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Alexandria Park Community School

Historical Archaeological Assessment

For TKD Architects

September 2017



Built & Urban Heritage | Aboriginal Heritage | Archaeology | Interpretation | Intangible Cultural Heritage | World Heritage

EXTENT HERITAGE PTY LTD

ABN 24 608 666 306 ACN 608 666 306
info@extent.com.au
extent.com.au

SYDNEY

3/73 Union Street
Pyrmont
P 02 9555 4000

MELBOURNE

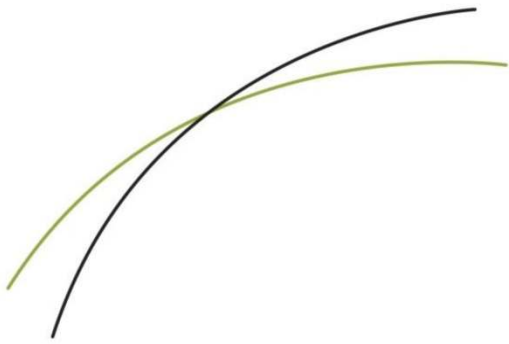
13/240 Sydney Road
Coburg
P 03 9388 0622

BRISBANE

Level 7, 757 Ann Street
Fortitude Valley
P 07 3667 8881

PERTH

312 Onslow Road
Shenton Park
P 08 9381 5206



Document Control Page

AUTHOR/HERITAGE ADVISOR

CLIENT: TKD Architects

PROJECT NAME: Alexandria Park Community School Historical Archaeological Assessment

REAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: 7-11 Park Street, Alexandria NSW 2015; Lot 11 DP 615964, Lot 1 DP 74696, Lots 2 & 3 DP 69494, Lots A & B DP 109038

EXTENT PTY LTD INTERNAL REVIEW/SIGN OFF				
WRITTEN BY	DATE	VERSION	REVIEWED	APPROVED
Lorna Cooper	15/09/17	1	Fenella Atkinson	

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Executive Summary

The NSW Department of Education (DoE) proposes to redevelop Alexandria Park Community School to increase the capacity and upgrade the facilities of the school. The proposed development is being assessed as State Significant Development under Section 89C of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. The Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the project (SSD 8373) include the following requirement in relation to historical archaeology:

- Consider the archaeological potential of the area and the potential impact of the proposal on the archaeological significance of the site in accordance with the guidelines of the Heritage Council of NSW.

Extent Heritage Pty Ltd has been commissioned by TKD Architects, to undertake a Historical Archaeological Assessment of the proposed redevelopment, in order to address this requirement.

Historical Archaeological Potential

The study area was part of a grant made to William Hutchinson in 1823. It is likely that part or all of the study area was low-lying, possibly extending into the swampy ground around the headwaters of Sheas Creek, and development in the nineteenth century appears to have been limited to market gardening. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, drainage works were undertaken, probably in conjunction with the construction of the Alexandra Canal. Industrial development followed, from c1910, and the study area was occupied by two principal organisations; Murray Bros and the Federal Match Company. The study area was redeveloped as a school following resumption in 1977.

The potential historical archaeological resource relates largely to the industrial occupation of the study area in the twentieth century. This phase of the history of the study area is of local significance, as it relates to the development of the economy of the area, and to the lives of the employees, who are likely to have lived locally. However, the archaeological evidence is unlikely to provide substantial historical information that cannot be obtained from other sources, and the overall heritage significance is considered to be low.

Two qualifications to this assessment should be noted:

- Archaeological remains from the nineteenth-century agricultural use of the study area are unlikely to be present. However, any such remains would have a higher research potential, and would be of local heritage significance.
- The stormwater drain running through the study area is likely to be an active subsurface service, and is not assessed as an archaeological feature. However, this item is of heritage significance, as it is a component contributing to the Alexandra Canal.

Potential Historical Archaeological Impact

Based on the information that is presently available, the proposed development will involve earthworks across the whole of the study area. Deep excavation is likely to be limited to discrete areas, for features such as footings, subsurface services, lift-wells and stormwater detention basins. These works may result in partial destruction of historical archaeological remains relating to the twentieth-century industrial development and use of the study area. This is unlikely to substantially affect the heritage values of the study area, as the research potential of the potential archaeological resource is low.

The following recommendations are intended to ensure that more substantial heritage impact does not inadvertently result from the works:

- The assessment of the potential historical archaeological impact of the proposed development should be reviewed once details of the proposed earthworks are available.
- The works program and/or construction environmental management plan should include a stop-work procedure, to be implemented in the event of discovery of unexpected historical archaeological remains. Work in the vicinity of the find should cease, while advice is sought from the Heritage Division.
- The potential for the proposed works to result in impact to the heritage values of the stormwater drain associated with the Alexandra Canal should be assessed.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

The NSW Department of Education (DoE) proposes to redevelop Alexandria Park Community School to increase the capacity and upgrade the facilities of the school. The proposed development is being assessed as State Significant Development under Section 89C of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. The Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for Application Number SSD 8373 include the following, in relation to historical (non-Indigenous) heritage:

9. Heritage

- *Assess the impact of the proposal on the heritage significance of the place and its individual components in accordance with NSW Heritage guidelines and Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012 and on the adjoining heritage item "Alexandria Park including entrance gates, landscaping and grounds".*
- *Consider the archaeological potential of the area and the potential impact of the proposal on the archaeological significance of the site in accordance with the guidelines of the Heritage Council of NSW.*

Extent Heritage Pty Ltd has been commissioned by TKD Architects to undertake a Historical Archaeological Assessment of the proposed redevelopment, in order to address the second point of Requirement 9.

1.2 Study Area Location and Identification

The study area is Alexandria Park Community School, located at 7-11 Park Street, Alexandria, in the City of Sydney Local Government Area, Parish of Alexandria, County of Cumberland (Figure 1 and Figure 2). It comprises Lot 11 in Deposited Plan (DP) 615964, Lot 1 in DP 74696, Lots 2 and 3 in DP 69494 and Lots A and B in DP 109038. The study area has an area of approximately 2.9 hectares, and is situated on the south west corner of Park Road and Buckland Street. The irregular shape is bounded by 140m frontage on Buckland Street to the north, 172m along Park Road to the east with access from Belmont Street to the west and extending 240m from the northern to the southern end of the site.

1.3 Approach, Objectives and Limitations

This report was prepared in accordance with the principles and procedures established by the following documents:

- Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and Relics (Heritage Branch 2009).
- The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance (The Burra Charter) (Australia ICOMOS, 2013).
- Historical Archaeology Code of Practice (Heritage Office 2000).

The terminology used in this report is consistent with the NSW Heritage Manual prepared by the NSW Heritage Office (now the Heritage Division) and the Burra Charter.

The objectives of this report are to:

- Identify any potential historical archaeological resources at the study area and assess their significance;

- Assess development impacts and provide appropriate recommendations.

This report deals with the historical archaeology of the study area only. The Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the study area are addressed in a separate report (Extent Heritage, Sept 2017). Built and landscape heritage is not addressed in this report.

The site inspection was undertaken as a visual study only, and no physical investigation was carried out to inform this assessment.

1.4 Author Identification and Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by Lorna Cooper, Heritage Advisor, with the history compiled by Ben Calvert, Research Assistant. Research assistance was provided by Graham Wilson, Senior Heritage Advisor, and the report was reviewed by Fenella Atkinson, Senior Heritage Advisor.

We acknowledge the generous assistance of Mauricio Diaz Miranda and Michelle Ramjan (TKD Architects).

