

**HERITAGE VIEWS ANALYSIS**  
**UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY**  
**CHAU CHAK WING MUSEUM PROPOSAL**



Report prepared for: University of Sydney

Date: September 2017

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## 1.0 Purpose of Report

RLA were engaged by the University of Sydney (the University) to provide a report that accompanies the DA, on the visualisation of the proposed museum building, as seen from a series of surveyed viewing places. The report certified the accuracy of the photography and 3D representation of the building, which was presented as a series of block photomontages. The viewing places identified included documented historical view axes and vistas, derived from archival research which demonstrates that the University was designed and placed on a low ridge to command district views and to project an image of grandeur. Those views have evolved as the cultural landscape of the University developed and as the city, on the fringe of which the University began, grew out to meet, encompass and then extend beyond the former farm.

## 2.0 Relevant experience

RLA have been involved in the preparation of visual analysis and heritage view studies in relation to many Major Project Applications, Urban Design studies and Planning Proposals and are familiar with the University campus. Dr Lamb's CV can be found on our website [www.richardlamb.com.au](http://www.richardlamb.com.au). RLA have been involved urban development view studies for proposals in Brookvale, Dee Why, Menangle, Harbord, Somersby, Gosford, Putney Hill, North Ryde, Parramatta, Parramatta Park, Walsh Bay, Homebush, Terrigal, Wentworth Point, Shepherds Bay, Gladesville, Prospect, Yarrawarra and other locations.

## 3.0 The Site in relation to views

The proposed museum site is adjacent to and visible from the forecourt of the earliest group of buildings in the University, ie. the Main Quadrangle Building (the Quad), incorporating the Great Hall and Clock Tower and is adjacent to the most significant early and surviving formal view axis on the campus, being the west-east axis connecting the main cross-axis through the Quad and the Clock Tower element, to what became University Avenue to the east and later Science Road, to the west. The axis connects to the then-Newtown Road, now City Road, to the east. The axis, which has evolved to a combined road, path and formal avenue, passes through what became Victoria Park to the early eastern gateway to the University near the intersection of Broadway and City Road. It is not terminated by any specific item, building or landmark (refer to Plates 24 and 25).

RLA were engaged by the University to assess the existence of and importance of contemporary heritage views to and from the historic buildings of the University that could be potentially affected by the location and form of the proposed redevelopment of the existing Tennis Courts site as the proposed Chau Chak Wing Museum.

This report provides an analysis of the likely visibility and visual effects of the proposed museum building on documented historical views from the public domain, other than University Place.

The Site is directly east of the northern part of the Quad and Great Hall, separated from it by the northern section of University Place. Surrounded by trees of varying significance, gardens and lawns, the site is of generally low existing visibility. It is however, exposed to views from some of the most important formal and historically significant viewing places in its vicinity. The Great Hall and Quad are located atop the Petersham Ridge which is broadly aligned north-south and marks the top of sloping ground west of the subject site.

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## 4.0 Heritage Views

Our approach to heritage views, as is the case with visual impacts generally, is to adopt a logical, explicit methodology that is based as much as possible on objective and empirical data as a starting point and not on myth and speculation. The facts of what is visible, from where and in what existing and historical context, are critical, in determining what constitutes heritage views and how to assess contemporary impacts on them. If a logical, systematic and comprehensive approach is not taken, subjective and abstract claims about heritage views can gain more credence than they deserve.

Our position is there is a hierarchy of heritage views, from the most to the least relevant with regard to determining impacts of contemporary proposals. At the highest level, we consider that a genuine heritage view is one designed to be experienced, where the intention is documented and where the reason for the view being recognised as significant is supported by the recognition of the values against the relevant heritage criteria, including the inclusion and exclusion guidelines required in the NSW heritage system. Historical research should support such views as being authentic heritage views, the locations of which and attributes of which are determined to be of significance.

At the second level are views that have become recognised or have evolved as of authentic heritage significance. There can be many pathways to recognition; for example, views may become socially significant, become significant by historical association with other, later events and items, or through accretion of later items, become significant for archaeological, scientific, aesthetic or other reasons relevant to views.

At a third level, views between heritage items may become of authentic heritage value by visual linkages deliberately designed between subsequent heritage items and places, linkages occurring through use or changing customs, or linkages created by the loss of former linkages and settings, making them more valued, or rare. These are authentic, evolved, or acquired heritage views.

Below that level are views of and between heritage items that exist in the objective sense, but are incidental. That is, their existence, while providing an attribute of the setting, does not contribute to the authentic values of the items. Views between the items in this case exist, but are not of significance in themselves.

At a lower level still, on the hierarchy of views that might be claimed to be heritage views, are views from or in the vicinity of items, the curtilages or settings of items, from which new or non-significant items are visible. Simply being able to see a heritage item, place or setting does not make the view a heritage view. By the same token, being able to see a new, different or novel item of no current significance, in the context of a heritage item, does not create an impact on heritage values, unless it can be demonstrated that the acknowledged authentic heritage values of the item would be impaired to the detriment of interpretation of the heritage values of the item.

Our assessment methodology was to examine existing and potential heritage views of and in the context of the Chau Chak Wing museum project, analysing these in relation to the hierarchy outlined above.

