
- 1.15 **Associations** mean the connections that exist between people and a *place*.
- 1.16 **Meanings** denote what a *place* signifies, indicates, evokes or expresses to people.
- 1.17 **Interpretation** means all the ways of presenting the *cultural significance* of a *place*.

1.7 Abbreviations

BNE	Board of National Education, Correspondence
CCSA	Council of the City of Sydney Archives
CMP	Conservation Management Plan
GPO	Government Printing Office
ML	Mitchell Library
No	Number
PWD	Public Works Department
SMH	Sydney Morning Herald
SRNSW	State Records, New South Wales

1.8 Acknowledgments

The assistance of Rod Megahey, Director of Public Schools NSW, Jennifer Pilon, Principal of Cleveland Street Intensive English High School, and Cathy Power, Deputy Principal of Cleveland Street Intensive English High School is gratefully acknowledged in preparing this report.

This Conservation Management Plan (CMP) updates the original CMP written in 2002. The Draft Conservation Management Plan in respect of the Cleveland Street School, to which this current 2016 Plan makes reference, was prepared by Perumal Murphy Wu Heritage Consultants, in April 2002.

1.9 Resources

The following reports and studies were utilised or referred to during the preparation of this CMP:

- NSW Heritage Manual, NSW Heritage Office, Office of the Environment and Heritage
- The Conservation Plan, Australia ICMOS, 7th edition 2013, by JS Kerr
- Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (the Burra Charter), 2013;
- Cleveland Street Intensive English High School drawings by Perumal Pedavoli, March 2016
- Inner City High School Master Plan report, Perumal Pedavoli, August 2016
- Heritage Assessment Report by Perumal Murphy and Alessi Heritage Consultants, September 2015
- Arborist Assessment Report, Earthscape Horticultural Services, July 2015
- Survey Drawings by Hill and Blume Consulting Surveyors, July 2015
- Australian Dictionary of Biography
- Heritage Inventory Data Sheet for *Cleveland Street Public School, Buildings Incl. Interiors, Grds & Fence*. Office of Environment and Heritage, last updated 2005.

In addition, a comprehensive bibliography relating to the historical research is provided at the end of Section 2.

2 HISTORY

2.1 Pre-European Historical Context and Early Contact

The following pre-European historical context is partly based on information provided in the *Central to Eveleigh Corridor: Aboriginal and Historical Heritage Review*, Final Report prepared by Archaeological & Heritage Management Solutions in September 2015 (AHMS 2015) with consideration for the site's proximity to Central Station. The information provided has been supplemented by additional research.

Aborigines have been present in the Sydney region at least since the peak of the last glaciation some 20,000 years ago. Information about their presence and activities before the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788 is largely embedded as physical traces in the indigenous cultural landscape. The area encompassing the subject site appears to have been part of the traditional Cadigal (or Gadigal) land, whose boundaries extended from the entrance of the Port Jackson Harbour to the cove adjoining the settlement (Cockle Bay), stretching south from the South Head, and as far inland as Petersham.¹ The Cadigal people spoke a language referred to as Eora, meaning 'men, or people (from here)'. The general area was resource rich, with mixed dry and wet environments associated with the dune fields stretching from Botany Bay to Redfern.

Recent scholarly work suggests that the people living around Go-mo-ra (Darling Harbour) and the headwaters of the Blackwattle Creek may have formed a separate clan from the generally recognised Cadigal, although this is not yet officially recognised. As late as 1830, Absalom West, brewer, recorded the presence of an Aboriginal tribe around Darling Harbour.²

The Cadigal were the earliest Aboriginal people to be impacted physically and socially by the European colonisation of Sydney. Early contact started on a relatively positive note and Governor Phillip's policy in dealing with the Aboriginal people was to treat them with the greatest humanity and attention. These intentions of peaceful cohabitation were difficult to enforce, however, and incidents of conflict soon emerged. Cockle Bay once extended down to the area of today's Paddy's Market, which has been built of reclaimed land. It was in this area that two convicts, Samuel Davis and William Okey, were speared cutting rushes along the shoreline on 30 May, 1788 as retribution for the killing of an Aboriginal man.³ The murders were investigated by a party led by Governor Arthur Phillip and followed an Aboriginal track leading to Botany Bay from today's Paddy's Market site.⁴ It is recorded that primary sources frequently refer to this track,⁵ an important trade and movement corridor for Aboriginal people, and that it approximates the route of today's Botany Bay Road.

Incidences of conflict, combined with European expansion and land and resource use, placed pressure on traditional Aboriginal practices. The local Aboriginal population became increasingly dispossessed of their traditional lands, food and plant resources, leading to inter-tribal conflict, starvation and the breakdown of traditional cultural practices. The foundation of Sydney Town, the

¹ Cited in Extent, 2016, op. cit. p30, from Phillip, A 1790 [1892], *Letter from Governor Phillip to Lord Sydney*, Sydney Cove. In Historical Records of new South Wales 1(2), p.309 and Hunter, J 1793 [1968], *An Historical Journal of the Transactions at Port Jackson and Norfolk Island*, London, Printed for John Stockdale, p.411.

² Dictionary of Sydney, <http://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/ultimo> (viewed 26 April, 2016).

³ Bradley, William, 1969, *A Voyage to New South Wales, December 1786 - May 1792: The Journal of Lieutenant William Bradley of HMS Sirius*, Ure Smith Pty Limited, Sydney (31 May 1788), cited in AHMS 2015, p.13.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ For example: Tench, Watkin, 1789, *A Narrative of the Expedition to Botany Bay*, prepared J. Debrett, London (Jan-Feb 1788) and Hunter John, 1793, *An Historical Journal of the Transactions at Port Jackson and Norfolk Island*, printed for John Stockdale, London (Sept 1789), cited in AHMS 2015, p.13.

rapid spread of British rule and smallpox drastically changed traditional patterns.⁶ Despite this, the area retained an Aboriginal presence, including the area around today's Belmore Park and Central Station, which was used as an important meeting point and ceremonial site throughout the 1790s. The rituals were often witnessed by European spectators from the township, such as that recorded by David Collins in December 1793:

*The natives who lived about Sydney appeared to place the utmost confidence in us, choosing a clear spot between the town and the brickfield for the performance of any of their rites and ceremonies; and for three evenings the town had been amused with one of their spectacles...*⁷

This ground continued to be used as a ceremonial site until the turn of the century and as 'a place whence they [Aboriginal people] derived so many comforts and so much shelter in bad weather'.⁸

2.1.1 Early Landscape Character

Governor Phillip recorded the initial European impressions of the area in February 1788 as follows:

*Between Sydney Cove and Botany Bay the first space is occupied by a wood, in some parts a mile and a half, in others three miles across; beyond that, is a kind of heath, poor, sandy, and full of swamps.*⁹

This was followed by a more detailed description recorded by the Judge Advocate of New South Wales Richard Atkins on 17 April 1792:

*A very good road is made the whole way to it through the wood, where trees of an immense [sic] size border it on both sides, their lofty and wide spreading Branches look beautiful ... The underwood is mostly flowering shrubs, some of whom are now in blossom of the most vivid and beautiful Colours imaginable, and many of them most delicately formed.*¹⁰

The locality around the subject site remained largely undeveloped in the early part of the nineteenth century and much of the land was denoted as 'government paddocks' on maps (refer Figure 2.1).

The area around Regent, Cleveland and Devonshire Streets was known as 'Cleveland Gardens' and there were attempts to grow fruit trees in the area. The area is shown being largely cleared and with fencing in a painting by colonial artist Joseph Lycett dating to 1819 (refer Figure 2.2) as the land 'had been plundered for timber, slate, clay and stone for use as building materials in the city, while early farmers stumped and burnt the trees to open up grazing land for sheep and cattle'.¹¹

⁶ Godden Mackay Logan, December 2013, op. cit., p.8.

⁷ Collins, David, 1798, *An Account of the English Colony in New South Wales*, Volume 1, T. Cadell Jun. and W. Davies, London (December 1793), cited in AHMS 2015, p.12.

⁸ Collins, David, 1802, *An Account of the English Colony in New South Wales From Its First Settlement, in January 1788, to August 1801*, Volume 2, T. Cadell Jun. and W. Davies, London (October 1796), cited in AHMS 2015, p.12.

⁹ Phillip, Arthur, *The Voyage of Governor Phillip to Botany Bay with an Account of the Establishment of the Colonies of Port Jackson and Norfolk Island*, printed for John Stockdale, Piccadilly London (Feb. 1788), cited in AHMS 2015.

¹⁰ Atkins, Richard, *The New South Wales Journal of Richard Atkins, 1792-94*, online edition, Division of Law, Macquarie University, cited in AHMS 2015, p.13.

¹¹ AHMS, *Central to Eveleigh Corridor: Aboriginal and Historical Heritage Review*, September 2015, p.13.



FIGURE 2.1 DETAIL FROM FRANCIS WEBB SHIELDS PLAN OF SYDNEY, 1844. THE APPROXIMATE AREA OF THE CLEVELAND STREET PUBLIC SCHOOL SITE IS SHADED RED.

SOURCE: CITY OF SYDNEY ARCHIVES HISTORICAL ATLAS OF SYDNEY,
[HTTP://WWW.PHOTOSAU.COM.AU/COSMAPS/MAPS/PDF/SSM/SHEILDS.PDF](http://www.photosau.com.au/COSMAPS/MAPS/PDF/SSM/SHEILDS.PDF)



FIGURE 2.2 'SYDNEY FROM SURRY HILLS' 1819, BY JOSEPH LYCETT.
SOURCE: STATE LIBRARY OF NSW, [A928334 / ML 54]

2.2 The Iron School 1850-67

The following history, A History of Cleveland Street School, has been prepared by Historian Dr Terry Kass, in March 2016.

In the wake of the 1850s gold rushes, the population of Sydney grew rapidly. The provision of education for the population was a matter for two school boards. The Denominational School Board oversaw government aid to schools founded on a religious basis. Secular education was the preserve of the National School Board. It was charged with establishing, staffing and maintaining secular schools. Budgetary limitations ensured that need always outstripped supply.

The spatial spread of Sydney southwards into Surry Hills and then into Redfern and Chippendale was under way by the 1840s and through the 1850s. Residential development was well advanced into the southerly parts of the city. The southern boundary of the City of Sydney was Cleveland Street. South of that thoroughfare lay Redfern which had commenced development in the 1840s as a suburban outlier of Sydney for more than gentlemen's villas. In time, there would be a need to erect schools to cater for the children of the new residents.

Provision of the necessary schools was already in train. On 23 September 1850, after duly measuring up a parcel of land at the south-west corner of the government's Cleveland Paddock, Surveyor Burrowes despatched a plan of an area of 2 roods 5 perches set aside for a National School in the Parish of St Lawrence. It was at the north-west corner of Cleveland and Castlereagh Streets.¹² In later years, this part of Castlereagh Street was renamed Chalmers Street. A few months later, on 28 March 1851, he despatched a plan of the site for a Wesleyan Manse grant immediately west of the school site. No buildings were shown on this plan on either this site or the school site adjacent.¹³

¹² N.18.1367, Crown Plan

¹³ Plan of One Rood authorised as a Site for a Wesleyan Manse, Burrowes, March 1851, (originally C.448.730), SR Map 2169

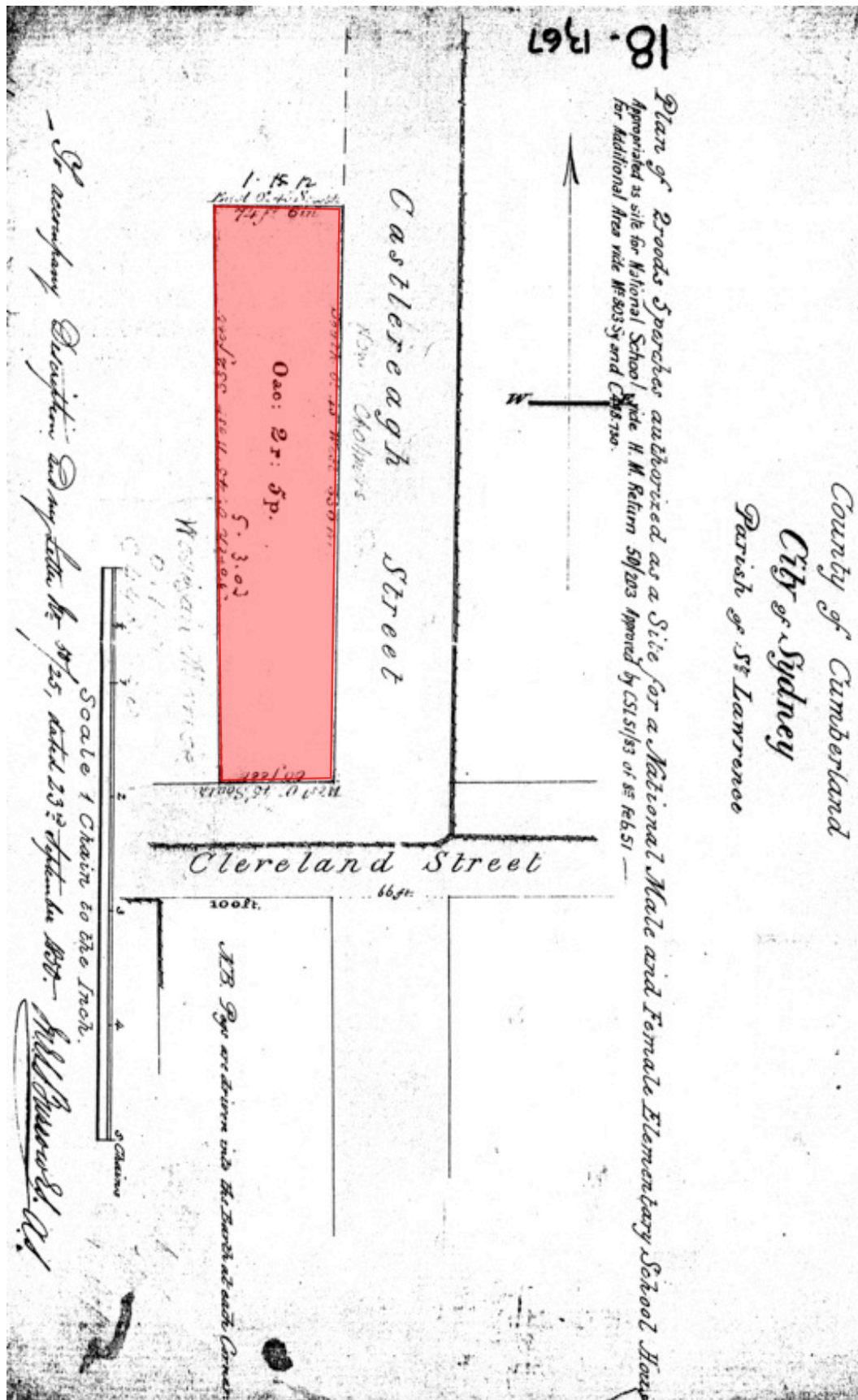


FIGURE 2.3 SCHOOL SITE, SEPTEMBER 1850. NOTE THAT NO BUILDINGS OR OTHER IMPROVEMENTS ARE SHOWN ON THE SITE (NORTH WEST CORNER OF CASTLEREAGH AND CLEVELAND STREETS, SHOWN SHADED RED).
SOURCE: N.18.1367, CROWN PLAN

In response to applications for a National School, the National School Board commenced preparations for the establishment of a school on the site. The original surveyor of the site, Burrowes re-marked the ground in readiness for this and pointed out the site to Henry Robertson, the National School Board's architect.¹⁴ To speed the establishment of the school, and to cut costs, Cleveland Street was to be one of a number of schools built of corrugated iron on a timber frame.

The contractor for the erection of the school, H Edwin Bridges of 101 William Street, Woolloomooloo signed the bond for the work on 28 June 1855.¹⁵ Construction was under way by the end of 1855.¹⁶ On 5 May 1856, the new Cleveland Street National School opened as well as the new National School at Paddington.¹⁷ Such was the rush to have the schools in operation that they were still not yet complete. The walls were up but the rooms were unlined. Henry Robertson informed the National School Board on 30 August 1856 that he had advertised for tenders to line Cleveland Street, Paddington and William Street schools with canvas and paper. He also advertised for tenders for washhouses for Cleveland Street and Paddington.¹⁸ The tender of Elphinstone was accepted on 9 September 1856 for the lining of Cleveland Street along with the other schools.¹⁹ By December 1856, there was a total of 422 pupils on the rolls for Cleveland Street.²⁰



FIGURE 2.4 THE 1855 DETAIL SURVEY COMPLETED FOR SYDNEY COUNCIL SHOWED THE IRON SCHOOL ON THE SITE. SOURCE: 1855 DETAIL SURVEY, CCSA, SHEET 23

¹⁴ Board of National Education, Miscellaneous Correspondence, (Hereafter BNE) SRNSW 1/393, p 16

¹⁵ BNE, SRNSW 1/393, p 454

¹⁶ Board of National Education, *Annual Report*, 1855, pp 4-5

¹⁷ Board of National Education, *Annual Report*, 1856, p 5

¹⁸ BNE, SRNSW 1/396, p 71

¹⁹ BNE, SRNSW 1/396, p 101

²⁰ Board of National Education, *Annual Report*, 1856, p 5

The school site bordered the area of Sydney known at that time, as “The Sandhills”. Between Sydney and Botany Bay, depositional action had built up low lying land with sand which was later stabilised by natural vegetation. Removal of the scrubby vegetation which stabilised the sand had made it mobile. Prevailing winds shifted it northwards towards Sydney creating a major problem for councils, builders and home owners. In later years, the problem was alleviated by bitumen paving of some of the area, residential and industrial development and by re-stabilising the dunes.

Poorly and cheaply built as the school was, it was almost immediately giving trouble. On 15 January 1857, William Wilkins, superintendent of the Board reported that part of the brickwork of the newly built closet at Cleveland Street had given way and that the toilet was dangerous.²¹ Some months later, on 29 June 1857, Henry Robertson reported that recent heavy rains had caused the banks of the sewer which ran through school grounds to give way thus damaging the privies. The planking over the ditch had been broken up. Additionally, due to the sandy nature of the soil, the school grounds are very wet and would not drain. He recommended gravelling the grounds at a cost of £25.²²

Barely a year after the school had opened, H B Morgan, one of a committee of parents set up for the repair of Cleveland Street school, requested permission on 11 July 1857 to open a subscription to collect funds to repair the school and to hurry it to completion.²³ Exposed iron was not the most appropriate material for a building in the height of an Australian summer. In the less extreme heat of October 1857, D O’Driscoll, the school’s headmaster was complaining of the heat in the Infants’ school as well as rain leaking through the roof in wet weather.²⁴ On 2 November 1857, Henry Robertson made suggestions about how to alleviate the heat in the Infants’ School and on the relevant repairs of a leak in the roof.²⁵

City improvements by the Sydney Council created a major problem for the school which was to bedevil the site for many years. Council street work raised the level of Castlereagh Street about 6 feet above the ground level of the school site and the school buildings. Now the school was positioned in a hollow next to the street corner. On 25 February 1858, William Wilkins of the Board reported that the school fence was no longer effective.²⁶ Robertson suggested that the Council be approached about repairs to the fence and outlined how to make temporary repairs which “would probably last as long as the iron houses”.²⁷ However, the Council refused any responsibility and the Town Clerk replied that the work had been done at the request of the government so that redress should be sought from them.²⁸

The headmaster D O’Driscoll complained that the school toilets needed repair on 7 October 1859 and that he feared an accident if work was not done.²⁹ Henry Robertson prepared a specification for various repairs on 24 April 1860 which he estimated would cost £100.³⁰ Payment of a fee to Martin Carrick for unspecified works at Cleveland Street School was authorised on 30 June 1860 and appears to have been for the works specified in April.³¹

²¹ BNE, SRNSW 1/397, p 46

²² BNE, SRNSW 1/397, p 502

²³ BNE, SRNSW 1/398, p 18

²⁴ BNE, SRNSW 1/398, p 328

²⁵ BNE, SRNSW 1/398, p 327

²⁶ BNE, SRNSW 1/399, p 204

²⁷ BNE, SRNSW 1/399, p 244

²⁸ BNE, SRNSW 1/399, p 299

²⁹ BNE, SRNSW 1/407, p 295

³⁰ BNE, SRNSW 1/407, p 351

³¹ BNE, SRNSW 1/408, p 223

Major changes occurred at the school in 1860. On 22 June 1860, John S Jones, a teacher at the school informed the Board of the death of headmaster D O'Driscoll and applied to be appointed in his place.³² Jones was later appointed as O'Driscoll's successor.³³

Jones took full charge of the school and was not pleased with what he had inherited. On 29 September 1860, he complained that the lining of the Infants' School was in a "sad condition being the result of wind, contraction and the disgraceful workmanship of those men who had the contract for papering the rooms". The fence was also in a poor state especially where the contractor had repaired it.³⁴ On 1 November 1861, Robertson prepared a further specification for various repairs to the school such as stopping wall leaks, papering the walls, removing partitions, new gates, etc.³⁵ Thomas Etherington, of Pitt Street North tendered £192/10/- for the works on the school on 18 November 1861 and the work was duly completed.³⁶

Jones requested that the school be connected to the water supply on 28 March 1862 as pipes were then being laid in Cleveland Street.³⁷ Robertson estimated on 30 March 1862 that the cost of 1 inch galvanised iron pipes from the street to the sheds at the rear of the school plus a ball cock would cost £15. In addition, a 400 gallon tank of wrought iron and 2 service cocks for the pupils would make a total cost of £27 to £28.³⁸ These works were also set in train.

