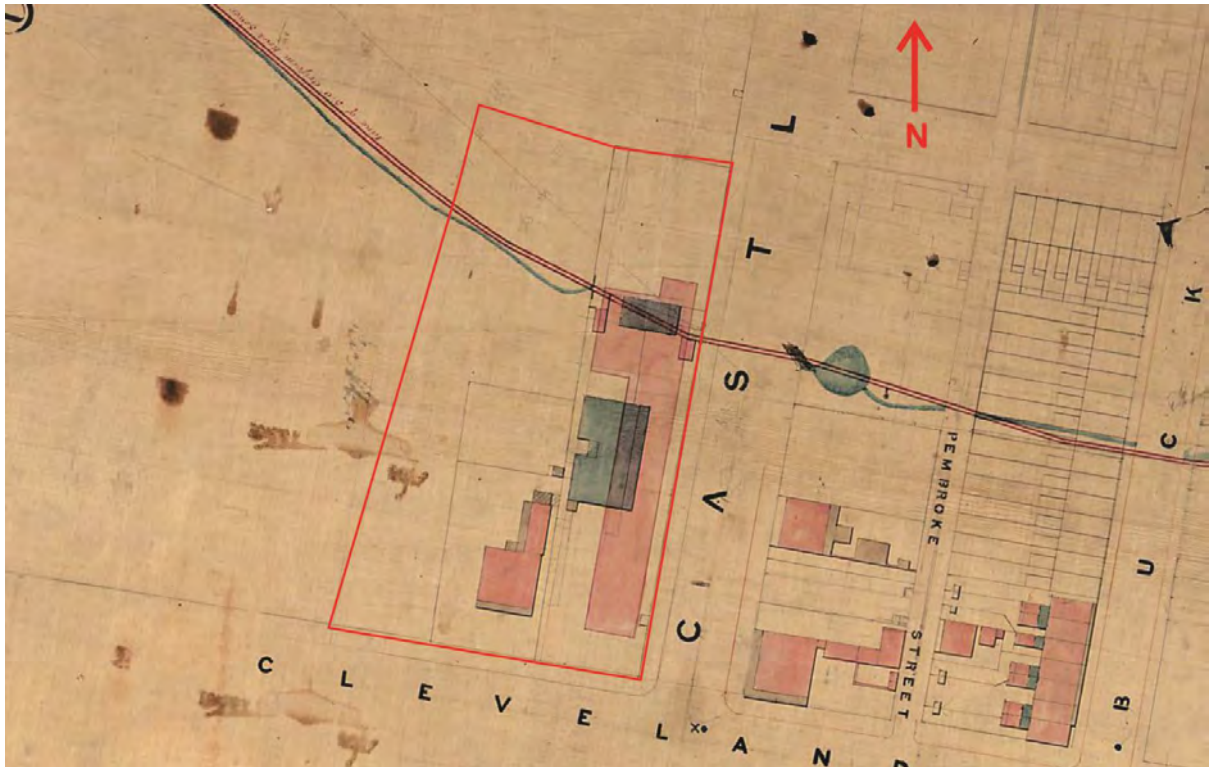


Archaeological Assessment

244 Cleveland Street, Surry Hills



Detail of c.1865 plan with the study area outlined in red. Trigonometrical Survey, Section S, Historical Atlas of Sydney, City of Sydney Archives.

Report to



OCP Architects

on behalf of

The Department of Education

July 2016

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report assesses the potential impacts on historical archaeological remains during the redevelopment of the Cleveland Street Intensive English High School site into a 1,200 or 1,500 place comprehensive secondary school.

RESULTS

The study area, 244 Cleveland Street, Surry Hills has been assessed as containing the following potential archaeological features:

- Foundations of the original 1855 school building and associated structures
- Foundations of the c.1855 Wesleyan parsonage and associated structures
- A c.1865 brick oviform drain and earlier creek line.
- Evidence for other unrecorded structures associated with the school, parsonage and park
- Artefact deposits including rubbish pits and backfilled cesspits associated with the school, parsonage and park
- Evidence for landscaping, clearance and gardening activities associated with the school, parsonage and park

These potential archaeological features have been assessed as being of local heritage significance because of their research potential and their association with the standing locally significant school buildings.

The construction of the proposed building and excavation of four lift pits will have a substantial impact on the potential archaeological resource, however most of these impacts will occur in areas assessed as having only low or low to moderate archaeological potential. Impacts to areas of moderate potential are also possible during landscaping and gardening works.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The proposed design indicates there is a small possibility that archaeological remains of potential local heritage significance will be impacted during construction works. In order to mitigate this impact, archaeological monitoring is recommended.
2. A program of archaeological monitoring needs to be undertaken by an appropriately qualified archaeologist, as outlined in Section 6.0.
3. A report presenting the results of the archaeological program and artefact catalogue will be a condition of consent and will be prepared at the end of the archaeological program.
4. Any archaeological program needs to be reported on in accordance with Heritage Council guidelines.
5. Any artefacts collected and retained during the works will need to be catalogued and then securely stored by the client after the completion of the archaeological program.

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Document Status

Name	Date	Purpose	Author	Approved
Draft 1	6/7/16	internal review	Sandra Kuiters	Tony Lowe
Draft 2	11/7/16	Issue to client for review	Sandra Kuiters	Tony Lowe

Archaeological Assessment 244 Cleveland Street, Surry Hills

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

Casey & Lowe have been engaged by OCP Architects on behalf of the Department of Education to prepare an archaeological assessment for the former Cleveland Street Primary School at 244 Cleveland Street, Surry Hills. The site is currently used as the Cleveland Street Intensive English High School. This report has been prepared in response to proposed works to convert the site into a comprehensive secondary school for 1,200 to 1,500 students. It has been prepared to support a State Significant Development Application (SSDA) to be submitted to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure pursuant to Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

A school has been located in the study area since 1855. The study area is listed as an item of local significance on the Sydney LEP 2012. It is also listed on the Department of Education S170 Heritage and Conservation Register and other heritage lists. A c.1855 Wesleyan parsonage or manse and part of Prince Alfred Park have also occupied part of the study area.

This report assesses the historical archaeological potential of the study area. It does not assess the potential for Aboriginal archaeology associated with the site.

1.2 Study Area

The study area, 244 Cleveland Street, is located within the Sydney suburb of Surry Hills (Figure 1.1). It consists of cadastral units DP 797483, DP 797484 and DP 821649. It is on the northwest corner of Cleveland and Chalmers Streets, and is bound by Prince Alfred Park on the north and west (Figure 1.2).

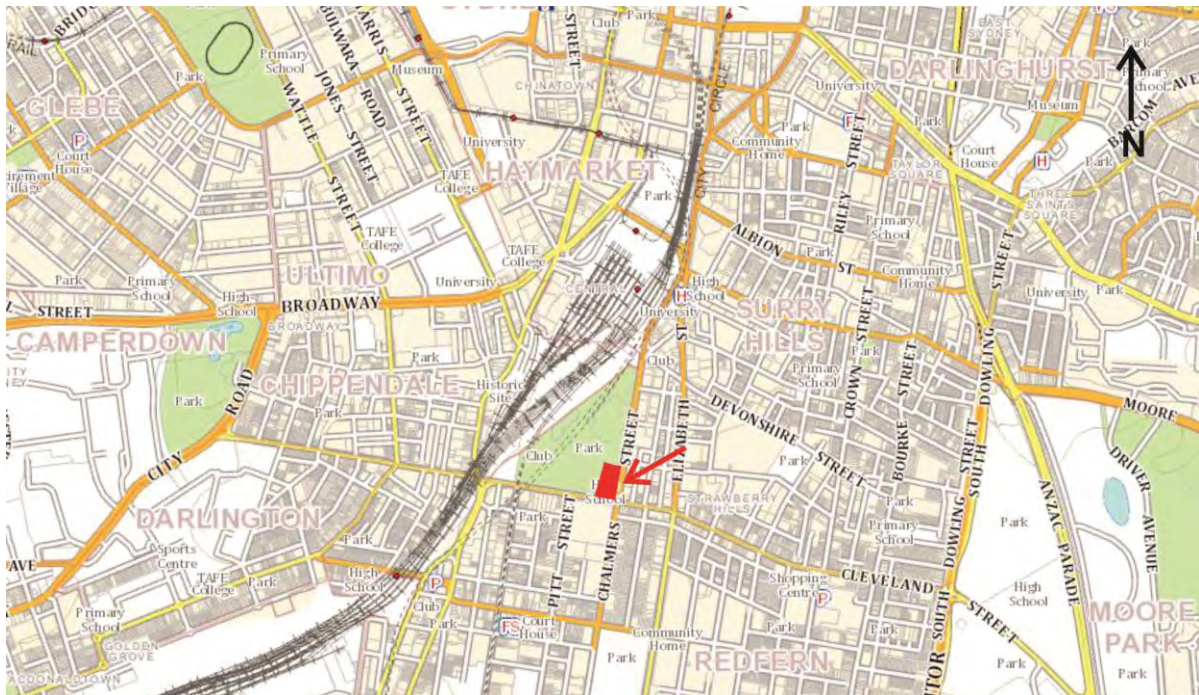


Figure 1.1: Map showing the location of the study area in red and arrowed. Base map from SIX Maps, NSW LPI.