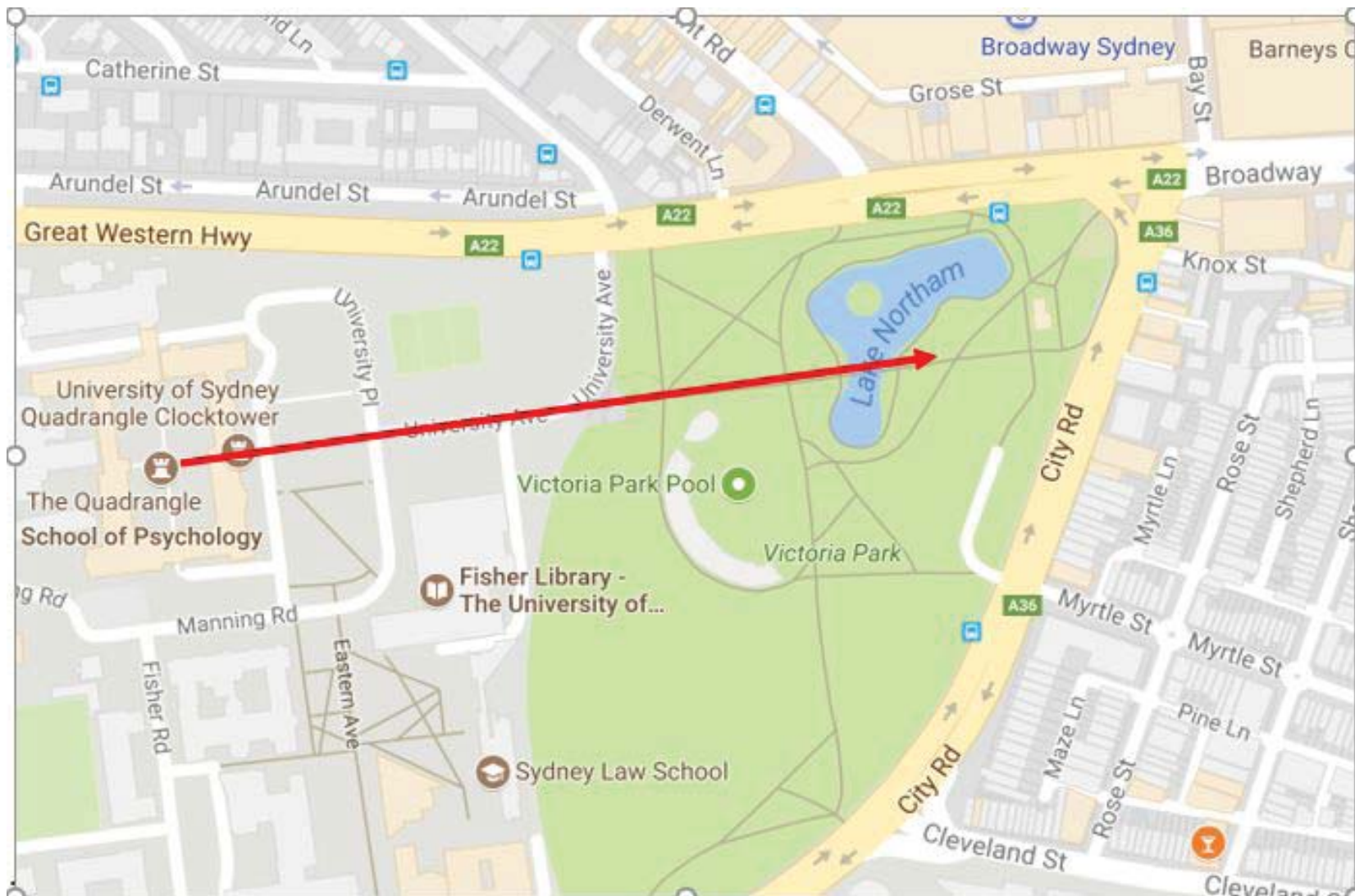


Figure 1; location of axial view east along Main Drive

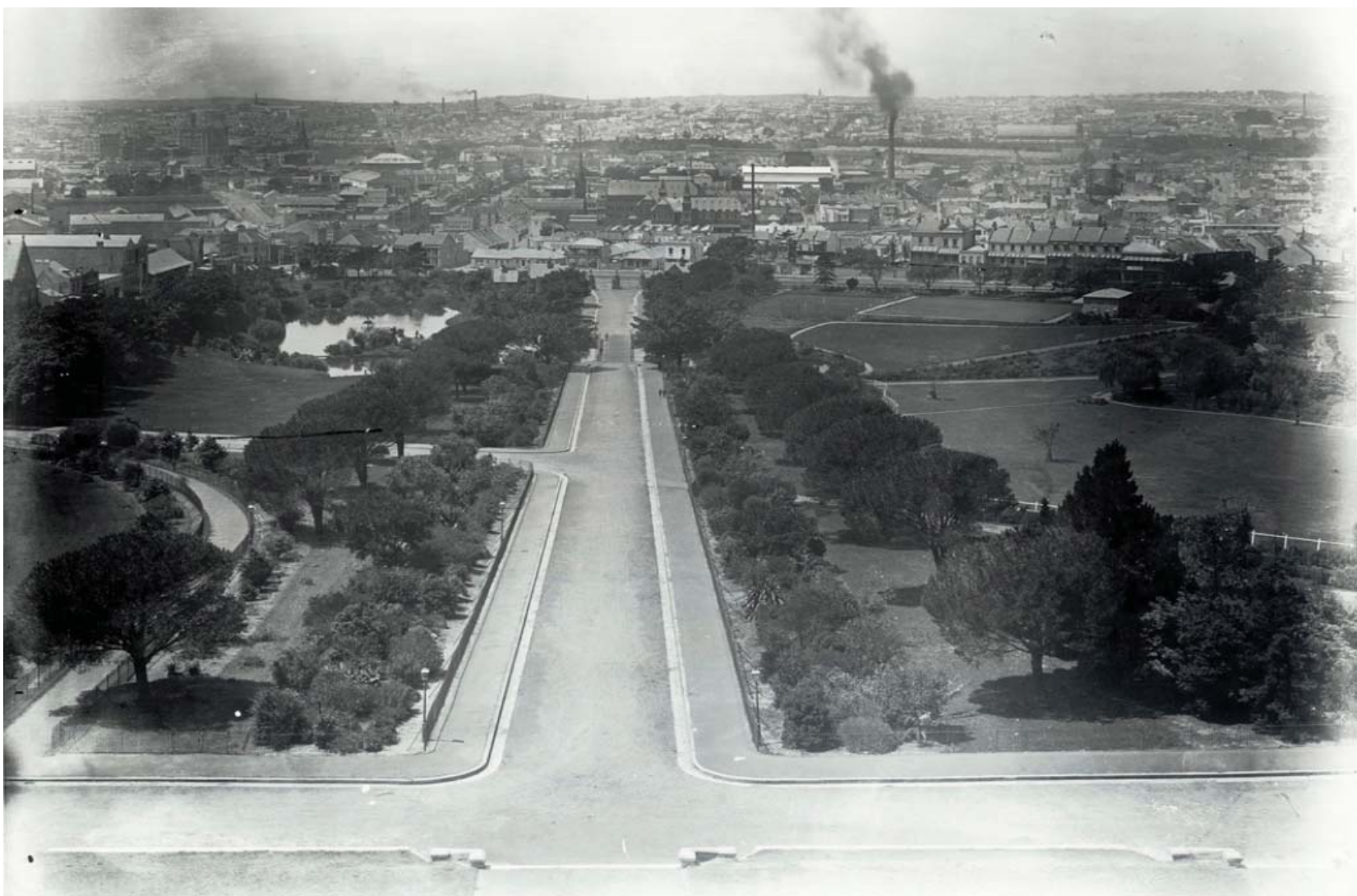


Figure 2; view east along University Drive towards Sydney Town from the Quad circa 1890  
(source: University of Sydney Archives: G3\_224\_0525\_3)



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## 4.1 Authentic axes and vistas

An important aspect of the heritage significance of the University of Sydney grounds is the continuity of planning, development and use from the first buildings in the early 1850s to the present time. Many planning axes, alignments and building groupings established progressively through the 19th and early 20th centuries remain as prominent and defining features of the University. Edmund Blacket established the first visual axis with the planned placement of the Main Quadrangle Building on the crest of the Petersham Ridge.