The school had always been seen as a temporary fixture to cater for the immediate desperate need for educational facilities, and schemes to improve the school and its buildings were being proposed almost as soon as the iron buildings were in operation. On 13 October 1863, Henry Robertson submitted plans for a proposed infants school of brick with stone facings and with a room to measure 45 by 24 feet for 160 pupils. He envisaged this school as one wing of a proposed future re-development of the site.³⁹ The proposal did not proceed but the impetus to provide better accommodation did not abate.

As the summer of 1863 crept up on the school staff, Jones did not relish another summer in the iron building. On 23 October 1863, he complained of the crowded state of the buildings and of the oppressive condition of the building. Many parents were taking children out of the school, not only because children were being taught in a metal school. Fathers of boys were opposed to their sons being taught by female teachers. The metal school was so oppressive it was found "to originate listlessness in the children, feebleness of energy in the teachers, and not infrequently, sickness and headache in both". Conditions were so poor, that it "became the rule rather than the exception to retire from daily work with an enfeebled appetite and heat oppressed brain", complained Jones.⁴⁰

In July 1864, Henry Robertson reported on the costs of erecting a new school room on pillars to raise it to the level of Castlereagh Street. This proposal heralded a possible solution to some of the school's problems which were later put into practice. The cost of erection would be £1,250 plus £200 to raise it to street level. The under floor area could be used for storage but, on the other hand, additional costs included the expense of a retaining wall and a bridge from the street to the school costing an additional £300.⁴¹

³² BNE, SRNSW 1/408, p 182

³³ BNE, SRNSW 1/410, p 33

³⁴ BNE, SRNSW 1/410, p 236

³⁵ BNE, SRNSW 1/416, p 257

³⁶ BNE, SRNSW 1/416, p 255

³⁷ BNE, SRNSW 1/417, p 11

³⁸ BNE, SRNSW 1/417, p 51

³⁹ BNE, SRNSW 1/424, p 106

⁴⁰ BNE, SRNSW 1/424, p 107-8

⁴¹ BNE, SRNSW 1/428, p 131

The 1865 Detail Survey of Sydney compiled by the City Council showed the state of the site in 1865 plus later alterations. For 1865, the plans showed the original iron building and another to the north which was built over the "line of 3'.0" oviform Brick Sewer". To the west was the Wesleyan parsonage. This plan was later updated to show the position of the brick school which was built over the same site in 1867.⁴² In addition, the former Cleveland Paddock was dedicated as Prince Alfred Park on 22 December 1865.

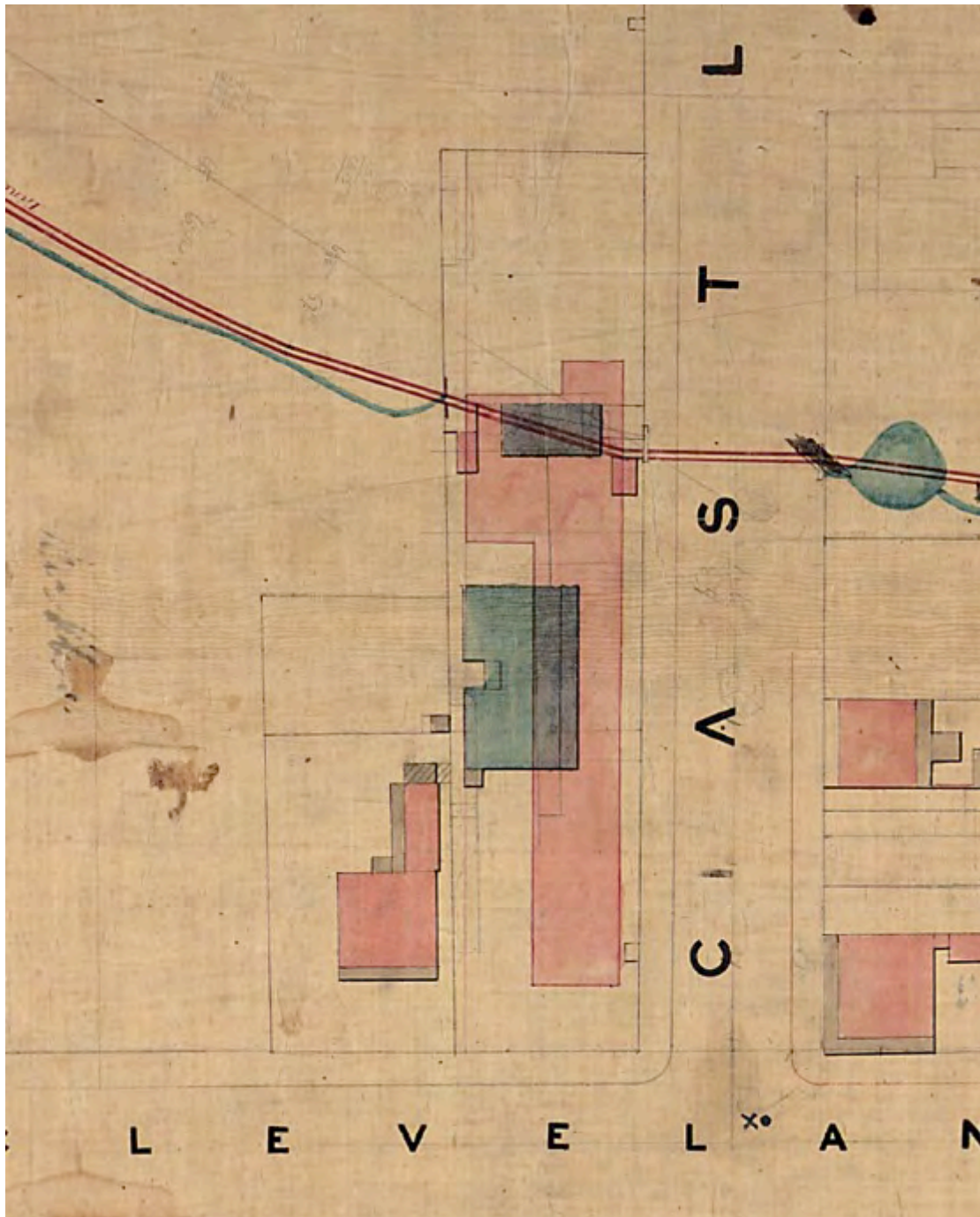


FIGURE 2.5 CLEVELAND STREET SCHOOL, 1865. THE ORIGINAL IRON BUILDINGS ARE SHOWN IN BLUE ON THIS PLAN. WHEN THE PLAN WAS UPDATED, THE NEW BRICK SCHOOL WAS SHOWN SUPERIMPOSED OVER THE OLD BUILDINGS. NOTE THE METHODIST MANSE TO THE WEST, PLUS THE SEWER RUNNING UNDER THE ORIGINAL TOILET BLOCK ON THE NORTHERN PART OF THE SITE.

SOURCE: TRIG SURVEY OF SYDNEY, 1865, SHEET S1

⁴² Trigonometrical Survey of Sydney, 1865, SRNSW Sheet S1

The continuing and accelerating decrepitude of the school caused further problems. On 8 May 1866, Henry Robertson reported on necessary minor repairs to the school, but in his report he noted that the building was worn out with dilapidated paper and canvas walls and it was simply not worth major repair.⁴³ When he reported on the cost of lining and painting the school rooms etc. on 30 May 1866, the full extent of the dilemma was outlined. The works could be done for total cost of £205, but he stated that the building was worn out and that these repairs would only extend its life for a further 4 to 5 years.⁴⁴

2.3 The New Building 1867-90

By 1867, there were new protagonists influencing the course of the school. J S Jones no longer had to bear the heat of summer at Cleveland Street. In his stead, Frederick Bridges acted as headmaster. Bridges was to become a major educational reformer in NSW in later years. The Board of National Education no longer existed. Its functions had been subsumed by the new Council of Education created by the Public Schools Act of 1866. The Council took over the roles of both the Denominational and the National School Boards. It also had a new architect, George Allen Mansfield.

George was the son of Ralph Mansfield, a Methodist missionary who made a considerable impact in Sydney as editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, as secretary of the Australian Gaslight Company, and as author of various publications including analyses of the 1841 and 1846 censuses. His son George was born in Sydney on 15 June 1834. After a colonial education, George trained under architect J F Hilly before setting up his own practice. As well as participating in many local causes, in later years he was one of the founding members of the Institute of Architects.⁴⁵

Frederick Bridges, Headmaster of Cleveland Street, reported on 11 February 1867 that the school was in urgent need of repair, painting and lining. As a ploy he reminded the Council that the National School Board had wanted to erect a new building some years ago but was halted by lack of funds. He explained that the school had been built to house 250 pupils but it was now teaching 454. He had been refusing additional enrolments. Children were taught on the verandahs, on the porch and in the wash sheds. None of these were available in wet weather. Furthermore, he pointed out that the efficient functioning of the school was hampered since pupil teachers were giving lessons out of the sight and hearing of the Master. New residential building was going ahead rapidly in the vicinity of the school and he believed there would soon be 800 pupils seeking accommodation.⁴⁶

G A Mansfield reported on the condition of the school on 18 February 1867. He advised that the buildings were "Slightly and badly built in the first instance, they are now in a state of complete dilapidation." Due to its poor condition and the inadequacy of space, he recommended the erection of new buildings. The site was small and constricted and the level of Castlereagh Street was 6 feet above the school ground. He suggested that a school could be built raised to street level with a play area beneath, that more land could be taken from the park or a new site selected. There was one

⁴³ BNE, SRNSW 1/440, p 427

⁴⁴ BNE, SRNSW 1/440, p 428

⁴⁵ V Parsons, 'R Mansfield' Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 2, 1788-1850, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 1967 pp 204-5; H J Gibbney & G Smith (eds) A Biographical Register 1788-1939, Anutech, vol 2, Canberra, 1987, p 79

⁴⁶ Council of Education, Letters Received, SRNSW 1/738, p 332

advantage of the site that he could ascertain – that the older pupils could play in the park.⁴⁷ Following up his proposal of seeking an alternative site, G A Mansfield reported on 25 February 1867 on another site at the south-east corner of Cleveland and Castlereagh Streets offered for sale as a possible school site. However, the Council of Education did not take up the site.⁴⁸ They ordered plans of a new school.

On 30 July 1867, the Council of Education asked Mansfield about what progress he had made on plans for a new school. Mansfield reported on 3 August 1867 that the plans he had prepared were of a school to be built of brick cavity wall construction to order to exclude the damp and to save on the cementing of the exterior. It was to be built on a stone foundation. Decoration would be achieved by the use of coloured brick and by stone facings, eliminating the cost of moulded brickwork except over the entrance door. The interior walls were to be painted but not plastered. All floors were to be of hardwood supported on hardwood joists and bearers, with the upper floor, over the boys' school to be supported by wrought iron girders. A double floor on the upper storey would reduce noise. The roof was to be "open to the ridge" with ventilators near the top and with ventilation flues running down the wall cavity to the boys' room. Steps to the outside were to be of stone with iron railings. He then requested what covering the Council wanted on the roof, outlining the choice. This consisted of slate, shingle or tiles. Mansfield favoured tiles but since they were a relatively new product he cautioned that they had not yet been proven though in all the instances he had used them they had been very serviceable. Since the school building was raised, a retaining wall would need to be built along both streets topped by a fence. On the Castlereagh Street side, it would need an iron railing on a dwarf wall.⁴⁹ (See copy of this letter in the Appendix)

An urgency, similar to that when the school had been established in the paddock in 1855-6, moved the authorities anxious to prove their commitment to secular education. The work was put out to tender. Since Mansfield only allowed a select list of experienced contractors to tender, there was some irritation amongst builders and potential contractors.⁵⁰ To speed matters along, on 11 and 13 September 1867, Council allowed Mansfield to open the tenders and report upon them rather than stumbling through the task itself. On 14 September 1867, Mansfield recommended acceptance of Kelly and McLeod's tender of £3747 for mason and brickwork and Slade's of £2650 for carpenter's work. These tenders were duly accepted and contracts signed.⁵¹ Henry Parkes, one of the prime movers behind the 1866 Act, sat on the Council of Education. His actions in pushing for secular education free of the blight of sectarian strife was then under vigorous attack in parliament.⁵² It was little wonder that he quickly endorsed the appointment of contractors for Cleveland Street subject to the concurrence of the other two members of the Council of Education.⁵³

Contracts were signed with the contractors on 24 September 1867. Mansfield stated that the work was set to be complete in 15 months but suggested that it would take only 11 months if the school was simply shifted westwards into the park instead of having the contractors try to fit in with the school on its existing site. Moving the school would take 2 to 3 weeks and cost £150.⁵⁴ The Town Clerk of Sydney approved the use of the park by the school for 12 months on 14 October 1867.⁵⁵ On 17

⁴⁷ Council of Education, Letters Received, SRNSW 1/738, p 334-5

⁴⁸ Council of Education, Letters Received, SRNSW 1/738, p 336

⁴⁹ Council of Education, Letters Received, SRNSW 1/738, p 350

⁵⁰ Council of Education, Letters Received, SRNSW 1/738, p 353

⁵¹ Council of Education, Letters Received, SRNSW 1/738, p 357

⁵² A W Martin, *Henry Parkes: A Biography*, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 1980, p 230

⁵³ Council of Education, Letters Received, SRNSW 1/738, p 357

⁵⁴ Council of Education, Letters Received, SRNSW 1/738, p 361

⁵⁵ Council of Education, Letters Received, SRNSW 1/738, p 365

October 1867, Joseph Slade, contractor for the carpentry on the new school won the contract to shift the school westwards for £150.⁵⁶ Slade was subsequently paid £160/10/- in November 1867 for the removal and re-erection of the old school in the park.⁵⁷

A flurry of organisation preceded the official start of work. On 14 November 1867, the foundation stone was laid by the Governor of New South Wales, Sir John Young. The press description of the building stated that:

*The design of the Cleveland-street Public School has been arranged to meet the peculiarities of the site... it being a long narrow strip of land, depressed some eight or nine feet below the street level. The buildings are placed in the middle of the site, separating the boys' and girls' playground, and are raised upon strong piers and arches so as to bring the principal floor up to the street level, and to form an arcade or open space beneath it. This space will afford a shelter for the children in hot or wet weather, and will be, in fact, a covered playground. The main entrance to the schools will be in Castlereagh-street, through the base of a tower in the centre of the principal elevation and will lead to a vestibule and staircase. On the right of this, and on the ground floor will be the boys' school-room, over which (and approached by a staircase above mentioned) will be the girls' school-room of the same dimensions. On the left of the entrance-hall will be the infants' school-room. To each of these departments there will be a separate entrance leading to the playground below, with spacious entrance lobbies, and hat and cloak rooms. The question of ventilation, so important in this climate, has received the attention due to it, and instead of being dealt with as an afterthought has been well considered and provided for in the architect's designs. Ample provision has been made for lavatories in the basement; one for each department, with water laid on from the city mains. The school yards will be enclosed with a substantial wall and fence, gates being left to give the children the benefit of the public reserve adjoining. The building will be gothic in style, and of the period known as early English. It will be of brick, with stone dressings, the walls being built hollow to exclude damp and heat. The principal girders will be of wrought iron, and the roof will be covered with the new patent tiles. In the upper part of the tower will be placed a school bell.*⁵⁸

The Council of Education officially stated that it had decided to erect a new school at Cleveland Street, due to the dilapidated condition of the old school and the unsuitability of the material from which it was built as well as the need for more space for pupils.⁵⁹ The first progress payment for works was made in February 1868.⁶⁰

As the work leapt ahead, so did concern with the final form of the building and its iconography. On 28 February 1868, Mansfield requested directions from the Council regarding the decoration on the main gable, which he thought would be of 24 to 30 letters with shields on either side.⁶¹ When Mansfield was instructed to make suggestions of his own he offered as an inscription "Disce aut discede" or its English rendering – "Knowledge is power". On either side, he went on, the shields could be the Council of Education's seal and an Australian coat of arms with kangaroo and emu, or alternately, in order to symbolise the spread of knowledge, an open book.⁶²

⁵⁶ Council of Education, Letters Received, SRNSW 1/738, p 366

⁵⁷ Council of Education, Letters Received, SRNSW 1/772, p 340

⁵⁸ *SMH*, 15 Nov 1867, p 5; The same report was also published in the *Sydney Mail*, 16 Nov 1867, p 9

⁵⁹ Council of Education, *Annual Report*, 1867, p 5

⁶⁰ Council of Education, Letters Received, SRNSW 1/772, p 343, 349

⁶¹ Council of Education, Letters Received, SRNSW 1/772, p 350

⁶² Council of Education, Letters Received, SRNSW 1/772, p 351

With regard to the roofing, the Council decided to use the tiles as suggested by Mansfield but he reported on 15 April 1868 that the attempts by the manufacturer to glaze the tiles had been complete failures. Furthermore, the general production run of tiles was of far poorer quality than the samples originally supplied. Mansfield recommended shingle roofing, since slate was too expensive. This letter was simply minuted, "Slates to be used".⁶³ When the school was complete, the roof covering was slate.