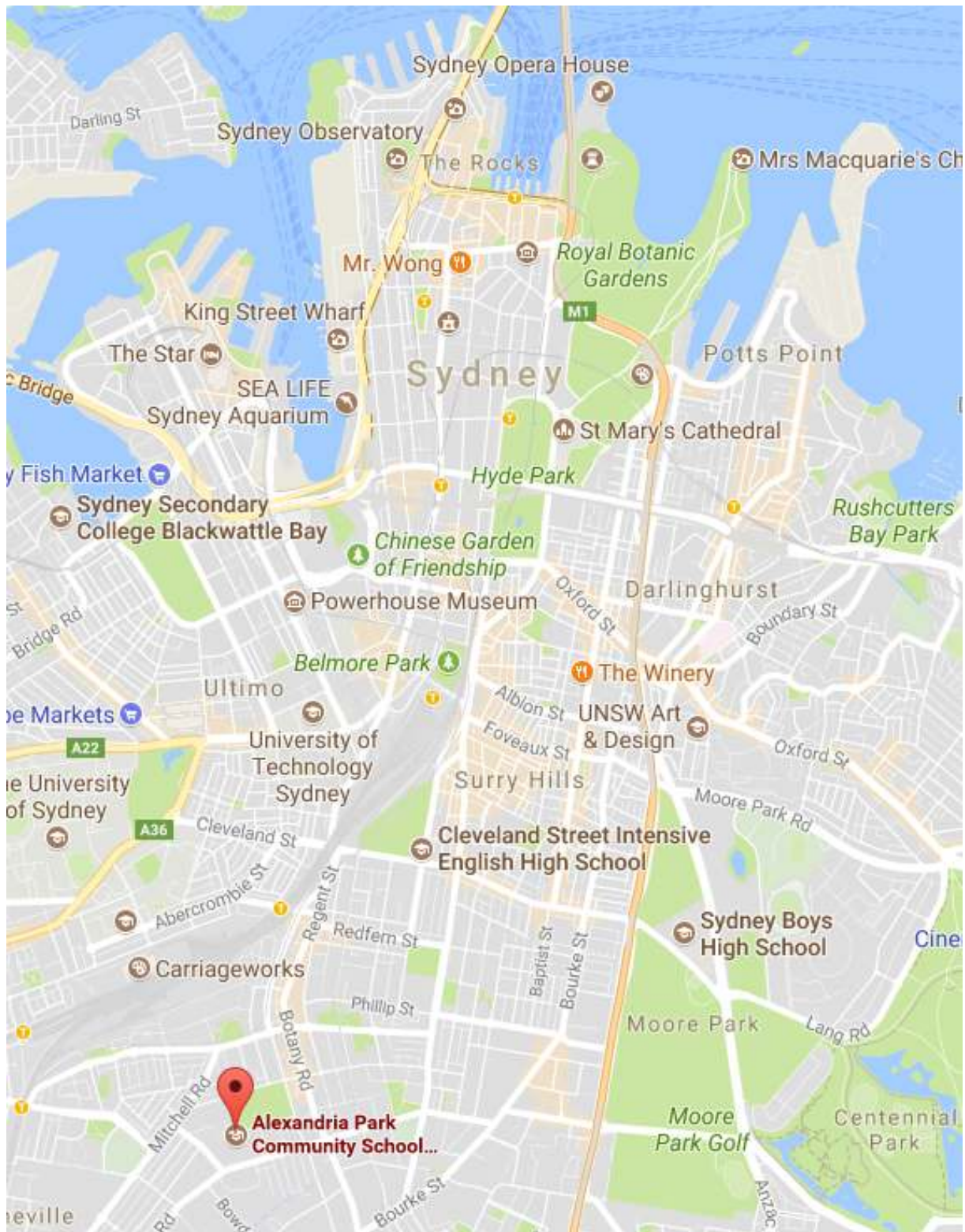


Figure 1. Context map (Source: Google Maps).

Alexandria Park Community School, Current Aerial

 Study Area

Drawn by: Alistair Hobbs
Checked by: Fenella Atkinson
Date: 12 Sept 2017
Projection: GDA 94 MGA Zone 56
Data sources: Extent, Nearmap, Administrative Boundaries ©
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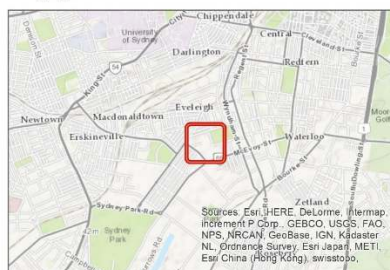


Figure 2. Current aerial (Source: NearMap).

2 STATUTORY CONTEXT AND HERITAGE LISTINGS

Having regard to historical archaeology the study area is subject to the following statutory controls:

- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Commonwealth).
- *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW);
- *Sydney Local Environment Plan 2012*;
- *Sydney Development Planning Control 2012*.

2.1 Statutory Regulations

2.4.1.1 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) established the Australian Heritage Council (formerly the Australian Heritage Commission) and provides for the protection of cultural heritage at a national level, and for items owned or managed by the Commonwealth. The EPBC Act established two heritage registers:

- Commonwealth Heritage List: for significant items owned or managed by Commonwealth Government agencies.
- National Heritage List: for items assessed as being of national cultural significance.

The EPBC Act also provides protection for items listed on the World Heritage List that are within the jurisdiction of the Australian government. Australian Heritage Council approval is required for works to a listed item which would impact on the significance of the item.

No part of the study area appears on the World Heritage List, the Commonwealth Heritage List or the National Heritage List.

2.4.1.2 NSW Heritage Act 1977

The *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW) (the Heritage Act) is designed to conserve the cultural heritage of New South Wales and regulate development impacts on the state's heritage assets. The Act provides protection to items listed on the State Heritage Register, a list of places and objects of particular importance to the people of NSW. In addition, historical archaeological relics are afforded automatic statutory protection by the 'relics' provisions of the Act. A 'relic' is defined as:

any deposit, artefact, object or material evidence that:

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

In accordance with Section 139(1), it is an offence to disturb or excavate land, where this may affect a relic, without the approval/excavation permit of the Heritage Council of NSW, unless an endorsed 'Exemption' or 'Exception' to disturb or expose and destroy a 'relic' applies. Sites which may contain archaeological relics are usually dealt with under Section 140 and 141 of the Heritage Act. Sites with potential archaeology, listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR), are dealt with under Section 60 and 63 of the Heritage Act.

The requirement to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act does not apply to developments that are approved State Significant Developments, under S89J of the EPA Act. The potential heritage impact is instead managed by the environmental assessment process.

Under Section 170 of the Heritage Act, state government agencies have a requirement to establish a Heritage and Conservation Register for items and places that are under their management.

There are no SHR-listed items within or adjacent to the study area. There are no s170-listed items within or adjacent to the study area. The potential for the presence of relics within the study area is addressed in Sections 5 and 6.

2.4.1.3 Sydney Local Environment Plan 2012

Environmental planning instruments made under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EPA Act) include State Environment Planning Policies (SEPPs), which deal with matters of State or regional environmental planning significance, and Local Environmental Plans (LEPs), which guide planning decisions for local government areas. The subject site falls within Sydney Local Government Area (LGA). The relevant environmental planning instrument is the Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012 (Sydney LEP 2012). Schedule 5 of the Sydney LEP 2012 lists identified heritage items and heritage conservation areas within the LGA

The objectives of the Sydney LEP 2012 with respect to environment and heritage are provided in the following clauses:¹

5.10 Heritage conservation

(1) Objectives

The objectives of these clauses are as follows:

- (a) to conserve the environmental heritage of the city of Sydney.*
- (b) to conserve the heritage significance of heritage items and heritage conservation areas including associated fabric, layout, settings and views,*
- (c) to conserve archaeological sites,*
- (d) to conserve Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places of heritage significance.*

(2) Requirement for consent

Development consent is required for any of the following:

- a) demolishing or moving any of the following or altering the exterior of any of the following (including, in the case of a building, making changes to its detail, fabric, finish or appearance):*
 - (i) a heritage item,*
 - (ii) an Aboriginal object,*
 - (iii) a building, work, relic or tree within a heritage conservation area,*
- (b) altering a heritage item that is a building by making structural changes to its interior or by making changes to anything inside the item that is specified in Schedule 5 in relation to the item,*
- (c) disturbing or excavating an archaeological site while knowing, or having reasonable cause to suspect, that the disturbance or excavation will or is likely to result in a relic being discovered, exposed, moved, damaged or destroyed,*
- (d) disturbing or excavating an Aboriginal place of heritage significance,*

¹ Current version for 23 September 2016 accessed on 7 July 2017 at 12:23.

- (e) erecting a building on land:
 - (i) on which a heritage item is located or that is within a heritage conservation area, or
 - (ii) on which an Aboriginal object is located or that is within an Aboriginal place of heritage significance,
- (f) subdividing land:
 - (i) on which a heritage item is located or that is within a heritage conservation area, or
 - (ii) on which an Aboriginal object is located or that is within an Aboriginal place of heritage significance

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

There are no listed heritage items within the study area, and the study area is not within a listed heritage conservation area. The study area is immediately adjacent to Heritage Item No. 2260188: Alexandria Park including Entrance Gates, Landscaping and Grounds; and Heritage Conservation Area No. C1: Alexandria Park Heritage Conservation Area (**Figure 3**).