Since first constructed in 1855-62, the Main Quadrangle Building (East Wing, Clock Tower and Great Hall), have dominated the Petersham ridge skyline. The importance of this setting was reinforced by the alignment of the Main Drive with the Clock Tower (refer to Figure 2). University Avenue has been maintained as the central approach to the principal University buildings, even after the reduction of the Main Drive in 1924. In Edmund Blacket's design the prominence offered by the topography of the Petersham Ridge provided a dramatic presentation of the University; the Main Quadrangle Building positioned on the crest of the ridge, with views up to it from the main artery leaving the city to the west, Parramatta Road.

The expansion of University buildings south from the Main Quadrangle Building reinforced the importance placed on the Petersham Ridge alignment and vistas by the University planners. Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century developments reinforced and extended the original Main Quadrangle Building alignment and architectural style (i.e. the Anderson Stuart Building), or ensured that new development did not intrude on the primary axes east and south. Development west of the ridge proceeded along what would become Science Road.

The orientation of the Main Quadrangle Building, and the axis of the view up to it, established two of the most enduring aspects of the planning arrangement of the University; being the prominence of the Petersham Ridge, which became Eastern Avenue, and of the east-west axis that extends along University Avenue and through Victoria Park, and west of the Main Quadrangle Building along Science Road (see Figure 3, an axial view from the Quad to the east).

The reverse view is also important ie. the views from locations along Main Drive from the east to the west to the Quad. The main entrance to the University was intended to create an impression of grandeur. It was planned that an imposing carriageway and walkway shaded by a double avenue of trees on each side would lead up from a main gateway on the Newtown Road (City Road) directly to the Clock Tower. While in April 1859 land from the recreation reserve adjoining the University was requested for this purpose, it was not formally dedicated until 1863 and the planting of trees did not occur until 1870 (see Figures 4 and 5, showing the axis from the Main Drive west to the Quad).

Figures 6 and 7 show external south-western views towards the Quad from Parramatta Road near Derwent Street (refer to location 1, Figure 1).

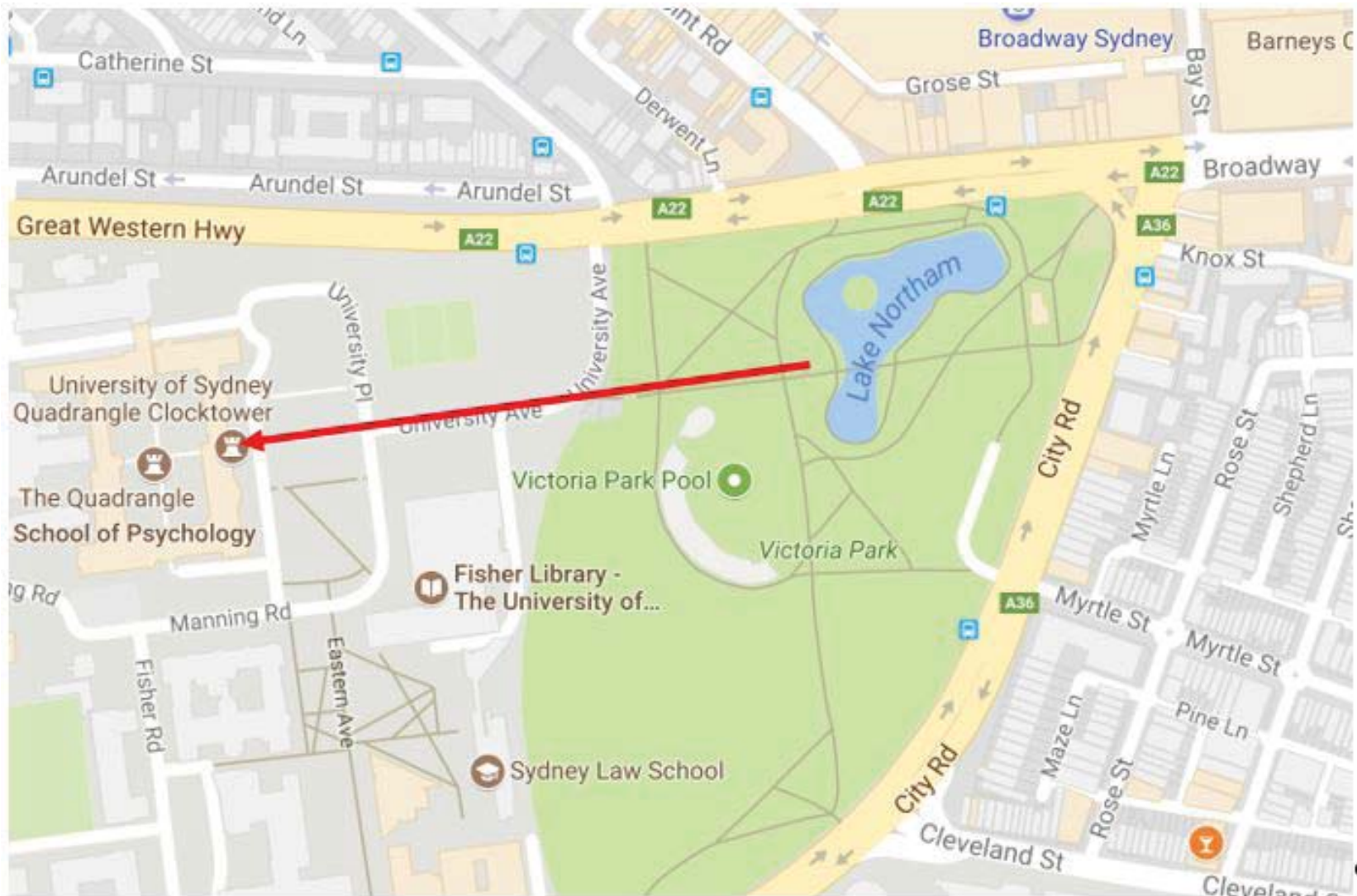


Figure 3; External axial view from Victoria Park along University Drive



Figure 4 ; View west along Univeristy Drive circa 1870  
(Source: University of Sydney Archives: G3\_224\_0101)



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## 4.2 Documented historical views

In order to determine the existence of historical views that could potentially be affected by the location of the subject site and proposed built form, RLA undertook archival research on visual materials, predominantly early original and retouched photographs and postcards, which were popular in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, that have documented internal and external historical views to and from the University. Our research included a desktop review of potential visual exposure of the proposed museum site and proposed building, using NearMap, Google Earth and other aerial imagery as the basis for an analysis of contemporary and evolved views with historical photographic records available from the City of Sydney, the Sydney University Archives and other relevant archives.