When Mansfield asked for advice on 1 June 1868 as to what inscription should be placed on the tablet in the hall, he was instructed to prepare an inscription which he did on 6 June, suggesting a general statement of facts and the names of the Council.⁶⁴

By June 1868, the school fittings were being installed. Mansfield suggested a special order be made to P N Russell for the 116 desk standards required. P N Russell's works were situated on the east side of Darling Harbour. He also recommended acceptance of Slade's tender of £305 for the desks and other fittings, particularly since he was already working on the site.⁶⁵ In August, a special order was sent for P N Russell to cast and install a school bell of 112 lb, larger than the standard bell used for most schools.⁶⁶

Heavy rain fell on 19 August, entering the newly built school through the ventilators on the south side of the roof, so that the wall of the girls' school room [on the upper level] was drenched. This water then penetrated the joists and fell on the upper ceiling of the boys' room below. Headmaster L Finigan instructed the workmen to board up the ventilators on that side. This provoked an irate response from Mansfield, who explained that there could be no interference with works under way which were not yet out of his hands.⁶⁷

By early September 1868, the school was complete so the Town Clerk requested the removal of the re-located school buildings and building materials from Prince Alfred Park on 1 September 1868. Mansfield later replied that the materials of the building and the building material was mainly that belonging to Slade. Slade had removed most of it by 18 September.⁶⁸

In the final analysis of works, Mansfield was questioned by the Council of Education about some additional costs which had been incurred. With regard to a final claim for payment from Kelly and McLeod, Mansfield explained that additional masonry work had been required at the northern end of the building since quicksand had been found as well as the old City Council sewer which had been infilled.⁶⁹

The new Cleveland Street School opened on 3 September 1868 in its new buildings. Immediately after its opening, the press described the building:

The new building, of which Mr G A Mansfield is the architect – stands at the south-west corner of Prince Alfred Park, in a commodious and airy spot, well situated for the convenience of the children of a very populous neighbourhood. In the outward aspect of the edifice there is much that is likely to evoke the praise, or to provoke the criticism of the spectator, according to what may happen to be his architectural tastes, or mental idiosyncrasies. He, however, can hardly fail

⁶³ Council of Education, Letters Received, SRNSW 1/772, p 360

⁶⁴ Council of Education, Letters Received, SRNSW 1/772, p 363, 365

⁶⁵ Council of Education, Letters Received, SRNSW 1/772, p 371-2

⁶⁶ Council of Education, Letters Received, SRNSW 1/772, p 379

⁶⁷ Council of Education, Letters Received, SRNSW 1/772, p 380-1

⁶⁸ Council of Education, Letters Received, SRNSW 1/772, p 386-8

⁶⁹ Council of Education, Letters Received, SRNSW 1/772, p 407

to be struck with the judgment displayed in the adoption of high pitched roofs for the schoolrooms, in the judicious arrangement of the windows, and above all, by the careful provision which the architect has made for the effectual protection of the children from the burning heats of summer and of the semi-tropical rains of the wintry season. The campanile, or bell turret, over the principal entrance, is not the least attractive feature of the building, and serves to give a finish to a design in which there is perhaps more of originality and aptitude to one fixed purpose than any slavish adherence to mere traditional ideas. The general plan of the edifice is that of a capital T, or tau, the lower end of which runs in a southerly direction. This part forms the infant schoolroom, and stands parallel to Castlereagh-street. It opens on to the hall, and communicates thereby with the street. At the western limit of the wall is a stone staircase, leading down to the play-ground and to the claustral regions under the entire building. In this fine space there is ample room for the sports of many hundreds of children, and a well designed lavatory at the northern extremity. On the northern side of the entrance hall, up stairs, is the boys' school, a noble well-proportioned apartment Above this room is the girls' school, to which access may be had by a handsome staircase, standing partly in the entrance-hall and partly in the tower. All the schoolrooms are excellent and furnished with desks, maps, diagrams and other appliances for teaching.⁷⁰

They were designed to accommodate 1,000, but by the time it opened there were 1,100 on the rolls. By December 1868, the school was “already inconveniently crowded in some departments”.⁷¹ Thereafter, the school would continue to cope with overfull enrolments, with the educational authorities finally taking action when the pressure became insupportable and no other schools in the vicinity could be called upon to take the surplus.

Some years later, on 8 December 1871, Mansfield responded to a request from the Council of Education about the cost of erection, he explained that the school had cost £7,164, of which the spire cost about £75. He could not detail the cost of ornamentation but estimated that it would not be more than £100.⁷²

On 14 October 1868, Mansfield recommended the installation of lightning conductors in the school tower and recommended a quote from Owen Brothers for £80 for acceptance.⁷³

Though the school had been open for a bare two months, there was need for more accommodation. On 7 November 1868, Mansfield was instructed by the Council to assess the possibility of enclosing part of the covered playground under the school to provide more classroom space.⁷⁴ He provided a plan on 25 January 1869 for enclosing part of the basement under the Boys' school at a cost of £100.⁷⁵ S Johnson, the Sydney Inspector thought the plans were too elaborate and expensive when he commented on them on 15 February 1869. He thought it might be done more cheaply by boarding up the arches, putting a window at the top, using the existing floor and dispensing with the gallery.⁷⁶ Mansfield was ordered on 1 September 1869 to prepare estimates for works including two additional classrooms. By 13 September, he had prepared three alternative classroom plans at the cost of £100, £50, or £90. The Council saw fit to request more finished plans of the first and third options, but

⁷⁰ SMH, 4 Sept 1868, p 5

⁷¹ Council of Education, *Annual Report*, 1868, p 10

⁷² Council of Education, Letters Received, SRNSW, SRNSW 1/870, p 370

⁷³ Council of Education, Letters Received, SRNSW, SRNSW 1/773, pp 6-7

⁷⁴ Council of Education, Letters Received, SRNSW, SRNSW 1/773, p 10

⁷⁵ Council of Education, Letters Received, SRNSW, SRNSW 1/809, p 468

⁷⁶ Council of Education, Letters Received, SRNSW, SRNSW 1/809, p 470b

wanted him to omit the galleries. When the plans were ready on 15 October, rather than put them out to tender, Mansfield suggested they obtain quotes from a list of 5 to 6 builders. The Inspector was surprised at the elaborate nature of the work, but supported it since it would be a more permanent one in better tune with the rest of the school. On 8 November 1869, Mansfield recommended acceptance of B Dyer's tender of £194/10/.⁷⁷ These classrooms were soon in operation.

Sand drifting north from the Sandhills continued to bedevil the school. It was choking pipes, getting into the wash basins and lavatories, and drifting across the school playground in May 1869.⁷⁸ After various complaints and numerous inspections of the problem, the Council finally ordered covers for the drains and wash basins and cleaning of sand out of the pipes etc. on 20 July 1871.⁷⁹

Reporters who visited the school in mid 1871 claimed that the school was "the finest pile of buildings for school purposes in the colony". There were 1,480 pupils enrolled with an average attendance of 1,100 to 1,200. As they took readers on a "tour" of the premises, they provided details of the measurements and layout. The infants' department just inside the school's entrance measured 68 feet by 25 feet wide. This class was divided into junior babies, senior babies and infants, with two babies classes being taught in galleries raised from the floor. The girls' department upstairs measured 68 feet by 25 feet wide. The playground was covered with loose sand, which was a nuisance since the pupils were currently excluded from the park next door. The boys' school also measured 68 feet by 25 feet. Lavatories were located under the school rooms for all classes. In the basement area there was a classroom for 50 to 60 small boys. Joseph Fowles, the noted artist, instructed the children in drawing.⁸⁰

⁷⁷ Council of Education, Letters Received, SRNSW, SRNSW 1/809, p 520-5

⁷⁸ Council of Education, Letters Received, SRNSW, SRNSW 1/809, p 484, 520

⁷⁹ Council of Education, Letters Received, SRNSW, SRNSW 1/870, p 326

⁸⁰ *Australian Town and Country Journal*, 10 June 1871, pp 720-1

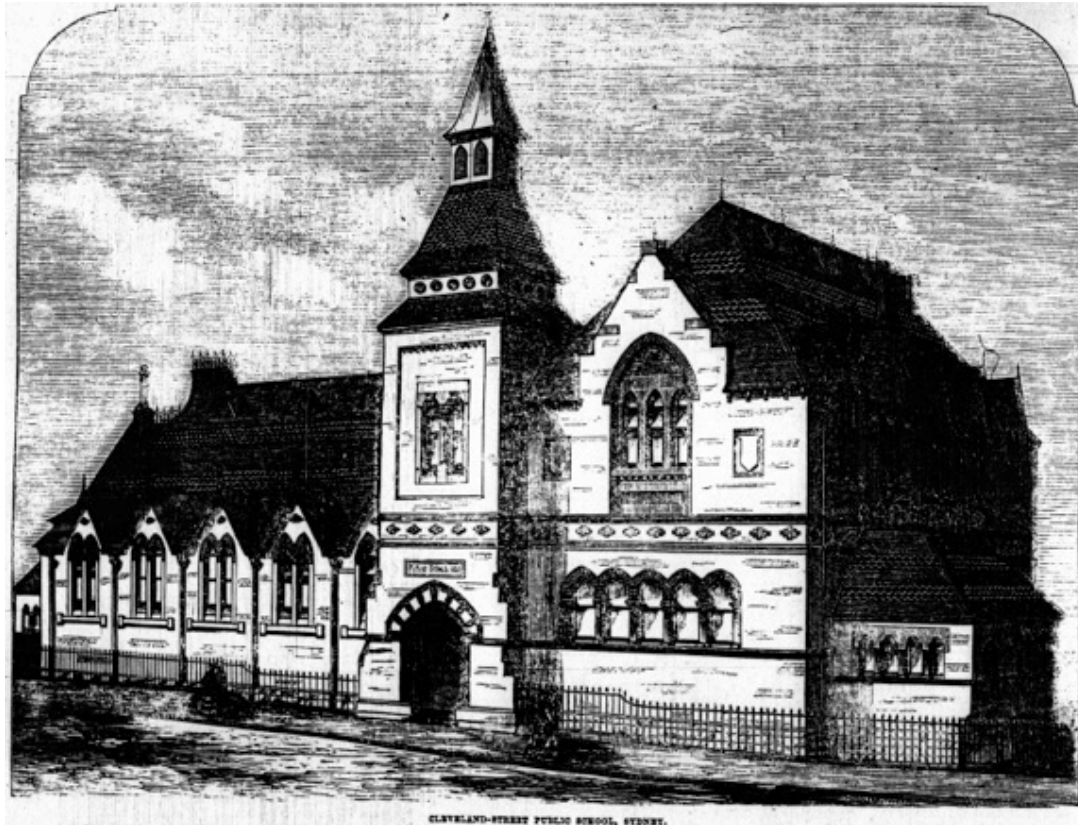


FIGURE 2.6 CLEVELAND STREET SCHOOL, JUNE 1871.

SOURCE: *AUSTRALIAN TOWN AND COUNTRY JOURNAL*, 10 JUNE 1871, p 720

Throughout its existence as a school, Cleveland Street obtained mixed blessings from Prince Alfred Park adjacent. It was a welcome extension to the constricted school playgrounds, when the Council permitted its use. On the other hand, the proximity of the park meant protective arrangements had to be made to exclude people in the park, most notably the swagmen, from using the school toilets. On weekends and during vacations, the gleaming glass windows provided attractive targets for all sorts of missiles thrown by boys, often pupils of the school itself and, their older larrikin brothers. On 28 June 1871, the headmaster L Finigan reported that the first floor windows of the school needed protection from stones, a request which the Inspector supported.⁸¹ This work was done by Eastway Brothers who were authorised to receive £33/14/- for the work on 2 September 1871.⁸²

⁸¹ Council of Education, Letters Received, SRNSW, SRNSW 1/870, p 323

⁸² Council of Education, Letters Received, SRNSW, SRNSW 1/870, p 342

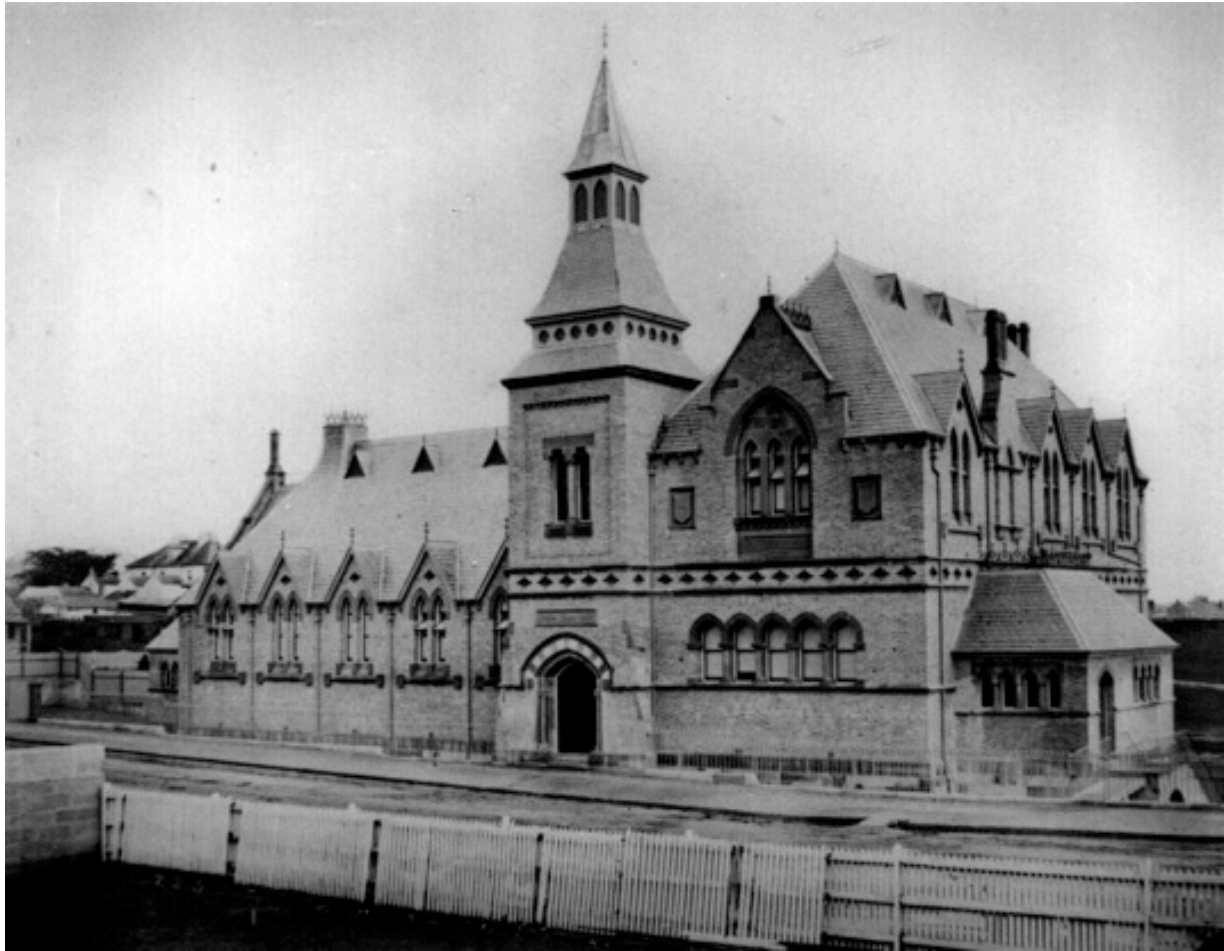


FIGURE 2.7 CLEVELAND STREET SCHOOL, 1871. THIS PHOTOGRAPH WAS TAKEN IN 1871 BY C P PICKERING SOON AFTER THE SCHOOL WAS COMPLETE. SOURCE: ML, SPF/441



FIGURE 2.8 CLEVELAND STREET SCHOOL, c. 1880-90. A LATER VIEW OF THE SCHOOL TAKEN BY HENRY KING. NOTE THE FRONT FENCE.
SOURCE: ML, SPF/442

Finigan sought permission to establish a school cadet corps on 7 August 1871. When approval was duly granted, he requested 250 smooth bore carbines to equip the school cadet unit plus the installation of storage racks for the weapons. The racks had been installed by Skinner and Lester by November 1871.⁸³

Since the school was having so much trouble with a wet or sandy playground which was too small anyway, Finigan asked the Council of Education on 10 April 1872 to request permission from the municipal council to use Prince Alfred Park as a playground by leaving the western gate open. The Town Clerk agreed on 16 April.⁸⁴

L Finigan requested minor works on the school on 18 June 1873. The work required consisted of painting of the school's exterior timberwork plus painting internal walls and the graining of the doors. He also asked that the plaster ceiling of the girls' bonnet room which was under the tower be replaced. Water entered the tower in heavy rain so that the ceiling was always wet or damp. Except for the internal painting, these works were done by Alexander Dean for £136/13/9.⁸⁵

⁸³ Council of Education, Letters Received, SRNSW, SRNSW 1/870, p 338, 347, 366

⁸⁴ Council of Education, Letters Received, SRNSW, SRNSW 1/910, pp 95-7

⁸⁵ Council of Education, Letters Received, SRNSW, SRNSW 1/941, np

A urinal for the boys infants' school was requested by L Finigan on 22 June 1874, he also asked for repair work on the window sockets, since those "at present in use are simply holes drilled in the sashes to receive the pivots upon which part of the window swings". Since the holes had widened over time, they had become loose and two windows had fallen out and smashed. Authority was given to proceed with the work on 2 July. However, the Council felt that there was no need to roof over the urinal and it was to be built as cheaply as possible.⁸⁶ When Mansfield responded that the urinal would cost £30 and should be roofed, he was overruled and a less expensive option with no roof was completed by 21 September at the end of the Infants' toilet. Alexander Dean was paid £44/5/6 for the work, including the window repairs.⁸⁷

The baby boom which accompanied the residential expansion of the district as new families set up homes was mirrored at the school. Headmaster Finigan stressed the need for a "babies" room to the Council on 6 August 1875 since the "babies" and Infants classes now numbered 454. Both classes were being taught in the same room, so that a singing lesson of one group would interfere with quiet work of the other group a mere 15 feet away. The Inspector, S Johnson, supported the request but questioned where to erect any new room. Mansfield recommended a room with gallery to house 160 infants which would be accessed via the same stairway as the main Infants' school at a cost of £1,000. On 6 December 1875, the Council deferred any building works but thought the basement might be enclosed during the coming vacation.⁸⁸

An insight into the arrangement of the school and its drawing area emerged on 12 November 1877 when B Schwartzbach reported on the prevalence of short-sightedness amongst pupils in Fort Street and Cleveland Street Schools. He found that there were 11% of pupils affected by the condition at Fort Street and 9% at Cleveland Street. He attributed the difference partially to the poorer circumstances of the Fort Street parents, but more particularly to the way that light was diffused in the classroom at Fort Street. He suggested a different arrangement of desks at Fort Street so that they were not looking into the light and that pupils receive it from the left hand side.⁸⁹

Space, stones and surfaces for play continued to impede the efficient conduct of the school. E Poulton, Clerk of Works reported on 17 December 1877 on the need for repairs at the school including the paving of the basements to reduce the dust nuisance; the replacement of the steps to the boys' school with "Melbourne flagging" [bluestone?]; the installation of wire netting over the top windows since "the windows are continually being broken by Boys shooting at Pigeons with catapults". He also directed attention to the need for better ventilation for the girls' school where the ventilators on the weather side had been closed off to keep out the rain. He recommended the acceptance of the tender of Young and Treleaven of Walker St, Redfern of £425 to undertake the work.⁹⁰ The firm of Sim & Bassan, trading as The Asphalt-Composition Company was awarded a contract for £80 to lay 400 square yards of asphalt in the school yard on 4 February 1878.⁹¹

⁸⁶ Council of Education, Letters Received, SRNSW, SRNSW 1/963, np

⁸⁷ Council of Education, Letters Received, SRNSW, SRNSW 1/964, np

⁸⁸ Council of Education, Letters Received, SRNSW, SRNSW 1/995, np

⁸⁹ 77/25312, in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15394.2

⁹⁰ 77/28419, in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15394.2

⁹¹ 78/257, in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15394.2

A new departure for the school occurred in 1881. The parents of nine boys who lived locally petitioned on 5 April 1881 for the establishment of an evening public school at Cleveland Street. Since the number of pupils was nine and the standard minimum attendance required was ten pupils, departmental officials recommended against allowing the school but the Minister decided that the school should go ahead. Mr Buckland, a temporary assistant at the school offered to take the classes and the school was approved by the Under-Secretary on 5 August 1881. It was to commence under trial. It commenced operation on 5 October 1881.⁹²

A new Headmaster John P Rooney requested the enlargement of the classroom for the fifth class boys on 1 February 1882 as well as the erection of a room for the “babies”. Erection of a “babies” room was rejected by the Department of Public Instruction as it was then called. After some inquiries by the Inspector about why the Fifth Class was being taught by an assistant in a room separate from Headmaster, the enlargement of the room was approved. In addition, the boarding in of the space under the school building was also approved.⁹³ Unsatisfied with the accommodation, John P Rooney again applied on 13 April 1883 for additions to the school. There were 634 pupils in the Infants’ class with the actual attendance on one day reaching 505. The “babies” class which had not accepted any enrolments for the past 5 months, was still large and was taught along with the higher classes in the main room. The resumption of the Wesleyan manse next door for additional space was considered, but was rejected. Rooney was instructed to stop enrolments at 600 boys, 400 girls and 500 infants. The anticipated opening of a new school at Bulanaming Street, Redfern was expected to take the pressure of Cleveland Street.⁹⁴ But it did not.