Figure 1.2: Recent satellite image of the study area. Base photograph from SIX Maps, NSW LPI.

1.3 Previous reports

The heritage of the study area has been the subject of two previous reports:

Perumal Murphy Alessi Heritage Consultants, 2015, *Former Cleveland Street Primary School, No. 244 Cleveland Street, Surry Hills*, report on behalf of the Department of Education, September 2014.

Perumal Murphy Wu Heritage Consultants, 2002, *Draft Conservation Management Plan Cleveland Street Intensive English Centre*, April 2002.

This archaeological assessment was prepared with reference to the 2015 heritage assessment. The 2002 draft DMP was not consulted.

1.4 Statutory Constraints

1.4.1 Legislation under Part 4, Division 4.1

Environmental Planning & Assessment Act Part 4, Division 4.1

The current project is being undertaken as a State significant development under Part 4, Division 4.1. The Director General's Requirements for this project were updated and reissued on 21 January 2013.

Director-General's Requirements

The specific issues identified in the DGR's include:

- (2) Policies and Guidelines to be addressed: *Heritage Council Guidelines Assessing the Significance of Archaeological Sites and Relics*.
- (10) Heritage
 - Address the impacts of the proposal on heritage significance of the site and adjacent area including any built and landscape heritage items including places, items or relics of significance to Aboriginal people; and

- Consultation with Office of Environment and Heritage.
- Deliverables Table:
 - Heritage Impact Assessment for SSDA2.
 - Development specific heritage/archaeological reports for SSDA2, SSDA3, SSDA4, SSDA5, SSDA6.

Casey & Lowe are writing a Non-Indigenous Archaeological Assessment that fulfils the guidelines of the NSW Heritage Council and addresses *Assessing the Significance of Archaeological Sites and Relics*.

89J Approvals etc - legislation that does not apply:

As stated in 89J:

1. The following authorisations are not required for State significant development that is authorised by a development consent granted after the commencement of this Division (and accordingly the provisions of any Act that prohibit an activity without such an authority do not apply):
 - (c) an approval under Part 4, or an excavation permit under section 139, of the *Heritage Act 1977*,
 - (d) an Aboriginal heritage impact permit under section 90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.
2. Division 8 of Part 6 of the *Heritage Act 1977* does not apply to prevent or interfere with the carrying out of State significant development that is authorised by a development consent granted after the commencement of this Division.

In effect, the Department of Planning and Infrastructure provides consent to impact on relics under 89J. Therefore no approvals are required under S139 or S57 of the *Heritage Act 1977* or S90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. The Department of Planning and Infrastructure will of course consult with the Office of Environment and Planning, both the Heritage Division and the Aboriginal Heritage Section, and the proposed work needs to conform with Heritage Division and Aboriginal Heritage Branch guidelines. This section does not exempt requirements under S170 of the Heritage Act.

1.4.2 NSW Heritage Act 1977

When a site is not being assessed under the EP&A Act, Part 4.1 the main legislative constraint on archaeological remains is the relics provisions of the *Heritage Act 1977*. Provisions relating to S139 of the *Heritage Act 1977* are suspended by Part 4.1, Division 4.1, S89J.

According to Section 139:

- (1) *A person must not disturb or excavate any land knowing or having reasonable cause to suspect that the disturbance or excavation will or is likely to result in a relic being discovered, exposed, moved, damaged or destroyed unless the disturbance or excavation is carried out in accordance with an excavation permit.*
- (2) *A person must not disturb or excavate any land on which the person has discovered or exposed a relic except in accordance with an excavation permit.*
- ...
- (4) *The Heritage Council may by order published in the Gazette create exceptions to this section, either unconditionally or subject to conditions, in respect of any of the following:*
 - a. *any relic of a specified kind or description,*
 - b. *any disturbance or excavation of a specified kind or description,*
 - c. *any disturbance or excavation of land in a specified location or having specified features or attributes,*

- d. *any disturbance or excavation of land in respect of which an archaeological assessment approved by the Heritage Council indicates that there is little likelihood of there being any relics in the land.*

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

those places, buildings, works, relics, moveable objects, and precincts of State or local heritage significance.

A relic as further defined by the Act as:

any deposit, object or material evidence that:

- a) *relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement; and*
- b) *is of State or local heritage significance.*

1.4.3 Heritage Lists – S170 Register

The study area, 244 Cleveland Street, Surry Hills is not listed on the State Heritage Register, however, it is included on the Department of Education's S170 Heritage and Conservation Register (SHI Number 4640111).

1.4.4 Statutory and Non-statutory Guidelines

The management of heritage sites in New South Wales should conform to the requirements of the *Burra Charter* of Australia ICOMOS. Many of the following guidelines provide for best practice conservation approaches and can be used to inform all the management of the archaeological remains. There are a range of archaeological guidelines which inform the management of the place:

Archaeological Assessment Guidelines, NSW Heritage Office, Department of Urban Affairs & Planning, 1996. A new draft of this has been prepared but not yet published.

Assessing Significance for Archaeological Sites and 'Relics', Heritage Branch, Department of Planning, 2009.

NSW Heritage Manual, NSW Heritage Office, Department of Urban Affairs & Planning, 1996.

Historical Archaeological Investigations: A Code of Practice, NSW Department of Planning, 2006.

Historical Archaeological Sites, Investigation and Conservation Guidelines, Department of Planning and NSW Heritage Council, 1993.

Excavation Director's Assessment Criteria, NSW Heritage Office.

ICHAM Charter, The ICOMOS Charter for the Protection and Management of Archaeological Heritage, ICOMOS International, 1990.

Practice Note – The Burra Charter and Archaeological Practice, Australia ICOMOS 2013.

Recommendation on International Principles Applicable to Archaeological Excavations, UNESCO, 1956.

Heritage Interpretation Policy and Guidelines, Heritage Information Series, NSW Heritage Office, August 2005.

Photographic Recording of Heritage Items, Heritage Information Series, NSW Heritage Office, 2006.

1.4.5 Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012

Although the provisions of the Sydney 2012 LEP are primarily geared for built heritage items, it also includes the following requirements which are relevant to archaeological heritage:

5.10 Heritage conservation

(1) Objectives

The objectives of this clause are:

.....

- (c) to conserve archaeological sites,

(2) Requirement for consent

Development consent is required for any of the following:

.....

- (c) disturbing or excavating an archaeological site while knowing, or having reasonable cause to suspect, that the disturbance or excavation will or is likely to result in a relic being discovered, exposed, moved, damaged or destroyed,

.....

(7) Archaeological sites

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

- (a) notify the Heritage Council on its intention to grant consent, and
- (b) take into consideration any response received from the Heritage Council within 28 days after the notice is sent.

1.5 Heritage listings**1.5.1 Sydney LEP 2012**

The Sydney LEP 2012 lists the entire study area as a heritage item of local significance (I1477), 'Former Cleveland Street Public School, buildings including interiors, grounds and fence plinth'. It also includes neighbouring Prince Alfred Park (I1406), which borders the study area to the north and west (Figure 1.3). The study area is also in the vicinity of the Redfern Estate Heritage Conservation Area (C56) and Cleveland Gardens Heritage Conservation Area (C62), both of local significance.