Based on the historical visual materials, RLA conducted fieldwork to locate and analyse views within the University and to the University buildings, from locations that have historically been the sites for photography eg Victoria Park, Parramatta Road, Cleveland Street, George Street, Broadway etc.

Our fieldwork confirmed that some features visible in the composition of historical photographs still exist in some isolated areas of contemporary views, including those from the same or similar locations used to capture historical photographs. Some contemporary views still include elements of significant early University buildings, such as parts of the east elevation of the Quad, Clock Tower, north elevation of the Great Hall, the McLaurin Hall steeple and the tower of the Anderson Stuart building, where the intervening landform and built form, particularly early residential areas of low scale, form the mid-ground of the views.

For example, we observed that views to the northern elevation of the roof of the Great Hall and roof form of the Quad are visible from the ANZAC Bridge over Blackwattle Bay and elevated locations in Balmain and Annandale, for example from Jane Street in Balmain and Booth Street in Annandale, seen across the low scale late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century residential built form that still dominates these areas. More contemporary views include parts of the Fisher Library and seen more widely, because of their height, the library Book Stack and buildings in Eastern Avenue.

While there are thus residual views of elements of the early buildings, the proposed development site for the museum was not visible and the proposed built form of the museum would likewise not be visible from these locations, based in the interpretation of its proposed height compared to the Fisher Library, which is also of generally low visibility.

## 4.3 Views across the proposed museum site

No identified axes pass through the proposed museum site, which is in a location that has been crossed by or skirted by various formal and informal road and tracks from the general location of the Parramatta Road gate, later the site of Baxters Lodge. The site has never had significant built form on it, but has been the location proposed on a number of occasions for future buildings in various strategic and master plans (refer to the Statement of Heritage Impact prepared by Ian Kelly, 2017). As a result, it has a history of potential built form and although the buildings were not constructed, any one would have significantly altered the character of the immediate setting of the Quad and potentially altered the perception of dominance of the ridge by the Quad. Those potential changes were thought appropriate by various eminent individuals, firms and the University and considered consistent with and compatible with the historic significance of the adjacent Quad, Main Drive and the setting of the items.



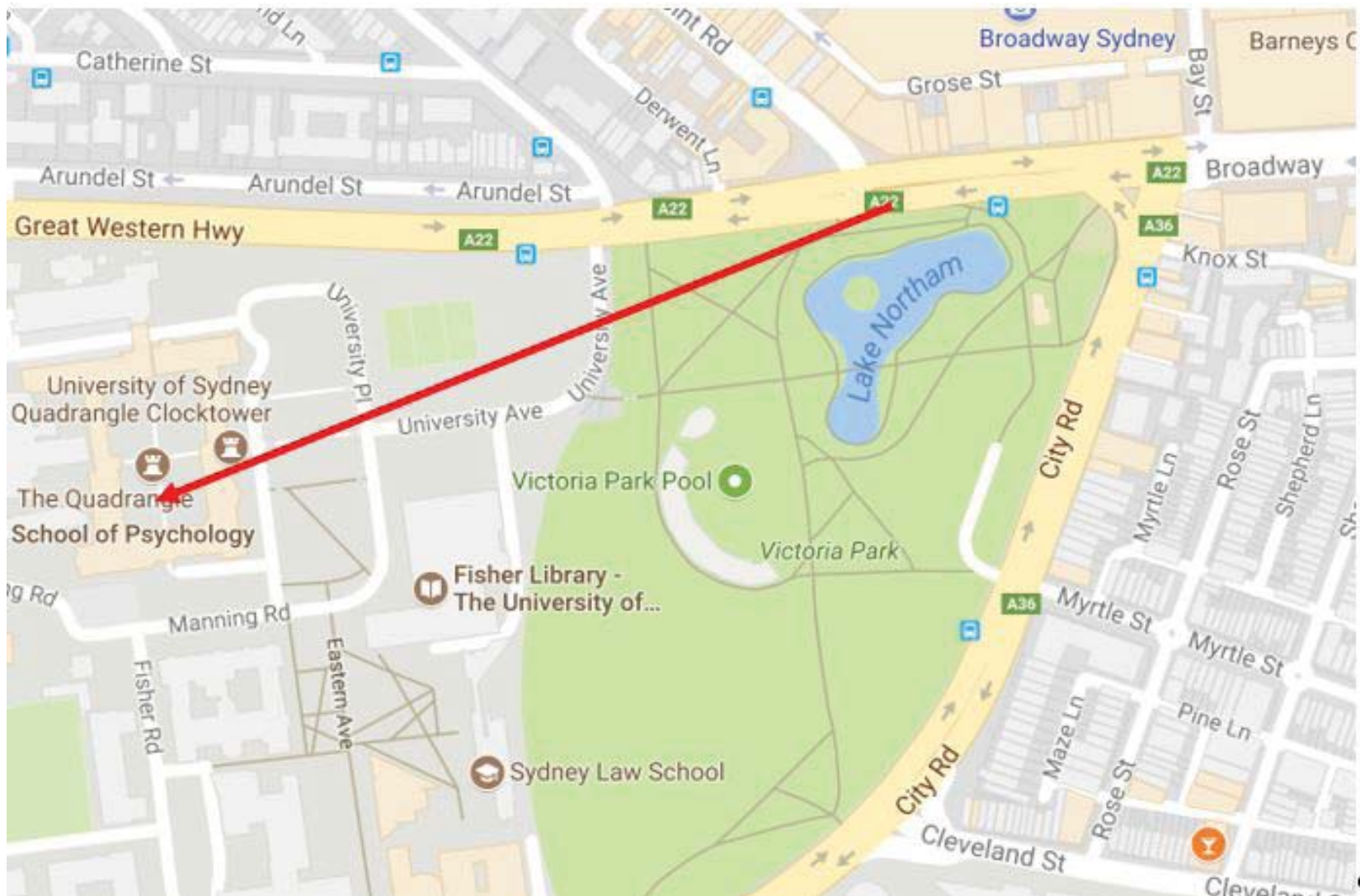


Figure 5; location of external view from Parramatta Road near Derwent Road, towards the Quad