Boys’ closets and urinals were erected at the school in 1884. According to W E Kemp, architect, this was the first time that trough closets were used in public schools in NSW. He had the trough locally made of galvanised iron. By 1892, it had corroded away and was replaced by new trough.⁹⁵

The school site was shown on the 1886 Detail Survey as well as the parsonage to the west.⁹⁶ The site was cramped with little room for play or additions. When Albert Gale reported on the school grounds on 28 January 1890, he noted that almost the whole site was covered by buildings. The children used the park as a playground. To improve the appearance of the school, he recommended that the “walls surrounding the buildings be covered with foliage plants”.⁹⁷ That cosmetic response did not solve the underlying problem of space, which was about to be resolved in a more radical manner.

⁹² 81/3369, in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15394.2

⁹³ School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15394.2

⁹⁴ Memo 13/4/83 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15395A

⁹⁵ 92/46650 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15395A

⁹⁶ Lands, Metropolitan Detail Survey, ML Map M Ser 4 811.17/1, City of Sydney, Area J2, 1886

⁹⁷ 90/5997 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15395A

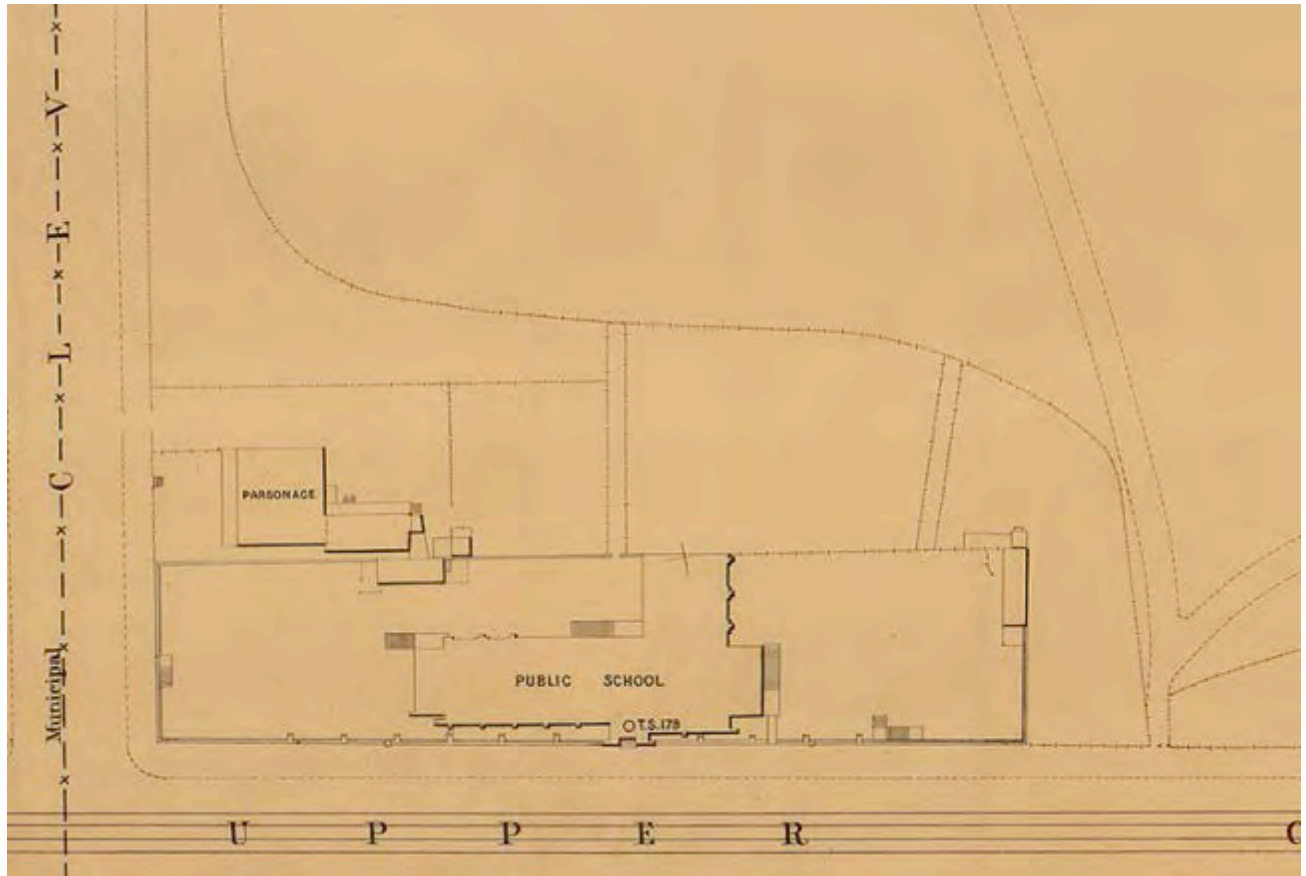


FIGURE 2.9 CLEVELAND STREET SCHOOL, 1886. THE EXTERIOR SHELL OF THE SCHOOL WAS STILL MUCH AS IT HAD BEEN WHEN IT WAS ERECTED IN 1867. SOURCE: LANDS, METROPOLITAN DETAIL SURVEY, 1886, SHEET J2

2.4 Expanding the School and its Site 1890-1912

2.4.1 Erecting the Girls' School 1891-1893

Crowding remained the major issue at the school. The Minister for Public Instruction, J H Carruthers visited the school in 1890 and saw how inadequate the basement classrooms were. He was prevailed upon to subsequently approve extensions which cost £4,400 in 1891.⁹⁸ These works also expanded the school out of its original narrow elongated and crowded site.

On 9 December 1890, architect William E Kemp reported on a plan he had prepared as instructed for an additional Girls' School in the grounds with appropriate sanitary conveniences. He reported that any attempt to add another storey to the existing school would bring little benefit for a very large expense. However, the Chief Inspector felt that there was far too little play area as there was in the grounds and was firmly of the opinion that the Wesleyan manse should be resumed to solve the problem. The Minister, J H Carruthers, was in agreement. It was ordered that the manse to be resumed and that a Girls' School be erected on its site. Tenders were to be called on 6 January 1891.⁹⁹

As a preliminary to the resumption, the Department obtained a valuation of the manse and its site. On 23 January 1891, the real estate firm of Richardson & Wrench, compiled a valuation of the manse. It stated that a house known as No 248 Cleveland Street stood on the site. It was a two storey brick

⁹⁸ *Cleveland Street Echo*, 1956, p 12

⁹⁹ 90/58282 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15395A

residence, with cemented walls on a stone foundation, with a slate roof, a verandah in front, with a hall, 8 rooms, a small bathroom, pantry, kitchen with a stove, a laundry and verandah at the rear. A detached weatherboard building housed the horse and buggy. The whole was valued at £3,205.¹⁰⁰

The Manse was officially resumed on 20 March 1891. Tenders were later let for its demolition.¹⁰¹ It was to be some time before agreement was reached with the owners, the Wesleyan Methodist Church, about a fair valuation. Finally, on 26 April 1892, compensation of £4,009/10/4 was paid to the Wesleyans for the manse and its site.¹⁰²

Meanwhile, tenders been called to erect the Girls' school. The successful contractor was J Weekley, of 15 Trade Street, Newtown.¹⁰³ Since there were major works in progress on the school site, Kemp suggested on 18 May 1891 that there was an opportunity to rectify the position of the closets which had been too close to the school due to its constricted site. The resumption gave the opportunity to move the toilets further away. New closet plans were drawn up and approved and tenders were to be let on 26 May.

At the request of the Headmaster, G Thornton, the Department approached the City Council to permit the school to occupy the land behind the manse on sufferance as a playground. When the council replied on 7 October 1891, they rejected that any such occupation could be allowed for the school or that they erect a gate to give ready access to the park. In response, the Department of Public Instruction asked the council to "remove the old & decaying timber which is stacked adjacent to the school...[which] is not conducive to good health in the children as it is subjected to rain & heat & is constantly giving off vapours which render the air impure" as well as hiding vermin.¹⁰⁴

Work proceeded steadily. Some problems arose when the stonemason's union objected to the manner in which workmen had been engaged and some of the work had been sub-let. It proved on inquiry that some of the difficulties had arisen when the sub-contractors Sinclair and Jones had made such slow progress that Weekley took over the work employing masons directly.¹⁰⁵ In response to concern about extra mason's work, W E Kemp responded on 15 October 1891, that additional foundation work had been needed for the girls' closets since "a large excavation which had been used for the purpose of burying old papers and rubbish" was found, and the ground slope necessitated additional work. He had also added a retaining wall and fence at the north end of the girls' closets.¹⁰⁶

An entrance lobby was needed for the new Girls' school and on 18 November 1891, Kemp recommended the acceptance of Weekley's tender of £160 to erect it. The work was later done.¹⁰⁷ In order to prevent access to the new building after hours, Kemp recommended on 11 December 1891 that part of the basement openings of the old school be enclosed. Additionally, window guards were needed on the new buildings. This work was duly put out to tender on 15 December.¹⁰⁸

The basement was the subject of a further proposal in 1892. G Thornton, the headmaster, sought to establish cookery classes in February 1892. Cookery classes had proved a strong attraction to girls at

¹⁰⁰ 91/4577 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15395A

¹⁰¹ 91/22521 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15395A

¹⁰² 92/22426 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15395A

¹⁰³ School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15395A

¹⁰⁴ 91/10707; 91/52470 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15395A

¹⁰⁵ 91/21271, 91/33723 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15395A

¹⁰⁶ 91/54027 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15395A

¹⁰⁷ 91/59760 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15395A

¹⁰⁸ 91/64365 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15395A

all schools where they were offered and he hoped to offer the same. A proposal to enclose part of the basement for the proposed classes was prepared but it was not proceeded with.¹⁰⁹

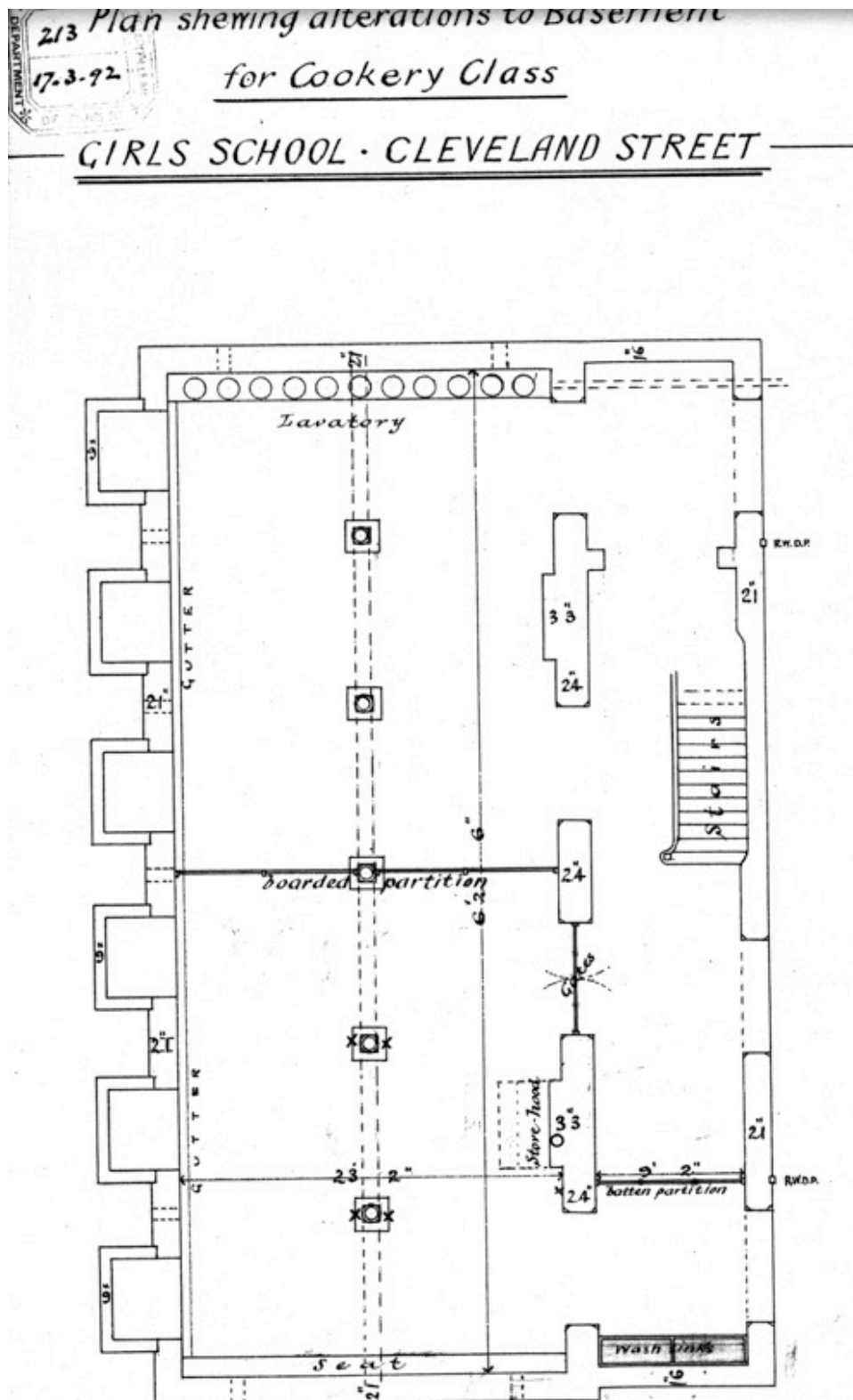


FIGURE 2.10 PROPOSED COOKING ROOM, CLEVELAND STREET SCHOOL, MARCH 1892. THIS SCHEME WAS NEVER BUILT. SOURCE: 92/6761 IN SRNSW 5/15395A

¹⁰⁹ 92/6761 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15395A

The area which had been resumed for the expansion of the school proved to be too open to the street. Tramps were found using the Girls' toilets. Hence, a proposal to erect a retaining wall and a fence along Cleveland Street and the levelling of the ground was devised on 22 June 1893. The work was put out to tender on 22 July 1893 and Fahey and Ross of Dibbs Street, Alexandria completed the work.¹¹⁰ Additional steps were also required and these were added in the final price for the work by Fahey and Ross. The stone for these steps came from Robert Saunders' Pymont quarry.¹¹¹

2.4.2 Continuing Accommodation Problems 1894-1907

Despite the new Girls' school, accommodation was soon inadequate again. On 6 May 1895, Mary Smith, in charge of the Girls' Department, appealed for extra timber classrooms in the grounds since there is nowhere to house the girls who were taught in the basement in the winter months. The Inspector agreed that work was necessary.¹¹² George Wigram, architect, prepared plans for the work which was estimated to cost £185 on 21 May 1895. The successful tenderer was G W Brewer.¹¹³ However, the City Building Surveyor rejected the proposal to erect wooden classrooms within the city area.¹¹⁴ Hence, Kemp prepared plans for a room in stone and brick which Brewer was willing to erect for £362. A contract was duly signed on 1 July 1895.¹¹⁵ Kemp informed the Department on 29 August 1895 that the girls' classroom was complete.¹¹⁶

Whilst he was working at the school, Brewer was also called upon to replace two old tanks, possibly those installed as early as 1862. He replaced them with stand pipes and taps.¹¹⁷ He also erected a fence with a barbed wire top to prevent people from the park using the girls' toilets.¹¹⁸

¹¹⁰ 93/29858 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15395B

¹¹¹ 94/25151 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15395B

¹¹² 95/27347 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15395B

¹¹³ 95/29246 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15395B

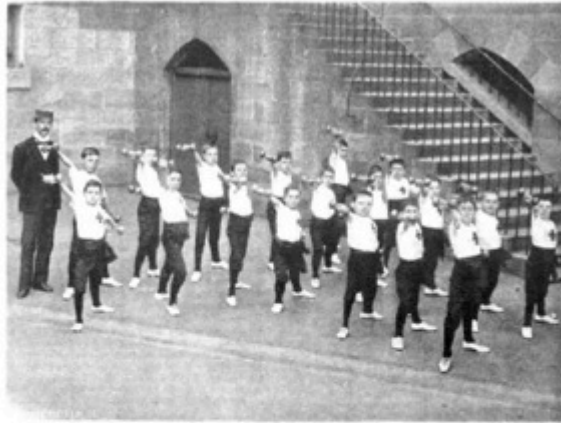
¹¹⁴ School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15395B

¹¹⁵ 95/35508 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15395B

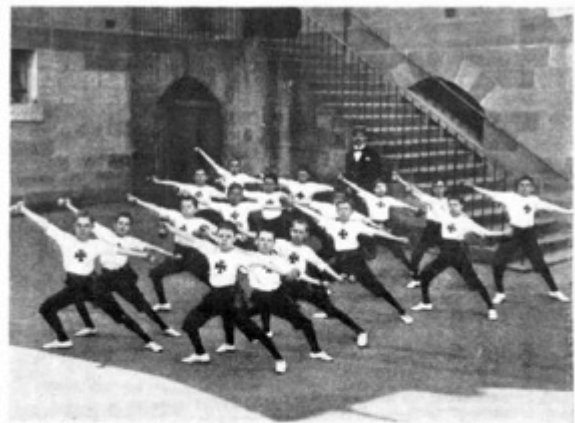
¹¹⁶ 95/49554 School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15395B

¹¹⁷ 95/27550 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15395B

¹¹⁸ 95/35905 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15395B



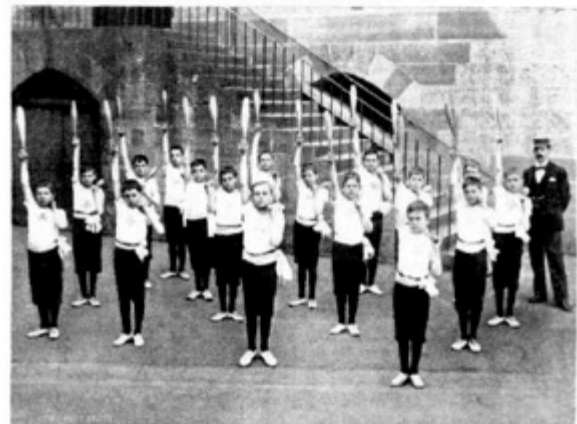
TOMB-HILLS-THIRD LITING.



TOMB-HILLS-RED LITING.



TOMB-HILLS-THIRD LITING.



TOMB-HILLS-RED LITING.



TOMB-HILLS-THIRD LITING.



TOMB-HILLS-RED LITING.