Sydney Development Planning Control 2011

The Sydney Development Planning Control (DCP) is an advisory document with a non-statutory standing prepared to support the 2012 LEP. Provision 3.9 Heritage under Part 3.0 General Provisions provides controls and guidelines for appropriate management of heritage in the Sydney LGA, including archaeological issues. Clause 3.5.3 Archaeology Assessments specifically refers to archaeological resources and obligations with respect to adherence to statutory controls such as the Heritage Act and the Sydney LEP 2012. The clause also outlines the design principles when excavation is proposed, and refers the proponents to the management recommendations as set out in the Central Sydney Archaeological Zoning Plan.

2.2 Non-Statutory Heritage Registers, and Previous Reports

Non-Statutory Heritage Registers

Sydney Archaeological Zoning Plan

The study area lies to the south of the area covered by the Sydney Archaeological Zoning Plan.

National Trust Register

The site is not listed on the National Trust Register.

Previous Reports and Investigations

A historical archaeological assessment of part of the study area was prepared by Casey and Lowe in November 2016, prior to the proposed construction of a temporary school in the northern section. The 2016 assessment builds on the history of the site prepared by Dr Terry Kass in July 2016.

Casey and Lowe found that:

The buildings associated with the twentieth-century industrial use of the land are seen as having limited archaeological potential. Evidence of the Murray Bros buildings' footing and specific structures such as the kilns used to dry timber, and services such as amenities for the over 400 employees can be expected.

The proposed buildings are demountables set on concrete pads. The pads will require some limited excavation but all services associated with the buildings will be suspended under their flooring, with no excavation needed. Any excavation for the pads will be limited and would not involve removing substantial remains should they be encountered as they would supply the necessary base of the pad footing.”²

The impacts on the site are limited to pad footings which require only shallow excavation in the area previously occupied by the Murray Bros Furniture Factory. Any archaeological remains in this area are assessed as having no heritage significance.

The site of the Federal Match Company to the south of the Pop-up school demountables is seen as having a high level of social significance that should be further assessed prior to impacts on this section of the school grounds.³

² Casey and Lowe 2016: 1.

³ Ibid, p.8.



Figure 3 Heritage map showing the study area (outlined in green) adjacent to 'Alexandria Park Heritage Conservation Area' (hatched red), and 'Alexandria Park Including Entrance Gates, Landscaping and Grounds Buildings' (shaded brown) (Source: Sydney LEP 2012, Heritage Map, Sheet HER_10).

3 HISTORIC CONTEXT

3.1 Introduction

The study area has been the subject of a number of heritage reports and studies. The following section relies largely on the historical research conducted by Terry Kass for *A History of the Site of Alexandria Park Community School – Park Road – Junior Campus and Oval*, as well as detailed analysis of historical plans and aerial photographs. This section of the report provides an outline of the main phases of development and is summarised in the history timeline below.

3.2 European Occupation

In 1823, Governor Brisbane issued a fourteen-thousand-acre grant to former convict William Hutchinson for services rendered to the Crown (Figure 4).⁴ The location of the study area was within this grant, but is shown on early maps as being undeveloped, which may have been related to the presence of swamp land around the headwaters of Shea's Creek, located just to the south.

In 1825, Hutchinson sold his, apparently undeveloped, Waterloo Estate to fellow emancipists Daniel Cooper and Solomon Levey (the estate became known as the Cooper Estate or Cooper Waterloo Estate). Highly successful partners, Cooper and Levey eventually became the sole owners of the prosperous Lachlan and Waterloo Co., later trading under the name Cooper & Levey. However, in 1833 Solomon Levey died, leaving his holdings in the Waterloo Estate to Daniel Cooper.⁵

Land on the Cooper Estate was typically let on lease for agriculture use and for the construction of residential dwellings. From the mid-19th-century, the land on the southern side of Buckland Street, between Mitchell Road and Wyndham Street, was used as a market garden (Figure 5). This would have ended in 1882 with the gazetting of Alexandria Park, however market gardening may have continued over the study area until the subdivision of the Cooper Estate in the early 20th Century.⁶

In the 1860s, as a result of public pressure, government regulations resulted in the removal of noxious industries from the Sydney city centre to the Alexandria, Waterloo and Botany areas. This was to take advantage of the natural drainage afforded by the Waterloo and Botany Swamps, and avoid contaminating major water reserves such as Lachlan Swamp, which was used as a source of potable water. This established southern Sydney as a largely industrial space and would later prompt most industrial enterprises of the late 19th and early 20th centuries to establish themselves south of Sydney.⁷

The Alexandra Canal was built in the late 1800s (commencing in 1887) as a means of transport on; it ran roughly along the former course of Shea's Creek and intersected with Cook's River⁸, various feeders lie across the area of southern inner Sydney. One of these ran through the present study area, and in fact it was intended to extend the Canal through to Buckland Street, although this was never undertaken. A plan from the late nineteenth century indicates that the drainage line was at this time an

⁴ Paul Edwin Le Roy, *Hutchinson, William (1772-1846)*, 'Australian Dictionary of Biography' Vol 1, 1966.

⁵ G. F. J. Bergman, *Levey, Solomon (1794-1833)*, 'Australian Dictionary of Biography' Vol 2, 1967.

⁶ Dr Kass, *A History of the Site of Alexandria Park Community School – Park Road – Junior Campus and Oval*, 2016, p.6.

⁷ Scott Cumming, *Chimneys and Change: Post European impact in Green Square*, 'Histories Of Green Square' (eds) Grace Karskens, Melita Rogowsky, 2004, p.33-34.

⁸ OEH, Alexandria Canal Statement of Significance, Lot 3/DP 878489

open channel to the east of the study area at least.⁹ In 1918 a drainage easement was granted to the Minister of Public Works, running diagonally across the study area.¹⁰

In 1853 Daniel Cooper died in Brighton, England. He has no sons, so instead he passed his estate onto his nephew by the same name, Daniel Cooper - later to be Sir Daniel Cooper, baronet. Sir Cooper began to subdivide his land in the early 20th Century.¹¹

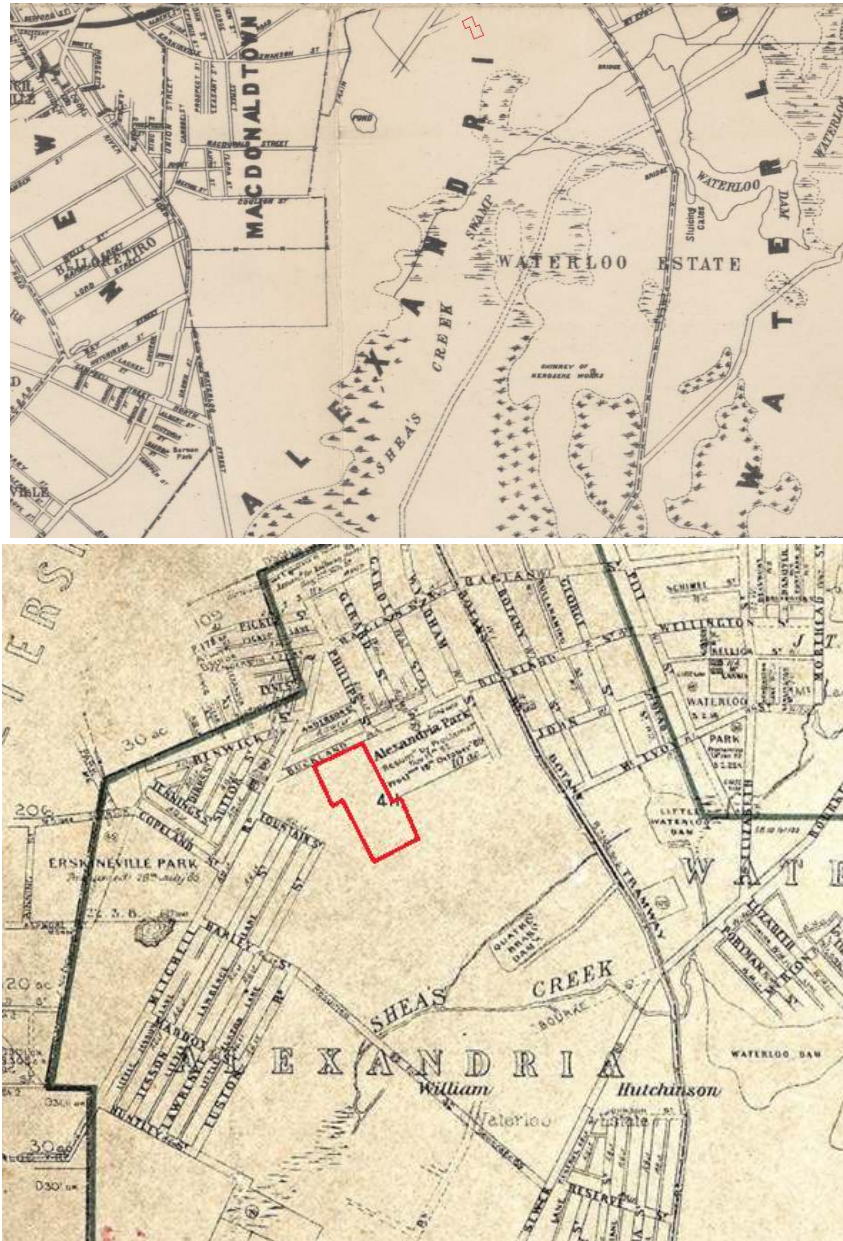


Figure 4 1854 Woolcott and Clark Map showing the Waterloo Estate and the swampland around Shea's Creek.