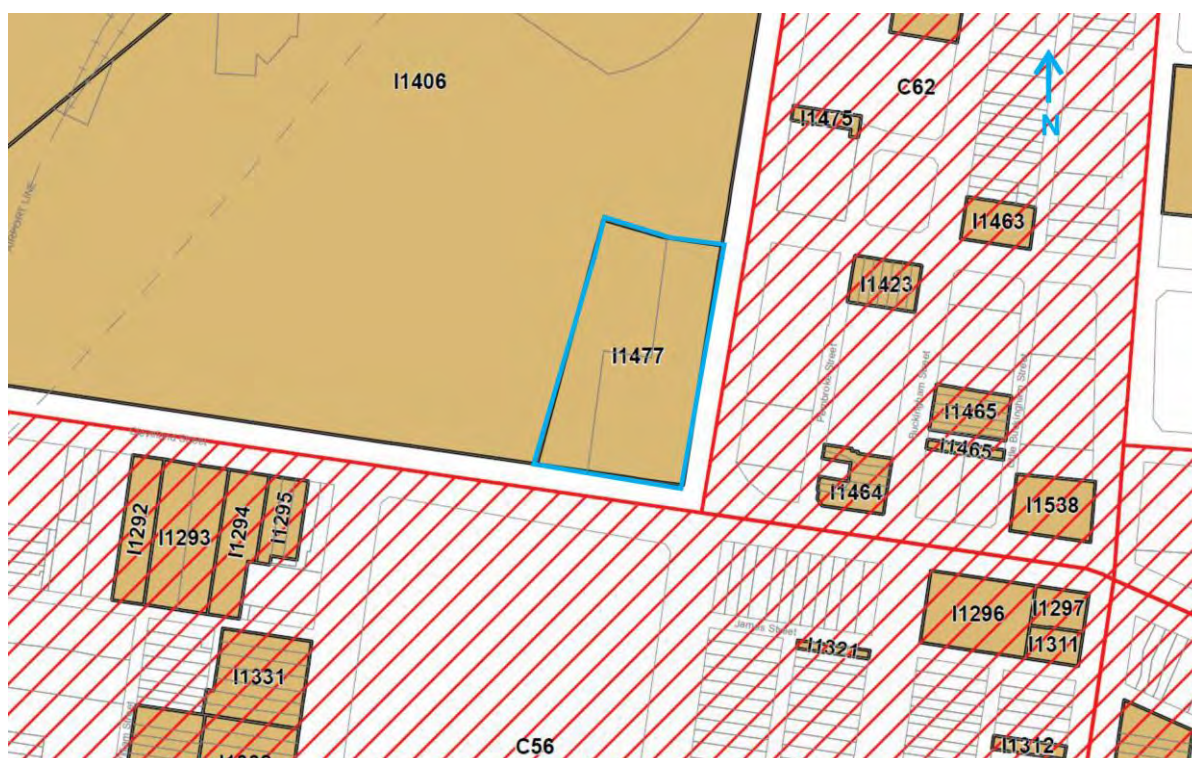


Figure 1.3: Detail from Sydney LEP 2012 Heritage Map 16, showing heritage items near the study area which are listed on the LEP, including Prince Alfred Park (I14016) bordering the study area to the north and west. Study area outlined in blue. Red hatching indicates Conservation Area.

1.5.2 Non-statutory heritage listings

A search of the Register of the National Estate (RNE) has been undertaken for the study area and immediate surrounds. This is a key non-statutory heritage list, which provides no statutory protection but is generally considered to be a sign of recognition of the heritage values of a site. The register lists the site itself as 'Cleveland Street Public School, 244 Cleveland St, Surry Hills, NSW, Australia' (Place ID 2247, Place File No. 1/12/0360418). The register provides the following statement of significance:

A picturesque example of a Victorian school complex which retains much of its original character externally and because it enlivens an otherwise mutilated area deserves to be preserved. It is probably the oldest remaining functioning inner suburban school in Sydney and has a long historical association with Redfern and Surry Hills.

Nearby and relevant properties listed on the RNE include:

- Prince Alfred Park, Cleveland Street, Surry Hills
- Cleveland House, 51 Buckingham Street, Surry Hills
- Crown Street Public School at 356 Crown Street, Surry Hills
- Greek Orthodox Church, 242 Cleveland Street, Surry Hills
- Railway Institute Building, Chalmers Street, Surry Hills

The National Trust of Australia (NSW) also includes the study area. Listings by the National Trust provide no statutory protection but are generally considered to be a sign of recognition of the heritage values of a site.

1.6 Authorship

This report has been prepared by Sandra Kuiters, Archaeologist/Artefact Specialist, Casey & Lowe, with reference to previous reports by Casey & Lowe. The historical background of this report (Section 2) is based on material written by Perumal Murphy Alessi Heritage Consultants.¹ Overlay plans were produced by Jane Rooke, Archaeologist, Casey & Lowe. This report has been reviewed by Tony Lowe, Director, Casey & Lowe.

1.7 Acknowledgements

Csilla Cserhalmi, OCP Architects

1.8 Abbreviations

ADB	<i>Australian Dictionary of Biography</i>
b.	born
c.	circa
CMP	Conservation Management Plan
DA	Development Application
DBYD	Dial Before You Dig
DNMT	Does Not Meet Threshold [for local archaeological heritage significance].
DP	Deposited Plan
ha	Hectare
HRA	<i>Historical Records of Australia</i>
IDA	Integrated Development Application
LEP	Local Environment Plan
LPI	Land and Property Information (NSW)
LPMA	Land and Property Management Authority (NSW) [a predecessor to the LPI].
ML	Mitchell Library (in the State Library of NSW)
NLA	National Library of NSW
n.d.	not dated
SHI	State Heritage Inventory
SHR	State Heritage Register
SLNSW	State Library of NSW
SRNSW	State Records of NSW

1.9 Glossary

The following terms are used in this report:

Historical Archaeology (Non-Indigenous/European)

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

- Archaeological Sites:
 - below ground: these contains relics which include building foundations, occupation deposits, rubbish pits, cesspits, wells, other features, and artefacts.

¹ Perumal Murphy Alessi 2015.

- above ground: buildings, works, industrial structures and relics that are intact or ruined.
- cultural landscapes: major foreshore reclamation
- maritime sites: infrastructure and shipbuilding
- shipwrecks
- structures associated with maritime activities.

Archaeological Potential

Archaeological potential is here used and defined as a site's potential to contain archaeological relics which fall under the provisions of the *Heritage Act 1977* (amended). This potential is identified through historical research and by judging whether current building or other activities have removed all evidence of known previous land use.

Archaeological Site

A place that contains evidence of past human activity. Below ground sites include building foundations, occupation deposits, features and artefacts. Above ground archaeological sites include buildings, works, industrial structures and relics that are intact or ruined.

Archaeological Investigation or Excavation

The manual excavation of an archaeological site. This type of excavation on historic sites usually involves the stratigraphic excavation of open areas.

Archaeological Monitoring

Archaeological monitoring is recommended for those areas where the impact of the works is not considered to mean the destruction of significant archaeological fabric. Nevertheless the disturbance of features both suspected and unsuspected is possible. In order to provide for the proper assessment and recording of these features an archaeologist should inspect the works site at intervals they consider to be adequate and to be 'at call' in case the contractor uncovers remains that should be assessed by the archaeologist.

Research Design

A set of questions which can be investigated using archaeological evidence and a methodology for addressing them. A research design is intended to ensure that archaeological investigations focus on genuine research needs. It is an important tool which ensures that when archaeological resources are destroyed by excavation, their information content can be preserved and can contribute to current and relevant knowledge.

Research Potential

The ability of archaeological evidence, through analysis and interpretation, to provide information about a site that could not be derived from any other source and which contributes to the archaeological significance of that site and its 'relics'.²

Relic

Means any deposit, artefact, object or material evidence that:

- (a) relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement, and
- (b) is of State or local heritage significance.

(NSW *Heritage Act 1977*, Definitions, Part 1.4)

² NSW Heritage Branch 2009: 11

2.0 Historical Background

This historical background summarises those aspects of most relevance to the assessment of the archaeological potential of the study area and is based on an extensive history of the property prepared by Perumal Murphy Alessi Heritage Consultants, 2015, *Heritage Assessment, Former Cleveland Street Primary School, No. 244 Cleveland Street, Surry Hills*.