FIGURE 2.11 PHYSICAL DRILL, CLEVELAND STREET SCHOOL, MAY 1896.
SOURCE: SYDNEY MAIL, 16 MAY 1896

Use of the basement for teaching was soon not available as an option. The Board of Health ordered on 25 March 1896 that teaching in the basement was to cease. The Department instructed the school accordingly.¹¹⁹ This caused a crisis in accommodation at the school. Enrolments were stopped and no other school in the locality was to send extra pupils to Cleveland Street. Although the Department tried a number of times to persuade the Minister to approve the erection of two additional rooms, he

¹¹⁹ 96/20185 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15396A

refused.¹²⁰ Despite the embargo on the use of basement rooms, their use gradually crept back in over the next ten years.

Mary Smith, the Girl's mistress, applied on 18 July 1898 to have part of the Upper Landing enclosed with a partition and for the area to be fitted up with seats with backs for use as a sewing room. Since the partition was thought to interfere with ventilation, enclosure was not supported by higher officials but the necessary furniture was supplied and installed in mid September so the space could be utilised.¹²¹

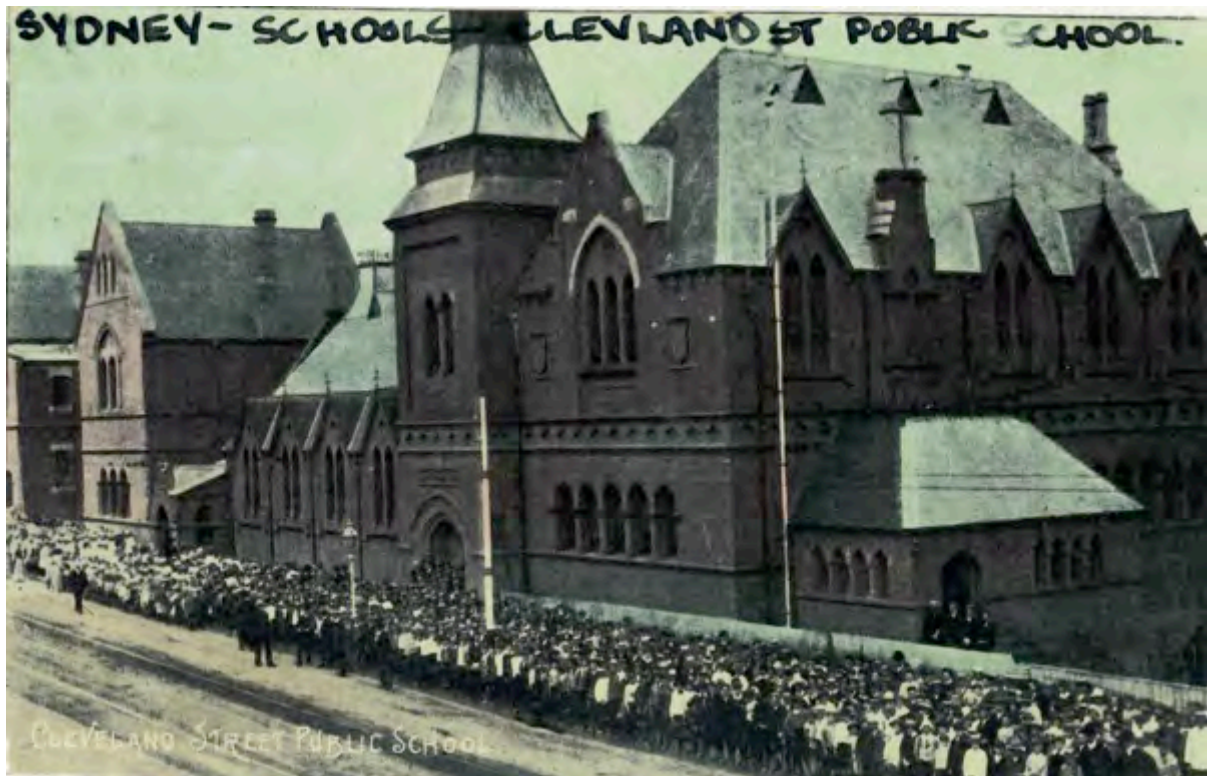


FIGURE 2.12 CLEVELAND STREET SCHOOL, C. 1900. A VIEW OF THE SCHOOL TENTATIVELY DATED AT 1900. SOURCE: ML, SPF

Crises over space were resolved in the tried and tested fashion in the new century, despite the earlier edict of the Board of Health. On 1 February 1901, G Wigram, Architect, recommended enclosure of the area under the Girls' School, which with the installation of a floor, doors and boarded walls could be fitted up as a classroom. The work was to be done by J A Oag.¹²² On 12 February 1901, J A Oag was paid £83 for the work.¹²³

In June 1901, it was noted that two of the chimneys in the Girls' School were leaning dangerously and needed rebuilding.¹²⁴ J A Oag was paid £21 on 16 July 1901 for rebuilding the two chimneys.¹²⁵

¹²⁰ 96/50011 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15396A

¹²¹ 98/46144 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15396A

¹²² 01/4019 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15396B

¹²³ 01/6569 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15396B

¹²⁴ 02/41023 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15396B

¹²⁵ 02/49025 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15396B

In April 1901, an application to formally establish an Evening Public School was made. The Evening Public School was already being taught by Daniel Hook, one of the teachers at the Public School. Classes for the proposed Evening Public School were to be held in the Public School. The Evening Public School had already been in operation with the concurrence of the Inspector since March. The proposed school was duly approved and gazetted.¹²⁶



FIGURE 2.13 CLEVELAND STREET SCHOOL, 1901. THIS VIEW OF THE SCHOOL GRACED THE SCHOOL MAGAZINE. NOTE THE ADDITION AT THE SOUTHERN END OF THE OLD BUILDING (OR BOYS' SCHOOL) AND THE GIRLS' SCHOOL AT THE CORNER. SOURCE: *CLEVELAND STREET ECHO*, 18 MARCH 1901, p 1

Major changes to the school proceeded from broader curriculum needs for pupils. The teacher in charge of manual training, Mr Conway, appealed on 11 January 1906 to the Department for better accommodation for his classes. He only had the use of an ordinary classroom fitted up with ordinary desks between 1.10 pm and 2.00 pm or alternately, the use of the playground for his pupils. He suggested various options. The schools architect was instructed to report on their feasibility.¹²⁷ The Schools Architect, R S Wells, recommended on 22 June 1906 that a new brick building at the northern end of the boys' playground was the best option and should house a manual training room, a science laboratory and lecture room as well as two classrooms at a cost of £1,660. A smaller building with manual and science rooms only could be built for £750.¹²⁸ Wells was instructed to prepare three alternative schemes on 27 June 1906.¹²⁹

¹²⁶ 01/22850 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15396B

¹²⁷ 06/1991 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15397B

¹²⁸ School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15397B

¹²⁹ 06/224/70 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15397B

Pressure to provide these facilities for the pupils came from another quarter. A deputation of school parents met the Minister B B O'Connor on 20 August 1906. The deputation included three MPs, E W O'Sullivan, J S McGowen, and G A Jones. Delegates appealed for the erection of a building for manual training and elementary science, better accommodation for 300 boys and the gradual installation of more modern furniture. O'Connor was himself an "old boy" of the school and he assured the delegation that temporary buildings would be built as soon as possible at the northern end of the boy's playground with its basement designed for manual training, the ground floor to be used for two classes to ease congestion and the upper floor to house a science room. In response to E W O'Sullivan's query about the furniture, O'Connor assured him that "the furniture follows as a natural consequence. You will never get old furniture in Cleveland Street."¹³⁰

2.4.3 Erecting the Boys' School 1907-1912

The Government Architect prepared plans for additions to the Boys' School. On 28 February 1907, W L Vernon signed the plans for proposed additions to the Boys' School comprising an additional wing on Castlereagh Street between the Infants School and the original building. The plans included some provision for teaching science.¹³¹ The official notice of completion of the additions to the school for manual training and science classes was issued on 21 July 1909.¹³²

Other alterations for the Infants' School were also in train. The mistress of the Infants' School requested removal of the gallery in the main room and its replacement by two blocks of desks for the kindergarten class on 28 March 1907. The Inspector noted that although it was the largest Infants' Department in Sydney, it was the worst equipped and supported the necessary works.¹³³ W Stoddart, Clerk of Works, reported on 23 April 1907 that the cost of levelling the infants' rooms would be £36.¹³⁴ It was later carried out. On 9 June 1908, the removal of the last gallery and long desks which had been left in the recent works of levelling was ordered. This work was completed on 12 October 1908.¹³⁵ In December 1907, the Girls' classroom floor was levelled and sixty single desks for girls 15 to 17 years old were installed.¹³⁶

Meanwhile, expansion of the Infants' Department was also envisaged. Departmental approval was given on 15 November 1906 to proceed with Wells' alternatives 2 and 3, i.e. either to raise a second storey over the Infants school to provide three classrooms to seat 146 pupils and to erect a separate Infants' Building on the western school boundary to seat 112 infants and then use the basement of the boy's school for manual training.¹³⁷ This work does not appear to have been carried out. Expansion of accommodation was sorely needed. The school had become so crowded that limits were placed on the number of admissions and an informal school drawing area was established.¹³⁸ An initial sketch plan of new accommodation for the Infants Department was sent to the Department of Public Instruction by Wells on 2 February 1907.¹³⁹ This plan proved inadequate to house the increased

¹³⁰ 06/50427 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15397B

¹³¹ Plan SB359-10, PWD Plan

¹³² 09/42662 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15397B

¹³³ 07/19732 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15397A

¹³⁴ School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15397B

¹³⁵ 08/35013 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15397B

¹³⁶ School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15397A

¹³⁷ 06/54379 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15397B

¹³⁸ 15/61637 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15400A

¹³⁹ School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15397B

enrolments for the Infants so Wells was instructed on 6 February 1907 to prepare plans for an Infants' building to house 92 pupils in three rooms with a basement for use as a shelter shed or summer classroom.¹⁴⁰ On 13 July 1907, architect S Wigram reported that a sketch plan of a new Infant's School had been prepared, and it was to occupy the land between the Girls' School and the Park facing Cleveland Street.¹⁴¹

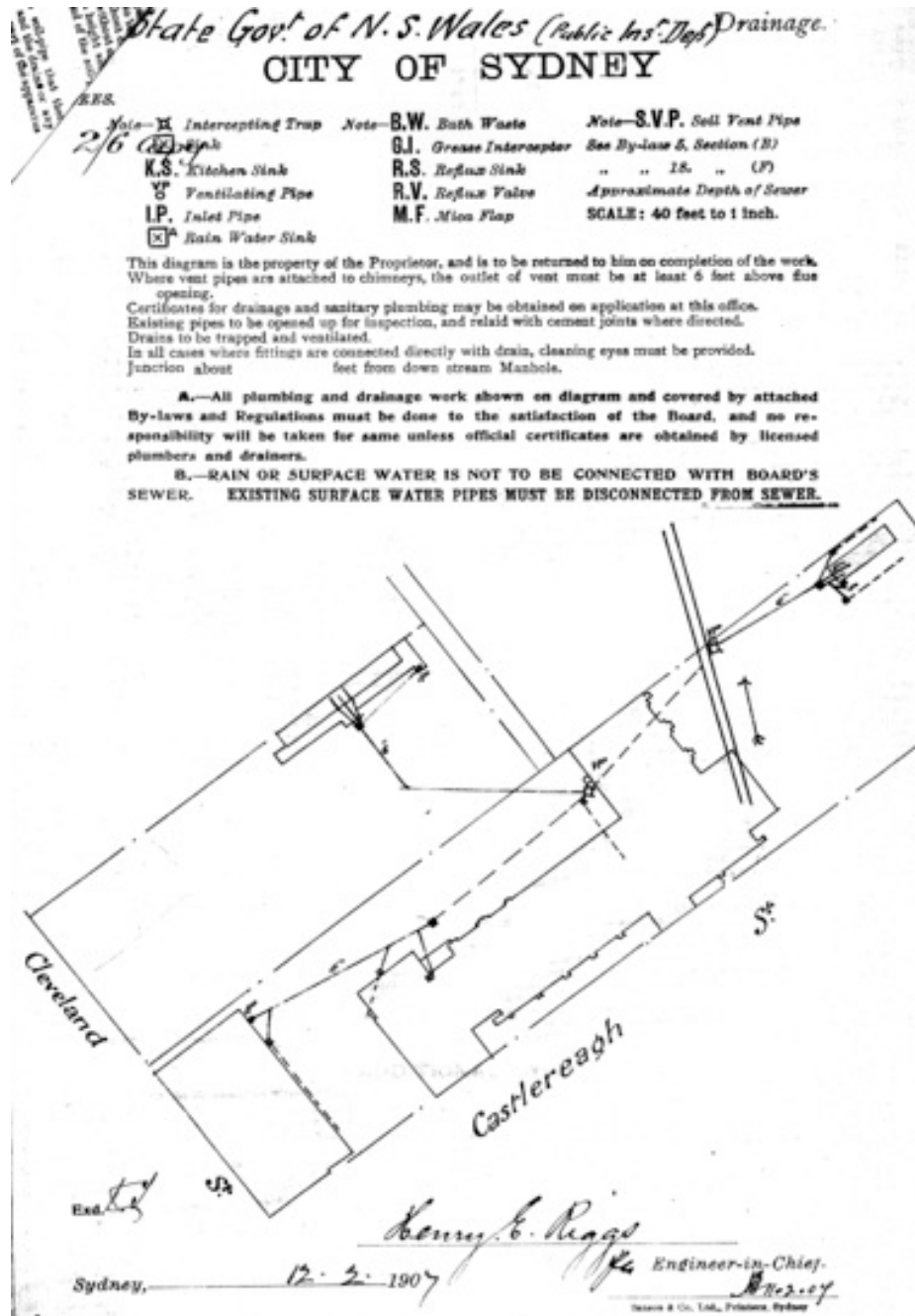


FIGURE 2.14 SEWERAGE DIAGRAM, 12 FEBRUARY 1907. THE MAIN BUILDINGS AND DRAINAGE DETAILS ARE SHOWN.
SOURCE: SRNSW 5/15397B

¹⁴⁰ School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15397B

¹⁴¹ 07/42907 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15397B

A sketch plan of the Infants' School was drawn up on 19 October 1907.¹⁴² Alterations were made to this plan on 22 October 1907 so it then comprised 10 classrooms instead of 12, with 8 rooms laid out on the dual classroom principle.¹⁴³ Erection of this Infants' School was approved at a cost of £5,000 on 27 November 1907.¹⁴⁴ W L Vernon signed the plan for the new building for Infants and Girls on 28 April 1908.¹⁴⁵ When the work was put out to tender, Thomas Jones provided the lowest tender but it was still above the £5,000 estimate initially provided. Vernon reported on the various alterations and additions which had been made since then. A more accurate estimate of the cost would now be £5,800, he explained, and he recommended acceptance of Jones' tender.¹⁴⁶ A contract was signed with Thomas Jones, of Randle Street, Marrickville on 25 November 1908 to complete the additions for £5,860/14/-.¹⁴⁷

Other peripheral works were also undertaken. A coloured plan of the new boys' and girls' closets was prepared on 28 December 1908.¹⁴⁸ R Wells recommended the complete replacement of the "antiquated long latrine troughs" on 29 December 1908, possibly those installed by Kemp in 1892.¹⁴⁹ These toilets were replaced by London School Board Fireclay pans specially imported for this contract.¹⁵⁰

In May 1909, Jones was permitted to add an extra chimney above the fireplaces on the new Infants and Girls' school where there was no chimney on the plan.¹⁵¹ On 22 May 1909, Wells reported on an appeal from the Infants' mistresses to have a solid wall between the Girls' and Infants' Departments plus gates on the entrances to the basements for better security. Wells left the corridors open for ease of evacuation but agreed to install the gates as requested plus a raised platform so that the mistress had a better view of children in the playground.¹⁵²

The Infants' mistresses had also requested that they retain their existing offices despite being given new ones in the new building. On 3 July 1909, the Chief Inspector reported that "Both the mistresses are too much inclined to regard their own departments as distinct schools instead of important parts of one great school." Their request was denied.¹⁵³

Damage and alterations from the building work ensured that new works were needed to the boundary walls. On 3 July 1909, A D Craig, Clerk of Works provided a full size tracing of the top of the park wall coping to enable the work on the railings and dwarf wall to be arranged.¹⁵⁴ A contract was signed with John Fenton, Botany Street, Randwick on 25 September 1909 for new closets and other works, plus repair of the stone coping.¹⁵⁵

¹⁴² School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15397B

¹⁴³ School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15397B

¹⁴⁴ 07/66515 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15397B

¹⁴⁵ Plan SB359-11, PWD Plan

¹⁴⁶ 08/46436 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15397B

¹⁴⁷ School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15397B

¹⁴⁸ School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15397B

¹⁴⁹ 09/290 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15397B

¹⁵⁰ 09/12579 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15397B

¹⁵¹ 09/27405 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15397B

¹⁵² 90/17700 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15397B

¹⁵³ 09/38611 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15397B

¹⁵⁴ School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15397B

¹⁵⁵ School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15397B

On the day of the official opening of the new Infants' Department in mid September 1909, the architect and Senior Inspectors Parkinson and Cooper inspected the recently vacated basement and they concluded that it would be adequate for a science room and manual training room. On 26 September 1909, a rough sketch plan was sent to Inspector Parkinson. He supported this conversion as a temporary measure until the new rooms were built in work which it was expected would commence shortly.¹⁵⁶ John Fenton, who was then undertaking the erection of new toilets, was engaged after he tendered £129/17/6 for this work.¹⁵⁷ The fitting up and conversion of a room to become a science room was completed on 17 March 1910.¹⁵⁸

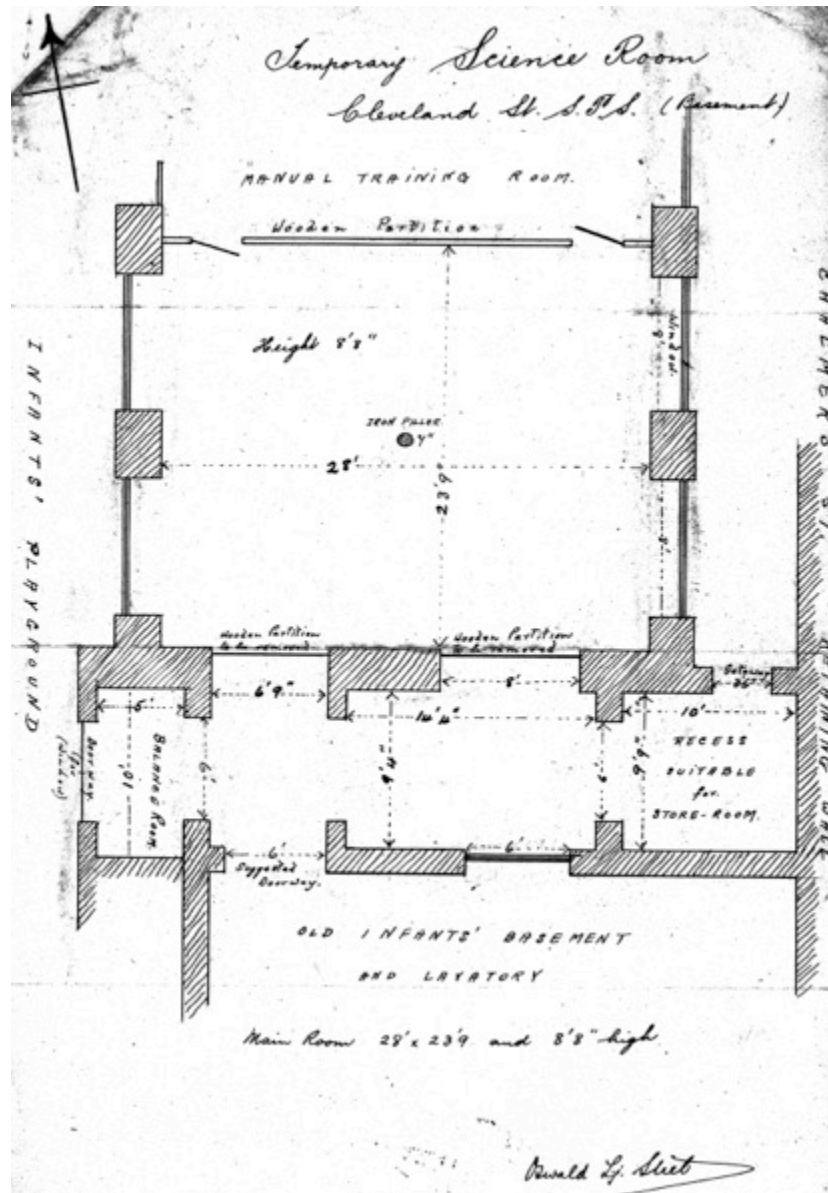


FIGURE 13 PROPOSED SCIENCE ROOM, CLEVELAND STREET SCHOOL, SEPTEMBER 1909. THIS SKETCH OUTLINED THE PROPOSAL FOR THE SCIENCE ROOM WHICH WAS LATER COMPLETED.
SOURCE: 09/58212 IN SRNSW 5/15398A

¹⁵⁶ 09/58212 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15398A

¹⁵⁷ 09/73140 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15398A

¹⁵⁸ 10/19024 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15398A



FIGURE 2.15 INFANTS CLASS, CLEVELAND STREET, DECEMBER 1909.
SOURCE: ML, GPO 1, 11803



FIGURE 2.16 INFANTS CLASS, CLEVELAND STREET, DECEMBER 1909. NOTE HOW THIS VIEW LOOKS ACROSS THE DOUBLE ROOM AND INTO THE ADJOINING CLASS.
SOURCE: ML, GPO 1, 11804

The basement rooms were soon in heavy use. In May 1911, a Commercial Continuation School commenced “with a large attendance”.¹⁵⁹ In July 1911, the commencement of an Artisan Continuation School was approved.¹⁶⁰ Photographs of the Artisan class of the Continuation School and the Science Class using the basement rooms are extant and appear to have been taken shortly after this.¹⁶¹ In order to attract further enrolments for these schools, a design for a noticeboard advertising the Commercial and Artisan Continuation Schools was drawn up on 12 December 1911.¹⁶² This new noticeboard was duly completed on 27 June 1912.¹⁶³

2.5 High School and Language Centre 1912 to date

2.5.1 Developing a High School 1912-1924

As part of a reform of the school system, an Intermediate High School for boys and girls was established at Cleveland Street School in January 1912. This was a high school which provided education to the Intermediate Certificate standard whilst still retaining a primary school department.