⁹ Surveyor General's Office, Metropolitan Detail Series, City of Sydney, Alexandria Sheet 15.

¹⁰ Kass, A History of the Site of Alexandria Park Community School – Park Road – Junior Campus and Oval, 2016, p.21

¹¹ Op.cit, Kass, p.6-7.

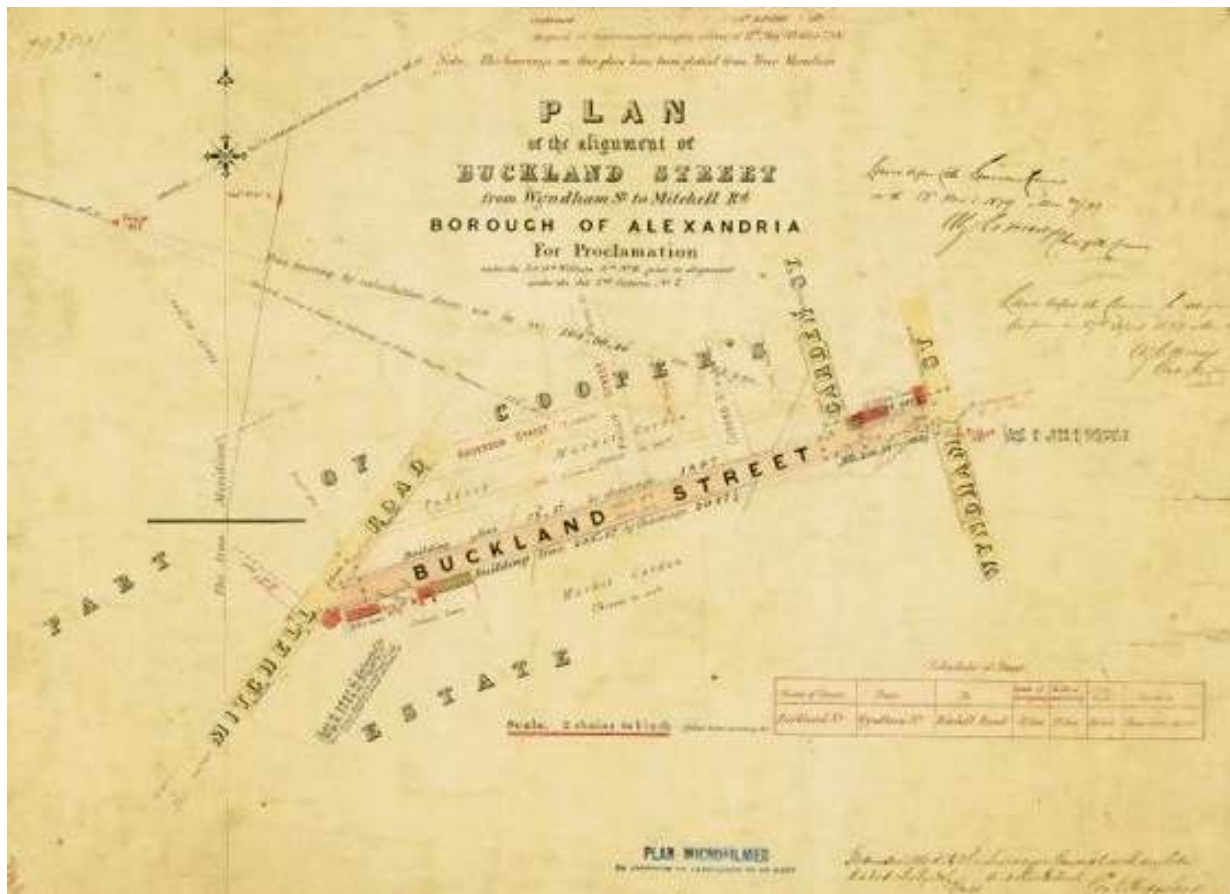


Figure 5 Street alignment survey, Borough of Alexandria, 1879, showing a note describing market gardens on the study area (Source: Kass 2016: Fig 2; from LPI Crown Plan A.4.2042).

3.3 Industrialisation

In the early 20th century, the study area was conveyed by Cooper to various buyers, effectively splitting the area into north and south portions, which remained substantively the same until the late twentieth century.

Northern Portion

In 1910, one parcel was conveyed to Charles Hillman, milk contractor, for a price of £1494. On the same day Hillman mortgaged the parcel back to Cooper at a price of £1344. The mortgage was discharged in 1911, however another was made to a Mr Stephen and Mr Parks for £2000, from which funds Hillman constructed buildings on the site. However, his financial situation was insufficient to repay the mortgages, and Hillman's land went to auction in 1912, at which time the land was described as offering a partially completed stone factory and stable.¹²

In 1913 the land was sold to Elizabeth Murray for £3400. The Murray family was involved in the wholesale and retail of furniture, hardware and soft-goods, and established a furniture factory on this property. A valuation of the site was conducted in 1921, and described the land as having a three-storey

¹² Ibid, p.8; SMH, 23 Nov 1912, p.17.

brick, stone and iron building, timber rack, open saw, planing mill, destructor and garage. In the same year, the Valuer General described the property as having a brick and iron factory with an iron roof.¹³

In 1928 the land located in the west of the current oval was conveyed by the Cooper Estate to John O’Riordan. The following year O’Riordan conveyed a small portion of his newly acquired land to Glendon Court Ltd for £600. In early 1930 O’Riordan conveyed another portion of his land to a Mr Meader for £2000. However, between April and May of 1930, the Murray Bros, interested in expanding their factory, purchased the neighbouring land from both Glendon Court and Meader. This consolidated the land into a single parcel encompassing the current site of the Alexandria Park Community School oval.¹⁴ Along with the factory buildings and yards, two semi-detached houses stood in the north-west corner of the property, but these were demolished by the end of 1935.

Prior to the Second World War, Murray Bros employed approximately four hundred people, working primarily with timber. The products manufactured included furniture, doors, and window frames and sashes. The operation maintained its own timber stack and timber kiln.¹⁵ It is reported that during 1943 its entire production was devoted to the Allied war effort.¹⁶