2.1 Basic Phasing and Chronology:

2.1.1 Phase 1

- Natural landscape

2.1.2 Phase 2 (pre-1788)

- Aboriginal occupation

2.1.3 Phase 3 (1788-1850)

- Government land, Cleveland Paddock

2.1.4 Phase 4 (1850-1860s)

- Land was set aside at southwestern corner of government's 'Cleveland Paddock' for a school in 1850 (Figure 1.1).
- The following year land adjoining to the west of school was set aside for a Wesleyan Parsonage.
- Construction of the school underway in 1855. The building was timber with iron cladding and lined in canvas and paper. Outbuildings including water closets supplemented the main building (Figure 2.2). Cleveland Street National School opened in 1856.
- The 1855 City Detail sheet shows a creek running through the site.
- Sometime between 1855 and 1865 the Wesleyan Manse constructed (Figure 2.3).
- In the late 1850s council raise the level of Chalmers (formerly Castlereagh Street) by 6 feet, above the level of the school site, positioning the school in a hollow next to the street corner.
- In 1865 'Cleveland Paddock' was dedicated as Prince Alfred Park.
- The 1865 Trig survey shows creek formalised as oviform brick drain.

2.1.5 Phase 5 (1860s to present)

- In 1868 the new school opened (half covering the footprint of the original steel building). The new building (Building 2) was raised to street level and a covered play area was created beneath.
- The Wesleyan Parsonage was resumed and demolished in 1891 (Figure 2.4).
- In 1893 the new school building fronting Cleveland Street completed (part of Building 1), as well as two additional buildings in the southeast corner of the site.
- A retaining wall and fence were erected along Cleveland Street this same year, and ground levelling was undertaken. The toilet blocks were moved further north, away from the buildings at around this time (Figure 2.5).
- A new stone and brick girls' classroom was constructed in 1895.
- In 1907 a girls' classroom was levelled.
- An additional wing was added to the original building (Building 2), in 1909 and an Infants' building was completed in what was the southwest corner of the site at the time (part of Building 1).
- In 1912 an Intermediate High School for girls and boys was established on the site. The Primary School component continued to operate. A number of portable and pavilion classroom were erected during this period, including a 'fibro' clad structure in the playground used as a science room (Figure 2.5). A 1943 aerial photograph shows number of these small school buildings occupying land which still belonged to the park at this time (Figure 2.6).
- Electric lighting was installed in 1919.

- In 1925 a three storey Boys' School was completed in the northeast corner of the site (Building 3). It had concrete slab floors on the lower levels.
- Tar paving was undertaken in 1934.
- In the 1950s a new canteen and toilet block were built, and the wall of the 1868 building facing the park was strengthened.
- The old science building on the western boundary was demolished in 1959.
- In 1964 the school officially took an area of 2 roods 16 perches from the park, although the school had been occupying this area for some time previously. This consolidated the site that comprises of the three parcels that remain today (Figure 2.7). The new concrete building (Building 4) was constructed along the western portion of the study area.
- Various conservation, repair and upgrading works have been undertaken in the 21st century.

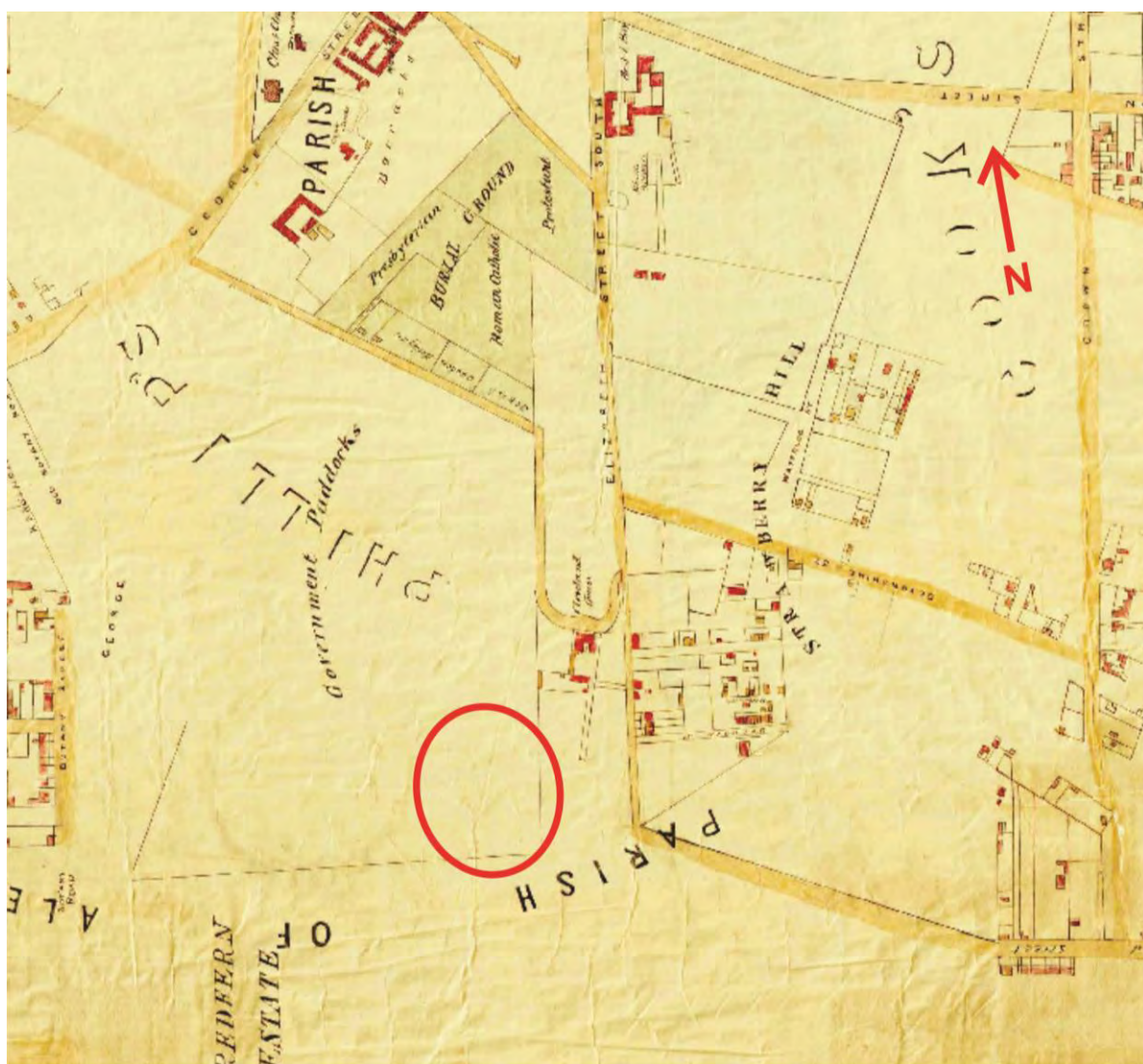


Figure 2.1: Approximate location of the study area in the southeast corner of Cleveland Paddock (circled in red). F.W. Shields, 'Map of the City of Sydney, New South Wales', 1844, *Historical Atlas of Sydney*, City of Sydney Archives.



Figure 2.2: Detail of the site configuration in 1855. The study area is outlined in red and the creek line can be seen crossing the north of the site. Orange shading indicates a water closet and blue shading indicates a building made from iron. City Detail Sheets, 1855, 'Sheet 23', *Historical Atlas of Sydney*, City of Sydney Archives.