Expansion of class room facilities was still needed. George McRae, the Government Architect, signed a plan for a new building for the boys on 24 December 1912.¹⁶⁴ The erection of classrooms in the grounds was also undertaken. On 30 October 1912, approval was given for Saxton and Binns to erect three portable classrooms at £160 each in the grounds.¹⁶⁵



FIGURE 2.17 BASEMENT SCIENCE ROOM, CLEVELAND STREET CONTINUATION SCHOOL, c 1912. THIS VIEW IS UNDATED IN THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER COLLECTION BUT APPEARS TO BE FROM ABOUT 1912.

SOURCE: ML, GPO 1, 12355

¹⁵⁹ 11/33017 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15398A

¹⁶⁰ 11/49716 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15398A

¹⁶¹ Picman, ML, GPO 1 12355-6

¹⁶² School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15398A

¹⁶³ School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15398A

¹⁶⁴ Plan SB359-13, PWD Plan

¹⁶⁵ School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15398B



FIGURE 2.18 BASEMENT ROOM, ARTISAN CLASS, CLEVELAND STREET CONTINUATION SCHOOL, c 1912. THIS VIEW IS UNDATED IN THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER COLLECTION BUT APPEARS BE FROM ABOUT 1912.

SOURCE: ML, GPO 1, 12356



FIGURE 2.19 CLEVELAND STREET CONTINUATION SCHOOL, COMMERCIAL CLASS, c 1912. THIS VIEW IS UNDATED IN THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER COLLECTION BUT APPEARS BE FROM ABOUT 1912.

SOURCE: ML, GPO 1, 12357

On 29 April 1913, F Vernon of Thompson Street, Marrickville, was engaged to erect a pavilion classroom for £120.¹⁶⁶ On 5 August 1913, the final completion certificate for £122/14/- was issued for the completion of a pavilion classroom by F Vernon.¹⁶⁷ On 28 July 1914, a contract was accepted for J K Wilson, 162 Union Street, Erskineville to erect portable classrooms along the park fence to the north of the existing temporary classroom.¹⁶⁸ This contract was completed on 27 October 1914 and the room had been occupied on 12 October 1914.¹⁶⁹

By July 1915, the school had 1,106 pupils enrolled in the primary section. Apart from the main school, the three recently built pavilion classrooms provided extra rooms. There were 460 high school pupils, many of which came from some distance away. They were “admitted by the teachers acting on instructions received from head office”.¹⁷⁰ To rein in the inconsistent admissions policy applied to pupils, a drawing area was established for the school in August 1915.¹⁷¹

On 31 July 1916, R S Wells signed plans prepared for the Proposed Boys School adjacent to Chalmers Street.¹⁷² However, these buildings do not appear to have been erected until some years later.

One of the new timber rooms in the playground was being used as a science room but since it was shared between the boys and girls schools, facilities for science teaching were strained. The boys continued to use the science room in the school basement, but by September 1916, the science teacher was asking for a transfer since he kept getting throat infections from the unhealthy conditions. The Inspector was sympathetic and noted that a replacement teacher would simply fall victim to the same ailments in this “dark, ill-ventilated and unhygienic” room. He proposed the erection of a new fibro room in the back corner of the school closest to the old exhibition building.¹⁷³ A plan of this proposed science room was prepared by R S Wells, schools architect, on 28 December 1916.¹⁷⁴ The new science room was built by the Drummoyne Workshops for £600. The room was erected using 3,000 to 3,500 Federal pattern tiles and 150 ridge tiles which had been stored in the cottage on the Wahroonga Observatory site.¹⁷⁵ The old basement science room did not go to waste. After some minor alterations and the repair of white ant damage, it was converted into a common room for the staff in 1917!¹⁷⁶

¹⁶⁶ 13/24075 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15399

¹⁶⁷ School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15398B

¹⁶⁸ School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15399

¹⁶⁹ 14/85185 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15399

¹⁷⁰ 15/61637 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15400A

¹⁷¹ 15/61637 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15400A

¹⁷² Plan SB359-15, SB359-17, PWD Plan

¹⁷³ 16/88772 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15400B

¹⁷⁴ School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15400B

¹⁷⁵ School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15400B

¹⁷⁶ 17/77760 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15400B



FIGURE 2.20 SCIENCE ROOM FOR SCHOOL GROUNDS, 28 DECEMBER 1916.

SOURCE: SRNSW 5/15400B

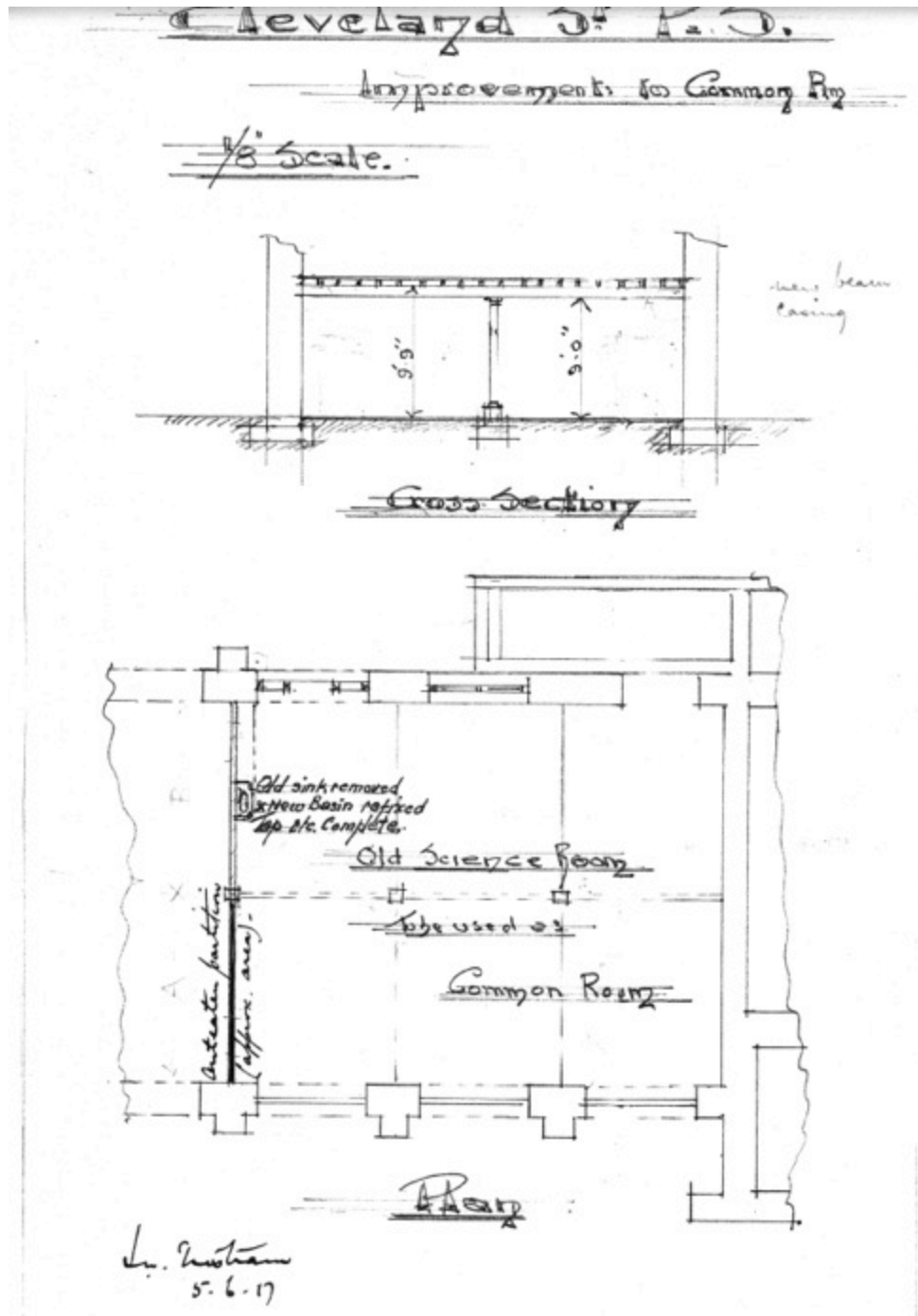


FIGURE 2.21 CONVERSION OF BASEMENT SCIENCE ROOM TO COMMON ROOM, 5 JUNE 1917.
SOURCE: 17/77760 IN SRNSW 5/15400B

Alterations to the Girls' School were completed on 25 April 1918, by T N Grimley of Five Dock for a total cost of £135/4/-. Electric lighting was installed by the Burgin Electric Co for £119, with the work being completed on 22 October 1919. T N Grimley was also paid £149 for alterations to the Manual Training Room completed on 24 September 1919.¹⁷⁷

¹⁷⁷ Dept of Education, Card catalogue of building work, 1916-35, SRNSW 11/15370

As a large city school with a long history, many former pupils and teachers from Cleveland Street enlisted in the Great War. By December 1919, an Honour Roll had been installed at the school by the Old Boys' Union. The tablet had 1,180 names on it. The number of deaths totalled 147.¹⁷⁸

By this time, graduates of the school had permeated into many areas of political, legal, commercial, academic, sporting and artistic life in NSW. One of the teacher trainees who completed practical periods at the school was John Tierney, who was there about 1922. He later became a short story writer and novelist. Tierney later used some of his experiences in his novel about the life and career of a state school teacher anxious to climb the promotion ladder, where Cleveland Street appeared as "Simmons Street High School".¹⁷⁹

2.5.2 Modern High School 1924-1945

Major additions were erected in 1924 which catered for the needs of the school into the 1960s.¹⁸⁰ Contractor H W Jones of Kilbride Street, Hurlstone Park was paid a total of £15,282/2/1 for these additions which were finally completed on 23 February 1925.¹⁸¹ From January 1929 onwards, only the Intermediate High School for boys operated at the school as well as the primary departments.

A plan was prepared for tar paving of the school grounds in October 1934 which showed the location of all the school buildings.¹⁸² The Headmaster requested better security measures such as strong wire guards to 17 basement windows and iron bars for the staff room in November 1934. The work was subsequently carried out.¹⁸³ Since the school grounds were so constricted, an area of 2 roods 16 perches of Prince Alfred Park was leased from the City of Sydney Council. Utilisation of the site was restricted to being used as a playground and for instruction in practical horticulture.¹⁸⁴

¹⁷⁸ *Cleveland Street Echo*, Dec 1919, p 4-5

¹⁷⁹ *Cleveland Street Echo*, 1962, p 52; Brian James, [pseudonym for John Tierney], *The Advancement of Spencer Button*, originally published 1950

¹⁸⁰ *Cleveland Street Echo*, 1956, p 12

¹⁸¹ Dept of Education, Card catalogue of building work, 1916-35, SRNSW 11/15370

¹⁸² School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15406B

¹⁸³ 34/102913 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15406B

¹⁸⁴ 62/57/34070, in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 14/7402

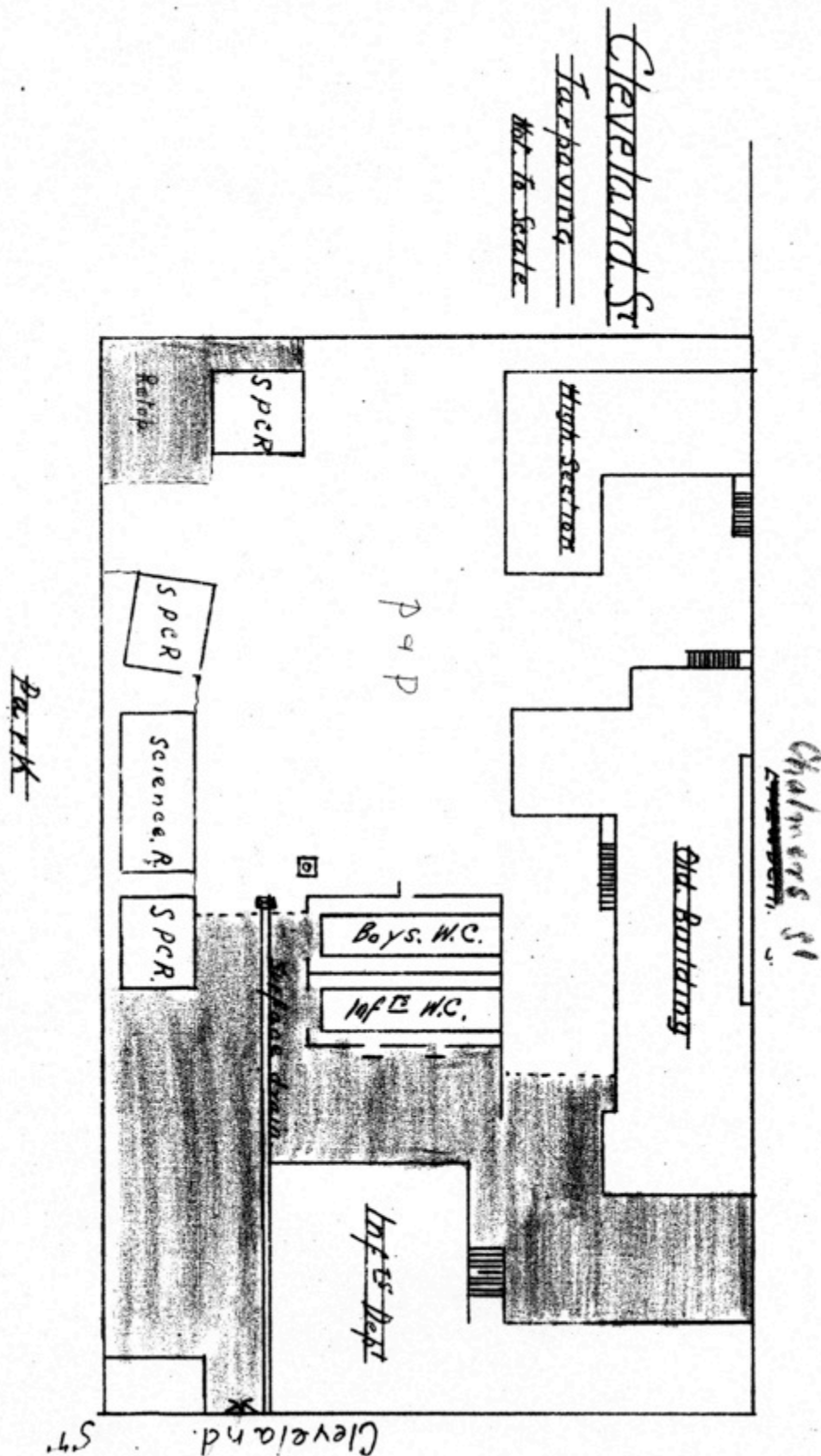


FIGURE 2.22 TAR PAVING, 1934. THIS PLAN SHOWED THE LOCATIONS OF ALL THE BUILDINGS IN 1934
SOURCE: SRNSW 5/15406B

The busy location of the school became a source of increasing difficulty. The noise of motor traffic increasingly had a deleterious impact on teachers and pupils. The Headmaster requested re-routing of traffic feeding out of the city to alleviate noise. However, in July 1935, the Traffic Police officially notified the Department that they would refuse to re-route traffic in Cleveland Street to reduce noise impact upon the school.¹⁸⁵ On 19 March 1936, the Headmaster, Frank Purnell, informed the Department that two staff were transferring from the school to escape the strain caused by traffic noise. As replacements he requested, "Men of calm demeanour, of proved physical strength, still young yet experienced teachers" in other words, the sort of personnel every principal wanted to staff their school!¹⁸⁶

In an effort to alleviate the problem, soundproofing of the school was initiated. In April 1937 Amalgamated Wireless Australia (AWA) supplied details to the Department of their Fisk Soundproof Window treatment. In November 1938, the installation of 4 windows at £44 each was approved. However, the Parents' & Citizens' branch of the school brought pressure to bear on the Department to extend the installation. In February 1938, the Department extended the work to fit out three rooms as an experiment at a cost of £693.¹⁸⁷ By August 1938, the Girls' School was being fitted with the windows. On 15 August 1939, a sum of £1.450/19/5 was paid for the installation of the windows, though this may not have represented all of the money thus expended.¹⁸⁸

In November 1938, the Department of Education was alerted to a proposal by the Department of Main Roads to widen Cleveland Street. To implement the scheme, land along Cleveland Street to a depth of 15 feet would have to be resumed from school for the widening. The school was built right on the alignment. That would mean the demolition of six classrooms of the Girls' School and four classrooms, hat room and one staircase of the Infants School. To ensure that the school remain viable, new classrooms would have to be provided, probably with two storeys and basements similar to the existing buildings. The Government Architect estimated that would cost £28,000, which would be met from the Department of Main Roads budget. A sketch plan of the proposed works was prepared by the Government Architect. However, the road widening scheme was never implemented.¹⁸⁹

Noted Australian filmmaker Frank Hurley filmed scenes at Cleveland Street School in December 1937 for his film "A Nation is Built". He apparently used some of this footage in the final cut.¹⁹⁰ One year later, on 2 December 1938, pupils from school attended a film screening which included Hurley's "A Nation is Built".¹⁹¹ Doubtless, there was some quiet but anxious tittering in the cinema as they recognised familiar scenes and faces. A Cleaners' dressing room was completed at the school in 11 June 1940.¹⁹²

¹⁸⁵ 35/69250 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15406A

¹⁸⁶ 36/25439 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15406A

¹⁸⁷ 38/128472 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15407B

¹⁸⁸ School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15407B

¹⁸⁹ 44/57/4618, in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 14/7402

¹⁹⁰ School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15407A

¹⁹¹ 38/95866 in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15407B

¹⁹² School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 5/15407B



FIGURE 2.23 A 1949 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH WHICH SHOWED THE BUILDINGS AND VEGETATION ON THE SITE. NOTE THAT THE SOUTH WEST AND NORTH WEST COURTYARDS ARE QUITE HEAVILY VEGETATED AT THIS TIME.