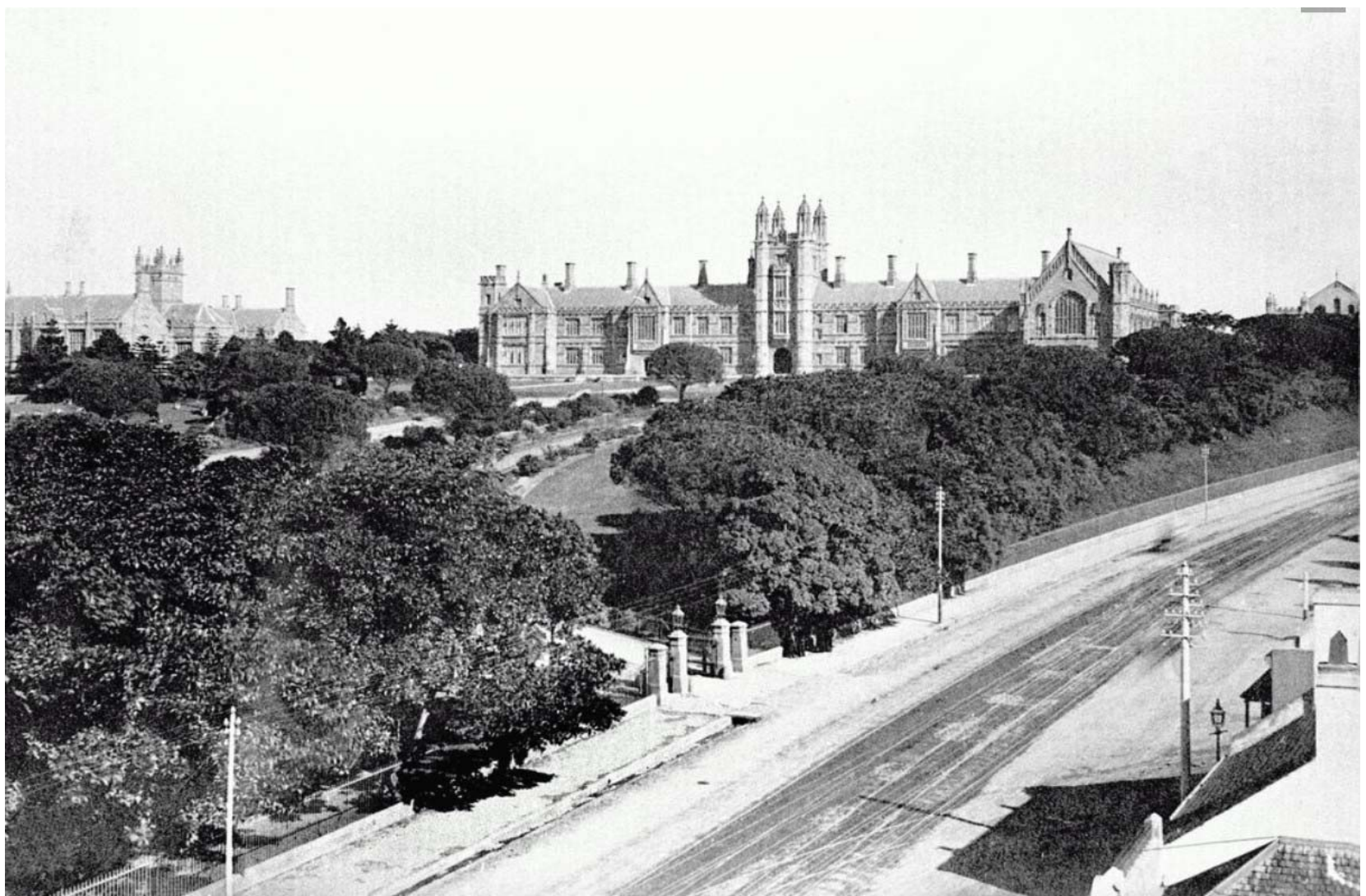


Figure 6; View from Parramatta Road, from near Derwent Road circa 1916  
(Source: University of Sydney Archives: G3\_224\_0196)

Leaving that aside, one view documented a number of times toward the Quad from Parramatta Road and from buildings associated with the University, such as the University Lodge (later the University Hotel), at an oblique angle to the road, would have passed through the site. This view line is an incidental, rather than a heritage, view. That is, it is a view of the heritage items of the Quad which happens to pass over the proposed museum site, rather than one of specific significance.

The analysis of historical and contemporary views documented below shows that the proposed museum site and the proposed building would not be visible in the contemporary views.

## 5.0 Analysis of historical and contemporary views

The locations shown on Figure 1 were inspected in order to determine the composition of the existing contemporary views available, relative to documented historical views. The contemporary view could also be described as the remaining, or residual parts of the historical view seen in the context of evolution of the cultural landscape, both of the University and the setting of the surrounding City. RLA attempted to replicate the composition of historical views by locating obvious, remaining built forms or vegetation 'markers' in the composition of each view. The contemporary version of the view is shown below each historical view in the photographic comparison pairs of plates below. The locations of the contemporary residual views were determined to be as reasonable and representative as possible in the context of significant visual change and evolution of the cultural landscape and physical environment, in the intervening decades. Much of the existing built form that appears in the historical views has been reduced in visibility, or is blocked by contemporary development and the growth of historic or other vegetation. The locations of the historical photographs cannot be replicated in some cases, however a comparison of the view composition and the likely visibility of the museum site or building can be made.

The locations of views for analysis is shown on Figure 7. The pictorial analysis that follows Figure 7 shows thirteen pairs of images (Plates 1-26), each comparing a documented historical view with a corresponding contemporary view. The existing visibility of items of authentic heritage significance, visibility of the subject site and likely visibility of the proposed museum building is assessed in each case.