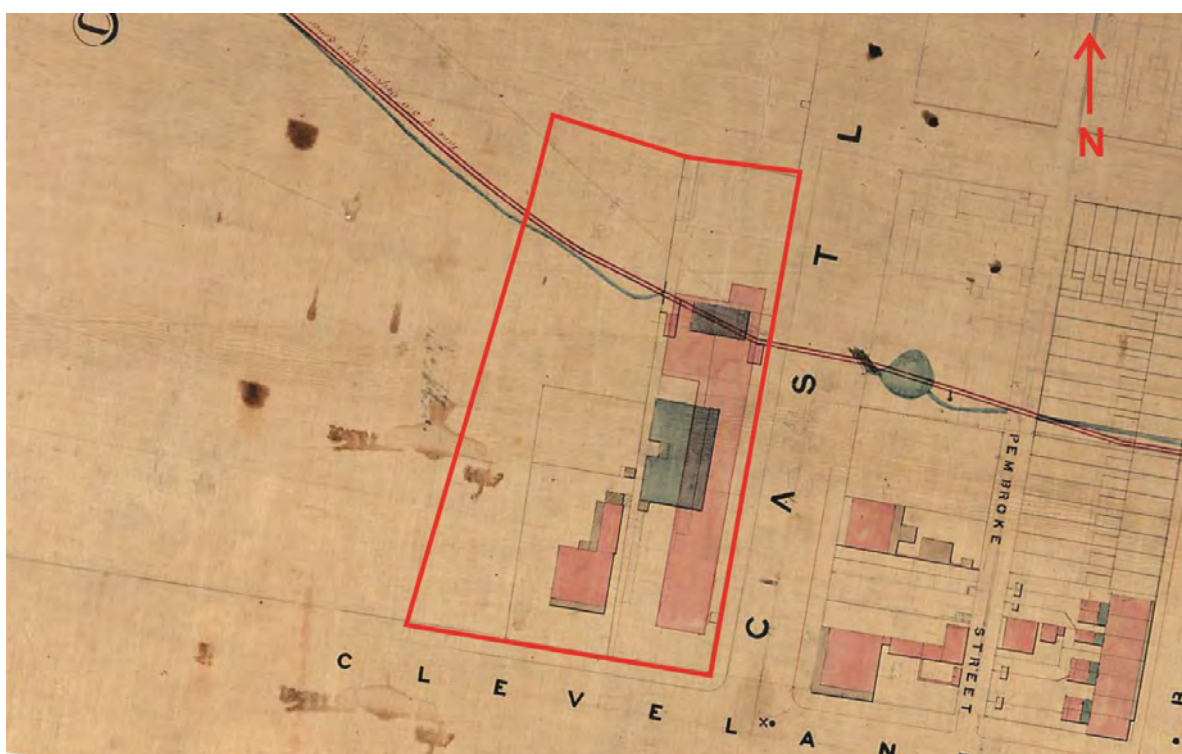


Figure 2.3: Detail of 1865 plan showing the study area outlined in red. The original school building and outbuilding to the north are shown in blue. The pink building overlapping the original buildings was either a later addition to the plan, or a speculative plan of the 1868 school building. The Wesleyan Manse is the pink and grey building to the southwest of the school structures. Trigonometrical Survey, Section S, *Historical Atlas of Sydney*, City of Sydney Archives.



Figure 2.4: This 1886 plan of the site (outlined in red) shows the 1868 school structure. The building in the centre-south of the study area is the Wesleyan Parsonage. 'City of Sydney, Section J2, 1886', Sydney detail sheets, Surveyor-General's Office, NSW, SLNSW.



Figure 2.5: c.1930s plan showing the main school structures at this time, as well as the upgraded toilet block in the centre of the site, and the science building on the western boundary of the study area, on land which was still officially owned by the park at this time. Sydney Water Plan, c.1930, Sydney Water Archives, BLKWTL3848 (2).



Figure 2.6: Multiple buildings within the study area in 1943. Note the buildings in the west and northwest corner of the site, which was still officially part of the park at this time (note air-raid trenches). SIX Maps, NSW LPI. Study area outlined in red.

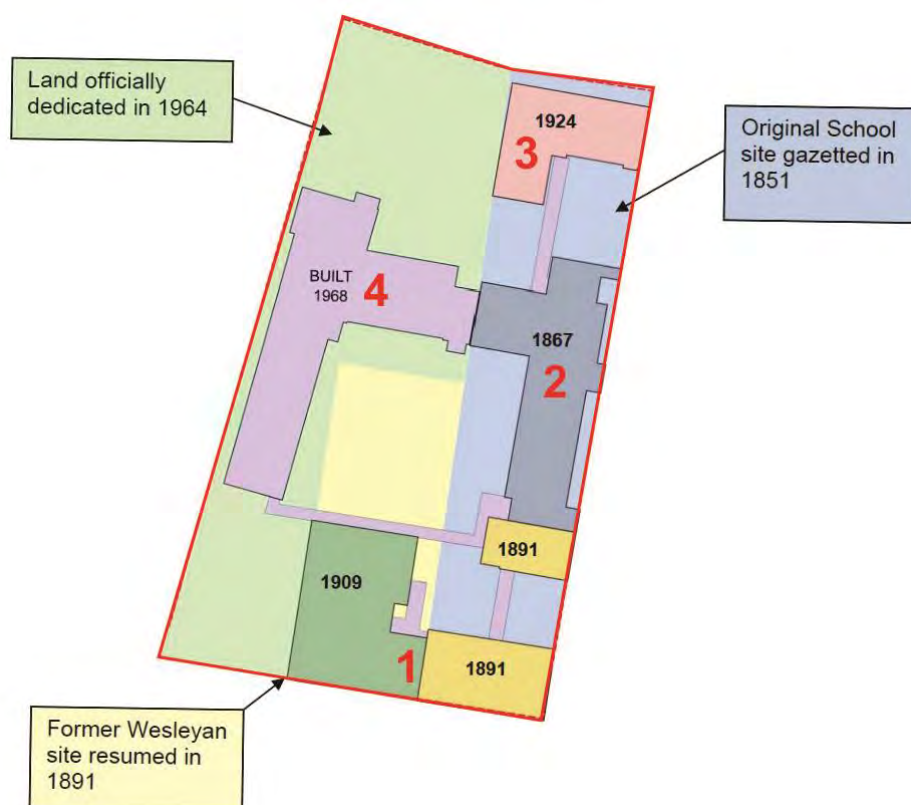


Figure 2.7: Plan showing building numbers and development within the study area over time. Base plan Perumal Murphy Alessi, 2015: 24. Casey & Lowe additions.

3.0 Archaeological Potential

3.1 Archaeological Potential

Archaeological Potential is the degree to which archaeological remains are considered likely to survive within the study area in light of modern impacts. This section assesses the Archaeological Potential of the study area based on available information. Section 4 will assess the Heritage Significance of the potential archaeological remains. Sections 5 and 6 will assess the potential impact of the proposed works within the study area and provide recommendations for dealing with any impacts.

3.2 Principles for assessing archaeological potential

A series of assumptions and general principles underlay the analysis of archaeological potential for colonial remains. These have been based on the experience of archaeologists working in New South Wales over the last 30 plus years.

Typical archaeological remains found at domestic sites in New South Wales take a number of forms:

- Structural remains associated with buildings shown on a historic plan are likely to survive but will be impacted by later phases of building. These remains include:
 - building footings
 - underfloor deposits associated with the occupation of a house
 - other types of deposits
- Certain types of remains are typically not shown on historic plans, although they occasionally feature on later plans. These include:
 - wells
 - underground water storage systems, including cisterns and reservoirs
 - cesspits
 - site drainage
 - rubbish pits
 - evidence for gardens, layout and use of the yard areas
 - pet burials
 - fencelines, assisting with clarification of lot boundaries and internal use of lots
 - pollen and soil evidence
 - land clearing and modification of the landform, including major filling events, i.e., backfilling of ponds or the creek line
 - rubbish dumps
 - other types of archaeological deposits

There are also several other common processes which determine the archaeological resource:

- Disused underground features such as wells, cisterns, reservoirs and cesspits tend to be backfilled with rubbish when they cease being used.
- Underfloor deposits typically form where the original flooring was butt-boarded timber floorboards.
 - These can survive in both demolished and standing structures, although the installation of later services and the replacement of flooring can impact on the integrity of underfloor deposits.
 - Underfloor deposits can include both small items which fell between floorboards, and also material which must have been deliberately deposited beneath loose floorboards.
 - Floor coverings such as oil-cloths and carpets can minimise the accumulation of items underneath a butt-boarded timber floor. Floor coverings like these would be more common in wealthier households.

- Subsequent replacement with tongue and groove floorboards or even capping the underfloor void with imported material (a strategy popular for dealing with rats),³ often will only have a limited impact on any archaeological deposit.
- Later building phases will impact on the remains of early phases.
- The greater the number of phases the more complicated the nature of the archaeological remains.

Other issues arise from the nature of impacts from later 20th-century activities such as demolition, clearing and construction. Generally the following principles apply:

- The later the date a building was demolished, then the greater the impact on the archaeological resource from larger modern machinery.
- Footing systems of single-storey buildings have less impact on the archaeology of earlier phases than those of multi-storey buildings.
- Demolishers and builders typically do as little as they have to because of the need to control costs.
- Higher areas get cut down and levelled and lower damp areas get filled.
- Roadways usually have impacts from modern services.

3.3 Site visit

On 30 June 2016, Tony Lowe, Sandra Kuiters and Jane Rooke, Casey & Lowe Pty Ltd, visited the property at 244 Cleveland Street and inspected the school grounds with particular focus on the outdoor areas. The interiors of the standing buildings were considered to have no archaeological potential (see Section 3.4) and were therefore not examined during the site visit.

There was considerable variation in ground level throughout the site. While it is known that the level of Chalmers Street was raised by 6 feet (1.8m) in the 1850s, there appears to be more than 6 feet separating the level of Chalmers Street from the ground level of the school in the eastern portion of the site (Figure 3.1). In this part of the site, the level of the ground appears to have been cut down below the original ground level to enable the use of the space below Building 2. Some parts are more cut down than others, and the most cut down area corresponds with the approximate location of the original 1855 school building (Figure 3.2).