SOURCE: SCCA, 1949 AERIAL PHOTO, SHEET AO83

2.5.3 Post-war Expansion 1945 to date

The Minister for Education, Robert James Heffron, visited the school on 15 August 1950, having been invited by the Parents and Citizens Committee. He wrote that the school 'is in urgent need of painting

and repairs. The gymnasium is a positive disgrace.’ As a result, linoleum floors were supplied in the headmaster’s office and staffrooms, the gymnasium was given a new floor and the stage was altered, the toilets were repaired, and the library was provided with furniture, bookcases and chairs. Additional work undertaken included soundproofing of ‘the new section of the school’, provision of a tuckshop, repairs to guttering and brickwork along Cleveland Street, and interior painting.¹⁹³

Cleveland Street was raised from an Intermediate Boys’ High School to a Junior High School on 1 January 1951. This involved separating the secondary department from the primary department and the isolation of the secondary buildings from the rest of the school. Separate headmasters were appointed and the primary department was renamed Cleveland Street Primary School and reduced from a Class 1 School to a Class 3 School.¹⁹⁴



FIGURE 2.24 SCHOOL, 1956.

SOURCE: *CLEVELAND STREET ECHO*, 1956, FRONT COVER

¹⁹³ 50/57/34813, in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 14/7402

¹⁹⁴ 50/57/34813, in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 14/7402



FIGURE 2.25 SCHOOL, 1956.

SOURCE: *CLEVELAND STREET ECHO*, 1956, BACK COVER

Minor works were all that were undertaken at the school over the next few years. In 1957, works around the school included a new tuckshop, a new toilet block completed in July and the strengthening of the wall of the original building facing the park.¹⁹⁵ A fire burnt out part of the school in December 1958.¹⁹⁶



FIGURE 2.26 TUCKSHOP, 1957.

SOURCE: *CLEVELAND STREET ECHO*, 1957, p 10

¹⁹⁵ *Cleveland Street Echo*, 1957, p 12

¹⁹⁶ *Cleveland Street Echo*, 1959, p 21



FIGURE 2.27 FIRE DAMAGE, DECEMBER 1958.
SOURCE: *CLEVELAND STREET ECHO*, 1959, p 21



FIGURE 2.28 THE FIRE AT CLEVELAND STREET SCHOOL WITH A CROWD OF CURIOUS ONLOOKERS.
SOURCE: CCSA PHOTO SRC21910

Until December 1966, Cleveland Street continued as a public school, but the mode of organisation of the higher classes varied. From January 1951 until December 1955, it also operated a Junior High School, which meant that it only offered high school teaching for the junior high school years. From January 1956 until December 1981, it operated as a Boys' High School, having lost all primary classes in December 1966.

A scheme was afoot to replace the old science room in the grounds with more modern facilities. Plans were finalised on 25 March 1959 by Concrete Industries (Australia) Pty Ltd, contractors for the work, for the new science block along the western boundary with Prince Alfred Park.¹⁹⁷ The 1959 school magazine recorded in photographs the demolition of the old science block built of timber and the erection of the new science block.¹⁹⁸

¹⁹⁷ Plan SB359-21, PWD Plan

¹⁹⁸ *Cleveland Street Echo*, 1959, p 44

The Science Block

Our old Science Block was demolished this year after over half a century as a Science Building. Previous to 1909 it was used by the Girls and Infant's Departments before they moved to the present Primary block. Here we show some scenes of its smooth and fast erection. Mr. A. G. Harvey registers suitable amazement,

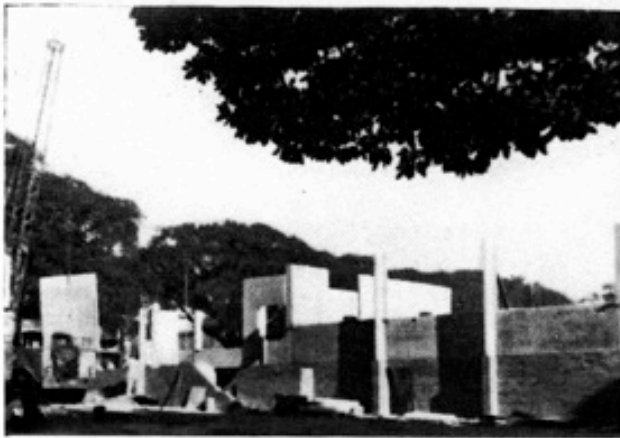


FIGURE 2.29 DEMOLITION OF SCIENCE BLOCK AND ERECTION OF NEW SCIENCE BLOCK, 1959.

SOURCE: *CLEVELAND STREET ECHO*, 1959, p 44



FIGURE 2.30 STUDENTS USING THE NEW SCIENCE ROOMS.
SOURCE: *CLEVELAND STREET ECHO*, 1960, P 33

It quickly transpired that the new science block had been built on the 2 roods 16 perches of Prince Alfred Park leased from the City Council. The lease had specified the land only be used as a playground. To the embarrassment of the Department, this transgression was gleefully reported in certain Sydney afternoon newspapers that 'The Department of Education has been caught with its geography down'.¹⁹⁹ On 29 May 1964, that area of 2 roods 16 perches was dedicated for school purposes, overcoming that dilemma.²⁰⁰

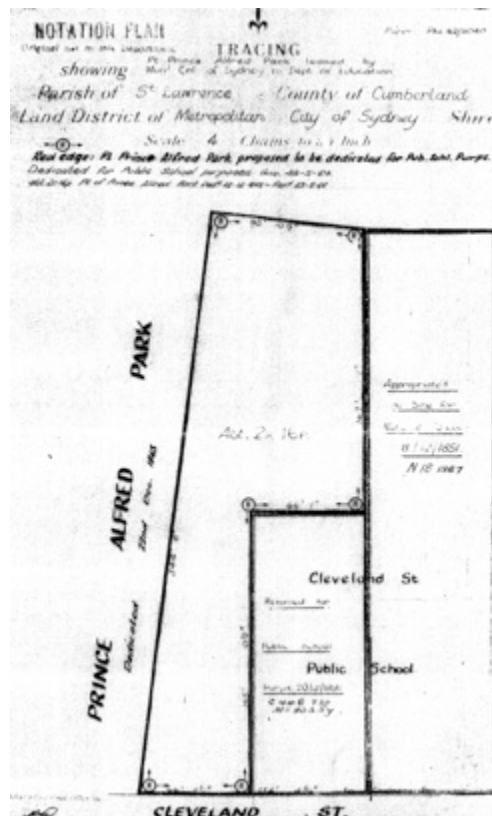


FIGURE 2.31 SITE EXPANSION, 1964. IN MAY 1964, AN AREA OF 2 ROODS AND 16 PERCHES, PART OF PRINCE ALFRED PARK, WAS OFFICIALLY ADDED TO THE SCHOOL GROUNDS TO REGULARISE THE INADVERTENT ERECTION OF NEW BUILDINGS ON THE LAND.
SOURCE: Ms.18908.3000, CROWN PLAN

¹⁹⁹ Quote from *Daily Mirror*, 22 Oct 1962; See also *Sun*, 22 Oct 1962; 62/57/34070, in School File, Cleveland Street, SRNSW 14/7402

²⁰⁰ *New South Wales Government Gazette*, 29 May 1964; Ms.18908.3000, Crown Plan

The introduction of the New School Certificate and Higher School Certificate was based on recommendations made by the NSW Director of Education, Harold Wyndham. He was an old boy of Cleveland Street.²⁰¹



FIGURE 2.32 THE SCHOOL LIBRARY IN 1963.
SOURCE: *CLEVELAND STREET ECHO*, 1963, p 3

²⁰¹ *Cleveland Street Echo*, 1960, p 14



FIGURE 2.33 OPENING THE 1963 SCHOOL FETE.

SOURCE: *CLEVELAND STREET ECHO*, 1963, p 7

The Primary School was closed in December 1966 to enable the whole site to be used as a Boys' High School. On 6 November 1967, the Government Architect, E H Farmer, signed plans prepared by the Government Architect's Office in association with Spain, Cosh and Stewart for a new science and classroom block plus alterations to existing buildings.²⁰² On 21 November 1967, the department informed Sydney City Council that the planned work included the provision of three science laboratories, three classrooms, two art rooms, two music rooms and a staff common room.²⁰³ A contract was signed on 8 March 1968 with F H Compton & Sons (Sydney) Pty Ltd, 155 Castlereagh Street, Sydney to complete the work in 52 weeks for \$528,289.²⁰⁴ A listing of furniture for each room provided an outline of changes to existing buildings.

²⁰² Plan SB359-23-SB359-64, PWD Plan

²⁰³ 67/80578, P17 EH.PMS, in Dept of Education, Correspondence, Files relating to school buildings, 1967-70, 5/8312.1

²⁰⁴ SB 1393/27, in Dept of Education, Correspondence, Files relating to school buildings, 1967-70, 5/8312.1

Table of Changes 1968

From P33:DK/IP and S1393/27G in Dept of Education, Correspondence, Files relating to school buildings, 1967-70, 5/8312.1

Building 1 (1891 and 1909)

Lowest Level [basement]

Shelter area converted from woodwork room 48' x 28'

Ground floor

Form master's office converted from stores 15' x 8'

Staff room ex-office 15' x 14' 6"

Staff room ex-classroom 22' x 21'

First floor

4 group study rooms converted from three classrooms 12' x 12' each

Deputy Principal's office converted from office and store 15' x 14'

Building 2 (1867 and 1891)

Ground floor

Library Annex converted from classroom and staff room 32' x 24'

Library converted from metalwork room 36' x 27' 6"

2 group study rooms converted from library office and library workroom 12' x 12' each

Clerks' office converted from duplicating room 12' x 12'

Counsellors' Office converted from classroom 11' x 9'

Careers adviser converted from classroom 14' x 10'

Principal's office converted from library workroom

Building 3 (1924)

Lowest floor [basement]

Technical drawing room converted from classroom 24' x 22'

Metalwork room and annex converted from staff room and classroom 48' x 21'

Drawing store converted from hat room 17' x 10'

Ground floor

Technical drawing room converted from classroom 24' x 24'

Combined metalwork & woodwork room converted from classrooms 49' x 21'

Building 4 (1968)

Additions to existing science block consisting of one new floor over the existing building plus a new three-storey elevated block linking it with Building 2. There would be science Laboratories on two floors, classrooms, staff common room and art and music room on top floor

The project involved the construction of additional floors over the existing science block. Work in Building 2 included the conversion of existing rooms into a principal's office, waiting area and toilet. The new wing would face Prince Alfred Park and was being constructed of 'off-form' concrete columns infilled with manganese brick panels. Aluminium windows with turn down hoods were installed as windows. In a description of the work, the Deputy Principal identified Building 1 of the work as the 1856 corner building; Building 2 as the 1867 building, Building 3 as 'the "new" building (in Chalmers Street)'; whilst Building 4 was the new three storey building, with new classrooms, music and art rooms, group study rooms, science laboratories, senior science workrooms and a staff common room. The supervising architect was John Hall, and the Clerk of Works was Harry Kocass, and the foreman was Jim Bennett. A new brick fence would be erected to match the existing one and the older buildings would be provided with a 'filtered air ventilation system'.²⁰⁵



FIGURE 2.34 THE NEW BUILDINGS UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN 1968.

SOURCE: *CLEVELAND STREET ECHO*, 1968, p 7

By August 1969, the new school canteen was complete and operating, the block between Buildings 2 and 4 was occupied and the new library room was complete apart from fixing book shelves.²⁰⁶

In 1978, the Reception Centre for Secondary Migrant Pupils was operating as an annex to the school. A special programme for Aboriginal boys had been operating successfully from 1978 onwards.²⁰⁷ Cleveland Street continued to function as a Boys' High School until December 1981.

²⁰⁵ *Cleveland Street Echo*, 1968, p 7

²⁰⁶ 67/80578, in Dept of Education, Correspondence, Files relating to school buildings, 1967-70, 5/8312.1

²⁰⁷ *Cleveland Street Echo*, 1978, 1979

By July 1987, corrosion of the wire reinforcement of the new building caused the concrete to spall so that lumps of concrete were falling off the building, creating a dangerous situation for staff and students in what had become Intensive Language and Reception Centre. It was also believed that damp was seeping into the basement of the old buildings from Cleveland and Chalmers streets. It was hoped that sealing the footpath next to the buildings would alleviate the problem.²⁰⁸

Between 1977 and 1980 the Complex became a general high school, and the rest of school moved to Alexandria and was renamed Alexandria Park Community School. Cleveland Street was given the special task of providing intensive English language tuition for the newly arrived migrant students. This task became the Cleveland School's main purpose in 2001 and it is now named "Cleveland Street Intensive English High School". This use is maintained to-date.

The Cleveland Street Intensive English High School provides intensive English language, orientation and welfare programs for high school aged students for newly arrived permanent resident and international students. The students and their families have come from more than thirty language backgrounds and have embraced as many as 100 different countries. Staff who are teaching are bilingual. The School's motto "Harmony and Progress" endeavours to proactively engender inclusive education together with welfare programs that are designed to enhance student resilience and achievement. Formal tuition is balanced by encouragement to participate in a range of sporting activities. The school offers studies for 15 to 50 weeks after which most students transfer to other mainstream government high schools or Technical and Further Education (TAFE) colleges.

In August 2016, the former Cleveland Street Public School was still functioning as a school for intensive English teaching. Due to a considerable increase in school age children in the inner city, pressure has mounted to reinstate Cleveland Street as a comprehensive school.²⁰⁹

2.6 Chronology of Cleveland Street School

2.6.1 The Iron School 1850-67

23 September 1850

Surveyor Burrowes despatched plan of an area of 2 roods 5 perches set aside for a National School in Parish of St Lawrence

28 March 1851

Surveyor Burrowes despatched plan of Wesleyan Manse grant

28 February 1855

T L Mitchell informed the Board that surveyor Burrowes had re-marked ground

1855

Application for school in Cleveland Paddock and construction under way

28 June 1855

W C Stephen, solicitor, informed Board that H Edwin Bridges, 101 William Street, Woolloomooloo, contractor for erection of school had signed the bond

²⁰⁸ NRS 4352, S5345/25 Public Works, School and tertiary education buildings files (S & SB files), Cleveland Street High School, Repairs/Maintenance, 1987-88, SRNSW

²⁰⁹ *SMH*, 6 Aug 2011, 11

5 May 1856

Cleveland Street School opened as well as new Paddington National School

30 August 1856

Henry Robertson, informed Board that he had advertised for tenders to line Cleveland Street, Paddington and William Street School with canvas and paper

9 September 1856

Tender of Elphinstone accepted for lining of Cleveland Street along with the other schools

6 December 1856

Attempts to sell surplus ironwork of schools unsuccessful, so Robertson suggested it be sold by auction

December 1856

Total of 422 pupils on rolls

15 January 1857

William Wilkins, superintendent of Board noted that part of the brickwork of the newly built closet at Cleveland Street had given way

29 June 1857

Henry Robertson reported that recent heavy rains had caused banks of sewer running through school grounds to give way

9 October 1857

D O'Driscoll, headmaster complained of heat in Infants school and rain leaks in wet weather

2 November 1857

Henry Robertson made suggestions about how to alleviate heat in Infant School and for repair of leak in roof

25 February 1858

Wilkins reported that Council street work had raised level of Castlereagh Street

29 September 1860

John S Jones, headmaster complained that lining of Infant School in "sad condition"

1 November 1861

Robertson's specification for various repairs such as stopping wall leaks, papering the walls, removing partitions, new gates, etc.

18 November 1861

Thomas Etherington, Pitt Street North tendered £192/10/- for works on school

28 March 1862

Headmaster requests that school be connected to water supply as pipes currently being laid in Cleveland Street

23 October 1863

J S Jones, headmaster complained of the crowded state of the buildings and of the oppressive condition of the building

2 July 1864

Henry Robertson reported on costs of erecting a new school room on pillars to raise it to the level of Castlereagh Street at a cost of £1,250 plus £200 to raise to street level

22 December 1865

Prince Alfred Park dedicated in former Cleveland Paddock

8 May 1866

Henry Robertson reported on necessary minor repairs to school, but noted that the building was worn out with dilapidated paper and canvas walls and not worth major repair

30 May 1866

Robertson also reported on costs of lining and painting school rooms etc. all for total cost of £205, but stated that the building was worn out and these repairs would extend its life for another 4 to 5 years

2.6.2 The New Building 1867-90**11 February 1867**

Frederick Bridges, Headmaster, reported that school in urgent need of repair, painting and lining

18 February 1867

G A Mansfield reported on the condition of the school

3 August 1867

Mansfield reported on school plans which he had prepared

14 September 1867

Mansfield recommended acceptance of Kelly and McLeod's tender of £3747 for mason and brickwork and Slade's of £2650 for carpenter's work

24 September 1867

Contracts were signed

14 October 1867

Town Clerk of Sydney approved use of park for 12 months

17 October 1867

Joseph Slade, contractor for the carpentry won work to shift school at £150

14 November 1867

Foundation stone laid by Governor Sir John Young

28 November 1867

Slade paid £160/10/- for removal and re-erection of school in park

1867

Council of Education's Annual Report stated that it had decided to erect a new school at Cleveland Street, due to its dilapidated condition, the unsuitability of the material from which it was built and the need for more space. Council of Education established under the Public Schools Act and George Allen Mansfield appointed as architect.

February 1868

First progress payments for works

June 1868

The school fittings were being installed

3 September 1868

Cleveland Street School opened in its new buildings, designed to accommodate 1,000

14 October 1868

Mansfield recommended installation of lightning conductors in school tower and recommended quote from Owen Brothers for £80

7 November 1868

Mansfield was instructed by Council to assess possibility of enclosing part of covered playground under the school to provide more classroom space

25 January 1869

Mansfield provided plan for enclosing part of basement under Boys' school at cost of £100

10 June 1871

Press claimed that the school was "the finest pile of buildings for school purposes in the colony"

28 June 1871

Headmaster L Finigan noted that the first floor windows needed protection from stones

20 July 1871

Council ordered covers for the drains and wash basins and cleaning of sand out of the pipes etc.