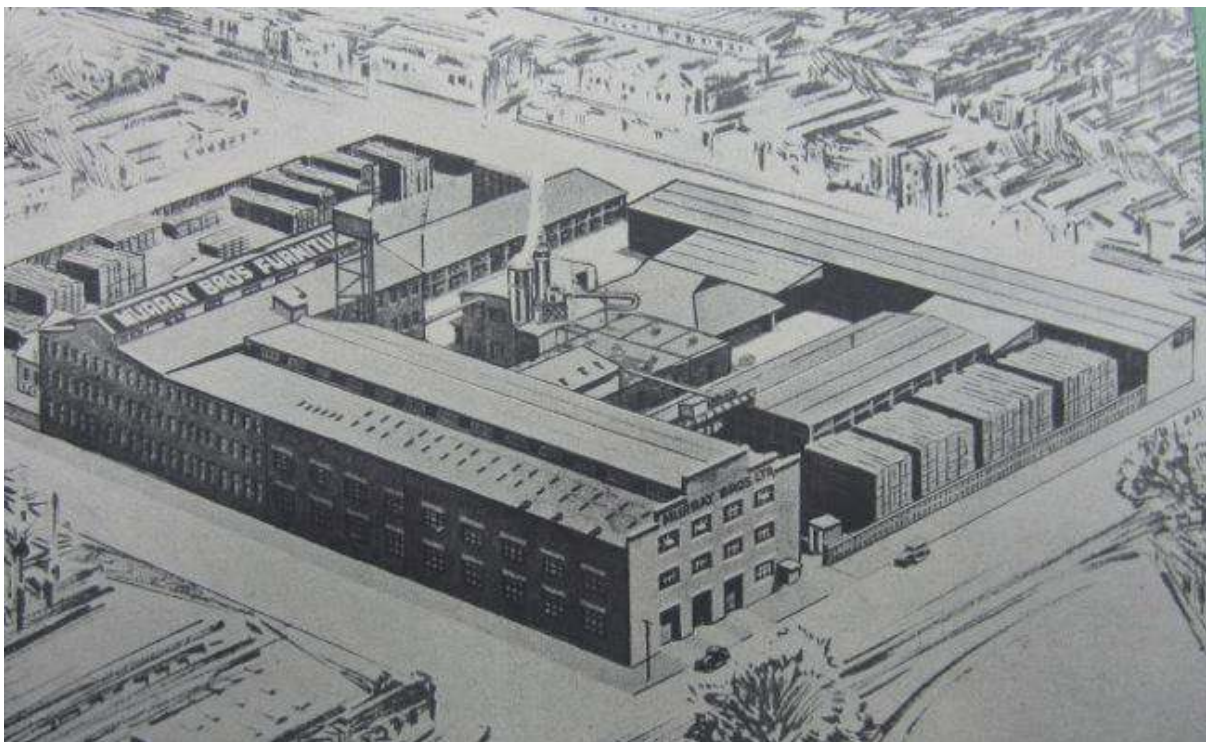


Figure 6 Depiction of Murray Bros furniture works, 1943 (source: Alexandria: “The Birmingham of Australia 1868-1943 – 75 Years of progress, Sydney, 1943, reproduced in Kass 2016).

Southern Portion

The central corridor of the study area was sold by the Cooper Estate to Mack Ltd in 1914. Mack Ltd had been registered in Victoria to manufacture and sell a building plaster called ‘Mack’. The company acquired the patents of William Montague Quirk, for a machine which manufactured petrol, air gas and produced gas lighting. However, it is unclear if the manufacturing plant of the company was located in

¹³ Op.cit, Dr Kass, p. 7-8.

¹⁴ Ibid, p.10.

¹⁵ Ibid, p.11-12.

¹⁶ Alexandria: The Birmingham of Australia 1868-1943 – 75 years of Progress, Sydney 1943, pp104-107 in Kass, 2016 p. 12

Sydney or Melbourne. Two weeks after the Cooper Estate parcel was sold to Mack Ltd, Mack Ltd then sold on again two parcels of land to Quirk's Lighting and Engineering Co Ltd.¹⁷

In 1914 Quirk's Lighting and Engineering Co Ltd signed a contract for sale to Carl Gustave Sundstrom for the eastern portion of this land (Quirk's Lighting still retained the portion with frontage to Belmont Street). Sundstrom submitted a Real Property Application for two separate companies to be established on the eastern portion of the land fronting Park Street. The smaller portion of Sundstrom's parcel was transferred to the Continental Paper Bag Company of Australasia Ltd, while the larger portion was given over to the Federal Match Company.¹⁸

In 1915 a certificate of title was issued to the Continental Paper Bag Company of Australasia Ltd. For five years the company manufactured paper and cardboard for wholesale. The Company operated out of a composite timber-and-brick single storey factory building. In July 1920, a fire destroyed the building, but fortunately did not spread to either the Federal Match Company or the Murray Bros Factory. Following this event Continental Paper Bag Company of Australasia sold its land to the Federal Match Company.¹⁹

In 1921, the Valuer General noted that the property owned by the Federal Match Company had a brick and concrete factory with an iron roof, a brick and iron store and two concrete tennis courts. Later that year Quirk's Lighting and Engineering Co Ltd conveyed their Belmont Street frontage to Sydney-based manufacturer Harry Blackburn for £5250. In 1922, Federal Match Co. bought out the Belmont Street frontage after Blackburn had become financially insolvent. This purchase consolidated the central corridor of the subject site in the hands of Federal Match Co.²⁰

Much like the central parcel of the study area, the southern section was originally conveyed to Mack Ltd as a single property with frontages to McEvoy Street and Park Road. However, in 1919 the property was sold onto T McHugh Ltd, a company dealing primarily in grain and produce. In 1921 T McHugh Ltd sub-divided the property into four blocks. The two blocks fronting McEvoy Street were conveyed to the Williams and Adams Company, while the northern two blocks were retained by T McHugh. In 1930 both blocks were sold to the Federal Match Company.²¹

In 1931, the newly incorporated land belonging to Federal Match Co. underwent a remodelling program which included an extension to the factory building and situated administrative offices at the front of the lot. The factory extension was constructed from corrugated fibro roofing and brick walls, following the design of the architect Mr Rutledge. At this time, a bowling green was also integrated into the factory.²²

The Federal Match Company was known for its social practices, including provision of recreational facilities such as tennis courts and bowling greens, and daily staff lunch including soup and bread. It was also well known as an employer of Aboriginal women and was affectionately known as the Wellington Match Company due to a high number of employees from the Wellington area.²³

The drainage easement through the study area is not evident in the 1930 photograph, indicating that the open channel had been enclosed by this time (Figure 7). A 1942 Geological Survey Report for the Sydney Water Board of the Botany Basin Emergency Water Supplies shows the easement drainage channel feeder into the Alexandra Canal had been formalised across the site (Figure 7). By 1943 the

¹⁷ Op.cit, Dr Kass, p.21.

¹⁸ Ibid, pp.21; 24.

¹⁹ Ibid, p.27-28.

²⁰ Ibid, p.28.

²¹ Ibid, p.32-33.

²² SMH, 10 February 1931, p.7.

²³ City of Sydney, Barani: Sydney's Aboriginal History.

study area had been incorporated into two industrial compounds, Murray Brothers in the North and Federal Match Company in the South (Figure 8).



Figure 7. *The study area in 1930.*

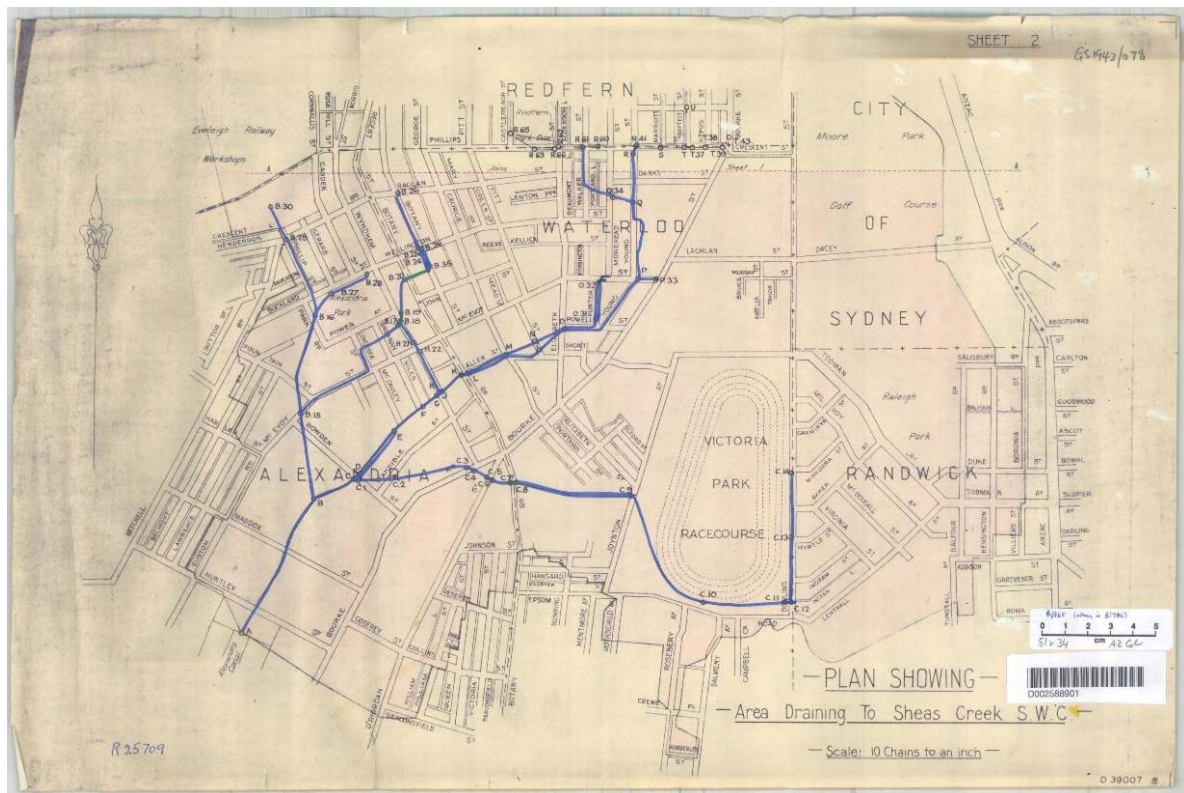


Figure 8. Feeder Drain Map to Alexandra Canal (Source: Mulholland, C. 1942, Botany Basin Emergency Water Supplies Geological Survey Report).