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## 6.0 Conclusion

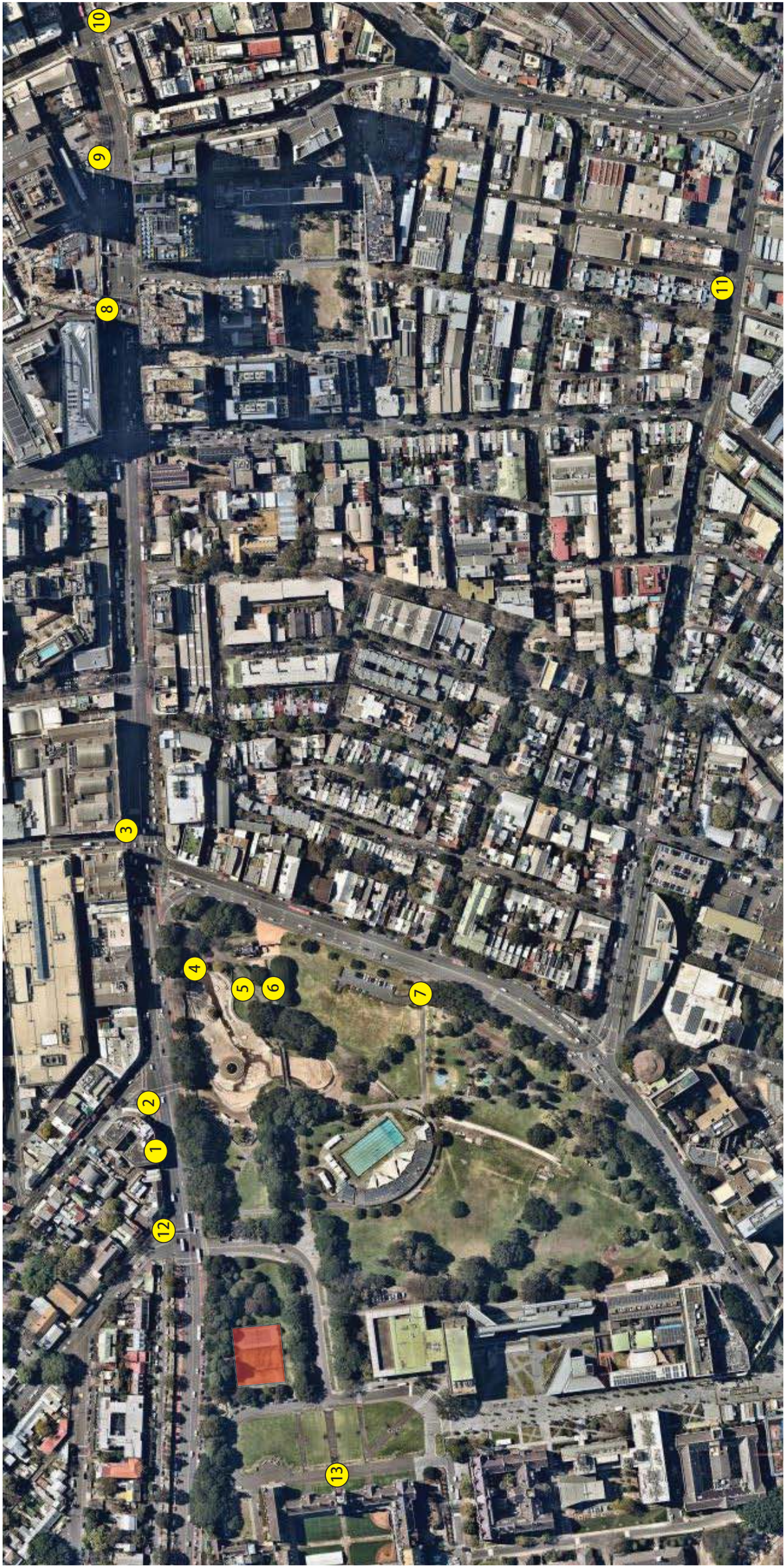
Authentic heritage views based on the earliest principles of design of the University remain identifiable in the evolving cultural landscape. The cultural landscape of the University and its immediate setting and the cultural landscape of the city have evolved together and will continue to evolve.

Heritage views at all levels of the hierarchy identified above exist in relation to the proposed Chau Chak Wing Museum project. Authentic, axial views and vistas, some of which were established at the earliest stages of development of the University, will not be significantly affected by the presence of a new building on the subject site. The analysis of historical and contemporary views shows that in views from the external environment, documented in many historical views, the subject site and the proposed museum building are of minimal visibility. The construction of the museum building would not be in conflict with the evolved residual visibility of the Quad, University Avenue, original Main Drive axis, Parramatta Road vistas or views from Broadway.

The outward view from the University toward what was at the time of its inception a township and is now a City, has also evolved. The axial view down the original Main Drive from the Bell Tower, for example, was not terminated beyond the University gates on Newtown Road by any specific landmark, or built form. The height, scale and density of development in the southern CBD and Broadway has transformed the axial view, but has not removed the potential for the visual contact between the City and the Quad to remain. The heights and forms of buildings in the central CBD, now visible above the proposed museum site from the same location, would not have been of significant visibility from the University even in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. Continued and taller proposed development in that area and Darling Harbour will continue to be visible and will increase in height and visibility above the future museum building, for example when viewed from the steps to the Great Hall. Thus the theme of visibility between the University and City in that vista, for which there is no documented support as an authentic heritage view, will remain, if the museum is constructed as proposed.



Figure 7



Map 1: Chau Chak Wing Museum proposed development  
Selected historical and contemporary view locations



Approximate location of subject site



View location



Not to Scale





*Plate 1, Location 1; View west along Parramatta Road from near Derwent Lane circa 1930. This view is possibly taken from an elevated balcony of the University Hall building.*