7 August 1871

L Finigan sought permission to establish a school cadet corps

6 August 1875

L Finigan stressed the need for a "babies" room since the "babies" and Infants classes were now 454 and were being taught in the same room

5 April 1881

Parents of nine boys who lived locally petitioned for the establishment of an evening public school at Cleveland Street

1 February 1882

Headmaster John P Rooney requested enlargement of classroom for fifth class boys as well as erection of room for the "babies"

13 April 1883

Headmaster John P Rooney again applied for additions to the school, since there were 634 pupils in the Infants' class

1884

Boys' closets and urinals erected

1886

Detail Survey showed the school as well as the parsonage to the west

March 1889

Repairs to fence in Cleveland Street

2.6.3 Expanding the School and its Site 1890-1912**1890**

Minister J H Carruthers visited school and saw how inadequate the basement classrooms were and subsequently approved the extensions which cost £4,400 in 1891

9 December 1890

Architect William E Kemp reported on plan he had prepared for an additional Girls' School in the grounds

23 January 1891

Valuation of manse by Richardson & Wrench

20 March 1891

Manse officially resumed

18 May 1891

Kemp reported that the closets had been too close to the school and that the resumption gave the opportunity to move them further away

18 November 1891

Kemp requested acceptance of Weekley's tender of £160 to erect an entrance lobby in the new building

11 December 1891

Kemp reported that part of the basement openings of the old school should be enclosed to prevent access to the new building after hours

22 June 1893

Resumed area was too open to street and tramps were found to be using the Girls' toilets

6 May 1895

Mary Smith, in charge of Girls' Department appealed for extra timber classrooms in grounds since in the winter months there is nowhere to house the girls who are taught in the basement

1895

Proposal to erect wooden classroom was rejected by City Building Surveyor

1 July 1895

Contract signed to erect masonry classrooms

29 August 1895

Kemp informed that the girls' classroom was complete

25 March 1896

Board of Health ordered that teaching in the basement was to cease

18 July 1898

Mary Smith applied to have part of the Upper Landing enclosed with a partition and be fitted with seats with backs to use as sewing room

1 February 1901

G Wigram, architect, recommended enclosure of area under the Girls' School, installation of floor, doors and boarded walls to fit it up as classroom

April 1901

Application to formally establish an Evening Public School

11 January 1906

Teacher in charge of manual training, Mr Conway, appealed to department for better accommodation

22 June 1906

R S Wells, Schools Architect recommended that a new brick building at northern end of boys' playground was best option and would house manual training room, science laboratory and lecture room and two classrooms at cost of £1,660. A smaller building with manual and science rooms only could be built for £750

20 August 1906

Deputation of school parents met Minister B B O'Connor

15 November 1906

Approval was given to proceed with Wells' alternatives 2 and 3, i.e. to raise a second storey over the Infants school to provide three classrooms to seat 146 pupils and to erect a separate Infants Building on western school boundary to seat 112 infants and then use the basement of the boy's school for manual training

12 February 1907

Sewerage diagram of school showed buildings and lines

28 February 1907

W L Vernon signed plans for proposed additions to Boys' school comprising an additional wing on Castlereagh Street between the Infants School and the original building

28 March 1907

Mistress of Infants' School requested removal of the gallery in the main room and its replacement by two blocks of desks for the kindergarten class

12 October 1908

Removal of the last gallery

27 November 1907

Infants' School erection was approved at cost of £5,000

December 1907

Girls' classroom floor was levelled and sixty single desks for girls 15 to 17 years old were installed

28 April 1908

W L Vernon signed plan for new building for Infants and Girls

25 November 1908

Contract with Thomas Jones, Randle Street, Marrickville to complete additions for £5,860/14/-

29 December 1908

R M Wells recommended complete replacement of “antiquated long latrine troughs”

21 July 1909

Official notice of completion of additions for manual training and science classes

25 September 1909

Contract with John Fenton, Botany Street, Randwick for new closets and other works, plus repair of stone coping

17 March 1910

Completion of fitting up and conversion of a room to become a science room

May 1911

A Commercial Continuation School commenced “with a large attendance”

July 1911

Commencement of an Artisan Continuation School was approved

2.6.4 High School and Language Centre 1912 to date**January 1912**

Intermediate High School for boys and girls

24 December 1912

George McRae, the Government Architect signed a plan for a new building for the boys

30 October 1912

Approval for Saxton and Binns to erect three portable classrooms at £160 each

5 August 1913

Final completion certificate for £122/14/- issued for completion of a pavilion classroom by F Vernon, Thompson Street Marrickville

28 July 1914

Contract accepted for J K Wilson, 162 Union Street, Erskineville to erect portable classrooms, along park fence to north of existing temporary classroom

August 1915

A drawing area was established for the school

31 July 1916

R S Wells signed plan for Proposed Boys School adjacent to Chalmers Street

28 December 1916

Plan of proposed science room prepared by R C Wells, schools architect

1916

A new science room was built by the Drummoyne Workshops for £600

25 April 1918

Alterations to the Girls' School were completed

22 October 1919

Electric lighting was

24 September 1919

Alterations to the Manual Training Room completed

23 February 1925

Major additions completed

1929

Intermediate high school for boys only

October 1934

Plan prepared for tar paving showed location of all buildings

November 1934

Headmaster requested better security measures such as strong wire guards to 17 basement windows and iron bars for staff room

1935

Cleveland Street was widened

July 1935

Traffic Police refuse to re-route traffic in Cleveland Street to reduce noise impact upon school

April 1937

AWA, manufacturers of the Fisk Soundproof Window treatment supplied details to Department

December 1937

Noted Australian filmmaker Frank Hurley filmed scenes for his film "A Nation is Built" at Cleveland Street

11 June 1940

A Cleaners' dressing room was completed

1957

Minor works around school included new tuckshop, new toilet block completed in July and strengthening of wall of the original building facing the park

December 1958

Fire in part of school

25 March 1959

Plans finalised by Concrete Industries (Australia) Pty Ltd for new science block along western boundary with Prince Alfred Park

29 May 1964

An area of 2 roods 16 perches was taken from the park and dedicated for school purposes

December 1966

Primary School closed so whole site could be used as High School

6 November 1967

E H Farmer signed plans for drawings prepared by Government Architect in association with Spain, Cosh and Stewart for new science and classroom block plus alterations to existing buildings

1977

Complex becomes a general high school, rest of school moves to Alexandria and renamed Alexandria Park Community School.

1981-2016

Cleveland Street given special task of providing Intensive English High School

2016

Planning commences for new comprehensive school.²¹⁰

²¹⁰ SMH, 6 Aug 2011, 11

BIBLIOGRAPHY

MAPS AND PLANS - STATE RECORDS OF NSW

Trigonometrical Survey of Sydney, 1865, Sh S1

Plan of One Rood authorised as a Site for a Wesleyan Manse, March 1851, (originally C.448.730), SR Map 2169

MAPS AND PLANS - MITCHELL LIBRARY

Lands, Metropolitan Detail Survey, M Ser 4 811.17/1, City of Sydney, Area J2, 1886

Sydney Subdivision Plans – City of Sydney – Area 811.1747

MAPS AND PLANS – LAND AND PROPERTY INFORMATION

Crown Plans

MAPS AND PLANS – COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SYDNEY ARCHIVES

1855 Detail Survey, Sheet 23

1865 Trigonometrical Survey, Sheet S1

PICTORIAL SOURCES - STATE RECORDS OF NSW

NRS 4481

PICTORIAL SOURCES - MITCHELL LIBRARY

Government Printing Office collection

Pictorial collection

Small Picture File – ‘Sydney – Schools & Colleges – Cleveland Street’, PXA 2113, Box 62

PICTORIAL SOURCES - COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SYDNEY ARCHIVES

ArchivePix collection

MANUSCRIPT SOURCES - STATE RECORDS OF NSW

Board of National Education, Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1855-66, 1/399-1/443B

Council of Education, Contents Lists of Letters Received, 1867-69, 1/477-8

Council of Education, Letters Received, 1867-75, 1/735-1/758, 1/767-73; 1/774-95; 1/805-830; 1/839-58; 1/866-8; 1/895-919; 1/937-56; 1/959-82; 1/990-1016

Dept. of Education, Card catalogue of building work, 1916-35, 11/15370

Dept. of Education, Correspondence, Files relating to school buildings, 1967-70, 5/8312.1

Dept. of Education School Files

Cleveland Street, 1876-88, 5/15394.2

Cleveland Street, 1889-95, 5/15395

Cleveland Street, 1896-1904, 5/15396

Cleveland Street, 1904-09, 5/15397

Cleveland Street, 1910-12, 5/15398

Cleveland Street, 1913, 5/15399

Cleveland Street, 1914-7, 5/15400

Cleveland Street, 1934-6, 5/15406

Cleveland Street, 1937-9, 5/15407

Cleveland Street, 1939-71, 14/7402

Dept. of Education - Properties Branch, Registers of Assets, A-K 11/15327

Public Works, School and tertiary education buildings files (S & SB files), Cleveland Street High School, Repairs/Maintenance, 1987-88, NRS 4352, S5345/25

NEWSPAPERS

Australian Town & Country Journal, 1871

Sydney Mail, 1867-9

Sydney Morning Herald

PRIMARY SOURCES - PRINTED BOOKS AND ARTICLES

Cleveland Street Echo, 1899-1901, 1919, 1956-67

Board of National Education, Annual Reports, 1855-6

Council of Education, Annual Reports, 1867-8

James, Brian [pseudonym for John Tierney], The Advancement of Spencer Button, [novel], Angus & Robertson, Sydney, 1974 edition (originally published 1950)

SECONDARY SOURCES

Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 2, 1788-1850, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 1967

Gibbney, H J & Ann G Smith (eds) A Biographical Register 1788-1939, Anutech, Canberra, 1987

Martin, A W, Henry Parkes: A Biography, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 1980

3 PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF CONTEXT AND VIEWS

3.1 Context Surrounding the Site

The site of the Former Cleveland Street Primary School is bounded by Chalmers Street to the east of the site and Cleveland Street along the southern boundary. Cleveland Street is a busy thoroughfare which extends from Chippendale through to Anzac Parade. Chalmers Street is a reasonably wide street with one directional traffic merging with Elizabeth Street further north of the site. The site is approximately 5800m² and is rectangular in shape. The frontage to Chalmers Street is approximately 100 metres in length (along the eastern boundary), whilst the frontage to Cleveland Street is approximately 60 metres in length (along the southern boundary). The site is also bounded by Prince Alfred Park on two sides, the northern and western boundaries. The park itself is bounded by the Central Railway Station, including the city and country lines extending to Central Railway Station.

Prince Alfred Park is a large green urban space consisting of a public swimming pool, tennis courts and recreational space with vehicular access roads, including an emergency vehicular access to the north of the School site, and various sealed paths intersecting the open space. The park contains mature trees around the perimeter of the park which include Morton Bay Figs, Plane trees, Kauri Pine and Eucalypts as seen at the southern end of the Park, extending adjacent to the Cleveland Street frontage of the former CSPS.

The built context surrounding the site consists of both commercial and residential development of varying scale and age. Immediately located to the south western end of the site is the Strawberry Hills Post Office and new residential development has recently been constructed to the east of the park. On the opposite corners to the site are smaller scale buildings positioned close to the street frontages. Significant buildings located adjacent to the south western corner of the park are St Andrew's Greek Orthodox Theological College and Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia.

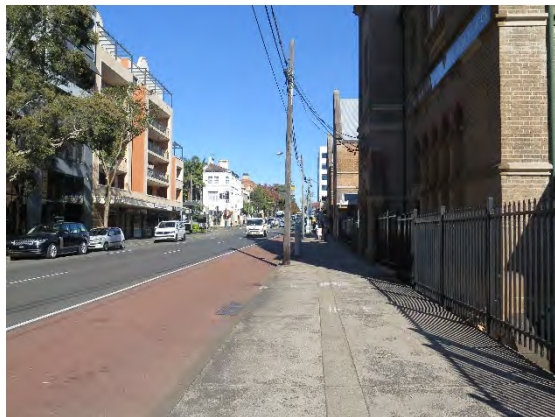


FIGURE 3.1 VIEW ALONG CHALMERS STREET LOOKING SOUTH.
THE FORMER CSPS CAN BE SEEN ON THE RIGHT
SOURCE: OCP ARCHITECTS, 2016



FIGURE 3.2 VIEW LOOKING SOUTH FROM PRINCE ALFRED PARK
TOWARDS CHALMERS STREET
SOURCE: OCP ARCHITECTS, 2016



FIGURE 3.3 VIEW LOOKING EAST ALONG CLEVELAND STREET AT CROSSING OVER CHALMERS STREET SHOWING SURROUNDING DEVELOPMENT
SOURCE: OCP ARCHITECTS, 2016



FIGURE 3.4 VIEW LOOKING SOUTH ALONG CHALMERS STREET SHOWING SURROUNDING DEVELOPMENT
SOURCE: OCP ARCHITECTS, 2016

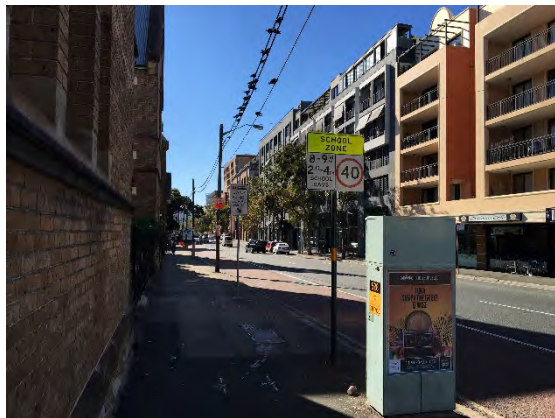


FIGURE 3.5 VIEW LOOKING NORTH ALONG CHALMERS STREET SHOWING SURROUNDING DEVELOPMENT
SOURCE: OCP ARCHITECTS, 2016



FIGURE 3.6 VIEW LOOKING WEST ALONG CLEVELAND STREET SHOWING THE STRAWBERRY HILLS POST OFFICE ON THE LEFT
SOURCE: OCP ARCHITECTS, 2016



FIGURE 3.7 VIEW ALONG CLEVELAND STREET LOOKING WEST. THE PALISADE FENCE CAN BE SEEN ON THE RIGHT
SOURCE: OCP ARCHITECTS, 2016



FIGURE 3.8 VIEW LOOKING NORTH FROM CLEVELAND STREET TOWARD PRINCE ALFRED PARK. BUILDING 4 CAN BE SEEN ON THE RIGHT (SHOWN BY RED ARROW)
SOURCE: OCP ARCHITECTS, 2016



FIGURE 3.9 VIEW LOOKING EAST ALONG CLEVELAND STREET TOWARD PRINCE ALFRED PARK WITH BUILDING 4 SEEN IN THE DISTANCE

SOURCE: OCP ARCHITECTS, 2016



FIGURE 3.10 VIEW OF PRINCE ALFRED PARK LOOKING NORTH
SOURCE: OCP ARCHITECTS, 2016



FIGURE 3.11 TREES AS SEEN ALONG THE WEST BOUNDARY OF THE SCHOOL SITE

SOURCE: OCP ARCHITECTS, 2016



FIGURE 3.12 VIEW LOOKING EAST TOWARD CHALMERS STREET, BUILDING 3 CAN BE SEEN ON THE RIGHT
SOURCE: OCP ARCHITECTS, 2016

3.2 Views

The former Cleveland Street Public School is notable in the local streetscape, with views to the site from Chalmers Street, Cleveland Street and from Prince Alfred Park. The façades of Buildings 1A, 2 and 3 are prominently visible from Chalmers Street. Buildings 4 and 1B can also be viewed from Chalmers Street via the north east and south east courtyards respectively. Building 1 is prominent from Cleveland Street, while Building 4 is also visible along a long stretch of Cleveland Street.

Prior to the construction of Building 4 in the 1960s, there were largely unobstructed views across Prince Alfred Park to the west and north west from the school site that contributed significantly to the visual amenity of the site. Today, from the north west courtyard there remain expansive views north and west over Prince Alfred Park. From this courtyard there is also a line of sight to the main courtyard and to the north east courtyard. Within the site, it is an important feature of the school site that a line of sight connects the main courtyard with the smaller surrounding courtyards.

While the north east courtyard has connecting views to the north west court yard, views of Chalmers Street from the former are limited by the relative ground levels. Views of Chalmers and Cleveland Streets from the south east courtyard are similarly limited. There are views west and north west over Prince Alfred Park from the south west courtyard, though these are somewhat obscured by vegetation.

Important view lines are shown in Figure 3.13 below.

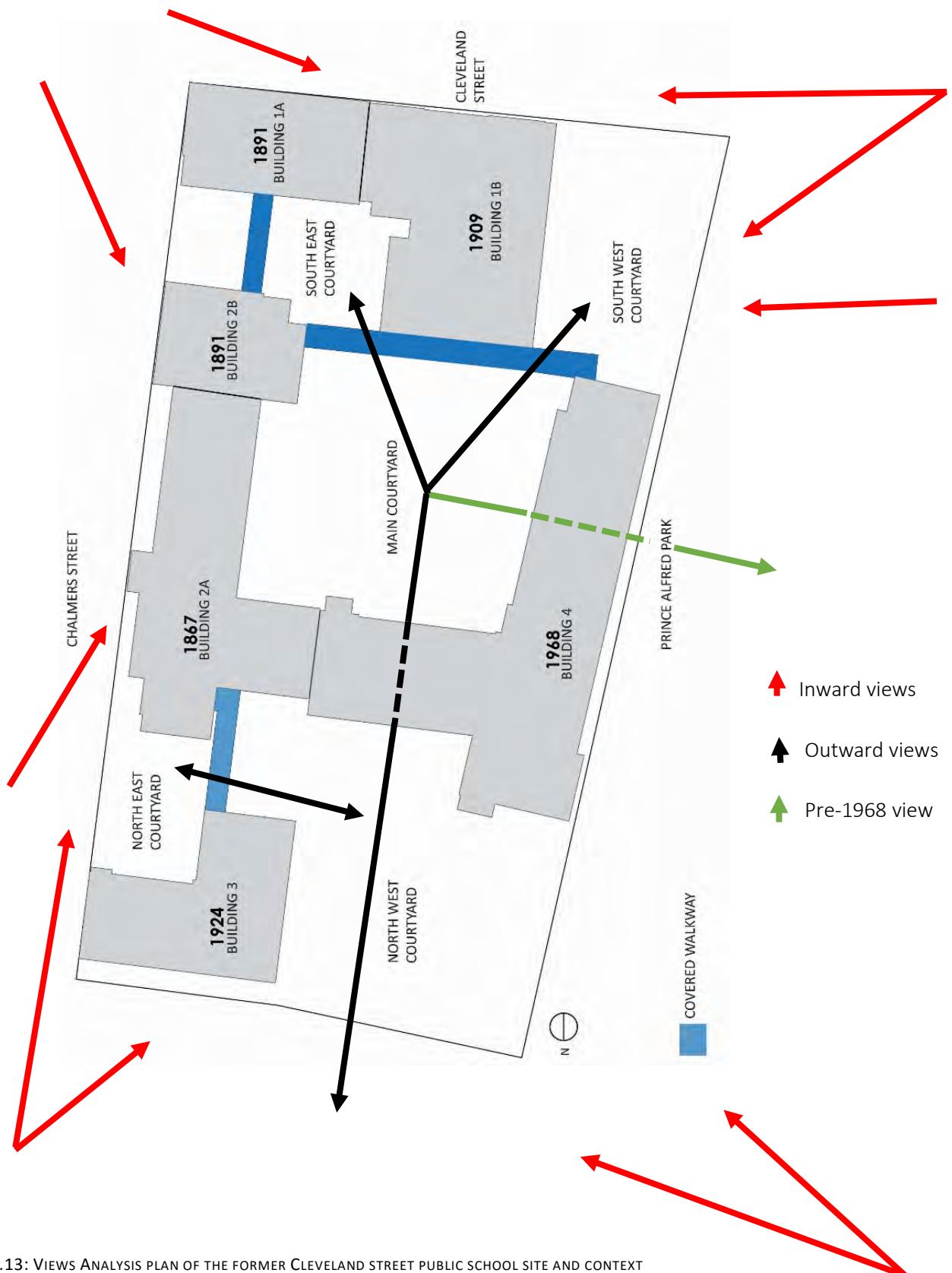


FIGURE 3.13: VIEWS ANALYSIS PLAN OF THE FORMER CLEVELAND STREET PUBLIC SCHOOL SITE AND CONTEXT