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Alexandria Park Community School, Aboriginal Heritage Due Diligence Assessment, Alexandria NSW

Study Area

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Checked by: Fenella Atkinson
Date: 12 Sept 2017
Projection: GDA 94 MGA Zone 56
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0 40 80 120 160
Meters



Figure 9 Aerial photo of the subject site, 1943. Murray Bros and the timber stack are located to the north. The Federal Match company and Tennis court are located to the south. (Source: LPI SIXMaps).

3.4 Post War

By the 1960s, Murray Bros had shifted most of its operations to Villawood. The Buckland Street site was leased to tenants; however, the complex does not seem to have undergone any major alterations. The following is a list of tenants which occupied the Buckland Street site through the 1960s and early 70s.²⁴

- Carpet Wholesalers Pty Ltd
- Charters Pty Ltd
- Abel Arc Industries Pty Ltd
- Alexander McGrath Agency Pty Ltd;
- Mitsubishi (Australia) Pty Ltd
- Kornblums Pty Ltd

In 1977 the land owned by Federal Match Co. and Murray Bros was resumed by the Minister for Education, and in the same year the study area was already being used as a school for the amalgamation of Redfern Public School, Waterloo Public School and Cleveland Street High Schools. By 1980 the site was cleared of the factories previously occupying the land and the current structures were erected for the school. The most recent school to occupy the site on the site is the Alexandria Park Community School, which resulted from the 2003 amalgamation of Cleveland Street High, Redfern Public, Alexandria Public and Waterloo Public Schools.²⁵

As part of the current development of the school, a series of demountable classrooms were constructed in the north western portion of the study area.

²⁴ Op.cit, Kass, p.19.

²⁵ Ibid, p.34



Figure 10. *The study area in 1949 (source: Kass 2016: 13).*



Figure 11 1956 plan showing the study area (source: City of Sydney Historical Atlas, Building Surveyors Detail Sheets 1949-1972, Map 19 Erskineville).

3.5 Summary of Development on the Study Area

Date	Event
1823	14,000-acre grant made by Governor Brisbane to William Hutchinson
1825	Undeveloped land sold to Cooper and Levey
Prior to 1882	Land used for agriculture and market gardening
1910-1914	Sale of the study area, as part of the subdivision of the Cooper Estate
1913	Murray purchases the northern portion of the study area
1914	Easement through the study area granted to Minister of Public Works, for Alexandra Canal Feeder
1914	Mack and Quirks Lighting and Engineering Co Ltd acquire the site and begin development
1914	Carl Gustave Sundstrom acquires the southern portion of the study area and sets up Federal Match Co. and Continental Paper Bag Co.
1920	Fire destroys the premise of the Continental Paper Bag Co. and the land is acquired by Federal Match Co.
1931	Federal Match redevelops its site including tennis courts and bowling green
1960s	Murray Bros moves its operations to Villawood and lets the northern portion of the study area
1978	The study area is resumed by the Minister for Education
c1980	The study area is redeveloped for use as a school

4 PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

4.1 General

The study area was inspected by Alistair Hobbs and Lorna Cooper (Extent Heritage), accompanied by Mauricio Diaz Miranda (TKD Architects), on 1 September 2017. The study area was inspected for evidence of potential historical archaeology. Inspection covered the external portion of the study area, with a focus given to areas providing good ground exposure, to determine the presence of archaeological relics and/or disturbance levels.

Topography of the subject area comprises relatively flat low-lying terrain. The immediately adjoining properties consist of mixed residential and commercial structures.

The study area is currently a functioning school with existing buildings over the southern portion (Plate 1 and 2), temporary buildings over the north-west end (Plate 3 and 4), a construction site in the north-east area surrounded by cyclone fences (Plate 5 and 6) and a central open oval with services and play equipment (Plate 7-10) which contained dry patchy areas and evidence of potential features (Plate 11).

No evidence of earlier standing structures remains on the surface. Subsurface features may be present. Within the playing field area there is evidence of possible subsurface features with brick rubble apparent on the surface (Plate 11).



Plate 1 - School Buildings – southern portion of study area



Plate 2 – School Buildings and Garden Beds facing west



Plate 3 – Temporary School Buildings in northern western area



Plate 4 – Temporary School Buildings



Plate 5 – Construction Area in north eastern area



Plate 6 – Construction Area



Plate 7 – Central Open Play Area adjacent to Temporary Buildings



Plate 8 – Play equipment adjacent to Central Playing Field



Plate 9 – Central Playing Field with patchy grass and services



Plate 10 – Central Playing Field showing storm drain and light pole (far left)



Plate 11 – Potential Feature with brick rubble apparent on surface

4.2 Geotechnical and Environmental Investigations

A geotechnical investigation of the site was carried out by GeoEnviro Consultancy in 2016, involving the excavation of 12 boreholes (BH1–BH10 and HA1 and 2) to depths of up to 8.5m below ground. The results of the investigations are presented in the Proposed Temporary School Buildings Alexandria Park High School, Park St, Alexandria, NSW – Geotechnical Investigation Report prepared in September 2016. The borehole locations are shown in Figure 12.

The geotechnical summary indicated that fill including brick rubble and concrete was encountered over the site:

Fill was encountered in all boreholes consisting predominantly of Gravelly Clayey Sand, Gravelly Silty Sand and Silty Sand to depths ranging from 0.4m to 3.4m below existing ground surface. In the majority of the boreholes, some building debris such as bricks, concrete and sandstone fragments were encountered in the fill. In BH 6 and 9, a significant amount of concrete slabs and brick rubble were encountered at 1.3m and 1.5m below existing ground surface respectively.²⁶

From the information available, it is not possible to determine whether the fill is introduced, or contains demolition material and archaeological remains from the former structures within the study area. However, the presence of brick and concrete suggests that remains of the structures may be present.

²⁶ GeoEnviro Consultancy 2016: 4.