Across the rest of the site the ground level generally stepped down from the southeast to the northwest, consisting of largely flat areas linked with sets of stairs. As a result of this terracing, the north and west of the site was more-or-less level with neighbouring Prince Alfred Park (Figure 3.3).

Most of the outdoor area of the site was covered in bitumen and various trees and garden beds were interspersed throughout the site (Figure 3.2). Multiple drainage grates and service access covers were also observed, indicating an extensive network of underground services.

³ This practice was observed at workers' housing excavated as part of the Darling Quarter redevelopment (Casey & Lowe 2013:412-413).



Figure 3.1: Playground area in the east of the site, between Buildings 1 and 2. The level of Chalmers Street is at the top of the sandstone retaining wall. View to the east.



Figure 3.2: Playground area to the west of Building 1 showing changes in ground level. The arrow points to the approximate location of the western half of the original school building. Note the multiple trees and garden beds. View to the north.



Figure 3.3: Playground in the northwest corner of the site, looking toward Prince Alfred Park. View to the northwest.

3.4 Overview of archaeological potential

The development and use of the land within the study area outlined in Section 2 has identified the following key structures:

- Original school building (1855 to c.1867)
- Wesleyan parsonage (c.1855 to 1891)
- Second school building (1868 to present)
- Brick oviform drain (pre-1865 to present)
- School building fronting Cleveland Street (1893 to present)
- School building, northeast corner of site (1924 to present)
- School building along western boundary of site (1964 to present)

A composite plan showing the location of known structures on the site since the 1850s is presented in Figure 3.4. This includes those listed above, as well as a number of smaller structures including various toilet facilities and temporary/portable buildings. Other small buildings are likely to have occupied parts of the site without having been recorded on known, surviving plans. Figure 3.5 divides the site into areas of archaeological potential based on the known location of both demolished and standing structures. Each level of archaeological potential will be discussed below.

The architect of the 1868 school structure recommended that the building be of brick cavity construction with stone foundations and hardwood floors on hardwood joists and bearers. Standing structures sometimes contain artefact deposits below floorboards and inside wall cavities, however, the continuous and intensive use of this building as an educational facility for more than 150 years means the likelihood of this type of archaeological material remaining *in situ* is very low. The interior of the 1868 structure has therefore been excluded from any further discussion of archaeological potential. All other buildings on the site are considered to be too modern to include archaeologically significant artefact deposits, and have similarly been excluded from any further discussion of archaeological potential.

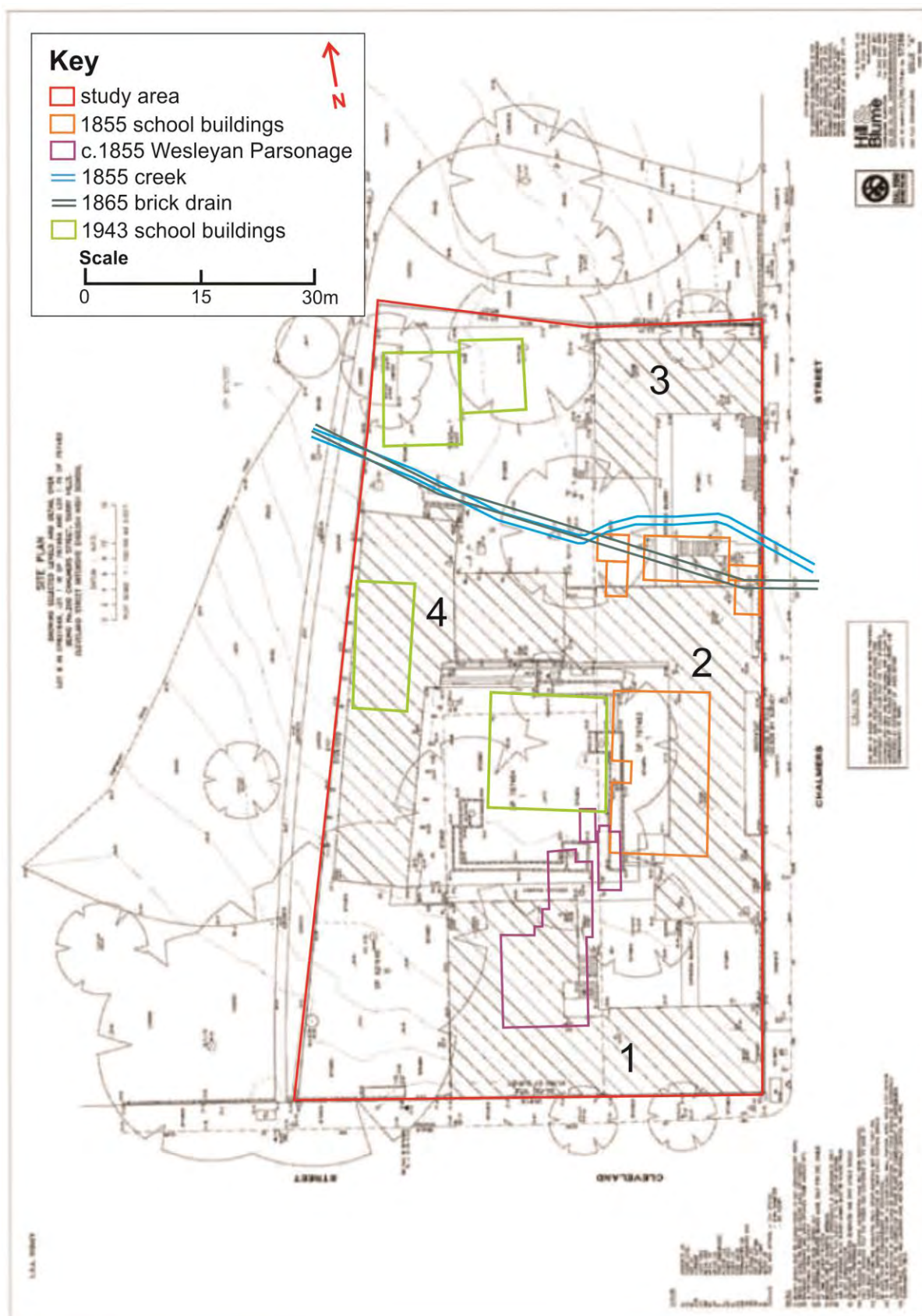


Figure 3.4: Outlines of the approximate location of known demolished buildings within the study area. The early creek line and c.1865 brick oviform drain area also shown. Buildings which are still standing have not been outlined but are indicated by the numbers 1-4 and black hatching. Base plan from Perumal Pedavoli 2015: 7.

3.4.1 Low archaeological potential, structure remaining

There is low potential for archaeological remains to survive beneath the still-standing structures which are not being demolished (Buildings 1, 2 and 3). These areas have been separated from other areas of archaeological potential because any archaeological remains below these structures are likely to have been significantly disturbed by the building of the present structures.

3.4.2 Low archaeological potential

The area below the 1960s structure (Building 4) has been assessed as having low archaeological potential. The foundations of the present large, concrete building are likely to have removed all but the deepest traces of archaeological remains. Furthermore, this area was part of Prince Alfred Park throughout most of the 19th century. The only structure known to have been located within this area was the science building, dating to c.1912. No remains of this building are expected to have survived. Other buildings related to the school may have been located in this area but evidence of these is similarly not expected to have survived.

3.4.3 Low to moderate archaeological potential

Much of the site has been assessed as having low to moderate archaeological potential. These areas are likely to have been significantly disturbed by ground levelling and landscaping activities, the installation and upgrade of services, and other various activities throughout the site's history. It is, however, possible that intact archaeological remains of unrecorded structures and artefact deposits survive in these areas.

In 1890, it was noted that almost the whole of the site (then just the eastern half of the study area) was covered in buildings. These additional buildings are not evident on any of the historic plans so it is not known exactly where they were located. There is therefore a low to moderate potential for the remains of these unrecorded structures to be present, particularly in the eastern half of the site. Unrecorded structures associated with the use of the park and the parsonage are also possible, but are not thought to be likely. Small structures, wells, cisterns and cesspits are possible, as well as fencelines. These might be associated with the school, parsonage or park.

Non-structural features associated with the use of the park, parsonage and school are also possible. These features may include yard deposits, rubbish dumps and drainage channels, as well as garden plantings and other evidence of early land clearance and landscaping.