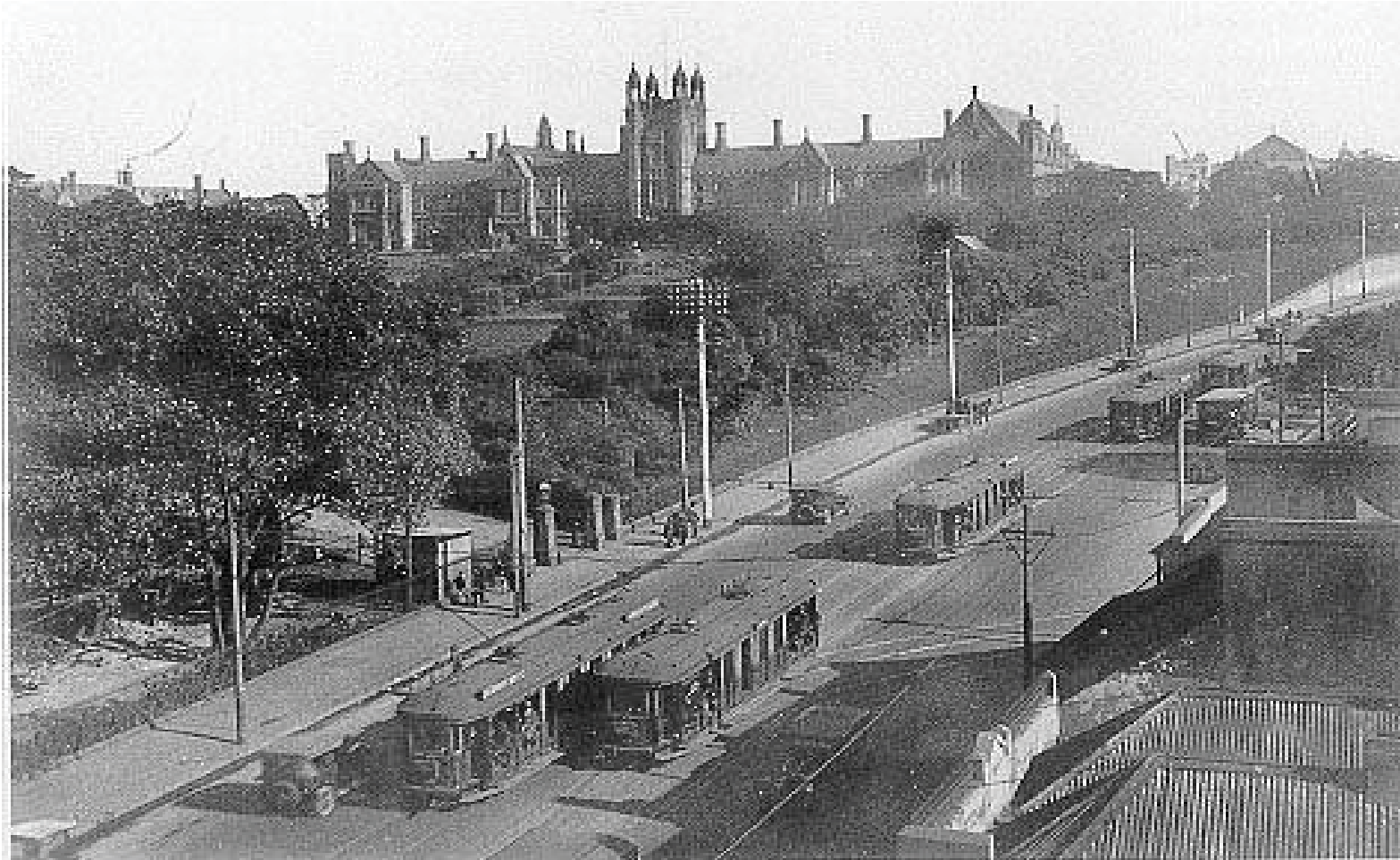
*City of Sydney Archives*

*Sydney Reference Collection SRC3321*



*Plate 2, Location 1; View west along Parramatta Road from a similar location as shown above. The projected awning and balustrade fretwork on the building in the immediate foreground match that of the building in the mid ground of Plate 1. The subject site is not visible and the proposed building would not be visible in this view.*





*Plate 3, Location 2; View west along Parramatta Road from an elevated location possibly from the University Hall circa 1920*

*(Source: University of Sydney Archives: G3\_224\_1018)*



*Plate 4, Location 2; View west along Parramatta Road from the west corner of Glebe Point Road and Parramatta Road outside the building (former University Hotel). The subject site is not visible and the proposed building would not be visible in this view.*





*Plate 5, Location 3; View south-west from the near the corner of Broadway and Bay Street, opposite City Road (formerly Newtown Road) Circa 1874  
(Source: State Library NSW, Ref 412976)*



*Plate 6, Location 3; View west towards the Intersection of City Road from the north-east intersection of Broadway and Bay Street from outside the former Grace Brothers Building. The subject site is not visible and the proposed building would not be visible in this view.*





*Plate 7, Location 4; View west across Lake Northam towards the Great Hall circa 1931  
City of Sydney Archives  
Sydney Reference Collection SRC9683*



*Plate 8, Location 4; View west across Lake Northam towards the Great Hall. The subject site is partly visible however the majority of the proposed building is unlikely to be visible in this view. Parts of heritage items that are visible in this view, will remain unaffected by the proposed development.*





*Plate 9, Location 5; View west towards the Quad and Great Hall circa 1927  
(Source: Sydney University Archives: G3\_224\_MF374\_0138)*



*Plate 10, Location 5; View west towards the location of the Quad and Great Hall. The majority of the subject site is not visible in this view and the proposed building is unlikely to be visible in this view. Parts of heritage items that are visible in this view, will remain unaffected by the proposed development.*





*Plate 11, Location 6; View west along Main Drive to the Quad circa 1870  
(Source: University of Sydney Archives: G3\_224\_0101)*



*Plate 12, Location 6; View west along Main Drive east of the low point in topography and south of Lake Northam  
The subject site is not visible in this view and the proposed building would not be visible in this view. Parts of heritage items that are visible in this view, will remain unaffected by the proposed development.*





*Plate 13, Location 7; View north-west across Victoria Park, close to City Road (former Newtown Road) circa 1880  
 (Source: Sydney University Archives: G3\_224\_MF374\_0055)*



*Plate 14, Location 7; View north-west across Victoria Park, a carpark entrance from City Road opposite Myrtle Street. The subject site is not visible in this view and the proposed building would not be visible in this view. Parts of heritage items that are visible in this view, will remain unaffected by the proposed development.*





Plate 15, Location 8; View west along Broadway approximately opposite Jones Street circa 1900, possibly including the spire of St Benedict's Catholic Church  
 (Source: Sydney University Archives: G3\_224\_2803)



Plate 16, Location 8; View west along Broadway from outside UTS and west Jones Street including St Benedict's Catholic Church. The subject site is not visible in this view and the proposed building would not be visible in this view.





Plate 17, Location 9; View west along Broadway approximately opposite the intersection with Carlton Street circa 1890

City of Sydney Archives

Sydney Reference Collection SRC6203



Plate 18, Location 9; View west along Broadway from outside UTS. A cameo view of the Clock Tower is visible above the rubbish bin in the mid-ground composition. The subject site is not visible in this view and the proposed building would not be visible in this view. Parts of heritage item that is visible in this view, will remain unaffected by the proposed development.





Plate 19, Location 10; View west along Broadway from the south-east Regent Street and George Street circa 1947  
 City of Sydney Archives  
 Sydney Reference Collection SRC1868



Plate 20, Location 10; View west along Broadway from the south-east corner of Regent Street and George Street  
 The subject site is not visible in this view and the proposed building would not be visible in this view.