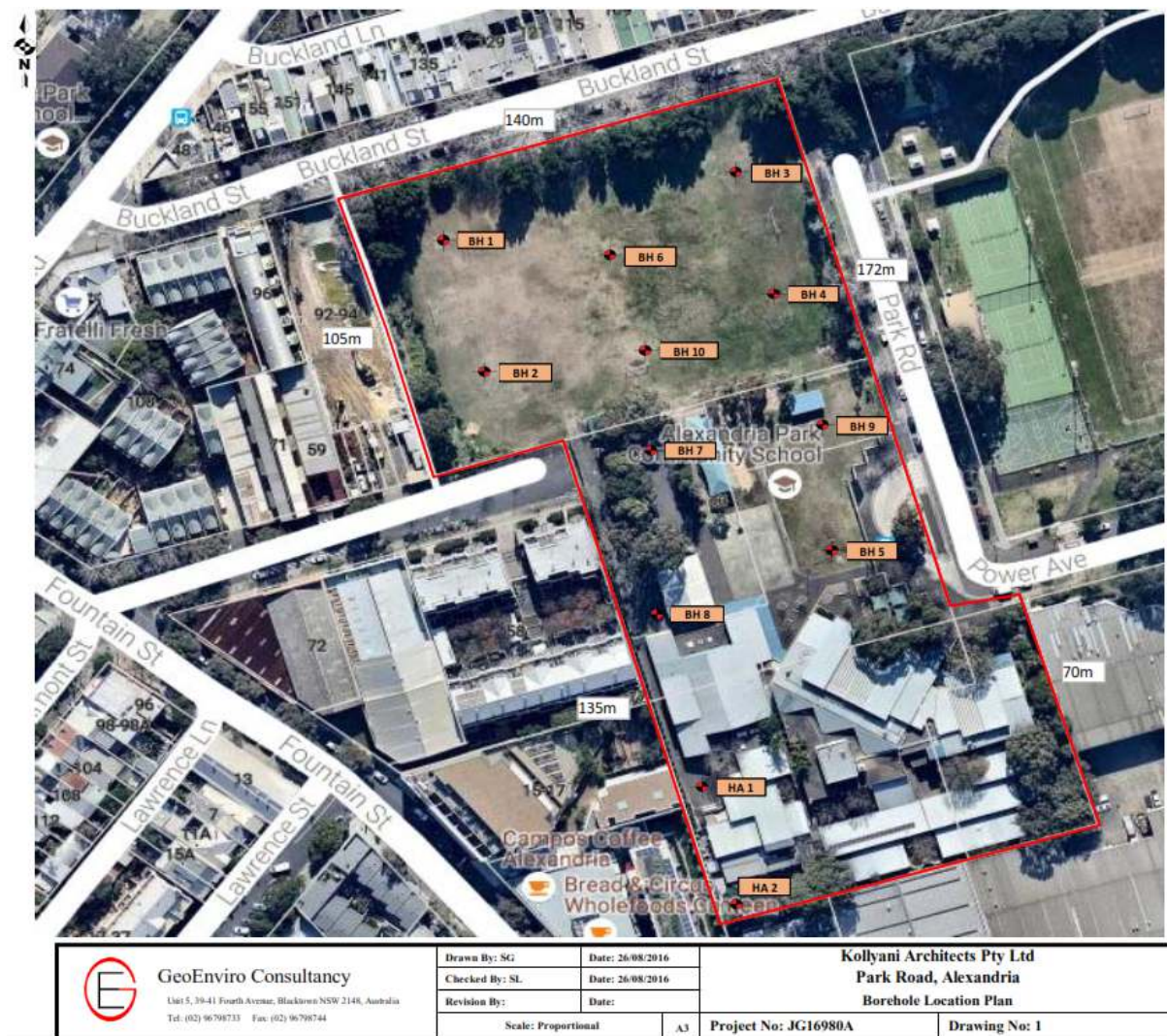


Figure 12. Site aerial showing the location of geotechnical boreholes (Source: GeoEnviro Consultancy 2016 Fig 1).

5 HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

5.1 Introduction

This section of the report discusses the site's potential to contain historical archaeological evidence of the previous phases of occupation. The potential for the archaeological resource to reveal useful information about the previous uses or activities that shaped its history depends on its extent, nature and level of intactness. Disturbed archaeological features and deposits in the form of fragmentary structural remains and random artefacts may be evidence of previous occupation, but their use or value in reconstructing the past though providing meaningful information is limited. This is because such features and deposits are disassociated from the stratigraphic sequence that establishes their provenance and secure date of deposition.

This section identifies where intact archaeological evidence is likely to be found at the site, and to what extent it may be preserved. The level of significance of archaeological evidence (known or potential) is discussed in Section 6.

5.2 Site Formation Processes and Archaeological Potential

Based on the historical research the following broad historical phases of site development and use can be identified:

- Phase 1: Agriculture and Drainage (1823 – 1910)
- Phase 2: Industry (1910 – 1977)
- Phase 3: School (1977 – present)

Disturbance and development during each phase is likely to have had a significant impact on the survival of archaeological evidence associated with the occupation and use of the study area during earlier phases. The potential historical archaeological remains associated with each phase are outlined below, and summarised in **Table 1**.

Phase 1: Agriculture and Drainage

Early ownership of the site from 1823 by Hutchinson then Levey and Cooper saw the land leased for agricultural purposes including a Chinese market garden. Apart from clearing the vegetation, development during this period is likely to have been fairly small-scale at best, comprising cultivation and possibly associated features such as fences. Associated archaeological features, such as postholes and gardening furrows, would be ephemeral and highly susceptible to damage and/or destruction from later development and environmental processes.

It is likely that an open drainage channel running through the study area was created or formalised in this period, possibly in association with the construction of the Alexandra Canal. It does not appear that the channel had formed sides in this period, so any archaeological evidence would consist of a remnant channel in the soil profile and alluvial sediment.

In general, the historical archaeological potential from this phase is considered to be low, given the nature of the known and probable development of the study area.

Phase 2: Industry

Industrial development of the study area commenced in c1910. Two principal organisations were established on the study area; Murrays Furniture, and the Federal Match Company. The development of the study area consisted largely of factory buildings and yards, but two houses stood in the north-west corner for a short time, and the Federal Match Co. complex included recreation facilities for the

staff. It is likely that the drainage channel running through the study area was enclosed early in this period, and certainly by 1930. Fill was also introduced to allow the construction of the factory buildings and yards; this may have been undertaken in a number of phases.

The historical archaeological potential from this phase is considered to be high, as the known features were substantial in nature, and the introduction of fill would have favoured retention of earlier remains. Archaeological evidence from this phase may include building footings and machinery bases, yard surfaces, subsurface services, fill deposits, and possibly industrial waste. The stormwater drain is likely to remain in situ.

Phase 3: School

In 1977 the study area was resumed by the Department of Education, and by 1980 the factory buildings had been demolished and replaced by new school buildings. This phase of development is likely to have involved introduction of additional fill, in order to level the study area, in particular the playing fields.

The historical archaeological potential from this phase is considered to be low, as most of the c1980 structures remain standing. There is some potential for the presence of remains of superseded or replaced structures that have been removed in the period 1980-2017.

Table 1. Summary of historical archaeological potential.

Phase	Site Features	Potential Remains	Archaeological potential
1: Agriculture and Drainage	Cultivation Possible fences Open drainage channel	Postholes, hoe marks, tree boles, evidence of burning, soil profile	Low
2: Industry	Houses Factories Machinery bases Yard surfaces Subsurface services Stormwater drain Fill	Structural remains, construction cuts and fills, services, yard surfaces, drain	High
3: School	Earlier school buildings Yard surfaces Subsurface services Fill	Structural remains, construction cuts and fills, services	Low

6 ASSESSMENT OF HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

6.1 Basis for Assessment

Archaeological significance refers to the heritage significance of known or potential archaeological remains. While they remain an integral component of the overall significance of a place, it is necessary to assess the archaeological resources of a site independently from above-ground and other heritage elements. Assessment of archaeological significance can be more challenging as the extent and nature of the archaeological features is often unknown and judgment is usually formulated on the basis of expected or potential attributes.

The following significance assessment of the study area's historical archaeological resource is carried out by applying criteria expressed in the publication 'Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and 'Relics', prepared by the Heritage Branch, formerly Department of Planning (NSW) (now the Heritage Division, Office of Heritage and Environment) in December 2009.

6.2 Significance Assessment

Archaeological Research Potential (Heritage Criterion E)

The industrial and school phases of the occupation of the study area are well represented in the documentary historical record. Although there is high potential for the presence of archaeological remains from the industrial phase, it is unlikely that these remains would provide substantial additional historical information. There is much less documentary evidence relating to the earlier, agricultural, use of the study area, however, the potential for the presence of archaeological remains from this phase is low.

Associations with individuals, events or groups of historical importance (Criteria A, B & D)

Early use of the study area was as a market garden, which was apparently run by Chinese immigrants. The contribution of the Chinese community to the growth of Sydney in the mid to late nineteenth century, and in particular to the development of a food supply for the growing population, was substantial. This type of agriculture was characteristic of the local region, and is recognised in the heritage listing of remaining market gardens at Banksia, La Perouse, Rockdale, and Kogarah.

Creation of a stormwater channel through the study area, which was later enclosed, appears to have been undertaken as part of the draining of the headwaters of Sheas Creek, in association with the construction of the Alexandra Canal. The Canal itself is recognised as being of State significance, due to its historic, aesthetic, technical and research values. Although the Canal was not used as planned, its construction was a key element in the development of the surrounding area.

The Federal Match Company and Murray Brothers were important employers of local residents. The Federal Match Company has been noted as a significant employer of Aboriginal women in particular. The provision of staff facilities was characteristic of this Company, and to an extent was shared by a number of light industrial operations in the mid-twentieth century. Murray Brothers made a substantial contribution to production required during the Second World War.

Aesthetic or technical significance (Criterion C)

The stormwater drain that runs through the study area is of technical significance as a component of the Alexandra Canal. As noted above, construction of the Canal played an important role in the development and use of the local area, and involved filling large areas of low-lying land for development.