There is a very small possibility of evidence of early land clearance and cultivation associated with the use of the site as part of the government's Cleveland Paddock. If such remains survive, they are most likely to be located in the areas of low to moderate potential. These remains could be in the form of tool marks and tree boles and are likely to be ephemeral and heavily impacted by later activities at the site.

3.4.4 Moderate archaeological potential

Areas identified as having moderate archaeological potential correspond with the locations of known 19th-century structures and features outside of the footprints of standing structures. These features include those associated with the first phase of school buildings, the parsonage, and a c.1865 brick oviform drain following an earlier creek line (Figure 2.2 and Figure 2.3). It should be noted that the level of the ground may have been cut down in some areas assessed as having moderate archaeological potential. It is possible that deeper remains may have survived in areas that have been cut down but these are likely to have been truncated from above.

The original school building and at least one of its outbuildings are known to have been built of timber frames with iron cladding (Figure 2.2). Most of these buildings are within the footprint of the still standing 1868 structure (Building 2). These remains are likely to be quite ephemeral and are likely to

4.0 Heritage Significance

4.1 Heritage Significance

The heritage significance of archaeological features is distinct from archaeological potential. Assessment of archaeological potential considers the probability of physical evidence from previous human activity to still exist on a site. Assessment of heritage significance for archaeological features considers the cultural values associated with those remains.⁴ This section will briefly outline the basis of assessing the heritage significance of archaeological remains, before then assessing heritage significance of the identified potential archaeological features.

The overall heritage significance of the study area has been assessed in the 2015 Heritage Assessment for 244 Cleveland Street, Surry Hills. That report provided the following statement of significance:

The former Cleveland Street Public School is of historic, aesthetic and social significance as a good and relatively rare example of a Victorian period public school that was designed to respond to the site conditions and has grown and developed in accordance to changing requirements in the educational system and local area.

The site has had continuous educational use since the 1850s and is associated with the National School Board and its successors and prominent architects including GA Mansfield, WE Kemp, WL Vernon, RMS Wells and EH Farmer.

The School is located on a prominent corner site. Buildings 1 and 2 in particular due to the character, their brick and stone facades, steep pitched roofs and tower (Building 2) have landmark status. These buildings were also significantly designed to respond to the site conditions.

The site has had continuous educational use since the 1850s and is of high social significance with strong association with the local communities of Surry Hills, Redfern and Chippendale.

The Cleveland Street Public School retains a largely intact and Victorian period School building that is believed to be one of the earliest in Australia to incorporate a covered playground area within the basement of the building (Building 2). The building context is enhanced by early stone retaining walls, step, piers and palisade fencing and a number of mature trees also occupy the site and contribute to the historic and aesthetic character and significance of the place.⁵

This report does not replace that overall heritage assessment and statement of significance. Instead it is limited to an assessment of the heritage significance of the potential archaeological remains identified in Section 3.4. These are:

- Evidence of the original 1855 school building and associated structures.
- Evidence of the c.1855 Wesleyan parsonage and associated structures.
- A c.1865 brick oviform drain and earlier creek line.
- Evidence for other unrecorded structures associated with the school, parsonage and park.
- Artefact deposits including rubbish pits associated with the school, parsonage and park.
- Evidence for landscaping, clearance and gardening activities associated with the school, parsonage and park.

4.2 Heritage significance and archaeology

A number of guidelines are relevant to the heritage assessment of historical archaeological remains. In NSW the most relevant of these are those developed by the Heritage Branch (now the Heritage Division) in 2009: *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and 'Relics'*. The heritage criteria, adopted by the NSW Heritage Council and the associated guidelines issued in 2001 (NSW

⁴ This distinction has long been recognised by historical archaeologists working in heritage management, but has recently been restated in *Practice Note – The Burra Charter and Archaeological Practice* (Australia ICOMOS 2013:7).

⁵ Perumal Murphy Alessi 2015: 53.

Heritage Manual - Assessing heritage significance), are also foundational to establishing archaeological significance.

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

- Local Significance
- State Significance

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

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

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

'local heritage significance', in relation to a place, building, work, relic, moveable object or precinct, means significance to an area in relation to the historical, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural or aesthetic value of the item.⁶

New criteria were developed in 2009 to identify whether the archaeological resource is of Local or State significance.⁷ The following four criteria and associated questions were identified in the 2009 guidelines and are relevant to historical archaeological sites:

- Archaeological Research Potential (current NSW Heritage Criterion E).
- Associations with individuals, events or groups of historical importance (NSW Heritage Criteria A, B & D).
- Aesthetic or technical significance (NSW Heritage Criterion C).
- Ability to demonstrate the past through archaeological remains (NSW Heritage Criteria A, C, F & G).⁸

The 2009 significance guidelines were designed to assess significance in light of the amendments to the definition of relics, which required them to be of either local or State significance. The examples provided, however, were fairly obvious ones, and do not help us to work out how a less obvious site has State rather than local significance. This means that it is basically down to the skill and expertise of the archaeologist assessing the site to make the distinction between local and State significance.

4.3 Discussion of Heritage Significance

4.3.1 Discussion using Heritage Council Significance Criteria

Criterion (a): Historic Significance – (evolution)

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

The potential archaeological remains of the original 1855 school are representative of the government response to the educational needs of increasing numbers of children in Sydney during the Gold Rush.

⁶ NSW Heritage Act 1977 (current January 2014), section 4A; NSW Heritage Branch 2009:6.

⁷ NSW Heritage Branch 2009.

⁸ NSW Heritage Branch 2009:11-13.

Criterion (b): Associative Significance – (association)

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

The standing structures are associated with a number of architects, however, the potential archaeological remains of the school, parsonage, park or Cleveland Paddock are not thought to be associated with any particular individual or group of people.

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

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

The potential archaeological remains are not expected to exhibit a particularly high degree of creative or technical achievement. They are expected to have been built using the building practices typical of when they were constructed.

Any archaeological remains within the study area have also little potential for aesthetic significance. While archaeological remains may have aesthetic value, mostly through their novelty and age, they are not usually 'important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW'. Their aesthetic values are more by accident than design.

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

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

No public consultation has been undertaken relevant to the potential archaeology of the study area. Anecdotally there does appear to be fairly strong public interest in the archaeology of Sydney, and archaeological programs usually engender considerable interest.

The potential archaeology may be of particular interest to former students and staff of the school, as well as local residents and members of the Wesleyan community.

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

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

The potential archaeological remains on the site have limited research significance. They have some potential to provide further information regarding:

- The original layout of the school and parsonage, and the way in which these facilities were used.
- The material culture and patterns of consumption of the occupants of the site, particularly in the form of rubbish dumps and backfilled cesspits.
- How the natural topography has been modified, particularly in the vicinity of the former creek line.

Other relevant research questions may arise depending on the results of the archaeological program.

The majority of the potential archaeological remains are expected to relate to the school's occupation of the site since the 1850s. Archaeological remains related to the former parsonage are also possible. Archaeological evidence related to the use of the site as part of Prince Alfred Park and Cleveland Paddock are much less likely. No structures associated with the park or paddock are known to have

existed within the study area, and remains of land clearance and cultivation are likely to be quite ephemeral.

Criterion (f): Rarity

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

Archaeological remains of the original 1855 school building and c.1855 parsonage would be considered fairly uncommon and could present evidence not found elsewhere in Sydney. The site, however, is anticipated to have been subject to a major level of disturbance.

Criterion (g): Representativeness

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

The potential archaeological remains within the study area would be broadly representative of the mid 19th-century government-owned facilities in NSW. The archaeological investigation of the site would fill-out what is already known about government educational facilities in the 19th century. Remains related to the occupation of the parsonage would add to our understanding of mid 19th-century ecclesiastical housing.

Integrity

The integrity of the potential archaeological remains is believed to be fairly poor. The intensive and continuous use of the site as an educational facility for more than 150 years means any archaeological remains are likely to have been impacted by construction and maintenance works, the installation and upgrade of services, and various landscaping and gardening activities.

4.4 Statement of Heritage Significance

The potential archaeological remains at 244 Cleveland Street, Surry Hills relate to the 1855 school, the c.1855 Wesleyan parsonage and a c.1865 brick oviform drain and earlier creek line. Archaeological remains related to the use of the site as part of a park and Cleveland Paddock are also possible, but less likely. This potential evidence may be in the form of foundations of various structures, and artefact deposits such as rubbish pits and backfilled cesspits. Evidence for landscaping, clearance and gardening activities is also possible.