*Plate 21, Location 11; View west along Cleveland Street east of Balfour Street circa 1934  
City of Sydney Archives  
Sydney Reference Collection SRC4607*



*Plate 22, Location 11; View west along Cleveland Street east of Balfour Street. The uppermost forms of the Clock Tower are visible above the University building that is currently covered with hoarding. The subject site is not visible in this view and the proposed building would not be visible in this view. Parts of heritage items that are visible in this view, will remain unaffected by the proposed development.*



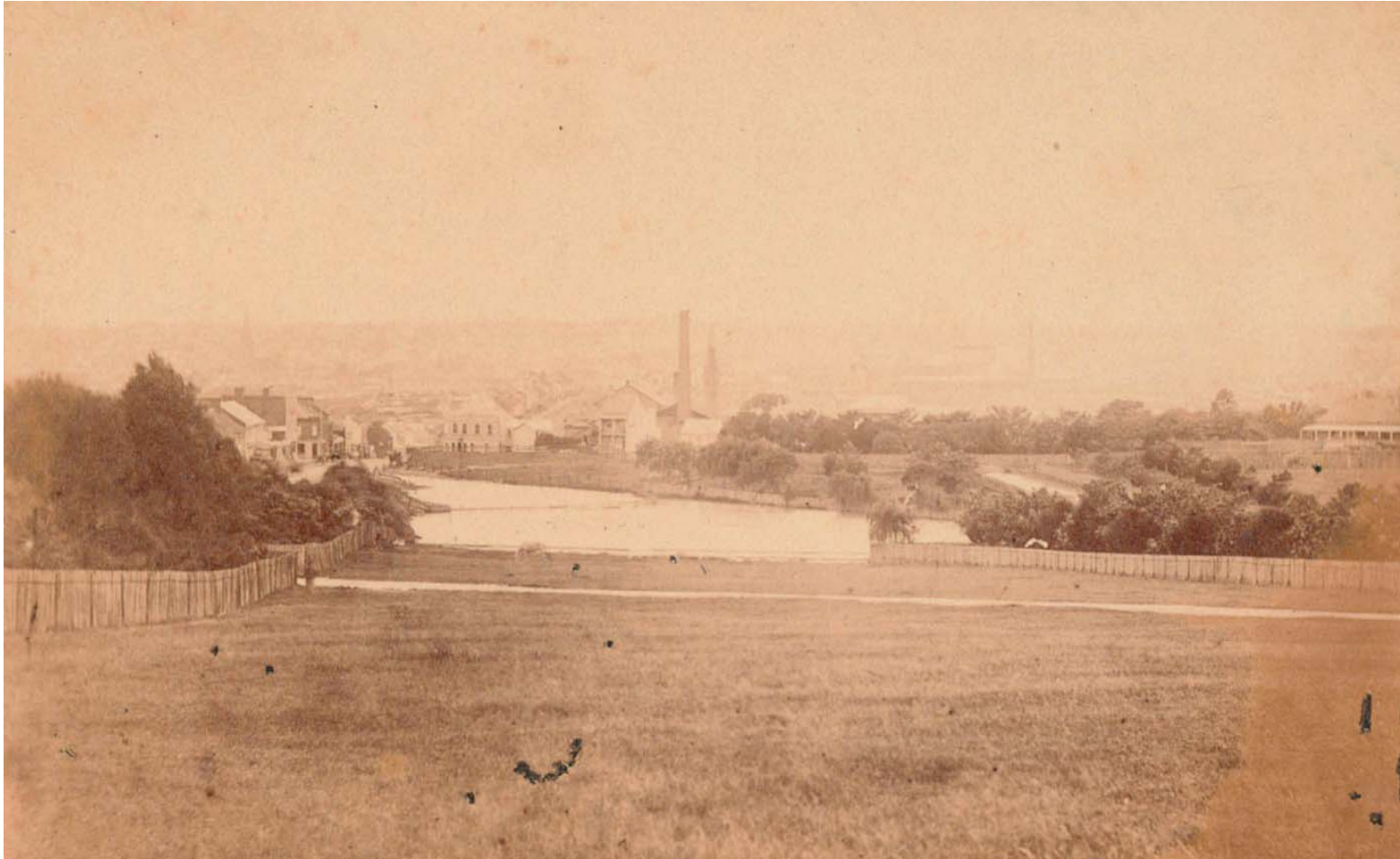


Plate 23, Location 12: View south across Parramatta Road to Baxter Lodge  
 (Source: *The University of Sydney Proposed Museum Site Landscape Assessment*, 2016)



Plate 24, Location 12; View south to the Parramatta Road entrance from the north-east corner of Derwent Street  
 The majority of the subject site is screened by vegetation and is not visible in this view. The majority of the proposed building will not be visible in this view. Parts of heritage items including the Fisher Library that are visible in this view, will remain unaffected by the proposed development.





*Plate 25, Location 13; View east to Sydney Town from the near the Quad building, circa 1869-1874  
(Source: State Library, NSW, Ref 413009)*



*Plate 26, Location 13; View east to the Sydney CBD along the axes of Main Drive in alignment with the Clock Tower  
The subject site is partly screened by vegetation in this view. The majority of the proposed building will not be visible in this view. The axial view and presence of CBD buildings will remain unaffected by the proposed development.*





## Curriculum Vitae: Dr Richard Lamb

### Summary

- Dr Lamb is a professional consultant specialising in visual and heritage impacts assessment and the principal of Richard Lamb and Associates (RLA.)
- Senior Lecturer in Architecture and Heritage Conservation 1980-2009 and Director of Master of Heritage Conservation Program, University of Sydney, 1998-2006, Faculty of Architecture, Planning and Design.
- 30 years' experience in teaching and research in environmental impact, heritage and visual impact assessment.
- Teaching and research expertise in interpretation of heritage items and places, cultural transformations of environments, conservation methods and practices.
- Teaching and research experience in visual perception and cognition, aesthetic assessment and landscape assessment.
- Supervision of Master and PhD postgraduate students in heritage conservation and environment/behaviour studies.
- Member of the EBS disciplinary group. The field is based around empirical research into human aspects of the built environment, in particular aspects of aesthetic assessment, visual perception, landscape preference and environmental psychology.
- Richard Lamb provides:
  - professional services, expert advice and landscape and aesthetic assessments in many different contexts
  - Strategic planning studies to protect and enhance scenic quality and landscape heritage values
  - Scenic and aesthetic assessments in all contexts, from rural to urban
  - Advice on view loss, view sharing and landscape heritage studies
  - Expert advice, testimony and evidence to the Land and Environment Court of NSW and Planning and Environment Court of Queensland in various classes of litigation
  - Specialisation in matters of heritage landscapes, visual impacts, and urban design
  - Appearances in over 200 cases and submissions to several Commissions of Inquiry and the principal consultant for over 500 consultancies.
- Qualifications
  - Bachelor of Science - First Class Honours, University of New England
  - Doctor of Philosophy, University of New England in 1975
  - Accredited Administrator and Assessor, Myers Briggs Psychological Type Indicator
- International Journals for which publications are refereed
  - Landscape & Urban Planning
  - Journal of Architectural & Planning Research
  - Architectural Science Review
  - People and Physical Environment Research (Journal of the Australian and New Zealand Association for Person Environment Studies)
  - Journal of Environmental Psychology
  - Australasian Journal of Environmental Management
  - Ecological Management & Restoration
  - Urban Design Review International