Any surviving evidence of amenities provided to staff at the Federal Match Company may be of technical significance as they were an important development in understanding the relationship between employer and employee, the responsibilities of the employer, and employee work experience.

Ability to demonstrate the past through archaeological remains (Criteria A, C, F & G)

The historical archaeological remains that are most likely to be present on the study area relate to industrial development and use, and would be representative of mid twentieth-century industrial buildings and processes, which were common in inner-city Sydney in this period. It is unlikely that such archaeological remains would provide any substantive historical information that could not be obtained from other sources, and in particular the documentary record.

Bickford and Sullivan developed a series of three questions to assist in determining the research potential of an archaeological site.²⁷ These questions are as follows.

- Can the site contribute knowledge that no other resource can? The twentieth century development of the study area is well understood from documentary sources, and the archaeological remains that are probably present are unlikely to provide substantial additional historical information.
- Can the site contribute knowledge that no other site can? The study area is associated with two particular operations; the Federal Match Company and Murray Brothers, and in that sense any associated archaeological remains would be specific to this particular site. Many other properties in the surrounding area have a similar history of development and use, and would have similar archaeological potential, but as redevelopment continues rapidly, the remaining stock of such sites is reduced.
- Is this knowledge relevant to general questions about human history or other substantive questions relating to Australian history, or does it contribute to other major research questions? The historical information that could be derived from the potential archaeological resource relates to the industrial development of the site in particular, and the local area in general. The relevance of the information to an understanding of the history of the area is limited by the probable nature of the evidence, which is likely to consist largely of structural remains.

6.3 Summary Statement of Significance

The potential historical archaeological resource relates largely to the industrial occupation of the study area in the twentieth century. This phase of the history of the study area is of local significance, as it relates to the development of the economy of the area, and to the lives of the employees, who are likely to have lived locally. However, the archaeological evidence is unlikely to provide substantial historical information that cannot be obtained from other sources, in particular the documentary record, and the overall heritage significance is considered to be low.

Two qualifications to this assessment should be noted:

- Archaeological remains from the nineteenth-century agricultural use of the study area are unlikely to be present. However, any such remains would have a higher research potential, and would be of local heritage significance.

²⁷ Bickford, A and S Sullivan 1984, 'Assessing the Research Significance of Historic Sites', in Sullivan, S and S Bowdler (eds) *Site Surveys and Significance Assessment in Australian Archaeology* (Proceedings of the 1981 Springwood Conference on Australian Prehistory), Department of Prehistory, Research School of Pacific Studies, The Australian National University, Canberra, pp 19–26.

- The stormwater drain running through the study area is likely to be an active subsurface service, and is not assessed as an archaeological feature. However, this item is of heritage significance, as it is a component contributing to the Alexandra Canal.

7 POTENTIAL HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT

7.1 Proposed Development

The Department of Education proposes to redevelop Alexandria Park Community School to cater for up to approximately 1,000 primary school students and 1,200 secondary school students (**Figure 13**). The development will include replacement of the two-storey school building with a four-storey structure to be built on the western boundary of the subject area, and a three-level structure on the southern boundary. The development would also involve construction of a sports hall, new playing fields, and landscaping. The playing field may be extended across Park Road, if it proves possible to close the road.

7.2 Potential Archaeological Impact

Based on the information that is presently available, the proposed development will involve earthworks across the whole of the study area. There is unlikely to be a requirement for extensive deep excavation, as no basement levels are proposed. Deep excavation is likely to be limited to discrete areas, for footings, subsurface services, and features such as lift-wells and stormwater detention basins. This excavation may be at least partially contained within introduced fill material. However, where excavation extends beyond fill, these works may result in partial destruction of historical archaeological remains relating to the twentieth-century industrial development and use of the study area. This is unlikely to substantially affect the heritage values of the study area, as the research potential of the potential archaeological resource is low.

7.3 Recommendations

The proposed development is unlikely to have a substantial historical archaeological impact. The following recommendations are intended to ensure that more substantial heritage impact does not inadvertently result from the works:

- The assessment of the potential historical archaeological impact of the proposed development should be reviewed once details of the proposed earthworks are available.
- The works program and/or construction environmental management plan should include a stop-work procedure, to be implemented in the event of discovery of unexpected historical archaeological remains. Work in the vicinity of the find should cease, while advice is sought from the Heritage Division.
- The potential for the proposed works to result in impact to the heritage values of the stormwater drain associated with the Alexandra Canal should be assessed.

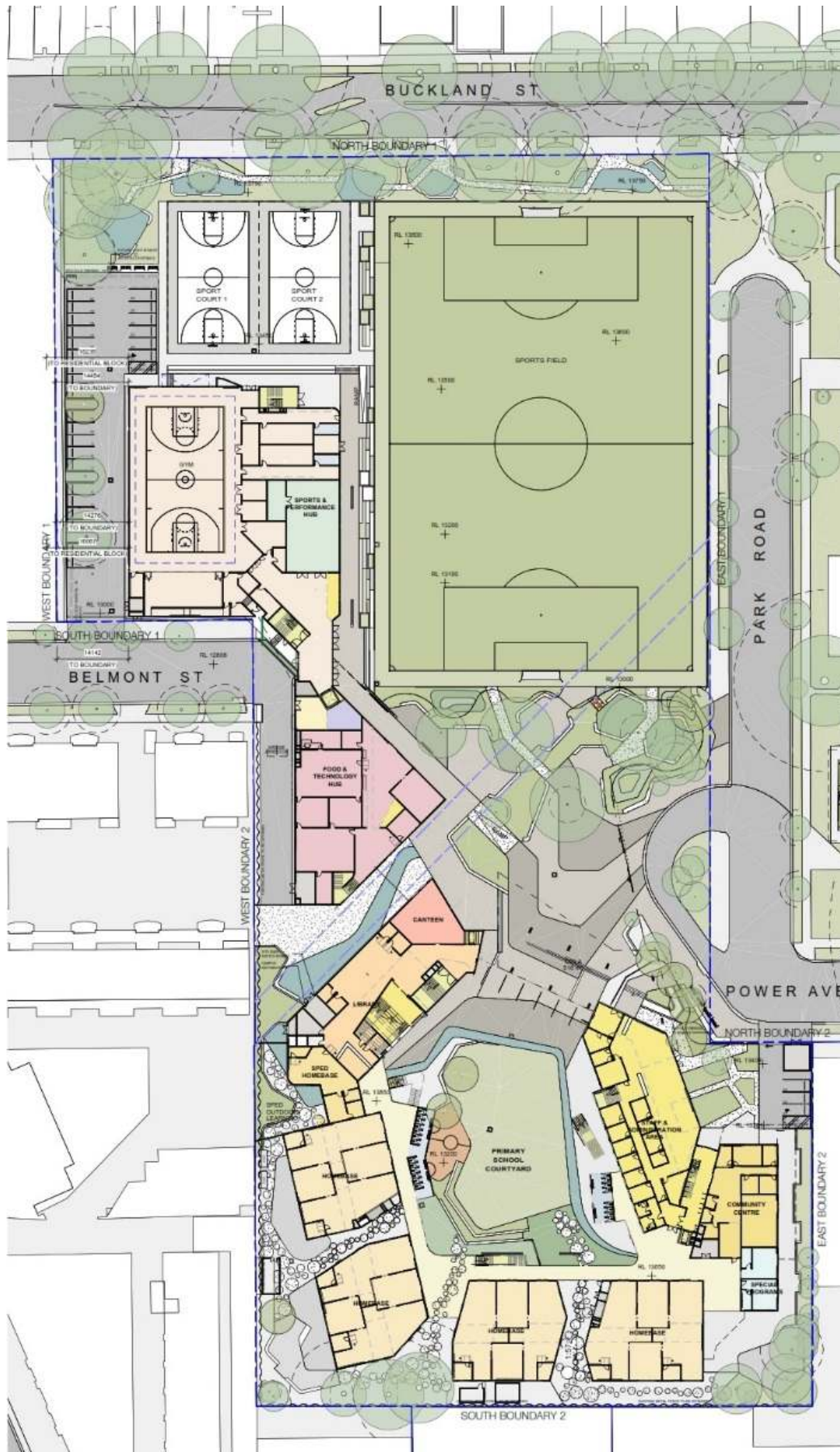


Figure 13. Proposed ground floor plan (TKD Architects, Drawing No. AR.SD.2001, Revision P1).

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