These potential remains have limited ability to provide further information regarding the original layout of the school and parsonage, and the way in which these facilities were used. If archaeological deposits associated with the occupation of the site were located, these would provide information regarding the material culture and patterns of consumption of the occupants. Evidence for how the natural topography of the site has been modified, particularly in the vicinity of the former creek line, is also possible. This information is unlikely to be available from other sources, such as historical records, and it would add to the knowledge of the history of government educational facilities in NSW, and possibly also the development of the Wesleyan community.

The potential archaeological remains are of local heritage significance.

5.0 Proposed Works

5.1 Description of proposed works

The proposed works at 244 Cleveland Street, Surry Hills, relate to the redevelopment of the Cleveland Street Intensive English High School site as a 1,200 or 1,500 place comprehensive secondary school. Three of the four main buildings that currently house the school will be retained (Buildings 1, 2 and 3), while the fourth will be demolished and replaced by a multi-storey building (Figure 5.1). Lifts will also be installed next to Building 2 and Building 3. The Master Plan Project brief developed three concept master plan options for the school:

- Option 1 provides for 1,200 students. It incorporates an undercroft space at park level, beneath a new 14-storey building (Figure 5.2).
- Option 2 provides for 1,200 students. It partially excavates a new 14-storey building to accommodate a gymnasium on the ground floor.
- Option 3 provides for 1,500 students. It incorporates an undercroft space at park level, beneath a new 17-storey building.

Option 1, for 1,200 students, was identified as the preferred option by the Project Advisory Group.



Figure 5.1: The footprint of the new building within the study area (outlined in red). Other buildings are numbered 1-3. Base plan Perumal Pedavoli 2015: 23, Casey & Lowe additions.

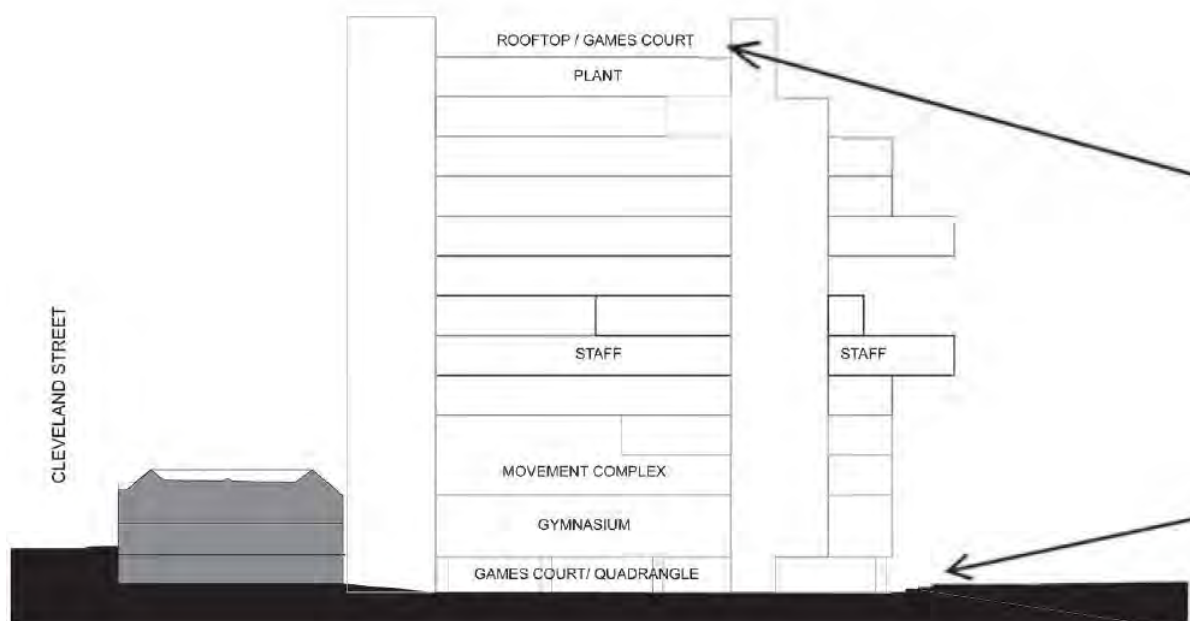


Figure 5.2: Detail of Concept Plan 1, Section drawing of the new building. Perumal Pedavoli 2015: 29.

5.2 Impacts of proposed works

The proposed works are expected to have varying degrees of impact on potential archaeological remains within the study area. Any archaeological remains within the footprint of the proposed new building are likely to be entirely removed, particularly in the case of Concept Plan 2, which partially reduces the existing ground level to accommodate a gymnasium. All three concept plans describe a multi-storey building of between 14 and 17 stories high (Figure 5.3). The foundations for such a structure would almost certainly remove any archaeological remains in their vicinity. Similarly, the excavation of four proposed lift pits is likely to remove any archaeological remains in these locations (Figure 5.3).

Much of the new building and two of the proposed lift pits are within the area of Building 4. This building, dating from the 1960s, is likely to have already significantly impacted any archaeological remains within its footprint and has therefore been assessed as having low archaeological potential (Figure 5.3). The other lift pits, and most of the rest of the proposed building sit within areas assessed as having low to moderate archaeological potential. Construction of the proposed building and excavation of the lift pits may result in the removal of archaeological remains such as unrecorded structures, wells, cisterns, cesspits, yard deposits, rubbish dumps, drainage channels, garden plantings and evidence of early land clearance and landscaping.

Finally, the proposed building is over the top of the early creek line and c.1865 brick drain. These have been addressed as having moderate archaeological potential, and are likely to be disturbed or removed by the proposed structure.

Additional impacts to archaeological remains in other parts of the study area are possible during the course of construction and upgrading works. In particular, landscaping and gardening works have the potential to disturbed or remove archaeological remains.



Figure 5.3: The footprint of the new building in relation to archaeological potential. The study area is outlined in red. Base plan Perumal Pedavoli 2015: 23, Casey & Lowe additions.

6.0 Mitigation of Impacts

The impacts to the potential archaeological resource can be managed and mitigated through a strategy of archaeological monitoring. This strategy is considered appropriate given that the archaeological remains are thought to have only low to moderate potential.

A program of archaeological monitoring would involve the following:

- An archaeologist should inspect the works site at intervals they consider to be adequate. This would probably include watching the initial excavation for the proposed building in the area of the early creek line and c.1865 drain.
- An archaeologist would also be 'at call' in case the contractor uncovers unexpected remains, including structural features and artefact deposits.
- If archaeological remains are exposed during the works it will be necessary to record these to an appropriate level, including plans and photographs. This may involve a short, localised stoppage of works.
- Any artefacts collected would be catalogued in accordance to Casey & Lowe methodology.
- The archaeological investigations should be in line with the research design outlined in Section 7.0 of this report.

7.0 Research Design

Given the close connection between archaeological heritage potential and research potential, it is appropriate for all archaeological investigations, including monitoring, to have research designs.⁹ The archaeological monitoring during the proposed works should endeavour to address the following research questions:

- What evidence is there for the original layout of the school, parsonage and park?
- Is there any identifiable material cultural remains associated with the school, parsonage or park? Does this provide any insight into how these spaces were used?
- Is there any evidence of the 1850s school or parsonage toilets? Were these toilets built as water closets, or were they originally built as unplumbed privies and later connected to the sewage system? If they were converted, are there any backfilled artefact deposits within the privies?
- Are there any discrete rubbish pits within the area of excavation? If so, what insights into the patterns of consumption of the occupants of the school or parsonage do these provide?
- How has the natural topography been modified to accommodate its present use? Is there any evidence of backfilled artefact deposits within the creek line?
- Is the c.1865 drain the same as the brick drain indicated on the current Sydney Water plan? If so, how much of the original fabric survives?

⁹ NSW Heritage Office 1996:29.

8.0 Recommendations

1. The proposed design indicates there is a small possibility that archaeological remains of potential local heritage significance will be impacted during construction works. In order to mitigate this impact, archaeological monitoring is recommended.
2. A program of archaeological monitoring needs to be undertaken by an appropriately qualified archaeologist, as outlined in Section 6.0.
3. A report presenting the results of the archaeological program and artefact catalogue will be a condition of consent and will be prepared at the end of the archaeological program.
4. Any archaeological program needs to be reported on in accordance with Heritage Council guidelines.
5. Any artefacts collected and retained during the works will need to be catalogued and then securely stored by the client after the completion of the archaeological program.

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